



Holiday Greetings



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Walking in a winter wonderland



Elkhorn held its annual Christmas Card Parade Saturday, Dec. 3, through the downtown area. **Clockwise from top left:** Frosty made a point of walking through the parade; inflatables and children proved an important part of the Adams Electric display; the Jolly Giant Stiltwalkers out of Madison took part in the parade; members of the Elkhorn High School marching band color guard provide a colorful spark during the parade; the Elkhorn Lions Club brought a bit of pizzazz to the parade; even outdoors, visions of gathering around a warm fire were seen thanks to Seeds of Hope.

Photos by DAVE DRESHOW Holiday Greetings

Third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students at Tibbets Elementary school in Elkhorn — recently named a National Blue Ribbon School — were asked a simple question for this edition:

“If you could give a gift for the holidays, what would you give and to whom?”

THESE ARE A SAMPLING OF THE ANSWERS RECEIVED.

// It seems like a perfect present to give my dad a bigger glove because his is too small. // **Kellen K.**

// I think my dad would like a Payton Manning jersey because my dad really loves Payton Manning. It would be a perfect gift. // **Thomas C.**

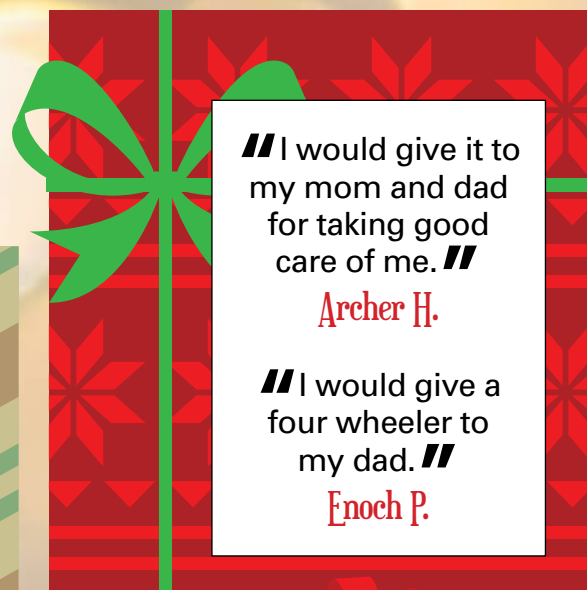
// I think my brother would love a Harry Potter wand because he really likes anything Harry Potter related. // **Henry L.**

// I know my brother would like baseball stuff for Christmas. I know my sister would like books. And I know my baby brother would like books too. // **Michayla**

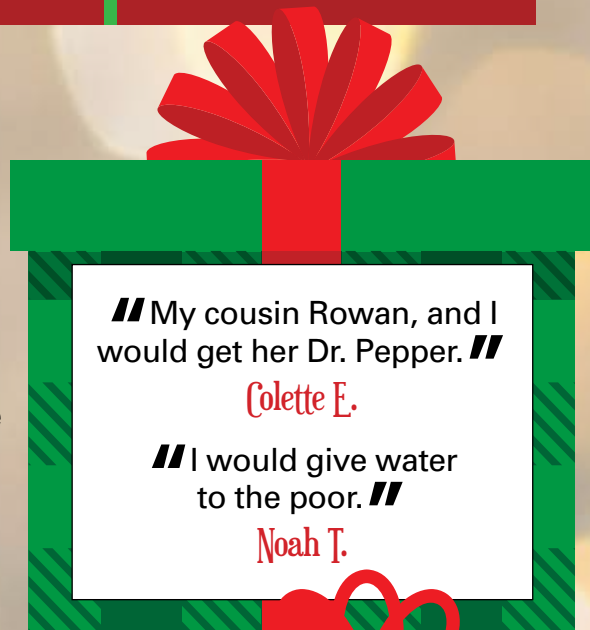
// I would give my brother looots of Hot Wheels because he loves cars. // **Liam M.**



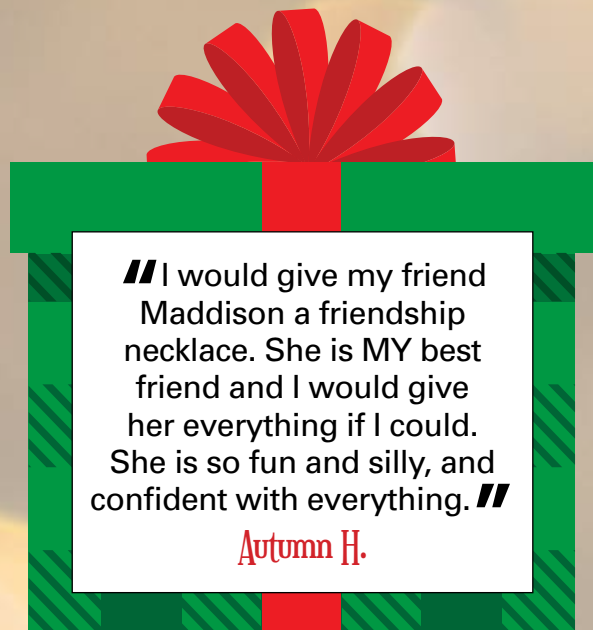
// I would give my friend a Brett Favre rookie card. // **Aiden S.**
// I would give a 3-piece friendship necklaces Autumn C. and Charlie. // **Kayden W.**



// I would give it to my mom and dad for taking good care of me. // **Archer H.**
// I would give a four wheeler to my dad. // **Enoch P.**



// My cousin Rowan, and I would get her Dr. Pepper. // **Colette E.**
// I would give water to the poor. // **Noah T.**



// I would give my friend Maddison a friendship necklace. She is MY best friend and I would give her everything if I could. She is so fun and silly, and confident with everything. // **Autumn H.**

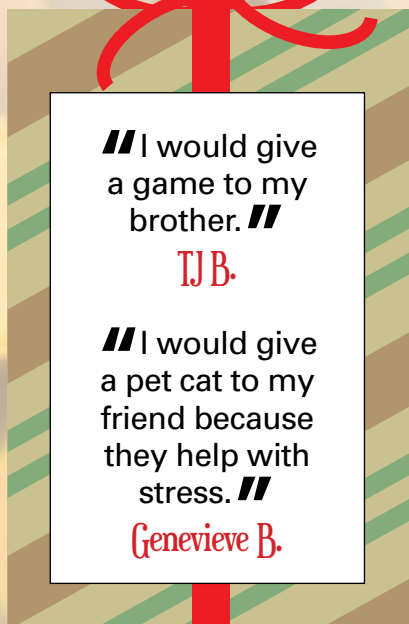
// For Christmas, my present to my mom would be coffee because she loves the taste of it. Plus then I get a cake pop! // **Ashlyn G.**

// My mom, I would get her a purse because she has a big collection of purses. // **Owen S.**

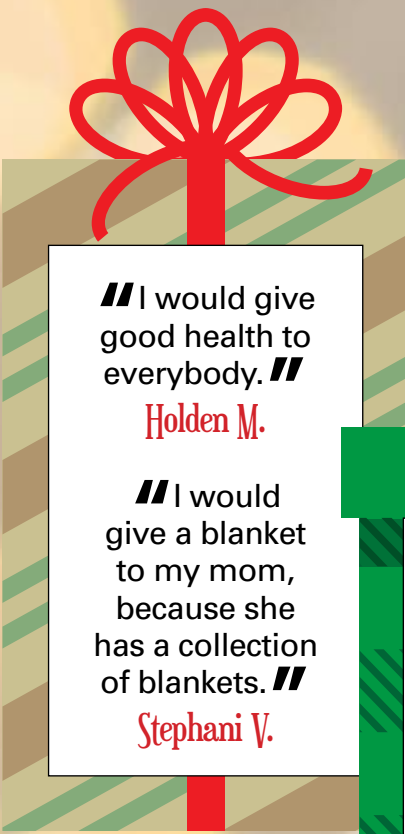
// If I gave someone a gift I would give my dog Birdie a toy she can't chew up because all her toys get chewed up because her teeth are really sharp. // **Temperance S.**

// The perfect gift for Henry is a Pikachu Lego set because he likes Pokemon and Legos. // **Miles R.**

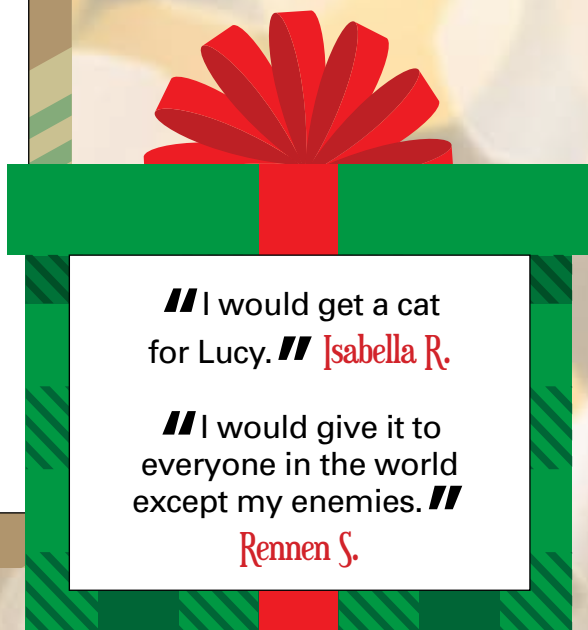
// I would give \$10 million to charity because I want to make kids and parents happy. // **E.**



// I would give a game to my brother. // **TJ B.**
// I would give a pet cat to my friend because they help with stress. // **Genevieve B.**



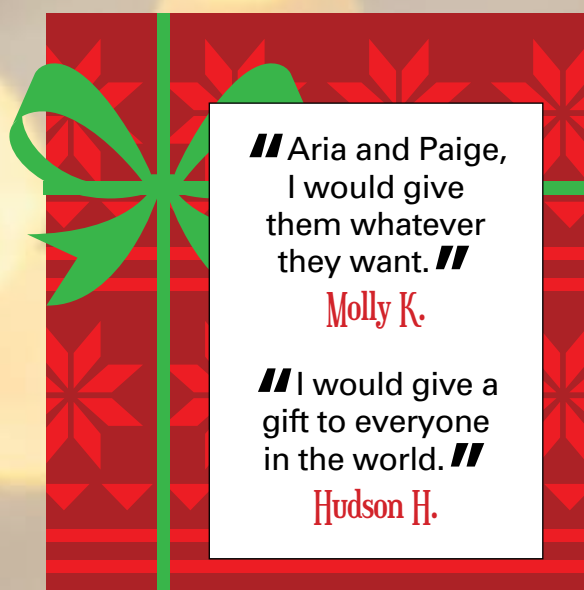
// I would give good health to everybody. // **Holden M.**
// I would give a blanket to my mom, because she has a collection of blankets. // **Stephani V.**



// I would get a cat for Lucy. // **Isabella R.**
// I would give it to everyone in the world except my enemies. // **Remmen S.**

// I would give a lot of money to the poor because it warms my heart when someone smiles and they would give a big smile. // **Tyler B.**

// I would give my mother a bouquet of flowers to show I love her and appreciate her. // **Bella G.**



// Aria and Paige, I would give them whatever they want. // **Molly K.**
// I would give a gift to everyone in the world. // **Hudson H.**

// I would give new wrestling gear to my brother Cody because he said that his gear is getting old. //

Brady K.

// I would give an Elena hair head to Louie, because she deserves it for being a good sister to me. //

Charlie G.

// A cool soccer ball for Carter because he loves soccer. //

Libby B.

// I would give a BIG activity book based on age to a homeless kid and family. //

Grace S.

// I would give a gift to Blake because he is so nice to other people and puts his needs away and helps other poor people, so I would give him a trip to Universal Studios. //

Brayden P.

// I would give a video game character to my little brother, because he's wanted one ever since we've gotten them. //

Madelyn G.

// I would give my dad a really nice thermal scope and nice off-road tires. //

Jackson

// I give it to my sister because I would give her a red robax she wants. //

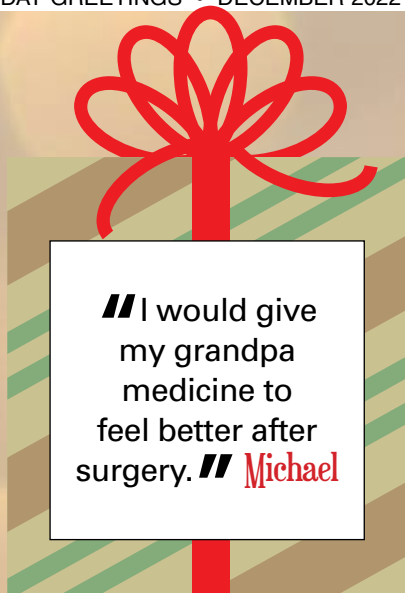
Kaylee

// If there was anything I could give to my mother on Christmas it would be beautiful clothing with pretty, sparkly jewels. //

Brayden

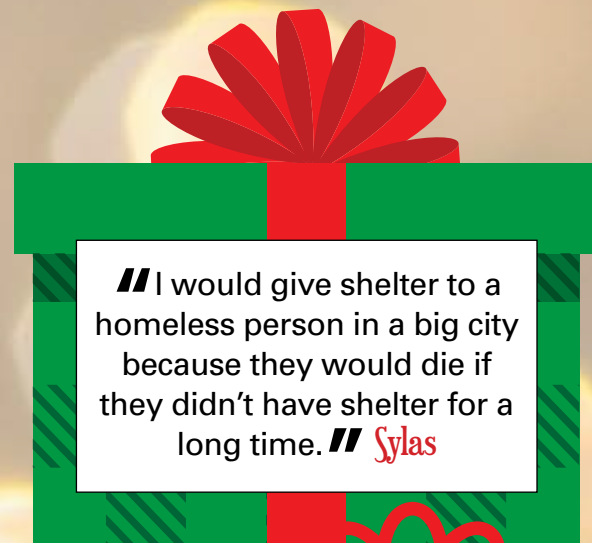
// I would give my dad a Marine blanket because he is proud of me and he was a Marine. //

Gavin



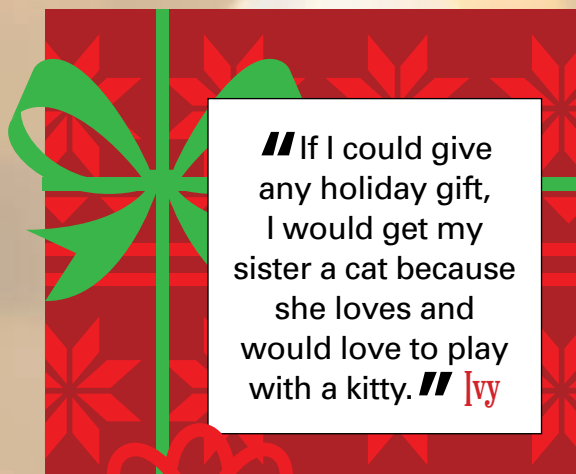
// I would give my grandpa medicine to feel better after surgery. //

Michael



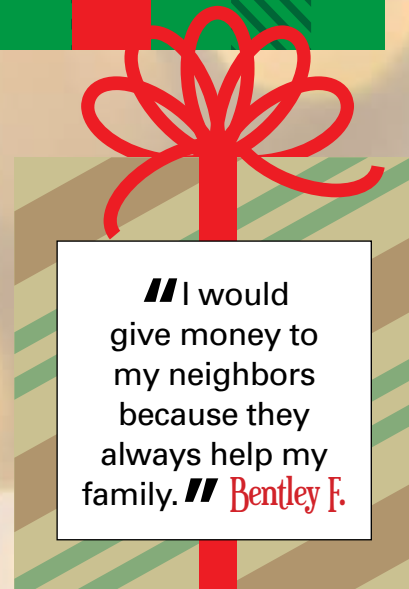
// I would give shelter to a homeless person in a big city because they would die if they didn't have shelter for a long time. //

Sylas



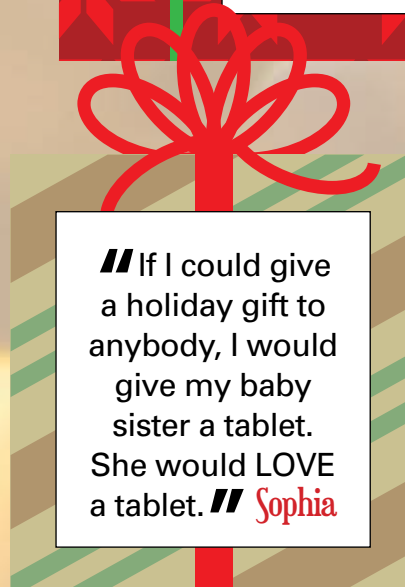
// If I could give any holiday gift, I would get my sister a cat because she loves and would love to play with a kitty. //

Ivy



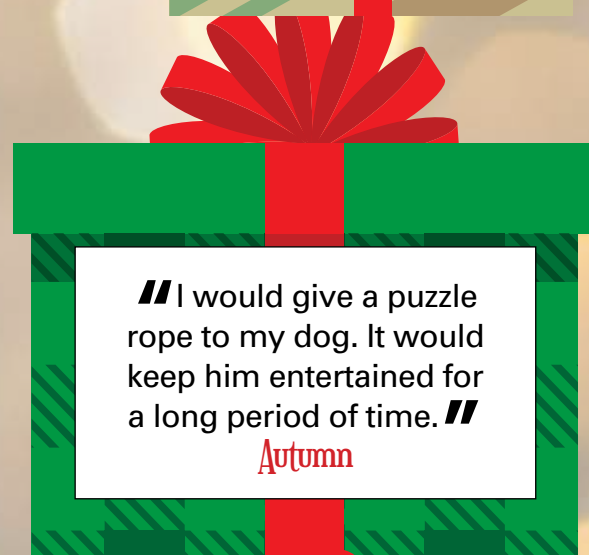
// I would give money to my neighbors because they always help my family. //

Bentley F.



// If I could give a holiday gift to anybody, I would give my baby sister a tablet. She would LOVE a tablet. //

Sophia



// I would give a puzzle rope to my dog. It would keep him entertained for a long period of time. //

Autumn



// The perfect Christmas present for Cece is a pet sloth because she really, really likes sloths a lot. //

Ellie A.

// My best friend Ashlyn a doll. //

C.

// I would give my mom a quiet room. //

Molli

// I would give toys and food to the homeless people. //

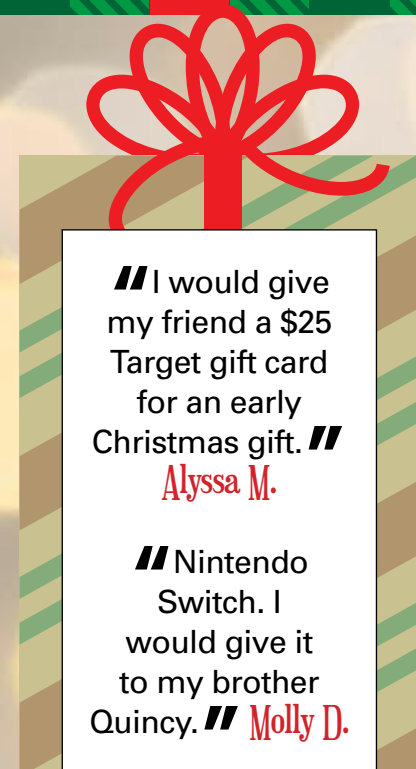
Ryland

// I would give my mom a new pair of boots because her pair got ripped. //

Kaydence

// I would give my brother football cards. //

Cruz

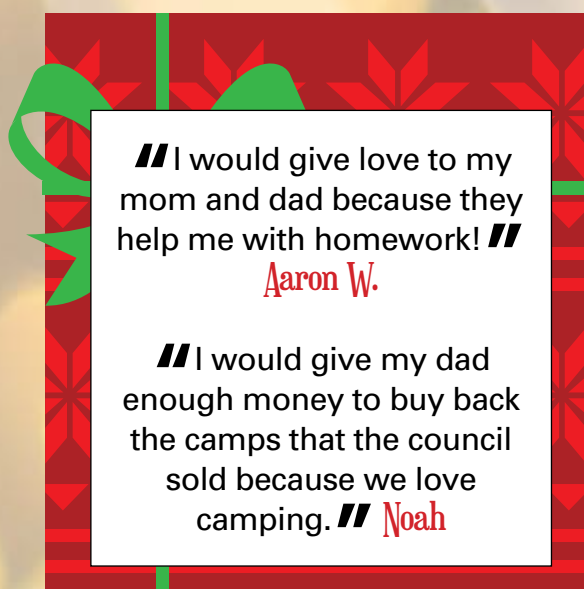


// I would give my friend a \$25 Target gift card for an early Christmas gift. //

Alyssa M.

// Nintendo Switch. I would give it to my brother Quincy. //

Molly D.

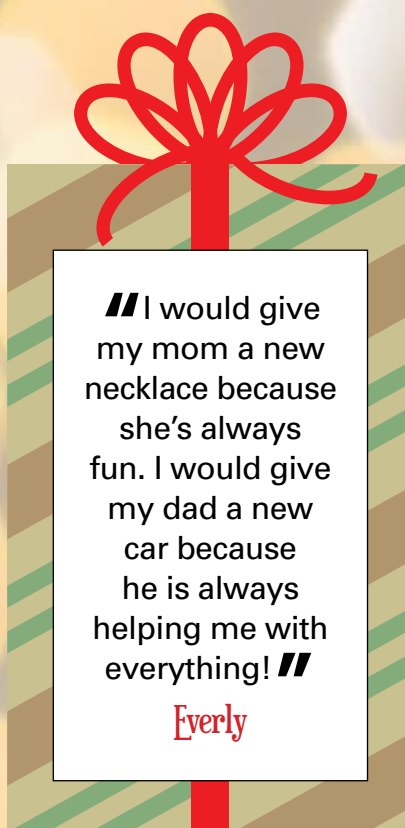


// I would give love to my mom and dad because they help me with homework! //

Aaron W.

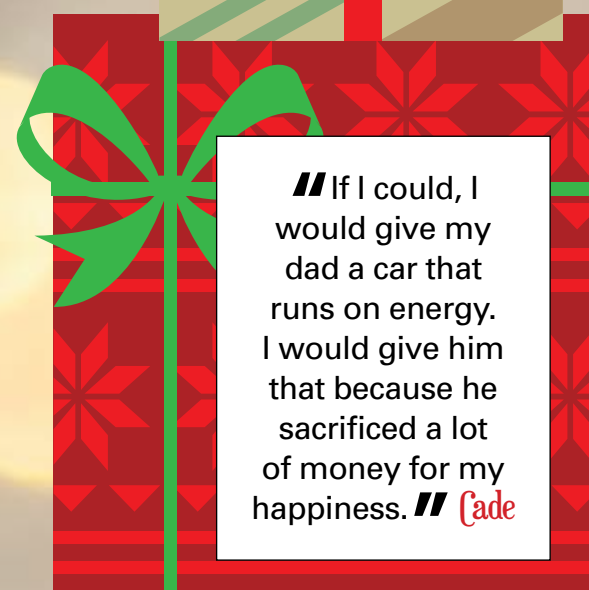
// I would give my dad enough money to buy back the camps that the council sold because we love camping. //

Noah



// I would give my mom a new necklace because she's always fun. I would give my dad a new car because he is always helping me with everything! //

Everly



// If I could, I would give my dad a car that runs on energy. I would give him that because he sacrificed a lot of money for my happiness. //

Cade

Putting the pieces together

Midwest Dance Center's non-profit, Ballet Midwest, prepares to perform 'The Nutcracker'

By Jennifer Eisenbart
EDITOR

This year's production of "The Nutcracker" is a project years in the making, born out of a family's love for dance and magic made manifest by the chasing of dreams – much like the ballet itself.

The non-profit extension of Midwest Dance Center will stage the beloved holiday ballet Saturday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Elkhorn Area High School auditorium.

Tickets range between \$15 and \$17, with processing fees for ordering online at midwestdancecenter.net/balletmidwest.

Already, more than half the tickets are sold, and the two directors – Emily Mullens and Emily Moorefield – expect tickets to sell out.

The performance, produced by Ballet Midwest, the non-profit arm of Midwest Dance Center, is a first for the company and something that both Moorefield and Mullens have hoped for years to put on.

"We were ready to start this when COVID-19 hit," said Moorefield. "We did selections from 'The Nutcracker' and intended to move forward."

"Being able to be back in the theater with an audience and be able to organize, it took a little more time."

Moorefield grew up dancing in her mother's studio, a fact that eventually led to a professional career.

But after several years of the professional performance



Left: The first-act mice are the foe of the title character in the ballet "The Nutcracker." Ballet Midwest, a non-profit arm of Midwest Dance Center, will perform the ballet this year. **Right:** The Nutcracker leads the way for a battle against the mice during the Ballet Midwest performance of "The Nutcracker."

SUBMITTED PHOTOS *Holiday Greetings*

world, Moorefield decided to come back and open her own dance studio, originally operating out of Journey Church on Highway P in the Town of Burlington.

As the program flourished, Midwest Dance Center landed at 202 South Pine St., Burlington.

And as more dancers began progressing with ballet, Moorefield and her

mother founded the ballet conservatory program at Midwest Dance Center.

Those dancers, now in their fifth year, make up the core of the "Nutcracker" advanced dancers.

"They're old enough and strong enough," said Moorefield. "We just felt it was time. It felt like it was 'Nutcracker' year."

"We have dancers who

are capable of dancing at that level, and we wanted to give them that experience," she added.

The founding of the 501C-3 non-profit this year also helped. Ballet Midwest exists as that non-profit, a company designed to give affordable ballets to the public at reasonable prices.

"We're very big about giving back to our community

as much as we can," said Mullens.

Two years ago, the group did "Swan Lake," and this past summer performed "Coppelia." The non-profit status of the company has allowed Mullens to move forward with the ballets along with her daughter, in a cooperative effort.

"We've always known we've wanted to follow these

next steps," Mullens said.

Moorefield added that this allows for the performance to be an affordable outing for a family with children.

"To have the adults, have the magical elements ... it's just a nice opportunity," she said.

While the performance will feature original choreography, some of the "magical" elements Moorefield referred to include the growing Christmas tree and snow as the group travels to the Land of the Sweets.

The ballet will feature Jaden LaMeer-Moorefield as Marie and Jenna Fay as Clara, the two female children of the couple hosting the Christmas party that kicks off the events of the ballet.

Megan Meier will play the role of Drosselmeyer and the Sugar Plum Fairy, while Michaela Venden will play the Snow Queen and other specialty dances.

Autumn Reynolds and Audrie Hewitt also play feature roles.

The end result is something that Moorefield and Mullens have collaborated on to make similar to the Milwaukee Ballet's "Nutcracker."

As the dancers in the conservatory continue to learn and grow, it's beneficial not only for the community but for the dancers.

"We're trying to also help our pre-professional dancers build their resume," Moorefield said. "We want to give them the opportunities to dance the roles."

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Honoring the music of Christmas past



By
**JENNIFER
EISENBART**
Editor

This time of year, it's relatively easy to find a favorite Christmas song on the radio.

Really, since it sometimes starts before Thanksgiving, it's more about avoiding the holiday music until you're ready to listen to it. At least three area FM radio stations – 93.3, 95.7 and 107.3 – offer round-the-clock music from now until Christmas Day, making it simple to find something to leave on in the background.

But around the 20th playing of “Last Christmas” on the station – really, there's a game called “Whamageddon” now, just Google it – you realize that there are numerous versions of the same songs being played over ... and over ... and over ... again.

If you're like me, some of those songs are time-honored favorites – and many are not. Having been forced to learn the alto part of “Rocking' Around The Christmas Tree” and “It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas” in high school, it can be hard listening to those songs and not try to find the notes I learned by heart (or not, I guessed a lot of the time).

It's the time-honored favorites, though, that end up on a special playlist that's always pulled out no later than the day after Thanksgiving. Most of the songs on that list are, indeed, classics we've all heard on the radio over the years.

Take, for example, “The Little Drummer Boy” by the Harry Simeone Chorale – both the song and the album. The a cappella version of the song, like the album it is on, was originally recorded in 1958 when 20th Century Fox Records asked Simeone, the choir director, to record a Christmas album.

Around that same time, a traditional Czech carol called “Carol of the Drum” was being arranged and recorded under the name “The Little Drummer Boy.”

Depending on whose story you listen to, it may or may not have been recorded previously to the Harry Simeone Chorale version. That being said, the song recorded by the group in 1958 is now an enduring part of Christmas memories from many people's childhoods, including my own.

As a child, I would head for the turntable and put my father's LP of the album on every Christmas morning. That album had to be the first one played while we were opening gifts, and I memorized side two of that album before I was in grade school.

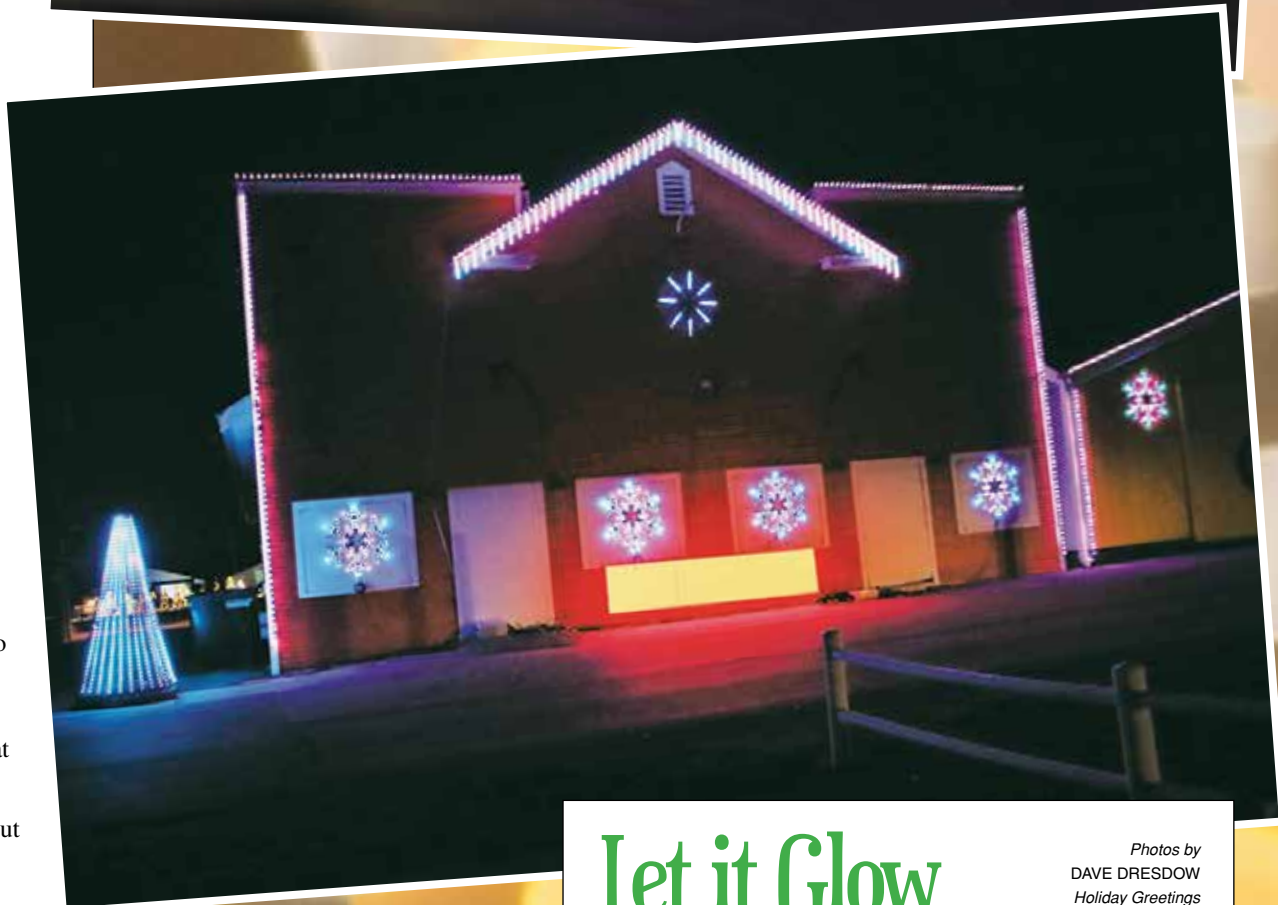
Preceded by a glorious version of “O Holy Night,” the album quickly moves to a spot of silence before the rich “rum, pums” of the choir provide the beat of the song to come. The sopranos offer the lyrics, while the altos and tenors provide the title drum sounds. For three minutes, one is lost in a beautiful retelling of the birth of Christ, not from the view of scholars and religious figures, but from the viewpoint of a small, poor boy ... who simply wants to honor the child born in a stable, with all that he has to offer – his music.

The album itself is a rich mix of traditional Christmas carols, medleys and individual songs that somehow make any Christmas holiday perfect – a mix of memories of love and family with the story of Jesus's birth and how it was trumpeted throughout the land.

In my home, I still own the original album my father purchased all those years ago. It hasn't been played in ages, since I have the album on a compact disc and long since copied into my iTunes library.

Each Christmas season, it joins the list of other albums that now must be played – “The Nutcracker,” a collection of Jimmy Mathis, which isn't complete without “When a Child is Born,” and now a mix of Mannheim Steamroller as well.

But at the front of the collection is still that simple version of a carol that really didn't even exist until the 1950s. It may not have existed until then, but the song is truly ageless, harkening back to the emotions of the tale of when the savior in Christianity was born – and what all those who practice that faith honor each season.



Let it Glow

Photos by
DAVE DRESHOW
Holiday Greetings

Now an annual part of the holidays, the Let it Glow display takes place at the Walworth County Fairgrounds the weekend of the Christmas Card Parade. This year, Alice in Dairyland Taylor Schaefer was present – along with a special cow – to promote the program that will take place in Walworth County in 2023. Santa was also present at the display, taking letters from child. This year's addition of the Walworth County Light show (shown above) will last throughout December on the grounds, with music available on 87.9 FM.



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