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MARCH, 2021

Volume 18 • Issue 7

Announcements

• **Food Shelf, located in St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Highway 56.** 1st Wednesday 8-9:30 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.

Email:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

CannonBelles Coffee and Ice Cream Turns Two!



CannonBelles Coffee and Ice Cream, in Cannon Falls, is turning two on April 1st. They ladies of CannonBelles have seen a lot of changes over these past two years, and plan to

celebrate this milestone.

To celebrate, on April 1st, they will have balloons for children, and they will be introducing some fun new items. Their new menu will debut, including their famous grilled cheese, wraps, chicken salad sandwiches on croissants, and side salads. Another fun addition will be ice cream flights, which are a board of 4 sample sized ice creams for people who can't choose



Kathy Hupf, Jackie Ohmann,
Deeann Lukfin

Erickson Chosen Honorable Mention All-State Basketball Team



Megan Erickson has been chosen for the Honorable Mention All-State Basketball team. Megan is not only a great basketball player but is also an outstanding student/athlete that we are all proud of. Congratulations Megan!

between all of the wonderful flavors.

Throughout April, they will also be holding a coloring contest. The coloring pages can be picked up at CannonBelles and must be returned by April 25th. Winners will be chosen from various age categories to win a \$5 gift card.

Their anniversary events are not the only exciting things happening for the Belles. CannonBelles Cheese construction of their cheese plant in Cannon Falls is beginning again. Concrete footings will be poured around April 1st. You'll be able to keep track of their progress on their Cheese company's Facebook page (@CannonBelles), where they will be posting time-lapse videos each week.

(continued on page 8)



Fish Fry All Day Fridays

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Bloom Where You're Planted



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

When we begin to fully follow Jesus Christ- our ambitions, our desires change- but that doesn't mean our giftings or our talents necessarily change. We are created with those- but now the focus of those gifts and talents is new. There's a story of a queen in the Bible- a young woman that was Queen of Persia. She was also a Hebrew, from the conquered people that lived with in Persia. Yet, she was beautiful and gracious and had been chosen to be the queen. The time came for her to come forward to the King to save her people- her cousin Mordecai challenged her to fulfill her true calling. "13 Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. 14 If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"

15 Then Esther sent this reply to

Mordecai: 16 "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die." Mordecai told Esther, "Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?" Perhaps she was made queen for this time- I would go a bit further-of course that's why God placed her there.) When Esther didn't try to get out of her 'job' but chose to do what would seem impossible and accept the position that God placed her in. God had given her wisdom and grace to be just the right person to reach the king and save the Jewish people.

We are to live faithful in the situation of life in which we were called to follow Jesus. We are to be steadfast, loyal, keep our promises and observe our duty. When we accept Christ as our Savior- we are called to follow Jesus and the Holy Spirit lives in us. With the Holy Spirit's help, we are to be faithful in whatever situation we find ourselves in.

When I began my journey with Jesus, I was a 20 year old stay-at-home mom. As I learned and grew in my faith, I was faithful to that calling. I strived to be the best mom and renter that I could be. I was faithful with the work I was called to do at that time. As a new believer I also felt a desire to serve in the church- the church here at South Troy had a 90 + year old organist and her health was failing- I eventually became bold enough to tell someone that I knew how to play the organ and I became the next organist until they closed the church in 1988. I was faithful to the call of God in my life at that time. But that doesn't mean we never change- or that we stay in that same job forever. For me- I loved being able to stay at home with my children- first- Jeannie and then Michael. But circumstances changed both times and I became a working single mom. I served as a maid and a waitress after my daughter's death. I strived to be the best maid, and the best waitress that I could be- so that Jesus life would be seen in me. As a waitress, which

I had vowed I would never do again, I became rather good at it, I was dependable, it helped me to get over my fear of talking to people and eventually I learned to be a short-order cook too. I was able to provide for myself. Later, I ran an in-home day-care- and God blessed that work as well. Each time I strove to be the best that I could be in each situation. I learned new skills, grew more confident and more independent. I was able to tithe- to give from what I earned to the work of the church. Even more important I knew I was pleasing God because I was right where I was supposed to be.

For us to truly grow there needs to be commitment of time and resources to getting to know the other person. As we do in an intimate human relationship; we devote our time and our resources to getting to know that person and spend time with them. To become a fully committed follower of Christ- once we've accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior there are 6 things that will help us to grow our relationship with Jesus.

- Talk to Him. 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "pray continually," Communication is essential to strengthening your relationship with God. He is there for you not only in times of need, but in times when you just

want to talk.

- Obey Him. James 1:25. The least we can do for Him is to try our best to obey His commandments. In obeying God's will, we become brighter and stronger in spirit, integrity and mind.,

- Read and Study God's Word. 2 Timothy 3:16. Scriptures are meaningful and beneficial; they allow God to speak to us.

- Listen for Him Psalm 46:10, When you are finished praying, don't quickly turn toward your phone or computer, take time to stop, look, and listen for God's answers to your prayers. Communication goes both ways.

- Show gratitude. Philippians 4:6 Being grateful for God's hand in your life will make you more appreciative of His constant presence and your purpose here on the earth. Being gracious goes hand in hand with expressing humility.

- Be mindful of God's presence. Psalm 139. Though it may seem like He is far away at times, He is not.

When we are totally sold out for God- and we do what He has called us to do- one day we too will hear our Lord and Savior say, "Well done- good and faithful servant!" Well done.

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29020 Dawson Avenue in the heart of Randolph (adjacent to Randolph Public School grounds).
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(children, teen, and adult classes)
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Pastor Dennis Ingolfsland
Questions? Call church office 507-663-1437

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Pastor Gary Liker
29470 Gaylord Ave., Cannon Falls • 263-2273
www.christunitedmethodist.org
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Pastor Gary Liker
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Sunday Worship at 10:15a.m.
Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY
Make a Name for Ourselves

"Let us . . . make a name for ourselves . . . [and not] be scattered over the face of the whole earth." - Genesis 11:4

God created people so that they would increase in numbers and populate the earth. At the time of the tower of Babel, everyone had the same language, and the people said they wanted to make a name for themselves and not be scattered across the earth. But God ultimately scattered them.

Why did they build a tower? They said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens. . . ." From ancient civilizations we have learned that the top of a tower was seen as a holy place where gods lived. But instead of having a holy place that would honor God, the people at Babel wanted this to be a place where they made a name for themselves. They wanted to honor themselves instead of God. In doing so, they banished God from their lives and disobeyed his command to "fill the earth and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28). Because of this rebellion, God confused their language and scattered them.

Imagine how God felt as he confused the people's language. They couldn't understand each other. They couldn't work together anymore. They stopped building, and they moved away from each other.

In the end, people who drive out God cannot do well. They cannot understand each other, and they cannot work together to build a community that honors God.

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

Obituaries

Mary Alice Marks

Mary Alice Marks, 64, of Red Wing, died Sunday, March 7, 2021 at the Bay View Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Red Wing. She was born May 26, 1956, in Northfield, to Glenn and Alice (Rogne) Marks.

Her family moved to Randolph and later Welch. She attended school in Cannon Falls. Mary and her mother moved to Red Wing where she has since resided. She was employed with the IRC, now ProAct. Mary enjoyed the simple things in life—like watching tv, riding her bike around town and attending services at First Lutheran Church where she was a member. She was a like a big kid at heart, was always friendly and had a happy-go-lucky attitude. She enjoyed socializing and doing things with her LSS staff and friends and attending Camp Winnebago.

She is survived by her brother, Glenn (Hope) Marks of San Padre, TX; sister, Barbara (Dave) Marks of Motley, MN and 2 nephews, Jacob and Benjamin Marks. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, George Marks and a nephew, Keith Marks.

Memorial service was at 1 p.m. Friday, March 12, 2021 at Mahn Family Funeral Home, Bodelson-Mahn Chapel. Burial was at Oakwood Cemetery. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mahn-familyfuneralhome.com

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Mary Alice Marks, please visit our floral store.

Jerold Otte

Jerold Otte, age 80 of Randolph, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday morning, March 17, 2021.

Jerold Arlan Otte was born December 23, 1940, in St. Paul, Minnesota, to Clinton and Pauline (Schmidt) Otte. He grew up on the family farm near Randolph and graduating from Randolph High School in 1958. Following his education he farmed with his father and served in the National Guard from 1962 - 1968. On September 26, 1964, Jerold married Karen Marie Childs at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Randolph. After marriage they made their home on the family farm. Jerold loved to farm.

Jerold was a longtime member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and a former church council member. He also served on the Randolph School Board and Dakota County ADA board. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and he will be missed. "Now back to work!"

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Karen; three children, Blake (Chicky) of Randolph, Michelle (Chris) Carr of Arlington, Tennessee, Derek (Amy) of Randolph; 10 grandchildren, Tyler (Kelsey), Bret (Kayla), Eric (Laura Church), Matthew, Allison, Mackenna, Imogen, Paige, Tenley and Briggs; 4 great-grandchildren, Hudson, Jaxson, Kinsley and baby to be born; 2 sisters, Carol Goda of Crystal, Judy (Tom) Felton of Ramsey; his sister-in-law, Arlene Dack of Northfield; other family members; and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Kenneth.

Visitation will be 3:00PM - 6:00PM, Thursday, March 25, 2021, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Randolph. A Memorial Service will follow at 6:30PM at the Church. Masks are required and the funeral home will assist with social distancing. Interment will be in Lakeside Cemetery, Randolph. Honorary pallbearers will be his grandchildren.

Memorials are preferred to St. Mark's Lutheran Church or Mayo Hospice. All are welcomed to join the family for dinner after the Service, in the shop, at Blake and Chicky's home farm. Masks are encouraged but not required.

Arrangements are with the Benson & Langehough Funeral Home. www.northfieldfuneral.com

Phyllis Margaret "Peggy" Emery, age 93, of Stanton, passed away on Sunday, March 14, 2021.

Born 12/04/1927 in Stanton Township to Henry & Elizabeth (Robinson) Daniels. She was baptized at the Stanton United Methodist Church, attended Prairie Creek School (Dist 166) for

8 years and graduated from Randolph High School. While growing up, Peggy worked at the grocery store in Stanton, at St. Olaf College and Rod's Restaurant in Northfield.

She married Willard Emery on May 7th, 1949 at Stanton United Methodist Church. They lived on their farm near Stanton until 2007 when they moved into Stanton and enjoyed many years of keeping an eye on all of the comings and goings in the area.

She was an amazing cook and there was nothing she couldn't can and preserve. Peggy always had a big garden, helped Willard with farming, raised chickens and calves along with raising four energetic boys.

Peggy was a 4-H leader, a member of Ladies Aide, Sunday School teacher and worked at the Stanton Town Hall during elections. She worked countless years at the Stanton Church's annual chicken dinners and worked hard with the care and cleaning of the church.

She and Willard enjoyed traveling to Europe on farm tours. They also enjoyed long road trips around the U.S. with good friends.

She was a selfless, kind-hearted soul who loved visits from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, loved watching her birds outside the windows and spent many hours doing jig-saw puzzles and playing solitaire until the cards wore out.

Peggy is survived by her husband Willard; brother Lowell "Dick" Daniels; sons, Keith, Lee (Deb), Steven (Shirley), Glen (Teresa); grandchildren, Brian Emery (Alison), Bryce Emery, Jessica Emery, Katie Hoover (Kirk), Tracy Snaza, Craig Emery (Liv), Travis Emery (Emily), Rachel Stein (Andy), Alicia Emery, Rodney Emery (Casey); thirteen great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Elizabeth, and by siblings Henry Forrest Daniels, Marion Dack, Eleanor Dibble, William Daniels, Roger Daniels, Eugene Daniels, and Henry Daniels.

A Private Family Memorial Service is being held.

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Connect with Your Customers

A small business CEO asked me last week to expand on my suggestion of the importance of keeping engaged with your customers online. That is a great topic for us to explore.

I have made the statement that in our digital world, it's critical that you connect with customers online as often as possible. And with the pandemic limiting in-person events, connecting online is critical to keeping your business growing. If you're already posting on social media and sending out an email or two each month, you're on the right track. However, that's not enough to keep customers interested and connected to your brand when they're bombarded with a sea of companies every time they log into their email or social media.

Still, your customers want you to connect with them. In fact, recent data from Sprout Social found that 64 percent of consumers want brands to connect with them and 70 percent feel more connected brands with CEOs that are active online.

This topic is vital for ongoing business operation, but especially now as small businesses are struggling to keep customers during these pandemic times. Let us look for some examples of ways to do this. In

this column and my next one, I will share with you several ideas from SCORE folks and our content partners to keep the conversations with your customers going during and after the pandemic and keep the sales coming in.

1. Live Stream Events or Updates. The future of online customer communication is Live. In April 2020, Instagram saw a 70 percent increase in live streaming, as reported by Business Insider. If you're hesitant to dive into live streaming, wary of the time, money, and other resources required, you're in luck.

You don't need professional lighting and expensive camera equipment to reach out to customers. Just grab your phone or laptop, jump onto Facebook or Instagram Live, and start streaming!

Use this platform to share announcements or updates related to your business. Your customers will feel like they are talking with an old friend. Be open and vulnerable about challenges to make it even easier for customers to connect emotionally.

Build the Connection: Don't just livestream an event or update—engage with your customers and followers by asking questions and responding in real-time. This keeps them interested in the video while also giving you a chance to communicate directly with customers.

2. Host Virtual Meetups. During Covid-19, friends connected via Zoom, Skype or other video chat apps, and groups of people have come together virtually to offer emotional support. You can be a community

leader by bringing people together with virtual meetups. Host get-togethers with customers to share stories, offer advice, and connect on a deeper level.

If you're not sure what to gather about or what to do during the gathering, consider these simple ideas:

Have an open discussion based on a specific topic.

Invite a guest to speak and share.

Have your owner or CEO address the group or do a Q&A.

Don't forget to promote the gathering on social media, if it's open to customers and the general public, so you can use this time to address those who already know you and those who may not yet.

Build the Connection: Send out VIP invites to your best or oldest customers and make sure they know they're getting a VIP invite. This allows you to make them feel special, which can encourage them to remain loyal for the long-term.

3. Offer Free Lessons. Many people are using the pandemic to learn new skills or keep up with hobbies now that they're stuck at home. As a business, you can stay top of mind with customers by offering lessons to guide them through their favorite activities.

For example, chef, author, and e-commerce seller, Emilie Raffa, offered a tutorial on how to make a sourdough starter. Follow her lead by posting your tutorial on your website and then teasing it on social media to drive traffic to your site.

If customers love this, consider making it a regular feature of your social media con-

tent. You can even poll customers to find out what recipes or foods they want to learn about to entice them to tune in.

Build the Connection: Send the video to your email list after publishing it. This is not only a smart way to repurpose your video content, but it also allows you to add value to your customers lives while encouraging them to connect with you on social media.

4. Share Videos. You don't have to go live to leverage the power of video. Share employee Q&A videos, talks from your CEO, or just behind-the-scenes videos of how your company does what it does. Even short videos can engage audiences and remind them that you still exist—and will be waiting once this is all over. Not to mention, they give your customers something to connect with—we're all going through this pandemic together, so remind them!

If applicable, turn your videos into an Instagram Video (IGTV) series. With each video being related to the next, or telling a chronological story, customers and followers are more likely to tune in when they see you've released a new one. Plus, they all live on your Instagram profile, so they can be re-watched at any time. They can also be shared to your other profiles and marketing mediums.

Build the Connection: Invite customers into your home. This intimate video reminds them that you're human too and allows you to start developing a deeper connection with your audience.



A fun week in February for Stella! Making it to the spelling bee and now student of the month. Proud of you Stells!

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Recognizing Our Region's Entrepreneurs



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

Entrepreneurs are such a vital part of our economy and communities here in southern Minnesota. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we are excited to celebrate the well-deserved recognition that many of the entrepreneurs we work with have recently received.

In the 35 years that SMIF has been serving our 20-county region, we have invested \$33.4 million in entrepreneurs through equity and loans. We also support entrepreneurs through technical assistance, peer networks and other programming. In just the past several months we have had a front

row seat to some exciting successes and have had the pleasure of watching some of the companies SMIF has invested in flourish and receive various awards. The businesses cited below are small but mighty and are part of our growing local economy.

Oronoco-based Busy Baby was on the popular investment show, Shark Tank. Busy Baby produces a silicone mat with suction cups and tethers that secure to a baby's highchair or other surfaces to keep toys from falling on the ground. In 2019, Busy Baby received an equity investment from SMIF's Seed Fund to support the development of the playmat, cover intellectual property expenses and develop retail packaging. The business has grown rapidly, and we supported that growth with a loan for inventory in 2020. Beth Fynbo, the owner of Busy Baby, also participates in SMIF's CEO Peer Network where she learns from and shares advice with other CEOs in the region.

Several of SMIF's loan clients that participate in our FEAST! Local Food Peer Network have recently received recognition, as well. Grandma's Gourmets, owned by Kim Olson in Albert Lea, was named a winner of the 2021 Good Food Awards for their Blueberry Lavender Jam in the Preserves category. With more than 2,000 entries every year, the competition is strong – only three food crafters from each region received the honor.

Curly Girlz Candy, owned by Paula Trenda in Owatonna, was not only named the 2020 Minnesota Small Business Person



Oronoco-based Busy Baby was on the popular investment show, Shark Tank.

of the Year, but they were also named an Emerging Brand through The Big Find, an international search to discover entrepreneurs with the next big brand or unique product.

Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm, owned by Emily Knudsen and Bill Bartz in Waseca, was featured in a New York Times article about how pizza farms are an emerging and unique business model. All of these entrepreneurs are changing the landscape of our communities each and every day.

It's an honor to see the businesses we've invested in receiving this recognition. Here at SMIF, we are humbled to be a small piece of their success which, in turn, adds to the overall success of southern Minnesota.

To learn more about our loan and equity funds, visit smifoundation.org.

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

Garden Thyme Craft Show

Saturday & Sunday, May 1 - 2 and May 8 - 9 from 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

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~ You may also call to set up a private appointment to shop in our cabin ~

f Check out our Facebook page under "Potpourri Mill"

DIRECTIONS FROM KENYON: Go north on Hwy. 56 for 7 miles, then turn west on County 49 Blvd. Go 1/2 mile. Our cabin is right before Vang Lutheran Church.

FROM NORTHFIELD: Go east on Hwy. 246 to Dennison, continue east out of Dennison 3 miles, take a right on Hwy. 56 south for 2 long miles. Take a right heading west on Cty. 49 Blvd., go 1/2 mile. Our cabin is right before Vang Lutheran Church.

Railcar Explosion

As of 7:03 am on March 23, 2021 a railcar exploded at the Progressive Rail facility located in the City of Cannon Falls. The explosion caused significant structural damage to a building at the Progressive Rail facility, but there were no injuries to persons. The emergency response included responders from the Cannon Falls Police Department, Cannon Falls Fire Department, Cannon Falls Ambulance, Goodhue County Sheriff's Office and the Minnesota State Patrol.

The contents of the railcar were molasses, which is a food product, as at this time there does not appear to be any hazardous substances involved in the explosion. The surrounding area was affected by molasses that was ejected by the explosion and a full assessment of the area impacted is underway. The State of Minnesota Duty Officer was contacted and a coordinated investigation of the cause will be undertaken.

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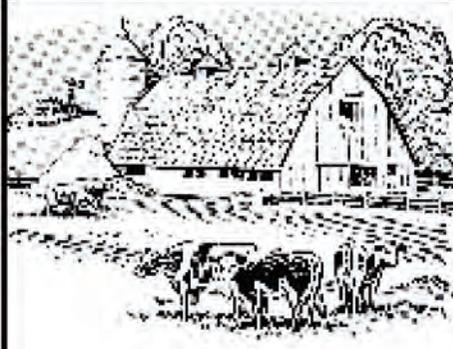
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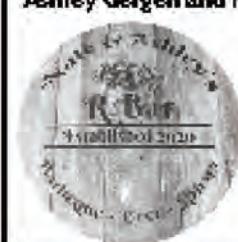
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8 Ways to Celebrate National Ag Week During a Pandemic

There are plenty of ways to observe National Ag Week that don't involve large gatherings. The trick is to get creative and make a plan. Check out this roundup of fun ideas for recognizing this important day.

Organize an outdoor Ag Day dinner with friends. Incorporate ingredients your state is known for into the meal, such as pork, corn, apples, grapes, beef and so on. Just be sure to keep it COVID-safe – minimize the number of guests, seat everyone 6 feet apart and use disposable plates and utensils to minimize the spread of germs. Use gloves for serving and cleanup.

Tour a local farm. Find out which farms in your area allow visitors and schedule a tour to learn about how they produce, market and sell their products. Again, minimize the number of guests and maintain a social distance. Share what you learned with your fellow FFA members.

Share your love for agriculture on social media. Upload an ag-related photo to your social media account(s) and tell your

friends and family what it means to you. It might be a picture of ingredients you're using for dinner, a field of sprouting crops, your favorite farm animal or the produce section of your local market.

Shop at your local farmers market. Many farmers markets are gearing up for business in March, and vendors are eager to get to know their customers. Pick out some farm-fresh produce and chat with the growers (from a distance) who produced it to learn their story. Many markets also offer meats, eggs, dairy products, honey and baked goods.

Contact a legislator. Visit one of your legislators at their state office or invite them to visit a farm or ranch in your area. Consider a virtual visit if you can't meet in-person. Research agricultural issues that affect your region so you're in the know. When you call or write to your legislators, remind them of the importance of supporting farm initiatives. Ask them how they support local farmers who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Set up an agriculture display at a shopping center or library. Grab a friend and ask your public library or shopping center for permission to set up an agriculture display during National Ag Week. Your display may include ag products produced in your region, information about local farms and what they grow, and even books that help children learn how agriculture affects them.

Shop for an elderly neighbor. The elderly need groceries just as much as you do, but they are often afraid to risk exposure to



COVID-19 at the store. Volunteer to help an elderly neighbor shop for his or her weekly groceries. You can leave the groceries near the front door to minimize contact.

Thank a farmer. Farmers work around the clock to feed the world, and they've been especially overwhelmed during the pandemic due to food shortages and panic buy-

ing. Write a heartfelt thank-you note to farmers in your community expressing your gratitude for the work they do to bring products to grocery store shelves.

For more information about Ag Day, visit AgDay.org. And remember to add your activities to your Program of Activities and your National Chapter Award application.

Proud to Support National Ag Week

We are proud to show our gratitude to the many men and women who make agriculture possible.

We know that food doesn't just arrive at the grocery store or magically appear on our dinner table. There's an entire industry dedicated to providing plentiful and safe food for consumption.

And it's important to remember that American agriculture is not just doing it, but doing it better and more effectively!

Consider this:

- Each American farmer feeds about 165 people.
- Agriculture is America's #1 export.
- New technology means farmers are more environmentally friendly than ever before.



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CannonBelles Coffee and Ice Cream Turns Two!

(continued from page 1)

They anticipate the plant to be up and running mid to late summer. April looks to be an exciting month for the CannonBelles, and they cannot wait to commemorate this anniversary with the entire community.



Diane Howard with the City of Cannon Falls, Deeann Lufkin, John Althoff- Cannon Falls mayor, Morris Mattson, Jackie Ohmann, Brian Hokenson, Kathy Hupf



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CELEBRATING 2 YEARS!

WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR OUR AMAZING CUSTOMERS!

COLORING CONTEST!
 We will be having a coloring contest for our 2nd birthday on April 1st!
 See page 9 of the Messenger or come in and pick up a coloring page and return by April 25th.

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OUR 2nd BIRTHDAY!

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Age categories: 0-3 yrs • 4-8 yrs • 9-12 yrs • Teens • 20+ yrs
Turn in by April 25th, winners announced May 1st. Copies available at the coffee shop.

WINNERS GET A \$5.00 GIFT CARD!

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Parents Name _____

Minnesota Town Giving Away Free Land Incentive to Move There

Courtesy of 98.1 Minnesota's Country

If you're working from home these days, it really doesn't matter too much where you live. Some companies have found they've been more productive since they've switched to allowing their employees to work remotely.

If your position has been switched to working remotely on a permanent basis, this might be a really sweet deal for you.

The City of Claremont is giving away free land to people who build a home on the property within 18 months. How awesome is that?

Right now the housing market is super competitive and it's forcing people to look into exploring new construction options. If you move to Claremont, Minnesota you'll be able to automatically save some big dollars.

If you're interested in the Claremont Buildable Lot Program, you need to fill out

an application. There are some qualifications you need to meet in order to be eligible.

They've got 12 single-family housing lots free for:

Households of 2 or less with a gross income of 91,800 or less.

Households of 3 or more people with a gross income of 105,570 or less

If you don't meet the income qualifications for the free land, the city will allow you to buy a parcel of land for \$9,500 if you have a household of 2 or less people making 91,800 or more or have a household of 3 or more people with gross income of 105,570 or more.

That's still one heck of a deal on land. Without this program, the lots are valued at \$28,637.

CLAREMONT BUILDABLE LOT PROGRAM & APPLICATION

If you're interested you'll have to go through the application process and provide proof of pre-approval and income qualifications. You must obtain a letter from your mortgage lender. If you're not seeking financing, then you need to provide the city with a bank statement within 30 days of the application date.

After you pick out which parcel of land you want, you'll need to fill out a purchase agreement and provide the city with a \$1,000 non-refundable check. That money will go toward closing costs.

Faribault Woolen Mill Expands to a Fourth Retail Location



Faribault Woolen Mill is a well-loved company in Faribault, in all of Minnesota, and around the country! They actually had such huge success in 2020 that they have now opened a fourth retail location. This will be their third retail location in Minnesota.

Faribault Woolen Mill's retail locations include the one that's part of the mill in Faribault, one in Chicago, and one in Minneapolis. This fourth location is also up in the Twin Cities area in Excelsior.

This new location is will be in the "historic Miller Block building, in the heart of downtown Excelsior", according to Bring Me the News. This puts Faribault Woolen Mill just a few blocks from Lake Minnetonka.

Just a few days ago, on March 16th, Faribault Woolen Mill shared a video on their Facebook page of them getting all set up to open their Excelsior location. The post says "We are open! ... Come say hi to us in Excelsior!"

Faribault Woolen Mills president and CEO Ross Widmoyer spoke with Minneapolis St. Paul Magazine about the decision to open their fourth location in Excelsior. He said, "We have an enthusiastic fan base in the western suburbs of the Twin Cities so it only made sense to open a new store where our customers live, work and play."

The address for their Excelsior location is 234 Water Street, Excelsior, MN, 55331.



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Harvey Mackay

Decide, Commit, Succeed



By Harvey Mackay

President Dwight Eisenhower was raised on a Kansas farm, and he never forgot its lessons. In response to a difficult question put to him at the National Press Club, Eisenhower said it reminded him of an incident in his boyhood.

"An old farmer had a cow that we wanted to buy," Eisenhower recalled, "so we went to visit him and asked about the cow's pedigree.

"The old farmer didn't know what the word pedigree meant so we asked him about the cow's butterfat production. His answer was that he didn't have the foggiest idea. Finally we asked him if he knew how many pounds of milk the cow produced each year.

"The farmer shook his head and said, 'I

don't know. But she's an honest cow, and she'll give you all the milk she has!'

"Well," Ike concluded, "I'm like that cow. I'll give you everything I have."

President Eisenhower didn't just want to get by. He was committed to do his best. You can see when people are committed to a project or cause; they refuse to settle for anything less than their best. They are willing to learn and work hard.

Steel magnate Andrew Carnegie said people fall into three basic categories: those who did not do all their duty, those who only professed to do their duty and those who did their duty plus a little more.

If you make a commitment, you need to see it through. No slacking off, no excuses. Commitment must start from the inside out. Commitment means staying loyal to what you said you were going to do, long after the mood you said it in has left you.

"Commitment unlocks the doors of imagination, allows vision and gives us the right stuff to turn our dreams into reality," said James Womack, founder and chairman of the Lean Enterprise Institute.

Some might be tempted to back off those dreams when the going gets tough – which it often does. But being truly committed provides the motivation to persevere, another word that is important in seeing projects and dreams through to the finish.

Commitment is a prerequisite to success. Commitment is the state of being bound – emotionally, intellectually, or both – to a course of action. Commitment starts with a

choice and is sustained by dedication and perseverance. Actions speak louder than words.

"There's a difference between interest and commitment," said Ken Blanchard. "When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when it's convenient. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results."

Lou Holtz, the Hall-of-Fame college football coach, believes there are four things any person or organization needs to be successful.

"First," he says, "you have to make a commitment to excellence. Second is complete attention to detail. The third thing is to have sound fundamentals, and the fourth requirement is discipline."

Lou says: "Have you ever seen a team run on the field yelling, 'We want to be number two?'" Everyone wants to be number one. Those who actually achieve it are those who are willing to put the blood, sweat and tears into their effort."

I will add another essential element of commitment: confidence in your ability to succeed. Ask any successful entrepreneur how often they questioned their judgment, their sanity. I'd wager that any who were truly committed had some moments of uncertainty. But they believed in their potential. As I've preached so many times, it's important to believe in yourself, even when no one else does.

I'm not sure how people can be totally satisfied with themselves if they are not

committed to doing their very best. Sure, there are going to be failures, but that's no excuse for

not trying your hardest. You can't hold back because of fear of failure.

I firmly believe that all human success is the result of persistent commitment. Not luck, not just being in the right place at the right time. Commitment is a decision that is easier to make than to see through. Commitment is what keeps you forging ahead once the initial glow has faded.

We'll go back to the barnyard for some perspective. A chicken and a pig were talking about commitment.

The chicken said, "I'm committed to giving eggs every morning."

The pig said, "Giving eggs isn't commitment, it's participation. Giving ham is total commitment."

Mackay's Moral: Motivation is what gets you started. Commitment is what keeps you going.

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



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Local Government

City of Randolph Regular Council Meeting January 13, 2021

The regular Randolph City Council meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Robert Appelgren.

Roll Call

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

Public Comments

None.

Minutes

A motion to approve the December 9, 2020 regular council meeting minutes with the correction on page 2 in the last paragraph of changing the number two to one as there is only one other owner of the properties for a total of three owners regarding the road was made by Podritz, seconded by Friedrich. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Approval of Treasurer Report

Sandy indicated the water bills went sent out. She indicated the reading went well. We still have approximately 60 meters to be installed. Because of COVID we will hold off on installing them.

Sandy indicated she talked to Merchants Bank about moving our due date back a week for our loan on the water tower repairs and was told we have a 10 day grace period. They indicated we could have them automatically withdrawn from our account or she will move back the date. After discussion we decided it would best to have the due date moved back.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Friedrich, seconded by Podritz. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Approval to Pay Bills

There was a discussion regarding the Bolton & Menk invoice if we can just have that come out of the sewer project money rather than us paying it. We have the money to pay it and they did the services so they should get paid. We are going to pay the invoice out of our account and will get reimbursed once we get the short term financing in place. It will take about 30 to 60 days to get the account in place.

It was also noted that we received donations from the Ferguson Foundation, one to the fire department and the other is for the city for general use which is much appreciated.

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

Old Business

Nothing this month

New Business

Oath of Office

Robert Appelgren, Mayor, Jacob Friedrich, council member. Todd D. Carlock, council member and Sandra Nicolai, treasurer were sworn into their various positions for the City of Randolph. They each read and signed an Oath of Office.

We thanked Jake Toledo for his service on the council.

List of Committees

Acting Mayor – Sarah Podritz
Parks - Mayor Robert Appelgren and

Clerk Mary Haro

Sidewalks - Council members Jacob Friedrich and Sarah Podritz

Streets – Mayor Robert Appelgren and Council member Jacob Friedrich

Wellhead –Clerk Mary Haro and Council member Todd D. Carlock

Civil Defense - Reed Kosir

Building Inspector – Mark Ceminsky

City Attorney - Korine Land of Levander, Gillen & Miller

City Engineer - Bolton & Menk

Official Bank - Merchants Bank

Official Newspaper - Cannon Falls Beacon

Insurance - Kevin Rodgers - Northfield Insurance

We discussed moving to the Castle Rock Bank now that they are in town but will stay with Merchants Bank for 2021.

Motion to approve the appointments of the committees for the year 2021 was made by Mayor Appelgren, seconded by Podritz. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

City Email

A discussion regarding who should have access to the city email. Currently it is the Clerk and the Mayor. Councilmembers Podritz and Friedrich did have access previously due to the website but it does not require them to have it. Jake indicated it is not a role for council members to respond to emails but he thought it was a way to be informed of matters. Clerk Haro indicated she will forward emails that are informative to the council. If a council members wants access to the emails they can come to City Hall to read it. According to our legal counsel, she recommended that the clerk and one other member should have access to it and not all council members as it gets difficult to control the data. We will keep it as is at this time.

Ehlers, Financial Planner

Todd Hagen of Ehlers & Associates gave a presentation with a handout of what they offer. He works with a lot of cities in Minnesota. He assists with city finances. They structure the bond issue to our liking. They will give us options and then we decide. They have financial management planning and assist with water rates, sewer rates and tax levies They also have investment treasury management which are investment advisors. What we get from them is a full service financial advisor.

He is here for debt management regarding the bonds. We have to follow state law. He indicated that temporary bonds is the best option. This bond fits under the sewage disposal systems and there is no special plan needed. We don't need a public hearing. The higher the rating the lower the interest rate. Their fees goes down when its smaller and goes up when its larger – proportionate to the size of bond issue. We will have to hire a bond attorney to put all the paperwork together. The bank just needs to give us an interest rate. They will present a pre-sale report and then we authorize the sale to proceed. Ehlers will then bring the sale to market and will bring the results of the sale to the council for approval whether they are bid tabulation form whether they go competitive or negotiated and they let us know how the negotiation went. We would close approximately 3 weeks after the sale and

the entire process could take about 90 days.

The \$13,000,000 would be a loan with the bank but has to be set as a bond issue. It could be a three year interest only or a two year but the temporary bond under state law allows to go up to the three years interest only and then balloons out. We are looking at .7%, There would be fees to pay to Ehlers and also the bond attorney. We would need to figure out the maximum that we would need to draw of payments to get reimbursed from the grant. See where the peak of the draw schedule would be which could be about \$1.5 million (the highest amount that we would need) during construction part of the project. Matt can break down on working days and get it more targeted. Max would be \$1.5 during the construction part of the project. Todd will do analysis for \$80,000 the most for month and also \$1.5 million for the draw of payments. We could do a draw down which is like a line of credit.

We also want help with financial planning and asked what the cost for financial planning would be. Todd will send a proposal to us. They do not have a contract - they are at will. If we are not happy with them we can always hire someone else.

We asked what Ehlers fee would approximately be and he indicated in the ballpark of \$20,000 but we can also negotiate their fee. We would also need a bond attorney. He will recommend a few of them. We asked if we could get more fine tune numbers of what Ehler's fee would be and the bond attorney and the draw down payments. He may throw market rate interest rates so we know what the rates are currently. He will also give us a separate proposal for financial planning. We will send him our last three years of financial statements. The interest rate is not covered by the bond but it was asked if Ehlers fee would be covered by the bond. It will not be covered by the grant as their fee stays with the bond. We are responsible for their fee. Matt will check with PFA to make sure financial planning is covered.

Ehlers was recommended by Castle Rock Bank as well as our legal counsel.

Motion to approve hiring Ehlers as our municipal advisor for them to work on the sewer project made by Friedrich, seconded by Podritz. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

He will send the information to us for our next meeting.

Bolton & Menk Sewer Update

Matt Blazer of Bolton & Menk gave an update on what is happening with the sewer project. They are going to start with the boundary lines. He is compiling a list of questions he has been receiving from residents and will put that on the web page. Braun Intertec did the soil borings and that should be completed. He noted that he had a discussion with the county and they were planning on redoing Highway 88 through the city in the next few years and want to do a joint project. This is beneficial for two reasons – one would be the residents would have not to go through construction twice and second would be cash savings.

They are working with the Township and the Township is having a public meeting on February 2nd.

The item they are currently working on is

where to put the ponds this is our first priority. They are reaching out to several property owners to see if any owner is interested in having the ponds and spray irrigation on their property. The costs is not yet determined and we have a representative working on talking with land owners.

It was noted that the area has changed with the interested landowner and is further out than the boundary that is set in the bonding bill at a mile and a half. If we wanted to expand that boundary we would need to go back to the legislature as they are the only ones who can change the language in the bill. We need 10 acres for the pond which we could either purchase or do a long term deal with the owner but it was suggested that we purchase the 10 acres. We would like land nearby to disperse by spray irrigation which would be done by an easement as the owner would still own the land. It is sprayed twice a year, late fall and early spring. It cannot be sprayed during the winter. It is clean affluent water and it does not jeopardize ground water.

We need to have a direction for the holding ponds before we should have an open house Jake will update our website to let residents know we are holding off on the open house at this time.

Matt did comment that the survey is the best turnout that he has ever had. He indicated that he received at least half back from residents.

Equipment for Locating Water Lines

When there is any excavation a notification needs to be made to Gopher State One Call who sends out notices to locators to locate all utility lines which includes gas, electric, cable and water lines. It was noted that when a recent locate was sent out to the city to locate water lines that we do not have the equipment to locate the main water lines just the curb stops. We are required to find the water lines. The cost is approximately \$2,000 for equipment to find water mains. We do currently have a metal detector to locate curb stops but it does not work on the main lines.

We are still not absolutely sure that the water lines are plastic but we should check so we know for sure what they are. We could ask someone like Otte Excavating to look for a main line and pothole it when we get further down the line. Mayor Appelgren will talk to Otte's to get a price on what they will charge to do this.

(continued on page 13)

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City of Randolph Regular Council Meeting

(continued from page 12)

If lines are not marked or are marked incorrectly we are responsible if an excavator hits the line. Bryce does not have the time or employees to mark everything. We should look at the cost of paying \$2,000 - \$4,000 for a locator versus the cost of paying someone else to locate the lines then they would be held accountable if they do it incorrectly. Jake will talk to some people he knows that does locating pipelines and will do the research on this. If you hire someone else how does the liability work. It was asked when we need to do this and it was noted there is risk right now. Jake will take the lead on this project. He will send us information by next month's meeting. He will get prices on locators.

Miscellaneous

Hereford Hills Development – Holding Pond

Matt indicated he sent an email to Dan Wenstrom and their engineer and has not received a response regarding the size of the holding pond. Hereford Hills has not been accepted yet because they sent us As Built and they were looked at them and they were not acceptable and was asked how they will remedy the situation which was in late October. We asked them to try to get a response and if not then we can get something set up to get it done and get it turned over to the city and use his money to do it. The swale is not correct either which is a liability to the city. They did the work and reinstalled the fence but it is not correct.

Parking Lot

It was noted to Clerk Haro that some of the Firemen noted they had trouble finding parking spaces in the city lot when they had to respond to an emergency call. The lot was full of cars for patrons at the R Bar. It was discussed that we will purchase some signs as we need the firemen to have access to the lot so they can respond as quickly as possible to emergency calls.

Check Signer

We discussed the need for another check signer since Jake Toledo is no longer on the council. The acting mayor has done it in the past. Sarah has agreed to do it.

Motion by Appelgren to delete Jacob Toledo as a check signer and add Sarah Podritz as another check signer at Merchants Bank, seconded by Haro. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Podritz, seconded by Appelgren, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Haro

Hampton City Council Regular Meeting Minutes for February 9, 2021

The Hampton City Council met on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at the Hampton City Hall for the regular scheduled meeting. Present were Mayor John Knetter; Council Members Cindy Flodeen, David Luhning, Anthony Verch (arrived at 7:00 pm), and Kati Evertz-Garcia. Also present was Chris Meyer, City Treasurer; Brad Fisher with Bolton and Menk; and Kathy Youngquist with Cassia.

Regular Meeting called to Order - Mayor Knetter called the Regular Scheduled Meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

Disclosure of Interest – None.

Approval of January 12, 2021 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes – Motion by Evertz-Garcia seconded by Flodeen to approve the January 12, 2021 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Approval of February 1, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes – Motion by Evertz-Garcia seconded by Luhning to approve the February 1, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Approval of Disbursements – Motion by Evertz-Garcia seconded by Luhning to approve the February disbursements. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Public Comment – None.

Petitions, Requests, and Communications – Chris Meyer, City Treasurer, reviewed the 2020 Year-End Financial Summary. Meyer stated that this is a required annual report that provides month-end balances of the City's bank accounts. Additionally, Meyer stated that the 2020 City of Hampton Financial Statements must be prepared within 45 days after the close of the fiscal year, and be available for public inspection and provided to Council members within the 45 days, per State Auditor requirements. He is currently working on these and will submit them to Council Members by the deadline. Meyer stated that he will present the 2020 Year-End Financial Statements at the March Council meeting, and will be available if there are any questions.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees:

Engineer Report – Brad Fisher with Bolton and Menk updated the Council on staffing in their Planning Department. Alex Konzemius is no longer with the company. Jane Kansier will now be the principal contact for planning services.

Fisher followed up on the request made at the January City Council meeting by Scott Dohmen regarding the purchase of a portion of a city lot that is adjacent to his property, so that the lot he owns on Main Street, where he currently has a shed, can be turned into a buildable lot. Fisher stated that he has looked at various options, and will work with the City over the next couple of weeks to develop a response so that Mr. Dohmen has the necessary steps to move forward.

Water / Sewer Report – Knetter stated that Marlin Reinardy, Water and Sewer Superintendent, is still in Arizona, and that he has nothing to report.

Park Report – Verch commented on the current condition of the ice rink. He said it is not smooth because, even though temperatures are cold, the hot sun has caused some melting. But with colder temperatures continuing he feels there will be good skating conditions by the end of next week.

Street Report – Luhning stated that there is nothing to report.

Ordinances and Resolutions – Resolution 2021-02 calling for a public hearing on approving the issuance of senior housing and healthcare revenue notes to finance a project by New Harmony Care Center, Inc., and authorizing the publication of a notice of the hearing (New Harmony Care Center Project).

Kathy Youngquist, Chief Financial Officer of Cassia, provided some background information for the project. She stated that the purpose is to replace an existing nursing home building in St. Paul and build a new building in Maplewood that would provide senior healthcare, along with new housing for independent living apartment units, assisted living apartment units, memory care apartment units and other care apartment units. She said that the City of Hampton has previously acted as a conduit issuer for Cassia projects, and that this project will have the same conditions as past projects.

Knetter asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2021-02 calling for a public hearing on approving the issuance of senior housing and healthcare revenue notes to finance a project by New Harmony Care Center, Inc., and authorizing the publication of a notice of the hearing. Motion by Luhning seconded by Verch to approve the resolution. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

Old Business – None.

New Business –

Conduit Issuer for New Harmony Care Center – No motion needed, as the motion was made for approval when resolution 2021-02 was approved.

Unemployment Investigation – Mayor Knetter stated that it was brought to his attention that the former City Clerk had been collecting unemployment during 2020. He asked that the City Treasurer work with one of the Council members to obtain the records to find out how it occurred. Evertz-Garcia clarified by asking if he meant who signed off on the paperwork, etc. that allowed for the unemployment payments. Discussion continued regarding the paperwork from the state. Knetter stated that there has been some preliminary work done to obtain some of the documentation, but that further investigation is necessary. Verch asked if the reason for the unemployment application was due to reduced hours, to which Evertz-Garcia responded that hours for staff weren't reduced, that the discussion at the time (March meeting) was that the City would follow the guidelines of the CDC for dealing with COVID. Luhning responded that he feels that the investigation is necessary and that they need to begin by reviewing the City Council meeting minutes to confirm that there was not authorization for unemployment and, once they have the desired information, bring findings back to Council to determine how to move forward. Flodeen asked if there is any evidence that hours were reduced. Knetter responded that the discussion at the time was simply that the Governor's orders were to be followed—that doors would be locked and other safety measures would be put in place to reduce physical contact with the general public. However, all of the work, such as processing water/sewer payments and paying vendor invoices, would still need to be done. Knetter asked if one of the Council members was willing to take on the task of working with the Treasurer in the investigation. He asked Luhning if he would be interested in that, and he responded that he would. Motion by Evertz-Garcia seconded by Verch to have Luhning and Meyer work together to contact the Minnesota Department of Unemployment for further investigation into the matter. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

Delegate Authority to Mayor Knetter to Communicate with Legal Counsel Regarding Northfield WiFi Litigation – Knetter mentioned that, at the February 1st City Council Special Meeting, the attorney asked that the Council vote to have Mayor Knetter as the contact person for all future communications with legal counsel. Motion made by Verch seconded by Evertz-Garcia to give Mayor Knetter the authority to communicate with legal counsel regarding the Northfield WiFi litigation. Discussion continued to clarify that Knetter would be the contact person for legal counsel, however he would bring any information regarding the case to City Council meetings, where decisions for the case would be made. All voted in favor of the motion. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

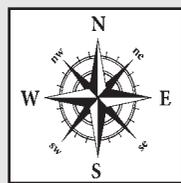
Adjournment - Motion by Verch seconded by Luhning to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy O'Brien



Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes The "S" Word



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.

That four-letter word everyone uses so casually in Minnesota is not accepted in Tennessee. If one says it the men will look at the ground and the women reach for their smelling salts. It has such a chilling effect on the natives. Strikes fear into their hearts at the mere mention of it.

We are talking snow. And I don't mean blizzard snow or snow storm or even enough to send the snow plows out in Minnesota. Just white flakes from the sky and people go nuts. The mention of snow on the news and local folk race to the Piggly Wiggly and buy up milk, bread and eggs. I guess French Toast is winter survival food down here.

So, after three winters down here we

finally got hit. The in-famous February "snow-mageddon" of 2021 that slammed across the nation delivered an icy treat to Tennessee. We were hammered with an astounding two inches of snow. Life shrieked to a halt. Businesses were closed, cafes shuttered, school cancelled, no postal delivery and the radio broadcast winter survival tips. They had to repeatedly warn folks not to walk out on the lake because a quarter inch of ice cannot support a person.

My neighbor has two four-wheel drive trucks and his wife will not leave the house if it snows. Roads don't get plowed like they do in Minnesota. I think the county here has one snowplow truck and it looks like a one-ton pickup with a blade on front. So, the snow just stays on the roads and waits for the sunshine. They have a philosophy here that God put it there and He will take it away when He is ready. But the young guys with four-wheelers and UTV's love it. I see them flying down the snow-covered roads like they were on the salt flats. So, not to keep you in suspense, a couple days later the temperatures were in the 50's and the sun melted all the evidence.

We had a couple spending their Valentine's Day weekend honeymoon at our rental cabin down by Big Sandy River and they were snowed in. Not really snowed in, but just unwilling to drive with snow on the road. We gave them an extra day free stay so they didn't have to brave the snowy roads back to Clarkesville right away. It will give them a good story to tell for the rest of their life.

Maple Syruping



Teri Knight



The sap is flowing! It's not too late to tap your trees for some golden goodness. Although it looks like water coming out of your tree! You don't have to have Sugar Maples to make some great syrup. The only difference is the percentage of sugar content in the tree sap.

Years ago we tapped Silver Maples that produced delicious stuff. YOU can also tap Boxelder trees. So, apparently there is one good thing from a Boxelder tree.

You need about 40 gallons of maple tree sap to make 1 gallon of pure maple syrup.

Interestingly, the United States and Canada are the only countries in the world to produce maple syrup. Interestingly, only 19 states produce Maple Syrup. It's a completely natural food, meaning nothing is added. Only water is evaporated from the sap. You need several freeze/thaw periods for a good

sap flow. So the temps need to drop below freezing at night and then rise above during the day.

A tapping tree should be at least 10 inches in diameter from 4 feet above ground. You can generally get 10 to 12 gals of sap per tree. So if you have a few Maples in your backyard, you could make yourself a good batch of maple syrup and there is NOTHING like the real deal.

March is a key month for sap flow as the trees stop flowing once their buds set. Many area parks tap trees and some of them have yearly pancake breakfasts, except for this year and last... alas!



Silver maples tapped

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.

A Minnesotan in the North: False Spring



By RosaLin Alcoser

The worst part of warm weeks in mid February is that it gives one false hope of an early spring... this will most likely not be the case.

The reason why the false hope is so bad this year is the weather being in the 30s is because it came right after being between 0 and -22 degrees. Naturally this has made the 30s feel a lot warmer then it really is.

Native Minnesotans are calling this warm snap the start of sweatshirt weather. Personally all I have done is wear a less heavy coat and left it unbuttoned unless I am going to be outside for a long period of time. But then again we all know that I do not take being cold as well as those of you who have always lived in Minnesota.

Either way the snow is getting shorter early this year which is nice. However, its all fun and games until it gets cold again. After all there are still four more weeks of winter or is it five?

Honestly I am not so sure anymore about how many more weeks it is till spring at this point. But I am sure that it will come along at some point in April or May just like it does every year.



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- THEME: MARCH MADNESS
- ACROSS
1. Theories
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 8. Tarzan's mom, e.g.
 11. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, e.g.
 12. Ingredient in talcum powder
 13. Spectator
 15. 5,280 feet
 16. Tiny river
 17. Note taker
 18. *Last NCAA basketball winner
 20. Any day now
 21. Antiquarian's concern, pl.
 22. Diana Ross and Michael Jackson movie, with The
 23. Saw a nightmare
 26. Caribbean rattles
 30. Witch's spell
 31. Flocked-to destinations
 34. Goo or slime
 35. Plural of ostium
 37. Leo mo.
 38. Eurasian goat-like antelope
 39. Showing signs of use
 40. "Yo, ____!"
 42. *Nothing but it
 43. Wrap a baby
 45. *____-elimination
 47. Outrage
 48. Fraternity K
 50. One of the Bridges
 52. *____ 1 schools only
 55. ____less but pennywise
 56. Decanter
 57. In a frenzy
 59. Threesome
 60. Turkish monetary unit, plural
 61. Dumpty establishment
 62. Common conjunction
 63. New York time
 64. Male deer

- Down
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 2. Rikers Island weapon
 3. Burkina Faso neighbor
 4. Himalayan mountaineer
 5. Tarnish
 6. "____ fair in love and war"
 7. *School with most NCAA basketball titles
 8. Choir member
 9. Hammer part
 10. Blunder
 12. Sad, to mademoiselle
 13. Radio studio sign
 14. *Mid-major school that's become major powerhouse
 19. Kind of ray
 22. Is no longer
 23. Arabian sailing vessels
 24. Restart from seed
 25. Uncredited actor
 26. The Wise Men
 27. Acting as a prompter
 28. Snow impression
 29. Eric Heiden's "shoe"
 32. *Oklahoma State's super freshman ____ Cunningham
 33. Mixed breed puppy
 36. *2021 NCAA Tournament location
 38. What Edward Scissorhands does
 40. Stout relative
 41. Dream big
 44. Ancient Celtic priest
 46. Water nymphs
 48. Fuzzy fruit, pl.
 49. Deflect
 50. Sanders' campaign slogan "Feel the ____"
 51. "National Velvet" author Bagnold
 52. Expunge
 53. Fail to mention
 54. Scotia preceder
 55. School-related org.
 58. Liquor store pony

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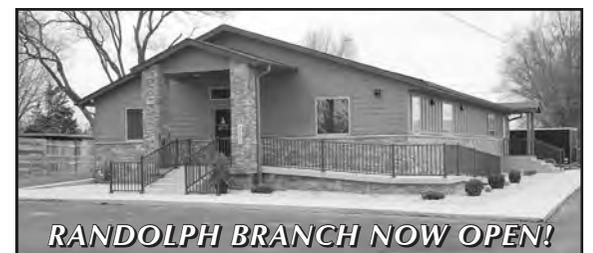


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