businesses can still join us!

Of those that can not, they

send their regrets due to planned family activities,

as we understand with this

unanticipated change of

date this holiday season.

And know (that) we do

of you that will not be with

**Jingle** 

CONTINUED | FROM A1

the cards and pencils."

13th Street Board.

ornament kits). The activi-

ty is self serviced and fam-

ilies can help themselves to

She also shared this

Local&State timesrepublican.com



## Arts@StPaul's presents its Christmas Concert

ARTS@STPAUL'S presents A Candlelight Christmas, a musical celebration of this holiday season. This fifth annual concert will be held at 7 p.m. on Dec. 18 in the acoustically magic, candle-lit sanctuary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 201 E. Church St., Marshalltown, and include a variety

Produced by Resident Artist, Hudson Lourenco-Feld, it will include stirring pieces on the church organ. The Marshalltown High School Holiday Singers will perform a program of carols under the direction of Amy Ose. The recently acquired grand piano will be put to good use by local teacher and pianist Amber Smither-

man, by brilliant young MHS student Izaiah Wilder and by the Sunday musician Sharon Morrical. Tenor Nick Lindborg will join Morrical in a medley of Christmas favorites. Rounding out the performance list is the Trinity Bell Choir and the MTunes quartet.

Refreshments will be served following the concert. This event is presented free of charge at 7 p.m. on Dec. 18.

#### thank you for your under- further questions, feel free standing with the inclem- to reach out," she said. ent winter weather event "Thanks again for your

and we are thrilled most this event!"

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR** 

**Dec.** 15

• Cards, Senior Citizens Center, 207 E. Church St., 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.

message on behalf of the truly understand for those

postponement on Dec. 11 flexibility and support of

"The 13th Street Dis- us next week. You will be trict Board would like to missed! If anyone has any

• Young @ Heart Coffee and Conversation, Gutekunst Library, State Center, 10 a.m. to Noon

• Cribbage, Senior Citizens Center, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Infant and Child CPR and Choking Class, Guiding Star, 2501 S. Center St., Suite M, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

# Christmas meeting held at Sigma Master

TIMES-REPUBLICAN

Sigma Master Chapter met for lunch at El Portal on Dec. 10 with seven members present and two absent. Dorothy Perry opened the meeting thanking Bonnie Speas for hosting. Roll call was taken with the question: "What are your plans for Christ-

Health reports were given with progress made for some, and more surgeries required. Alice Nicholson read the minutes of the November meeting with thanks to the Times Republican for printing the picture of Ginny Bumsted's 100 birthday picture. It was approved as read. Barb

Noid gave the Treasurer's report, and bills were paid, along with the \$100 to be sent to the Wings of Refuge in Ames as our project for the year sponsored by an Ames, Iowa Chapter.

Christmas cards were signed and will be sent to Joyce Roddon, Romaine Mackaman, Liz Wood and Ginny Bumsted as they are presently in nursing home facilities. Christmas cards were given to each present from Jan Keller, Dorothy Perry and Nicholson.

The meeting closed announcing the next meeting will be at Legends American Grill at 11 a.m. on Jan. 13 with Caralee Hutchens hosting.

### Intersection

**CONTINUED | FROM A1** 

stretch of road, and I feel certain (that) without a reduction in speed limit as part of the RCI intersection, a two-vehicle collision with a commercial motor vehicle in the turnaround and an eastbound vehicle is only a matter of time."

During a recent interview, Thomas told the T-R that he still felt the RCI would address some of the community concerns, but he worried that eastbound traffic would be topping the hill and encountering semitrucks doing U-turns, which he called "a huge problem."

"The Department of Transportation engineers have assured me that by their calculations and formulas, there's enough sight distance that they're comfortable with it. I'm not," he said. "People are on their phones. They're distracted. They're eating their lunch. People are gonna pop that hill, and they're gonna have problems. And so my frustration is that I was willing to go along with the intersection design if there was a reduction in speed to 55 (miles per hour) from basically the Rhodes corner out to the golf course, but the DOT has advised me that we don't meet the criteria (and that) lowering the speed limit is not even being entertained. Well, then I don't support the intersection because I have a lot of concerns about what that would look like."

He also showed DOT officials myriad social comments outlining either skepticism or outright opposition to the plans, and although the state ultimately has jurisdiction and authority over the highway, Thomas doesn't feel that the current proposal is a "done deal."

"I really have been given feedback that they really do care what we think, and they are considering not doing the intersection. I just go back to the root of the problem, whether it's the near misses that get reported or the actual accidents that we've covered. In almost every case, the speed wasn't necessarily an issue, and in most cases it wasn't people turning into town. It was people leaving

He then referenced the

sive speed as a contributing that. We just could not figfactor to any of the crashes ure out how semis could we've had. It wasn't like a car turn around on that J-turn was going 100 and it came if they were coming out of out of nowhere. In almost State Center and wanting every case, a car pulled out to go back to Marshalltown from the stop sign and ran because there's just not a lot into another car going east of room there to turn." or westbound on 30 because they didn't see it," he said. one other active J-turn RCI didn't see it."

ity crash where a driver has spoken to who have turned left in front of a used it weren't happy with pickup truck, but Thomas the design. His preference, described it as an outlier. like Thomas's, is to reduce Previously, construction on the speed limit from 65 to this project was set for the 55 through town, implespring of 2026, but the chief ment offset turning lanes wasn't sure how rethinking and utilize the flashing the intersection would im- lights. pact that.

other public meeting given down there with accidents, the "abundant" feedback then maybe the J-turn already received, but now, would be something down it's just a matter of how the the road. It's a last resort in DOT will proceed. State my mind, and I'm sure the Center Mayor Craig Pfantz citizens feel the same way called the J-turn proposal an too," he said. 'unintended consequence" of the concerns citizens reach Smyth for comment had raised, but he did feel had not been successful. that the addition of flashing According to information lights has helped to some previously reported in the degree.

"shadowing effect," which that intersection when peomeans that cars turning into ple turn into State Center town are creating an unin- there. You kind of get caught tentional blindness of other in the middle when you've cars traveling on the road, got traffic coming from the so the turning traffic needs west turning in and you an offset turn lane like the want to pull out and turn one at the intersection of to Marshalltown. That is an Highway 30 and Hart Ave- issue that the speed limit nue near State Center to al- reduction would not solve," low cars leaving town to see Pfantz said. "I just wish there around them. The public, was more of a median there Thomas said, feels strong- because it's so narrow that ly about both turning lanes when you pull out in there and a reduction in speed, and there's car traffic combut he isn't as concerned ing from the west, someabout the speed as long as body's got to stop. That's an drivers aren't making the issue that I just don't know how we can solve. Now, "I can't attribute exces- the J-turn deal, it did solve

Currently, there is only 'The person leaving the intersection in Iowa, which stop sign or leaving town is located along Highway 20 near Fort Dodge, and There was one fatal- Pfantz said the people he

"If that doesn't help any, He doesn't anticipate an- if we continue to have issues

At presstime, attempts to T-R, there were 28 reported

"We have a problem with crashes at the intersection between Jan. 1, 2014, and March 17, 2025, including one fatality, three with major injuries, and three with minor injuries — with a total of 26 individuals involved. Smythe noted that 18 of the 28 crashes were attributed to failure to yield or failure to

Contact Robert Maharry at 641-753-6611 ext. 255 or

obey right-of-way laws

# ALA Unit 46 holds meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m. by Deb Miller followed by opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, standing in silence and the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary.

November meeting minutes were read by Kellie Allen. A motion to approve minutes as read was made by Meg Sponseller and seconded by Liz Stewart. Dorothy Hellberg gave the treasurer's report noting all deposits and disbursements for the month. The membership report was given by Sponseller. The Unit is at 81% of its goal. Members are encouraged to recruit.

The next poppy making session is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Jan. 13 at the VFW for those interested. The Rada Cutlery Fundraiser is open and the link is posted on the Unit Facebook page.

MCBD is selling the Military Tribute Banners again. A motion to purchase one was made by Cindy Mayer and seconded by Sponseller. The Auxiliary has started the planning process for its annual St. Patrick's Day Card Party. It is tentatively set for March 16. It also plans to do another quilt raffle with a drawing being held once all 250 tickets are sold. A garage sale is tentatively planned for May 1-2. This will be a new fundraiser for us that hopefully is successful.

The CD through Edward Jones matures on Jan. 29. A motion to reinvest was made by Pam Gorham and was seconded by Mayer. The quarterly financial audit was completed in November with the Unit's records matching the bank's records.

The meeting was closed out with upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. The next general membership meeting will be on Feb. 10, 2026. There will be no meeting in January.







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