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DECEMBER, 2020

Volume 14 • Issue 8

Announcements

• CHRISTMAS SHARING FAMILY:

As you can guess we won't be having our Post Lutfesk Meatball dinner to raise money to help a local family in need. We receive our family through Goodhue county which they had to apply with. The family will receive a bag from the local toys for tots program which we deliver to them. The WELCA adds local gift cards to help with the Holiday season. Most years this has been a gas card to Speedway, gift certificate to Third world, and a gift card to the Kenyon Market. Each child also receives a gift card to Target or Walmart.

TO HELP THIS YEAR we have placed a box in the back of church to add your donation too or you can Mail to Kari Flom: 39265 Hwy. 56 Blvd, Dennison, MN 55018. Vang Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church

• **Hiawathaland Transit:** Service hours are 7:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. Call dispatch at 866-623-7505 Monday through Friday 6am-9pm and Saturday 7:00am-5:00pm. Visit threeiverscap.org for more information.

• **Home Delivered Meals Available** Sunday-Friday, for more info call Dee Callstrom 789-4663.

• **Kenyon SEMCAC dinners** are served Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at Gunderson Gardens at 11:15a.m. to anyone 60 or older. A suggested donation is posted. Reservations are required by signing up the day before or calling Helen Aase at 789-5315.

KHW INS Merger Begins New Chapter For Local Insurance Firm

The Kenyon Fire Insurance Company was founded on July 3, 1875 by Norwegian farmers in the town of Kenyon in Goodhue County, Minnesota. The purpose of the company was to provide insurance protection against fire and lightning for insured buildings, household personal property and other personal property for policyholders. At that time, the company served the towns of Kenyon, Ellington, Holden, and Richland. Many small mutual insurance companies started up to serve the townships needs, and were located in the center of the community and in the early days offices were often in the home of the agents. Some of the families who founded the insurance company one hundred and forty-five years

ago are still in the area, like Baker, Jorstad, Huseth, Maring and Sviggum.

In 1986 the Kenyon Mutual merged with Holden and Warsaw Mutual to form Kenyon Holden Warsaw Mutual Insurance. At the time of the merger, the company had a total insurance in force of \$ 29,762,960 and a policyholder surplus of \$ 142,366. Since the merger, the company has grown its insurance in force to \$ 331,634,576 and its policyholder surplus to \$ 1,751,357. As of 2019 they had \$427,588 in revenue and \$2.3 million in assets. The coverage territory had also been expanded to cover the counties of Goodhue, Rice, Steele, Dodge, Wabasha, Olmsted, and Dakota in Minnesota.



KHW Insurance policy holders approved the merger on September 1st and the company will be merging with Haycreek Mutual on January 1, 2021 and become Great Rivers Mutual and move their office to Goodhue, Minnesota. This allows two very strong companies to combine to provide even better service and a broader area of coverage, as Hay Creek Mutual is licensed statewide. KHW has over 420 policies and this merger with Haycreek Mutual will increase the total to over 3,000 policies and provide more financial security for all.

Karla Bauer, who has been with KHW for nineteen years, will be the underwriter at Great Rivers. Jim Sviggum, a great grandson of one of the founders, is still an agent and will keep an office in Wanamingo next to Area 57 Coffee Café after the merger takes effect January 1, 2021. Policy holders will not see any changes through the merger and they will offer the same service with even more options.

The address of the new office will be 109 Broadway North, Goodhue, Minnesota and the phone number is 651-923-4044. Jim Sviggum can still be reached in Wanamingo at 507-824-2949.

Christmas Eve – Live Nativity Christmas Eve Celebration

Because of safety concerns, some of the Christmas traditions we hold dear won't be happening this year.

So, we decided to begin some new ones.

You are invited to come celebrate Christ's birth with Vang and Dennison Lutheran Church!

Live Nativity – There will be drive up or walk up outdoor live nativity. Come see the shepherds, wise men, angels, and the Holy Family. The Christmas story's message is that God is with us even in challenging times. Come see Christmas come to life! You can hear the Christmas story from the Gospel of St. Luke read at 5:40.

It's Jesus' birthday, so bring some presents! - We will collect baby care items that will be donated to the Community Action Center in Northfield. (continued on page 4)



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our sincerest thanks to all of the people we have been privileged to serve this year.



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Christmas isn't Cancelled!!! Focus on Community



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

What are some things that make a great neighbor? This year more than ever; it will and is important for us to be good neighbors. To focus on our communities. Many of us are staying close to home this year for the holidays. Our calendars are aren't filling up with Christmas parties, sports, and school concerts, that usually typify a normal Christmas season. Even the church calendar is a little more subdued. Normally our schedules are so full we struggle to even enjoy the season. With everything around us cancelled- it is a great time to remember that Christmas is not and will never be cancelled, because Christmas doesn't depend on activities, but on a person, the person of Jesus Christ. He came to earth to be the ultimate 'good neighbor.' He was willing to come from heaven-down to earth and become like the beings that He had created. He went from creator of the universe to become one of the created! He became a neighbor, a part of the community. He became one of us beginning as a baby. Isaiah wrote about his coming in chapters 7:14, "All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us'). God would send us a child- born of a virgin- and this 'baby' would be God himself- he would be "God with us!" God wrote Himself into the story of our lives. For all humankind God became one of us and He

continues even now to be 'God with us.' He became the central character of our world and history. Now the one that created us and has given us life is with us in the midst of our lives and stays with us until our life in Him is completed His way, in His time for His glory. He chose to become a part of the entire world's history to become man and live within a community.

We are called to Love God and to Love our neighbors. To love and be a part of our communities. For 2020 we've had to stay closer to home and slow our lives down. Our calendars aren't as full, and we have a lot more time in our homes- at least most of us. For those that are in the health profession, many of them are working more and longer hours. And many in other essential services continue as well. But the rest of us have less activities on our schedule than previous Christmas seasons. There are those that want to tell us that Christmas is cancelled this year and that couldn't be further from the truth. This Christmas may be the one that brings us home to experience a Christmas filled with the true meaning of Christmas. What does it look like to love our neighbors? What does it look like during this pandemic to love others more than we love ourselves? Christmas is not Cancelled! Christmas is a time for us to focus on our communities more- to be good neighbors. Christmas is a time for us to live out our faith and be ready to share the reason for our faith. Jesus came to give us hope. Jesus came to be "with Us." With you, with me. He calls us as believers to share ourselves with others—to point people to Him. We do that by loving Him, and Loving People. Here are 10 ideas to Love

our neighbors:

- **Check in.** If you have elderly or mobility-challenged neighbors, give them a to find out if they're doing okay or if they need any help.
- **Donate good winter clothes.** I realize we are already in our winter here in SE MN, but our clothing closet is running short on winter hats and mittens, snow pants and coats. If you are talented in making mittens, hats, or scarves those are great additions to clothing closets and homeless shelters.
- **Feed the hungry.** Spread some warmth by donating hot, nutritious meals to neighbors in your community that may be housebound and unable to get out for supplies. Donate to the local food shelf- Zumbro Valley Food Shelf or Mazeppa, Oronoco or Elgin. Money is always appreciated and there is always a need for volunteers.
- **Clear your snow.** For those of you in town, be mindful that walking on snow and ice can be dangerous, so clear your driveway and sidewalk as soon as you can after a snowfall to keep everyone passing by as safe as possible.
- **Know who to call.** If you see someone who is out in the cold and in need of help, you can get them the care they need much faster when you already know who to call. Keep the number of local homeless outreach programs in your phone so help is always just a quick call away. The Landings (507) 884-0423 and the Salvation Army (507) 288-3663 are great resources for people in need.
- **Stock your car with (blessing bags).** Keep a few Ziplock bags filled with basic hygiene supplies and nutritious

snacks to pass out to those who may need them.

• **Go on a grocery run.** If you're heading out to pick up supplies, call neighbors to find out if there's anything you can pick up for them, so they don't have to venture out in the cold weather.

• **Adopt a family.** Find out if any local organizations have holiday program in support of lower-income families who need a bit of support to celebrate the holidays. Christmas Anonymous in Plainview is taking applications for people to adopt families as well.

Lots of great ways to encourage and to support and help your community. Jesus said he came to bring good news to the poor—we can do that... share the true meaning of Christmas with our neighbors through our actions! Jesus said he came to set the captive free- we can help those that feel confined to their homes but calling them and reminding them that they are not alone, and that we care. We can encourage and pray for those that are stuck and are feeling alone. The first thing we can be a part of to show that , "Christmas Is Not Cancelled!" is to Love our neighbors. To serve and to find ways to bless them this Christmas season "God is with us." Jesus is still with us. Jesus calls us to focus on God, and on others. As we begin this Christmas season, I trust we will not be focusing on all the things that have changed, all the activities we can't do, but instead focus on bringing God's love and joy to our communities.

*God is with us
Christmas Is Not Cancelled!!!*



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Phone 507-951-7417
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E-mail:
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Worship Updates - In-person Worship Services Cancelled. Due to the rapidly accelerating rates of COVID-19 cases in our local communities and across the state, the Dennison and Vang church councils have decided to suspend in person worship services.

In person services at Dennison and Vang will be cancelled until December 13, and next steps will be evaluated at church council meetings that week.

Worship services will continue on-line. This Sunday's service will be livestreamed from Vang at 9:00 AM, and there is an evening vespers service tonight at Dennison Lutheran at 7:00 PM that will be livestreamed as well.

ASPELUND EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Gideon Johnson, Pastor
Church 507-824-2307 • Parsonage 507-789-5851
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.
Jointly served with Hauge Lutheran, Kenyon

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Julie Rogness, Pastor
309 Forest Street, Kenyon • 507-789-5261
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

GOL LUTHERAN

Marv Kormann, Pastor • 507-789-6311
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH,
NERSTRAND**

Don Kloster, Pastor • 507-334-2822
305 South 1st Street, Nerstrand
Worship 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

HAUGE LUTHERAN

Gideon Johnson, Pastor • 507-789-6343
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

WANAMINGO LUTHERAN

Christopher Culuris, Pastor • 507-824-2457
130 West 3rd Street, Wanamingo

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

The King's Grace

*Scripture Reading — Revelation 22:12-21
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. — Revelation 22:21*

It has been said that the last pages of our Bible bend around to touch the first pages. They bring full circle the one big story of God's love and salvation of the world. In the beginning, God the King creates the world and proclaims it good, good, very good. "Good" is the most important word describing God and God's world in the beginning.

But much that unfolds later in this story—and in our world—is not good. There is sinful rebellion, guilt, shame, corruption, violence, injustice, and disintegration. The world is broken, and we feel it in the depths of our souls. The world's history books and the daily news proclaim it unceasingly. But unceasing too in the Bible's big story is something that transforms and redeems all this brokenness: grace.

The King's grace is a phrase often used to refer to a king's favor or presence or to simply a king himself. In the Bible, it is finally the King's grace that gets the last word. Grace comes in the person and work of King Jesus. He is the one who is King of kings and Lord of lords. The first chapter of the Bible proclaims, "Good." The last chapter proclaims what is greater still: "Grace." God's big story moves from good to grace.

Whatever we face in terms of struggle, guilt, or sorrow, the King's grace gets the last word. The King's grace is the world's—and our—great hope!

Prayer
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with all God's people. Amen.



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MOLAND CHURCH

Nancy Edwardson, Pastor • 507-789-6661
Sunday School 9 a.m.

NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Lora Sturm, Pastor
12 Maple Street • 507-330-0025
Worship 9:00 a.m.

NEW LIFE CHURCH

525 Beverly Street • 507-824-3019
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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christopher Culuris, Pastor
507-824-2155

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dana Houck, Pastor
429 4th Street, Kenyon
507-789-6531
Worship 9 a.m.; Bible Study Tuesdays at 7 a.m.
at Gunderson Gardens

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Cory Rohlfling
Deacon Newell McGee
108 Bullis St., Kenyon
Sunday Mass 8:00a.m.
Wednesday Mass 5:00p.m.

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

Avvy Mathias

Avvy Mathias of Minnetonka, passed away peacefully, with her daughters by her side, on November 28th, 2020. She was born on July 8th, 1937, in Kenyon, the daughter of Gustav and Thelma (Jacobson) Hilling.

After high school, Avvy worked for Farmers State Bank in West Concord as a teller. Avvy loved to drive all of her life and had an interest in cars. Two years after she started working, she was very proud when she bought her first car, a two-toned gray, 1957 Ford. She married soon after that, and had 3 children.

In the early years, Avvy's priorities were being a mom and was very busy supporting her daughters' school activities; serving as the local Girl Scout Leader; and enjoyed sewing her daughter's clothes including Halloween costumes. She taught Sunday School and was involved in a variety of roles at Hegre Lutheran Church, in rural Kenyon, where she and her family attended church. Avvy took every opportunity to travel with her young girls during the summers, driving coast to coast.

Avvy's occupations included: Operating Room Technician for St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester; taxi cab driver for Rochester Cab; and owning her own cleaning business.

Avvy grew-up surrounded by many aunts and uncles, and cousins, and relished attending endless family gatherings and reunions. She developed many deep and meaningful relationships with her relatives as a young person. Her love of family continued throughout her life, especially as her grandchildren came along. She wanted nothing more than to share in the lives of her daughters and six grandchildren. "Loving and adoring" her grandchildren would be an understatement of how she felt about each of them. She loved them unconditionally and never stopped talking about them. Avvy counted it a privilege to be her grandchildren's nanny in her later years.

Avvy leaves behind her family including her children: Kathy and Jim Roberts (Minnetonka) and their children, Sam, Jacob and Grace; Karen and Scott Saboe



(Minnetonka) and their daughter Annika; and Susan and Jerry Walker (Cottage Grove) and their children, Lauren (Walker) and Jeff Bloem (St. Paul); and Andrew Walker (Milwaukee) and fiancé Laura Barron; her sister Reenie and John Spreiter (West Concord); and her niece Sarah (Spreiter) and Bryan Datema (Rochester) and their children Max and Ingrid.

Avvy was preceded in death, by her parents Gustav and Thelma Hilling; and brother, Orlan Hilling.

Over the years, Avvy enjoyed traveling with her adult daughters to a variety of special places. Norway was one of those notable trips where she had the opportunity to meet some of her Norwegian relatives, and learn more about her family genealogy. She enjoyed cooking and baking, and on special occasions, requests were made to "Grandma Avvy" for her sugar cookies, banana bread, lemon bars, and brownies. She loved to host parties for family and friends. Avvy was a collector in general, and was a fan of garage sales; she passionately collected dishes and antique glassware.

Our Mom's big laugh will especially be missed. She will be honored, and remembered in our hearts forever. A private service will be held to commemorate Avvy's life. Interment was in Hegre Church Cemetery in rural Kenyon.

Adam Daniel Schaefer

Adam Daniel Schaefer, of Zumbrota, passed away **T h u r s d a y**, November 26th, 2020 after fighting so hard but succumbing to a quiet, often physically transparent disease: Depression.

Adam was born January 10th, 1989 to Randy and Tracy (Winchester) Schaefer in Zumbrota, MN. Tracy was proud to tell anyone and everyone that she thought he was the most beautiful baby ever.

Adam graduated from Kenyon-Wanamingo Highschool in 2007. Adam was very involved in athletics, a friend to everyone and was nominated Homecoming King of his class. If you ask someone who



knows Adam to describe him, they would say "He was such a nice guy!" He had a contagious laugh and would light up any room he walked into. Adam was fun loving and always up for a good time, he was a goofball and so much fun to be around.

June 24th, 2017 Adam married "his person" Megan (Benda). Adam adored Megan and loved that they shared the same passions and dreams. Adam was an extremely hard worker and gave 110% to everything he did. Adam started his dream job September 4th, 2018 when he became Holden's daddy. When his promotion, Kai, was born October 16th, 2020 he was incredibly proud.

Second to being a daddy and husband, Adam loved Nature. All creatures, big and small, he loved them all. As an Adult he discovered his passion for agates. He could spot them quickly and loved sharing this hobby with Holden, Landon & Kennedy. Adam also had a passion for Music. He liked all music and often found peace and happiness listening to it. Adam and Megan enjoyed going to concerts together and sharing their love of music together with the Boys.

Adam was kind, empathetic, gentle and deep. Although Adam himself struggled with depression for years, he spent a lot of his energy on the happiness of others. He genuinely cared when anyone was sad or struggling. He would give big hugs, thoughtful gifts and the sincerest words. He loved his close friends and family with his entire soul. He will be missed beyond measure.

Adam is survived by his wife Megan Schaefer; his children Holden & Kai Schaefer; parents Randy & Tracy Schaefer; sisters Chelsea (Chris) Atkinson and Katelyn Schaefer (Collin), Brother Tylor Schaefer (Cecelia); Maternal Grandmother Judith Winchester, Paternal Grandfather Norman Schaefer; Nieces and Nephews Landon Atkinson; Kennedy Atkinson (Goddughter); Harrison O'Brien and Vanessa Olson (Bonus); many special Aunts, Uncles & Cousins; In-laws Angie & Steve Benda, Slade (Tyler) Benda and Ethan Benda; and favorite four-legged friend Norman.

He was preceded in death by Paternal Grandmother Marie Schaefer, Maternal Grandfather Frederick Winchester; Uncle Rick Winchester, Bonus Nephew Trace Olson and an Angel Baby.

A memorial service was held 11 a.m. Thursday, December 3, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo. Pastor Chris Culuris officiated. Visitation was held from 3-8 p.m. Wednesday, December 2 at Mahn Family Funeral Home-Larson Chapel, in Zumbrota. Masks and social distancing were required at all events. The Memorial Service was streamed live via Facebook Live on the Mahn Family Funeral Home's Facebook page. Online condolences are welcome and may be shared at mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com.

John Svien

John Svien, age 66, of Kenyon, died Monday, November 30 at his home following a long illness.

John Anthony Svien, Jr. was born on June 9, 1954 in Faribault, the son of John A. and Jannes (Hauge) Svien, Sr. He grew up in the Kenyon area and

attended Kenyon High School. He worked as a farmer and had various other jobs early in life. John was a self-taught welder and worked in welding for a few years for Cannon Equipment and was a welder for Hancock Manufacturing for 25 years. On March 3, 1997 John was united in marriage to Monica Scheiber in Decatur, IL. He enjoyed going to casinos, deer hunting, and loved farming.

Survivors include his wife Monica of Kenyon, son Johnny (Jennifer) Svien of New Prague, daughter Meghan Svien of Cannon Falls; granddaughters Samantha, Katelyn, and Abigail; sisters JoAnn (Ron) Peterson of Kenyon, and Jeanette (Blair) Baalson of Kenyon; as well as nieces and nephews.


John was preceded in death by his parents John and Jannes, his sister Virginia (Roar) Nesseth, aunts, uncles, a nephew, and his grandparents.

A walk-through visitation will be from 3-5:00 pm, Friday, December 11, at Lundberg Funeral Home, 5839 Hwy 19 Blvd, Cannon Falls, Mn 55009. Masks and social distancing will be required. There will be a private family prayer service following at 5 pm. Interment will be in the Vang Lutheran Cemetery at a later date.

(obituaries continued on page 4)



With Kind Thoughts at Christmas


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Happy Holidays!

Obituary & Community

Pearl D. Trapp

Pearl Dora (Heinbuch) Trapp, 93, of Kenyon, passed away surrounded by her loving family, on Sunday, November 29th at her home after a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease. Pearl was born on August 28, 1927, the middle child of eleven, to

George and Mary (Risch) Heinbuch in Woodbury Township. On October 18th, 1947, she was united in marriage to Roy Trapp at St. John's Lutheran Church in Woodbury Township. In March of 1948, they moved to a farm southeast of Kenyon where Pearl and Roy farmed and raised their five children: Donald, John, David, Daniel, and Lisa. Pearl worked in partnership with her husband on the farm, but also enjoyed gardening, cooking, baking, crafts, puzzles, and reading. She was a member of the Red Hat Ladies' group, along with the Cherrio Homemakers' Group. After over 50 years in farming, Pearl and Roy retired and moved to Kenyon, where they enjoyed growing over 100 varieties of Hosta plants, feeding and watching the birds, and doing some traveling. Pearl also volunteered her time with Meals on Wheels and at Third World in Kenyon. Along with her strong faith, family was most important for Pearl, and she had a special relationship with each of her grandchildren. They knew that cin-

namon rolls were baked every Saturday and that a little bit of "magic" went into her homemade waffles. She was a kind woman who will be deeply missed by her entire family.

Pearl is survived by her children, David (Gail) Trapp of West Concord, Daniel (Jone) Trapp of Mantorville, Lisa (Scott) Androli of Kenyon, and daughters-in-law Doreen (Keith) Kelley of Mendota Heights and Cindy Trapp of Owatonna; grandchildren, Dean Trapp, Jason (Kristen) Trapp, Alex Trapp; Zachary and Zoey Trapp; Theodore, Samuel and Reganne Androli; Bryan (Susie Swangstue) Trapp, Tina (Benis) Cubas, Katy (Matthew) Kelley-Rademacher, Kevin (Danielle) Kelley; Kara (Marc) Oien, Megan (Sam) Henschen, Nick (Brandi) Trapp; 15 great-grandchildren; sisters, Margaret Welch, Gertrude Steinbruckner; brother, Herman Heinbuch (Delores), and sister-in-law Alice Heinbuch.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy; sons Donald Trapp and John Trapp; sisters, Florence Stabenow, Rosemary Doehling, Frida Reichow, Louise Holz and Caroline Doehling; brothers, Robert Heinbuch and Harold Heinbuch.

A private family service was at Christ Lutheran Church in Zumbrota. Reverend Dean Gunn officiated. Interment was in Moland Lutheran Cemetery. Family and friends may view the service online at: <https://www.christlutheranzumbrota.com/live-stream> on Thursday, December 3, 2020, at 11:00 am.



Christmas Eve – Live Nativity Christmas Eve Celebration

(continued from page 1)

Specific items needed include diapers, baby wipes, formula, and baby food. Monetary gifts also accepted. Your gifts will be collected by one of our wise men and laid by the manger.

Drive up Communion – All are invited to receive Holy Communion and a blessing as we celebrate Christmas Eve. To ensure everyone's safety, you can receive communion from your vehicle.

Christmas Carols – What is Christmas eve without some music? Our talented musicians will provide beautiful

Christmas music, and there will be a time for singing beloved Christmas carols (outside and physically distanced, of course.)

The Christmas story proclaims that in Christ, God comes near to us. Come celebrate this good news with us on Christmas Eve!

What: Christmas Eve Live Outdoor Nativity

When: Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 from 5:00 – 5:45 PM

Where: Vang Lutheran Church

Who: All are welcome.

KENYON VFW POST 141



Tuesday
BURGER NIGHT 5:30-7:30PM



Wednesday
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Season's Greetings



We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Noble Knights of the Week



These students have been especially Respectful, Responsible and Safe this week!
November 13, 2020

K – Mrs. Tanya Short – Lily Cordes, Maya Ramirez; K – Mrs. Katie Valek – Henry Skillestad; 1 – Mr. Tony Donkers – Laila Mandujanol 1 – Ms. Megan Sabrowsky – Arely Cortez; 2 – Mrs. Renee Hildebrandt – Blake Feidt; 2 – Mrs. Deb Hinrichs – Layla Jarvis; 3 – Ms. Val Ashland – Landon Jarvis; 3 – Ms. Sandy Sahl – Cohen Moe; 4 – Mrs. Jena LeTourneau – Blane Helgeson; 4 – Ms. Rhonda Thesing – Bristol Sletten; 4 – Mr. Jake Wieme – Abisai Cortez



These students have been especially Respectful, Responsible and Safe this week!
November 17, 2020

(A Group) Front Row: K – Mrs. Tanya Short – Adeline Prondzinski, Rutger Walker; K – Mrs. Katie Valek – Makenzie Lee; 1 – Mr. Tony Donkers – Ariel Ordalen; 1 – Ms. Megan Sabrowsky – Marshall Christensen; 2 – Mrs. Renee Hildebrandt – Kora Theobald. Back Row: 2 – Mrs. Deb Hinrichs – Harvey Bauer; 3 – Ms. Val Ashland – Scarlett Stock; 3 – Ms. Sandy Sahl – Makaydee Konop; 4 – Mrs. Jena LeTourneau – Brialise Nordrum; 4 – Ms. Rhonda Thesing – Naomi Chmelik; 4 – Mr. Jake Wieme – Madison Quam



These students have been especially Respectful, Responsible and Safe this week!
November 20, 2020

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Stir Up a Recipe for Success



By Harvey Mackay

A sixth-grade girl was running for the post of secretary of her elementary school class. A major part of her campaign was a speech to be given to her classmates, but she had no idea what to say. So she asked her mother for ideas.

"Well, you love to cook," her mom said. "Why don't you look in a cookbook?"

It was the stupidest idea she'd ever heard, but, desperate, the young girl followed her mother's advice. Then, flipping through the pages, it hit her: Why not write a recipe for what would make a good class secretary? Two cups of good handwriting, one cup of dependability, and so on.

Jan Bolick, now a management coach, won the election. But she also learned to look in unusual places for creative solutions. As it turns out, creativity is part of

the "recipe" for attaining success.

What is success? The answer might depend on whom you ask and the particular stage of their own journey. Yet no matter your age, occupation or dream for the future, achieving success comes down to a few basic factors that will likely shape your future.

Know what you want. Build your dream, craft your vision, write down your goals and then create a plan. Whether you ask for advice or not, never let someone talk you out of something that you have your heart set on doing. As I always say, believe in yourself even when no one else does.

Search for creative approaches. Sticking to the old formula will produce old results. If you can find a new or better way to build the proverbial mousetrap, more power to you. Even little tweaks and bright ideas can make the difference.

Avoid comparisons. You have goals and aspirations that have little to do with what your friends, neighbors or colleagues are doing. Focus on what you are trying to accomplish and your plan for making that happen.

Cultivate patience. Worthwhile success takes time. If you're in a rush, you'll cut corners and ignore warning signs. Take a step-by-step approach that's focused on long-term results. Go for quick wins only when they're realistic and valuable.

Cut out negative self-talk. Perfection often gets in the way of achievement. Successful people stick to a path of continual growth and self-improvement so they

are constantly working to become a smarter, better version of themselves.

Admit your mistakes. Failure/mistakes are not fatal. When they happen, learn from them. Figure out what went wrong, if you can. Then pick yourself up, get back on your feet and keep moving forward.

Don't go it alone. Network. Get involved with a group or professional organization of individuals in your field. Include people at all stages of their careers. Stay connected through social media chan-

nels, and make an effort to meet in person regularly. Don't take these relationships for granted.

Mackay's Moral: Success is the difference between jumping on the bandwagon and leading the band.

Reprinted with permission from nationally syndicated columnist Harvey Mackay, author of the New York Times #1 bestseller "Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive."

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Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

This time of year is traditionally a time of giving. Minnesotans in particular are known for their charitable contributions – a fact that was solidified recently during Give to the Max Day when Minnesotans set a record by giving more than \$30 million to local schools and nonprofits. In addition to November being a charitable time of year, it is also the launch of the holiday shopping season. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) we know that Minnesotans will extend their generosity by supporting local businesses during this particularly difficult year.

At SMIF, we know that small businesses are the backbone of our communities and local economy, and for many of them, this is a critical time to help keep them afloat. In addition to safely shopping at retailers that are still open, we know that many people will be buying gifts online. While online shopping has historically been an easy way to purchase items that are not available locally, this year it will be important to find ways to use that platform to purchase gifts from local places. Buying gift cards from places like restaurants, breweries and fitness or yoga studios that are currently closed to the public is a great way to support them during this time. Many local retailers also have gift cards, online stores and curbside pickup as an option this year for those who would prefer to shop from home.

Local foods businesses are another dynamic sector that rely on the holiday shopping season as an important source of income.

This holiday season looks different for everyone in a lot of ways. When it comes to holiday shopping, please consider shopping local. These entrepreneurs are our friends and neighbors and we give thanks to them as they continue to contribute to the vibrancy of our region during this difficult time.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.



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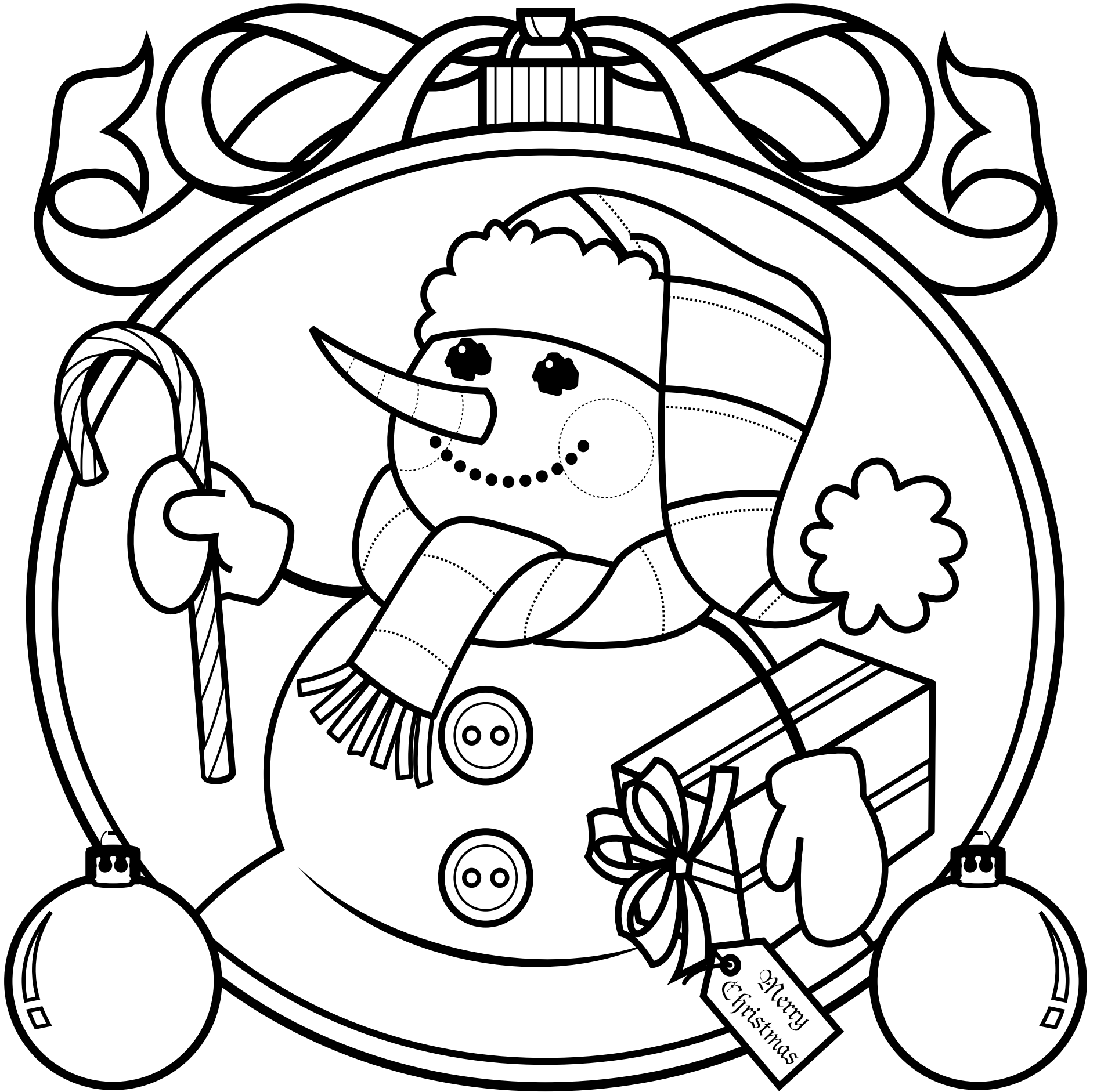
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Talking Holiday Loneliness and How to Cope with U of M



By Sabine Schmid, PhD, LP
Assistant Professor of psychiatry in the U of M Medical School and a licensed psychologist with M Health Fairview

A national survey shows that loneliness is higher than ever before — of 20,000 U.S. adults surveyed, more than half report they either sometimes or always feel alone. Compound that statistic with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and mental health experts will agree that this holiday season will be the toughest part of 2020 for many Americans.

Sabine Schmid, PhD, LP, an assistant professor of psychiatry in the University of Minnesota Medical School and a licensed

psychologist with M Health Fairview, explains how people can recognize and prepare for social isolation and loneliness during the holidays due to the pandemic or other social factors.

Q: Why is recognizing and addressing loneliness important for those experiencing it?

Dr. Schmid: Social connectedness, a basic human need, is essential for coping with stress and overall well-being. While feeling lonely is simply a signal telling us to connect with others, prolonged loneliness is defined as a distressing experience due to not getting our social needs met for an extended period of time. Clinical studies provide evidence that prolonged loneliness — or what we perceive as social isolation — is detrimental to mental and physical health and, in fact, related to depression, anxiety, substance use, poor sleep, decreased physical activity, impaired cardiovascular functioning, and an overall shortened lifespan.

The pandemic and restrictions for social contact — though crucial for reducing infection rates — have made the problem worse for many. In addition, because loneliness is stigmatized, many may not want to admit, even to themselves, that they feel lonely. In order to overcome loneliness, we must first recognize and understand the problem by identifying our needs, our desires, and whatever is getting in the way. There is no one-size-fits-all approach.

Q: How can people recognize the common behaviors or attitudes associated with lone-

liness?

Dr. Schmid: While loneliness may be caused by the loss of a meaningful relationship — like the death of a loved one, children leaving home, or job loss — and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the beliefs and behaviors associated with loneliness that keep those affected stuck.

Feeling socially isolated often comes with various thinking patterns, such as over-generalization where people use statements like, “Nobody cares about me. Nobody understands me. I don’t belong.” They can feel helpless, thinking things like, “I can’t do anything about this,” and be hopeless, stating to themselves, “I will feel lonely for the rest of my life.” Behaviors related to social isolation include excessive rumination about the past, worrying about the future and, maybe most importantly, avoidance of anything that might trigger thoughts or feelings about being lonely. Avoidance of distress is generally adaptive. However, lonely people ironically tend to avoid social activities, even with friends, which could actually help with loneliness and disconfirm their helplessness and hopelessness. In other words, the loneliness beliefs contribute to ongoing avoidance of social contacts, which in turn, confirms these beliefs in a self-fulfilling prophecy that becomes a vicious cycle.

Q: How can people cope with loneliness this holiday season due to COVID-19?

Dr. Schmid: Once we figure out what our needs and desires are, it is important to understand what is in our control — only



our own actions — versus what is not in our control, which are things like the pandemic, the past, the weather, or what others choose to do. When lonely we tend to dwell on the things we cannot control, which does not change the situation. Understanding this distinction allows us to focus our energy and effort on our actions.

Seven ways to turn your loneliness into action this holiday season:

Express your connection in actions. Engage in activities like cooking a dish for others to pick up or making a craft that symbolizes your friendship.

Send something in place of yourself — a message, a greeting card, a little present, or a photograph.

Virtually celebrate holidays wherever your loved ones may be by joining via a video conferencing program.

Spread kindness. Leave a painted rock on your neighbor’s door, write a message in chalk on your sidewalk, place an uplifting sign or object in your window, volunteer to bring groceries to vulnerable neighbors.

(continued on page 11)

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Talking Local Retail with U of M



By Ryan Pesch
University of Minnesota Extension
Educator in Community Economic
Development

The holiday shopping season is a critical time for American small businesses. According to the National Retail Federation, the holidays generate about 20% of some businesses' annual sales.

With COVID-19 impacting retail at all levels, University of Minnesota Extension Educator Ryan Pesch discusses the importance of supporting local retail this holiday

season.

Q: How important is retail to my local community?

Pesch: Retail is an important part of the whole economy, accounting for 5% of Minnesota's total economic output and 7% of the state's employment. The impact is even greater in small towns where locally-owned retail makes for a greater share of stores. Retail sales provide goods and services directly to consumers. Retail stores also add vibrancy to business districts and provide critical products to residents. When Main Street looks active and healthy, it affects the way people feel about their community.

Q: Does it matter where I chose to do my holiday shopping?

Pesch: In short, yes.

In economics, we break up impact into different parts to understand their effects, both how wages paid affect an area and how dollars flow from one business to another to get goods on the shelf. Research shows that independent businesses typically use more local business services such as accounting, legal and printing. There is a spillover effect to those other local businesses. Whether you are shopping at a national chain or a local independent retailer, wages are paid to workers. However, a family-owned and operated business also

supports the income of local business and building owners.

Q: How do I figure out which stores have the biggest impact on my local economy?

Pesch: Imagine two independent gift shops you may visit during the holiday shopping season. One shop carries all local or regional products; it will have a greater economic impact than the other shop that only carries imported products. The supply chain matters.

You can think about your local economy like a leaky bucket. When dollars flow out of your area, whether to another region, state or country, they are lost. Economic development officials like to talk about money recirculating, but that only happens when those dollars stay in your region and aren't lost to an out-of-state wholesaler or international manufacturer.

Instead of income only for the shop owners and their workers, now many more businesses in your region are involved. The local supply chain that manufactures a home fixture or food product has a ripple effect throughout a range of industries, from local farms to manufacturers to wholesalers to marketing firms. These industries have their own suppliers and workers and this demand has its own ripple effect.

Q: Does my individual spending really

matter much?

Pesch: Certainly, one household's purchase will not float an entire storefront. But, collectively, multiple households directing their spending to local businesses during this holiday season may make all the difference. During COVID-19, some Americans have taken to "adopting a business" to support that one store or business they most appreciate. When you spend at a local business, tell the owner about your commitment. It can give both a monetary and emotional boost when store operators most need it.

Main Streets across Minnesota are more quiet than usual during the pandemic due to executive orders closing businesses and residents changing their shopping patterns. Both residents and economic development officials are concerned these negative impacts may push retail establishments to close permanently. Small business owners are not simply employers and sources of goods; they're also friends and neighbors.

Q: How does University of Minnesota research help communities figure this out?

Pesch: Our team in Extension helps community leaders learn about and develop their economies, both to improve the quality of life and wealth of their residents. A common hope of residents, business leaders and politicians is a bustling downtown, and we are often asked to research the opportunities to achieve it.

In 2018 we did a study about small retail grocery operations that focused on local, natural and organic foods. We found that for every \$1 of sales at these stores, an additional \$0.60 was generated in the region — three times the economic impact of typical food and beverage chains. The amount of goods stores purchased from local producers explains this higher impact. Additionally, these stores' focus on local foods attracts shoppers and drives customers to spend more.

Our research confirmed the positive economic benefits that those in the local food movement have spoken about for a long time. This is the type of applied research that can support the efforts of economic development leaders to find their focus and provide the type of business development that benefits all of us.

Ryan Pesch is a University of Minnesota Extension educator in community economic development who has worked in West Central Minnesota since 2004. Pesch has developed and delivered Extension programming in eCommerce, business retention and expansion, tourism development, and retail market analysis. Pesch also pursues work in community food systems, focusing on successful development strategies for direct farm marketing and research on the local foods market.



Talking Holiday Loneliness and How to Cope with U of M

(continued from page 10)

Connect to others in a similar situation as you. This could be a neighbor or friend who is also staying home away from their family this holiday season.

"Buddy up" with distant friends or family and establish activity goals such as physical exercise, reading a book, or learning a new skill.

Exercise gratitude. Find one thing you are grateful for every day.

Q: How can people cope with loneliness this holiday season after the loss of a loved one?

Dr. Schmid: Loss of a loved one may be the greatest stressor of all. From grief experts, we know that grief is "a form of love" and a natural, universal and complex response to loss. There are no predictable stages, because everyone copes and adapts in their unique way.

Whether we lost a loved one to COVID-

19 or to other causes, the pandemic has complicated our grieving this year. Being connected with loved ones makes us feel secure and provides solace when we are grieving. We do not grieve well alone. Even as we need to practice physical distancing, it is paramount to stay socially and emotionally connected.

This year requires additional flexibility in order to connect around our love for the deceased. We may pay tribute to your beloved by doing good deeds in their name, go virtual for gatherings and tributes, or implement additional safety measures when meeting with those who share our loss, values or faith.

Five goals to keep in mind for the process of coping with loss and adapting to a new life:

Connect to meaningful relationships.
Allow for feelings when remembering the deceased and share stories of your loss.

Restore well-being by planning and doing simple rewarding activities to balance the emotional pain.

Renew a sense of meaning and purpose in the new life by turning activities into daily rituals or longer-term goals.

If grieving becomes overwhelming or you get derailed, seek out additional support in the community, such as grief support services or mental health professionals.

Q: How can we be celebratory this holiday season, despite the social isolation required due to the pandemic?

Dr. Schmid: This 2020 has been infamously hard. So, what about celebrating love, peace and joy during this holiday season? It is okay to have many intense — even seemingly incompatible — emotions at this time of year. We can acknowledge the stress, fear, and hardship, grieve losses, and give ourselves permission to be celebratory.

Of course, each of us follows a different timeline. Let's check in with each other and see how everyone is doing rather than assuming that everyone feels the same. Respect different perspectives and preferences for spending the holidays. It does not have to be an either/or scenario. Instead, we can allow for grieving and for positive feelings this holiday season. Voice your desires and explicitly plan for the holidays. Do you want to perform a ritual together virtually like singing, giving thanks, or saying a prayer, simply watch the kids open presents virtually, or do your own thing away from family this year?

This year, we may spend the holidays in a new way. We can do so while accepting this reality, staying flexible in this ever-changing world, and taking an angle of gratitude and compassion for each other.

Happy Holidays!

May this season bring you many happy moments, safe and joyful reunions, and enough cheer to last all year!

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Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council Meeting was duly held in the City Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. on the 13th day of October 2020. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Henke.

The following members were present: Mayor Doug Henke, Council Members Dan Rehtzigel, John Mortensen, and Tom Gard. Also, present: Administrator Mark Vahlsing, Administrative Assistant Holli Gudknecht, Police Chief Lee Sjolander, Engineer Joe Rhein, Attorney Scott Riggs, Public Works Director Wayne Ehrich, Carolee & Lynn Miller, Keith Allen, Julie Haley

Via Teleconference: Council Member Richard Nielsen

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENT ADOPT AGENDA

Addition: / X / Old Business / D / Storm Sewer Installation on West End of Trondheim Road

Motion by Henke second by Gard to approve the amended agenda.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Rehtzigel second by Gard to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes payment of check numbers, 71466 through 71563; 3574E through 3601E; and additional checks 71564 through 71585.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS/ PUBLIC HEARINGS/ RECOGNITIONS/PROLAMATIONS

None

ENGINEERING

Red Wing Avenue Project Update

Engineer Rhein stated that construction crews have completed the underground work. The concrete crew is on site placing curb and gutter, sidewalks, and driveways. Asphalt paving is scheduled for next week. Wencil expects to complete the project by the deadline of October 31. Rhein reviewed that the Council had ordered Bolten & Menk to prepare the final assessment roll for Red Wing Avenue. A detailed list of the assessment for each property along the project area has been prepared.

Pay Request #5 – Wencil Construction

Motion by Henke second by Gard to approve pay request No. 5 to Wencil Construction in the amount of \$232,284.50 for work completed August 22nd through September 25th.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Kenyon Business Park/Utility Extension Project Status Update

Engineer Rhein reported that A-1 Excavating began work at the Kenyon Business Park on September 28th. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 7th.

Work began on the south end of the project, resulting in the closure of County Road 12. The groundwork in this area has been completed and the road is back together and

should be paved by October 31. The contractor has now moved to the north end of the project along Highway 60. They are starting east of the County shop driveway and working south toward the Business Park.

Change Order #1

The proposed change order would modify the project schedule to reflect additional time needed to complete a relocation of a gas line and some other utilities that were not previously identified within the project area near Highway 60. The lines would be re-located by utility owners within the next two months. This delay is outside the contractor's control. There would not be a change in the contract price.

Motion by Mortensen second by Gard to approve Change Order #1 for the A-1 Excavating.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

LEGAL

Foldcraft Lot Split

Attorney Riggs reported that the purchase agreement, that the Council approved last month, has been approved and signed by Foldcraft and their Attorneys. The closing may be as soon as next week.

Ordinance No. 93: Amending Section 575.05 Regarding the Historic Preservation Commission

Attorney Riggs reviewed the proposed amended ordinance regarding the Historic Preservation Commission. The proposed ordinance would lower the number of HPC Board members from 7 to 3.

Motion by Rehtzigel second by Mortensen to adopt Ordinance No. 93 amending Section 575.05 regarding the Historic Preservation Commission.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Lot Combination:

Jerry and Diane Barrett

Attorney Riggs stated that Jerry and Diane Barrett were seeking approval to combine several lots in the Snee and Langford addition to build an ag storage building. The City would need to vacate the alley running through this area before the combination could be completed. Riggs recommended going forward with this combination.

Motion by Rehtzigel second by

Mortensen to adopt Resolution 2020-27 granting approval for a lot combination for Jerold and Diane Barrett with the condition that the City vacates the alley.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Lot Combination: Bigelow Homes

Attorney Riggs stated that Bigelow Homes was seeking approval to combine lots 9 and 10, Block 2 Whitetail Ridge Second Addition. Bigelow has a customer that would like to build a house with a detached garage. Currently, City ordinances do not allow the placement of accessory building (garages) on vacant lots. Vahlsing stated that the lot combination would be used to get around the City ordinance. Attorney Riggs stated that it is rare for a council to combine lots for the sole purpose of adding an accessory building. Originally the customer had requested that the garage be constructed on the south of the two lots fronting Skogen Drive. Administrator Vahlsing contacted Bigelow and stated that this layout was not recommended because the house and detached garage were fronting different streets. Bigelow revised the site plan moving the detached garage to be 14 feet from the house and fronting Whitetail Lane. Vahlsing stated that the second plan would be more aesthetically in line with the neighborhood and area housing designs. Approval of the lot combination should be contingent of the second site plan. The Council discussed this option and decided to approve the combination.

Motion by Rehtzigel to adopting Resolution 2020-28 granting a lot combination for Bigelow Homes with the attached site plan #2 showing the detached garage 14 feet from the house and fronting Whitetail Lane.

Lynn Miller, the future homeowner, questioned why he could not have his garage at least 20 feet from the house instead of the 14 feet shown on the Resolution. After some discussion, it was discovered that there was a third site plan that the City had not received showing the detached garage 30 feet from the house. After discussion between the Council members and the future homeowner, the Council agreed to approve the site plan #3.

Rehtzigel moved to amend the motion by striking out the word '#2' and inserting the word '#3' and striking out the word '14 feet'

and inserting the word '30 feet'. The motion was seconded by Gard.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Resolution 2020-26: Declaring Cost to be Assessed and Calling for Hearing on Proposed Assessment

Attorney Riggs stated that this resolution was needed to declare the cost to be assessed to the property owners on Red Wing Ave. and set a public hearing date for the proposed assessments. Engineer Rhein stated that the portion of the cost to be assessed was \$819,163.00. He recommended that the repayment terms be 15 years at an annual interest rate of 3.35%.

Motion by Gard second by Mortensen to adopt Resolution 2020-26 declaring cost to be assessed and set the public hearing date for Tuesday, November 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Former Ambulance Garage Renovations

Police Chief Sjolander updated staff on the police department renovations. Some of the new signage was put up today. Vahlsing is working with Jaguar, the internet provider, to get a line to the building. Security cameras should be installed soon.

COVID Cares Federal Funding

Administrator Vahlsing stated that the COVID Cares Federal Funding was discussed at the September 2 Council work session. The City has received \$134,000 in funding through the Federal CARES act for COVID-19 related expenses. The funds can be used to reimburse the City for expenses related to COVID such as PPD supplies, equipment, as well as other eligible related costs. Cities can also in some cases reimburse themselves for personnel related costs from COVID. To date the City has expended \$6261.43 on items including supplies, furnishings, and related items for COVID-19. Vahlsing reviewed quotes for items and systems that had previously been discussed that would be eligible for reimbursement related to COVID Cares program funding.

(continued on page 13)



Finishing work continues...
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Thank You!

Thank you for all your support in the Goodhue County District 3 Commissioner race. I will work hard to represent each and every one of the fine citizens of District 3.

Todd Greseth

iPads for City Council

Vahlsing stated that two quotes were received for iPads. The quotes from Apple and CDW-Government would be the same for the 13-inch iPad. Vahlsing recommended going with the quote for CDW-Government. They have the iPads in stock and would ship within 48 hours.

The Apple shipping time would be 4-6 weeks. Apple only provided a quote for the 11-inch models but their pricing for the 13 inches would be the same as CDW.

Motion by Rehtzigel second by Nielsen to approve the purchase of 5 iPads with keyboards for \$7,457.50 from CDW-G for the City Council.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Cable Access Channel Character Generator system and related Broadcast Equipment.

Vahlsing stated that this system would replace the current Leightronix cable access equipment from the 1990's. The current system is not fully functioning and is based on a VHS platform. A proposal was received from EPA Audio and Visual. The proposed Tightrope Media system would provide a video server unit with multi-format play back capabilities, have the ability to record, store and play HD or standard definition video, and be capable of live broadcast of meetings and other community events. The quote also includes the replacement and installation of audio and video system in the Council room, including cameras, microphones, media controllers, sound mixer and other related equipment. The City also requested a quote from Alpha Video Systems, but they were unsure if they would be able to acquire the needed equipment. Rehtzigel commented that he would like to verify that the council meeting could be broadcast online in the City webpage using this equipment.

Motion by Mortensen second by Henke to accept EPA's quote to upgrade the cable access equipment with verification of the capability to broadcast online.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen -

Aye
Motion carried 5-0-0.

Scada Equipment Upgrades – KMU

Vahlsing stated that KMU would like to install a remote SCADA Monitoring System for the Water Tower. This system would notify KMU personnel of any issues occurring at the water tower, including drops in water level and other security or equipment failures that might occur. The KMU Board has approved the equipment purchase and is requesting Council approval for the use for COVID Care program funding. The total cost of the KMU equipment would be \$10,324.99, which includes a portable Radio Upgrade.

Motion by Mortensen second by Nielsen to approve the use of COVID Care funds for the SCADA monitoring system and the new portable radio upgrade.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Christmas in Kenyon – KABA Update

Vahlsing stated that Sarah Jystad had attended the council meeting in July and asked about the possibility of moving the Christmas in Kenyon event over to the Park & Rec Committee. Julie Haley reported that KABA had checked with the Park & Rec Committee and the committee agreed to run the Christmas in Kenyon event. Vahlsing felt that this was a reasonable request, and it was important to keep this event going. He did not project any additional costs to the city.

Motion by Rehtzigel second Gard to approve having the City sponsor the Christmas in Kenyon event on December 5, 2020 and going forward through the Park & Rec Committee.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Storm Sewer Installation on West End of Trondheim Road

Public Works Director Wayne Ehrich stated that runoff currently sits in the road on the west end of Trondheim Road where five new homes were built in the AG zone. Ehrich proposed installing a catch basin on both

sides of the road in this area. This project was budgeted for using the proceeds from the December 2018 tractor sale. The cost would be \$8,000 to \$9,000. Wencil Construction could have this project completed in the next week if approved.

Motion by Mortensen second by Henke to approve the extension of storm sewer on the west end of Trondheim Road.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Temporary Street Closure for Home Football Games

Rehtzigel stated that the K-W School District was requesting a temporary road closure during three home football games to be held on October 16, October 23, and November 11. The closure would be on Sixth Street directly north of the football field from 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. Rehtzigel, the KW student council advisor, indicated that the student council would like to create 25 additional parking spaces for people to watch the football games.

Motion by Mortensen second by Gard to approve the temporary street closure for three home football games.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen – Aye, Rehtzigel – Abstained due to conflict of interest

Motion carried 4-0-1

Resolution 2020-24: Appointing Election Judges for 2020

Motion by Mortensen seconded by Gard to approve Resolution 2020-24: Adoption of Election Judges for 2020.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Resolution 2020-25:

Designating Annual Polling Place

Administrator Vahlsing noted that State law requires that all City's annually designate a polling place by resolution by December 31 and at least 90 days prior to an election. There may be a countywide election on February 9, 2021 for a U.S. Representative. The Fire Hall will remain the polling place in 2021.

Motion by Rehtzigel seconded by Henke to adopt Resolution 2020-25 designating the Fire Hall as the annual polling place for 2021.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Set Time for Work Session on November 12-Canvass Election Results

Vahlsing recommended that the Council canvass the election results on November 12th. The County will be accepting absentee ballots for seven days after the election. With the holiday on November 11, the canvassing would need to be done on November 12th or 13th.

Motion by Mortensen second by Henke to set a work session to canvass election results on Thursday, November 12th at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Mayo Clinic – Kenyon Closing

Vahlsing reported that Mayo Clinic Health Systems had announced on October 2nd that they would be closing the Kenyon location at the end of 2020. Representatives of Mayo Clinic would like to schedule a work session with the Council to discuss the closure and the future health care options in Kenyon. Vahlsing will check with them about meeting on November 10th before the regular Council meeting.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

KMU Meeting: Wednesday, October 28th @ 2:00 p.m.

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 10th @ 7 p.m.

Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency Annual Meeting Wed, October 21st.

Truth in Taxation meeting: Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL AND STAFF GENERAL COMMENTS

Councilman Rehtzigel liked how the City was getting creative in using the COVID money for the better of the City.

Mayor Henke agreed with Rehtzigel about turning some good out of COVID.

Motion by Gard second by Nielsen to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Holli Gudknecht, Administrative Assistant
Douglas Henke, Mayor

Commissioner Corner

On the roads, Cty 14 work is complete. Some good news on the HWY 52/HWY 57 interchange in Hadar, it looks like the costs are coming in lower than expected. So that will free up some money for other road work around the county. There is also a park and ride lot at the 52/57 interchange. The preliminary levy was set with a 2.65% increase. The final levy amount can not be more than the preliminary levy. The other commissioners were on board to using budget reserves to get the levy to 0% increase, but they wanted to wait until final levy setting in December to do that. We did not have any major changes, but that was before the election. Sometimes ideas sound better when they are running for re-election. So I would expect that they would keep their word and come to a 0% levy increase for 2021. Now is not a good time for a tax increase with a lot of people struggling. I was glad to hear that many local businesses, churches, farmers, and non profs were able to get grants from the county CARES dollars, it was much needed. I wish we had more dollars to help out, especially now with the second shutdown going on. You elected a good fellow in Todd Greseth, I have confidence that he will do a great job for you folks.



Barney Nesseth
Goodhue County
Commissioner
District 3

Regards
Barney Nesseth

Going Once, Going Twice...

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Thanks for being such great friends and neighbors. We feel blessed to be a part of this wonderful community.

Merry Christmas!

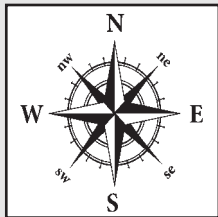


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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Fiber Optic in the Backwoods



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.

I lived in the country in Minnesota all my life. It would take both hands to count the number of Internet providers I have had in Minnesota over the years. Some started out good and then fizzled as more customers ate up the bandwidth. Some under-performed as soon as they were installed. One would think that 17 miles from Rochester would deliver better Internet. My last experience in Dodge County was with Minnesota WiFi and I have to say that they were consistent and delivered what they promised. The \$130 per month for 30mbps down and 10 mbps up seems a little steep though.

So, after moving to Tennessee I needed to have a reliable Internet provider since I work online for a living. In 1933 the Tennessee Valley Authority was commissioned to provide electrical power to the rural areas in the state as a way to increase the standard of living. Fast forward to the 21st century and the Cumberland Cooperative produces hydro-electric power as well as coal fired electrical power to all citizens. There is a power line to every rural address in the state and they decided to string the Internet to every home as well. And not just Internet, but high-speed fiber optic Internet.

So I live five miles out of town and High Speed Fiber Optic Internet is at our door. \$50 per month and no connection fees or modem and router deposits for 250mbps up and 250mbps down. Internet so fast it will make your head spin and priced lower than any slow provider back in the snow state. I am often asked how I manage to put ten newspapers together each month while living 800 miles from Minnesota. High quality Internet is the answer.

So in Minnesota you have cold weather, 10X higher property taxes, a state income tax, poor Internet service, and a city which wants to defund the police while rioters burn it down in the summer. And in Tennessee you have great Internet at a low cost, no county planning and zoning departments, low real estate taxes and no state income tax and the people love their law enforcement departments. You might have figured out why I moved here.

coming over that evening for dinner and presents; in the meantime, we watched Christmas movies and worked on Christmas dinner.

I think it was a pretty normal Christmas that year... or at least it was until the dishwasher shorted out before dinner causing it to fill up with water. It was all going to be OK though because Grandpa, who had been a Navy Electrician, was going to fix it. All he needed to do was cut off the power to the dishwasher and take care of the problem.

Now the breaker box was in the garage, and I do not remember exactly how but the wrong breaker got turned off. So instead of turning off the power to the dishwasher the power to the oven got turned off instead. Which not only left Grandpa working on a live dishwasher, where thankfully nothing happened but stopped the oven.

The oven where the Christmas ham, that my mother had rubbed down with brown sugar and poured Coca-Cola over, had been baking. The oven that no one noticed was off until after the dishwasher had been taken care of.

I was eight that year so I don't rightly remember if we even ended up eating the ham that day once the power mixup was noticed. But I will never forget the Christmas dishwasher disaster of 2004.



Festive Container Creations



Teri Knight



just old school!

If your containers are all outside, like mine, then your soil could likely be frozen, use a drill to poke some holes in there to place the main elements and add more soil to secure them. Some of the soil in mine was on the verge of freezing, the one that was frozen, I swapped out!

The most important thing is to know that you can take your time, place items and step back, take a look. I move stuff around all the time while I'm working on a container! It's fun!

Although I'll admit my toes got so cold I had to put them in warm water... tennis shoes are not appropriate footwear for festive container creating outdoors!

And one more... remember, you can ALWAYS rearrange, change, add, delete. Whatever makes you happy!

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.

I love creating my festive containers! While we had some stupid cold weather, we were also blessed with beautiful warm weather after, that meant I could put the spruce tops in because the soil was not frozen! SCORE!

I went to my local nursery and bought the "accents", cedar and pine boughs and new this year for me... dyed magnolia leaves!

I really love using natural elements. There are so many gorgeous options.

There's character in nearly everything. In the past, I've spray-painted many of the elements with red or gold but I've seen people get very creative with really any color!

This year I did choose to go all natural but I'll likely add some lights after Thanksgiving. I'm not one for Christmas stuff

BEFORE Thanksgiving. I guess I'm



A Minnesotan in the North: Christmas



By RosaLin Alcoser

Not all but many holidays over the course of my childhood are marked with some kind of minor disaster. Like the Thanksgiving table fire, or the Christmas Eve were my sister and I accidentally did a 360 on the highway in between the fifth and sixth Christmas Eve service of the night. No one ever gets hurt in these minor disasters but they make the holiday memorable and make for a good story. One that came to me this year was the Christmas that the dishwasher shorted out.

It was the Christmas of 2004, I was eight-years-old that year. Honestly, I cannot for the life of me remember what I got for Christmas that year. What I can remember is the events of the day.

It was a typical Christmas of my childhood. We got up had breakfast and did stockings before Dad went off to work to do Christmas day services at the Medical Center in Rochester. The family would be

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

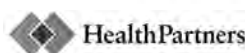
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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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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 LANDMARKS
- ACROSS
1. Octagonal sign
 5. "Don't have a ___!"
 8. Can of worms
 12. Pathetic
 13. Spanish sparkling wine
 14. Pico de gallo
 15. WWII side
 16. Like word of mouth
 17. Church song
 18. *Victoria in Zimbabwe or Horseshoe in Canada
 20. *Home to Rock of Cashel and Blarney Castle
 21. Massachusetts university
 22. "___ Be Home For Christmas"
 23. Olympic torch, e.g.
 25. On the move
 28. Menu words
 29. *Golden Gate or Mackinac
 32. Goodbye, to bambino
 34. Ruling in Islamic law
 36. Variable, abbr.
 37. Can, with thou
 38. South American monkey
 39. *Versailles or Buckingham
 41. Thus far
 42. Yoko's John
 44. Collectively
 46. Party bowlful
 47. Memory failure
 49. Goals
 51. *St. Basil's or Canterbury
 55. Independent, slang
 56. Initial stake
 57. Field of Dreams state
 58. More than one stylus
 59. Barnes and Noble or Barnum and Bailey
 60. Jaunty rhythm in music
 61. Don Quixote's enemy
 62. Urge Spot to attack
 63. Besides
- DOWN
1. BBQ side
 2. Taxon, pl.
 3. Fail to mention
 4. Bygone Spanish money
 5. Jeweler's unit
 6. Egg-like curves
 7. *The Western one in Israel or the Great one in China
 8. *La Sagrada Familia or St. Peter's
 9. Having wings
 10. ___ of Man
 11. Scottish cap
 13. Ceiling panel in the Pantheon
 14. Type of wheat
 19. Cuban dance
 22. Glacier matter
 23. Medieval knight's spiky weapon
 24. Coffee shop order
 25. *Home to Taj Mahal
 26. Phonograph record
 27. Artist's support
 28. Back, at sea
 30. Director Reitman
 31. Indian restaurant staple
 33. Giant Hall-of-Famer
 35. *Moulin Rouge or Netherland's landmark
 37. Incense without prefix
 39. Weasel-related onomatopoeia
 40. Enigma machine's output
 43. One born to Japanese immigrants
 45. Roman magistrate
 47. Hawaiian veranda
 48. V.C. Andrews' "Flowers in the ___"
 49. Naysayer's favorite prefix
 50. Bucolic poem
 51. Type in all ___
 52. Agitate
 53. Hole punchers
 54. Like the White Rabbit
 55. Any doctrine



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