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JANUARY, 2021

Volume 18 • Issue 5

Announcements

• **Nerstrand Elementary School is conducting enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year and has openings in all grade levels. Parents can check out information on our school by looking at our website www.nerstrand.charter.k12.mn.us and apply online if they are interested.**

• **Wednesday Wear, Nerstrand UMC hours are Wednesdays 1 - 6 and Saturdays 9 - 12.** Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys and books. All things are free with donations accepted. Come and see what we have!

• **Dennison Lions Club** meets monthly. During COVID-19, meeting times may vary.

• **Dennison City Council** meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

• **The Nerstrand City Council** meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at the Nerstrand City Hall. Office hours are: Monday 8:30-11:00; Tuesday by appointment; Wednesday 8:30-11:00; Thursday 5:00-7:00; Friday by appointment. 507-332-8000.

• **Warsaw Township Meeting** is held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Warsaw Township Hall. Meeting time is 6:00p.m.

• **The Wheeling Township meeting** will be held on the second Monday of each month at 8:00p.m. at the Wheeling Township Hall. Contact Rebecca Vergin, Township Clerk.

Nerstrand Native Does Stand-up Comedy

Jerry Johnson grew up just four miles west of the Big Woods State Park, outside Nerstrand. In his youth he would break horses with his brother during the summer months. He remembers riding his horse to the Nerstrand school and tying it up to a pole outside when he went to pick up his

report card after the last day of school for the year. From there he rode over to the grocery store for some treats before returning home to the farm.

Horsing around was natural for Jerry and he had a knack for keeping a straight face while telling a story and his parents couldn't always tell if he was joking or not. As a kid he loved to tell one liner's and make people crack up. His dad and grandfather instilled the love of a funny story in Jerry. His grandparents Holger and Irene lived east of town on a farm, with a pasture where the Jesse James Gang camped out after their failed Northfield raid in 1876, as they fled the posse.

Jerry decided to get into stand-up comedy to help take people's mind off the current events. "There is so much sadness in the world," Jerry states, "I just want to put a smile on their face." His first foray into comedy was in September of 2018 at the Faribault Community Center. He has entertained at local nursing homes quite a few times and did a spot on KDHL radio one



Jerry Johnson

morning. Jerry has appeared twice at Goonie's Comedy Club, twice at the House of Comedy at the Mall of America in Bloomington and has opened at Boxer's Bar & Grill in Faribault. His last appearance was at the West Concord Municipal Liquor Store this Wednesday.

Many of his comic sketches are drawn from his experiences growing up with his family in a small town. He worked with his Uncle Dennis doing construction and masonry work where work site humor is a daily occurrence. He recalls once when he was young that his uncle dropped his cousin and him and two coon dogs off outside of Nerstrand one night. They were following the baying dogs when they discovered that the dogs had cornered a couple skunks.

(continued on page 2)

Students Measure Effects of Cover Crops Out in the Field

Students from Randolph High School's Plant and Soil Science class headed into the field this past fall to measure the effects of cover crops on soil health and crop yield. Randolph High School ag teacher Ed Terry partnered with the Rice Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and local farmers Tim Little of Millersburg and Mike Ludwig of Northfield to bring the cover crop lesson to the classroom.

(continued on page 4)

MarLeas Bar & Grill Opens under New Ownership

MarLeas Bar and Grill is now open in Dennison, with expanded business hours.

New owner Michelle Zimmerman noted the bar will now be open 7 days a week at 11 AM - 10 PM.

New Kitchen hours are Sunday - Thursday 11 AM - 8 PM, Friday & Saturday 11 AM - 9 PM.

The bar will be open later when covid related restrictions on bar and restaurant hours are lifted.



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Monday-Thursday 11am-8pm

Friday & Saturday 11am-9pm

Sunday 11am-8pm



Hope for 2021

From the pages of the Chicago Sun Times, "An Easter like no other. A summer like no other. A World Series like no other. A year like no other." The phrase was worn out over the past nine months by journalists and news media alike. It became a branded logo to rubber-stamp this slow-motion train wreck: COVID-19 pandemic meets civic unrest meets economic disruption." In reality "EVERY year is a year like no other!" Years are unique, like snowflakes. And besides, 2020 is like other years. It's like 1968, 1945, 1918 ... all the way back to 1066, landmark years where you won't have to purse your lips and ponder, trying to dredge up a single event. We all know

Nerstrand Native Does Stand-up Comedy

(continued from page 1)

It was a long ride back to Faribault in the station wagon with two dogs freshly sprayed by a skunk.

His stand-up routines run from 15 to 45 minutes and sometimes include interaction with the crowd. "If you sit in the front row of a comedy show," Jerry says, "You may get pulled into the dialogue."

Jerry is semi-retired and has a snow plowing business and does some metal recycling on the side. He also is a Zamboni operator at Shattuck St. Mary's in Faribault where he resurfaces the ice rinks during skating practice season.

what happened in 2001. Nobody is going to snap their fingers and try to recall what year COVID struck: 2020, a year to remember, whether you like it or not."

There were plenty of challenges this past year: quarantines that contributed to work slow downs and unemployment. There was racial unrest after George Floyd's death in Minneapolis. Almost every home was affected by the Covid 19 virus- and there are people that won't be around in 2021, because of the virus or some other reason. We can focus on the high unemployment, or restaurants and schools being shut down. 2020 also boast of record storms that hit our nation: a derecho in Iowa, and hurricanes in Louisiana, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. There are many ways that this year will be remembered- and many of them will not be happy memories. But along with the bad- there were a number of good things too. There were other Good things that happened in 2020 Nationally: Scientists responded with unprecedented speed and common purpose to find a vaccine and thousands of people volunteered to take the experimental vaccines. We saw the selfless dedication of nurses, orderlies, doctors and other health workers, and the selfless dedication of truck drivers, grocery stockers, farmworkers and so many more who risked their lives to keep the economy from collapsing. We learned to connect long and short distances with zoom and the telephone. Drive-ins theaters made a comeback, a record number of Americans turned out to vote in the national election, the United States launched astronauts to the International Space Station on a U.S.-made rocket and a panda was born at the National

Zoo!

At South Troy we saw some good things happen this year too: God supplied our needs during 3 months of no in-person worship, and He continues to supply our needs! We were able to go online with our worship services. God supplied the needs of the Food shelf and the PEM Backpack program: both volunteers and finances. We've connected with more people than ever before; online and in-person. Our first caroling event was a hit! True there were challenges; we saw more families than ever make use of the food shelf and we know there are many out of work and our local businesses are suffering. Yet, we continue to believe that God is good and He will continue to provide for our community.

Matthew wrote about Jesus being our Hope, "Look at my Servant. See my Chosen One. He is my Beloved, in whom my soul delights. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will judge the nations. 19 He does not fight nor shout; He does not raise his voice! 20 He does not crush the weak or quench the smallest hope; He will end all conflict with his final victory, 21 And his name shall be the hope of all the world." Matthew 12:18-21

First it says, look at my servant- my chosen one. This is talking about Jesus- God's Son. Jesus came not as a superhero he came as a servant. Mark 10:45, Jesus says, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus was chosen, He was God's one and only Son. God loved Him and was willing to send him to be our redemption. Jesus came not to fight, but to bring hope for the

world. Jesus wasn't out to prove a point, or to stir up conflict. He always remained in control of himself. We never see Jesus forcing an issue- He gave all people the right to choose whom they would follow. Jesus won't crush the weak or quench the smallest hope; instead, he gives hope to those that are weak and tired. Like the widow from Nain, her son was in the casket on the way to the final burial- and Jesus saw the pain and sorrow and healed the boy right there! Jesus was filled with compassion for the people- his heart went out to them. Yet, he didn't barge in where he wasn't wanted. He always gave each person an out- to choose to believe, to follow, or to not believe or follow. His life was one of giving hope to those that were left in the margins of society. He reached out to widows, children, the weak and infirmed. He went out of his way to touch lepers and blind men. We can have faith and hope because our faith isn't in something dead and buried, but in the living Christ. God raised Christ from the dead and because of this we can have hope for every day. Without Jesus there would be no lasting hope. No Hope for tomorrow, and no hope for eternity.

My prayer and hope are that we will focus our attention on Jesus Christ in the year 2021. I pray God will fill your spirit to overflowing, and that deep down in your soul you will discover the great strengths of joy, love, boldness, and endurance, and will go forward and live for the glory of God each and every day. We have a living hope- Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ is our hope- our rock, our help in the difficult times. He is the HOPE OF THE WORLD!!!



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LUTHERAN

Dennison/Vang Lutheran Parish
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN • 507-645-6042
Website: www.dennisonvang.org
Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com
Pastor Paul A. Graham

Sunday, January 31 - Worship at Vang at 9:00 AM
(in person and live-streamed online)
Sunday, February 7 - Worship at Dennison - 9:00 AM
(in person only)
Worship at Vang - 11:00
(in person and live-streamed online)
Sunday February 14 - Worship at Vang - 11:00
(in person and live-streamed online)
Wednesday, February 17 - Ash Wednesday
Sunday, February 21 - Worship at Dennison - 9:00 AM
(in person only)
Worship at Vang - 11:00 (in person and live-streamed online)
Wednesday, February 24 - Lent Service
Sunday, February 28 - Worship at Vang - 11:00
(in person and live-streamed online)

Gol Lutheran *Marv Kornmann, Pastor*
8:45a.m. Sunday School;
9:15a.m. Social & Coffee Time; 10a.m. Worship
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
and all major church year festivals

Grace Lutheran, Nerstrand
Don Kloster, Pastor
Service 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran
Martin Horn, Pastor
10:45 a.m. worship; 6:45 p.m.; New Life Radio - KDHL

Hegre Lutheran
Pastor Chris Brekke
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

Moland Lutheran
Nancy Edvardson, Pastor • 10:30 a.m. worship

First Ev. Lutheran
Luther Mathsen, Pastor • Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC
Curtis Fox, Pastor
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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Be Clean

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." — Mark 1:40

In Jesus' day most people believed that disease and sin were connected. Leprosy, a horrible disease that was often contagious and caused deformity, was thought to be evidence of some horrible sin. There was no cure, and lepers were declared "unclean" unless somehow they recovered and could be called "clean" again (see Leviticus 13:1-8, 45-46). They were generally banished from the community because of concerns about spreading spiritual impurity and death.

When the man with leprosy in this story came to Jesus asking to be made clean, it wasn't just a request to be cured. The man wanted his life back. Lepers were thought of as the walking dead, and he was asking, in effect, to be raised from death!

Jesus, seeming to risk being defiled, does the unthinkable in reaching out his hand and touching the man. And then the unthinkable happens. The contagion of sin and death does not spread to Jesus; instead, the cleansing of heaven spreads to the man! This "dead man walking" is brought back to life by the touch and word of Jesus. We expect the corrosive effect of sin and disease to spread, but the healing power of Jesus prevails against it.

Jesus came in power to take away what is killing us and what we are helpless to get rid of. What is it in your life that you are unable to cleanse yourself of? Jesus can make you clean!

Prayer: Gracious God, cleanse me of my sin and make me whole again. Restore to me the joy of salvation! Thank you for touching me with your healing power. Amen.

METHODIST

Nerstrand United Methodist
Lona Sturm, Pastor
507-330-0025
Worship 9:00a.m.

Stanton United Methodist
Rev. Gary Liker
Worship 10:15a.m.
Church Phone 507-263-4063

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NEW LIFE CHURCH

Patrick McBride, Pastor
525 Beverly St., Wanamingo
9:00a.m. Sunday School for all ages;
10:00a.m. Worship Service
7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

HOLDEN-DALE PARISH

Heather Culuris, Pastor
Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship at Holden;
11:00 a.m. worship at Dale

NOTICE

Due to COVID-19 check your church website or Facebook page for updates.

E-mail your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Mainstreet Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com



Obituary & Community

Ivan R. Flicek

Ivan R. Flicek, age 85, of Annandale, formerly of Faribault, died Thursday, December 24, 2020 at the St. Cloud Hospital. A Private Requiem Mass was held Thursday, December 31, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. at Parker Kohl Funeral Home in Faribault. Fr. Nino Molina officiated. Burial followed at Meadow Ridge Cemetery in Faribault.

Ivan Raymond Flicek was born July 31, 1935 in Montgomery Township to Joseph

and Mary (Vavra) Flicek. He grew up on a farm in Nerstrand; after the ninth grade, Ivan needed to stop going to school in order to help more at the farm after his father was injured. In 1954, he was married to Gloria Speikers, they farmed in New Prague where they raised their family. They lived a short time in Crosby before Ivan moved to Faribault. For the past 15 years, he has resided in Annandale. Ivan was a member at Immaculate Conception Traditional Church in St. Cloud. He enjoyed playing cards, gardening, telling stories, hunting and most of all, fishing. He had a knack and knowledge of construction and design and enjoyed building in his retirement.

Ivan is survived by his wife, Gloria Kovall of Annandale; children, Deborah Flicek Laschinger of Annandale, Mary

Hindercheid of Petersburg, FL, John (Stephanie) Flicek of Le Center, Susan (Rick) Envey of Annandale and Jayne (Ron) Sticha of Savage; sisters, Darlene Harmon of Waterville, Beverly (Don) Taylor of Mesa, AZ and Marian Bailey of Nerstrand; twelve grandchildren, Deanna, Mariah, Cassie, Josh, Hannah, Sarah, Alex, Tess, Molly, Karissa, Steven and Liz; and seventeen great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Mary; sisters, Helen Holicky, Mildred Sautter and Marian Wolfe; and brothers, Joe Flicek,

Elroy Flicek and Jim Sirek.

The casket bearers were Jordan Picka, Dalton Horejsi, Jerry Horejsi, Steven Liebhard, Alex Sticha, Jayne Sticha, Josh Stepka and Nathan Picka. Arrangements were entrusted with Dingmann Funeral Care Burial & Cremation Services of Annandale and Parker Kohl Funeral Home of Faribault.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Ivan R. Flicek, please visit our floral store.



Body Identified in Kenyon Fire

Goodhue County Sheriff's Office - On December 31, 2020 at 6:14p.m., Goodhue County Emergency Communications received a 911 call of a structure fire in the 45000 block of Highway 56 Blvd in Holden Township. The Kenyon Fire Department assisted by Wanamingo Fire Department responded along with Kenyon Police Department and Goodhue County Sheriff's Office.

Upon arriving, firefighters located human remains in a burnt vehicle parked outside of the residence. The homeowners and residents have been accounted for. An autopsy will be performed by Southern Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner's Office to positively identify the deceased.

The cause of the fire has not been determined and remains under investigation by Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office and Goodhue County Sheriff's Office. No additional information will be available at this time.

On January 21, 2021, the Southern Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner's Office has positively identified the deceased in this case as Cory Lee Cassidy, 36, of Dodge Center. Our investigation indicates that accidental carbon monoxide asphyxiation may have been the result. During this investigation, there has never been any indications of foul play.

The investigation indicates the fire started in the area of the vehicle and spread to the home but the cause of the fire is unknown. This case remains under investigation by Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office and Goodhue County Sheriff's Office.



Dennison-Vang Lutheran Parish seeks to be a loving presence in the community in Christ's name. We are a community of faith that makes a difference through worship and serving outside our walls.

If you are looking for something more in your life, come check us out!

37514 3rd Avenue, Dennison, MN 55018

Website: www.dennisonvang.org

Pastor Paul A. Graham **NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com**

Worship Updates

Vang and Dennison has resumed in-person worship. Please see the schedule below for dates and times. Services will continue to be livestreamed online from Vang every week. However you chose to worship, either on-line or in person, peace be with you and all are welcome.

Sunday, January 31 - Worship at Vang at 9:00 AM
(in person and live-streamed online)

Sunday, February 7 - Worship at Dennison - 9:00 AM
(in person only)

Worship at Vang - 11:00 AM
(in person and livestreamed online)

Sunday February 14 - Worship at Vang - 11:00 AM
(in person and livestreamed online)

Wednesday, February 17
Ash Wednesday- 7:00 PM at Vang



Sunday, February 21 - Worship at Dennison - 9:00 AM
(in person only)

Worship at Vang - 11:00 AM
(in person and livestreamed online)

Wednesday, February 24
Lent Service - at Vang at 7:00 PM



Sunday, February 28 - Worship at Vang - 11:00 AM
(in person and livestreamed online)

To access on line services, please go to our church Facebook page or visit our website at www.dennisonvang.org.



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Fri. Buy One Item, Get \$1 Off Next Item

Sat. Buy a Breakfast Sandwich, Get \$1 Off a Coffee

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Friday
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Students Measure Effects of Cover Crops Out in the Field

(continued from page 1)

The project began last winter when Little and Ludwig shared their experiences with using cover crops in a classroom presentation. Students learned about the different methods for planting cover crops including aerial seeding and interseeding, as well as the changes Little and Ludwig have seen in their soil after four years of planting cover crops and using conservation tillage.

“It was great to head into the classroom and talk to the students about the effects of

cover crops on soil health, water infiltration, and reduced erosion,” said local farmer and Rice SWCD District Supervisor Mike Ludwig. “It’s important to spread the conservation message to our future farmers and ag professionals so we can sustain healthy soils and improve local water quality.”

After the presentation, Randolph High School teacher Ed Terry led the students in a classroom discussion about planting cover crops out in the field. Collectively, the students decided to plant the cover crops and study the effects on corn yield and the resulting economics of the planting decision.

Prior to planting the cover crops, the students and Terry worked with Ludwig and Chris Messner with Central Farm Service (CFS) of Randolph to make sure there were no residual herbicide interactions that could harm the cover crops. Before planting the corn, bulk N, P, and K fertilizer was spread onto the soybean residue and incorporated



Local farmer Mike Ludwig speaks to students at Randolph High school about the use of cover crops on his farm near Northfield.



The Rice SWCD interseeder plants cover crops on the Randolph FFA Test plot this past June.

with a field cultivator. Fertilizer recommendations were based on soil test results from CFS.

In June, Steve Pahs from the Rice SWCD planted 3.5 acres of cover crops into corn at the V5 stage in the 8.5 acres Randolph FFA Test Plot. A mix of annual ryegrass, kale, turnip, and red clover was planted with the goal of improving soil health. The balance of the acres of corn was left without cover crops. The Rice SWCD donated the seed and interseeding of the cover crops.

In early fall, the students visited the site to identify and examine the cover crops in the field. While the annual ryegrass grew early after planting, the broad-leaved kale and turnip plants dominated the field in the fall.

Students also visited the test plot at harvest to compare yield checks on the corn. “The students wanted to see if there was any yield drag because of the competition from the cover crops taking moisture and nutrients away from the corn. There was no statistical difference in yield,” said Terry.

In 2021, the test plot will be planted to soybeans. Cover crops will also be planted and the students will again examine the effect on yield, the economics of the planting decision, and their long-term effect on soil health.

For more information about cover crops, visit the Rice SWCD website at www.riceswcd.org.

Cover Crop Incentives Increase for 2021 in High-Priority Areas

Beginning this year, farmers who have land in high-priority areas of Rice County may be able to get \$45 per acre to plant cover crops. As part of the new Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, parts of Rice County that are identified as high-priority for water quality may be eligible to get the higher rates. These areas include the watersheds of Cedar, Hunt, and Fox lakes, and the Prairie Creek and Little Cannon Watersheds.

To find out if your property is located in one of these areas, please contact staff at the Rice Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). Even if you aren’t in one of the priority areas, you may still be eligible to receive up to \$35 per acre through the Rice SWCD’s Cover Crop Incentive Program.

To qualify, the land must not have a history of cover crop use or be enrolled in another conservation program that pays for cover crop incentives, and you must agree to a three-year contract.

Cover crops are a great way to improve soil health, reduce erosion, suppress weeds, and build organic matter. If you haven’t tried cover crops yet, now is an excellent time to give it a shot!

Funding is limited, so please contact the district now to apply. For 2021, the District will again be offering custom interseeding for farmers who want to establish a cover crop early, but do not have the time or equipment to do it themselves. Call the district today at 507-332-5408 to start the application process. District staff are available to help you sign up for the programs and can assist you in selecting the cover crop mix that meets your farm’s specific needs. For more information about cover crops, visit our website at <http://www.riceswcd.org/cover-crops>.



Cover crops interseeded this past June grow in a cornfield in rural Rice County. (October 15, 2020)

New Scholarships Available to Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certified Farmers

Funding will support those in the Farm Business Management Program

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering a new scholarship for farmers to learn business management strategies that will lead to profitable and competitive farming operations. The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) Farm Business Management Scholarship provides tuition money for the Farm Business Management Program.

This program started in 1952 and now serves over 5,000 farm families annually in Minnesota. It is offered at eight Minnesota State colleges throughout the state.

The Farm Business Management Program

is a one-on-one, student-led program designed to provide education to farm owners and operators. The program helps students to meet their business and personal goals and focuses on using quality records and sound business decisions with tools and other resources.

"Our goal of offering this scholarship to the Farm Business Management Program is to assure our farmers are on better financial footing through good education," said MDA Assistant Commissioner Whitney Place. "We already know, thanks to a study by AgCentric and the Agricultural Centers of Excellence, that ag water quality certified farms have a 26% higher net income than non-certified farms, so it will be an added benefit to equip them with the resources of the Farm Business Management Program."

"Minnesota Farm Business Management faculty are excited to enroll farmers who are water quality certified," said Keith Olander, Director of AgCentric and the Central Lakes College Ag & Energy Center. "The ability to compare financial data to environmental practices on the farm offers a new management tool for producers who desire to change farming methods while maintaining profitability."

The MAWQCP Farm Business



Management Scholarship will award \$140 per credit (approximately 75% of the cost of tuition) for new Farm Business Management students in their first and/or second semester of the program and \$90 per credit (approximately 50% the cost of tuition) for returning students in their third semester or beyond. Students must enroll in a minimum of two credits per semester, or four per academic year, with a maximum of 10 credits per year.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must be water quality certified in the MAWQCP. To apply, contact a Farm Business Management instructor. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The deadline for spring semester 2021 is March 1.

Farmers and landowners interested in becoming water quality certified can con-

tact their local Soil and Water Conservation District or visit MyLandMyLegacy.com.

About the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years. The program is available to farmers and landowners statewide. To date, over 990 farmers have enrolled 695,000 acres in MAWQCP. In December 2020, Governor Tim Walz announced a goal of enrolling one million acres in the program by the end of 2022.



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New Life for Old Sticks

By Bill Bealles

Steve Kvernmo, owner of Little Champs Frames in Dundas, wasn't a hockey guy years ago, though you could not tell, walking through his shop at 210 County Rd 1. Hockey is a huge part of his life now, however, and makes up most of his business, it's clear to see, as you take in his craft treasures.

Steve and his family are 18-year residents of Dundas, having left Woodbury for the good life here. His work started in 2000, the Minnesota Wild's first season on the ice. "My son was three and wanted to go to a Wild game. I took him and after that, he decided he was going to play hockey!"

The business grew organically after Steve later fabricated some broken hockey sticks into decorative hockey-related items for his son. "His friends liked the items, so I made one for them and then someone else wanted one, so I made another. Pretty soon, I'm making them for moms and it picked up from there."

At the shop, one is waist-deep in artfully crafted items, most composed of recycled hockey sticks. Picture frames, end tables, chairs, lamps and other hockey curios, large and small. A customer favorite is Steve's state of Minnesota hockey stick cutouts. All these can be seen at the Little

Champs website, www.littlechamps-frames.com, or on their Facebook page.

Steve doesn't camp out in the shop all year round. As County Rd 1 is not known for its heavy volume of potential customers, he takes his show on the road, pulling a large, walk-through trailer to summer hockey tournaments and craft events in Nebraska, the Dakotas and Chicago, not to mention Minnesota and Wisconsin.

This is an aspect of the business he hopes he can expand. Ideally, he'd like to be doing three shows instead of one, which would require two more trailers and a few employees. The current COVID environment, as with nearly every business, has impacted sales. Many tournaments did not operate this year due to the virus. The environment will have to return to normal before there's a fleet of Little Champs vans.

The manufacturing process is very "green", too. Over the years, thousands and thousands of damaged hockey sticks would have made it into landfills had Steve not stepped in. He has contracts with hockey leagues, schools, and etc with which he purchases broken sticks. "Hockey sticks don't degrade like a piece of wood. They're made of composite materials which will sit in that landfill for hundreds of years, maybe." Steve also utilizes reclaimed wood in some of his crafts, all of it coming from barns or old wooden structures.

Steve Kvernmo is in the game, most of all, for the opportunity to interact with people. At tournaments and craft shows, there is a warm, welcoming smile at the Little Champs trailer!



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“What?! Girls Can’t Play Football!”

By Bill Bealles

Oh, really? Tell that to 2012 Randolph HS grad, Megan Myers, a new member of the Minnesota Vixen, a women’s professional football team based in Minneapolis. Megan, 27, a licensed Elementary Ed teacher, has been a lifelong football fan from a football family. “As long as I can remember, football has been a huge part of my life.” The weekend routine in her home was, “Randolph Rockets games on Friday nights; chores, then the Gophers on Saturday and, of course, the Vikings on Sunday!” Halftime was a time to finish chores.

On those fall evenings in Randolph, Megan, a confessed ultra-competitor, could be found mixing it up with the boys in pick-

up games on the perimeter of the field. “Mostly, you just killed whomever had the ball,” she says.

Megan filled her years with participation in many different sports, including softball, volleyball, Alpine skiing, and her favorite of all, crossfit training. In high school, she wore the Randolph Rockets orange-and-blue on the volleyball court and did four years of intramurals, including flag football. Later, she greatly enjoyed returning to Randolph to watch her brother, Mark, play during his admirable football career. At North Central, Megan played softball.

It’s in her genes as her parents, Dave and Mary Jo, have been athletes and competitors their entire lives. Mom was a scholarship volleyball player at Winona State and Dad is a water skiing champion. Both are residents of Randolph.

Megan ran across the Minnesota Vixen when she received a link from a friend about the team conducting tryouts, in preparation for the 2021 season. Her friend told her she “could see her doing something like this”. She showed up and impressed the team with her fitness and her football skills. As such, she was invited to join and is now a proud “rookie” linebacker. Asked how she felt about occupying the most important and rugged defensive position in which she’d have to smash it up with veteran offensive guards and tackles, she says, “Oh I can’t wait! I can’t wait to tackle someone, too!”

Practices were supposed to begin in January, but are on hold due to COVID-19. The 2020 season was lost to the pandemic.

An ordinary season, Megan says, would begin with practice from January to March and games from April through June.

Established in 1999 and according to their website (mnvixen.com), the Vixen are the longest continuously operating women’s American football team in the nation and are in the Western division of the Women’s Football Alliance (WFA). The team plays full contact, tackle football following NCAA rules. They play their home games in Edina and take on teams from throughout the nation.

The women playing professional football are not in line for Dalvin Cook or Adam Thielen money, either. In fact, most women pay thousands of dollars to play. There’s a fee paid to the team (\$900), then, the purchase of equipment. Helmets can cost \$200 and more. As well, players spend their own cash to travel to away games. Expenses can be offset by sponsorships from individuals, businesses or organizations.

But, they’re not in it for the money, Myers says. They play for the love of the game and their teammates. “I like the bonds and relationships you build with your teammates. I like being around other competitors and athletes. Those things are most important to me.”

Megan says she’s enjoying her 20’s and loves her life right now. She is already an intrepid world traveler, having taken volunteer positions in Belize, the Dominican Republic, and Malaysia. Her most enjoyable adventure was a recent two-and-half year teaching assignment in China. “I’ve



Megan Myers

been to many places, but I want to go to more!” Now is the time to do it.

Asked what she would tell a young girl who approached her after a Vixen game and wanted to know what she had to do to play football, Megan says, “You just have to do it. The only person who can stop you is yourself.” Yes, girls CAN play football!

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Talking Critically-Needed Blood Donations with the U of M

The American Red Cross estimates that someone needs a blood transfusion approximately every two seconds. Claudia Cohn, MD, PhD, a pathologist with the University of Minnesota Medical School and M Health Fairview and the chief medical officer for the American Association of Blood Banks, explains why donating blood today is needed now more than ever and how choosing to give could equip those donors with new information about their exposure to COVID-19.

Q: What are some of the causes of low

blood donation levels right now, and how does that affect someone's health?

Dr. Cohn: The blood supply is typically lower during the winter months, since blood donations often decrease because of the holidays, travel schedules, inclement weather and illness. That is severely compounded this year with the raging COVID-19 pandemic, which has overwhelmed hospitals and did cancel numerous blood drives earlier in the year. But, the need for blood still exists, despite the virus — victims of car accidents still arrive in emergency departments, cancer patients still require chemotherapy, all of which use life-saving blood transfusions.

Q: What are some of the new benefits related to COVID-19 when giving blood?

Dr. Cohn: If you've ever been curious about whether or not you recently had the novel coronavirus, many blood centers will now test for COVID-19 antibody levels when you donate blood. In fact, if your lev-

els are high, they will send you a letter requesting an appointment for you to donate convalescent plasma, which received FDA emergency use authorization for use in treating hospitalized patients with COVID-19. There is starting to be a nationwide shortage of convalescent plasma, so if you know you have had COVID-19, please contact your local blood center to learn how to donate convalescent plasma.

Q: How could getting the COVID-19 vaccine impact someone's ability to donate blood or convalescent plasma?

Dr. Cohn: The FDA does not require a deferral on blood donations after a COVID-19 vaccine, however, some blood centers might implement a short-term (less than two-week) deferral after someone has been vaccinated, as some people feel mildly ill after their shot. The FDA does, however, defer COVID-19 convalescent plasma donations if you never had COVID-19 and received one of the COVID-19 vaccines.

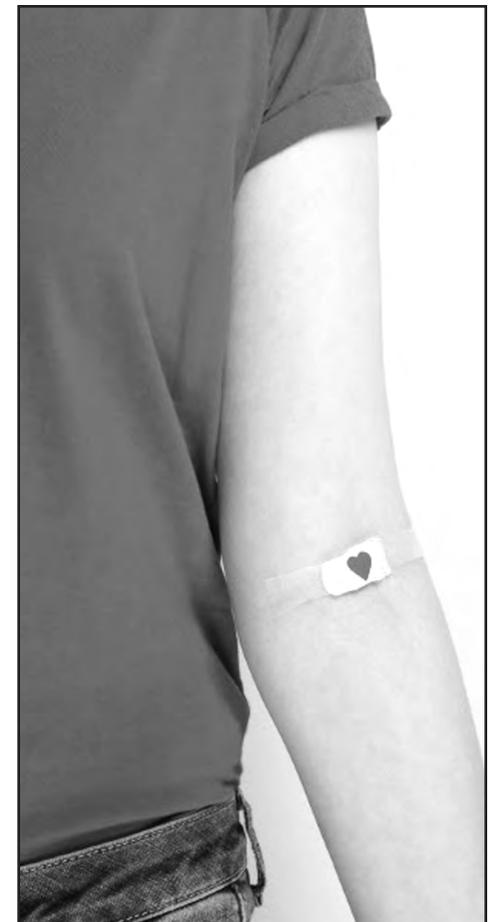
Q: Are blood donation centers safe right now?

Dr. Cohn: Blood donation sites are taking measures to ensure donor safety. They have staggered donation appointments to avoid groups of people standing in line, and they have made sure all donation stations maintain social distancing. All surfaces are wiped down and all personnel are masked. It is probably safer to donate blood than it is to go to a crowded supermarket. If you are interested in donating, find and contact your local blood center.

Q: What are you doing in this area to advance public knowledge about the need for blood donations?

Dr. Cohn: The American Association of Blood Banks works with blood centers, hospitals and the wider community to advance public knowledge about the need for blood donations. This work ranges from educational webinars to public service announcements when the blood supply is low. In my role at the AABB as chief medical officer, I have interacted with multiple media outlets to get the word out about the need for more blood.

Dr. Claudia Cohn is an associate professor of laboratory medicine and pathology in the University of Minnesota Medical School. She is medical director of the M Health Fairview Blood Bank and leads the American Association of Blood Banks as chief medical officer. She conducts research in the field of transfusion medicine and



focuses her efforts in two areas: patient blood management and platelet storage and utilization.

FEMA is Now Accepting Applications for the Youth Preparedness Council

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is committed to actively involving youth in preparedness-related activities through the Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) and is seeking applicants for 2021.

YPC members are students in grades 8 through 11 who are selected to support disaster preparedness and make a positive impact on their communities. The 2021 YPC is now open for applications. The YPC is an opportunity for young leaders to engage with FEMA and provide their perspectives, feedback, and opinions related to preparedness, to grow their leadership skills, and to support the resilience of their communities.

YPC members are selected for two-year terms and are chosen based on their passion for preparedness and helping others, their involvement in their community, and their aptitude for working in a team and as a leader.

Students from Region 5 states who apply for the National Youth Preparedness Council will also be considered for a place on the Region 5 Youth Preparedness Council (Region 5 YPC). The Region 5

YPC is an additional service and leadership opportunity for high school students living in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

"FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council empowers young people to not only participate in disaster readiness within their families and communities but also be the leaders to affect positive change," said Kevin M. Sligh, acting regional administrator, FEMA Region 5. "By applying to and joining the council, youth will have the opportunity to build preparedness and become change agents in their community."

The online application opened on January 18, 2021, and students must complete their applications by March 7, 2021, 11:59 p.m. PST to be considered. Selected candidates will be notified in May 2021. Interested students can apply online at <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>.

For more information about the Youth Preparedness Council or other youth-focused preparedness initiatives contact us at FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov.

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COVID-19 Vaccinations Administered throughout Goodhue County

Goodhue County, Minnesota — COVID-19 vaccines are being administered throughout Goodhue County! This is a moment of celebration and gratitude. This moment of hope also brings many questions about the COVID-19 vaccines.

One of the important questions about the vaccines is, "Are they safe?" Having a safe and effective vaccine is the top priority.

The requirements for COVID-19 vaccine are the same as all other vaccines.

With any vaccine, studies must confirm that the vaccine is safe and effective before it is approved for public use. This data is closely reviewed by several scientific groups at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and other groups look at available information about a vaccine and make informed decisions about the risks and benefits of using it.

COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Timeline and Priority Groups

COVID-19 vaccines are being rolled out in phases. Hundreds of millions of people in the United States alone need to be vaccinated, so it will be a long process to make, distribute, and give that many doses of vaccine out. Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) and Goodhue County Health and Human Services (GCHHS) urges the public to have patience and continue to be mindful of the practices we can do to slow the spread of COVID-19, practice social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands and stay home if you are sick.

Goodhue County Health and Human Services (GCHHS) is following the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) priority groups. This week GCHHS started to vaccinate our Phase 1A 1st priority group; Emergency Medical Services (EMS). We held vaccination clinics for our EMS throughout the county in Red Wing, Zumbrota, Kenyon and Cannon Falls. Other Phase 1a First Priority groups are being vaccinated by the hospital/clinic they work for; Long Term Care facilities by an appointed Pharmacy from the Federal Pharmacy Provider Program. As of January 7, 2021, 769 residents of Goodhue County have received 1 or more doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The goal for the first, limited doses of COVID-19 vaccine is to protect those who are exposed to COVID-19 every day because of what they do, who they care for, or where they live. In addition, high rates of severe disease in nursing home residents and other congregate settings where older

adults live are being seen. With this in mind, the first doses of COVID-19 vaccine are being given to people working in health care settings and people who live and work in long-term care facilities. They do not have the option of remaining home and separating themselves from others. Other groups that will get the vaccine earlier than the general public include frontline essential workers, adults 65 years and older, people with high-risk medical conditions, and other essential workers.

COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

The GCHHS COVID-19 Hotline has received calls asking if community members can sign up for their vaccine or be put on a waiting list. It is important to note that, there is NOT a list Minnesotans need to get on to receive COVID-19 vaccine. Early on, people who are able to get vaccine first will be contacted by their employers or the long-term care facility where they live.

We have also heard of scams across the state where people are being called and told to provide credit card information to be put on this list. MDH and health care providers will not contact you and ask for personal information or credit card information in order to get the COVID-19 vaccine. This is a scam, do not provide personal information to these callers. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and GCHHS will provide updates when vaccine is available to more people and how they can get it.

FAQ about COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccine Rollout

Each day, more and more information on the COVID-19 vaccines is being released. We all have many questions and some of those questions may not have answers currently. Here are some helpful resources to help answer questions you may have.

For information on the COVID -19 vaccines go to: cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html

For more information and FAQ on the Minnesota Statewide vaccine rollout go to: health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine.html

To stay informed of local Goodhue County Vaccine information go to: [co.goodhue.mn.us](https://www.co.goodhue.mn.us)



Todd Greseth

www.co.goodhue.mn.us/COVID-19

Goodhue County Health & Human Services COVID-19 Hotline: (651) 385-2000.

Hotline is available Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Immunity

Two doses are needed for the two COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna. It is very important that someone gets both vaccine doses, the same product for each dose, and that the doses are given at the correct time apart.

After the second dose, it takes about two weeks for your body to build up immunity, so it's about 6 weeks total from the first vaccine dose to when you should be fully protected. It is important to continue to wear a mask, stay 6 feet from others, wash your hands, and follow other public health recommendations. Even after those 6 weeks, it is known that these vaccines are good at preventing people from getting sick, but there is not enough data yet to say whether someone who was vaccinated may still spread the disease to others if they get infected with COVID-19. At this time, it is also not known if this will be a vaccine that people need to get again, similar to getting a flu shot every year or needing a tetanus shot every 10 years.

For more information on Goodhue County Health & Human Services, please visit www.co.goodhue.mn.us.

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Gratitude



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

With the new year here I have been taking some time to reflect on this past year. While 2020 has been incredibly challenging, I have found myself focusing on the bright spots. It was a year filled with incredible stories of people doing amazing things to help those hit hardest by the pandemic. I am thankful that at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we were able to play a role, alongside many partners and collaborators, in moving this part of the state toward a more resilient future.

It is impossible to encapsulate everything that I was grateful for in 2020, but this top ten list is a start (in no particular order):

Early Childhood professionals. They have continued to support the young children of our region under extremely difficult conditions. We were able to provide early

childhood trainings and technical assistance, in addition to emergency grants, to support these professionals throughout the year.

Entrepreneurs. So many businesses have been hit hard this year. I have been energized by the innovative spirit of entrepreneurs in the region who have adapted their business models during a period of rapid changes. We partnered with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to disperse more than \$10 million in Small Business Relief Grants directly to businesses in our region. We were also able to provide trainings and technical assistance to businesses.

Our 30 Community Foundations. SMIF offered a matching grant to the community foundations under our umbrella so they could provide relief funding directly to their communities. They were able to help their local food shelves purchase more food, keep essential community organizations afloat, provide critical tools for equitable distance learning and much more.

Local food producers. This year holiday shoppers had the opportunity to shop online for foodie gifts that were produced by 40 vendors from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. More than 400 unique items were available through the FEAST! Online Marketplace with products ranging from hazelnut oil and smoked salmon patties to maple syrup and jam.

The addition of a new Prosperity Initiative cohort. This program offers

business training and mentoring to new immigrant and minority entrepreneurs in our region. We were excited to welcome a new cohort of 13 clients this year and support the growth of their businesses during this difficult year.

Our AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative members serve in preschool classrooms and nonprofits focused on the social and emotional development of young children. VISTA members serve at nonprofits or local government agencies to help increase economic prosperity of diverse groups in our region. We also welcomed a VISTA member at SMIF who is focused on local foods initiatives, and a Lead for Minnesota Fellow who is focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Our grant recipients. In addition to the DEED Grants and Emergency Child Care Grants that we have dispersed, we also supported small towns with their COVID response efforts, provided free paint for community projects and launched both the Inclusive and Equitable Communities Grant program and the Early Care and Education Wrap Around Grant program. We also awarded a record 27,828 children's books to 66 organizations through our Early Literacy Grant program (and many more books through other programs). It is amazing to see how passionate our grant recipients are about serving their communities.



Our incredible donors and partners. None of the work mentioned above would be possible without them. Thanks to our 309 donors – individuals, families, cities, counties, businesses and organizations – we have raised \$1.3 million to date in 2020. I am humbled by their generosity and their belief in the work we do, especially during this critical time.

The staff at SMIF. They were able to quickly mobilize and shift operations to process and distribute hundreds of emergency grants and loans, while providing technical assistance and training to early childhood professionals and entrepreneurs in the region.

Last, but definitely not least, southern Minnesotans. You have proven to be resilient in the face of immense challenges. As I have said previously, we are stronger together, and we will get through this together.

Here's to a new year and a brighter future for southern Minnesota.

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Achievement Takes More Than a Dream



By Harvey Mackay

A scrawny old man wanted to get a job at a nearby lumberjack camp so he approached the boss who politely tried to talk him out of the idea, thinking the old man wouldn't be able to fell a tree, much less keep up with the daily quotas.

"Give me a few minutes of your time, and I'll show you what I can do," suggested the man.

When the two arrived at a grove of trees needing to be cleared, the scrawny old persistent man picked up an ax and proceeded to chop down a huge tree in record time.

"That's incredible," the boss said. "Where did you learn to fell trees like that?"

"Well," said the old man, "you've heard of the Sahara Forest?"

Hesitantly the boss replied, "Don't you mean the Sahara Desert?"

The old man smiled and said, "Sure, that's what it's called now."

"Achievers are producers," writes Glenn Van Ekeren. "They understand the world will not recognize them for what they could have done, should have done or would have done. Recognition is experience by proving what you can do by doing it."

Achievement is one of the desires that drives us. Why do you think we have various awards like Grammys, Emmys, Oscars, Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes, not to mention numerous halls of fame? "Who's Who in America" grows larger with every edition because people feel the need to be recognized.

"The number of new products available and the new inventions which make life easier from generation to generation all testify to mankind's thirst for more achievement," wrote authors Leonard and Thelma Spinrad. "No matter what kind of society or political system a country may have, it seeks to provide recognition for what it regards as achievement."

Outstanding efforts, great courage, heroic deeds, superior commitment and innovative accomplishments all are spectacular achievements that deserve acknowledgement. But recognition shouldn't be the primary motivation for achievement.

I can tell you from personal experience that achieving a goal or completing a major business or civic project is a reward in itself. Yes, my ego appreciates the kudos,

but it doesn't make the achievement any sweeter. I just want to do the best and most complete job I can do.

Finding the motivation to achieve is sometimes a challenge. You know what you can achieve; it's the getting started part that inhibits results. When you feel stuck, you can pull yourself up with an attitude adjustment. The Success magazine website offers some ideas how to make the change.

Rely on yourself first. You'll have to ask others for advice, assistance, and support, but remember that in the end, your success is your responsibility alone.

Have a plan. Don't go off in all directions at once. Work out a solid, detailed plan for getting from your starting point to the result you want.

Focus on commitment. Are you really committed to your goal? If not, you won't be motivated to pursue it.

Concentrate on gaining knowledge. Don't expect instant results. Instead, work on accumulating the knowledge you need to get to where you want to go.

Have some fun. Don't make the work all drudgery. Set a goal you'll enjoy working toward, and look for opportunities to have fun along the way.

Spark your imagination. Be open to anything, no matter how wild it seems at first. Generate ideas through brainstorming with others, exploring the world around you, and seeking opportunities to learn new things.

Challenge yourself. Don't wait for the perfect moment to take action. Take



chances, get out of your comfort zone, and be realistic about your mistakes and the causes of your failures.

We all have the potential to be great achievers. It may not come with a trophy or a job title, but achievement is measured on many fronts. Don't just dream about achieving something – stay awake and do it!

Gretchen Alexander refused to allow her blindness to limit her life experiences. She mastered archery, golf, softball, sailing and water skiing as well as a number of other activities her sighted friends had yet to learn.

Speaking to a group of high school students about her achievements, one student asked if there was anything she wouldn't try. "I've decided not to skydive," she answered. "It would scare the heck out of my dog."

Mackay's Moral: Getting something done is an accomplishment; getting something done right is an achievement.

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Nerstrand City Council Meeting Minutes December 8, 2020

Nerstrand City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 7:00p.m. Those in attendance via Zoom were Mayor Jarod Alvarez, Council Members Monica Gernandt, Kim Dekart, Gretchen Gilmore and Jennifer Schwab. Other people in attendance were Public Works Director Steve McDowell, Planning, Zoning Commissioner Don Quistorff, City Clerk Dana Jans, and 6 Nerstrand residents.

Amendments to agenda

- Councilwoman would like to move Land Lease agreement to planning and zoning however Mayor Alvarez would like to leave it in old business. She would like add job description for Clerk, renovation upstairs, website, and Christmas lights. Councilwoman Gilmore would like to add cars to complaints, and discuss the attorney bill.

Secretary's and Treasurers Report

- Motion to accept the Treasurers and secretaries report with the discussed changes to be made by Councilwoman Schwab, seconded by Councilwoman Gilmore, motion carries Gilmore, Schwab, and Gernandt for and Dekart abstain.

Report from Mayor

- Mayor Alvarez thanked the council and other City employees for their work during his time in office.

Planning and Zoning Commission

- Permit for kitchen renovation on 1st St S. Motion by Councilwoman Gernandt, seconded by Councilwoman Schwab, Gernandt, Schwab, and Gilmore for, Dekart abstain

-- Representative from Rice County was unavailable to come. Councilwoman Gernandt has spoke with the county and at this time they do not want to take on permits for the City. At this point in time the County has no interest in taking over our permits. They did give Gernandt a list of inspectors that they use. For a basic shingling job the inspector would charge \$75.00. The \$75.00 would be added to our regular permit fee. This will get discussed further in the upcoming months. This is not something that will change overnight.

Complaints & Concerns

- Discussion on the complaints regarding cars on Main and on 1st St S. Clerk has heard from the resident on 1st St S, but has heard nothing from the resident on Main. Council will have Jans send letter to resident on Main including the \$250.00 fine.

- Complaints on free pile on Farm Street and Main Street. The pile is on private property. Jans did reach out to the owner of the property and they did say if complaints continue to come in to make sure we reach out to them again.

Public Comment

- none

Fire Department

-none

Report from Maintenance

- A job description was discussed for the Clerk, Maintenance, and for Public Works. Public Works Director McDowell is more concerned with an operating manual for when he steps down in his position. He will start working on an operating manual and also a job description. Jans will work on the job description for the clerk position. She will find the average hours worked by maintenance monthly for the last 5 years. This will give a better idea as to what to budget annually for maintenance.

Report from Public Works

- McDowell is working on the snow fence on 2nd St S. He would like to see if that helps with the snow blowing over 2nd St this winter. If it helps we will do this every year.

- Corner of Kielmeyer and 246 probably needs a culvert put in. It would be good to get the water to run past the cemetery sign on Kielmeyer. This will get discussed further and taken care of in the spring/summer.

- The grant for the generator was approved. McDowell is hoping that after the first of the year we will find out more.

- The place to dump excess snow has changed to northwest of the transfer station.

The City had to pay the shipping but will save the \$3000 it was supposed to cost to do the new fence.

- Geothermal is still not turned on.

- Valek did a great job on the brush pile. McDowell will plan to burn the pile after we get some precipitation. Still no invoice from Valek at this point.

Report from Clerk

-Election audit was completed on November 20. It went well, but was not what was expected. One ballot with just a line through the circle was misread for all 3 offices. Voter intent was clear and recorded.

- Audit is scheduled for January 11 and 12. As of now the plan will be an in-person audit.

- Rate increase for water and sewer will take place with the next billing cycle.

New Business

-Resolution 2020-07 Designation of polling place. Councilwoman Gernandt would also like to add an emergency location to the resolution. Motion by Councilwoman Gernandt, seconded by Councilwoman Dekart to adopt Resolution 2020-07 with the addition of 217 Main Street, Nerstrand as a secondary emergency location. Motion passed unanimously.

- Levy Resolution 2020-08 adoption of the final operating levy of \$130,000 motion by Councilwoman Schwab, seconded by Councilwoman Gilmore. Schwab, Gilmore, Alvarez for, Gernandt and Dekart against. Motion passed by majority.

- Insurance is up for renewal. Clerk forwarded documents to Fire, Public Works, Council. All agreed that numbers looked as they should. Change in coverage for City hall was discussed but LMC advised no change. Insurance will remain the same as previous year.

- Council coming in would all like to attend the 2021 Elected Leaders Institute with a cost of \$175.00. Motion by Councilwoman Gernandt for all to attend current and new council, seconded by Councilwoman Dekart. Motion passed unanimously.

- Discussion on the current invoice from the City Attorney. Councilwoman Gilmore suggested that a rule be made as to when and who can talk to the City Attorney. Motion by Councilwoman Gernandt for legal advice to only be sought when two Council and clerk are available to talk to the attorney. Questions would be decided ahead

of the meeting with the attorney. Clerk will schedule correspondence. Seconded by Councilwoman Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

- Councilwoman Dekart has been asked about the rules for the Christmas Light Fight. Question raised as to why Clerk put it on the website if it isn't a City sponsored event. Response was that information that may be beneficial to residents including free food pick up, Elementary School events and lost pets. Dekart will advise the resident with the questions to reach out to Councilwoman Gilmore or Harold Glende.

Old Business

- Brief discussion on the land lease agreement between Nerstrand Meats and the City of Nerstrand. Motion by Councilwoman Dekart not to pursue this agreement because it is not in the best interest of the City, seconded by Councilwoman Gernandt. Gilmore and Schwab against, Gernandt and Dekart for the motion, Alvarez abstain. Motion not passed.

- Discussion on the City website. Clerk still needs to learn the basics and will meet with Alvarez via ZOOM in the next few weeks.

Approval of Bills

- Motion to approve bills by Councilwoman Gernandt, seconded by Councilwomen Schwab, Gernandt, Schwab, and Gilmore for, Dekart abstain.

Respectfully submitted by;

Dana Jans

Nerstrand City Clerk

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City of Dennison Regular Council Meeting December 3rd, 2020

The December Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Flaten on Thursday, December 3rd, 2020 at 7:00 pm via zoom. Present were Mayor Flaten, Councilors Ann Anders, Nichole Schiell, and Diane Ruddle, and Clerk Jessica Page. Councilor Britt Olson joined the meeting a little later.

Approval of Minutes: Councilor Anders moved to approve the November regular meeting minutes. Councilor Schiell second. Motion passed 4:0. Councilor Anders moved to approve the treasurer's report, Mayor Flaten second. Motion passed 4:0.

Building Permits: None

Administrative Issues:

1. Truth in Taxation. Mayor Flaten asked if there were any public comments. There were no individuals who came to City Hall, who joined the meeting via zoom, and there were no comments submitted via either mail or email, or via phone calls.

2. Preliminary levy for the City of Dennison was set at \$98,000, plus the bonding for the streets is \$42, 212, for a total of \$140,212 in September. Councilor Anders moved to adopt resolution 12-2020-01 with the same amounts that were set in the preliminary level. Diane second. Motion passed 4:0. Councilor Olson joined the meeting.

3. Phosphorus system update. MPCA is almost done with a proposal for the changes in dates for this project, so we should be getting something soon on this from them. Current plans for the shed need a few items confirmed, and then it will be complete. Carley has the plans for the building and ISG will start rolling out the rest of it. Carley needs confirmation that it is the plans the city is going with. Heating is going to be biggest factor. A slab will cost more to heat than footings. Will there be

insulation around the footings as that will help to reduce heating costs. Carley will send to their structural person. City needs to confirm the 8 foot door. Estimated time of when the shed needs to be completed by is in the spring time.

4. Force main project update. Projected start date was November 30. There were some issues with things brought up by Anita Gallentine from the PFA. We are trying to get all those things brought up to speed regarding those issues. Clerk working on written construction easements. Need to approve additional contract with ISG.

Carley was able to attend via zoom. The PFA needed prevailing wages, which were in the project manual that they already had, so that was explained to them. The addendum to the force main agreement is due to the increases asked for by the PFA as they weren't figured in to the original contract and plans. The MOCA is requiring that the inlets and splashpads be reconstructed. MPCA is requiring an engineer on site while the berms are being reconstructed. Luckily, they are not requiring a hydrolic test (expensive). It would be cheaper to have an engineer on site to ensure this. Timeline is doubled. No increase in the bid price as this was in the bid that went out. It will take approximately 7 days total that the engineer has to be on site during the whole duration of the project.

Councilor Anders move to approve the changes based on the recommendations Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0

Councilor Anders inquired as to what the name of the grant for these projects is. Mayor Flaten said it is under the 2017 bonding bill appropriation.

5. Discuss ISG invoices. The City should be able to pay the force main fees as we can start to get reimbursed for those costs from the PFA. See invoices from emails.

ISG has also asked that the City try to pay

some of the invoices from the Phosphorus Project, especially ones that remain from 2018. Councilor Anders move to pay invoices 68667 of \$26,788.03 for the force main, and for phosphorus project invoice 68666 listing the 2018 amounts of \$17,375.00 and \$494.93 Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0

6. Resolution #12-2020-02 is to continue the practice of mail in ballots for the Rice County portion of the City of Dennison. (Rice County has requested updated resolution.) Councilor Anders move to approve Resolution 12-2020-02 to continue the mail ballots. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0.

7. Liquor licenses: Both establishments have applied for licenses and they have been sent in to the sheriff's dept, but not returned yet. New for Marlea's is that the license for 2021 is being applied for by Michelle Dickson, who will be the new owner of Marlea's. We need to approve the licenses so they can be ready for them on January 1 of 2021. In the past, Council has approved them contingent upon no issues found upon review by the Sheriff's Dept. Both entities will need to provide their insurance information to be approved by AGE. Councilor Anders move to approve the tow liquor licenses contingent on no issues from the County. Councilor Schiell second. Motion passed 4:0. We lost Councilor Ruddle from the Zoom meeting during the voting.

An email was received from Fireside Lounge asking for economic assistance for both Fireside and Marlea's by waiving the fee for the liquor licenses. It was discussed dividing the payments up to help. Usually payment in full has been collected prior to the issuance of licenses. After some discussion with council members and a business owner, it was decided there would be no changes at this time. Council noted they would be open to re-visiting the issue if more CARES money were to become available.

8. Cigarette licenses are requested for Fireside, Marlea's and Dennison Depot. (Same as in previous years.) Fee is \$15. Councilor Anders move to approve the cigarette licenses. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0.

Regarding the updating of the Tobacco Ordinance, there was discussion on it and a lot of the previous information wasn't needed, questions if it could be significantly shortened up and references made to MN State Statutes so if changes are made there, the City didn't need to adopt a new ordinance. Councilor Ruddle noted that if the City has a Tobacco Ordinance, it is a

requirement that annual compliance checks be made to license holders. Will check with Goodhue County Sheriff to see if those are being done. Council will further review the ordinance and bring up any concerns in January and can vote in February.

9. Karl Brogger hookup fees. Mayor would like to review the agreement that Council had made with Karl to reduce the interest charges on his three hookups. In the couple of years since this was approved, Karl has made one payment of \$500 in September 2019. Will do in January as time was running short.

10. Kennedy and Graven bill. Council directed the Clerk to pay the bill.

11. Increasing fees for sewer/water? Both accounts are in the negative, but the water account is moving forward slowly. Sewer account is losing money due to new costs from additional testing needed for each discharge as well as more testing on a quarterly basis of influent. Dan presented the Council with some recommendations. These included keeping the Utility Debt the same (\$25) Sewer Base rate increase from \$5.75 to \$15.75. Water base rate increase from \$7.00 to \$9.25. Sewer Volume rates increase from \$2.70 to \$4.00 per thousand gallons. Water volume rates increase from \$1.55 to \$2.55 per thousand gallons. Councilor Ruddle move to accept Dan's proposal of fees to increase costs. There was discussion on just raising the sewer rates only. Councilor Ruddle withdrew her motion. Councilor Ruddle move to only increase the sewer costs. Councilor Anders second. Motion passed 4:1. Councilors Anders, Ruddle, Schiell, and Mayor Flaten voted yes. Councilor Olson voted no.

Councilor Anders move to change the \$25 utility fee back to sewer from the water accounts to help pay for continued sewer improvements.

Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 4:1. Councilors Anders, Ruddle, Schiell, and Mayor Flaten voted yes. Councilor Olson voted no.

Citizens Issues:

Mayors Issues:

Utilities:

1. Update from Nate: Finishing up end of year discharges. Have one full discharge, and will do another small one to get ponds as low as possible for construction needs.

2. Had a request from Pink Posh to disconnect all sewer and water services from her building. Her water is currently turned off, but she still receives monthly base charges for the building. It was noted there is something in the Ordinances where base rates are to be charged to owners even if the water is turned off while owners are gone.

Councilor Ruddle move to pay the bills. Councilor Anders second. Motion passed 5:0.

It was noted that this was Councilor Olson's last meeting as a Council member. Many thanks to him for his multiple terms of service to the community and well wishes for the future.

Councilor Anders move to adjourn. Councilor Schiell second. Motion passed 5:0.

Next meeting: Regular meeting is Thursday, January 7th, 2020 at 7:00.

Commissioner Corner

First of all I want to thank everyone for their support these last 4 years. It was an honor to serve you and I hope I met your expectations. I enjoyed my time serving. It was always a challenge fighting the Red wing interests. My biggest successes was getting a lot of roads redone in the district, CTY1, CTY14, CTY 12 out of Kenyon, and CTY 23 cement stabilization. I think I helped keep the tax increases low.

My biggest failure was the implementation of the county wide trash ordinance. I tried every way to sunset to try and stop it. In the end Red Wing interests trumped those of the residents of our area and it passed with a 3 to 2 vote. You are now seeing the effects, many of you received notices about increasing rates. There is a lawsuit filed by the trash haulers of our area. So it is not a done deal yet. One other thing I learned is you can think of government as a giant rolling ball. It is very hard to reduce the size and cost of government. Government employees have unions and a lot of the cost increases are baked into the union contracts. Also if you add new positions, that employee will cost you forever. I tried to combine 2 positions into 1 this past year, effectively reducing one position. You would think the earth was crashing down when I suggested it. So in summary it is very hard to reduce government spending unless you have the board votes to do so. So unless you help elect people who want less government spending you will never reduce the cost of government. This holds true all the way up to the federal level. Thank you again for having trust in me to serve you, it was definitely an honor and privilege to serve you!!

Regards
Barney Nesseth
Normal Citizen, as normal as I can be anyway!!



Barney Nesseth
Goodhue County
Commissioner
District 3

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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes World Traveler



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell.

Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

Little did I think that when I moved to the middle of the south that I would become a world traveler. I didn't even like to go out of the country and was not in possession of a passport. In fact, the only time I left the good old USA was to go skiing in Canada when I was much younger and had better knees.

But here I am and have found that we take frequent trips to Paris, sometimes a couple times each week, often just to eat a great lunch. And most times we pass right by the Eiffel Tower. And I still admire it as we go

by. What a beautiful structure rising above the trees on the north side of town.

Our all-time favorite restaurant is the Paris Southside Restaurant. Great food, incredible prices, friendly waitresses and out of this world desserts. It is always packed and if you come at lunch time you will stand and wait until a table opens up. The last time we were there we saw a table for five next to us with a couple dining there alone. When a party of three walked in the waitress asked if they would mind sharing a table. In a few moments they were seated and shortly all five were visiting like old friends. Everyone is friendly in the City of Love.

I suppose I might have led you to believe we were talking about the Paris in France, but Paris, Tennessee is less than a half hour down the highway from our home. The rest is true however, and there is an exact replica of the Eiffel Tower in Tennessee. Actually, there are nine cities in the United States using the name Paris, but the one in Tennessee has the second tallest Eiffel Tower in the world. It does have a fence around it because college students found it irresistible to climb to the top.

So it is probably a whole lot less romantic now that you know the real story, but my wife and I love going to Paris, Tennessee to shop at Tractor Supply Company and Lowes.



A Minnesotan in the North: Hoar Frost



By RosaLin Alcoser

One of the most beautiful things about living in Northern Minnesota in the win-

ter is the all hoar frost. It sparkles and glistens in the sun light and basically hangs around all.

It also makes up for the fact that it's both freezing cold and the ice fog... and this close to North Dakota there seems to be a lot more ice fog than I remember from growing up in Southeast Minnesota.

I have found two really good things about 2020 as I look back on the year. First is that like many I now work from home most of the time I don't have to drive through the ice fog every morning. Instead I get to enjoy looking at the hoar frost from my window.

Secondly face masks. I have found these to be great in the winter because it keeps my face warm while I'm outside. Honestly, I might keep wearing them outside in the winter after this is all over just to keep my face warm.

Native Salt Tolerant Plants



Teri Knight



While our weather has been strange, pretty "warm" temperatures for most of us in the Midwest, we have had some snow... and that means salt trucks are out. Many municipalities are working on ways to reduce the use, still, we do need to keep folks safe on the roads.

That said, we know is that our plants are not fond of the seasoning. Road salt can damage plants by interfering with their water uptake through their root system.

It will look like root damage or drought and include stunted growth, scorching on leaves and maybe the formation of witches brooms on shrubs on the salt side of the plant.

We've talked before about salt tolerant plants but today I'm focusing on native salt tolerant plants.

First let's remember to take into account not all plow truck drivers stick to the road. I've had them scrape my lawn too. And, always take into account the mature size of your plants as well and place them accordingly, especially if you have on

street parking, you don't want your plants trampled or hide someone's line of sight for safety.

Consider these:

- Butterfly weed aka milkweed aka *Asclepias tuberosa* – this is the host for monarch butterflies
- Barren strawberry aka *Waldsteinia fragarioides* – low grower
- Wild bergamot aka bee balm aka *Monarda fistulosa*
- Yarrow aka common yarrow aka *Achillea millefolium*
- Ornamental native grasses that tolerate salt include Big Bluestem, Little bluestem and switchgrass. I'm a big fan of grasses and would really consider a mix of these and Blackeyed Susan, which is also salt tolerant.
- Additionally, Summersweet, which has a wonderful fragrance is a native salt tolerant shrub.
- Others include serviceberry, winterberry and hackberry.



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by Proven Winners

Teri Knight became a Master Gardener with Dakota County, Minnesota in 2003. She currently produces her website, www.gardenbite.com, that supplements her daily radio program which has aired Monday thru Friday on radio stations throughout Minnesota since 2007. In 2017, several stations in Wisconsin began airing her show. Teri's been involved in community projects which include a Junior Master Gardener program for 8 to 12 year olds, designing and planting a garden for a women's center and various other organizations! Besides all that, Teri is News Director at KYMN Radio and can be heard weekdays on AM 1080 and 95.1 FM The One, From Northfield, MN.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

- THEME: FAMOUS DUOS
- ACROSS
1. *Timothy Q. Mouse's friend, in Disney classic
 6. River in Germany
 9. Bridle parts
 13. Whatsoever
 14. Like tuna tartare
 15. Forearm bones
 16. Plural of #3 Down
 17. Hardware store
 18. "Gladiator" setting
 19. *Ferb Fletcher's stepbrother
 21. *Mr. White's unfortunate student
 23. Welcome spot for weary traveler
 24. It shall, for short
 25. Cul de ____
 28. Young herring
 30. Dieter's cuisine, for short
 35. Gator's cousin
 37. French "place"
 39. Chunk of iceberg
 40. St. Louis monument
 41. Like new TV set
 43. Front of ship
 44. Singular of loci
 46. Additional
 47. Reality TV's Spelling
 48. *Assistant to regional manager Michael Scott
 50. Missing a limb
 52. More, in Madrid
 53. Like acne-prone skin
 55. Pimple fluid
 57. *Shirley's roommate and fellow bottle-capper
 61. *Rory Gilmore's mom
 65. Make an effort
 66. Legal org.
 68. Long stories
 69. Scottish valleys
 70. Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
 71. *One of The Carpenters duo
 72. Bone-dry
 73. Opposite of WSW
 74. Red or orange announcement
- DOWN
1. Slightly wet
 2. *Malone and Stockton of the ____ Jazz
 3. Skirt length
 4. Shrovetide dish
 5. *Mary-Kate and Ashley
 6. Geologists' studies
 7. * ____ and cheese
 8. Moved under the rug
 9. "All ____, no bite"
 10. Footnote word
 11. *Amy Poehler's comedic partner
 12. Welsh alternative to Siobh-n
 15. Was almost out of gas, e.g.
 20. Source of indigo dye, pl.
 22. " ____ Be Home For Christmas"
 24. In the best possible way
 25. Coffee burn, e.g.
 26. *Bow and ____
 27. Spherical bacteria
 29. *Corona's main squeeze?
 31. What willow did
 32. Read-only chip
 33. Greek bazaar
 34. *Clark's fellow traveler
 36. College party chant
 38. Celestial bear
 42. Dancer's beat
 45. Daisy dukes, e.g.
 49. "Wizard of Oz" man
 51. Archimedes' exclamation
 54. Furlough
 56. Flower part
 57. Frog delicacy
 58. Wheel shaft
 59. Swerve
 60. European sea eagle
 61. *David and Paul on the " ____ Show"
 62. Italian currency, pl.
 63. Maple genus
 64. Negative contraction
 67. *Jerry's fellow treat-maker



We'd like to share our thanks
and best wishes with everyone
who has been a part of our year.



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