#### **BRIEFLY**

### **Events at Owatonna Arts Center**

Coco with Santa 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 8

The child in all of us can't wait to make our request to Santa. What better time to talk with Santa, enjoy a hot cup of coco, as Mrs. Claus plays the piano, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday Dec. 8 at the Arts Center. Gather around Owatonna's premier story teller Mary Kay Feltes as she brings to life the "Polar Express"

"Home for the Holidays" 7 p.m. Dec. 8

At the holidays we all think of home, and this year Jo Kaplan, an Owatonna native is returning to share her joys of the holidays in music. "Home for the Holidays"; a dazzling evening of Christmas songs is 7 p.m. Dec 8. The concert will include secular and familiar carols. You will be so moved to sing along truly a Christmas moment.

For more information contact the Owatonna Arts Center, 435 Garden View Lane, Owatonna, 507-451-0533 or www. oacarts.org.

### Agency on aging seeks advisory council members

The Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging is seeking interested persons to fill the following two-year term vacancies on its Southeast Advisory Council on Aging effective Jan. 1, 2013: Waseca County 60+; and a one-year term vacancy for a Minority representative, any age, residing or employed in Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca or Watonwan Counties.

The ACA assists the MNRAAA Board on matters related to MN-RAAA's operations and serves as a link that brings information and new ideas to staff.

Applications are due by Friday, Dec. 21. To request an application, or for more information, call Erica at 507-389-8879.

Find more information about the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging at www.mnraaa.org.

## **Owatonna Arts Center offers grant** writing class

Are you an artist practicing in visual art, theater, literature, music, or film? Then you should consider applying for a grant. Multi-disciplinary artist and Southeast Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) Community Outreach Coordinator Katie Hae Leo will be offering a free grant writing class to artists at the Owatonna Arts Center from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15.

This one-hour class will cover an overview of arts funding in Minnesota, including private versus public grants and various funding agencies, including SEMAC; and discuss basic grant writing skills.

# WHS choir to host holiday Renaissance concert and feast

By MARIANNE CARLSON mcarlson@wasecacountynews.com

Cups of piping hot wassail will clink together as families and friends toast their good health during the traditional English six-course prime beef meal hosted by the Waseca High School choir.

The event — the Waseca High School Choir Holiday Concert and Feast — is set for Dec. 17. Following the meal, students will perform an interactive play, "The Truth Fairy" with Renaissancestyle costumes and current-day political humor.

According to Richard Stahl, who plays The Mertonsire, the Jester played by Josh Kimball, is looking for an Apprentice Jester and everyone wants the job. However, the Jester is a very honest person and hopes to recruit someone who also possesses this quality. That is where the Truth Fairy comes in.

Whitney Storvick plays The Truth Fairy and if she determines that someone is telling her a lie, it is, "Off with their heads!"

In addition to possible decapitations, audience members can look forward to delicious food and drink; sacred and secular music performed by 180 choir students.

Waseca High School Choir Director Deb Wantoch-Yess said she is especially fond of the music of composer John Rutter, which is featured by the State Street Singers. Wantoch-Yess has been

teaching at Waseca High recting her 18th Holiday Concert and Feast. According to Wantoch-Yess,

this event was created as a secular replacement for the sacred Christmas Pageant that Marv Nissen directed in Waseca for many years.

"I thought it would be



A group of Waseca High School choir students posed for a photo during rehearsal on Monday night. (Marianne Carlson/Waseca County News)

#### IF YOU GO:

What: Holiday Renaissance Concert and

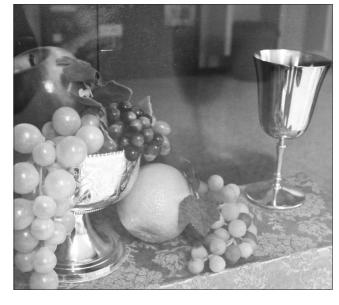
When: Monday, Dec. 17. Seating at 5:45; dinner at 6 p.m.; concert at 8 p.m.

Where: Waseca High School avmnasium

Cost: Reserved dinner seating \$15; bleacher seating \$8 adults, \$5 for students - includes beverage (wassail or coffee)

Tickets: Reserved seat tickets on sale at Waseca Music Company Dec. 8 to

School for 30 years and is di- unique, to offer both sacred and secular music, and give us an opportunity to study the Renaissance period in history through music," Wantoch-Yess said. "This is a fundraiser for the choirs, but mostly it is an opportunity to immerse ourselves in something unique and different."



The Waseca High School "Holiday Renaissance Feast and Concert" is sure to arouse all of the senses.

"We invite WHS choir alumni and the parents of current choir students to join us for this traditional performance," Wantoch-Yess said. "This has been done at Waseca's holiday concerts for The concert will end with at least 35 consecutive years. It newcn.

the performance of the Hal- is so exciting to see this tradilelujah Chorus by the Select tion continue and to be able to conduct this musical masterpiece that connects three generations of singers in Waseca."

> Reach reporter Marianne Carlson at 837-5451, or follow her on Twitter.com @marian-

#### **RULES OF THE GREAT HALL:**

TIP: The Rules of the Great Hall are printed in Old English therefore, read them aloud for best

comprehension. I. Gueysts must have nayles cleane or they wyll disgust theyre table companions.

II. Gueysts myst aboyd quarrelyng and makying grymaces wyth other queysts.

III. Gueysts myst not stuffe theyre mouths. The glutton who eats wyth haste, if he is addressed, scarcely answers

IV. Gueysts shoulde not pyck theyre teeth at the table wyth a knyfe, strawe, or

V. Tueysts myst never leave bones on the table; always hyde them under they're chayres.

VI. Gueysts myst not tell unseemly tales at the table nor soyle the clothe wyth theyre knyfe nor rest theyre legs upon the table.

VII. Gueysts myst not wype theyre greezy fingers on theyre beards.

VIII. Gueysts myst not leane on the table wyth theyre elbows, nor dyp theyre

thumbs in theyredrynke. IX. Let not thy food be waysted, else the cookes be

angered and thou be thyn. X. Do not abuyse thy servants as they are generously flogged and beaten after each nyght of quire rehyrsal.

## iWealth helps raise more than \$7K for holiday food basket program

By MARIANNE CARLSON

mcarlson@wasecacountynews.com

More than 330 Waseca County families took home a holiday food basket in 2012. Neighborhood Service Center Programs Manager Cindy Coy expects at least 300 families will need assistance again this

"We started the program three years ago based entirely on need," Brad Connors of iWealth said of the donations. "Someone was doing the Thanksgiving baskets, but no one was collecting for the holiday

Connors said that he solicits his clients and hangs fliers around town asking for donors. According to Connors, 66 families and businesses contributed \$4,110 and iWealth donated \$3,000 from its newly formed foundation for a total of \$7,110.

"We help people with their financial planning and many of them have abunhelp donate to the food drive and they are more than willing."



L-R: Neighborhood Service Center Thrift Store Manager, Toni Larson; Neighborhood Service Center Programs Manager, Cindy Coy; Trudi Connors and Brad Connors from iWealth Financial. (Marianne Carlson/Waseca County News)

dance," Connors said. "So we ask them to food basket need to fill out an application said applicants must be Waseca County etables, dinner rolls and dessert.

Those interested in receiving a holiday residents and meet the income guidelines.

This year the holiday food baskets will at the Neighborhood Service Center. Coy include meat, mashed potatoes, fruit, veg-

"The Dairy Association is also a donating a gallon of milk to each family," Coy said, noting that the holiday baskets are based on family size and need.

Volunteers will pack the baskets on Friday, Dec. 21; distribution will take place on Saturday, Dec. 22. According to Coy, pre-approved families can pick up their baskets just like a drive-thru window. Volunteers from the Janesville and New Richland Food Shelf will pick up the baskets from the Neighborhood Service Center and distribute them from their location — saving residents from having

to drive to Waseca. According to Connors, any money that is left over will be used to fund other food programs at the Neighborhood Service

The Neighborhood Service Center will accept applications for the holiday food basket program until 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 7.

Reach reporter Marianne Carlson at 837-5451, or follow her on Twitter.com @ mariannewcn.

## **FOUNDATION CRACKED?**



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## Wishing you a Blessed Christmas!



Independent contact

507-835-8227 for more information

Memory Care Independent

Care Suites contact 507-201-3000 for more information



## •Important property tax homestead notice•

This will affect the amount of property tax you pay in 2013, and it may affect your eligibility for a property tax refund.

Please contact your county assessor to file a homestead application on or before December 15, 2012, if one of the follow-

•You purchased a property in the past year and you, or a qualifying relative, occupy the property for homestead purposes on December 1, 2012;

•You, or a qualifying relative occupy a property for homestead purposes on December 1, 2012, and the property was previously classified as non-

A qualifying relative for homestead purposes depends on the type of property. For residential property, a qualifying relative can be a parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece of the owner. This relationship may be by blood or marriage. For agricultural property, a qualifying relative can be a child, grandchild, sibling, or parent of the owner or of the spouse of the owner.

Once you have been granted the homestead classification, no further applications are necessary unless they are specifically requested by the

You must also contact the assessor by December 15, 2012, if you are the property owner, or a qualifying relative of the property owner, and the use of the property has changed during the past year.

If you should sell, move, or for any reason no longer qualify for the homestead classification, you are required to notify the county assessor within 30 days of the change in homestead status. Failure to notify the county assessor within this 30-day period is punishable by recalculation of tax as nonhomestead, in addition to a penalty equal to 100 percent of the homestead benefits.

Waseca County Assessor's Office 835-0640