



Celebrated from Dec. 17-23, Saturnalia honors the agricultural god, Saturn. One of the most popular of Roman festivals, it derives its traditions from old farming rituals of mid-winter and the winter solstice. Ironically, Jupiter and Saturn merged in the night sky Monday, appearing closer than they have since the 17th century.

Published by APG Media of Southern Minnesota
\$1.00 Newsstand

TUESDAY
www.owatonna.com

Vol. 106, No. 211 ©2020
December 22, 2020

Hospital staff among 1st to receive COVID-19 vaccine

By LISA KACZKE
lisa.kaczke@apgsomn.com

Rebecca Penning was excited as she became one of the first Steele County residents to receive the COVID-19 vaccine on Monday.

"I'm thankful we were able to get it on the first day," said Penning, a registered nurse who works in the emergency room at Owatonna Hospital.

After receiving the first dose of the vaccine Monday afternoon, she said she physically felt the same as she did beforehand.

The first shipment of the vaccine arrived on Sunday for Allina Health staff in Owatonna



Albrecht

and Faribault. More than 50 Owatonna Hospital staff received the first dose of the vaccine on Monday afternoon, with more to follow on Tuesday and Wednesday.

David Albrecht, president of Owatonna and District One hospitals, said about half the staff will receive the first dose of the vaccine this week and the remaining half will receive it next week, although it's not mandatory for staff.

See VACCINE on 2A



Rebecca Penning, a registered nurse who works in the emergency room at Owatonna Hospital, receives her COVID-19 vaccination from Molly Busho, a registered nurse, Monday afternoon at Owatonna Hospital. (Photo courtesy Owatonna Hospital)

Private info of South Central staff, students and alum may have been hacked

Private information of more than 13,200 South Central College staff, students and alumni — Social Security number, date of birth, address, telephone number, email address and school ID numbers — may have been hacked, according to the school.

A similar notice was posted on the Minnesota State University, Mankato website.

A notice on the colleges' websites says they learned of a ransomware attack of the donor management software vendor, Blackbaud. The company, used by South Central College Campus foundations for customer relationship management services, may have allowed access by an unauthorized individual to not public data on students, alumni and employees.

In July, Blackbaud, notified SCC that it had been the target of a ransomware attack, Shelly Megaw, SCC director of marketing and communications wrote in a Saturday email.

Since then, Megaw said, the college "has worked to determine what data was compromised in order to be sure we understood the extent of the breach and our notification requirements."

See HACK on 2A

EDUCATION



Priscilla Saunders decided to have her kids in distance learning full time this year rather than attending in-person at the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf. Her children are Thys (kindergarten), Thor (fourth grade), Myvabelle (preschool) and Jevabelle (second grade). (Photo courtesy of Priscilla Saunders)

MISSING OUT

Distance learning provides challenges for family who is deaf

By ASHLEY REZACHEK
ashley.rezachek@apgsomn.com

This year has proven to be a challenge for Priscilla Saunders and her four children who are deaf and attend Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf in Faribault.

While schooling for the siblings has tradi-

tionally been very hands-on, learning through a screen is difficult. Students everywhere are learning virtually while taking a break from hands-on education in the classroom during the pandemic, but for students who are deaf and rely on American Sign Language, this year has been extra tricky when it comes to the virtual learning format.

Saunders, who is deaf herself, made the decision to keep all of her children at home to learn in the distance learning model full time, despite the school reopening to select grade levels, or "pods," at the beginning of the school year.

MSAD began the year in online learning back in August. In September, the school welcomed early childhood education to return

in-person and a month later, middle school students were allowed to return. High schoolers were set to return in November, but the uptick in COVID-19 cases stopped those plans, and everyone returned to online learning, according to Saunders.

See DISTANCE on 2A

Salons provide makeovers to nurses as recognition for their work



Six nurses in Minnesota will receive free makeovers at Fantastic Sams locations, including those in Faribault and Northfield, thanks to nominations they received from appreciative friends, family and colleagues. (Metro Creative Images)

By MISTY SCHWAB
misty.schwab@apgsomn.com

As front line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, nurses throughout the state — and nation — may have few opportunities to do something special for themselves.

Mandy Janzen, of Cleveland, Minnesota, recognized Woodbury nurse Kristin Dahl has worked hard during "these overworked, understaffed months of COVID," so she nominated her for Fantastic Sams' Holiday Makeover.

"Recently she suffered the terrible sickness as well and thankfully has recovered," Janzen wrote in her

nomination for Dahl. "She connects with each and every patient, letting them see she truly cares about the work she does. She works so hard to care for her amazing twin 2-year-old boys at home and thinks of everyone else before herself. This would be such an uplifting surprise to her and she would be truly thankful for this Holiday Makeover ... I believe each and every one of these nominees would more than deserve this great giveaway!"

Dedee Little of Northfield wanted the same opportunity for Stephanie Teigen, who works in the emergency room of the Northfield Hospital.

"She also is raising four chil-

dren," Little wrote in her nomination for Teigen. "She is definitely one of the super heroes!"

On Sunday, Fantastic Sams' Kevin Steele randomly drew the names of Dahl and Teigen for the "Nominate a Nurse Holiday Makeover" at their respective salon. Over the course of a couple weeks, six Fantastic Sams locations in Minnesota accepted around 90 nominations online for this first-time drawing. Those who were selected will receive a free haircut, style, color, hair treatment and waxing at their local salon just in time for Christmas or New Year's.

See MAKEOVER on 2A



INDEX

LOCAL 2A-3A // OPINION 4A // RECORDS 5A // COMMUNITY 6A // BUSINESS 7A // SPORTS 1B, 6B // CLASSIFIEDS 4B-5B