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APRIL, 2021

Volume 18 • Issue 8

Announcements

• High School Seniors and Families- Get vaccinated before graduation!

Hundreds of free COVID-19 appointments available – bring a friend! If you're 18 years old, you can receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine! The two-dose vaccine is currently being offered by Dakota County Public Health at Metcalf Middle School. This week there are hundreds of appointments available and walk-ins are welcome! Feel free to bring a friend or family member. The vaccine is free and no insurance or documentation information is required. Moderna is a two-dose vaccine that is available to anyone 18 years and older. If you get your first-dose with us, we will get you signed up for a second-dose appointment when you come in for your shot. Language interpreters are available at the clinic to assist you or a loved one. Metcalf Middle School is located at 2250 Diffley Road in Burnsville. For parking information, check out the Metcalf Parking Map. For more information, go to Dakota County's COVID-19 Vaccine page.

• **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

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



Nicole Koziolk

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 she sold food grade beans to Japan.

(continued on page 7)

Randolph High School FFA Holds Annual Tractor Parade



photo courtesy of Kayla Vogler

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. (continued on page 7)

The Last Hurrah: Star hurler Morgyn Otte gunning to lead Randolph on one last run

courtesy of Post Bulletin

Morgyn Otte is going to pitch at Southwest Minnesota State University next year. Her softball career is far from over, but the Randolph Rockets have unfinished business, and Otte has the arm and bat to lead them to that much-coveted state title.

(continued on page 6)

Treat Mom to a Delicious Day *May 9th Mother's Day*

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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 ceme-

tery 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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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).

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

Obituaries

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.

Michael Paul Lind

Michael Paul Lind, age 28, passed away unexpectedly on April 23, 2021 in Los Angeles, CA.



Michael was born July 9, 1992 to Rodney Lind Jr. and Corrine Schweich Jablonski. He graduated from Randolph High School in 2011.

Michael was a member of the Carpenters Union 322 and currently employed by Frana Company in Rosemount, MN. Michael enjoyed a lot of things, just to name a few: fishing, frisbee golf, camping, being on the lake, watching football on Sundays, and riding dirt bike. Most of all being with the kids, Uriah, Mackenzie and Cameron.

Michael had a huge heart and would help anyone, anytime, anywhere - willingly and with a smile despite his own struggles.

He is survived by his parents, Rodney Lind Jr., and Corrine and Dean Jablonski; siblings, Elizabeth Lind (Kyle) and Jake (Morgan) Jablonski; niece, Mackenzie King and nephew, Cameron King; grandparents, Tom Schweich, Gail McDonald and Josephine Lind; great grandmother, Lois Johnson; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his uncle, Paul Schweich and grandfather, Rodney Lind.

Funeral service is pending.

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Coach Trom Celebrates 100 Wins



Big softball news in the girls doubleheader victories over Mabel-Canton

- Morgyn Otte pitched her second no hitter of the season in game 1.
- Morgyn and Paige Ford pitched a combined no hitter in the second game.
- Coach Trom earned his 100th career win. He's just a few wins (and years) behind Mr. Silk.

Congrats Coach Trom, Morgyn, Paige, and the rest of the softball team on a successful afternoon!

courtesy of Randolph School

Coach Stanton Celebrates 200 Wins

Rocket baseball beat Goodhue by a score of 5-0 and improves to 4-0 on the season.

More importantly, the win was Coach Chris Stanton's 200th career win and passes Denny Murray for most wins in Rocket Baseball history.

Coach Stanton has been manager of the baseball team since 2006 and has a total record of 200-95. Coach Murray finished his career with a 199 career wins in 391 career games.

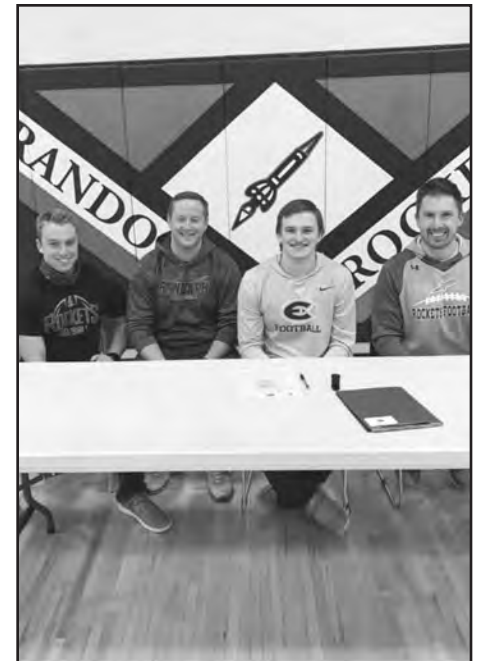
Congrats Coach Stanton!!!
courtesy of Randolph School



Students Sign Letters of Intent



Congratulations to Chloe Kimmes for committing to the University of Northwestern! Chloe will be playing softball. *courtesy of Randolph School*



We have a new favorite UWEC football player! Congrats Kaven Blonigen! Excited to follow your career over the next four years! *courtesy of Randolph School*



Another Rocket Softball player signed today. Meredith Taylor will be continuing her academic and athletic career at Augsburg University. While at Augsburg she will play under Randolph graduate, Melissa Lee! *photos courtesy of Randolph School*

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A New Leader: Weidner Named Next Honkers Skipper

By Jordan Lank
Jordan Lank is in his second season
as Director of Media Relations
for the Rochester Honkers

ROCHESTER, MINN. — The Rochester Honkers on named 27-year-old Paul Weidner as the 18th field manager in franchise history, marking a substantial step in preparation for the 2021 Northwoods League season.

“It’s an incredible opportunity,” Weidner said of receiving the position. “The track record of the organization [and] the success that they’ve had on the field is a tradition of winning, and that’s something that I want to be able to continue to do. I know that aligns with what the community is expecting. Putting a product on the field that they can be proud of is really important to me.” Weidner currently serves as a volunteer assistant coach at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. where he acts as the team’s first base coach, but also works as an assistant hitting coach and leads the development of Blue Jays outfielders. Under

Weidner’s leadership, the Blue Jays returned to the NCAA Tournament in 2019 for the first time since 2012 by clinching the BIG EAST’s automatic bid. While there, they eliminated the then-defending College World Series champions, Oregon State, on the road. Weidner and the Creighton staff were awarded the conference’s Coaching Staff of the Year award.

The former outfielder brings experience from the summer collegiate landscape as well, having assisted the Cotuit Kettleers of the Cape Cod League in 2018 before signing on in Nebraska — something Honkers general manager Jeremy Aagard found particularly attractive about Weidner’s resume.

“Paul’s experience in coaching summer collegiate baseball will make this a smooth transition for our players,” said Aagard. “He will bring an exciting brand of baseball to our city and be an integral part in our effort to ingratiate our players in the community. The Honkers are ready to get back to our winning ways and Paul will be guiding us to greatness every step of the way.”

Well prior to his time at Creighton and in the Cape, though, Weidner grew up less than an hour’s drive away from Mayo Field in downtown Rochester. A native of Randolph, Minn., the 2011 graduate of Randolph High School acknowledges how special it is to be leading a franchise so close to his roots.

“It means a lot. There are a lot of summer ball towns in this league and throughout



the country. I feel so lucky to be coaching in one that I’m so familiar with and feel very connected to,” he said.

It’s not the first time Weidner will coach close to home, as he spent three years on the staff of his alma mater shortly after graduating from Bethel University in St. Paul in 2015. After the 2021 spring season concludes in Omaha, Weidner will return to serve as an assistant coach on the Royals staff, working with all hitters and defensively with the outfielders.

Weidner also made note of the emphasis he intends to put on positively impacting the Rochester community during his tenure in the Med City, saying that he wants his players to be exemplars of good character on the way to making a difference.

“At the end of the day, what we’re doing is bringing a bunch of elite college players together to play a game in which they’re gonna develop. But, when you take a step back and you think about what it means in the grand scheme of things, if those players are role models for the people in the com-

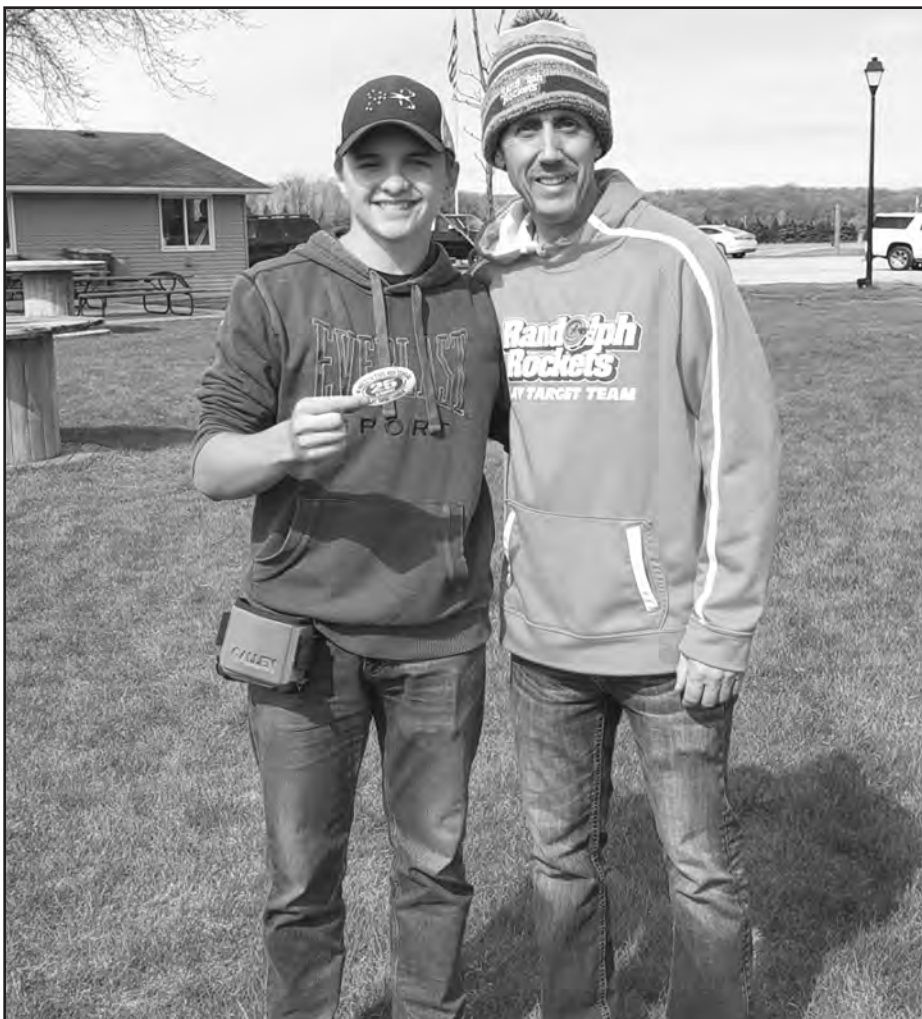
munity, — if our team is something that the community can be proud of — that’s how you make an impact with the position that you’re in.

“My job is to play winning baseball... but I look at it as a facet of how we can fit into the community at large. If they don’t embrace us and what we are, then those things don’t carry weight. It doesn’t matter. And so we need to make sure that matters so that we can have that impact.”

Weidner will be at the helm for the Honkers in their season-opener against the Eau Claire Express on the road on May 31st. Rochester opens its home slate the following day with a second matchup against the Express at 6:35 PM CST at Mayo Field.

For more news on the Rochester Honkers, visit RochesterHonkers.com or follow the team on all social media: Rochester Honkers Baseball Club on Facebook, @RochHonkers on Twitter and @HonkersBaseball on Instagram. Follow along all season long with the hashtag #UnlockTheFlock.

Splichal Shoots First 25/25



Pictured L to R: Tyler Splichal and Coach Chris Emerson

Congratulations Tyler Splichal on shooting your first 25/25 during the 2nd week of Randolph Spring Clay Target Trap League.

MSHSL State Speech Competition



CONGRATULATIONS to the duo of Haylee Gunderson and Sebastian Rappe for a 7th place finish. *courtesy of Randolph School*

The Last Hurrah: Star hurler Morgyn Otte gunning to lead Randolph on one last run

(continued from page 1)

This wasn't how it was supposed to be. The 2020 season was supposed to be the one when the Randolph softball team got over the hump and won the state title.

They had come ever so close in 2019, falling to Southwest Minnesota Christian in the Class A state semifinals. The Rockets went on to finish third while Southwest Minnesota Christian won the state championship.

So when the 2020 season was canceled due to the pandemic, it was a devastating blow. Star senior pitcher Morgyn Otte knows that this year is everything. This is her last chance to make that run to a state title.

"I didn't realize how much fun we missed out on last year until we started this year," Otte said. "We have seven or eight seniors and so having that experience of all of us coming through from junior high to varsity and now it's our last year and we're pushing for what we want."

There's a form of pressure, but when Otte steps into the circle, she's the most comfortable. That's where she's at peace. She controls the game. Her mom, Casi Otte,

would tell you that she wasn't a very good softball player, but she's turned into an influential piece in Morgyn's development into one of the best players in southeastern Minnesota.

"She'd always tell me that softball is a mental game," Otte said. "She's instilled confidence in me."

Simply put: Otte is coming for everybody who steps in the box. There's a target on Randolph's back this year, and every single team is gunning to knock them off, but Otte doesn't feel that pressure. Instead, she's the one who makes hitters uncomfortable. She's leaned on her fastball and riseball in recent years, but she's added a devastating curveball to her repertoire and a changeup that's only getting better.

Plus, Randolph doesn't need her to pitch every single game this year, so she can be even more aggressive.

The early results have been terrific. Otte hasn't allowed a run yet and the Rockets are a perfect 4-0. She fired seven outstanding innings in the season-opener against Pine Island, allowing just one hit and fanning 12. The curveball was dipping and diving like a butterfly.

"One of them curved so hard that I laughed," Otte said. "I don't usually show emotion at all but I could not believe it did that."

Otte is a special player and she teams up with slugger Megan Erickson to form one of the most dominant duos in southeastern Minnesota. They played basketball together, too, and were both All-Southeast Conference selections. Their softball coach, Dennis Trom, also coaches them on the basketball court.



Randolph senior Morgyn Otte is one of the top pitchers in southeastern Minnesota and is hoping to lead the Rockets back to the state tournament. (photo courtesy of Post Bulletin - submitted photo)

"He's a different person in basketball," Otte laughed. "He'll scream and yell in basketball and then in softball, it's like he doesn't have a yelling voice. But he's been amazing. Me, Megan and Meredith Taylor, we've been coached by him since seventh grade in two sports. Most of our school years are spent with him. You can't spend much more time with someone than we do. He's just become someone you rely on and you trust and you can talk to him about anything. He knows how to handle us and our attitudes and we get mad. We have a great bond with him that you usually don't see with coaches."

Otte has already signed with Southwest Minnesota State to continue her softball career partially because they have the same vibe that Trom has brought to Randolph.

"I love that team and love that coaching staff," Otte said. "They're a family and they

remind me of my Randolph team so much. I'm from such a small school and I didn't want to be overwhelmed at a big school. SMSU is a smaller school with smaller class sizes and it makes me way more comfortable than going to a big school with like 100 kids in each class."

But before she trots off to SMSU, Otte has unfinished business at Randolph. The pain of losing last year didn't really set in until they got back on the field this spring. It's driven and motivated Otte and her Rocket teammates.

And that's a scary sight for the rest of the state.

"I think of it as our 'Last Hurrah,'" Otte said. "Like the last thing before we graduate. It's been our goal for so long. We got cut short last year. This year is all or nothing."



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Randolph Tractor Parade

April, 2021

- RANDOLPH-HAMPTON-CASTLE ROCK MESSENGER -

Page 7

Randolph High School FFA Holds Annual Tractor Parade

(continued from page 1)

“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



photo courtesy of Kayla Vogler

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, 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

Randolph FFA member elected State FFA Secretary

(continued from page 1)

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.

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



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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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City of Randolph Regular Council Meeting March 10, 2021

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

Roll Call

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

Public Comments

None.

Minutes

A motion to approve the February 10, 2021 regular council meeting minutes was made by Friedrich, seconded by Podritz. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Approval of Treasurer Report

Sandy indicated the we received approximately \$4300.00 in the water account. It was asked if the loan documents are ready to be signed and if Sarah can now sign checks. Sarah will pick up the documents from Merchants Bank, sign it and Bob will also have to sign it.

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

Approval to Pay Bills

It was noted that the Kamstrum invoice is their annual fee. We are still holding the Bolton & Menk invoices until we get the bond money.

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

Old Business

It was asked if we are going to get No Parking signs for the lot next to the Fire Hall. How many signs and where do we put them. Let's wait and see if traffic will slow down. We would have to pass a resolution to put the signs up. Reed said he has not noticed any problems but they will let us know if anything does arise. Also the R Bar owner did say they would pay for the signs if we ordered them. We will hold off ordering any signs right now and evaluate it as time goes on.

New Business Ordinance

It was noted that with this rezoning that there will be two properties that there will be no taxes paid on. When we held the meeting to rezone it, it was noted it was contingent on him selling the current property so he could purchase the new lot but now he has purchased the lot without the sale of the other building. Wade indicated that he has applied for exempt status from Dakota County but has not heard back from them so as it currently sits he will be paying taxes on the new lot. Wade indicated that the building will be going back on the market. Without the sale of the current building he cannot move forward with building anything on the new lot. It is his goal to get the current building sold and would most likely need to be rezoned and then it would not be tax exempt.

Haro made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-01 Rezoning 4374 292nd Street East, from Urban Residential to Public Institutional, seconded by Friedrich. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Ehlers, Financial Planner

Motion to pass Resolution No. 21-02 Providing for the sale of \$1,650,000 Obligation Temporary Sewage Disposal System Bonds and Resolution No. 21-03 Authorizing the City to Enter into a Credit Enhancement Program Agreement with the MPCA was made by Appelgren, seconded by Carlock. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Fire Department

Firemen Reed Kosir came before the council to ask for an increase from \$1,850 to \$2,000 per year of service for the Fireman's Retirement Fund to be effective this year. Motion by Friedrich to raise the Fireman's Relief Association Retirement Fund from \$1,850 to \$2,000 per year of service, seconded by Appelgren. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Sanitary Sewer Update

Bolton & Menk continue to reach out to property owners in the area for the holding pond. They put together a list of interested property owners and will have a joint meeting with us and the township. An appraisal would need to be done on the property. Not much can be done until we get the land.

Also it was noted that people can remove the flags in their yards but they would like

the pink stakes to remain.

Miscellaneous

Water Main Locating

Jake asked about the water main locating and where we were at with it. Is our best option to hire someone to do the locating? Appelgren talked to someone and he is going to have a meeting with him and wants to know what the ballpark of the costs involved before he calls a few other companies. Appelgren has three different names so we will get quotes and discuss at a later meeting.

Street Closure

Jake discussed that R Bar will be holding a benefit for a young child that has leukemia on Saturday, April 10th. They would like to know what needs to be done to close off the road so they could put up a tent for capacity issues. It was noted that a motion needs to be made and it needs to go through Dakota County as it is a county road. Dakota County makes the decision. They would also need to provide proof of insurance to Dakota County. This is a very short timeframe to get this done. This event is before our next meeting so they have to request a special meeting to get the resolution done. Jake will let them know what they need to do.

Dan Wenstrom and Holding Pond

Sandy discussed the amount that Dan Wenstrom owes to the City for Bolton & Menk invoices. Sandy mailed the invoices to him on October 14, November 18, and December 9th. He paid \$5,000 of the

\$7,046.00. The first one is over 5 months overdue. We should send him a letter indicating that he needs to pay the full amount by next month's meeting or we will take it from his line of credit. Carlock indicated that Dan asked him to send the invoices to him again. It was also indicated that the check should have come to the city and not to Todd. We should mention in the letter that he should be dealing with the city for these issues.

Also we have not heard anything from him regarding correcting the pond issue. It was noted that the pond need to be reconfigured to capture the correct rain water volume. We will include that in the letter that he needs to have a plan with a completion date to finish the project or we will hire someone to do the work and take it out from his letter of credit. Also he needs to fix the swale as that is not correct. Swale should be level with a culvert or whatever will work so it is not a liability. It is too deep.

Miscellaneous

Reed mentioned that the storm siren that recently went off was not the correct warning siren. He indicated it should have been a constant siren going off. He will contact Dakota County and discuss it with them to get it fixed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Podritz, seconded by Appelgren, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Haro



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Hampton City Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2021

The Hampton City Council met on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at the Hampton City Hall for a public hearing and the regular scheduled meeting. Present were Mayor John Knetter; Council Members Cindy Flodeen, Anthony Verch, and Kati Evertz-Garcia. Council Member David Luhning was absent. Also present was Chris Meyer, City Treasurer; Cory Bienfang with Bolton and Menk; and Kathy Youngquist with Cassia.

Public Hearing Called to Order – The purpose of the public hearing was to consider the City adopting a housing program to finance, in part, the New Harmony Care Center Project by the issuance of tax-exempt revenue notes or other obligations by the City and one or more other governmental issuers. Mayor Knetter opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. There was no public comment. Motion by Verch seconded by Evertz-Garcia to approve the issuance of tax-exempt revenue notes or other obligations by the City for the New Harmony Care Center Project. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Adjournment – Motion by Verch seconded by Evertz-Garcia to close the public hearing. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0. The public hearing closed at 7:01 p.m.

Regular Meeting called to Order – Mayor Knetter called the Regular Scheduled Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Present were Mayor John Knetter; Council Members Cindy Flodeen, Anthony Verch, and Kati Evertz-Garcia.

Disclosure of Interest – Mayor Knetter indicated that a member of the Fire Department Relief Association was present and had asked to be added to the agenda but, because Knetter is a member of the Fire Department, he stated that he would not be voting on the matter and would not participate in the discussion.

Addition of Fire Department Relief

Association to the Agenda – Motion by Evertz-Garcia seconded by Verch to add the Fire Department Relief Association to the agenda under new business. All voted in favor, with Knetter abstaining from voting. None opposed. Motion passed 3:0.

Addition of August City Council Meeting Change of Date to the Agenda – Motion by Evertz-Garcia seconded by Flodeen to add August 2021 City Council meeting change of date to the agenda under new business. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Approval of February 9, 2021 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes – Motion by Evertz-Garcia seconded by Verch to approve the February 9, 2021 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Approval of Disbursements – Motion by Verch seconded by Flodeen to approve the March disbursements. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Public Comment – None.

Petitions, Requests, and Communications – Chris Meyer, City Treasurer, stated that he had submitted the City's year-end 2020 Financial Statements (FS) to Council Members, and informed Council Members that the Office of the State Auditor requires that cities file their annual Financial Statements, along with a Financial Reporting Form, within 90 days of the end of the calendar year. The FS consist of eight schedules, which is unchanged from the 2019 Financial Statements. Meyer outlined a few financial highlights from 2020, including a large cash balance of over \$1 million as of the end of the year. The main reasons for the large cash balance are 1) setting aside funding for bond payments of over \$200,000 to be paid in January, 2) payment of the second half of taxes by Dakota County in October and December in the amount of over \$150,000, and 3) because interest rates in the Insured Cash Sweeps accounts have been better than CD investments, funds in 2020 have been maintained in the ICS accounts, rather than investing in Certificates of Deposit.

Meyer mentioned that another highlight of 2020 is that the Water Fund had a profit, which is a direct result of raising the water rates at the beginning of 2020. Additionally, there were no large repair bills in 2020 for things such as water main breaks. Depreciation on fixed assets in the Water Fund totaled around \$57,000, which also brings the net income of the Water Fund down each year. The Sewer Fund had a good year in 2020, with an operating income of over \$52,000, which is directly related to the sewage dumping revenue.

Meyer reported that the City still has three bond series which are outstanding, with a debt balance of \$3,380,000. His next step is to submit the Annual Financial Reporting Form to the Office of the State Auditor by March 31st, along with the Financial Statements. After that, the Financial Statements will be published in the newspaper.

The next item commented on by Meyer is the 2019 and 2020 internal audit. He provided an overview of the process. Because of the pandemic, the 2019 internal audit was not done, so both the 2019 and 2020 audits need to be performed this year.

Knetter asked for volunteers from the Council to do the internal audits. Verch stated that he would volunteer and suggested that, because Luhning and he were supposed to have worked on the 2019 audit, that Luhning should work on the 2019 and 2020 internal audits.

Ordinances and Resolutions – Resolution 2021-03 calling for the approval of the issuance and sale of a senior housing and healthcare revenue note, Series 2021A, and authorizing the execution of documents relating thereto (New Harmony Project). Knetter asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2021-03. Motion was made by Verch seconded by Flodeen to approve Resolution 2021-03. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees:

Engineer Report – Cory Bienfang with Bolton and Menk stated that he had nothing to report, but would be happy to answer any questions that Council members had.

Water / Sewer Report – Knetter stated that Marlin Reinardy, Water and Sewer Superintendent, is still in Arizona. He reported that there had been a water main break in Belle Court, and provided details of the incident.

Park Report – Verch reported that there isn't much going on in the parks right now because of wet and muddy conditions. He will monitor over the next few weeks and determine if there are any needs for new wood chips or other materials in the parks. He also mentioned that he has a plan for weed control that will, hopefully, allow him to stay ahead of weeds spreading.

Street Report – Knetter stated that the only thing to report is that a couple of water caps had popped out, and asked Council members if they had any other street issues. Council members stated that, in Luhning's email regarding his absence from the meeting, he remarked that there was nothing to report on streets.

Old Business – COVID-19 update. Knetter provided a brief overview on where the City stands as far as following the Governor's orders. He also referred to the Council's wishes at the beginning of the pandemic to keep the office doors locked for staff safety. Discussion ensued regarding the doors being locked and safety measures that have been put in place. It is the consensus of Council members to leave it up to the discretion of the Clerk as to whether or not doors will be locked during regular business hours.

New Business

Conduit Issuer for New Harmony Care Center – Knetter stated that this was already approved, but asked Kathy Youngquist with Cassia if there is anything else that needs to be done. She responded that nothing else needs to be done by the Council and outlined the timeline of when the revenue notes would be issued. She thanked the Council for the opportunity and their efforts.

Economic Development Authority (EDA) – Knetter referred to the next agenda item, which is a request to purchase City land by one of the City's residents. He also mentioned the previous request at the January 12th Council meeting by Gene and Scott Dohmen, which also asked for the

purchase of City land. Knetter stated that he had researched with the League of Minnesota Cities and the City's attorney about the issue. He learned that, because the property is a tax-forfeited property, there are some additional things that need to be done in order to sell the parcel, one of which is to establish an Economic Development Authority. He further stated that establishing an EDA would require a public hearing, possibly as early as April, and would like to get that scheduled. Discussion ensued regarding zoning of the properties and lot conditions. Knetter asked for a motion to schedule a public hearing prior to next month's City Council meeting. Motion was made by Evertz-Garcia seconded by Verch to schedule a public hearing, for the purpose of establishing an Economic Development Authority for the City, at 6:45 p.m. on April 13, 2021. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Purchase of City Land-Jed O'Connor of Autocare Solutions – No action will be taken on this item at this time. The establishment of the City's Economic Development Authority must first take place.

Request to Pursue Service Provider for Digitizing Hampton Code of Ordinances – Knetter referenced the need

Hampton City Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2021 to have the City's Code of Ordinances and policy information on a reference tool that is more user friendly than the books and CD's currently being utilized. Discussion. Knetter stated that a motion is not needed at this time, that he wanted to put the idea out there for Councilors to consider. He plans to research various service providers and told Councilors that they can do the same if they are interested.

Fire Department Relief Association – Reed Kusir was in attendance as the representative of the Fire Department Relief Association. He informed Councilors that, at their business meeting last week, there was discussion about raising the pension contribution per year of service from \$1,850 to \$2,000. Discussion ensued regarding when this amount was last raised, that these are 100% volunteer positions, and the importance of the Relief Association to the City. Motion was made by Evertz-Garcia seconded by Verch to raise the pension contribution from \$1,850 to \$2,000 per year of service. All voted in favor, with Knetter abstaining from voting. None opposed. Motion passed 3:0.

August City Council Meeting Change of Date – Knetter asked for a motion to change the August City Council meeting date from the 2nd to the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Motion was made by Flodeen seconded by Verch to change the August meeting date from the 10th to the 17th of the month. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Adjournment - Motion by Verch seconded by Evertz-Garcia to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy O'Brien

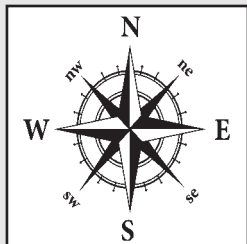


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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes



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 a lot. After hearing all about that move back when it happened 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 original 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 it 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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- THEME: THE OSCARS
- ACROSS
1. Hedgehog of video games
 6. And so forth, acronym
 9. *Oscar-nominated black and white movie
 13. Treeless plain
 14. Grazing field
 15. Moses' mountain
 16. Sty sounds
 17. Nelson Mandela's org.
 18. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
 19. *Posthumous nominee
 21. *Anthony of "The Father"
 23. "What's up, ___?"
 24. Huge pile
 25. Protestant denom.
 28. Feed storage cylinder
 30. Load again
 35. Relating to ear
 37. Flighty one
 39. Proclaimed true without proof
 40. Musician David Lee ____
 41. Ascetic holy Hindu
 43. Eastern European
 44. Plural of #10 Down
 46. 500 sheets
 47. Looking for aliens org.
 48. Kitchen whistler
 50. Wails
 52. Bad-mouth
 53. Medieval torture device
 55. Pied Piper follower
 57. Politburo hat fur
 61. *Daniel of "Judas and the Black Messiah"
 65. Raspberry drupelets
 66. Fuss, to Shakespeare
 68. Void, as in marriage
 69. Defective car
 70. Given name of Jack Kerouac's Paradise
 71. ____ of Honor
 72. Adam and Eve's first residence
 73. Money in Myanmar
 74. Shoemaker without shoes, e.g.

- DOWN
1. Undesirable roommate
 2. Medley
 3. Grannies, in UK
 4. Tattooed
 5. Universe
 6. Panache
 7. *Most 2021 Oscar nominations for one film, #9 Across
 8. Secret storage
 9. Stole fur
 10. One opposed
 11. Indian restaurant staple
 12. U.S. customary unit of force, pl.
 15. Soaked
 20. DNA and RNA
 22. Argonaut's propeller
 24. Shared work surface at an office
 25. *Sasha Baron Cohen's "Subsequent Moviefilm" role
 26. Be sorry for one's wickedness
 27. Pita, in UK
 29. *Like Roberto Benigni's fictional son
 31. Husband to a widow, e.g.
 32. Checked out
 33. Stradivari competitor
 34. *"Fences" winner and "Ma Rainey" nominee
 36. Poker ante
 38. *"Nomadland" director
 42. Shadow
 45. *The Trial of the Chicago 7" screenwriter
 49. Greek "t"
 51. Sandwich sausage
 54. Necklace lock
 56. Radio receiver
 57. Nutritious leafy green
 58. Got A+
 59. Ice on a window
 60. Happening soon, old fashioned
 61. Caffeine-containing nut tree
 62. Editing arrow
 63. Chinese monetary unit
 64. Friend in war
 67. *Nominee for Billie Holiday role

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