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APRIL, 2021

Volume 18 • Issue 7

Announcements

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

• **Wednesday Wear, Nerstrand United Methodist Church hours are Wednesdays 1 - 5 and Saturdays 9 - 12.** Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys and books. All things are free with donations accepted. Come and see what we have!

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

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

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

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

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

K-W Speech Team Students Compete

Sub Section Results from Saturday, April 10th: Sophia Culuris - 1st place Original Oratory, Ashley Rehtzigel - 1st place Great Speeches, Elliot Olson - 2nd place Serious Prose, Izzy Chmelik - 4th place Poetry, Jordan Blowers - 6th place Serious Prose, Aspen Donkers finished as 1st Alternate in Dramatic Interpretation.

Five members will compete in the Section tournament hosted by Byron on Saturday, April 17th. All meets this year have been held virtually with students competing from KWMS classrooms in rounds held through a platform similar to Zoom. The Speech team coaches are Heidi Hanson and Rebecca Kunesh.



2021 Goodhue County Dairy Princesses



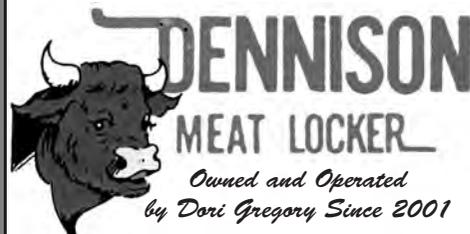
2021 Goodhue County Dairy princesses were crowned this month. They are Madison Bartholome daughter of Jim and Lisa Bartholome of Goodhue, Cassandra Hinsch daughter of Mike and Ann Hinsch, of Goodhue and Chelsey Lexvold daughter of Brent and Wendy Lexvold of Goodhue. They will represent the dairy farmers and dairy industry in Goodhue County for the next year.

Construction Continues at Nerstrand Meats



Construction work continues on the addition of the coffee shop space at Nerstrand Meats, located in the former fire hall building on Main Street in Nerstrand.

Nerstrand Meats purchased the former fire hall property after the city built their new fire hall.



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YOUR ALERTNESS OUR COMMUNITY

During planting season, farmers do their part to feed the world, so please slow down and do your part to keep them safe.

Remember to share the road.

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HE is RISEN!!!

He is Risen- He is Risen Indeed. That is a traditional Easter greeting. "He is risen!" and the response is "He is risen, indeed!" This Easter tradition has a lot to say to us today as we prepare for Easter Sunday. The history behind it is pretty vague, but regardless of its origin it is a great way to greet one another on Easter. One of my favorite accounts of Easter is from Matthew 28:1-7, "Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. 2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. 3 His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

5 Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. 7 And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you."

What glorious news!!! He is Risen from the dead! Just three days before, these same women- were on the hill of Golgotha outside of Jerusalem, where they saw Jesus die. Where they saw all their hopes dashed to the ground. They saw the prophet, the man they had followed some of them for three years- totally defeated and hanging on a cross with criminals. They saw him carried off to this same tomb and left there.

They had no hope of seeing him again. They had lost hope. Yet, they wanted to do one last thing for this great teacher and leader among them and make sure he was buried correctly-- They gathered their supplies and waited until the Sabbath was over and then they could head over to the cemetery and take care of their friend and teacher.

As they approached the area, the ground shook—rocks are rolling around, the trees are swaying wildly, they lose their footing and stumble. Then they see and hear- He is Risen. It is a message full of meaning still today.

#1 – He Is Risen Means Jesus Is Alive. As believers we are saying that we believe that Jesus is still alive and living forever. Paul said that if the resurrection didn't happen, we are most to be pitied. But the resurrection of Jesus IS true, which means that Jesus is alive, which means that everything he promised will happen. It's not a myth, fairy tale, or children's tale. The disciples were firsthand witnesses- and Jesus appeared to over 500 people after his resurrection! That's very good evidence!

#2 – He Is Risen Means Jesus Is Reigning: Our risen Lord is just that – Lord. He sits on the throne of heaven, on the right hand of God the Father. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Our lives and the world may seem insanely chaotic but there is nothing outside of the sovereign rule of King Jesus. Politics can't stop Jesus. Our sin and weakness can't stop him. Satan can't stop him. One day all the world everything and everyone must bow before the risen and ruling Christ. There is no better news than that.

#3 – He Is Risen Means A Man Sits Upon the Throne. This just blows me away! The incarnation, death, and resurrection of Christ mean that a man, a human, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, is seated on the throne of heaven. Christ knows the struggle and striving and suffering that come with living in a fallen, broken world. He has been here and done that. He was tempted, it says in all ways that we too have been tempted. Yet, as He sits on the throne- he is approachable—I can walk up to his throne—and like a little child that crawls onto their daddy's lap, I can come to Him and share my heart, my hurts, my joys and my struggles and He will listen—and He understands. When we share with Him our anxiety over the uncertain times before us—He understands our burden and asks that He can carry it for us.

#4 – He Is Risen Means the Penalty for Sin Has Been Paid: We are all sinners—born into sin from day one. And God cannot let any sin to enter heaven. The punishment for our sin is death. Because of the love that God has for His creation He has provided us a way out—Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." It is free for us—but it cost Jesus His life.

#5 – He Is Risen Means Jesus Will Make All Things New: One day—as we join Him in heaven there will be: No more cancer. No more depression. No more COVID-19, no more wars or hunger, or shootings. Right now, we live in a dark and dying world, but the king is returning.

#6 – He Is Risen Means We Will Receive New Bodies. Right now, our bodies decay.

Fall apart. Go to pieces. We are afflicted with migraines, heart disease, PTSD, Alzheimer's, and ALS. But this won't always be the case. Christ will return and we will receive new, resurrection bodies that don't feel the crippling effects of sin.

#7 – He Is Risen Means We Have A Sympathetic Great High Priest. We all want someone that understands how we feel and what we are going through. Jesus knows us inside and out (and loves us anyway!) The risen Jesus is our Great High Priest, taking us into the Most Holy Place, and praying on our behalf. Because he suffered, he can sympathize with our weakness and our pain. Jesus is near to us, helping us, praying for us.

#8 – He Is Risen Means We Have the Holy Spirit. Now that Jesus is alive, he gives the Holy Spirit to all who believe in Him. The Holy Spirit is no longer reserved for prophets and mighty men and women. He comes to all who believe, weak and strong, young and old, mature and immature. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are brought into a relationship with God. Jesus Christ sends the Holy Spirit to us and brings into the presence of the Father.

#9 – He Is Risen Means We Have Hope. We have hope because we see in Jesus Christ the agony of the Cross- and how great His love for us.

He is ALIVE! The resurrection of Jesus changes absolutely everything. Because He lives, we have hope for today, tomorrow and forever! He is risen! He is Risen indeed!



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P.O. Box 125

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LUTHERAN

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Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com

Pastor Paul A. Graham

May 30 (Memorial Day Weekend) - Vang - 9:00 am
June 6 - Vang, 9:00 am; June 13 - Vang, 9:00 am
June 16 - Vang, 9:00 am; June 20 - Vang, 9:00 am
June 27 - Vang, 9:00 am; July 4 - Dennison, 9:00 am
July 11 - Dennison, 9:00 am; July 18 - Dennison, 9:00 am
July 25 - Dennison, 9:00 am

Gol Lutheran Marv Kormann, Pastor
8:45a.m. Sunday School;

9:15a.m. Social & Coffee Time; 10a.m. Worship
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
and all major church year festivals

Grace Lutheran, Nerstrand
Don Kloster, Pastor

Service 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran
Martin Horn, Pastor

10:45 a.m. worship; 6:45 p.m.; New Life Radio - KDHL

Hegre Lutheran
Pastor Chris Brekke

Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

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

First Ev. Lutheran
Luther Mathsen, Pastor

Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC
Curtis Fox, Pastor

24289 Cty. 24 Blvd., Cannon Falls
Sunday mornings: 9a.m. Worship; 10a.m. Fellowship
Thursdays 9:30a.m. Bible Study;
7:00p.m. Bluegrass Jam (open to public)
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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

In the Middle of the Garden

In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. — Genesis 2:9

In the school where I serve as a campus pastor and as an English teacher, we talk about metaphors and how important they are in a piece of literature. We also pay attention to imagery used by an author to show meaningful threads throughout a narrative.

The Bible is God's Word to us, revealing to us the grand story of creation, salvation in Christ, and life with God and his people forever. The Bible is also a literary masterpiece, filled with imagery and metaphors that carry through in meaningful threads from beginning to end.

For example, of the many trees described in the Bible, the two here in Genesis 2 are prototypes for other trees mentioned later on: trees that indicate life and fruitfulness, and trees that represent potentials for brokenness and disobedience. The tree of life presented abundant life and intimacy with God, while the other tree presented consequences connected with choosing and doing wrong.

The tree of life especially prefigures many stories featuring hope, redemption, promise, and comfort, indicating that even from the beginning, people were not left to live here alone but were given a protected place of abundance and well-being. Emphasis is placed on the loving relationship between God and creation, summed up in the rich image of the tree of life—and later we find this tree again in the new heaven and new earth, where we will live with God forever (Revelation 22:1-2).

Prayer; Lord, thank you for showing us your loving and generous promises in the imagery of the tree of life. Guide us to hope and truly live in you always. Amen.

METHODIST

Nerstrand United Methodist

Lona Sturm, Pastor
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Worship 9:00a.m.

Stanton United Methodist

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

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10:00a.m. Worship Service
7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

HOLDEN-DALE PARISH

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

NOTICE

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

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



Stanley Joseph Nord

Stanley Joseph Nord, 91, Dennison, MN, passed away April 13, 2021, at Three Links Care Center in Northfield, MN.

A video recording of the service may be viewed at the end of this obituary.

Stanley ("Dad") was born October 5, 1929, the first-born child to Joseph A. and Rose (Budenski) Nord, at their home in Goodhue County, along County Line Road. The family moved to a farm near Kenyon, where Stanley attended country school. Joe and Rose eventually bought a farm in Sogn Valley, where Stanley farmed with his father.

On July 5, 1949, he married Doris Marie Maring ("Mom"), also from Sogn Valley, where together they raised their 10 children. Stanley loved his family dearly and found great joy spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren well into their adulthoods.

Stanley was employed for a time as a meat cutter for Swift in South St. Paul, in addition to dairy farming near Kenyon. He left Swift and devoted all his time to the farm, until 1963, when he moved his family to Sogn Valley and starting a can and bulk milk route, picking the milk up from area farmers and delivering it to various co-ops and creameries for processing in Prairieville, Montgomery, Goodhue, and Ellsworth in Wisconsin. Sometimes he did enlist the help of one of his two eldest sons, Richard ("Rick") or Larry to take the bulk milk route for him, while he solely carried

out the duties of the canned route. Eventually, the canned route converted to bulk. With a passion for fairness and a commitment and hope for future successes of family farms, he added an additional route hauling for the NFO (National Farmers Organization), an organization committed to fair prices to the family-owned farm. There was never time for grass to grow under Stanley's feet. He worked every day for a solid eight years, until his son Rick returned from Viet Nam after serving two tours, and would take the route so Stanley could have an occasional Saturday and/or Sunday at home.

In 1982, Stanley and Doris moved out of the country and Sogn Valley and bought a house "in town" (Dennison). This was a big move for both of them as neither had ever lived in a town with neighbors you could see from the kitchen window.

Stanley lost his beloved wife, Doris, in 1990. He sold the route and retired February 27, 1994. Upon his retirement, Stanley frequently traveled to Colorado for extended stays with his son, Joseph. He also enjoyed extended stays at his son David's farm in Wisconsin, where he was able to drive a tractor and work the fields again. He traveled with his brother-in-law, Morris Melhouse, to the Southwest, which included stops at the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam. In 2016, driving and travel became too difficult for Stanley due to his advancing age.

Stanley is survived by three of his five sons: Larry, and his wife, Diane, Havasu City, AZ; Bruce and his wife, Michelle, Cannon Falls; David and his wife, Michelle, Sleepy Eye; and Ronald Plank, who at the request of Stanley is listed as his "Sixth" son (and son-in-law). His five daughters: Susan and her husband, Ronald Plank, Northfield; Doreen, and her husband, Donald Quistorff, Nerstrand; Anne of Northfield; Renee of Duluth; and Deborah, of Northfield. Also surviving are 27 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Sharon Nord, Northfield; brother-in-law Roger (Phyllis) Maring, Northfield; sister-in-law Rose Maring, Kenyon; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Stanley was preceded in death by his wife, Doris; sons Joseph and Richard; Grandsons Joseph Rogers and Joshua Kowalkoski (Nord); great-grandson, Justin Yopez; his parents; brother, Donald Nord; sister, Jean Melhouse; brother-in-law Morris Melhouse; sister-in-law, Judy Nord; brother-in-law, Harold Maring; sister-in-law, Shirley Maring; mother and father in-law, Adolph and Hilda Maring.

Stanley's family is deeply grateful to Three Links Care Center and the wonderful care he was given for the past seven months, where he was affectionately known as "Stan the Man," and to Heartland Hospice for the compassionate care Stanley and his family received during this difficult time.

Visitation took place for extended family members and friends on Sunday, April 18, 2021 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Boldt Funeral Home, 300 Prairie Ave. SW, Faribault, MN. Social distancing and masks were required. Due to Pandemic restrictions, a private service was held for family members at Vang Lutheran Church, 2060 County 49

Blvd., Dennison, MN. Interment followed services at Vang Lutheran Cemetery in rural Dennison.

Stanley may have been tempted to scold us for this lengthy obituary but his life was long, and so are the memories he leaves with us all who called him husband, dad, grandpa, great grandpa, brother, uncle, neighbor, or friend. It is difficult to capture the humble man we all know and love, who was always teaching by example. Stanley will be dearly missed, but always present. Dad, you are salt of the earth -- the cream of the crop. We will see you around the bend.

Cory Wangen

Cory Wangen, age 58, of Dennison, died Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at his home in Faribault.

Memorial services will be held at Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. The Reverend Drew Yackel, Pastor of Urland Lutheran Church, Cannon Falls will officiate. Interment will be at Nerstrand Evangelical Cemetery, Wheeling Township.

Memorial visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault on Monday, May 3rd.

Cory Jay, the son of LaVerne Wangen and Constance (Rapp) Grisim was born on December 27, 1962 in Cannon Falls. After graduating from high school, Cory continued his education at Dunwoody. While working at Ryt-Way in Northfield, Cory met Kathi Bradley and they have spent the last 35 years together. They were blessed with one daughter, Samantha. Cory later worked for Northfield Construction and Total Construction. He was a Union Steward and enjoyed talking with coworkers. Cory loved taking car rides to sight see, visit historical markers and take photos of the scenery. He enjoyed hunting and fishing in South Dakota and on his property in Sogn Valley. He especially loved his cat.

Survivors include his wife, Kathi of Faribault; daughter, Samantha Bradley of Faribault; siblings, Rochelle (and Tom) Nyggard of Cannon Falls, Rodd (and Cindy) Wangen of Oregon, WI, Jody Woodward of Meridian, MS and Jason (and Jenn) Grisim of Mason City, IA; mother in law, Barb Shaske of Faribault; father in law, Richard (and Marion) Bradley of Superior, WI; sisters in law, Sue (and Mike) Schema of Faribault, Sandie Kranz of Warsaw, Theresa (and Joe DenSvensken) Bradley of Milwaukee, WI and Becca (and Aaron) Rath of Portishead, UK; brothers in law, Scott (and Natalie) Shaske of Rochester and David Shaske of Bagley; and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, LaVerne Wangen and Connie Grisim; step-mother, Carol Ann Wangen and father in law, DeWayne Shaske.

(obituaries continued on page 4)





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

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

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Dennison Community Garden

Spring is coming!
 The Dennison Lutheran Community church is making garden space available this year in the space behind the church. If you would like garden space in the community garden, please contact Joe Amy or call the church office at 507-645-6042.



Summer Worship Times

May 30 (Memorial Day Weekend) – Vang - 9:00 am
 June 6 – Vang, 9:00 am
 June 13 - Vang, 9:00 am
 June 16 – Vang, 9:00 am
 June 20 – Vang, 9:00 am
 June 27 – Vang, 9:00 am
 July 4 – Dennison, 9:00 am
 July 11 – Dennison, 9:00 am
 July 18 – Dennison, 9:00 am
 July 25 – Dennison, 9:00 am

Wednesday Evening Vespers

We are living through challenging times. All the more reason to find ways to connect with Christ, our peace. Dennison Lutheran will be offering a mid-week time for you to pause and be nourished in God's loving presence. Come take a rest from the busy-ness of the week. Dennison Lutheran will be offering evening vespers on Wednesday, May 19 at 7:00.

"Let your light scatter the darkness, and shine within your people here."
 (ELW Evening Prayer)

Obituaries

Brenda Kay Eul

Brenda Kay Eul, age 62 of Faribault, died on Sunday, April 11, 2021 at Mayo Clinic Hospital-Rochester, St. Mary's Campus.



Private family services will be held at a later date.

Once married to Steve, Brenda transformed from a

city girl to a deer hunting, walleye/bass fishing aficionado, once showing Steve up by catching a 6 lb. 6 oz largemouth bass.

Brenda was a job coach with KCQ for many years. After KCQ Brenda landed her favorite job as Head Cook at Nerstrand Charter School. A highlight Brenda always cherished was being recognized by students while out in public and being hailed by the outgoing students with an enthusiastic "Hello Mrs. Eul!" and even the smile and small wave from the shy ones.

While Brenda would not admit it publicly, she also cherished family get togethers at holidays. With 14 family members showing up there was always enough food for 30.

Brenda will be remembered by her husband, children, grandchildren and family as one that accepted and showered all with unconditional love.

She is survived by her husband, Steven of Faribault; children, Kelly Armstrong of Faribault, Debra Eul (Samuel Schuweiler) of Austin and Stefanie Eul (Andrew Byers)

of Faribault; six grandchildren, Owen, Kaylyn, Dominik, Charlotte, Aria and Frankie; brother, Wade (Melanie) Armstrong of Northfield; nieces, Cecily Armstrong of Burnsville and Alexandra Armstrong of Northfield; great niece, Willow Dullea of Burnsville and beloved dog, Buck.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arden and Myra Armstrong.

Memorials are preferred to the American Cancer Society or the Faribault Food Shelf.

Sun Cha Buchta

Sun Cha Buchta, 74, of Nerstrand, died Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at her home surrounded by her loving family.



She was born May 5, 1946, in Osaka, Japan, the daughter of Moon, Byuong Taek and Chung, Nyo. They lived in

Japan and moved to Korea when Sun Cha was three years old. During the Vietnam War, she met Roger Buchta while he was serving in the United States Army. She moved to Georgia in the late 1970s and reconnected with Roger. They were married on December 13, 1980 and made their home on the family farm in rural Nerstrand. Sun Cha was a hard worker who liked staying active and going on walks. She loved music, singing and dancing. Sun Cha

enjoyed playing cards, traveling, going on road trips, wintering for many years and visiting family around the United States and in Korea. Sun Cha adored her family and friends. She will be remembered as being a fun-loving spitfire that was affectionate to all those she loved.

She is survived by her sister, Meng, Sun Hyden of Killeen, TX; brothers, Moon, KiJu of Seoul, Korea and Moon, Dart Ju of Seoul Korea; sisters-in-law, Marlys Buchta of CA, Linda Grant of Canada, Nancy (Lloyd) Pleaschourt of Northfield and Paulette Buchta; brothers-in-law, Bernard Silverstein of GA and Larry (Shari) Buchta of Nerstrand; nieces and nephews, Homin Kang, Trooper Hyden, Rachel Silverstein, Earsel (Sonja) Hyden, Leonard Hyden,

Sharon McDavid, Kellie Hyden and Kristi Barker. Sun Cha is also survived by many other extended family including nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger Buchta who died on July 9, 2007; and sister, Chol C. Silverstein.

Visitation was on Monday, March 29, 2021, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Funeral services were held Monday, March 29, 2021 at 2:00 PM at Vang Lutheran Church.

The Reverend Paul Graham officiated. The service was available online, please visit: www.wearlivetoday.com/suncha-buchta

Interment was in the Vang Lutheran Church Cemetery in Dennison. Memorials are preferred to Vang Lutheran Church Cemetery in Dennison.

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Randolph FFA Member Elected State FFA Secretary

Nicole Koziolk was elected state FFA secretary on Saturday. Nicole is a member of the Randolph FFA chapter and is currently a freshman at the University of Minnesota-St. Paul, where she is studying agricultural communications and marketing. Nicole and her parents live in Northfield and own and operate a 800 acre crop farm near Goodhue, Minnesota.

Nicole was the Randolph FFA chapter

president during her junior year and served as Region 8 secretary as well as Randolph FFA chapter vice president as a senior in high school. She was elected as Region 8 president for 2020-21 and will now serve the 2021-22 State FFA as secretary.

Nicole applied for a state FFA office on March 1st and advanced to the final selection last Friday. She submitted a resume, letters of recommendation and pictures and after many interviews including written tests and speeches, was elected on Saturday by a panel of teachers, industry professions and peers.

Her supervised Ag experience has been raising crops on twenty-acres she rents. She has taken care of tillage, planting, fertilizing, harvesting and marketing the crop over the last five years. She followed a soybean/corn rotation selling the soybeans as seed to Pioneer Seeds and the corn through the elevator and ethanol plant. This last year



Nicole Koziolk

she sold food grade beans to Japan.

She also has some show hogs she is raising. Now that she has graduated from high School she is more active in the farming operation. Her parents are Steve and Carolyn Koziolk. Dad works for Rosen's Diversified Inc., a company that sells yield

enhancement products for the agricultural market and mom is an accountant with Minnesota Ag Group. Nicole plans to find a career with an ag company in product development or marketing after graduating from college and will also stay involved with the family farm.

We Want Your News!

Got News? Help Us Get the Word Out! News, Photos, Events...

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SPRING SPECIAL!
Now
\$15,375

2017 FORD EDGE SPORT



#17194U
2.7L V-6 engine,
6 speed auto, black,
54,750 miles

SPRING SPECIAL!
Now
\$24,999

2017 FORD ESCAPE S



#21052U
2.5L i-VCT engine,
6 speed auto, black,
70,449 miles

SPRING SPECIAL!
Now
\$13,333

2019 FORD F-150 LARIAT



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Randolph High School FFA Holds Annual Tractor Parade

courtesy of agupdate.com

The 18th annual Randolph FFA tractor parade, Minnesota's largest tractor parade, pays tribute to the start of the crop growing season each year.

"Our annual tractor parade is to kick off the fieldwork for farmers each year," said Liz Reinardy, Randolph FFA reporter and high school senior. "It's mainly just an event where our FFA and community members can all come together, see each other, and just support the FFA."

The 2020 parade was cancelled because of the COVID-19 Stay Safe MN Plan. This year, organizers moved the starting location from the school parking lot to the Randolph FFA Alumni Tractor Pull site, located at Tom Otte's and adjacent to River Country Cooperative.

With expectations for more than 100 tractors, the new site allows for social distancing. It's also the location of the Randolph FFA Alumni and Supporters Association annual Truck and Tractor Pull held in August.

"Both Mr. Otte and River Country Co-op are big supporters of the FFA, so that's where we'll start and we're going to do a typical parade route," Reinardy said.

Led by Randolph-Hampton Fire District firetrucks, this year's parade is dedicated to Carter Nicolai, who passed away one year ago at 10 years of age. He lost his life in an ATV accident, and the students wanted to use the parade as a memorial to him. Carter was known throughout Randolph because he was very sick when he was 4 years old. He required a bone marrow transplant, chemotherapy and other treatments, and ultimately overcame aplastic anemia.

Carter also loved tractors and farming. "The parade was the highlight of the whole year for him, so this year, we are going to be pulling a tractor on a trailer with posters," Reinardy said.

The parade lasts 1-2 hours in sunshine or rain or snow. All types of tractors are included in the parade – from antiques to brand new models.

Community members, farmers and FFA alumni and supporters drive tractors. Under the direction of ag instructor Ed Terry and assistant advisor Leah Addington, Randolph has 120 members in its FFA chapter.

Many of the students find tractors to drive or own a tractor themselves. The FFA chapter also owns 12 tractors that students can drive in the parade.

The chapter's tractors are worked on in the Farm Power course offered at Randolph. Other ag courses include: Small Engines,



photo courtesy of Kayla Vogler

Forestry Conservation, Plant and Soil Science, Animal Science and Agriculture in America, which is Reinardy's favorite course.

In Agriculture in America, students learn about farming and agriculture. They also study the corn and soybean markets, because this class decides how to market the FFA chapter's crops produced each year.

A few years back, the late Jim Tracy donated 40 acres to the Randolph FFA to farm. The FFA also has another 8.5-acre test plot near the school.

Randolph FFA owns a planter and a tractor planter. The chapter also helps harvest the crop and makes all of the decisions regarding crop production.

FFA offers opportunities

This is the second year that Reinardy has

been a Raymond FFA Chapter officer. She first got involved in FFA as a freshman, while taking distance learning ag classes on Monday nights. She decided to take every possible ag course over her four years in high school.

"I love FFA and I volunteer for every opportunity," she said. Next year, she plans to attend Dakota County Technical College for a two-year-degree in Electrical Construction and Maintenance. Eventually, she'd like to work in the local area as an electrician.

Her tractor is a John Deere B, which was originally purchased by her grandpa. Reinardy's dad and her uncle helped her restore the tractor, and now she proudly drives it in parades.



Liz Reinardy talks with her dad, Jody Reinardy. The front plate says "Elizabeth Reinardy. Model B. Restored by Joe, John and Jody Reinardy, 2010."

photo courtesy of agupdate.com

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Sun, May 2	Cannon Falls Bears	Home	2 p.m.
Fri, May 7	Minneapolis Angels	Home	7:30 p.m.
Wed, May 12	Baseball 365	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, May 14	Cold Spring Rockies	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, May 16	Red Wing Aces	Home	2 p.m.
Fri, May 21	Hastings Hawks	Away	7:30 p.m.
Sun, May 23	Champlin Park Logators	Home	2 p.m.
Fri, May 28	Lake City Serpents	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, May 30	Hastings Hawks	Home	2 p.m.
Mon, May 31	Northfield Knights	Away	2 p.m.
Fri, June 4	Elko Express	Away	2 p.m.
Sat, June 5	Blaine Fusion	Away	6 p.m.
Sun, June 6	Forest Lake Brewers	Away	1 p.m.
Fri, June 11	Hampton Cardinals	Home	7:30 p.m.
<i>Presented by Merchants Bank</i>			
Sun, June 13	Miesville Mudhens	Home	2 p.m.
Wed, June 16	New Market Muskies	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, June 18	Lake City Serpents	Away	7:30 p.m.
Sun, June 20	New Market Muskies	Away	2 p.m.
Wed, June 23	Lyon's Pub Warriors	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, June 25	Rochester Royals	Away	7:30 p.m.
Sun, June 27	Rochester Royals	Home	2 p.m.
Wed, June 30	Cannon Falls Bears	Away	7:30 p.m.
Fri, July 2	Red Wing Aces	Away	7:30 p.m.
Sun, July 4	Northfield Knights	Home	2 p.m.
<i>Presented by Merchants Bank</i>			
Wed, July 7	Eagan Bandits	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, July 9	Elko Express	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, July 11	Hampton Cardinals	Away	2 p.m.
Wed, July 14	Shakopee	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, July 16	Highland Park Beavers	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, July 18	Anoka Bucs	Home	2 p.m.
Wed, July 21	Austin Greyhounds	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, July 23	Minnetonka Millers	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, July 25	Miesville Mudhens	Away	2 p.m.
Fri, July 30	Faribault Lakers	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, August 1	1B Play In Game	TBD	2 p.m.
Sun, August 1	Forest Lake Brewers	Home	2 p.m.
Wed, August 4	St. Louis Park	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, August 6	1B Series (Gm 1)	TBD	8 p.m.
Sun, August 8	1B Series (Gm 2)	TBD	2 p.m.
Tue, August 10	1B Series (Gm 3)	TBD	8 p.m.
Fri, August 13	1B Seed Series	TBD	8 p.m.
Sun, August 15	1B Seed Series	TBD	2 p.m.

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Fireside Lounge is Now Open



The Fireside Lounge and Supper Club in Dennison recently reopened after being closed for over a year. Initially closing due to pandemic restrictions, ownership decided to utilize the time to expand their patio area and update other parts of the building. Current kitchen hours are Wednesday and Thursday 4pm to 8:30pm, Friday 4pm to 9:30pm, Saturday 11am to 9:30pm, and Sunday 9am 4pm, with the bar open later. Reservations are welcome. Fireside plans to expand operating hours in the future.

Wanamingo Water Towers to be Replaced

The city council is proposing a construction project for next year which would include a new water tower, well house and water main upgrade. The new water tower would hold 250,000 gallons and is large enough to serve the cities water needs into the future.

This would replace both existing water towers. Also planned are looping the three primary water mains to eliminate dead spots and improve water pressure throughout the city. The project is anticipated to cost \$2,430,000.

Wanamingo is still exploring the feasibility of participating in a regional sanitary sewer facility with Pine Island, Goodhue and Zumbrota. Whether they eventually pair with the other cities or build their own, the study will be helpful for either.

The city water meters will likely need to be replaced as the company which provided the meter servicing will no longer serve small communities. It would cost approximately \$135,000 to replace the 400 meters in service in the city.

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The Case for Rural



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

Anyone who knows me well knows that I regularly champion the benefits of living in rural Minnesota. Not only was I born and raised here, but I have served Greater Minnesota for many years, first during my time in the U.S. Congress and now as the president and CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF). Now there is growing evidence that many young people are putting down roots in small towns, drawn to a strong sense of community, the lower cost of living, the proximity to natural areas and, increasingly, the awareness of the ability to work remotely.

Married couple Caleb and Blake Lauritsen-Norby were happily settled in the Twin Cities but made the decision to move to Lanesboro after their first visit there reminded them of the small towns where they grew up. They ended up opening a grocery store, Parkway Market and Coffeehouse – a much-needed amenity in Lanesboro. With the help of a Small Enterprise Loan from SMIF and loan partner CEDA, Caleb and Blake were able to update the building's equipment. Caleb also has a Lego business, Planet Brick, upstairs. For Caleb and Blake, the reasons behind moving to rural were plentiful. The real estate is more affordable, the high-speed internet is faster than what they experienced in the metro, they are surrounded by beautiful landscape and they are able to have a close connection with their customers.

For Shawn Vogt Sween, one of SMIF's Board of Trustees, her move to rural Minnesota was about returning to the place



where she grew up, in a small township between Grand Meadow and Spring Valley. Now a Harvard-educated lawyer, Shawn initially left her hometown to pursue her education and kickstart her career. She found herself moving across the country for a span of 14 years with her husband and high school sweetheart, Patrick. From Washington D.C. to California, nothing felt home to the couple quite like life in rural Minnesota. The pair realized they wanted to raise their children in their home community. Today, Shawn, Patrick and their five children live on a hobby farm two miles from the farm where Shawn grew up and her family still lives. Shawn serves her community through her law practice and is proud to demonstrate that small towns are an excellent place for business owners to be. She has found that people are eager to support local businesses and has enjoyed being able to give back to the community where she grew up.

A recent report from the Center for Rural Policy and Development found that wages in rural Minnesota can go further in meeting the cost of living compared to the seven-county metro area. Employers and economic development professionals can use this report, and the accompanying tool that shows wage data for various occupations across the state, to recruit more people to move to rural Minnesota. Additionally, remote work has become so commonplace that more people are able to live where they want to live instead of where their work is

located. This is a huge opportunity for small towns to gain a younger generation of workers who are committed to building their lives in rural Minnesota.

SMIF is able to play a supporting role for people moving back to the region. For entrepreneurs who want to start or grow a business here, we offer business financing and training opportunities. For families who have young children, we support early childhood through a variety of programs and funding, including efforts to enhance the availability and quality of childcare facilities.

Personally, there is no place I would rather be than in rural Minnesota. As the pandemic continues to shape our lives, I believe more and more people will be moving back home or choosing rural where they can work remotely or start their own businesses while taking advantage of small-town life.

To read more stories about young people who are choosing to work and live in SMIF's 20-county region, visit smifoundation.org/stories.

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



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Brevity is the Soul of Communicating



By Harvey Mackay

A third grader had to do a book report, and he chose a Socrates biography. His report consisted of three succinct sentences:

Socrates was a philosopher.
He talked a lot.
They killed him.
Not much more to say about brevity.

Maybe that's why U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "Be sincere. Be brief. Be seated."

Another U.S. President, Woodrow Wilson once said: "If I am to speak for 10 minutes, I need a week for preparation; if 15 minutes, three days; if half an hour, two days; if an hour, I am ready now."

This is a good explanation for why people are so long-winded. It's easier. You don't need to think and prepare as much. Just let it roll.

Maybe that's why William Shakespeare said, "Brevity is the soul of wit."

One thing I know is that brevity is powerful. People who can speak or write concisely and to the point are more successful.

The late comedian George Burns was right on when he said, "The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible."

I have a little different take on preparation. The nature of my public speaking engagements usually requires me to present for longer periods. But that doesn't mean I don't need to be completely ready and well-researched to keep my points brief and interesting.

If I have to make a 60-minute speech on a new subject, I figure it will take 60 hours of preparation. It's almost one hour of preparation for every minute, if you want your message to be good. You never want your audience to wonder if you will ever stop talking. You want to leave them wanting more – more fabulous content, not just

more words.

Are you one of those people for whom conveying information can sometimes turn into the unraveling of a saga? Here are some tips adapted from iVillage.com on how to keep your conversations short and sweet when necessary.

Don't get bogged down with irrelevant details. Get to the meat of the information as directly as possible. "I talked with Jim Thursday, or was it Wednesday? No, I think it was Thursday ..." Does anyone really care? Get to the point.

Don't repeat information. Unless the person with whom you're talking indicates that he or she didn't hear what you said, say things only once. I can't tell you how many times I hear the same message repeated over and over with different words. Don't rehash old news.

Take a writing class. A good writing class can teach you to make your points using the fewest words possible. The training can also benefit your spoken communications.

Eliminate non-word fillers. I am very aware (and annoyed) when people use too many "ums" ... "likes" ... and "you knows." It's better to pause briefly and say nothing.

Bring up information that is relevant to most of the group. Save any questions specific to you or any specialized conversations for later discussion.

Here's a grand example of when short is sweet. One of the most memorable Academy Award acceptance speeches was delivered by Patty Duke, who won the

Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in "The Miracle Worker." She uttered just two words: Thank you.

If all the winners were so succinct, the entire program would last about an hour instead of three or four.

But my choice for best short speech ever goes to Winston Churchill, Great Britain's prime minister during World War II. He led the British through the darkest days of the war, rallying spirits with his soaring rhetoric.

Churchill, rarely recognized as a man of few words, was invited to address the graduating class of Oxford University in his later years. Following his introduction, he walked to the lectern and simply said, "Never, never, never give up." Then he sat down. Memorable? Absolutely.

The lesson in writing for newspapers is always "Be brief!" However, a certain beginner in journalism picked up what seemed to him to be a big story. He hurried to text his editor what he had uncovered.

The editor responded promptly, "Go ahead and write 600 words."

The enthusiastic young reporter was depressed and fired back a text, "Story can't be told in less than 1,200 words."

The editor's reply said, "Story of world's creation was told in 600 words. Try it."

Mackay's Moral: Short speeches often deliver big messages.

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10 Tips for Starting a Small Business



By Brett Farmiloe

Founder & CEO, Markitors

Brett Farmiloe is the Founder & CEO of Markitors, a digital marketing company that connects small businesses to customers through organic search. He enjoys converting insights from small business owners into high-quality articles for brands.

What is your number one tip for starting a small business?

To help you start your small business, we asked business leaders and entrepreneurs for their best tips. From surrounding yourself with experts to leveraging your comparative advantage, several tips may help you start your small business.

Here are 10 tips for starting a small business:

Learn From Others In The Market

Learn from others in the market. The small business community accepts newcomers with open arms. If you put yourself out there, chances are people who have been in the game will be more than welcome to tell you about their experiences and share some insider tips. If you find someone in your community to be particularly inspiring, invite them to coffee or request a Zoom meeting so you can pick their brains. Their insight could be incredibly valuable.

-Elliot Greenberg, Wholesale Janitorial Supply

Ask For Help

The best tip I would tell anyone starting a small business is not being afraid to ask for help. No one should be trying to reinvent the wheel by themselves. When you get stuck in with your business plan and don't know where to go, reach out to other business owners or mentors and get their insight into moving forward. Starting a small business can seem lonely, but many people are ready and willing to help!

-Jon Schneider, Recruiterie

Surround Yourself With Experts

There are so many aspects to running a small business, and there is no way you can do it all. I recommend looking for professionals who are hungry to work in a start-up environment and have skill sets that differ from yours. Together, you and your team's expertise can start your business on the right note.

-Brad Sacks, More Than Gourmet

Understand How Financing Will Play A Role

Financing a start-up comes with many dif-

ferent options, from venture capital to a loan from the local bank to an unsecured business loan. Challenge yourself to think about which financing option is best for the business and at what point you'll seek financing to fuel business growth. By developing a financing plan, small businesses can better execute a strategy that can scale with the capital needs.

-Grant Ferguson, Unsecured Funding Source

Organic Search Traffic

I only started Markitors and hired our first employee after we ranked on the first page of search results for the term "digital marketing company." Once we ranked on the first page for our target keyword, we could sustainably and predictably grow the business because we knew we could expect a certain level of leads each month. To start a small business, you need marketing to support the growth. SEO and organic traffic are a great way to build a strong foundation.

-Brett Farmiloe, Markitors

Bring On The Right Team To Support Your Weaknesses

Before jumping into entrepreneurship, you need to have focus. What solution are you going to offer to satisfy what problem and for whom? Many business owners start a business without really knowing who their target market is, what challenges or problems they have, and how their solution is to that problem. Then, they try to be everything to everyone, and that will not work. Be very clear on the purpose of your business. This will help define your marketing and mission. Know and understand what skills or knowledge you need to have to undergo being in business. Bring on the right support team to complement your weaknesses. (If you don't know anything about accounting, you shouldn't do it. Bring in someone passionate about accounting). Know what resources you need to have to uphold your solution.

-Steve Feld, Biz Coach Steve

Reduce Uncertainty And Increase Certainty

Starting a business is all about reducing uncertainty. Does my idea work? Is there a large enough market for this? Does my marketing strategy work? Many questions, few answers. This is normal for a new business as there wouldn't be an opportunity if everything would be clear from the start. Still, you need to focus on reducing uncertainty by validating your assumptions early on. Run tests and go into conversations with potential customers as early as possible.

-Peter Thaleikis, Bring Your Own Ideas Ltd.

Don't Be Afraid To Hire Professionals

I recommend having a professional assist with launching a new business. Business owners are talented at their trade but may not be well versed in what goes into opening a business. Having professional assistance saves time in researching and knowing what to do and when to do it. It also minimizes the risks of not being familiar with federal, state, or city regulations required for the specific industry. Lastly, it will save money in the long run as a professional can provide best practices and cost-effective solutions.

-Kimberly Bogues, Flourish Business



Services, LLC

Know Your Audience

It is possible that you are putting lots of effort into your business and still failing to grow. One of the causes of failure is that you are putting your efforts in the wrong place. That's why it's necessary to understand the area in which you want to start your small business and your target customers. One of the best ways to find your target audience is by first thinking about the specific needs your product or service fulfills. Identify the pain point, and then determine who has those pain points. For example, if you start a business that designs websites, your next step would be to find out who needs a website that would likely have trouble creating one. In the above sit-

uation, your target audience is likely small business owners. Understanding your target audiences will help you advertise more efficiently as you know who your target audience is and how to reach them and save you from wasting your money on an uninterested audience.

-Oliver Andrews, OA Design Services

Leverage Your Comparative Advantage

To start a successful business, define the comparative advantage you have over other aspiring entrepreneurs and leverage it. Whether it's specialized knowledge, a talent for selling, or a vast network of business contacts, use them to benefit your company. You may structure your operations or define target customers in a way that will utilize those assets.

-Michael Sena, Senacea

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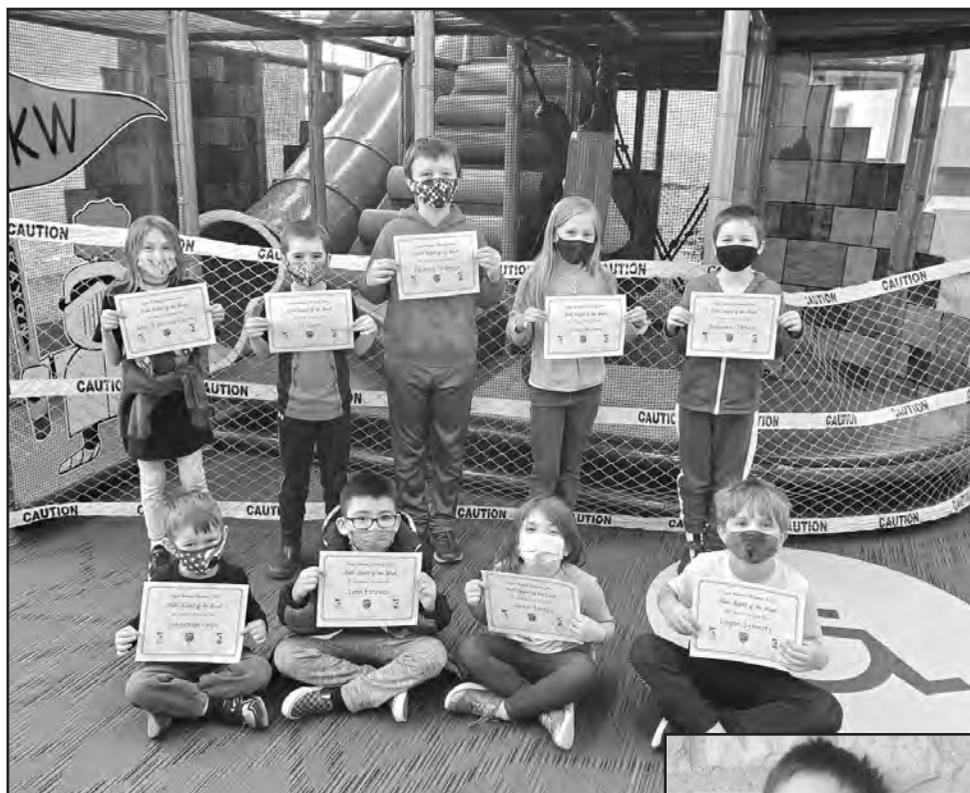
K-W Noble Knights



K-W Noble Knights for March 12, 2021
Front Row: Oaklee Lemke, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Korbyn Meyers, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Olivia Lurfald, Gr. 1, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky ; Stephanie Couch, Gr. 1, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Elijah Wood, Gr. 2, Mrs. Renee Hildebrandt; Arwyn Sweet, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. **Back Row:** Morgan Hershberger, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland, Neya'Miah Berge, Gr. 4, Mrs. Jena LeTourneau; Aislynn Ronningen, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing; Damien Horst, Gr. 4, Mr. Jake Wieme
 Not pictured: Anthony Hauer, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl



Ashlynn Amiot
 Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl



K-W Noble Knights for March 26, 2021
Front Row: Sebastian Uran, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Ivan Estrada, Gr. 1, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Sophia Nokes, Gr. 1, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Logan Schmitz, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. **Back Row:** Gracie Bozvay-Curley, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Eli Caron, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Zachary Pederson, Gr. 4, Mrs. Jena LeTourneau; Tessa Adams, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing; Brayden O'Brien, Gr. 4, Mr. Jake Wieme.
 Not pictured: Kyleigh Wetzstein, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers



Lucas Potvin
 Gr. 2
 Mrs. Renee Hildebrandt



K-W Noble Knights for March 19, 2021
Front Row: Sabin Varanelli, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; David Aguilar Garcia, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Emmot Putnam, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Beau Callahan, Gr. 1, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Nathan Flom, Gr. 1, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Mariah Brainard, Gr. 2, Mrs. Renee Hildebrandt. **Back Row:** Boe Aronson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Piper Rueger, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Parker Miller, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Sylvia Hedeem, Gr. 4, Mrs. Jena LeTourneau; Brady Christensen, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing; Cruce Nesseth, Gr. 4, Mr. Jake Wieme



K-W Noble Knights for April 9, 2021
Front Row: Maverick Moechnig, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Tarynn Houglum, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Daniel Richards, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Leia Patterson, Gr. 1, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Beau Callahan, Gr. 1, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Evelyn Nystuen, Gr. 2, Mrs. Renee Hildebrandt; Isaac Caron, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. **Back Row:** Hunter Taylor, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Abel Eggert, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Jacob Flom, Gr. 4, Ms. Jena LeTourneau; Ace Laack, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing; Sydney Trapp, Gr. 4, Mr. Jake Wieme



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Does COVID-19 Vaccination Impact Blood Donation Eligibility?

This spring as COVID-19 vaccines become more available and people resume some of their favorite activities, the American Red Cross is reminding the public that the need for blood remains. Healthy individuals are encouraged to make a blood donation appointment now. But what about those who've received a COVID-19 vaccine – can they donate?

As long as donors are symptom-free, feeling well and can provide the vaccine manufacturer's name, there's no waiting period required after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine currently authorized in the U.S. Additional blood donation eligibility information is available at RedCrossBlood.org/Eligibility.

Three reasons not to wait to donate:

Donors, especially those with type O blood, are needed in May to help ensure blood products are available for patients now and into summer.

Those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma in May will be automatically entered for a chance to win a travel trailer camper that sleeps five, powered by Suburban Propane.*

Plus, those who make it in to give May 1-15 will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card by email, courtesy of Suburban Propane.**

Schedule an appointment now to give blood and make it a summer full of life for patients. Appointments can be made by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Health insights for donors

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms. Testing may also identify the presence of antibodies developed after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

Plasma from routine blood and platelet donations that test positive for high levels of antibodies may be used as convalescent plasma to meet potential future needs of COVID-19 patients. Convalescent plasma is a type of blood product collected from COVID-19 survivors who have antibodies that may help patients who are actively

fighting the virus.

The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test. To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, it is important that individuals who do not feel well or believe they may be ill with COVID-19 postpone donation.

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is also screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive antibody test and sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

Blood drive safety

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including temperature checks, social distancing and face masks for donors and staff – have been implemented to help

protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

American Red Cross



Upcoming blood donation opportunities

Goodhue County

Cannon Falls

5/12/2021: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., VFW Cannon Falls, 218 4th St. N

Goodhue

5/11/2021: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Community Center, 105 Broadway

Rice County

Faribault

5/4/2021: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Washington Recreation Center, 117 Shumway Ave.

5/10/2021: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1207 Prairie Ave. SW

5/13/2021: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Rice County Sheriff's Office, 118 3rd St. NW

Northfield

5/3/2021: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Culver's, 960 Highway 3 S

5/7/2021: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 418 Sumner St. E

5/10/2021: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 500 3rd St. W



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City of Dennison Regular Council Meeting March 4th, 2021

The March Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Flaten on Thursday, March 4th, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Ann Anders, Nichole Schiell, Heidi Cooke and Diane Ruddle, and Clerk Jessica Page.

Approval of Minutes: Councilor Ruddle move to accept the minutes. Councilor Schiell second. Motion passed 5:0. Councilor Anders moved to approve the treasurer's report, Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0.

Building Permits: None
Administrative Issues:

1. Force Main: Any progress with sample from pond? Carley thought they would be onsite this week. Carley can follow up to make sure they are going to be there tomorrow. Sample goes to address provided by Carley.

Testing done in a day once they have the sample. Coordinate with Carley to get water out of ponds as much as possible. Carley will set that up.

2. Phosphorus project: RFQ should be ready to go. No new updates from ISG. Council needs to review to make sure nothing is overlapping with the two groups. Carley would like to get it submitted by Friday to MPCA.

Mayor inquired about exhaust ductwork,

does it have to go through the roof or can it go through the side of building. Carley isn't sure. Difference in cost of side vs top. Plans would have to be redone and that would cost money so would it make sense to change? Consensus was that if it would hinder the process, no changes desired.

Heater: Carley sent pros and cons of heaters, they went with electric when designing the building. Does city want to install lp? Work session was leaning towards using the lp. Should be enough room to be on the south side of the building. City would like to use lp and will be responsible to put it in. Driveway is in the flood plain, so there will be the need to be surveying it.

Councilor Ruddle move to send out the RFQ for the building with the changes to the electrical. Councilor Schiell second. Motion passed 5:0

Electrical- info needs to be added to the RFQ and that can be added to website. Beacon will have the info that says to go to the website for the information to do a quote.

On March 31st, City will need to submit the plan for the construction of the shed and phosphorus project, and a timetable for that.

These timelines will be enforceable by the MPCA. Council set March 26th at 6:00 for a work session to do this and address the I&I issues.

3. March 31st is deadline to submit a

report detailing what actions will be taken by the City to prevent pond discharges outside of the allowable discharge period and exceedances of design flow. This report should include a status of efforts being made to eliminate clear water infiltration and inflow to the sanitary sewer collection system and an evaluation of the I and I contributions from individual service laterals. If necessary, establish a plan to inspect individual service lateral and develop an ordinance requiring property owners to replace or repair damaged or non-conforming laterals. The report should include short-term, mid-term, and long term actions as well as major milestones with anticipated completion dates."

4. Metronet: They are working to establish a network of through areas of the south.

They acquired Jaguar last summer, and would like to extend that network. Council asked if additional wires and fiber optics would be run through areas that just had lines run through town? Council would like to see what has been run through Dennison already. Metronet would be different as they would run fiber up to each establishment. Would they be using existing utility easements. Do the residents have a choice to run the fiber to the house or not? Sounds like there are existing utility easements already in place for each house (like where the current utilities run). There has been a push to increase good internet to all parts of the state. Can Council get a map of where cables will be run? 12% would be underground. Can we get contact info from another small city? Yes. There were concerns about roads getting ripped up. Resolution would refer the city to not have to do a franchise agreement for having over 50 subscribers. Council would like to have the City attorney look at it. Mn Statute 238.02 section 3. Council will review at the next meeting.

5. Todd Greseth, Goodhue County Commissioner, Update on Garbage Ordinance. There is a Garbage hauler suing the County and the City of Red Wing. (P.I.G.) State is saying that this ordinance is the only way the county can get in to the superfund system. Waiting until the judge would give a ruling. Ruling is due by the end of March.

6. Nordis Estrem nearest sewer line for 5.5 acre lot. Are there hookups close to the east side of the road where the cornfield and beanfield are? Let her know. She knows

where the water lines are based on hydrants, needs to know where sewer lines would be.

7. Tobacco Ordinance. Clerk spoke with the Sheriff today. They would be the law enforcement agency that would do the checks. They haven't done any in the last few years as there haven't been any complaints about underage selling. Put proposed ordinance on the website, and bulletin board for 10 days. Councilor Ruddle moves to post the ordinance for public review and comments for 10 days before the next meeting. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 5:0.

8 Approve Schutz CPA as auditor for the year 2020. Councilor Schiell move to approve. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 5:0

9. Fireside requesting to have their liquor license fee prorated. They are planning on opening March 18th. Council had agreed last December that if there was more covid money they would look at helping out various businesses in the City.

Citizens Issues:

Citizen wondering if anything is going to be done about the semi parked on main street all the time. More of an issue with Marlea's being open and Fireside soon to be.

There is no ordinance that the semi can't be parked on main street. It shouldn't be running for a straight 24 hours. Does need to be moved for snow. Owner is aware of that. Has been parking in front of Fireside as they have not been open since March of 2020.

Utilities:

1. Update from Nate: Ponds have plenty of storage. Will start on the 15th and need to do at least 2 discharges, possibly 3, to get ponds low enough for work. Well pumps were inspected by McCarthy Well on the 2nd and are good.

Close meeting for Nate's evaluation. Council members asked for a little more time to review. Council will review on the 25th. And talk with Nate in April. Councilor Ruddle asked Nate for a list of tools/items that would need to be fixed/reviewed.

Councilor Schiell move to pay the bills. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 5:0.

Mayor Flaten move to adjourn. Councilor Schiell second. Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Regular meeting is Thursday April 8th, 2021 at 7:00.

Nerstrand City Council Meeting Minutes March 9, 2021

Nerstrand City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 7:00p.m. Those in attendance in person were Mayor Niki Portillo, Council Members Monica Gernandt, Tom Voge, Jennifer Valek and Jennifer Schwab. Other people in attendance were Public Works Director Steve McDowell, and City Clerk Dana Jans, 10 residents in person and 3 via ZOOM.

Roll Call

Entire Council is in attendance, Valek, Voge, Schwab, Gernandt, and Mayor Portillo.

Consent Agenda

-Motion to accept all consent items by Councilperson Gernandt, second by Councilperson Valek, motion passed unanimously.

Closed Meeting prior to regular meeting

-Motion by Councilperson Gernandt to move forward with the purchase agreement contingent on the buildings on the property being brought up to code, purchase amount of \$4,000.00, no second.

-Motion by Councilperson Schwab to sell the property for \$2,000.00 no other conditions, no second.

-Motion by Councilperson Voge to sell the property for \$200.00, no second.

-Motion by Councilperson Valek to sell the property for \$2,000.00, second by Councilperson Schwab. Motion passed by majority Valek, Schwab, and Voge for, Gernandt against.

Sale of Land

-Motion by Councilperson Valek to sell the property for \$2,000.00, second by Councilperson Schwab. Motion passed by majority Valek, Schwab, and Voge for, Gernandt against.

New Business

-Three law mowing bids received. Council voted unanimously to continue having Evavold Construction complete the work.

Public Works

-Everything is running good. Well inspected and passed, it will be pulled this year when the Ag Center isn't using water. Working on getting 2 quotes on generators. McDowell asked for a Conex box for storing the supplies from the shed. Motion by Councilperson Gernandt to purchase a storage container up to \$6500.00, no second.

Fire Department

-No questions regarding the report submitted by Fire Chief Johnson. Bonde asked council to approve an increase from \$50.00 to \$500.00 per year of service. Motion by Councilperson Gernandt, second by Councilperson Schwab to increase from \$50.00 to \$500.00 per year of service, motion passed unanimously.

Report from Mayor

-City Wide Clean up went well last year and Mayor Portillo asked council when they would like to hold it this year. It was agreed to hold it in the fall.

Announcements

-City Hall closed March 18 and 19.

-City Wide Garage sale will be held this spring. No date determined yet.

Respectfully submitted by;

Dana Jans, Nerstrand City Clerk



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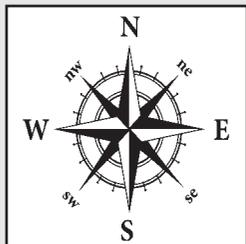
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes



By Terry Campbell

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

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

I am sitting on my front porch this morning with my dog. Eating a granola bar and drinking ice water. The morning sunrise is beautiful. The only sounds I hear are the birds singing in the branches and a distant rooster crowing. Our neighbor has peafowl and the lonesome call of a peacock can be heard from time to time. The daffodils are

smiling at the sun with their cheerful yellow petals everywhere. There is a magnolia tree beside the house and light pink blossoms are opening up in the warm spring releasing a fresh fragrance.

It is a peaceful time of the day. I love to relax here in the morning and again late in the evening and think. I look at nature and I reflect on miracles all around me. It is such a wonderful experience to take in all that is welcoming the creation we live in. Then I think about something from church Sunday morning.

One woman related about her week, and how she was at the hospital with her dying mother. The family was there and they were praying for a miracle. For two days the elderly lady had not opened her eyes or said a word. A nurse came in to check on her mom and the family went out into the hall to visit.

Suddenly they heard her call out and the daughters rushed back into the room. Their mother opened her eyes, looked at them and smiled. "Do you see the angels?" she asked. With that she closed her eyes and then she was gone. Carried by angels from this life to her eternal home. That, I would say is a miracle.

My parents moved in February of 2019 during a polar vortex which they described to be one of the most difficult moves that they have ever moved and they have moved alot. After hearing all about that move back when it happen I decided that if I moved back north I would never ever move in the winter.

February of this year I moved from northwestern Minnesota to the Twin Cities on one of the coldest weeks of the year. Needless to say while it was not a polar vortex nor was there much snow moving in the dead of winter was not in my orngail plans for this year.

I definitely did not plan on moving during the pandemic to go from fairly remote, sometimes, news reporting to an in person marketing job. However, over all the moving on one of the coldest weeks of the pandemic went well. Even if does mean that I now have to be a city person for the foreseeable future.

Of Pollenators and Plants



Teri Knight



Bees, honeybees in particular get the buzz as the premiere pollinators...

Honey bees in particular because they can be packed up and carted to commercial growers for pollinate, for instance, almond trees in California.

But nearly everything is a pollinator to a certain degree. Butterflies are probably next on the list. Though inadvertent pollinators, they carry the pollen on their legs and bodies as they feed on the nectar of flowers.

Birds, beetles and even bats are pollinators. I know folks aren't too happy with bats right now, as they transmitted the coronavirus to humans, however, THAT was not their "fault". Bats are not the "bad guy", they offer a lot of positives too. Check out my Garden Bite on Saving the Bats.

What about plants?

The easiest plants to grow are native plants! And there are some superstars among them.

Agastache is also a great plant as they have long bloom periods and are major attractors for bees and butterflies.

One plant I want to mention for the Great Lakes area, and any sandy location, is the Wild Lupine.

This is a superstar as it's the only host plant of the Karner Blue Butterfly, which is on the endangered list.

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.



Bee covered in pollen

A Minnesotan: In the Cities



By RosaLin Alcoser

Back in the late fall there were two things that I said I would not be doing ever. The first was change jobs in the middle of the pandemic. The second was move in the winter. So of course I did both this year.



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