





Wynot's Brummer Named P&D Boys Athlete Of The Year • 6



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\$1.50





Hormel side dish 19 or 20 oz.



or 10 pk. mini cans 7.5 fl. oz.



cut vegetables Stouffer's entrée 10 or 12 oz. pkg. 57 to 96 oz.









Hy-Vee Angus Reserve bone-in beef rib roast boneless beef rib roast 15.99lb



COURTESY PHOTO From left: Calvin, Timarie, Athena, Lilianah, Treyden, Ebony Creswell and John Wudel are shown at the entrance of their new home.

A Home For The Holidays

A Habitat For Humanity Family Talks About Their Road To Homeownership

BY CORA VAN OLSON

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"There is a special kind of warmth that comes with the holidays. It's not just from a fireplace or a kitchen oven. It's the warmth that fills a place where we feel safe, loved and, finally, at peace."

That's what Ebony Creswell said as she and her family prepared to spend their first Christmas in their very own home in Yankton

Creswell, husband John Wudel and their five children were looking for a bigger place to live when they found out about Habitat for Humanity's homebuyer partnership programs and applied. "We have a large family, and we were basically in a three-bed-

room (house)," Wudel told the Press & Dakotan. "Then, we moved into an even smaller rental house, which was a two-bedroom with a basement, and the basement became the third bedroom.'

Wudel, who works at Yankton's Ability Building Services with Marty Wermers, a longtime Habitat volunteer and current board member, said Wermers encouraged him and Creswell to apply to the homebuyer program with Habitat.

"We were accepted, so we decided to pursue it," Wudel said. "A year later, here we are."

While Habitat for Humanity does partner with its homeowners to build new homes, it also refurbishes existing ones. The home Ebony and John bought was built years ago by Habitat for Humanity of Clay & Yankton Counties through its Homeownership Program and was poised to be sold.

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A Christmas Canvas



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: KELLY HERTZ/P&D

For many of us, the joyous glow of the holiday season is brightest today (Wednesday) on Christmas Eve, but the lights for this holiday tree shone weeks ago. The original image of the large pine tree along 33rd Street near the Mead Museum in Yankton was taken during the huge Northern Lights display early last month. While Photoshop filters created the oil-painted effect to complement the celestial artistry, the red and green glow of the sky (albeit brightened a bit) was real, despite the presence of local city lights. The Press & Dakotan wishes its readers a bright holiday season. Also, it you want to see some more colorful Christmas trees, submitted by our younger readers, turn to "The Colors of Christmas" section on pages 10-11.

and live as they would.

Ex-Nebraska Sen. Sasse **Announces Terminal Cancer Diagnosis**

BY AARON SANDERFORD **AND JAY WAAGMEESTER** © 2025, Nebraska Examiner

OMAHA, Neb. - Former Nebraska Republican U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse is dying of "metastasized, stage-four pancreatic cancer," he announced on social media Tuesday.

"Advanced pancreatic is nasty stuff; it's a death sentence. But

I already had a death sentence before last week too — we all do, Sasse wrote.

Most of the political world knows Sasse from his time tussling with President Donald Trump over the direction of the Republi-

can Party, including being one of seven Republicans who voted to convict the president following his impeachment in 2021.

Sasse has been, in many ways, a traditional small-government conservative with an intellectual bent. He often critiqued the GOP's turn toward populism under Trump and paid a price in public.

INTELLECTUAL SENATOR

He made waves as a candidate running from academia, as thenpresident of Midland University in Fremont before being elected to the Senate in 2014. His friends describe him as an intense and philosophical

His foes describe him as a man who likes to prove he is the smartest person in the room. He and his family had discussed moving back to Nebraska, to the lakes, from

In the early days, he pressed his fellow Republicans to offer solutions to issues like health care instead of just talking about what they were against.

In practice, he told reporters he found the Senate and its politically limiting ways stifling to the sort of committee work and legislative

progress he sought. He did not ever repeal and replace Obamacare, the Affordable Care Act, nor did he muster support for a clear legislative alterna-

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day, but perhaps I can find ways to prevent any future 'Masons' from making such a decision."

In a Wayne State Faculty Spotlight Series profile about Lein that was published online earlier this month, the educator said the school shooting was "definitely a harrowing experience, but a lot of positives have been born" from it.

that he still forgives Buhl because he is "simply trying

"One of the greatest gifts I have at my humble disposal is forgiveness," Lein said. "In addition, my life has been to ask 'Why?' In this case, to this day, I have

the guilt of wondering what else I could have done to prevent Mason from falling so far. I can't change that

BEING AN ADVOCATE

to pay tribute to so many" who have guided his life

"The infamy (from the incident) allowed me the opportunity to speak to many who are decision-makers and provide ideas for action that can assure every learner is valued (and) no student is marginalized or finds only desperation that leads to tragic action," Lein

He is a founding member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals' Principal Recovery Network, created in 2019 to help schools across the country that have suffered shooting tragedies and

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Happy Holidays



1 shopping day to Christmas

MMU Grad Who Survived School Shooting Seeks Reforms

BY MARK MAHONEY

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WAYNE, Neb. — In the more than 10 years since he survived a school shooting, Dr. Kevin Lein has become an avid advocate for changes to the U.S. education Lein, a 1981 graduate of Mount Marty College (now

Mount Marty University) in Yankton, was the principal of Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg when new student Mason Buhl walked into his office with a handgun on Sept. 30, 2015, and shot him, with the bullet going through his right arm and grazing the side of his chest. When the gun malfunctioned, Buhl, who was 16 years old at the time, was tackled and restrained by

other school staff members until law enforcement arrived at the scene. Instead of wanting Buhl to be punished for his actions, Lein absolved his assailant right away and advocated for Buhl to receive mental health treatment. Lein returned to work the next day with his right arm in a sling.

In the years since the incident, a case in which he pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree attempted murder, Buhl was found to have violated his probation in 2021 on a domestic simple assault charge. In 2023, a judge in Lincoln County reimposed Buhl's original sentence stemming from the school shooting — 25 years behind bars, with 15 years suspended and a chance of parole. Buhl, now 26 years old, was sentenced to a



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Kevin Lein, an assistant professor of education at Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska, who has strong ties to Yankton, is a school shooting survivor who advocates for safer, more compassionate schools.

decade in a state prison.

The 67-year-old Lein, who has been an assistant professor of education at Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska, since 2022, told the *Press & Dakotan*

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK





