

## Jodge Center DODGE CENTER 2ssenger MINNESOTA JANUARY, 2021

**Postal Customer ECRWSS** 

Volume 2 • Issue 10

### **Business is Part of National Expansion** Ared

All American National opened up their fleet service business in Claremont in June of 2019. All American National started as a family-owned business in Los Angeles in 1984. They paint and repair various types of equipment including tractors, trailers, earth moving equipment, cranes, refuse trucks, cement mixers, water trucks, concrete pumping units, backhoes, skid loaders and farm equipment. They also do fiberglas repair, fleet painting, minor fabrication and rebuilding hoods and truck bodies.

In the mid 1990's the company relocated to Fontana, California and in 2012 expanded to Dallas/Fort Worth area and in 2015 expanded to Phoenix, Arizona where their current headquarters are. They have plans



### **Abigail Walters Performs Level I Comprehensive Piano Exam, Receives High Distinction Rating**

On December 11, 2020, Abigail Walters, student of Nadine's Piano Studio in Dodge Center, performed the Level I Comprehensive Piano Exam of the Minnesota Music Teachers Association (MMTA). With a score of 98/100, Abigail received the High Distinction rating.

The piano exam consists of several components, including keyboard skills, (scales, chords, arpeggios), three memorized piano pieces from the official MMTA list, and sight-playing skills, which include rhythm drills, note and interval recognition, etc. Abigail is the daughter of Daryl and Audrey Walters of Dodge Center.



**Abigail Walters** 

to open an Atlanta, Georgia location next. Since the beginning they have had a close working relationship with McNeilus Truck and Manufacturing and three of their locations are near McNeilus facilities.

At the Clarmont location there are eight employees and they paint and refurbish

equipment. The turnaround for a refuse truck is about seven days for sand blasting, priming and painting. They have multiple spray booths to get equipment back out the door in a short time and pride themselves on quality workmanship of the units they produce.

### **Triton Student Council** to Host Food Drive

The Triton Student Council is hosting a food drive this month to support local families in need. Community members are invited to participate by bringing in items to the school.

We will have a drive-through drop-off on Saturday, January 23 from 10am-12pm. This will take place at Triton High School, as well as Casey's in West Concord and the Claremont Service Center in Claremont!





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## Religion

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- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER

### Pastors Corner By Kira Anderson

This week our country will welcome the 46th President of the United States of America into leadership. During the past year our country has witnessed unrest that puts knots in my stomach. We are 10 months into a pandemic, we are politically divided, and there are rising racial tensions in all corners of the US. The lens in which we live our lives has been altered like no other year and our country seems to be more divided than ever. Every one has their own opinion as to how we should move forward. So today I offer you this word to live by, it's called "grace".

My faith as a Lutheran has taught me that we could all use a little grace in our lives. But what is grace? Grace is a gift that I don't necessarily deserve. Christ paid the ultimate price for my sins and the gift of grace is the forgiveness of those sins. Grace is forgiving someone else, when maybe they haven't asked for forgiveness. Grace is a way heal.

The rhetoric on social media and on television sets fuels fire for people to take sides. Something as simple as choosing to or not to wear a mask provokes judgement between people. It pains me to hear people judge their "friend" as decisions are made for how one will cope with social isolation.

Maybe we could all stand to have a little more grace for the "other" in this world. Each person brings to the table their fami-

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ly history which shapes how they see the world. Each person has their own life experiences that inform the decisions that they make. There are life circumstances that effect our response to what is happening around us. That is what makes us all who we are. I believe that God created us ALL as equals to serve our world for the time and place we are in.

As we move into a new year of 2021, have a little grace for your neighbor. Never assume the worst in what they have to offer. Listen and sit with someone who thinks different that you do and use it as an opportunity to learn and grow. Maybe when a little grace is offered at a table of tension and disagreement two sides can be united for the good of all people.

Grace and peace to you dear friends as we move into what the newness of 2021 will bring.



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Friends helping friends

### 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.

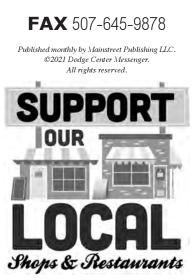
Jesus came in power to take away what is killing us and what we are helpless to get rid of. What is it in your life that you are unable to cleanse yourself of? Jesus can make you clean!

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.



#### January, 2021





## **Community & Obituary**

January, 2021

- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER -

## That's the Latest



By Emery Kleven Emery is now a retired farm broadcaster after starting at KDHL in Faribault in 1987. You can view past columns at his website RoadFarming.com. You can email him at emery@roadfarming.com.

I have had for many years a print of a painting done by an Iowa artist named Charles Freitag. I can relate to Freitag's paintings as he was born and raised on a small farm in Iowa. Inspired by Norman Rockwell, Freitag said that growing up on a small farm in the heartland of rural America gave him a deep appreciation of the rural life. His fond childhood memories of life on the family farm are conveyed in his paintings. You see in the picture on this page a glimpse of what the print I have looks like. Freitag named it Oliver Twist. The 660 Oliver tractor narrow front is what I grew up with and it's depicted in this painting. It's one of the two up by the barn. We did not have an Oliver 77 although we had a wide front Super 88. The use of bale forks to get the hay and straw into the barn through the large barn door is one of my early recollections of baling hay. Our barn on the Kleven farm would hold, when the bales were neatly stacked and filled to the rafters and cupolas, about 3800 bales.

I got my first experience with baling hay in the haymow when I had just graduated 2nd grade. The year was 1961. The use of bale forks, like what is depicted in the Freitag painting, was actually quite scientific, what with all the ropes and pulleys and angles. If you grew up and saw or used this kind of system, you know what I'm talking about. First the wagon load of hay had to be stacked just right. For us I believe it was two rows 8 bales long and four bales high for a total of 64 bales per wagon load. The forks would be put in each corner of four bales. The forks would reach to the second row of bales underneath so 8 bales. at a time would go up to the big barn door. To get the hay on the forks to go up, we put a pulley on the front of the old 56 Ford truck and then would pull on the rope with the International Super M tractor.

Once there, the system would glide down the rail that stretched from one end of the barn to the other. I don't know how many feet of rope were used in this system but it was a lot. When the forkful of hay got over

#### Helen E. (Sykes) Thompson Helen E. (Sykes) Thompson, age 92, of Byron, died on Sunday December 20, 2020



at the Fairview Care Center in Dodge Center. Helen was born on June 23, 1928 to Roy and Hilda (Bradshaw) Sykes in Milton Township, MN. She grew up in rural Pine Island in various farming communities around the area. On December 29, 1945, she married Richard Thompson at the Byron United Methodist Church, where she continued, for many years, to be a proud and faithful member. Helen was a devoted homemaker and loved being on the farm with family and friends. She also enjoyed her daily coffee/breakfast or the frequent ventures to the casino.

Helen is survived by three children, Ronald (Glenda) Thompson, of Byron, Thomas (Janet) Thompson, of

Washington, Roxanne (Keith) Stolp, of Rochester; nine grandchildren; 26 greatgrandchildren, four great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Verleen Bungum. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard; her parents; her brother Harold Sykes and sister Mildred Hawkins.

A private graveside service was held 1:00 p.m. Monday, December 28, 2020 at the Byron Cemetery. Pastor Beth Perez officiated. Memorials are suggested to Byron United Methodist Church. Online condolences are welcome and may be shared at mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com.





A print of a Charles Freitag painting called 'Oliver Twist' with 3 Oliver tractors depicted brings back plenty of memories of baling hay to Emery Kleven.

the portion of the haymow where we wanted to drop them, I was supposed to yell down to pull. My brother Harvey, who was on the wagon down below would then pull the rope and release the bales. They would tumble down. Now normally we would have older boys helping us stack these in the barn but I guess everyone was gone this particular day. Now being a 2nd grader at the time, most of these bales outweighed me so I would try to move them but I'd only get two or three bales moved and here came 8 more bales. I would quick get out of the way and yell for Harv to drop them. Pretty soon I was like 50 bales behind in stacking. Needless to say, I never did catch up. I think Harv and my dad would come up at some point later and try to sort through the mess the best they could.

I don't remember what year we ended the use of these forks and instead used an elevator. But at first this was not real bale elevator. We went from the bale forks to using the old Kelly-Ryan grain elevator. This was a heavy steel elevator used for moving grain. You'll see them occasionally now sitting under trees in a grove on a farm. When used for hay, the bales had to be put in just right at an angle or they would simply fall out. It was not a good system. Finally we got a real bale elevator. It was red in color. It could have been a Cashman's but I'm not sure what the brand was. It worked great. The bales would hardly ever fall out once you got them in there.

We then added a 24 foot extension that hung from the old rail used by the bale fork system. This would allow us to get the bales to the middle of the barn. I thought this was the greatest invention for handling hay. But then along came the round baler. Delmer Paulson was one of the first in the area to get a Vermeer round baler. Delmer did some round baling for us and then we finally got one of the big yellow balers ourselves. They made vast improvements on them over the years. That's where I ended my hay baling career but they kept improving systems and along came the big square balers. I'm trying to imagine lifting one of those big square bales with bale forks. It probably could be done but when you drop one of them 30 feet to the haymow floor, it would go right through the floor.

When I left the farm to be a farm broadcaster, people from time to time would ask me what I missed most about the farm. Baling hay is always one of my responses. Yes it was a hot dirty job at times. That chaff would stick to the sweat along with getting in the eyes, especially when throwing a bale 5 high against the wind. Colleen Sathrum Hayne told me that baling hay with her dad Howard is one of the dearest memories of her life. She would be the tractor driver while Howard would be loading the wagon. Having those lunches in the field under the hay rack to get out of the sun made for special memories. I remember my mom would come out to the field with sandwiches and cookies and some cold water or lemonade. They are special memories that I wouldn't trade for anything.

I still have those bale forks. They moved with me from the farm to Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota, back to Nebraska and now in Minnesota again. They're heavy and awkward to handle but it's a reminder of a past that I miss quite often.



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January, 2021

# Aluseum Alusings

## **Dashing Through the Snow in 1917**

#### By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

As I sit down to write this article, I can happily acknowledge we've had a mild winter so far, but winter 1917 was one for the record books. The average daily temp for the Rochester area in the winter of 1917 was 8.8 degrees—brrrrrrr.

The January 18th West Concord Enterprise spoke of a week of severe cold people were waking up to minus 20 degree temps. A week later the newspaper reported of a "fierce blizzard", the likes of which had not been seen for 10-15 years. 17 inches of snow fell and according to the paper, "the wind blew a perfect hurricane for 24 hours, making it almost impossible for one to venture out. In some places snow drifts were twenty feet high, and all traffic ceased . . . not a wheel moved on the railroad until late Monday night, except the snow plow." The oldest inhabitant in town (unnamed) pronounced the storm some of the worst winter days ever.

Since the railroad tracks were blocked from Saturday night until Monday night, a trainload of cattle was stalled south of town and a considerable amount of time passed before the cars could be backed up to the stockyards, and the cattle unloaded, fed, and watered.

The snowstorm caused other problems, too. The teachers in the Berne area couldn't get to their country schools on Monday morning. Mr. Cain, the teacher in District 3, couldn't get to his school until Wednesday morning! We can be sure the students weren't complaining.

Even the Enterprise suffered from the bad weather. Somehow the paper on which the week's news was usually printed, was lost by the railroad, and the February 1st Enterprise had to be published on paper that was not at all customary. Also some of the usual news was missing. Because of blocked roads, the usual news gathering was hard to accomplish.

The February 8th Enterprise reported that the village marshal needed to hire men and horse teams to haul away the snow piled up in front of city businesses on Main Street. Can't you just see it with none of the snow plowing/blowing technology to which we've become so accustomed?

Sleighs, the most common mode of winter transportation in 1917, could be hazardous, too. When Rob Bringgold was visiting Henry Mensing, Rob's sleigh caught on a rack sitting in the yard. Rob was thrown from the sleigh



and injured, and the team of horses ran away. Luckily the horses were caught at the Peter vandernyde residence and were not nurt at an.

Community resident, Ed Clark, met with a stroke of frigid bad luck when he was getting ice from the river. He was standing on a block of ice and someone else jumped on the same block, pushing the block into the water and covering Ed's shoes with icy water. When he got home his shoes were frozen to his feet. The shoes had to be cut away from Ed's frozen feet and he lived with painful feet for some time.

The editors of the Enterprise asked if the local fire department should be checking fire hydrants around town to make sure none were frozen. Reports of frozen hydrants around the state had led to disaster in circumstances of fires and the editors admonished the town to "avoid catastrophe here".

What was happening that was fun that harsh winter? For one thing, J.C. Conlin packed his sleigh with 30 women in it, and drove to Haugsrud Bros. store, winning a \$5.00 prize for bringing the most people in one sleigh at one time to the store. Sleighs full of people were visiting others in the neighborhood, gathering for dances, and celebrating life. A.A. Bryant of The Pioneer Harness Shop, was selling all kinds of lap robes and wool blankets priced from \$1.65 to \$8.25 to keep people warm and cozy in

#### sleighs and cutters.

There was a Masquerade Ball at the Opera House, complete with prizes for the best costumes. Costumes could be found at the Tailor Shop and masks at the Drug Store. Comedian, Clarence Burgderfer, performed at the Opera House and according to the Enterprise, should have "driven the blues out of West Concord." The Embroidery Club was meeting and the Bijou and Rex Theaters were showing movies on reels.

The Hotel Concord suggested folks treat themselves to Sunday dinner out. They were offering this dinner for 50 cents: Soup, salted wafers, olives, roast young lamb with dressing, roast prime rib of beef au jus, mashed potatoes, peas, rice pudding, apple and pumpkin pies, cream cheese, dill

pickles, and vanilla ice cream with wafers. That was quite a meal!

The February 15, 1917 Enterprise admonished, "Goodbye to February—you have treated us very coldly during your stay here." But the paper also tried to cheer their readers,

"Yes, it's a tough winter, but spring is just ahead."

I hope your winter is just the way you like it. Please stay safe and well!

**Triton News** 

DODGE CENTER MESSENGER

January, 2021

## Cobra Communications



**Craig Schlichting** Superintendent

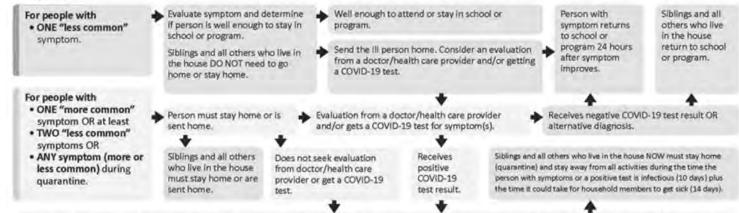
It has been great to have the students back into our Hybrid Learning Model. We have also been given guidance from MDE to implement additional precautionary guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Along with this new guidance, we have been instructed to implement a rolling start to in-person learning for our PK-5 students. This will begin on February 1st. The first two weeks we will be starting in-person learning for all PK-2 students. This will be followed with in-person learning for 3-5 students on February 15th. At this time, the guidance has only identified this for our elementary students. We are still monitoring the case numbers in the school to make sure we are in the appropriate learning model. If the numbers were to escalate we would need to re-evaluate the learning model. I think this is a good start to getting our students back to school in person and keeping them safe.



Follow the appropriate path if a child, student, or staff person is experiencing the following symptoms consistent with COVID-19

More common: lever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; new cough or a cough that gets worse; difficulty/hard time breathing; new loss of taste or smell.
Less common: sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; extreme fatigue/feeling very tired; new severe/very bad headache; new nasal congestion/stuffy or

runny nose



Must stay at home and away from others who live in the house (isolate) for at least 10 days from the time symptoms started and until symptoms have improved and they have no fever for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications. If they have no symptoms but test positive, they must stay home for 10 days, counting from the day they were tested.

Stay home from ALL ACTIVITIES during your quarantine period For people who are a close If the person who \* ٠ contact of someone who (starts day after last contact with the person who tested is a close contact tested positive for positive). develops any of the more or less common COVID-19. A 14-day quarantine is recommended for people who have A close contact is ANY person who lives in the same been exposed to COVID-19. A shortened guarantine period symptoms and/or may be possible as determined by the school, youth program, has a positive test household as a person who tested positive for COVID-19 OR or child care using quarantine guidance: result. How long to stay away from others (quarantine) someone who has been within www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/close.html#long about 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15

If you have any symptoms during the next 14 days, stay home, separate yourself from others, and get tested.

Siblings and all others who live with the person who is the close contact DO NOT need to stay home.

#### MINNESOTA STAY SAFE

minutes or more throughout the course of a day (24 hours).

The guidance has also changed for the quarantine times and protocol that we have been directed to follow. The graphic above

Municipal & Directional

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507-374-9979

trict office. I would be happy to set up a

time to meet with you or your organization. I believe that communication is an important aspect of my job responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to learn from your perspective. GO COBRAS!

Must stay at home away from others

(isolate) as much as possible for at least 10 days starting from the day they were

tested (if no symptoms) or starting from the time their symptoms started and until

their symptoms have improved and they

using fever-reducing medications).

Siblings and all others who live in the house NOW must stay home

(quarantine) and stay away from all activities during the time the person with symptoms or a positive test is infectious (10 days) plus the time it could take for household members to get sick (14 days).

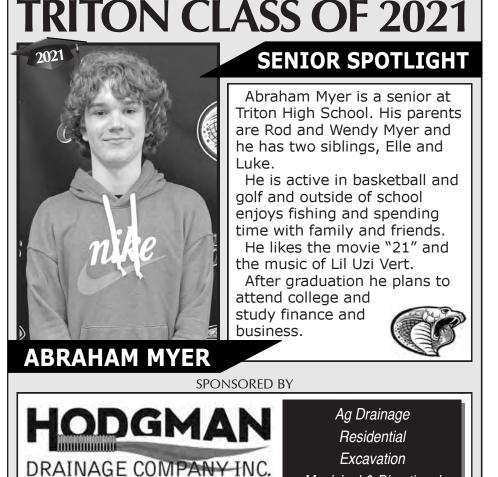
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## Community

- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER

January, 2021

## "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 pickup 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-andblue 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 with L acn't with the teakle someone tool"

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 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!



Megan Myers





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January, 2021

## Government

- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER





By Rep. Steve Drazkowski District 21-B

Greetings, everyone. I wanted you to know about some of the news here in St. Paul.

The Rules of the Minnesota House This past week has been busy at the Minnesota House of Representatives. The first committee meetings have begun, and many bills have been introduced. However, before we can vote on actual bills and legislation, we must first vote on the rules which govern the Minnesota House. These rules determine how the House functions and operates. On Thursday, we voted to approve the proposed permanent rules by a margin of 104-27.

I was one of the representatives who voted against adopting the proposed permanent rules. In the end, the rules did not include several important measures that I believe are necessary for effective lawmaking by the Minnesota House of Representatives. Let me discuss two examples.

First, I authored an amendment to the rules which would waive what is known as the "24-hour rule." This rule states that any amendments to any legislation must be filed and publicly posted 24 hours before the House meets to discuss the legislation. I wanted to eliminate this rule because it destroys spontaneity in the Minnesota House and gives lobbyists more influence. Representatives should be allowed to amend legislation on the floor. When amendments are required to be publicly posted 24 hours prior to session, lobbyists always go through these amendments and attempt to crush those they dislike. We are not here to serve lobbyists; we are here to serve you. Additionally, allowing representatives to author amendments on the floor would raise the level of debate in the House. Unfortunately, my amendment to eliminate the 24-hour rule was not adopted. The second rule which should have been included in the permanent rules was a provision to prevent the construction of masomnibus bills. Minnesota's sive Constitution requires that all legislation relate to only one subject. This is known as

the "single subject rule." However, state legislators and justices of the Minnesota Supreme Court have found ways to avoid real enforcement of the single subject rule. As a result, legislators construct omnibus bills that contain hundreds of proposals. How is a legislator supposed to vote on an omnibus bill if it contains 100 proposals the legislator likes and another 100 proposals that they do not like?

As such, I supported an amendment to the permanent rules which would prevent committees in the Minnesota House from combining bills into huge omnibus bills. Unfortunately, this amendment was not adopted.

The Minnesota Legislature needs to develop a better legislative process. The rules as they were proposed did not create a better process. Therefore, I voted against the proposed permanent rules.

## **Vet Techs Help Animals and People**



Veterinary technicians make up a crucial part of the veterinary care team. Not only do they assist veterinarians in hands-on care of animal patients, but many also provide client education, serve various administrative roles, and even specialize in a specific service area. While veterinary technicians often obtain and hone skills on the job, those working at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana have completed either a two-year or a four-year accredited program in veterinary technology. They have also passed the Veterinary Technician National Exam and must maintain their certification or licensure by regularly meeting continuing education requirements.

Veterinary technicians are the backbone of our busy referral hospital, keeping about 20 distinct specialty services running smoothly. The hospital is staffed by about 80 veterinarians and nearly 90 certified veterinary technicians. Together they care for all animal species as well as prepare veterinary students to enter practice.

To showcase this varied yet demanding career, we spoke with two veterinary technicians who have each worked at the College of Veterinary Medicine for more than 20 years, Heather Soder and Alyssa Duncan.

Heather Soder, a certified veterinary technician since 1996, has worked in general practice as well as at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. At the university, she has been part of several service units, including imaging/nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, and small animal surgery. She currently splits her time between shelter medicine and "junior surgery."

"I help coordinate the junior surgery course," Soder says, referring to the class where third-year veterinary students learn to perform spay and neuter surgeries.

"I work with area animal shelters to obtain patients and help students with everything from performing physicals exams, bloodwork, and patient prep to gloving, gowning, and draping into surgery.

"When the surgery lab is not being taught, I travel to area shelters with our shelter medicine service, which performs spays and neuters in our mobile surgical unit. I help students sedate, intubate, and anesthetize their patient, prep themselves for surgery, and recover their patients."

Soder says she has always loved working with animals.

"There are so many things that make being a veterinary technician awesome," she says. "Working with veterinary students is probably my favorite part. I enjoy sharing what I know, and it's rewarding to help students grow and become independent.

"Working with shelter animals is another great aspect of the job. It is really wonderful to help animals get healthy and find forever homes."

Alyssa Duncan has been working as a technician at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital since 1992. "Since I can remember, when I was a kid, I have always wanted to do something with animals," she says.

However, after graduating from the Parkland College veterinary technician program, she was very unsure how she wanted to proceed within the field. Then the head of Parkland's vet tech program called her about an opening at the University of Illinois.

"I interviewed, got the job, and now they're stuck with me," she jokes.

Duncan worked in the emergency room and intensive care unit for more than 20 years before transitioning to her current position, patient services coordinator. In this role, she facilitates relationships between technicians, veterinarians, and other staff throughout the hospital.

"I fill the gaps in services where I'm needed, so you just never know where I'm going to be," she says. "I spend a lot of my time in meetings and serve on several hospital committees."

Being in an administrative role means Duncan does not work hands-on with animals as often as she once did, but her interests have shifted.

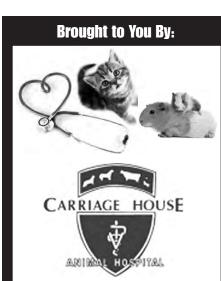
"I worked in the emergency and critical care service all those years. I always thought what I wanted to do was continue to help care for animals and alleviate their suffering," she says. "Today this [patient services coordinator] is the role I like best. I get to help the people who are caring for the animals instead."

Duncan advises anyone thinking about becoming a veterinary technician to get experience in a clinic first.

"This field is very stressful. People's and animals' personalities play on emotions on different levels," she says. "You must know yourself and know your breaking points, so you know when to get help.

"We all go into this job to help animals. And what we sometimes don't realize is that we're also helping people, and that is a very important part of veterinary medicine."

To find out more about a career as a veterinary technician, visit the website of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America: navta.net.



915 N. Mantorville Ave., Kasson 634-6781 M-W-F 8am-5pm; Tues-Thurs 8am-7pm; Sat. 8am-Noon



17 Airport Road N. Dodge Center, MN 374-2125 M-F 8am to 5pm; Sat. 8am to Noon

#### **DODGE CENTER COUNCIL** MINUTES

#### November 23, 2020

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, November 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center Room of City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas Council members absent:

City staff and others present: Joshua Tetzlaff, City Administrator; Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk; Bryce Lange, Community Development Specialist; others Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bill Ketchum at 6:00 p.m.

#### Adopt Agenda

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Public Participation**

Graham Scudamore requested that Council reconsider the placement of the Lions Park Shelter. Although the structure is very nice the location of the shelter takes away a lot of privacy from his backyard. Mr. Scudamore was also interested in finding out how the placement of the structure was decided. Chris Pluto was present and stated that the Lions Club had been in contact with daycare providers in the neighborhood. Council would like the City maintenance supervisor to look at possible other locations for the shelter and meet back to discuss it further.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Skogen, to approve minutes of the November 9, 2020 and November 13, 2020 City Council Meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Approve Payment of Bills

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas, to approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Staff Reports**

**Community Development Specialist** 

Bryce Lange presented a route for a Holiday Parade on December 5, 2020, requested by the Chamber of Commerce. The route will begin at Fairview Care Center and head south on 10th Ave. NW, then head east on 2nd St. NW, north on 1st Ave NW to Main Street and end at City Hall. They will also be working with the Dodge County Highway Department and Sheriff's Department to keep the route safe.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve route for a Holiday Parade on December 5, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Lange went on to give an update on the property at 104 4th Ave. NE. He has received several complaints about the property. A trailer had been removed from the property earlier this year. There are a lot of RV's and junk showing up on the property. The owner of the property has been issued a citation and there is a court date set for December 14, 2020.

#### Maintenance

Maintenance Superintendent Mark Barwald gave a maintenance update. The plows are ready to go and ready for any winter weather. They have been out cleaning out catch basins and should have those finished up by Thanksgiving.

#### - DODGE CENTER MESSENGER -

Local Government

Sheriff

Deputy Brion also gave a quick update on the property at 104 4th Ave. NW. He drove by there earlier and it looks like one of the RV's has been placed where the old trailer had been before it was removed.

The RV has been leveled and it looks like there is someone living in it.

#### **Administrator's Report** A. Bids for City Equipment

Two of the three items put out for bid did receive a single bid. The 2001 Chevy Silverado received a bid of \$150 from Rick Davis. City staff feels that Council should accept this bid, because it is unlikely that the City would get much more for the vehicle.

Mr. Davis also put in a bid for the decontamination trailer in the amount of \$513. Staff feels that Council should reject this bid. The trailer, as a whole or if broken down to the individual components, are worth quite a bit more.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell to accept the bid of \$150 for the 2001 Chevy Silverado and rejecting the bid of \$513 for the decontamination trailer. Motion carried unanimously.

B. 2020 Improvement Project Discussion At the public hearing there were a few property owners that had questions and were encouraged to reach out to staff. Barb Jensen, 712 2nd St. NE, and Darrel Darr, 208 4th Ave. SE, both have properties that are being assessed at the commercial rate of \$164.14 per foot for street frontages considered the front of the property and \$82.07 per foot for frontages considered a side street.

Speaking with the attorney, City Council does have the authority to change assessments they believe to be excessive. If Council does choose to change the assessments, they would have to go through the whole public hearing process again, making the soonest the assessment could be changed would be December 28, 2020. If the property owner wishes to contest the assessment in court they would have to file by December 8, 2020.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas, to leave the assessments as they are. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Set Administrator Review

The time has come to schedule the City Administrator's yearly review with Council. The first meeting in December is December 14. Council will schedule the review for 5:15 pm on December 14, 2020. D. Virtual Meetings

With the rising cases of COVID-19, Tetzlaff is seeking Council's input on switching to virtual meetings.

Council could choose to go completely virtual, more of a hybrid model, or remain completely in person.

The City of West Concord announced that they will be going to virtual meetings, but it is not known at this time what other cities have decided.

Motion made by Maas, seconded by Skogen to begin virtual meetings December 1, 2020 and re-evaluate at the December 28. 2020 City Council Meeting. 3 Ayes, 1 Nay. Motion carried.

#### Miscellaneous

None.

#### Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to adjourn at 6:51 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk

#### **DODGE CENTER COUNCIL** MINUTES December 14, 2020

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Tele-Meeting, City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas

Council members absent:

City staff and others present: Joshua Tetzlaff, City Administrator; Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk; Bryce Lange, Community Development Specialist; Mark Barwald, Maintenance Superintendent; Angie Jarrett, Ambulance Director; others

#### Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bill Ketchum at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Adopt Agenda**

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Public Hearing – Truth in Taxation

Mayor Ketchum opened the hearing at 6:01 pm. Tetzlaff presented the proposed 2021 budget and levy. There was no public comment. The hearing was closed at 6:17 pm. Tetzlaff presented Resolution 2020-051 for Council's consideration.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen to approve Resolution 2020-051, Budget and Levy Adoption. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Public Participation**

#### None.

**Approval of Minutes** Motion made by Maas, seconded by

Trelstad, to approve minutes of the November 23, 2020 and November 30, 2020 City Council Meetings, the October 27, 2020 EDA Meeting, and the August 31, 2020 Planning and Zoning

Commission Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Approve Payment of Bills**

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Skogen, to approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously. **Staff Reports** 

#### **Community Development Specialist**

Bryce Lange addressed Council with two properties that had delinquent nuisance fees, 302 1st St. NW and 103 4th Ave. NE. presented Resolution 2020-048, He Assessing Unpaid Nuisance for Council's consideration.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve Resolution 2020-048, Assessing Unpaid Nuisance. Motion carried unanimously.

At the December 1, 2020 EDA meeting it was recommended to reappoint Timothy Woessner, William Thiemann, and Phillip Greene to the EDA Board for new 6 year terms. Resolution 2020-049, EDA Board Appointment Resolution, was presented for Council's consideration.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve Resolution 2020-049, EDA Board Appointment Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning and Zoning met December 7, 2020, and recommended an alternate placement for the Lions Club shelter. P&Z would recommend the shelter to be placed in a

location by the evergreen trees and utility box near the water tower. It was also suggested that only having screening on one side of the shelter would be recommended due to the possibility of vandalism. Carol Johnson and Chris Pluto were present as representatives of the Lions Club, and they voiced their approval of the proposed location. If Council wishes they would recommend holding a public hearing in January to get public input on the location. Council recommended a public hearing to be held the second meeting in January 2021, January 25, 2021.

#### Ambulance

Ambulance Director, Angie Jarrett, gave Council an update on the Ambulance Department. Scheduling has been a bit of an issue with staff being out either due to illness or quarantine, but all staff has really stepped up and worked together to make the schedule work.

The COVID-19 vaccine has made its way to Minnesota. It isn't known when staff will be able to receive the vaccine, but she is hopeful that it will be sometime after the holidays. Calls for service are up 6% from last year at this time.

#### Maintenance

Maintenance Superintendent Mark Barwald gave a maintenance update. The plows are ready to go and ready for any winter weather. It has not been decided if 3rd Street SE will be plowed all the way to Airport Drive, or if they will only plow the paved portion of the road. The concern is that the newer portion of the road is not paved at this time and would possibly become soft when the ground began to thaw. Barwald will talk with Craig Britton to get his recommendations.

#### **Administrator's Report**

A. 2021 Budget and Levy

Resolution 2020-051 was presented to Council during the public hearing earlier in the meeting. B. Certify Delinquent Utility Charges

Resolution 2020-050 was presented for Council's consideration. This resolution contains all utility charges that will be certified to the County Auditor in 2020. The total certification is \$30,714.19.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve Resolution 2020-050, Certifying Delinquent

Utility Charges. Motion carried unanimously.

C. End of Year Payables

Resolution 2020-052 was presented for Council's consideration. Staff is requesting permission to run a short payable cycle on December 31, 2020, to be ensure that any invoices received in 2020 are paid in 2020. Motion made by Maas, seconded by Skogen, to approve Resolution 2020-052, Authority to Pay Bills.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Community Center Use

The Dodge County United Way has requested to use the community center room for their monthly meetings throughout 2021. A list of dates can be found in the packet. They are also asking that deposits and fees be waived for these meetings. They are aware that if the community center is not open to the public, they will not be able to have their meetings there. Staff is recommending approval of use with fees waived, accept the deposit.

January, 2021

## Local Government

#### Page 9

- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER -

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell to approve use of the community center for the Dodge County United Way in 2021 with room fees waived. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Seasonal Employee

Elyse Bestor has been filling in at the brush dump since the pool closed. Now that the brush dump has closed for the season and staff is recommending that her 2020 employment be terminated.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Trelstad, to terminate the remaining summer staff. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Dodge County Assessment Agreement

For the last few years, the City has contracted Dodge County to act as the City's local assessor. Dodge County is asking for \$13,509 for 2021, which is an increase of \$46 from 2020.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Trelstad, to approve payment of \$13,509 to Dodge County for the Assessment Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Miscellaneous

Skogen stated that Jan Olson has resigned from the Library Board. The Library Director will be reaching out to community members that have shown interest in being on the board.

#### Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk

#### DODGE CENTER COUNCIL MINUTES

#### December 28, 2020

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, December 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Tele-Meeting, City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas

Council members absent:

City staff and others present: Joshua Tetzlaff, City Administrator; Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk; Mark Barwald, Maintenance Superintendent.

#### Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bill Ketchum at 6:00 p.m.

#### Adopt Agenda

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

### Public Participation None.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve minutes of the October 21, 2020 Airport Advisory

Board Meeting and the December 14, 2020 City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Approve Payment of Bills**

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Staff Reports

Maintenance



### Steel, Farm Machinery, Car Bodies, Aluminum, Copper, Batteries, Appliances, E-Scrap

55976 State Hwy. 56, West Concord Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm • June-October Open Saturdays 9:00 to 11:30am \_\_\_\_\_\_507-527-2408 I www.ldrecycling.com Mark Barwald, Maintenance Superintendent reported that the last snow event went well and there were no equipment issues. He is still trying to contact City engineers in regards to 3rd Street SE, and whether to plow it or not.

Administrator's Report

A. Surplus Water Truck

The City has received a bid of \$400 from a gentleman from Kasson. Staff recommends accepting this offer.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to accept the bid of \$400 for the surplus water truck.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. City Administrator's Contract

Included with the packet is a proposed City Administrator's contract beginning December 31, 2020.

Updates have been made per Council's requests.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve the proposed City Administrator's contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Library Board Members

Resolution 2020-054 was presented for Council's consideration. This resolution would reappoint 2 library board members for a second term and appoint a new library board member for his/her first term.

Motion made by Maas, seconded by Skogen, to approve Resolution 2020-054, Library Board

Appointments. Motion carried unanimously.

D. NSF Payment Policy

Currently there is no formal policy to address returned payments. This policy is similar to the policy that has been used for utility payments. If the payment is returned a \$35 fee would be added to the amount due, and that amount due payment and \$35 payment would need to be paid to the City in the form of cash, cashier's check, money order, or other approved form of payment until the account is satisfied. If payment is returned twice in one calendar year then staff may require alternative payment for the remainder of that calendar year.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the NSF Policy as presented. Motion carried unanimously. E. Unpaid Invoice Policy

Recently City staff has been trying to collect unpaid invoices from up to 3 years ago. This policy has been written to try and received those payments in a more timely manner. The attached policy would charge a 10% late fee or \$25, whichever is greater, for each month the payment is late.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve the Unpaid Invoice Policy as presented. Motion carried unanimously. F. Decertifying TIF 1-11

Resolution 2020-053 was presented for Council's consideration. This TIF was created in 2003 to assist in the development of the Rozell Apartments.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve Resolution 2020-054, Decertifying TIF 1-11.

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Wasioja Roadway Agreement

In the packet is an updated version of the agreement between the City and the Township. The update is does not change material agreements, it is just to update boundaries and refresh language.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Trelstad, to approve the Wasioja Roadway Agreement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

H. City Council Meeting Locations

Staff is recommending to continue with remote meetings for the month of January. Council agreed that this is reasonable considering the COVID-19 cases in Dodge County.

#### Miscellaneous

Tetzlaff shared that beginning Wednesday our ambulance crew will be assisting Dodge County Public Health with COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Over the next few weeks our EMS crew should be able to receive their first dose of the vaccine. Maas stated that there would be a drive through vaccine clinic every Wednesday, beginning December 30, and continuing for the next 4 Wednesdays. This clinic will be to provide vaccines to emergency response personnel. They will be held at the Dodge Center Fire Station. The vaccines will be given by appointment only.

Trelstad asked who tickets the vehicles left on the street during a snow event. Does the maintenance crew notify the deputies of vehicles around town? Barwald stated that usually the maintenance crews will plow around the vehicles and the deputies will ticket after that. Maintenance does not notify the deputies of vehicles left in the roads.

Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to adjourn at 6:23 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk



## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes



#### **By Terry Campbell**

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when its 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 them 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.



#### Dear Savvy Senior,

What are some financial factors to consider when retiring abroad? My husband and I will be retiring in a few years and are interested in living in a foreign country that's cheaper than the U.S. —Frugal Couple

#### Dear Frugal,

Retiring abroad has become a growing trend for millions of U.S. retirees who are looking to stretch their retirement savings. Here are some tips and resources to consider that can help you prepare.

#### **Researching Tools**

For starters, you can find lots of information and articles on the countries and cities you're interested in retiring to at websites like InternationalLiving.com and EscapeArtist.com.

Another good tip is to talk or network with some expatriates who have already made the move you're thinking about making. They can give you tips and suggestions on many issues, as well as the advantages and disadvantages and day-to-day reality of living in a particular country. Some popular sites for finding expat resources are ExpatExchange.com and ExpatForum.com.

But before committing to location, most experts recommend that you visit multiple times during different seasons to see whether you can envision yourself living there and not just exploring the place as a tourist. Also, consider these financial factors:

**Cost of living:** Retiring abroad used to be seen as a surefire way to live beyond your means, and for some countries it still is. But the U.S. dollar isn't what it used to be, so your money may not stretch as far as you think. See Numbeo.com for a country-by-country cost of living comparison.

**Taxes:** No matter what foreign country you decide to retire in, as long as you're a U.S. citizen you must file an annual tax return reporting all income above certain minimums, not matter where it's earned. For details see the IRS publication 54, "Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad."

**Health care:** Most U.S. health insurance companies do not provide coverage outside the U.S., nor does Medicare. Check with the embassy of your destination country to see how you can be covered as a foreign resident. Many countries provide government-sponsored health care that's inexpensive, accessible and just as good as what you get in the states, or you may want to buy a policy through Medibroker or Bupa Global.

Also know that most people who retire abroad eventually return to the U.S., so you should consider paying your Medicare Part B premiums. If you drop and resume Part B, or delay initial enrollment, you'll pay a 10 percent premium penalty for every 12-month period in which you could have been enrolled.

**Banking:** Opening or maintaining a bank account abroad has become more difficult because of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, a U.S. law designed to prevent Americans from hiding assets abroad. So, you may have to establish a savings and checking account with an institution that has international reach like Citibank. And/or consider maintaining your U.S. bank account that you can access online, and get U.S. credit and debit cards that don't charge foreign transaction fees.

**Rent versus buy:** Buying a home in a foreign country can be complicated, so it's usually cheaper and simpler to rent, unless you know you're going to live there for a long time.

**Social Security:** You can receive your monthly Social Security benefits almost anywhere you live around the world (see SSA.gov/international/ payments.html). Your benefits can be deposited into your bank account either in the U.S. or in your new home country, but there are some exceptions.

The U.S. State Department offers a handy checklist that can help you think through all the issues on retiring abroad.

## Entertainment

January, 2021

- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER -

Page II



**CHAPP** 202 We'd like to share our thanks

and best wishes with everyone who has been a part of our year.



181 Main Street, West Concord • (507) 527-2236

