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## “What?! Girls Can’t Play Football!”

By Bill Bealles

Oh, really? Tell that to 2012 Randolph HS grad, Megan Myers, a new member of the Minnesota Vixen, a women’s professional football team based in Minneapolis.



Megan Myers

(continued on page 4)

## Students Measure Effects of Cover Crops Out in the Field

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



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

## New Owners of R Bar in Randolph



Ashley Gergen and Nate Icaza are the new owners of R Bar in Randolph.

Formerly The Red Diamond Saloon, the new owners reopened the establishment in Mid-January, with an expanded menu, featuring BBQ Sandwiches, as well as a variety of appetizers, pizza and more. More information is available on their Facebook page.

R Bar is open 7 days a week from 11 AM - 10 PM. They look forward to being open later hours when the covid related restrictions are lifted on bars and restaurants operating hours.

Ludwig of Northfield to bring the cover crop lesson to the classroom.

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

“It was great to head into the classroom

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

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## Announcements

• **Food Shelf, located in St. Mark’s Lutheran Church on Highway 56.** 1st Wednesday 8-10 a.m.; 2nd & 3rd Tuesday 4:30 - 6 p.m.; 4th Wednesday 9-11 a.m. We are an emergency food shelf and anyone needing some help, may come once a month and receive at least a week’s worth of food. We also want to invite college students to come and get some supplies to help them save some expense. Thanks to the generosity of our community, our shelves are well stocked. Our volunteers are from Stanton Methodist Church, St. Mathias Catholic Church and St. Mark’s Lutheran Church. We have implemented a new system of shopping with a list. We shop off of a list you fill out. We ask you stay by the back door while we are filling the list. Any questions contact Beth Bester at St. Mark’s, 507-263-9182 and leave a message.

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## Hope for 2021

From the pages of the Chicago Sun Times, "An Easter like no other. A summer like no other. A World Series like no other. A year like no other." The phrase was worn out over the past nine months by journalists and news media alike. It became a branded logo to rubber-stamp this slow-motion train wreck: COVID-19 pandemic meets civic unrest meets economic disruption." In reality "EVERY year is a year like no other!" Years are unique, like snowflakes. And besides, 2020 is like other years. It's like 1968, 1945, 1918 ... all the way back to 1066, landmark years where you won't have to purse your lips and ponder, trying to dredge up a single event. We all know what happened in 2001. Nobody is going to snap their fingers and try to recall what year COVID struck: 2020, a year to remember, whether you like it or not."

There were plenty of challenges this past year: quarantines that contributed to work slow downs and unemployment. There was racial unrest after George Floyd's death in Minneapolis. Almost every home was affected by the Covid 19 virus- and there are people that won't be around in 2021, because of the virus or some other reason. We can focus on the high unemployment, or restaurants and schools being shut down. 2020 also boast of record storms that hit our nation: a derecho in Iowa, and hurricanes in Louisiana, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. There are many ways that this year will be remembered- and many of them will not be happy memories. But along with the bad- there were a number of good things too. There were other Good things that happened in 2020 Nationally: Scientists responded with unprecedented speed and common purpose to find a vaccine and thousands of people volunteered to take the experimental vaccines. We saw the selfless dedication of nurses, orderlies, doctors and other health workers, and the

selfless dedication of truck drivers, grocery stockers, farmworkers and so many more who risked their lives to keep the economy from collapsing. We learned to connect long and short distances with zoom and the telephone. Drive-ins theaters made a comeback, a record number of Americans turned out to vote in the national election, the United States launched astronauts to the International Space Station on a U.S.-made rocket and a panda was born at the National Zoo!

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

Matthew wrote about Jesus being our Hope, "Look at my Servant. See my Chosen One. He is my Beloved, in whom my soul delights. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will judge the nations. 19 He does not fight nor shout; He does not raise

his voice! 20 He does not crush the weak or quench the smallest hope; He will end all conflict with his final victory, 21 And his name shall be the hope of all the world." Matthew 12:18-21

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

Jesus was chosen, He was God's one and only Son. God loved Him and was willing to send him to be our redemption. Jesus came not to fight, but to bring hope for the world. Jesus wasn't out to prove a point, or to stir up conflict. He always remained in control of himself. We never see Jesus forcing an issue- He gave all people the right to choose whom they would follow. Jesus won't crush the weak or quench the smallest hope; instead, he gives hope to those that are weak and tired. Like the widow from Nain, her son was in the casket on the way to the final burial- and Jesus saw the pain and sorrow and healed the boy right there! Jesus was filled with compas-

sion for the people- his heart went out to them. Yet, he didn't barge in where he wasn't wanted. He always gave each person an out- to choose to believe, to follow, or to not believe or follow. His life was one of giving hope to those that were left in the margins of society. He reached out to widows, children, the weak and infirmed. He went out of his way to touch lepers and blind men. We can have faith and hope because our faith isn't in something dead and buried, but in the living Christ. God raised Christ from the dead and because of this we can have hope for every day. Without Jesus there would be no lasting hope. No Hope for tomorrow, and no hope for eternity.

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

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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!

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## Marian Sophia (Kahnk) Fitzgerald

Marian Sophia (Kahnk) Fitzgerald, age 92, died peacefully on Thursday, December 24, 2020 surrounded by her family. Marian was born on February 17, 1928 in Ruthton, MN to George and Marie Kahnk. They lived on a farm and later moved to Lake Wilson. She attended Lake Wilson High School, graduating in 1946. She then moved to California to live with her sister, returning to Minnesota after a couple of years. She lived and worked in Slayton, MN where she met the love of her life, Duane Fitzgerald. Marian and Duane were married on April 28, 1949 at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Slayton. They raised their family in Slayton then moved to Hutchinson, MN in 1980. They moved to Cannon Falls, MN in 1993 to live closer to their daughter and grandchildren. In 2010, Marian moved into an apartment in the Northfield Retirement Community in Northfield, MN, where she lived until March, 2020, at which time, she moved in with her daughter Lori near Randolph, MN due to declining health.

Marian and her husband Duane owned and operated Slayton Sewing Service for many years, and in addition to this, she had

several jobs at various small businesses wherever they lived. She was active in Catholic Daughters and the VFW Auxiliary for many years. She enjoyed working outside the home but her actual career and passion in life was caring for her immediate and extended family. Her favorite place to be was in the kitchen - she loved cooking and often put together a delicious meal in minutes for anyone that stopped by. She was proud of the family she created and made everyone feel as if they were her favorite. Her most beloved title was Grandma Fitzy!

Marian was a kind and loving person. In her downtime she enjoyed bowling, dancing, making and mending clothes for her children and grandchildren, winning at the casino (usually playing the penny slots) and hosting numerous family gatherings. One of her favorite projects was making a quilt for each grandchild for their high school graduation gift. She enjoyed being with family and she and Duane often traveled to visit their children and grandchildren in various locations across the US. Living at the Retirement Community brought her great joy in the last 10 years. If a visitor stopped in to say hello, they would often find her having lunch or coffee with her many friends.

She is survived by four children, Brenda (Dean) Ehrlicher of Billings, MT, Daniel (Judy) Fitzgerald of Grand Island, NE, Linda Fitzgerald (Arne Green) of Rapid City, SD, and Lori (Jeff) Krohn of Randolph; one brother, Louis Kahnk of

Minneapolis; sister-in-law, Muriel Kahnk Pearson of Hadley; 11 grandchildren, Justin (Stacie) Fitzgerald, Joshua Fitzgerald, Todd (Michelle) Dawson, Traci (Pepper) Valdez, Trent (Darci) Dawson, Chad (Kellie) Fitzgerald, Dani Jo (Andrew) Rossa, Casi (Jason) Otte, Ryan (Katelyn) Ackerman, Jolene (Bill) Sweasy, and Justin (Samantha) Green; 28 great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Duane; her son, James Fitzgerald; her parents, George and Marie Kahnk; brothers, Don, Les, Marvin, Harold, Ray, Dick, and Cliff Kahnk; sister, Blanche Koch; and many loving in-laws.

For everyone's safety and health, masking and social distancing were required. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, December 29 at 11 am, with visitation from 10-11 am, at St. Pius V Catholic Church, Cannon Falls. Interment followed at the church cemetery. The mass was live-streamed on Tuesday, December 29 at 11 am.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the summer, 2021 or as COVID restrictions are lifted.

Honorary pallbearers were her grandchildren, Justin and Joshua Fitzgerald, Todd Dawson, Traci Valdez, Trent Dawson, Chad Fitzgerald, Dani Jo Rossa, Casi Otte, Ryan Ackerman, Jolene Sweasy, and Justin Green.

Memorials are preferred to the family to be used towards a scholarship in Marian's name at the Randolph School. If you would like to send a card to Marian's family, please mail to: The Family of Marian Fitzgerald, c/o Lundberg Funeral Home, 5839 Hwy 19 Blvd, Cannon Falls, MN 55009.

Future Farmers of America organization and served as President his senior year. Following high school he worked on the family farm for one year and then attended Augsburg College in Minneapolis. His most memorable achievement at Augsburg was playing on the championship baseball team in 1959. He was united in marriage to Arlys Halverson at Highview Christiania Lutheran Church on December 29, 1956. This marriage was blessed with two children, Karla and Jim. After attending Augsburg College he decided to return to the family farm. He had a large dairy herd and was active in the American Dairy Association, Holstein Association and Twin Cities Milk Producers. At the same time as the farm crisis hit in the late 1980's he had some disasters on the farm which forced him out of farming.

He was known for his keen interest in sports, especially baseball and football. He played baseball at Webster, Northfield and Cannon Falls. During his farming career he stayed involved in sports and was always recruiting ball players for Augsburg College. He and members of Christiania Lutheran Church were instrumental in building the Twin Church Ball Park. He enjoyed several years playing fast pitch softball on the Eidswold team on that field. Later he founded, played and co-managed the Castle Rock fast pitch team. He felt it was important for young men from the Castle Rock area to have a team. Their games were played at the Dakota County Fairgrounds.

In 1995 he was hired by Augsburg College as a recruiter and assistant baseball and football coach. He loved this job and enjoyed so much meeting many young athletes and their families. He worked with a terrific coaching staff and was happy to be a part of it. He was very proud and honored to be inducted into the Augsburg Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008. He retired from his position at Augsburg in 2013. After his retirement he loved getting on his John Deere lawn mower and keeping the yard in tip top shape.

He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Arlys, brother Paul of Gladstone, MO, daughter Karla Miller of Northfield, son Jim (Diane) of Northfield; grandsons Ben Miller (Emily) of Lakeville, MN, Jacob Miller (Andie Hilgers) of Osseo, MN, Nathan Miller of Minneapolis, Jonathan and Adam Wiese, both of Northfield; great-grandsons Arlo and Emmett Miller of Lakeville; in-laws Lyla Arneson, Margaret Heglund, Maxine Halverson and Arvid Boyum; like a daughter, niece Renee Fredrickson and many other nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, in-laws Eddie and Helen Halverson, Kaye Wiese, Gloria Boyum, Barbara Halverson, Gordon Halverson, Elna Hansen, Sherwin Hansen, Ralph Arneson and Gene Heglund.

There was a private burial at Highview Christiania Lutheran Cemetery. A celebration of Darrell's life will be a later date due to Covid-19. Memorials are preferred to Highview Lutheran Church or Trondhjem Community Preservation Society (TCPS).

Arrangements are with the Benson & Langehough Funeral Home. [www.northfieldfuneral.com](http://www.northfieldfuneral.com)



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## Darrell Gene Wiese

Darrell Gene Wiese, 84, passed away at home with his family by his side on January 9. He was born January 29, 1936 at Webster, Minnesota to Erwin and Elvira (Mohn) Wiese. He spent his first year there at the Bill Wiese farm and then his parents bought a farm near



Castle Rock where he spent most of his life. He was baptized and confirmed at Highview Christiania Lutheran Church where he was an active lifelong member. His elementary education was in a one room school and he graduated from Northfield High School in 1954 where he played football, baseball and was very active in the

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## “What?! Girls Can’t Play Football!”

(continued from page 1)

Megan, 27, a licensed Elementary Ed teacher, has been a lifelong football fan from a football family. “As long as I can remember, football has been a huge part of my life.” The weekend routine in her home was, “Randolph Rockets games on Friday nights; chores, then the Gophers on Saturday and, of course, the Vikings on Sunday!” Halftime was a time to finish chores.

On those fall evenings in Randolph, Megan, a confessed ultra-competitor, could be found mixing it up with the boys in pick-up games on the perimeter of the field. “Mostly, you just killed whomever had the ball,” she says.

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

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

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

Practices were supposed to begin in January, but are on hold due to COVID-19. The 2020 season was lost to the pandemic. An ordinary season, Megan says, would begin with practice from January to March and games from April through June.

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

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

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

Megan says she’s enjoying her 20’s and loves her life right now. She is already an intrepid world traveler, having taken volunteer positions in Belize, the Dominican Republic, and Malaysia. Her most enjoyable adventure was a recent two-and-half year teaching assignment in China. “I’ve been to many places, but I want to go to more!” Now is the time to do it.

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



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### Superintendent Kelley Thank You During These Challenging Times

These past few months with the Corona Virus have been extremely challenging for all of us. We are so fortunate at Randolph Schools for the commitment and dedication of our families to keep their kids in school and healthy. Our staff have been nothing short of amazing with their dedication and willingness to put in all the hard work and extra time it has taken to keep our school open for our students to learn in person. I have been honored to be a part of the Randolph School District for 20 years and have never been so proud to say that we, along with our families, educate our students better than anyone. Thank you.

Thank you.  
Mr. Kelley, Superintendent, kelley@district195.org

### Free Meals for Everyone

Free breakfast and/or lunch will be available for anyone in the community ages 1-18. This includes enrolled, non-enrolled children, and children that are not in the Randolph School District. Non-enrolled students and students not attending Randolph Schools in person, will need to take both breakfast and lunch. All students in the school building will receive free breakfast and/or lunch each day.

Students in grades 7-12 will need to have money in their account if they would like to purchase an extra entree, ala carte, or an extra milk. Elementary students will need to have money in their account to purchase an extra milk.

Free meals will continue through the end of the 2020/2021 school year.

If your child is not attending school on a given day and would like to have free breakfast and lunch that day, it will be able to be picked up at the designated areas. Please email Lori Underdahl at underdahl@district195.org with questions regarding free meals.

### For Families on Free and Reduced Meals

If you have not applied for Free and Reduced meals for the current school year, you still need to reapply now, so that when funds for the above program are exhausted, you will receive your free/reduced meals. If you do not reapply, your family will be put on paid status.

### COVID-19 Guidelines Update

\* There is a new guideline requiring all students in grades K-12 to wear a face covering during indoor physical education class. An exemption for this would be a note from a medical provider.

\* Please continue to notify Jill Schultz, School Nurse, at schultzj@district195.org if you have any signs or symptoms of illness OR if you have been in close contact with a positive COVID-19 individual.

\* Thank you for everyone's hard work through this pandemic and helping us keep the students in school.

### National Honor Society

National Honor Society would like to inform the community that they will not be doing their Valentine fundraiser this year.

### High School News

Here are some important events for January for students in grades 7-12:

Semester report cards will be available on Campus Portal before the end of January. If you don't have access to Campus Portal, contact the high school office.

11th grade students will have the opportunity to take the ACT with Writing Test, or the ASVAB test on March 2nd. Both tests are free of charge to the students. Students will need to take one or the other that day. Any questions about this, contact Mr. Fisher.

Any student that becomes ill during the school day must check with our school nurse first before being excused to go home.

Thanks for supporting Randolph High School students.

Sincerely,  
Benjamin P. Fisher, fisherb@district195.org  
High School Principal/Special Ed. Director/Counselor

### Elementary News

I am very proud of our students and staff on how they have handled this pandemic. It just shows what we can do when we all work together.

Please send appropriate clothing for recess. Students go outside everyday unless the temperature falls below 0 degrees.

As always, the north parking lot is used for drop off and pick up.

Community Education will not host any basketball tournaments in January and February. More information on elementary basketball will be forthcoming.

Thank you.  
Mr. Rutledge, rutledgem@district195.org



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## Students Measure Effects of Cover Crops Out in the Field

(continued from page 1)

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

Prior to planting the cover crops, the students and Terry worked with Ludwig and Chris Messner with Central Farm Service

(CFS) of Randolph to make sure there were no residual herbicide interactions that could harm the cover crops. Before planting the corn, bulk N, P, and K fertilizer was spread onto the soybean residue and incorporated with a field cultivator. Fertilizer recommendations were based on soil test results from CFS.

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

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

Students also visited the test plot at har-



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

vest to compare yield checks on the corn. "The students wanted to see if there was any yield drag because of the competition from the cover crops taking moisture and nutrients away from the corn. There was no statistical difference in yield," said Terry.

In 2021, the test plot will be planted to soybeans. Cover crops will also be planted

and the students will again examine the effect on yield, the economics of the planting decision, and their long-term effect on soil health.

For more information about cover crops, visit the Rice SWCD website at [www.riceswcd.org](http://www.riceswcd.org).

## MDA Offers Mini-Grant Pilot Program for Produce Growers

*Growers may be eligible for reimbursement of water testing*

Minnesota produce farmers who purchased water testing for generic E. coli between September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2020 may be eligible for reimbursement of these expenses under a new pilot mini-grant program from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

The Produce Safety Water Testing for Generic E. coli Mini-Grant, administered by the MDA Produce Safety Program, will distribute approximately \$2,800 total, up to \$400 per farmer. To be eligible, farmers must sell a minimum annual average of \$5,000 in produce that is covered by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. Crops covered by the rule include any produce crop that is not

listed on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s list of Rarely Consumed Raw crops.

Applications for the pilot mini-grant program are available on the MDA website and will be accepted through Friday, February 26, at 11:59 p.m. Additional information about the eligibility criteria, including the list of Rarely Consumed Raw crops, and application process can be found on the website.

A future, full-scale mini-grant program will provide financial support for water testing and on-farm food safety for expenses dating after September 30, 2020. This grant program will be offered in January 2022. More information will be available following the pilot program.

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## Gratitude



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Our incredible donors and partners.** None of the work mentioned above would be possible without them. Thanks to our



309 donors – individuals, families, cities, counties, businesses and organizations – we have raised \$1.3 million to date in 2020. I am humbled by their generosity and their belief in the work we do, especially during this critical time.

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

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

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

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



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## Shelly Zimmerman Joins Merchants Bank as Mortgage Lender

Cannon Falls, Minn. – Shelly Zimmerman has joined Merchants Bank as a Mortgage Lender, according to Jon Dahl, President for Merchants Bank in Cannon Falls.

“Shelly’s tenure in mortgage lending and banking, along with her deep connection to the Cannon Falls community, make her an exceptional mortgage lender. I know she takes great pride in helping her friends and neighbors realize their dreams of home ownership,” said Dahl.

Zimmerman has been in banking for nearly 25 years in Cannon Falls and the Southern Metro area. For the last 15 years, she has been a Real Estate Loan Officer with First Farmers & Merchants Bank. With the majority of her career

spent in the mortgage lending area, she is familiar with both traditional and specialized mortgage loan programs.

“I’m looking forward to continuing to help people through the mortgage process and making something that may seem daunting as easy as possible for my customers. It’s my goal to provide an exceptional experience to every home buyer or builder,” said Zimmerman.

Zimmerman is a lifelong Cannon Falls resident. She and her husband, John, have four children and four grandchildren and they enjoy spending time with their family, camping and motorcycling.




**Shelly Zimmerman**


The Merchants Bank Mortgage team is comprised of more than 20 local mortgage lenders, available throughout our regional footprint, backed by our in-house mortgage processing, underwriting and loan servicing teams. In addition to traditional mortgage loans, Merchants mortgage lenders can assist with mortgage pre-approval, construction loans, and specialized mortgage programs such as VA, FHA, Rural Development and more available through Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. We’re committed to being there for our customers after loan closing and service nearly \$2.6 billion in mortgage loans annually.

Merchants Bank is a full service community bank with 23 bank locations in southeastern Minnesota and west-central Wisconsin and a leasing division, Merchants Bank Equipment Finance, in Edina. Headquartered in Winona, MN, MFGI has more than \$2.5 billion in assets. Merchants was founded in 1875. Loans are subject to credit approval. Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC.


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# Local Government

## City of Randolph Regular Council Meeting December 9, 2020

The regular Randolph City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Robert Appelgren.

### Roll Call

Present were Mayor Robert Appelgren, Council Members Sarah Podritz, Jacob Toledo and Jacob Friedrich, and Clerk Mary Haro. Treasurer Sandy Nicolai was absent.

### Public Comments

None.

### Minutes

A motion to approve the November 11, 2020 regular council meeting minutes and November 19, 2020 special council meeting minutes as written was made by Friedrich, seconded by Podritz. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

### Approval of Treasurer Report

No report this month.

### Approval to Pay Bills

Bolton & Menk's invoice is for Hereford Hills so it will be forwarded to Dan Wenstrom for payment to the City.

Motion to approve the payment of bills as written was made by Friedrich, and seconded by Podritz. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

### Old Business

#### Snow plowing of City Sidewalks

We received a bid of \$145 for every time they snow plow the city sidewalks. Motion by Appelgren to approve the bid, seconded by Podritz. All voting in favor, none

opposed, motion passed 5:0.

### New Business

#### Final Budget – Tax Levy

Podritz brought up raises which we previously discussed. A 5% raise would amount to \$110 for councilmembers; \$220 for the mayor; \$580 for the clerk and \$628 for the treasurer, 8% would give councilmembers \$112; \$224 for the mayor; \$590 for the clerk and \$639 for the treasurer and 9% would give \$114 to councilmembers; \$228 to the mayor; \$601 to the clerk and \$651 to the treasurer. By giving us a 5% raise that would allow to leave some money for payment of special meetings to remain under budget. After discussion Podritz made a motion to approve 5% raises to the council members, mayor, clerk and treasurer, seconded by Friedrich. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

A discussion regarding the street budget should continue with the same budget for next year. There is one road that will not be repaved with the sewer project so we could use the budget money for that road so that all roads will be redone – it is 291st Street between Dawson and Dickman.

In a discussion regarding the budget we decided not to make any changes to the budget. A motion was made by Appelgren, to approve the final budget and Resolution No. 20-12 setting the levy in the amount of \$136,120, seconded by Podritz. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

#### Polling Place Designation

Clerk Haro made a motion to approve Resolution No. 20-13 designating the

Randolph City Hall as the polling place for 2021, seconded by Podritz. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

#### Reimbursement of COVID Funds to Fire Department

Motion to approve Resolution No. 20-14 reimbursing the fire department in the amount of \$27,258.00 for money that was spent on equipment, radios and face masks, due to the COVID-19 pandemic was made by Podritz, seconded by Friedrich. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

#### Driveway Off of 292nd Street/ Dawson Avenue

Sarah asked if the city would take over this driveway. Since the road will be torn up during the sewer project, she wanted if it was ever a possibility for the city to consider buying it or taking it over to turn it into a road. Doug Douscher currently owns the road but it has not been maintained.

Shelley Kidd indicated there is a recorded easement for maintenance of the road with the owners of the properties which includes her, Doug and one other, She wanted the road redone a few years back but the others parties could not do it so it did not get done. Matt indicated we could take it over if all the parties agree and have our attorney draw up the documents. It would be a great time to do it with the sewer project coming it. It is a private road.

Sarah did talk to him and she was not sure if he was willing to turn it over or to sell it. It was noted that the City will not buy it. He said the lot behind them the road goes with

it. It was indicated that they should check with an attorney to see if they have rights to make him maintain the road. You should do the work to figure out what it would take for the city to take it over and then bring it back to us to revisit this issue. The roads will be put back the same way they currently are at – if it gravel, it will be replaced with gravel.

#### Mowing Contract

Ace Mowing presented a proposal for a one-year contract for the same fees as last year.

Motion to accept the proposal from Ace Mowing made by Podritz, seconded by Haro. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

#### Miscellaneous

##### Doug Jones Proposal

Doug Jones presented a proposal for the storage of crushed granite on his property in Randolph that he asked be shared with the council. He is looking for field access off of Dickman to his property which I told him he would need to contact Dakota County for permission to do that as that is a county road. His property is zoned as agricultural. Most likely he would need a conditional use permit. We would need to do some research before we can even consider this request.

##### Bolton & Menk Sewer Update

Matt Blazer of Bolton & Menk gave an update on what is happening with the sewer project. They have been working on the survey. They used a drone for footage so they have all of the area photography done.

(continued on page 9)

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(continued from page 8)

Please leave the pink markings alone they are just reference points. They meet with the township and have a meeting next week with Doug Felton. Next meeting we will discuss Ehlers, a financial advisor and getting them on board so we can secure some

short term financing. He has completed the application but the financing is the piece that is missing from it.

The missing piece will be to set up a meeting with Ehlers, a financial advisor and setting up a loan. They will come to the next meeting. Once we get all of this done

then we start to schedule an informational meeting in mid to late January which he will update us at next month's meeting. Then we can provide more information to people and get information from people. It will be similar to the presentation they already gave. Late March do an neighborhood open house where we can say where the pipes are going and costs involved. After that meeting decisions will be made on options and that next meeting they will present the feasibility and that is when the council need to make decisions. Then we will approve the plan and spec. and design next summer. Hopefully break ground for late next Fall for the ponds. It was asked that they bring us costs for curb and gutter so we have options. It was discussed with Mr. Kelly if we could use the school for these meeting and he indicated that we could. Also the meetings can be online and could be recorded. He has received a lot of phone calls and questions regarding the project. People just want more information. Matt indicated to let people know they can call him for information. They have been talking with the Township and will continue the talks. Information is very important. Once the ground breaks and the excavator starting digging it is hard to change things. That's why we want to have meetings, give information and get information. They are meeting with Doug Felton next week. If others are interested and hear they want this we are to let them know - it's always good to have a backup plan. He would be limited on what he can plant on his fields -

it cannot be anything consumed by humans. We could buy the land and lease it back to him or lease it from him for 125% of the life cycle of the facilities that are being installed. If down the road he doesn't want to spray the fields any longer, it can be switched down the road by hooking in a pipe to a different location.

Right now the acreage for the three ponds would be approximately 10 acres but we would like room for expansion, that for 187 homes currently in the city. We would need some reserve area for the expansion. Our attorney, Korine is putting together some information regarding location, annexation, and conditional use permits.

#### MidCo Internet Service in City Hall

Discussed having Midco install internet service in City Hall. Sandy had discussed this with them and she received the following costs - \$150 for installation, \$88/month with one year contract, \$78/month for a two year contract and \$68/month for a three year contract. We would also want the fire department to have access to it.

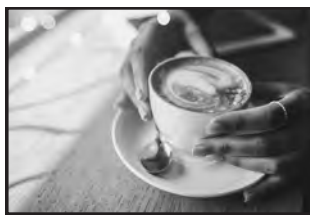
Friedrich made a motion to go with the three year contract, seconded by Podritz. Note that we need to keep Northfield Wifi for our email. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

#### Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Podritz, seconded by Friedrich, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0. Respectfully submitted, Mary Haro

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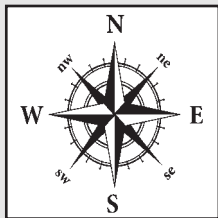
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes World Traveler



By Terry Campbell

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## A Minnesotan in the North: Hoar Frost



By RosaLin Alcoser

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

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

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

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

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

## Native Salt Tolerant Plants



Teri Knight



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

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

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

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

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

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

Consider these:

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



**Clethra (aka summersweet)  
Sugartina 'Crystalina'**  
by Proven Winners

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

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## CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

- THEME: FAMOUS DUOS
- ACROSS
1. \*Timothy Q. Mouse's friend, in Disney classic
  6. River in Germany
  9. Bridle parts
  13. Whatsoever
  14. Like tuna tartare
  15. Forearm bones
  16. Plural of #3 Down
  17. Hardware store
  18. "Gladiator" setting
  19. \*Ferb Fletcher's stepbrother
  21. \*Mr. White's unfortunate student
  23. Welcome spot for weary traveler
  24. It shall, for short
  25. Cul de \_\_\_\_
  28. Young herring
  30. Dieter's cuisine, for short
  35. Gator's cousin
  37. French "place"
  39. Chunk of iceberg
  40. St. Louis monument
  41. Like new TV set
  43. Front of ship
  44. Singular of loci
  46. Additional
  47. Reality TV's Spelling
  48. \*Assistant to regional manager Michael Scott
  50. Missing a limb
  52. More, in Madrid
  53. Like acne-prone skin
  55. Pimple fluid
  57. \*Shirley's roommate and fellow bottle-capper
  61. \*Rory Gilmore's mom
  65. Make an effort
  66. Legal org.
  68. Long stories
  69. Scottish valleys
  70. Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
  71. \*One of The Carpenters duo
  72. Bone-dry
  73. Opposite of WSW
  74. Red or orange announcement

- DOWN
1. Slightly wet
  2. \*Malone and Stockton of the \_\_\_\_ Jazz
  3. Skirt length
  4. Shrovetide dish
  5. \*Mary-Kate and Ashley
  6. Geologists' studies
  7. \*\_\_\_\_ and cheese
  8. Moved under the rug
  9. "All \_\_\_\_, no bite"
  10. Footnote word
  11. \*Amy Poehler's comedic partner
  12. Welsh alternative to Siobh-n
  15. Was almost out of gas, e.g.
  20. Source of indigo dye, pl.
  22. "\_\_\_\_ Be Home For Christmas"
  24. In the best possible way
  25. Coffee burn, e.g.
  26. \*Bow and \_\_\_\_
  27. Spherical bacteria
  29. \*Corona's main squeeze?
  31. What willow did
  32. Read-only chip
  33. Greek bazaar
  34. \*Clark's fellow traveler
  36. College party chant
  38. Celestial bear
  42. Dancer's beat
  45. Daisy dukes, e.g.
  49. "Wizard of Oz" man
  51. Archimedes' exclamation
  54. Furlough
  56. Flower part
  57. Frog delicacy
  58. Wheel shaft
  59. Swerve
  60. European sea eagle
  61. \*David and Paul on the "\_\_\_\_ Show"
  62. Italian currency, pl.
  63. Maple genus
  64. Negative contraction
  67. \*Jerry's fellow treat-maker



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