



Zeke Monzon was recently discharged from the hospital after a 30-day stay as he battled cancer for a second time. Contributed photo

"We want to first thank God for his love and blessings, and for helping Zeke and us get through this." — Nyomie Monzon

ZEKE'S HOME AGAIN

Monzon, 15, thwarts cancer for second time

By Scott Thoma
scott@thomabooks.com

When Ezequiel "Zeke" Monzon turned 14 years old, he celebrated his birthday at the Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls with family and hospital staff while undergoing treatment for Stage 2 Class A Hodgkin's Lymphoma. That was on May 7, 2019.

Determined and refusing to give up, Zeke eventually was declared the winner in his bout with cancer and eventually became strong enough to wrestle in the Section 3A tournament in Canby. Despite not being 100 percent in terms of strength, Zeke surprised coaches, teammates and even himself with a strong showing in his 120-pound weight class.

"I have a lot of faith and I never thought about giving up; not in life and not in wrestling," he said after that tournament.

Zeke had only been able to wrestle three varsity matches all season prior to the section tournament. Because his teammate, Eric Carrasco, an eventual state qualifier, moved up to 113 pounds, Zeke was able to fill in at 120 pounds.

Monzon went 1-2 in the tournament, but all three of his opponents that day made it to the medal stand.

Coaches and teammates were looking forward to having a healthy Zeke on the team this winter.

But while going for a routine cancer check in Sioux Falls this past fall, doctors discovered the cancer had returned.

"I was really sad when they said it had come back," Zeke said on Monday night. "I wasn't expecting it to come back because I went through chemo and radiation the first time."

This time, Zeke spent Christmas and New Year's in the hospital.

"He went in for a checkup and the doctors found his cancer had returned," said Nyomie Monzon, Zeke's mother. "He didn't get sick. They just found a spot on his normal CT scan that he has been getting every three months. They did a biopsy and it was the cancer that came back."

Zeke was initially treated in Sioux Falls in early November.

"They needed to do a stronger treatment on him after two cycles of treatment (one

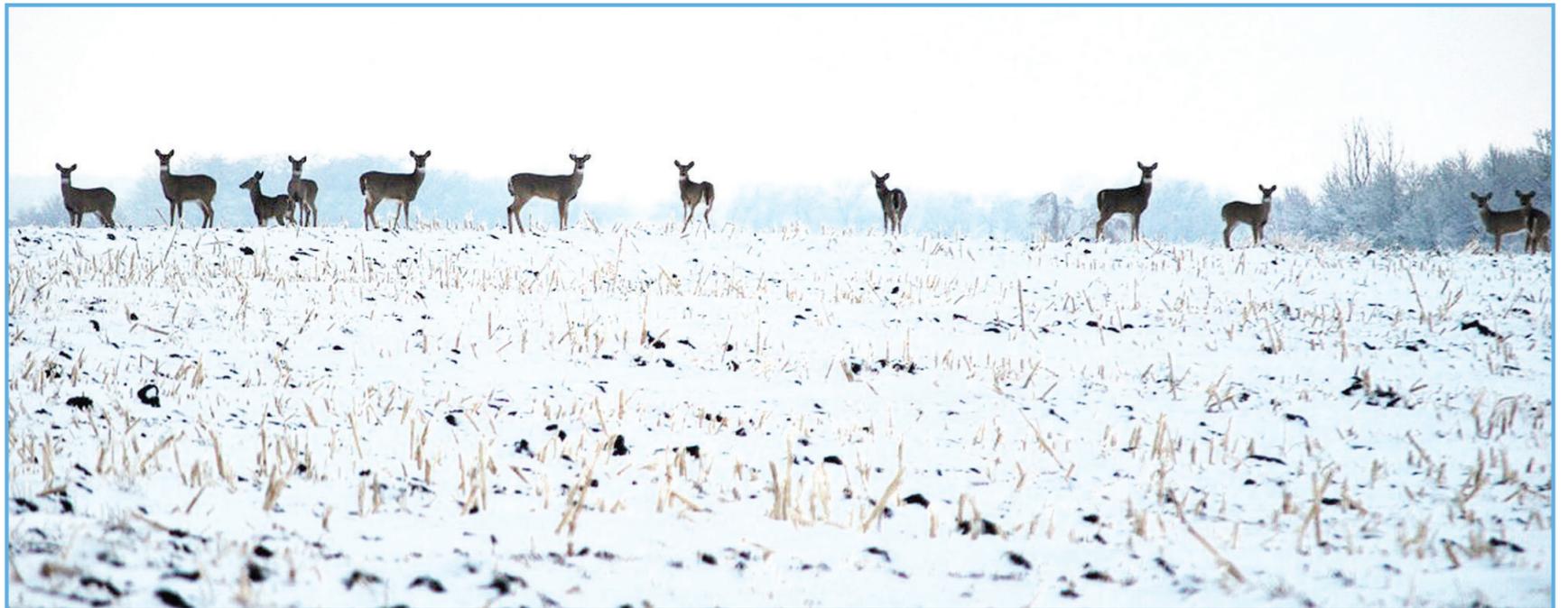
week for a three-day treatment and three weeks later another three-day treatment) they gave him in Sioux Falls," Nyomie explained. "They needed to kill what they could of the cancer."

Zeke was then able to go home for a few weeks, before being taken to the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital in Minneapolis on Nov. 30.

"They did a stem cell rescue, which is a BMT, but since it was his own cells, it's called stem cell rescue," Nyomie said.

The transplant was performed on Dec. 8 and Zeke was released from the hospital on Dec. 21, although his parents, Julio and Nyomie, had to stay

Zeke Continued on Page 2



Outdoor dining

These deer took a moment from foraging for food to pose for a photo outside of Minneota recently. Deer have been plentiful this winter because of mild temperatures and less snow, making it easier for the deer to leave their ruts and search for food. Drivers should also be alert for more deer than normal during the winter months. More on page 8. Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason.

A relationship that's worth banking on

Monica DeSmet joins son, Doug, as part of State Bank of Taunton family

By Scott Thoma
scott@thomabooks.com

When State Bank of Taunton President Duane Peterson was pondering a new hire at the bank recently, he checked with his vice president Doug DeSmet to get his input on the idea.

"I said I was more than fine with the hire," said DeSmet. "In fact, I told him it would be an honor working with her."

The person Peterson was about to hire was DeSmet's mother, Monica DeSmet, who had left her position after 23 years at Bank of the West in Minneota, where she and her husband Dave live a few houses away from their son.

"I talked to Doug for a long time about the possibility of working at the bank where he works," said Monica. "I was fine with it and he was fine with it."

Monica started her new position with State Bank of

Taunton as teller/customer service on Monday, Jan. 4.

"I wasn't sure how to address her at work," said Doug, laughing. "I didn't know if I should call her Monica or mom. I'm still not sure."

Doug graduated from Minneota High School in 2003 and attended Southwest Minnesota State University for Business Administration. He landed his first job at U.S. Bank in Marshall where he spent 10 years in customer service and as a credit underwriter. He then worked for four years at Bremer Bank in Marshall before being hired by Peterson at State Bank of Taunton a year ago.

"Doug contacted me about a possible position here," Peterson recalls. "I thought he would make a good fit. If I had advertised around the country for the position I don't think I would have found anyone as good as Doug."

In fact, Doug had no idea that at Tuesday's board meeting, Peterson would promote him to Senior Vice President/Senior Lending Officer.

"Doug has been excellent at bringing in new business," Peterson said. "He deserved this promotion."

Doug is also glad he inquired about an opening at the bank in Taunton last year.

"Duane is like a father figure," Doug said. "He coaches me when I need it, but he also will let me figure things out and do what I'm good at."

Doug lives in Minneota with his wife, Leah, and their four children, Regan, 9; Brynley, 7; Corbin, 4; and Eiley, 2.

"I love helping people out," Doug said. "And it's much easier to do that in a small town. This bank is all about helping people out, so it's a perfect fit for me."

Banking Continued on Page 2



Doug DeSmet, left, has worked for the State Bank of Taunton for one year. He is now joined there by his mother, Monica, who has worked in banking for over 20 years. Mascot photo by Scott Thoma

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What's Happening?

January

Thursday, Jan. 14

Noon-6 p.m. - Bloodmobile at KB's in Ghent
5 p.m. - Wrestling: Minneota Triangular vs. Tracy-Milroy-Balaton/Westbook/Walnut Grove and Red Rock Central

Friday, Jan. 15

5 p.m. - Wrestling: Minneota and Fulda/Murray County Central at Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg Triangular in Kerkhoven
7 p.m. - Girls Basketball: MACCRAY at Minneota

Saturday, Jan. 16

7 p.m. - Boys Basketball: Dawson-Boyd at Minneota

Monday, Jan. 18

7 p.m. - Girls Basketball: Minneota at Renville County West

Tuesday, Jan. 19

7 p.m. - Boys Basketball: Minneota vs. Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg at Kerkhoven

Wednesday, Jan. 20

1-7 p.m. - Bloodmobile at the American Legion in Minneota

February

Monday, February 1

7 p.m. - VFW meeting at the VFW Hall. New members are welcome.

Banking Continued from Page 1

Monica has an extensive banking background. After being a stay-at-home mom for a few years, she landed a job with Schwartz's Drugstore in 1995. That business on Jefferson Street was next door to where she would eventually work in banking for the 23 years.

"Bob Nelson, who was with the bank then, asked me if I would be interested in working there," Monica recalls. "It was called Community First Bank then. I worked as a part-time teller there for a year starting in 1997 before I became full time."

In December of 2004, the name changed to Bank of the West. Over the years, Monica worked as a teller and compliance/audit certification and then as a Universal Banking Officer handling new accounts and loans.

She lives in Minneota with her husband, Dave, a butcher at Brad's Market. They have five children and nine grandchildren.

And now mother and son are employed at the same place after all these years.

"It's going well," said Doug. "We have a great respect for each other. We both have a similar heart, care for our clients and people we serve, and have strong faith."

And Peterson couldn't be happier that another DeSmet has joined his team.

"I'm really happy both Doug and Monica decided to join the bank here," he said. "They are excellent additions to our team."

Students

Pesch, DeVaan on President's Lists

Ted Pesch of Minneota was one of 264 students from Central Lakes College to be included in the 2020 Fall Semester President's List for 2020.

The President's List includes those who earned a grade-point average of 3.75 to 4.0 while enrolled for at least 12 credits.

Michael DeVaan of Ghent was named to the 2020 President's List at Minnesota State Community and Technical College for the Fall Semester.

To qualify for the President's List, students must have completed a minimum of six college-level credits and 75 percent of the courses in which they enrolled for the semester, while earning a grade-point-average of 4.0.

Hennen on Alex Tech Dean's List

Isabelle Hennen of Minneota was named to the Dean's List at Alexandria Technical and Community College for academic excellence for the Fall Semester of 2020.

The Dean's list is for students who have achieved a grade-point-average of 3.5 or higher.

USDA now accepting applications to help low-income families buy or repair homes

USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for very low- and low-income individuals and families seeking to purchase or repair a home in a rural area.

The Direct Home Loan program offers financing to qualified very-low and low-income applicants that are unable to qualify for traditional financing. No down payment is required, and the interest rate could be as low as one percent with a subsidy. Applicants must meet income and credit guidelines and demonstrate repayment ability. The program is available in rural communities of generally 35,000 people or less.

The maximum loan amount is \$20,000 at a one percent interest rate, repayable for a 20-year term and can be used to improve or modernize homes and do essential repairs. Grants of up to \$7,500 are available to homeowners 62 and older and must be used to remove health or safety hazards, such as fixing a leaking roof, installing indoor plumbing, or replacing a furnace.

Contact a USDA Rural Development Housing Specialist in your area today, to see if you qualify.
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Worthington Office - 507-372-7783, Ext. 4
Marshall Office - 507-591-4329

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LYON COUNTY BOARD

(January 5, 2021)

CARES money to assist local businesses

By Tara Brandl
Lyon County Reporter

Additional CARES Act money will be coming to Lyon County business owners impacted by executive orders from the governor. However, it's unclear exactly to whom the money will be distributed or how much each business will receive later this winter.

The State of Minnesota has allocated \$505,920.47 (\$493,580.95 business relief, \$12,339.52 for administrative costs) to Lyon County to be used for businesses and non-profits that were impacted by an executive order related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lyon County Commissioners on Tuesday decided to use the same committee that was formed for the CARES grants to put together an application, along with criteria for businesses to apply for the new grant. While no decisions were made as to criteria at Tuesday's meeting, discussion included showing a certain percentage of loss to qualify and limiting grants to \$10,000 per business to allow more busi-

nesses to receive funds.

Businesses would also have to have no current tax liens on record with the secretary of state at the time of application in order to qualify for the grant. The board is looking to act quickly, as the grants must be awarded by March 15, 2021, and distributed by March 31, 2021.

Once an application is ready, it will be posted on the county website. County commissioners will also work with local EDA directors to spread the word about the application to local communities in the county.

County commissioners also moved forward on developing a county economic development authority. Public meetings have been set for Jan. 13 and 14 at 4:30 p.m. at the Lyon County Government Center.

"We're asking for no more than two representatives from each town," County Administrator Loren Stomberg said. "We're not sure every town will be represented."

"I've got a couple other communities to get a hold of," Commissioner Rick Anderson said. "We'll try to get some representation from every community. We've

reached out to everyone we can think of. We've made the offer. This is a big deal for the county if we're going to create this."

In other business Tuesday:

- Steve Ritter was nominated and elected board chair for 2021. Anderson was nominated and elected board vice chair for 2021.
- The board approved a subordination agreement to a mortgage from First Independent Bank for parcel 13-021005-0. The subordination agreement is for a mortgage to parties refinancing their mortgage.
- The board approved the landfill professional engineering services agreement with Burns & McDonnell for 2021 in the amount of \$115,000.
- The board approved designating www.lyonco.org as the official publication of advertisements for transportation related projects.
- The board approved the environmental department to request proposals for recycling collection services. The current agreement ends March 31, 2021.

Zeke Continued from Page 1
in an apartment with Zeke that was set up by the Children's Hospital in the Twin Cities to make sure he didn't react or develop an infection.

Then on Friday, Jan. 8, doctors declared Zeke cancer-free and the family was able to return to their home in Ghent. The next day, the family attended church service in Ghent and Zeke played drums at his church, Ministerio Rayo de Luz (Ministry Ray of Light) as he often did prior to his hospitalization.

"He has been waiting to go home for awhile already," his mother said on Friday. "He is very excited, as we are too. Doctors said that normally patients have to stay longer when they have this done, but he was doing really good so they let him go home."

Zeke has three siblings, Jeremiah ("J"), Jacqueline and Ruth.

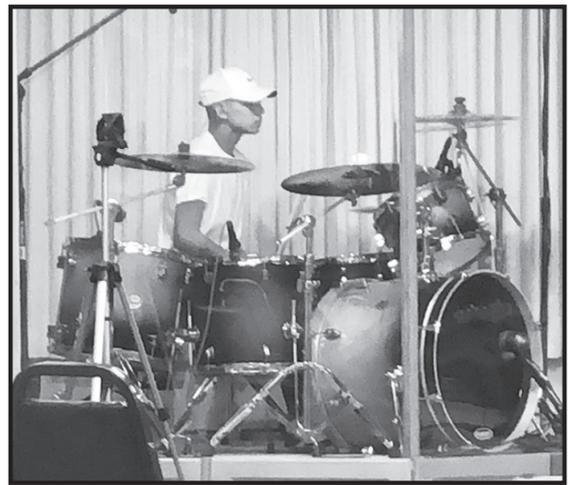
"I was happy to be home again," Zeke said. "I'm still a little weak and I get a little nauseous after I eat. But I feel better every day."

Doctors at the Children's Hospital had initially told the Monzons that Zeke would likely get very sick and need a blood transfusion from the stem cell rescue procedure.

"He was only really sick for one or two days," Nyomie told. "The other days were not too bad. He surprised doctors every day. He never needed a blood transfusion and needed plates for only three days. His numbers went up quickly, he was eating pretty good, and he left his IV fluids and nutrition quicker than they thought."

The family is of strong faith and believe that is the reason for the rapid recovery.

"We want to first thank God for his love and blessings, and for helping Zeke and us get through this," Nyomie said. "And we want to thank every-



One day after returning home from the hospital, Zeke Monzon was playing drums for his church band. Contributed photo

one for their prayers, help, donations and everything from helping us at the hospital to helping us at home with the kids. There are no words to show how thankful we are for everyone in our lives."

Zeke will return to Sioux Falls next week to see if everything is still going well.

"He's a tough kid," his mother said.

Dahms sworn into Senate



Sen. Gary Dahms

Gary Dahms (R-Redwood Falls) was sworn into his fourth term as State Senator for District 16 in the Minnesota Senate on Tuesday, Jan. 5.

District 16 represents all of parts of Brown, Lac qui Parle, Lyon, Redwood, Renville and Yellow Medicine Counties.

"It is an honor and a privilege to continue serving the residents of District 16 as their senator," said Sen. Dahms. "In these challenging times I look forward to building on the success of prior legislative sessions and delivering changes that will improve the lives of hard-working Minnesotans."

A former Redwood Falls businessman and Redwood County Commissioner, Senator Dahms is the Chair of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Finance and Policy Committee and Vice Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy Committee.

Swedzinski sworn into House



Rep. Chris Swedzinski

State Rep. Chris Swedzinski (R-Ghent) performed the oath of office in the Minnesota House of Representatives Tuesday as the 92nd Legislature was installed at the Capitol.

Swedzinski was re-elected to the House in November. He represents District 16A, encompassing most of Lyon County and portions of Lac qui Parle, Redwood and Yellow Medicine. He recently was selected to retain his position as the lead Republican on the House Energy and Climate Finance and Policy Division, in addition to serving on the

Taxes Committee.

"It's an honor to represent the good people of Southwest Minnesota and return common sense and our rural values to St. Paul," Swedzinski said. "I'll be working hard to represent interests of agriculture, small business and families across the state and it's a great honor, again, to be sworn in here in St. Paul."

Swedzinski said he welcomes input from local citizens throughout the year, particularly during the legislative session. He can be reached by emailing rep.chris.swedzinski@house.mn, or by calling (651) 296-5374.

Swedzinski also provides periodic email updates and citizens can sign up to receive them at his official state website: www.housemn/16a.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

We would like to send a THANK YOU to the Minneota Mascot for the fun and festive Christmas Lights Contest.

We were excited to be one of the winners. It was a lot of fun driving around and looking at everyone's displays.

We would like to thank all the businesses for supporting this event and for the nice gifts.

Thanks again,
Tom and Kim Abraham and Family

minneotamascot.com

Pet OF THE WEEK

Max

Tri-County Veterinary Clinic
201 1st Street W. • Taunton 507-872-6113

Pet Owner: Bette Johnson

Breed: Longhair

Age: 12 years old

Favorite Activities: Playing with toys and going for walks!

This Day in Minnesota History...

1975 - A fierce, three-day blizzard strikes, bringing one to two feet of snow (with some drifts reaching 20 feet) and winds up to 80 miles per hour, closing most Minnesota roads, stranding a train at Willmar, and killing 35 people and 15,000 head of livestock. The St. Paul Pioneer Press reports that an offshoot of an Arctic storm has blasted into the Midwest, commenting that the "Wind ain't whistlin' Dixie."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- CARD SHOWER -

Katherine Olafson will celebrate her 96th birthday on Jan. 24!

Please shower her with love and good wishes by sending cards to:

Katherine Olafson
604 Village Drive - Apt. 108
Marshall, MN 56258

Speech team looking for coach

Engels steps down after nine years as assistant at Minneota

By Scott Thoma
scott@thomabooks.com

Despite having six seniors graduate last year, Minneota Speech Coach Kim Gades refuses to use the word "rebuild" when referring to the upcoming season.

Taking a line that many professional coaches use when describing a season with a lot of young faces, Gades said "Others rebuild, we reload".

With only one senior on the team for now, the speech team will face

challenges of maturing quickly. But there is also another stabilizing force that won't be with the team this year. Amanda Engels, who has been a coach with Gades since they began nine years ago, has decided to step down because of a busy schedule.

Engels assists her husband, John, in his law office in Minneota and a new office that recently opened in Hendricks.

"The kids deserve a coaching team that can dedicate a couple hours daily and that was getting difficult," said

Engels. "Now, if I drive back from Hendricks to Minneota, I would be missing even more office time. Winter driving is not one of my favorite things but when I was in Minneota full time I could walk to school if necessary."

Engels still tries to stay involved with the speech team.

"I still love the kids and occasionally send Kim an e-mail regarding something that I think would be a good speech," Engels said. "I still read the coaching e-mails and have tried

to stay current on the changes facing the kids and coaches this year with COVID safety precautions, but competition will be drastically different this year. I have very fond memories of the team and will cherish the successes we achieved in practice and in competition."

Gades said the team has benefitted greatly by having Engels as one of the coaches.

"She is a good friend and the speech program wouldn't be where it is now without Amanda," said Gades. "It's a

huge loss for the program."

The school is seeking an assistant speech coach to help Gades, a two-time Section 3A Coach of the Year, this season.

"We need someone who is detail-oriented, dedicated, willing to put in some time, and have some type of speech background," said Gades. "Amanda had all those qualities."

The speech team will begin practice in a couple of weeks and will begin the season in early February.

Winter sports season kicks off this week

Wrestlers host triangular tonight; attendance limited to 25 percent of gym capacity

By Scott Thoma
scott@thomabooks.com

After months of having no sporting events in Minneota, starting on Thursday, Jan. 14, there will be six events over the next six days.

For the time being, there will be only two spectators allowed per participant with a maximum of 150 fans, or 25 percent capacity, whichever is smaller. Each gymnasium will vary slightly because of the capacity percentage.

The Minneota wrestling team hosts a triangular on Thursday with Tracy-Milroy-Balaton/Westbrook-Walnut Grove and Red Rock Central in its season opener beginning at 5 p.m.

On Friday, Jan. 15, the wrestling team will participate in another triangular at KMS High School in Kerkhoven, competing against Ker-

hoven-Murdock-Sunburg and Fulda/Murray County Central. That triangular also begins at 5 p.m.

Also on Friday, the Minneota girls basketball teams opens the season at home with a Camden Conference game against MACCRAY beginning at 7 p.m.

The Minneota boys basketball teams opens its season on Saturday, Jan. 16 at home with a Camden Conference rivalry against Dawson-Boyd at 7 p.m.

The girls hit the road on Monday, Jan. 18 for another Camden Conference contest against Renville Sacred Heart.

And the boys travel to Kerkhoven on Tuesday, Jan. 19 for a Camden Conference game with Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg.

JIC offers update on local COVID-19 vaccine

As priority groups across the state of Minnesota begin receiving COVID-19 vaccinations, the Lyon County Joint Information Center encourages area residents to exercise patience and be informed so they are prepared when they have the opportunity to receive it themselves.

Lyon County, Southwest Health and Human Services (SWHHS), the City of Marshall and Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center collaborated to form the Joint Information Center early in the COVID-19 pandemic to streamline critical communication on the local response.

COVID-19 vaccines are currently being administered across the state to groups in phase-1a as outlined by the Minnesota Department of Health. SWHHS and Avera facilities in Marshall, Tyler and Granite Falls are collaborating to carry out this vaccination plan from the Minnesota Health Department at the local level. Avera Marshall is vaccinating health care workers and long-term care residents. SWHHS is vaccinating EMS workers and assisted living populations. In addition, some area long-term care facilities are working through large pharmacies for vaccines for staff and residents.

"We are thrilled to be at the point of beginning to administer a vaccine. It's a pivotal time in moving toward the end of the pandemic. It's a tremendous first step," said Ann Orren, SWHHS Community Public Health Supervisor.

"At the same time, we recognize there are

many people in our communities who are eager to get the vaccines themselves. We don't know yet when it will be available to the general public. Due to limited supply, not everyone can get vaccinated right away. It is possible that healthy adults without risk factors might not receive the vaccine until this spring. At this time, we cannot predict a timeframe beyond the first several weeks."

Orren also points out that the other states may approach allocation in different ways or with different timelines. Local entities must follow the plan laid out by the state of Minnesota. Timing will be dependent on how quickly the state receives additional vaccine and how quickly organizations across the state are able to move through the phases.

Members of the Joint Information Center encourages eligible individuals to get the vaccine as soon as they have the opportunity.

Dr. Steve Meister, Chief Medical Officer, Avera Marshall, said: "The vaccines have undergone rigorous testing by the Food and Drug Administration to ensure safety and efficacy. The FDA is respected worldwide and its decision are made by expert scientists and physicians. Safety is their top priority. Data is showing effectiveness levels as high as 95 percent."

If anyone has questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, there is information available at www.avera.org/covid-vaccine.



Laleman gets \$1,000 scholarship

Mark Laleman, right, is presented with a \$1,000 scholarship from the Minnesota Fire Service Foundation by his father, Brad Laleman, a member of the Minneota Fire Department. The Minnesota Fire Service Foundation awards two \$1,000 scholarships each year; one to a child of an active or retired fireman and one to a child of a deceased fireman. *Contributed photo*

Lyon County Museum reopens

The Lyon County Museum in Marshall is allowed to reopen starting on Monday, Jan. 11. The museum hours for the month of January are Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday noon to 7 p.m. Closed on Sundays.

The museum will remain decorated for the holidays for the month of January. Voting for the Christmas Tree Walk will continue online at

www.lyonbcmuseum.org and at the museum. Boxes for voting are next to each tree.

The second floor exhibit gallery will also be open. A grand opening celebration will occur at a later date.

For more information, contact the museum at 507-537-6580 or director@lyonbcmuseum.org.

Honor Roll

MINNEOTA HIGH SCHOOL SECOND QUARTER JR. HIGH HONOR ROLL

Our honor roll is divided into three sections - the Straight 'A' Honor Roll (4.00 GPA), the 'A' Honor Roll (3.666-3.999 GPA), and the 'B' Honor Roll (3.33-3.665 GPA).

The honor roll is published each nine-week period for grades 7- and 8, and each semester for grades 9-12.

Straight 'A' Honor Roll (7th grade)
Kellen Bradley
Garrett Peterson

(8th grade)
Kiersyn Hulzebos
Hadli Krog
Ryan Meagher

Jordyn Tolk

'A' Honor Roll (7th grade)

Carson Becker
Dawson Dovre
John Fales
Isabelle Gillund
Tana Gillund
Joseph Lacek
Jasmine Petersen
Abigail Rolbiecki
Elizabeth Vierstraete

(8th grade)

Parker Bradley
Lydia Coequyt
Brayden Downing
Hannah Fadness
Destin Fier
Sam Frie
Keira Korman
Brock Kremin
Brody Larson
Kylee Lyson

Dakota Pesch
Claire Rost
Lucas Rybinski

'B' Honor Roll (7th grade)

Naima Content
Adam DeVlaeminck
Brock Fier
Leo Hennen
Easton Johnston
Kaden Lasnestski

(8th grade)

Taylor Clark
James Douglas
Truthton Fales
Evangelina Gratz
Tiffany Gronke
Chase Johnson
Tate Peterson
Karrie Richmond

minneotamascot.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
This week's birthdays & anniversaries:
January 14
Chuck Josephson
January 15
Olivia Harriger
January 16
Margaret Kimpe
Share a name on our birthday and anniversary announcement (and website ad) for only \$2! Must be prepaid before published!
Stop by the Mascot or call us at 507-872-6492.

AGPLUS
Agriculture • Energy • Service
NOTICE
Ag Plus Cooperative Annual Update Live Webinar
Tuesday, January 19th at 10:00 a.m.
OR
Wednesday, January 20th at 6:30 p.m.
Please join Ag Plus Cooperative's Board Chairman (Mark Fischer) and its President and CEO (Todd Ludwig) for a webinar of the year end update. Because of Covid-19 Ag Plus is unable to hold an annual meeting, so we will be giving you an update via the web. It will be live, and interactive; you will be able to ask questions. Details to join the webinar are available on our website (www.agpluscoop.com) or can be picked up at any one of our locations along with our annual report. If you have any questions, please give us a call.

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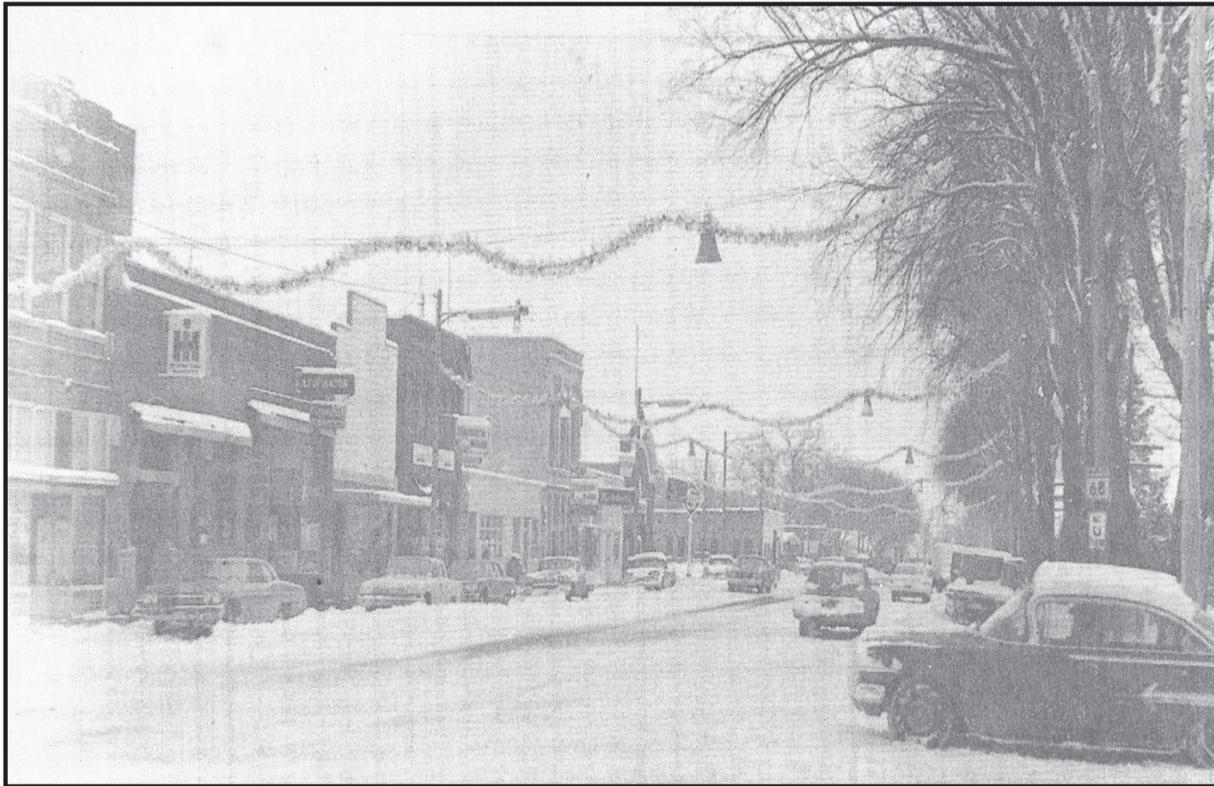
Avera Medical Group
300 S. Bruce St. | Marshall, MN 56258

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Anna Gregoire, MD
Dermatology
Dermatologist Anna Gregoire, MD, keeps your skin glowing through all life's challenges with the latest techniques and technology.

Avera Medical Group
Dermatology

Lyon County Throwback



Lyon County 150th Anniversary

This photo taken in December of 1962 is Main Street in Minneota looking east. Lighted Christmas decorations with lighted bells in the center hung across all the streets in the business district. Photo Courtesy of the Lyon County Museum.

From the Mascot Files

100, 75, 50 and 25 Years Ago

100 Years Ago (Jan. 18, 1921)

Minneota boys, girls cagers beat Canby

The Minneota High School boys and girls went to Canby on the evening of Jan. 7, and brought home the larger end of two scores. The girls won in a close and spirited game. They started the second half two points behind and won by clever basket shooting and strong defensive work. The final score was 11-9. The Minneota boys won too easily, the score being 39-11. The larger and older Canby boys are not trying out for teams there. Minneota had the advantage in height and weight. From the standpoint of good basketball, the game had little to offer the spectators.

Gislon returns from real estate meeting

B.B. Gislon returned to Minneota after spending two days attending the annual meeting of the real estate dealers of the state in Minnesota in Minneapolis. He was one of the speakers at the convention and spoke on the subject of organization as applied to land companies.

75 Years Ago (Jan. 18, 1946)

Village debt drops \$1,000 in 1945

Minneota's bonded indebtedness dropped \$1,000 while the amount of bonds owned by the village remained the same, \$20,000, the annual financial statement shows. The statement was prepared by K.E. Jones and presented to the Village Council at the regular meeting last week.

Legion to seek funds from farms

Members of Minneota's American Legion will canvass farms in the six townships surrounding Minneota in the near future, seeking donations toward the

erection of a community building here. Plans for the drive in the farm area were outlined at a meeting of the post last week. A number of prominent farmers have contacted Legionnaires here suggesting that a canvass of the townships be made.

Tillemans receives silver medal from U.S. Treasury

H.J. Tillemans, chairman of this district in War Bond drives, received a silver medal from the U.S. Treasury for distinguished services performed in War Finance. Leif Gilstad, state executive director, presented the medal to Mr. Tillemans. A limited number of the medals were produced by the U.S. Mint.

50 Years Ago (Jan. 14, 1970)

Local couple aboard hijacked airplane

A Minneota couple, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hoffman, making their winter home in Florida, were passengers on a plane that was hijacked to Cuba. The Hoffmans spent the holidays with family in California and were returning to Florida on National Airlines when the plane was hijacked and diverted to Cuba. One hijacker held a gun to the head of a stewardess and entered the cockpit. The second hijacker also had a gun and kept the 90 passengers in their seats. There was no sky marshal aboard the plane. No one was injured.

Bank stockholders name new directors

Directors were re-elected when stockholders of the First State Bank of Minneota met in their annual session last week. The directors are: John M. Schulte, Robert P. Boulton, Harold Schwartz, and Donald J. Venne. Mr. Venne was named president of the bank and Wallace R. Pesch was named vice president.

18th annual crop show in Minneota

Educational programs, exhibits and displays are the concerns of Minneota business men, crop improvement association members and the home councilors in finalizing plans for the 18th annual Crop Show. The show and program will be held on Jan. 26-27, according to Ray Newell, extension agent. Several top-notch speakers will be scheduled to speak on subjects of concern for those in the business of agriculture.

25 Years Ago (Jan. 17, 1996)

Local band is cutting new album

Roxbury Drive, a local band comprised of Todd Sonnenburg and Nona Fay of Minneota, Kevin Milton of Canby, and Mark Courtney of Cottonwood announced that they have cut an album with Dreamstreet Studios of Nashville, which is owned by Hall of Fame Music Writer Dennis Morgan of Tracy. Many of the songs on the album were written by Morgan. The album release party is set for Feb. 10, 1996.

Jaycees observe 10-year resurgence

It was 10 years ago that the Minneota Jaycees formed. The Jaycees have done many projects in the time they have been a Chapter. They have filled sandboxes, picked up discarded Christmas trees, hid Easter eggs for kids to find, made Haunted Houses for Halloween activities, had Dial-a-Santa, placed park equipment, helped with Toys for Tots, and much more. In observance of the 10-year anniversary, the Jaycees will be having a get-together on Saturday, Jan. 20. All past and current members are invited to attend.

Anderson wins local

geography bee

Justin Anderson, an eighth-grader at Minneota Public School, won the school-level competition of the National Geography Bee recently. Anderson has a chance now at a \$25,000 college scholarship. Anna Hagen, also an eighth-grader, was the runner-up in this year's competition. The State Geography Bee will be held on March 29.

This Day in World History

1641 - United East Indian Company conquers city of Malacca; 7,000 killed.

1724 - Spanish King Philip V abdicated the throne.

1761 - Third Battle of Panipat: In one of the largest battles of the century, the mostly Muslim Afghani Durrani Empire defeats the mostly Hindu Maratha Empire in Northern India. An estimated 60,000-70,000 were killed in the fighting and about 40,000 Maratha prisoners massacred afterwards.

1784 - U.S. Revolutionary War ends with U.S. Congress of the Confederation ratifying the Treaty of Paris.

1794 - Dr. Jesse Bennet of Edom, Virginia, performs the first successful Cesarean section operation in the United States on his wife.

1943 - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt travels from Miami to Morocco to meet with Winston Churchill, becoming the first American president to travel overseas by airplane.

1952 - The "Today Show" premieres with Dave Garroway and Jack Lescaouie on NBC-TV.

2011 - Tunisian president, Ben Ali, flees to Saudi Arabia after popular protests known as the Jasmine Revolution.

Outside Looking In



By Scott Thoma

Different versions

Bruce Vogel was a high school classmate of mine at Tracy High School. He eventually became a State Representative in District 13B as a Republican from Willmar from 2011-13.

When I learned that Vogel made the 20-hour drive to Washington D.C. last Wednesday with his wife, Jeanne, to attend the rally at Ellipse, the 52-acre oval-shaped field between the White House and the Washington Memorial, I contacted him to get an eyewitness account of the mob scene that stormed the Capitol.

"I went there specifically to pray for our country and to listen to the speakers so I could see for myself what's in store for us in the future," Vogel said.

During his time at Ellipse listening to several speakers, including President Trump, Vogel said the crowd did not seem to be getting angry or violent as though they were preparing for what eventually unfolded.

"No one really seemed worked up or angry," Vogel said. "(Trump) never said to come there and damage property or to injure anyone. We talked to a lot of people while we were there and no one felt that way. Disgusted, yes. Angry, no."

Trump supporters arrived from all over the country when he requested they come to the Capitol in protest of what he felt was a "rigged" election. There were several other speakers, too, Vogel said, that expressed similar sentiment.

"Rudy Guliani insisted that they have forensic evidence that ballot boxes were tampered with," Vogel said. "Basically, the speakers all wanted the supporters to not give up hope that things could be proven and Trump would remain in office. I thought it was interesting, but in no way was it anything where I felt people were getting upset and going to do what they did."

But any time there is a crowd of around one million people, as was the estimate at the Ellipse, there are going to be some people that just can't protest peacefully. They have to lash out in violent ways. It happened during the racial unrest and it happened here. It makes it appear as though everyone attending is protesting violently.

The Vogels were near the back of the pack when they arrived around 1 p.m. for a second session of speakers. That's when those in the front decided to act like animals and break down barricades, push and shove police, and eventually make their way inside the Capitol building where they caused damage and looted.

"It was absolutely wrong what they were doing," Vogel said. "We saw a lot of people dressed in black, dressed in military fatigues, some with helmets and weapons as though they were planning this all along. They came there just to cause damage. It was really sad to see. This should never have happened and it makes it look like everyone that was there was acting this way."

But Vogel also pointed out there were only a "few hundred people" causing all the trouble, out of the million in attendance.

"There were two guys up front with bullhorns encouraging people to come up front," Vogel recalls. "They were really trying to get everyone to break into the Capitol. But most people just stood outside and watched."

Several people did eventually storm the Capitol and entered some of the Democratic offices, including Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, where they damaged walls and stole items. One man who posed with his feet on Pelosi's desk was identified and arrested on Friday. Another man who stole her lectern was also identified and arrested.

Vogel posted a photo on his Facebook page with the White House showing in the background. He had an American flag draped over his shoulder. His wife was all bundled up in a hooded jacket. Nothing in the photo showed any support of Trump such as a MAGA hat or a sign. Yet Vogel was besieged with enough negative comments that he had to remove the photo from his Facebook page.

Two other people contacted the Mascot that attended the rally at the Capitol and expresses disgust at how the media portrayed the event. Neither wanted their names used for fear they would hit hard on social media.

"You would have had to be there to form an opinion," one said. "You can't go by what the media tells you. It did not happen the way it was told. When I read online what happened at the Capitol, it wasn't even close to the way it really happened."

No one seems to be able to voice an opinion, one way or another, anymore if the people reading it don't agree. No wonder our world is so divisive. And it's only going to get worse, no matter who is in office.

I've learned one thing about social media. It has caused way more bad than good.



The Mascot

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New Mascot Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.



Mascot Staff

Publishers: Jeff & Julie Meyer
Managing Editor: Scott Thoma
Office Manager: LuAnn Fier
Production: Brittany Moore

Obituaries

Mildred Josephson

The funeral service for Mildred Josephson, 95, of Minneota, will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, January 15, 2021, at the Horvath Remembrance Center in Marshall. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service at the remembrance center. A private family interment will take place at a later date. A livestream and recording of the service will be available at www.horvathfuneralservice.com. Masks are required at all indoor events and social distancing requirements will be followed.



Mildred Josephson

Mildred was born to John and Amanda (Ehlers) Hauschild on December 13, 1925. She was baptized on January 3, 1926. Mildred attended the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Taunton, MN. She was confirmed on June 13, 1940. On June 30, 1939, she graduated from eighth grade from school district 54 of Lincoln County, MN. On December 13, 1945, she married Henry Riecke. This union was blessed with four children: Kenneth, John, JoAnn and Susan. The couple enjoyed playing cards with family and friends. They also loved going out dancing. Mildred was employed at the Marshall Produce and Schott's Corporation. On February 10, 1972, Henry was killed in a farm accident. Shortly after his death, Mildred moved down to her parent's farm to take care of her mother. Her mom passed away in August of 1976. In 1978, Mildred decided to take a month long trip to Germany and Italy to visit her two sons that were in the service. On October 16, 1982, she married Roseville "Rozy" Josephson. The couple enjoyed traveling and wood working. Rozy lost his battle with cancer in 1988. Mildred continued living on the farm in Yellow Medicine County until she moved to Marshall in 2012. In May of 2016, Mildred moved to the Minneota Manor. She continued her hobbies of crochet, sewing, crafts and tending to her plants. Many afternoons, you could hear her listening to old time music or you could find her out in the courtyard playing with cats.

Even being 90 and living in the nursing home, she continued with her hobbies. Mildred made 10 lap sized quilts and crocheted several afghans. Many of the residents knew she had a sewing machine and would bring things to her for repair. Mildred was famous for her match stick crosses and even sold them to the residents. Her room was like a floral shop because she had so many plants. She loved watching the birds and squirrels that came to her feeder. She was computer savvy and enjoyed playing solitaire. She loved doing puzzles with the residents but when they took that away due to covid, she continued doing them on her computer. The last two months, when she wasn't able to leave her room, she learned to skype.

Mildred died on Monday, January 4, 2021, at the Minneota Manor in Minneota. She is survived by her daughters JoAnn Styrbicky of Cyrus, MN, and Susan Furan of Tyler, MN; grandchildren Dale Riecke of Hartford, MN, Mike (and Michelle) Riecke of Waseca, MN, Theresa Riecke of Waseca, MN, Fred Riecke of Owatonna, MN, George (and Lisa) Riecke of Lacey, WA, Patrick Riecke of Graham, WA, Billie Riecke of Graham, WA, Allen (and Sherry) Roberts of Madison Lake, MN, Melissa Zipper of Glenwood, MN, Doug Roberts of Breckenridge, MN, Tom (and Robin) Roberts of Jamestown, ND, Heidi (and Shannon) Buchert of Russell, MN, Heather Furan of Tyler, MN; daughter-in-law Patty Riecke of Graham, WA; 24 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Also survived by step-children Rosella Wimmergren of Minneota, MN, Deanna Rodina of Taunton, MN, Laurie (and Dean) Breyfogle of Taunton, MN, Gary Josephson of Minneota, MN and Dale Josephson of Young America. She was preceded in death by her parents John and Amanda Hauschild, husbands Henry and Roseville; sons Kenneth Riecke and John Riecke; step-children Shirley Josephson and Darryl Josephson; son-in-law Bill Furan; siblings Arnold Hauschild, Mary Lou Mattson, Carol Harms; brothers-in-law Don Harms and James Mattson, and niece Diane Fisher.

Police Blotter

The Minneota Police Department and First Responders received the following calls for service:

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021

- Permit to purchase
- Medical call in the 700 block of N. Monroe Street.
- Medical call in the 400 block of N. Adams Street.

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021

- Welfare check in the 700 block of N. Madison Street.
- Animal complaint in the 500 block of N. Grant Street.
- Parking complaint in the 100 block of Hwy. 68.

Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021

- Medical call in the 700 block of N. Madison Street

Friday, Jan. 8, 2021

- Traffic complaint on N. Market Street.

Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021

- Medical call in the 100 block of E. Lyon Street.

Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021

- Animal complaint in the 200 block of N. Jefferson Street.

Menus

MINNEOTA PUBLIC SCHOOL
COLD MEAT SANDWICH & SALAD BAR OFFERED DAILY

Monday, January 18 NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, January 19

Breakfast: Long John or notable, fruit, milk.
Lunch: Ravioli or ham on bun-roll, fresh veggies, lettuce salad, fruit choice, milk.

Wednesday, January 20

Breakfast: Pancake sausage or notable, fruit, milk.
Lunch: Pizza or grilled cheese, lettuce salad, fresh veggies, fruit, milk.

Thursday, January 21

Breakfast: Muffin/cereal or notable, fruit, milk.
Lunch: Chili or chicken nuggets, roll, fresh veggies, fruit choice, milk.

Friday, January 22

Breakfast: Breakfast croissant or notable, fruit, milk.
Lunch: Hot ham & cheese or BBQ riblet, lettuce salad, fresh veggies, fruit choice, milk.

ST. EDWARD SCHOOL

Monday, January 18

Lunch: Cook's choice.

Tuesday, January 19

Lunch: Hamburger stew, mixed greens, fruit, bread, milk.

Wednesday, January 20

Lunch: Roasted chicken, mashed potato & gravy, corn, dinner roll, fruit, milk.

Thursday, January 21

Lunch: Chicken nuggets, dinner roll, baked squash casserole, mashed potato, fruit, milk.

Friday, January 22

Lunch: Fish fillet, baby carrots, baked beans, fruit, dinner roll, milk.

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Ask the Chief



By Minneota
Police Chief Bill Bolt

Are you getting the vaccine?

Yes, I am. I received my first shot on Jan. 11 and my second will be on Feb. 8. I understand that many people are concerned about receiving the shot and that there is conflicting information coming from the media, social media, and the water cooler.

If you have questions or want more information as to if you should receive the vaccine, I encourage you to talk to your doctor.

If you trust your doctor to diagnose you for other illnesses, if you trust your doctor to give you medication, if you have followed your doctor's advice in the past, then I encourage you to talk to them about the vaccine.

I can't think of another person who would be more qualified to give you advice regarding the vaccine.

With all of that being said, I also want you to know that I will not judge you for getting or not getting the vaccine. It is your choice. I will continue to respect you, like you, interact with you and be your friend.

From the Mascot Kitchen

'I Made It' Pizza

It's easy to order a pizza when you're in a hurry or don't feel like cooking. But even if you've never made pizza from scratch, you and your family will enjoy the rewards of the finished product.

DOUGH INGREDIENTS

- 1 .25-oz. package dry yeast
- 2 cups warm water
- 3 tbl vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 4 cups flour

SAUCE INGREDIENTS

- 2 8-oz. cans tomato sauce
- 1 1/2 tsp onion, grated
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp pepper

TOPPINGS

- 4 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 1 3.24-oz. package pepperoni
- 1 medium green pepper
- 1 medium red pepper
- 1/4 cup black olives, sliced
- 1 cup onion, chopped

DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Add oil, salt and 2 cups flour. Beat on medium speed for 3 minutes. Stir in enough remaining flour to form a soft dough. Turn dough on to a floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic; about 6-9 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease other side. Cover with a towel and let rest in a warm place for 10 minutes. In another bowl, combine sauce ingredients and set aside. Divide dough in half. On a floured surface, roll each dough portion into a 13-inch circle and then place on two greased 12-inch pizza pans; build up edged slightly. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 minutes or until lightly brown. Spread with sauce mixture, sprinkle with toppings. Bake an additional 15-20 minutes or until cheese is melted.

— Minneota Area Community Churches —

<p>Healing Waters Parish Augustana, Clarkfield; Bergen, Clarkfield; St. Lucas Lutheran, Cottonwood</p> <p>Worship Times: All Bergen, St. Lucas, Augustana services will be live streamed at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Please watch the website and Facebook for more information.</p> <p>Vicar Mort Meyenburg Church Contact No. 320-841-1085</p>	<p>Father Ron Huberty Parochial Vicars: Fr. Michael Doyle and Fr. Keith Salisbury</p> <p>Winds of the Prairie Ministry Bethany Lutheran, Arco and Bethany-Elm Lutheran, Ivanhoe</p> <p>Worship Times: Online Worship see Facebook page.</p>	<p>St. Paul's Lutheran Church Minneota</p> <p>Worship Times: Sunday at 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Pastor Allen Campbell Church Secretary: Chris Pesch hopelutheran87@gmail.com Church Contact No. 507-872-6446</p>	<p>Bethel Fellowship Church Hwy 68 - Minneota</p> <p><i>Ephesians 2:8 - By grace you are saved.</i></p> <p>Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.; Sunday School 8:50-9:45 a.m. Wednesdays: Kids' Zone 6-7:20 p.m.; Prayer and Devotional 7:30 p.m. Pastor Thomas Nomeland Contact No. 507-828-1637</p>
<p>Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church PO Box 119, 101 Main Street, Hanley Falls www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org</p> <p>Worship Time: All Sunday services will be live-streamed at 10 a.m. Sundays on Facebook (visit Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church). Please watch the website and Facebook for more information.</p> <p>Church: 507-768-3417 Vicar Myron Crawford: 651-253-5379</p>	<p>Pastor Jeff Greathouse Cell #: 330-234-1317 pastorghouse@gmail.com Church Contact No. 507-694-1238 windsministry@gmail.com</p>	<p>Hemnes Lutheran Church Rural Minneota</p> <p>Sunday Worship: No service Minneota Manor Worship, 2:30 p.m., fourth Thursday of the month. Pastor Ellen Munter</p>	<p>St. Edward Catholic Church Minneota</p> <p>Mass Times: Thursday, January 14: Mass at 7 a.m. Saturday, January 16: Mass at 5:30 p.m., confession 4:45 p.m. Sunday, January 17: Mass at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 20: School Mass at 10:30 a.m., CCD at 6:30 p.m.</p>
<p>St. Leo Catholic Church St. Leo, MN</p> <p>Mass Times: See Bulletin</p>	<p>Hope Lutheran Church Minneota www.hopeminneota.org</p> <p>Worship Times: Sunday, January 17: Worship at 9 a.m. Wednesday, January 20: GLOW at 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Pastor Allen Campbell Church Secretary Chris Pesch: hopelutheran87@gmail.com Church Contact No. 507-872-6446</p>	<p>St. Eloi Catholic Church Ghent, MN</p> <p>Mass Times: Saturday, January 16: Convent Mass at Noon Sunday, January 17: Mass at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 20: CCD at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Father Todd Petersen Church Contact No. 507-428-3285</p>	<p>Father Todd Petersen Church Contact No. 507-872-6346</p>

Minneota Area Church Announcements Brought to You By:

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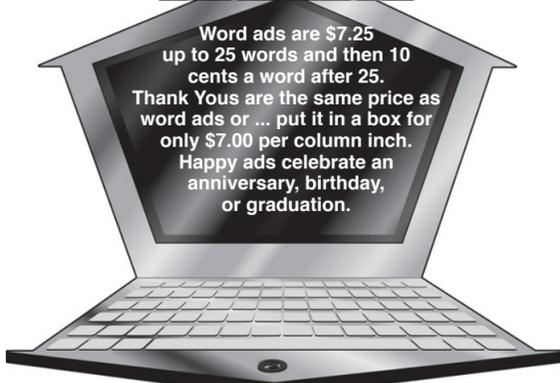
THE SEARCH IS OVER ...

FIND IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

Thursday, January 14, 2021

Page 7

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TUESDAY NOON**



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FOR RENT: Tri-Minn Apartments in Minneota has 2 bedroom apartments available. Includes: heat, water, sewer, garbage, & on-site laundry. Call Nancy Bormann, PA at 507-872-5990 or 507-223-7869.



Cards of Thanks

Thank you! Thank you! I was really overwhelmed by how many birthday cards I received. Wishing everyone a blessed 2021. ~ Alice Bot

We want to thank everyone who made our 50th anniversary a memorable occasion for us. We really appreciated all the cards, texts and calls; and, of course, it was extra special to visit with the people who could come to our celebration. ~ Frank and Becky Engels

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Includes weekend rotation

C.N.A. Day/Evening PT & FT

Includes weekend rotation

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Dietary Aide - FT

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Must be caring, dependable individuals.

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kathy@minmanor.com or application

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For more information visit midcountycoop.com/mechanic-job to apply contact Mike at (952) 466-3710 or mikeb@midcountycoop.com



City of Appleton NOW HIRING

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Full job description and application can be found at www.appletonmn.com/employment

Application deadline: 5:00 p.m. February 15, 2021.

Submit application via mail or email.

City of Appleton, 323 W. Schlieman Ave., Appleton, MN 56208
cityadministrator@appletonmn.org

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Coordinates resident's care with resident, family, doctors & staff

Activity Assistant- FT

Assist with resident activities & dining (C.N.A. certification preferred-not required)

Must be caring, dependable individuals.

We offer competitive wages, holidays, education assistance and 401k. For an exciting & rewarding career opportunity, apply with us!

CONTACT:Business Office (507)872-5300

kathy@minmanor.com or application

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Showcase your pet!

Send us or bring in a favorite photo of your pet for a chance to become our "Pet of the Week".

Include your name, your pet's name, the type of breed, age, and pet's favorite activity.

Send to: Minneota Mascot, P.O. Box 9, Minneota, MN 56264 or email editor@minneotamascot.com

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HELP WANTED

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of Rugby/Mohall ND is seeking a qualified CEO/General Manager. This full service energy, agronomy, and farm supply cooperative with sales of \$70 Million and four branch locations located in Central ND. A background in finance, communication, and personnel management is desired. Send resumes to: Larry Fuller, 5213 Shoal Drive, Bismarck ND 58503 or larry.fuller@midco.net

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Outdoor dining

These deer took a moment from foraging for food to pose for a photo outside of Minneota recently. Deer have been plentiful this winter because of mild temperatures and less snow, making it easier for the deer to leave their ruts and search for food. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason.*

USDA announces CRP General Signup

Agricultural producers and private landowners interested in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) can sign up for the popular program beginning today, Jan. 4, 2021, until Feb. 12, 2021. The competitive program, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.

Through CRP, farmers and ranchers establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Farmers and ranchers who participate in CRP help provide numerous benefits to their local region and the nation's environment and economy. CRP general signup is held annually and is competitive; general signup includes increased opportunities for wildlife habitat enrollment through the State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative.

New cropland offered in the program must have been planted for four out of six crop years from 2012 to 2017. Additionally, producers with land already enrolled but expiring on Sept. 30, 2021, can re-enroll this year. The acreage offered by producers and landowners is evaluated competitively; accepted offers will begin Oct. 1, 2021.

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the United States. The program marked its 35-year anniversary in December 2020. Program successes include:

- Preventing more than 9 billion tons of soil from eroding, which is enough soil to fill 600 million dump trucks.
- Reducing nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to annually tilled cropland by 95% and 85%, respectively.
- Sequestering an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to taking 9 million cars off the road.
- Creating more than 3 million acres of restored wetlands while protecting more than 175,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers, which is enough to go around the world seven times.
- Benefiting bees and other pollinators and increasing populations of ducks, pheasants, turkey, bobwhite quail, prairie chickens, grasshopper sparrows, and many other birds.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Program delivery staff will continue to work with our producers by phone, email, and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.



Lighting contest winners

Austin and Shannon Dritz pose in their home south of Taunton with some of the many prizes they received for winning the Mascot "Battle of the Bulbs" Christmas Lighting Contest this year. There were 29 entries to this year's contest. *Contributed photo*

Medicare advantage open enrollment begins

If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, you have until March 31, 2021 to make changes to your plan. People who have their Medicare benefits through a Medicare Advantage Plan can make a one-time plan change from January 1 through March 31.

People who are new to Medicare and choose to get their Medicare benefits from a Medicare Advantage Plan can also access this enrollment period during the first three months after enrolling in Medicare Part A and Part B.

This enrollment period gives people with a Medicare Advantage Plan a second chance to decide if their Medicare Advantage plan is right for them.

You can:

- Switch to another Medicare Advantage Plan (with or without drug coverage)

To do this, you must not disenroll from your current plan. Enrolling in a new plan will trigger a disenrollment in the current plan.

- Disenroll from your Medicare Advantage Plan and return to Original Medicare

You can't:

- Switch from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage Plan
- Join a stand-alone Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan
- Switch from one stand-alone Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan to another

To learn more, call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 800-333-2433. The Senior LinkAge Line is a free, statewide service of the Minnesota Board on Aging in partnership with Minnesota's Area Agencies on Aging.

January is National Blood Donor Month

The American Red Cross and the National Football League are teaming up this January, during National Blood Donor Month, to urge individuals – especially those who have recovered from COVID-19 – to give blood and to help tackle the national convalescent plasma shortage. Right now, more donors are needed to help hospital patients.

During this critical time, the Red Cross and NFL are thrilled to offer all those who come to donate an opportunity to receive a special thank you this month. Those who come to donate blood or platelets this January will be automatically entered to win two tickets to next year's Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles.* In addition, those who come to give Jan. 1-20, will also be automatically entered to win the Big Game at Home package for an awesome viewing experience safely at home, with a 65-inch television and a \$500 gift card to put toward food and fun.

The Red Cross will be in Ghent from noon to 6 p.m. at

KB's Bar & Grill on Thursday, Jan. 14 at KB's Bar & Grill, and in Minneota from 1-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at the American Legion.

Individuals can schedule an appointment to give blood today with the American Red Cross by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or activating the Blood Scheduling Skill for Amazon Alexa.

As COVID-19 cases have risen across the U.S., so has the need for convalescent plasma – leading to a shortage of this potentially lifesaving blood product. Like "special teams" units on the field, COVID-19 survivors have a unique ability to make a game-changing difference in the lives of COVID-19 patients. Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 may have antibodies in their plasma that could provide a patient's immune system the boost it needs to beat the virus.

Blood donation safety precautions

To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, individuals who do not feel well or who believe they may be ill with COVID-19 should postpone their donation.

Upcoming area blood donation opportunities:

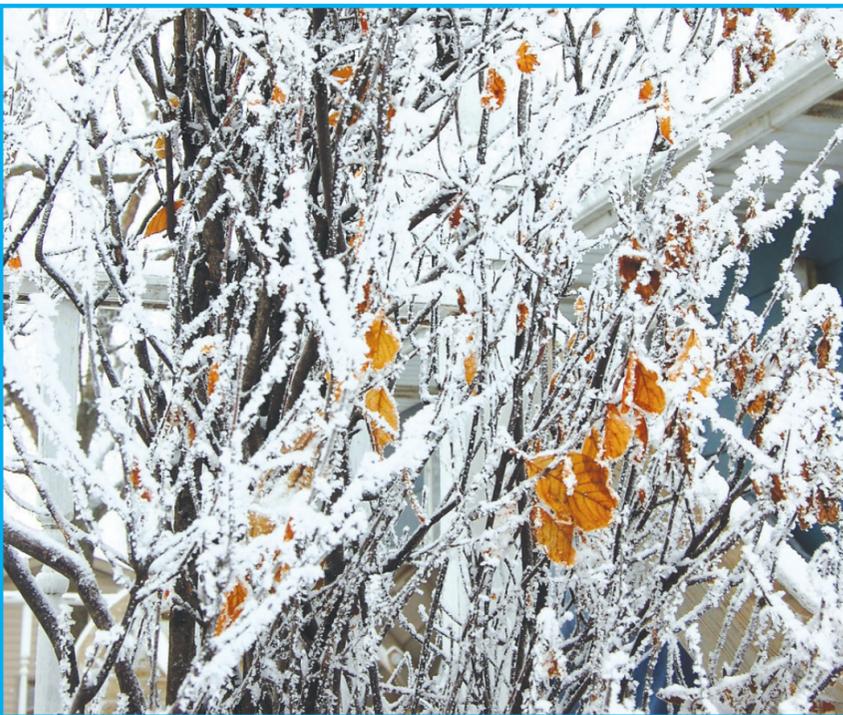
Lincoln County (Ivanhoe)
Jan. 21: Noon - 6 p.m., Bethany Elim Lutheran, 102 S. Highway 5

(Lake Benton)
Jan. 19: 1:30-6:30 p.m., Community and Event Center, 114 S. Center St.

Lyon County (Ghent)
Jan. 14: Noon - 6 p.m., KB's Bar and Grill, 100 Burlingame St.

(Marshall)
Jan. 22: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Lyon County Library, 201 C St.
Jan. 29: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Marshall Fire Department, 201 Saratoga St.

(Minneota)
Jan. 20: 1-7 p.m., American Legion Minneota, 208 N. Jefferson



Frost formations

The recent frost that hit the area made for some unusual formations on trees, bushes, fences and more. *Mascot photos by Scott Thoma*

Quality Loss Assistance now available for eligible producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that signup for the Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Program will begin Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021. Funded by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020, this new program provides assistance to producers who suffered eligible crop quality losses due to natural disasters occurring in 2018 and 2019. The deadline to apply for QLA is Friday, March 5, 2021.

Eligible Crops

Eligible crops include those for which federal crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is available, except for grazed crops and value loss crops, such as honey, maple sap, aquaculture, floriculture, mushrooms, ginseng root, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, and turfgrass sod.

Additionally, crops that were sold or fed to livestock or that are in storage may be eligible; however, crops that were destroyed before harvest are not eligible. Crop quality losses occurring after harvest, due to deterioration in storage, or that could have been mitigated, are also not eligible.

Assistance is based on a producer's

harvested affected production of an eligible crop, which must have had at least a 5% quality loss reflected through a quality discount; or for forage crops, a nutrient loss, such as total digestible nutrients.

Qualifying Disaster Events

Losses must have been a result of a qualifying disaster event (hurricane, excessive moisture, flood, qualifying drought, tornado, typhoon, volcanic activity, snowstorm, or wildfire) or related condition that occurred in calendar years 2018 and/or 2019.

Assistance is available for eligible producers in counties that received a qualifying Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or Secretarial Disaster Designation because of one or more of the qualifying disaster events or related conditions.

Lists of counties with Presidential Emergency Disaster Declarations and Secretarial Disaster Designations for all qualifying disaster events for 2018 and 2019 are available here. For drought, producers are eligible for QLA if the loss occurred in an area within a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D3 (extreme drought) or higher intensity level during 2018 or 2019.

Producers in counties that did not receive a qualifying declaration or designation may still apply but must also provide supporting documentation to establish that the crop was directly affected by a qualifying disaster event.

To determine QLA eligibility and payments, FSA considers the total quality loss caused by all qualifying natural disasters in cases where a crop was impacted by multiple events.

Applying for QLA

When applying, producers are asked to provide verifiable documentation to support claims of quality loss or nutrient loss in the case of forage crops. For crops that have been sold, grading must have been completed within 30 days of harvest, and for forage crops, a laboratory analysis must have been completed within 30 days of harvest.

Some acceptable forms of documentation include sales receipts from buyers, settlement sheets, truck or warehouse scale tickets, written sales contracts, similar records that represent actual and specific quality loss information, and forage tests for nutritional values.

Payments Calculations and Limitations

QLA payments are based on formulas for the type of crop (forage or non-forage) and loss documentation submitted. Based on this documentation FSA is calculating payments based on the producer's own individual loss or based on the county average loss. More information on payments can be found on farmers.gov/quality-loss.

FSA will issue payments once the application period ends. If the total amount of calculated QLA payments exceeds available program funding, payments will be prorated.

For each crop year, 2018, 2019 and 2020, the maximum amount that a person or legal entity may receive, directly or indirectly, is \$125,000. Payments made to a joint operation (including a general partnership or joint venture) will not exceed \$125,000, multiplied by the number of persons and legal entities that comprise the ownership of the joint operation. A person or legal entity is ineligible for QLA payment if the person's or legal entity's average Adjusted Gross Income exceeds \$900,000, unless at least 75% is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities.

Future Insurance Coverage Requirements

All producers receiving QLA Program payments are required to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage for the next two available crop years at the 60% coverage level or higher. Wildlife and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) participants who already met the WHIP+ requirement to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage are considered to have thereby met the requirement to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage for QLA. If eligible, QLA participants may meet the insurance purchase requirement by purchasing Whole-Farm Revenue Protection coverage offered through USDA's Risk Management Agency.

More Information

For more information, visit farmers.gov/quality-loss, or contact your local USDA Service Center. Producers can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364.

Questions?

Please contact your local FSA Office.