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Thank You

We want to Thank You for your continued support of the Dodge Center Messenger, especially this past year!

In an era of online everything, your monthly newspaper, continues with an unwavering goal to bring hometown news to you.

Thanks to local advertisers and your voluntary subscriptions, we are in your mail box each month.

Without this support, we would not be here. We hope you continue to see value in the Messenger. While there are plenty of social media sources and on line sites out there, most don't deliver the hometown news and message like we try to do here.

Every year, many newspapers have consolidated or gone out of business. We have watched this happen many times in recent years in small rural communities, and especially this past year during the covid situation.

With our small staff of 2.5, we understand this challenge first hand here at the Messenger, which is why we publish the Messenger in its monthly format.

(continued on page 14)

Highway 14 is Finally Finished!

By Megan Ziegler

It's safe to say that everyone reading this article has been impacted by Highway 14. We traveled on the old, well-worn road. We certainly have stories about white-knuckle driving during the harsh Minnesota winters. We know people who've had accidents and close-calls on 14. We remember folks first talking about the project decades ago. We recall feelings of hope when they added the 4-lane section over by Owatonna. When it came time for this latest stretch, we perhaps even took part in reaching out to our legislative leaders and listened in on the planning meetings. And we definitely were all impacted by the construction process over the course of the past two years. Now that the end of the process has come and the new road is safe, smooth, and impressive, we celebrate the future possibilities it holds. Yes, those possibilities may be as simply satisfying as the ease of a daily commute.

(continued on page 7)



Governor Tim Walz with Triton band students and their Director Elijah Gray

Announcements

• The United Methodist Church of Dodge Center at 20 First Street NE offers a meal carry out from 5:00-6:00pm the third Wednesday of each month.

Do you have an announcement?
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Relocating for New Job at Triton

By Kenya Narveson

Sometimes the perfect job isn't down the street, but rather hundreds or even thousands of miles — or perhaps an ocean away. When considering relocating for a job; there are a few factors to consider. Such as the impact on your loved ones, the loss of your existing network, and asking yourself will this new place feel like home?

Jacob Johnson had to make the difficult and yet exciting decision to relocate to Dodge Center and accept the Business Education teaching position at Triton High School.

Previously, Jacob worked at Inspiration Point Christian Camp in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

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Jacob Johnson

Bowling with the Bennerottes

By Megan Ziegler

It's a small-business snapshot in this mini article highlighting Wescon Lanes in West Concord, MN. Bowling alley management has been the family business when it comes to this hometown gem. What a wonderful way to support the "go local" movement through food and fun close to home.

Tricia and Jason Bennerotte purchased the bowling alley from Tricia's father-in-law, Rich Bennerotte approximately eight years ago.

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December 11th

DRIVE THROUGH THE 7 SCENES OF NATIVITY CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Christmas Alive

Bring PEACE to a busy season. Come out and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and make it a yearly family tradition!

Gratefulness

By Pastor Norman C. Hofffield

In his book, *Jumping Hurdles, Hitting Glitches, Overcoming Setbacks*, Steve Brown writes: "The most unhappy person in the world is not someone who didn't get what he or she wanted. The most unhappy person is the one who got what he or she wanted and then found out that it wasn't as wonderful as expected... The secret of a happy life is not to get what you want but to live with what you've got. Most of us spend our lives concentrating on what we don't have instead of thanking God for what we do have. Then we wake up, our life is over and we missed it."

Soon we will celebrate our national holiday called Thanksgiving. On that day, we are reminded of our need to be thankful. Francis Schaffer, in his book *True Spirituality* said: "The beginning of man's rebellion against God was, and is, the lack of a thankful heart."

The fact is that the root of an ungrateful heart is the feeling of entitlement. We think we know what we need; therefore God (or the government) should supply us with it. After all, God owes us. Those who are unthankful are never happy and they are usually angry. For some of us, that means that we have to take less time to listen to the news and politics, and more time to read the Word of God.

The root of a grateful heart is an attitude of humility that acknowledges God's grace. Thankful people are not rebellious; they do not look at themselves as "victims;" they are not envious, resentful, bitter, or angry. They face every day of life in the joy of what God has given them. The greatest thing in life is to give thanks, to express appreciation to others, to share these joys and bring happiness

to other people. Thankful people are fun to be with because they are happy people and their attitude is contagious. Gratefulness is never self-centered. It comes when we structure our thinking – our lives—our minds and our words so as to be aware of all that we have been given by the Lord. And we, as Americans, need to take time this year to thank God that we live in the greatest country in the world. Oh, yes, because of human sin, our country has flaws, but thankful people know that God has truly blessed us as Americans.

Finally, the church is where people learn to be grateful every week when we are reminded of what God has done for us in Jesus. The pulpit is the platform from where we hear about the goodness of God's grace in light of human failure. Pastor Timothy Keller is fond of saying that we are "more troubled than we ever dared believe, but more loved and accepted than we ever dared hope." Remember this—our salvation did not come to us because of something we did. It was God who acted in Jesus. What we do follows what He did for us. The message of the cross is the wonderful story of a loving God who cares about you and me. If that message doesn't warm your heart, nothing will.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA?

E-mail: hometownmessenger@gmail.com



FAITH IN ACTION NEEDS YOU!

Covid 19 has been hard on most individuals. It has closed down many of the things that we all hold dear – seeing family, worshiping together in church, going out to a favorite restaurant, browsing in shops, and on and on. Faith in Action has felt the impact of the pandemic also. Many of our limited volunteer drivers chose to put volunteering on hold early on in the pandemic. At first, it didn't effect our services because most medical appointments were canceled or postponed so there was no need for transportation services. As things began opening up, appointments became available again but some drivers still weren't comfortable transporting someone in the confines of their cars. The vaccine is helping to get us back on track but there is still an urgent need for volunteers to drive seniors to appointments.

Being a volunteer for Faith in Action is a very flexible position. When clients call for transportation, our coordinator contacts volunteers with the dates and times needed. At that point, it is the volunteer's decision whether they can take the transport or not. If not, the coordinator will contact other volunteers to fill the need. In a given month, a volunteer might choose to provide transportation for seniors perhaps 1 to 4 times. Please consider putting your "faith in action" by becoming a Faith in Action volunteer driver. On our website, fiadodge-county.org (under forms on the menu) you will find a volunteer application to print, complete and return. If you do not have internet access, please call 507-634-3654 for an application.



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308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center
Intern Pastor Kira Anderson • 507-374-2174
Traditional Worship 8a.m.; Fellowship 9a.m.
Christian Education 9:15a.m.
Contemporary Worship 10a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church
404 Central Avenue N, Dodge Center
Rev. Elliot Malm • 507-633-2253
Worship 9a.m.; Sunday School 10:30a.m.

Praise Fellowship Church
602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center
Roger Langworthy • 507-374-6400
Kid: Church 9:15a.m.; Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.

Dodge Center Methodist Church
201 1st St. SE, Dodge Center
Rev. Chad Christensen • 507-374-6885
Worship 8a.m.

St. John Baptist De La Salle
20 2nd St. NE, Dodge Center • 507-374-6830
Mass Saturday 5p.m.

Living Water Assembly Church
104 1st St. NW, Dodge Center
Roy Andrews • 507-374-6561
Sunday 10a.m.

Dodge Center SDA Church
410 3rd Ave. SW, Dodge Center • 507-374-6895
Sabbath School 9:15a.m.; Saturday Worship 11a.m.

Anchor of Hope Church, a 7th Day Baptist Congregation
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507-374-6755
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Bible Lutheran Church
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(weekly sermons available on YouTube and on website)

Area Church Directory

Family Connections

Scripture Reading — Ruth 4:18-22
Perez was the father of Hezron . . . Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David. — Ruth 4:18-22

The first mention of David in the Bible comes in the book of Ruth. David's story was part of God's much bigger story. Through the lives of David and many others, God was shaping and molding a people for himself. God called men and women into a relationship of grace, responsibility, and adventure.

The story of Ruth included disappointment, death, and discouragement. But as God worked in the lives of Ruth and Boaz, encouragement, joy, and hope began to shine through. Ruth and Boaz became ancestors of David.

Family connections anchored David's life, making his family story an important part of his identity. As Eugene Peterson noted, "The genealogy shows that the story of Ruth and Boaz wasn't simply a small love story into which they had accidentally fallen; rather it was a sprawling love story of epic proportions. For through the union of Ruth and Boaz came David" (Conversations).

Genealogies show us, in part, how God works in the world. Jesse told his children the stories of Perez, Hezron, Ram . . . Ruth and Boaz, and Obed as reminders of God's faithfulness throughout the generations. And the thread of those stories went farther back to a couple named Abraham and Sarah, whom God had called into a relationship with himself (Genesis 12). This was part of the inheritance David had even before he was born.

Prayer
Lord and God, thank you for your faithfulness and for calling me into a relationship with you as part of your story of life for us all. Amen.

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Relocating for New Job at Triton

(continued from page 1)

Jacob enjoyed his work at Inspiration Point Christian Camp for eight summers and as a full time staff member for two years. His role at the camp included: curriculum planning, writing Bible lessons, creating schedules, coming up with songs, and games. He also

worked with 1st grade -12th grade students. And was also responsible for training staff on policies and procedures. Then Covid suddenly interrupted him and the entire world. He was faced with finding the next perfect job in the next perfect location in Minnesota.

Feeling a little doubtful about finding a new job, Jacob went to a popular teaching job website. The first job he applied to was Triton's Business Education teaching position. He accepted an interview and came to Dodge Center. He toured the school and the community. Jacob described his experience of the tour. "It felt like home. People were driving golf carts down Main Street. The school size and the tight knit community aspect is what I

had been looking for. Reminds me of my hometown." Jacob was born and raised in South Dakota on a little tiny country farm. He went to NorthWestern College, which is a private college located in a small town in Iowa. He realized rural settings were a perfect fit for him.

Jacob is excited to be a part of Triton School District and the Dodge Center community. The move has been an easy transi-

tion and stress free for Jacob because he chose the right school district in the right location. His students have served as a wealth of information to help him navigate his new town. He feels supported by the administration and other teachers. Jacob has worked hard to prepare for his courses and business experiences. He will have an immediate positive impact on the Triton school system and the community.

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Dodge Center Messenger



Cobra Communications



Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

Our new mobile phone app has been downloaded 457 times to date. My goal is to have it downloaded 1,000 times by the end of the school year. I really like the new mobile app. It is a free download for your mobile phone. For Apple phones it can be found in the App Store and on Google Play for Android phones. Just search for Triton Public Schools on either format and you will find our new app to download. The reason that I am so excited about our school having our own app is the ease and ability to communicate with those that are interested in what is going on in our district. One of my favorite features of the app is the Live Feed notification. When you choose to receive these notifications, you will be notified on your phone when we post a live feed update. This live feed update is also immediately displayed on our webpage. The app and the webpage are linked so you can find information in either location. One of the features that works with our app is the ability to post to multiple locations with one message as it links all of our social media sites. We can send one message

to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and the Live Feed all at the same time. This is really efficient and allows us to communicate in multiple ways very quickly.

Our new callings system, app and website are all connected with the same company. This saves us money by using one service, and links all of these tools together to feature a better end product for our Triton Families. Since we first started using the calling system, we have had to make a couple of adjustments. I have appreciated the feedback in trying to improve your experience with the new system. One thing that I heard was the fact that the original message showed that it was coming from an Alabama phone number on caller ID. We were able to work with the company and get that adjusted so the caller ID now shows that the phone call is coming from Triton Public Schools. With the new system there are times when we will use the robo calling voice feature. This comes in handy when I need to send a message in multiple languages at the same time. It is called TTS or Text To Speech. I know that this was a new experience for some hearing a strange voice, and the fact that it also showed up from Alabama certainly made for some confusion. Please call and let us know if you want to be added to our calling system and we can add you to our list. We also now have the ability to email our community members, if you would like to be added to that list, please email me and ask to be added to the list.

I have heard that there can be a slight delay before the message begins when you answer the phone, I am checking to see if we can get that wait time shortened. We also have the ability to send text messages. You can opt out of that feature if you do not want to be billed for text messages, but if you have downloaded our app, you will also get the

live feed messages when they are sent. I am really excited to be able to have all of these tools to share the great things that are happening at Triton.

Please let your relatives and friends know about our app. It is a great way to access the link to all of the streaming activities. When you open the app, click on "menu" in the bottom right and then click on "athletics" and it will take you to the home activities home page with a streaming link. We have continued to stream a number of our home events since we have heard how much people have appreciated the ability to watch these live events. If you happen to miss a

game, they are all recorded and you can watch them later when you have time.

Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have regarding our school district. You can email me at schlich@triton.k12.mn.us or you can call me at 507-418-7530 to reach me at the district office. I would be happy to set up a time to meet with you or your organization. I believe that communication is an important aspect of my job responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to learn from your perspective. GO COBRAS!

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Triton FFA's Annual Food Shelf Event



Triton FFA did their annual food shelf event purchasing \$1200 worth of groceries at Sunshine Foods to stock the Dodge County Food Shelf. The group took \$1000 from the corn and soybean to purchase needed items such as canned protein, vegetables and various pre mixed noodle dishes. Sunshine Foods contributed another \$100 towards the project and a family gave an additional \$100 to help purchase groceries. The 21 members purchased 1006 pounds of food.

TRITON CLASS OF 2022

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



NOAH THOMAS

Noah Thomas is a senior at Triton this year. His parents are Ray and Annalee Thomas. In school he is active in football, basketball, track & field and trap.

His hobbies are hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hanging out with friends and family.

His favorite movies - Rambo and all the Rocky movies.

After graduation his plans are for a 2-year college or enter the workforce.



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Triton FFA Judging at UW River Falls

By Reporter Stella Streich

Friday, October 15th Triton FFA left for UW River Falls at 5:55 am for our annual Judging competition. With great pride I would like to announce Triton Dairy Judging placed second and will be competing at state! Cadence Spearman placed 6th. Gigi Polikowsky placed 10th Other members on the team are

Emma Klejeski, Stella Streich and Elyssa Robinson. Our Horse judging team placed 17th overall. Members of the team included Avril Arlth, Callie Chilson, Caleb Chilson and Gabby Geers. Livestock Judging placed 18th overall. Members of the team John Moenning, Morgan Stydl, Kiya Avery, August Johnson, and Jacob Kasper.

It was such an amazing opportunity to learn and compete in our animal judging skills. We are so thankful for our advisors: Robert Ickler and Ashley Crowson who helped us learn and grow as a chapter. The day was filled with absolute excitement as we were even able to stop at Ellsworth Cheese Factory on National Cheese Curd Day!



Livestock team evaluating a group of beef cattle



Left to right: Dairy Team: Cadence Spearman, Gigi Polikowsky, Stella Streich, Emma Klejeski and Elyssa Robinson



Horse team left to right: Callie Chilson, Gabby Geers, Avril Arlth and Caleb Chilson



Left to right: Jenna Kenworthy, Tristan Nelson, Isaiah Selthun and John Moenning

Triton Welcomes New Special Education Teacher

By Kenya Narveson

Alayna Johnson always knew she wanted to be a teacher. She is a recent graduate of Minnesota State University, in Mankato. She suc-

cessfully completed her student teaching at John Adams Middle School in Rochester. As a young girl, she always knew she would become a teacher. And once she started high school, she started narrowing her choices of what she wanted to teach. Alayna realized that she loved helping her little brother with homework. And she also discovered the amount of compassion and understanding that a teacher needs to have in order to work with a child with disabilities. Helping her disabled younger brother with homework set her

on a teaching career path.

Though being a special education teacher is not for everyone, it can absolutely be a rewarding and informative experience. Working in this field will require just about every teaching strategy you know: patience, cooperation, teamwork, communication, organization, and more patience. All of the students require patience, but some need a little more than others. Giving extra time for homework or a differentiated assessment could alleviate some of that challenge. Alayna completely

understands that prents send their most precious possessions to school; hoping she, as the teacher, will be humble, supportive, and empathetic while helping them learn.

Special education proves that everyone has something that piques their interest,



Alayna Johnson

whether it's sports or painting or music. If you can discover what that special something is, you gain an incredibly helpful tool for teaching methods. Alayna's student teaching experience in special education and the experience of helping her younger brother has prepared her for the wide range of disabilities that she will have to teach. Alayna creates effective individualized lesson plans to help make a lasting impact on the lives of her students. Her largest class size is six students and her smallest class size is one student. The small class size and increased time working with students allows her to build strong relationships with her students and their families.

Alayna comes highly recommended from the staff at John Adams Middle School and also from her professors at Mankato State University. Alayna is an advocate and passionate about helping students with disabilities thrive. She continues to assist her brother with his adult program in Rochester. Although she grew up in Rochester, she couldn't be happier in choosing Triton School District to start her new career path as a Special Education Teacher.

Bowling with the Bennerottes

(continued from page 1)

Tricia and Jason Bennerotte purchased the bowling alley from Tricia's father-in-law, Rich Bennerotte approximately eight years ago. She explains, "I helped Rich manage it for a long time and decided we should buy it."

As with many small businesses, remodeling has been done slowly over the years. Tricia enjoys the updates as they're able to do them and exclaims, "I love change!"

Beyond the sportsmanship and socializing of bowling, Wescon Lanes offers a wide variety of food. Tricia explained the menu as, "We have a full food menu from burgers to chicken to our homemade pizza that we are really known for. I try to add to items every year. This year I added hot pork and meatloaf dinner which comes with homemade mashed potatoes. I also added macaroni and cheese pizza."

Wescon Lanes is open during the fall through spring, taking the summers off. Their schedule runs from September through early May, and they're open every day of the week except Tuesdays. Hours are from 5pm-10pm. When asked about the time commitment as a manager, Tricia said, "I am at the alley every day so look forward to the summer for a break, but always look forward to opening again in September."

Tricia is always encouraging new bowlers to come and have fun, and to consider joining a league. There are three leagues, men's, women's and mixed. At present, there are five men's teams, four women's teams, and



nine mixed teams. Men's league is on Monday, Women's league is on Wednesday, and mixed league is on Sunday.

Wescon Lanes has been an important part of the Bennerotte family legacy, one that continues on through Jason and Tricia's children, Michaela and Jordan who are also active in the bowling community. Tricia explains that both of the children "have been a great help to us!"

The community gives a big thanks to the Bennerotte family for providing hometown food and entertainment options as one of the last area bowling alleys. Tricia wrapped up by stating, "I love my job! We meet some awesome people and have made some really good friends!"

Please considering supporting this local business if you haven't been to Wescon Lanes recently, and take advantage of great food and quality entertainment options close to home

as you try your hand at bowling with the Bennerottes! Be sure to check out the Wescon Lanes Facebook page for the latest information.

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We will be closed Thursday, November 25th so our employees can enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.



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Hwy. 14 is Finally Finished!

(continued from page 1)

But there are also the larger-scale impacts of well-connected communities and increased commerce.

It was quite the impressive scene when politicians, skilled trade workers, press representatives and community members came together to celebrate the opening of the new Highway 14. The event was held on Tuesday, November 9th, 2021, beginning at 10am, accompanied by gorgeous fall weather of partly cloudy skies and mid-40s temperatures. The west-bound lane of the new highway near the County Road 3 exit into Claremont was filled with event seating, souvenirs, hot beverages for attendees, and people mingling in excited anticipation as crowd members trickled in.

The hour-long program of speakers consisted of ten state and local politicians and group representatives who played an important role in bringing this project to fruition. Mike Dougherty, the Director of Public Engagement and Communications for District 6 of MN Dot opened the event saying it's a "great celebration. The crowd is indicative of that!" He led the group in a "moment of silence for folks who lost their lives on 14." Following the moment of silence, Triton High School band members played the National Anthem, directed by Triton band teacher Elijah Gray.



Elaine Hodgman showing her souvenirs of a Highway 14 cookie and a commemorative piece of equipment

Then began the line-up of ten speakers, each talking for approximately five minutes. Claremont Mayor Tasha Dahl welcomed the crowd saying, "This project feels like ours as it has been in our back yard for two years." She also said, "What a transformation to make this land into a four-lane highway!" and referenced how fortunate citizens are to have a safer exit to where they live. Mayor Dahl hopes "that this road will lead to continued growth."

Next Governor Tim Walz spoke giving a



At least the highway is done. Next they can work on the spelling.

"huge thank you to the legislative leaders who made this possible." He continued, "roads are what bind us together. This state-of-the-art road will serve this area for the next 50 years." Walz continued that the new highway "fuels growth in an area that is an incredible place to live, connecting all the way from Mankato to Rochester." He wrapped up by encouraging folks to "stop in to Claremont and spend your money!"

The next 8 speakers were the Commissioner of Transportation Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Congressman Jim Hagedorn, MN State Senator John Jasinski, MN State Representative John Petersburg, President of the Highway 14 Partnership Kevin Raney, a representative from the building and construction trades, and a representative from the office of Senator Tina



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Smith. These speakers thanked legislative leaders, both past and present, the skilled workers who built the new highway, and the many other community members and businesses who had a role in seeing this project come to fruition.

The overall themes of increased safety and commerce were consistent messages throughout the day's speeches. Both are great reasons to celebrate the completed work of the newest 12.5 miles of roadway between Owatonna and Dodge Center. Senator Klobuchar had reminded the crowd that over

the past 10 years on this stretch alone, there had been 139 crashes, 6 serious injuries, and 4 fatalities. Everyone can agree that having a safer road for people and goods to traverse is indeed something to celebrate.

The event wrapped up with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and popping a bottle of champagne. Shortly thereafter, the first cars starting moving past in the east-bound lane at 11am. It was a great day and a wonderful ceremony to commemorate the road being finally finished!



Kevin Raney, Senator Senjem, Gov. Walz, Rep. Jasinski and Mayor Dahl popping the cork on a bottle of champagne to celebrate

Endurance Wins The Day



By Harvey Mackay

I stumbled across a quote recently by psychologist Angela Duckworth that really caught my eye. She said “Enthusiasm is common. Endurance is rare.”

I’ve written a number of columns about the importance of enthusiasm, and I don’t believe it is common or easy. Getting enthusiastic about something and staying enthusiastic are not always the same.

Endurance, on the other hand, requires enthusiasm first and staying power after. It’s often extremely difficult to soldier on when an idea or project is faced with obstacles and resistance. But if it’s worth doing, endurance is the key.

That’s why I strongly believe in the motto

“Those who endure, conquer.”

Zig Ziglar, a master motivator and one of the most enthusiastic people I have known, told the story of a woman in his organization that was the top salesperson – out of 1,200 people! When she broke all the sales records, Zig asked her how she did it. She replied, “God didn’t make me with an off-switch.”

Dale Carnegie, one of the most successful inspirational writers of all time, said: “Flaming enthusiasm, backed up by horse sense and persistence, is the quality that most frequently makes for success.”

The world is full of examples of people who endured. Michelangelo endured seven years lying on his back on a scaffold to paint the Sistine Chapel. NASA experienced 20 failures in its first 28 attempts to send rockets into space.

Sarah Jessica Parker was born in a poor coal-mining town in Ohio, the fourth of eight children. Her stepfather was often out of work so he danced and sang to help support the family. At age 11, she was cast in a Broadway play with her brother. Many years later she landed one of the lead characters in the TV blockbuster “Sex and the City.” She’s still thriving today.

Another star of a TV smash hit is Jerry Seinfeld who was booed off a comedy-club-stage after only three minutes. That rejection didn’t deter him, as he kept perfecting his stand-up act at clubs all over New York until he landed a role in the 1980s sitcom “Ben-

son” and then his own self-titled sit-com and rocked him to fame.

Rapper Jay-Z couldn’t get a record deal and sold his first CD out of his car. He ended up founding his own record label, Roc-A-Fella Records, and is regarded as one of the most influential hip-hop artists in history.

Howard Schultz of Starbucks fame knows the power of endurance firsthand. He contacted more than 200 investors looking for his first original loan in acquiring the firm. After a year of rejections, he was able to secure the \$400,000 needed from a doctor and two other individual investors. Today, Starbucks is one of the most recognizable brands with more than 32,000 stores in 83 countries and nearly 350,000 employees.

Surfer Bethany Hamilton was only 13 years old when a shark bit off her left arm. Less than a month later she was back on a surfboard and is one of the top women surfers in the world, winning several competitions.

Motivational speakers Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen pitched the original “Chicken Soup for the Soul” book to more than 130 publishers before they found a small publisher in Florida who said yes. Their endurance was rewarded, as nearly 300 “Chicken Soup for the Soul” books have now been published and more than 500 million copies sold worldwide.

Religious leader Gautama Buddha advised, “Don’t pray for lighter burdens, but for stronger backs.”

Philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau said, “Endurance and to be able to endure is the first lesson a child should learn because it’s the one they will most need to know.”

Heard enough? In all walks of life, endurance is often the difference between success and regret. Stick-to-itiveness is never a sticking point for determined people.

I love the story of the high school basketball coach who was attempting to motivate his players to endure through a difficult season. Halfway through the season he stood before his team and said, “Did Michael Jordan ever quit?”

The team responded, “No!” He yelled, “What about Tom Brady. Did he ever give up?”

“No!” the team responded. “Did Wayne Gretzky ever quit?”

Again, the team yelled “No!”

“Did Elmer McAllister ever quit?” There was a long silence. Finally, one player was bold enough to ask, “Who’s Elmer McAllister? We’ve never heard of him.”

The coach snapped back, “Of course you never heard of him. He quit!”

Mackay’s Moral: Getting the job started is simple compared to getting the job done.

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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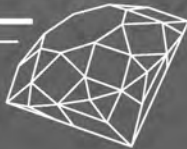
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Anhydrous Safety Should be Top Concern This Fall

The MDA offers safety tips for those maintaining equipment and applying and transporting NH3

Many farmers and applicators will soon apply anhydrous ammonia (NH3) after harvest. Even with a rush against time and the weather, safety should never be compromised. Recent accidents involving anhydrous ammonia have proven how dangerous and deadly the chemical can be when not handled properly.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is providing the following tips to farmers and applicators so they can safely apply anhydrous ammonia.

Always wear appropriate goggles and gloves. Never wear contact lenses.

Be sure to have a clean, adequate emergency water supply of at least 5 gallons.

Exercise caution when making connections and disconnections as if lines contain anhydrous ammonia.

Stand upwind when connecting, disconnecting, bleeding lines, or transferring NH3. Also, close, bleed, disconnect, and secure valves and transfer lines when taking breaks or disconnecting lines, and be sure to handle hose end valves by the valve body.

Position equipment away and downwind from homes, people, and livestock.

Safety is also key to those maintaining anhydrous ammonia equipment. Never assume NH3 lines are empty, always wear proper protective equipment, and have access to safety water.

When towing a nurse tank down the road, drive sensibly. Do not go any faster than 30 miles per hour, display a slow-moving vehicle (SVM) emblem visible from the rear, and be sure the tank is secured to the tractor or truck with two separate, independent chains that supplement the hitch pin/clip.

If an accident or spill occurs, immediately call 911 and then the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798 or 651-649-5451.

You can find more safety, storage, and transportation information on the MDA's website at www.mda.state.mn.us/nh3.

As a reminder, fall application of anhydrous ammonia should happen after average soil temperatures reach 50 degrees F or cooler to help prevent nitrogen loss, protects water quality, and ensures more nitrogen will be available for next season's crop.

View the MDA's interactive map to find the current 6-inch soil temperature and the past week's history.

Under the MDA's Groundwater Protection Rule, fall nitrogen fertilizer application is prohibited in vulnerable areas of Minnesota due to environmental concerns or risks. View a map of the vulnerable regions of the state.

THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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Dear Savvy Senior,

When my dad died, we thought he had a life insurance policy, but we have no idea how to track it down. Any suggestions?

--Searching Son

Dear Searching,

Lost or forgotten life insurance policies are very common in the U.S. According to a study by Consumer Reports, 1 out of every 600 people is the beneficiary of an unclaimed life insurance policy with an average benefit of \$2,000. It could be like finding out you have a secret savings account.

While unfortunately, there isn't a national database for tracking down these policies, there are a number of strategies and a few new resources that can help your search. Here are several to get you started.

Search his records: Check your dad's financial records or areas where he kept his important papers for a policy, records of premium payments, or bills from an insurer. Also contact his employer or former employer benefits administrator, insurance agents, financial planner, accountant, attorney or other adviser and ask if they know about a life insurance policy. Also check safe-deposit boxes, monitor the mail for premium invoices or whole-life dividend notices, and review old income-tax returns, looking for interest income from, and interest expenses paid, to life insurance companies.

Get help: The National Association of Insurance Commissioners offers a policy locator service (see NAIC.org and click on "Consumer" then on "Life Insurance Policy Locator") that lets you run a nationwide search for insurance policies or annuities in the names of people who have died. There are also six state insurance departments (Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, New York, North Carolina and Oregon) that have free policy locator service programs that can help you search. To find direct access to these state resources visit the American Council of Life Insurers website at ACLI.com – click on "Missing Policy Tips."

Contact the insurer: If you suspect that a particular insurer underwrote the policy, contact that carrier's claim office and ask. The more information you have, like your dad's date of birth and death, Social Security number and address, the easier it will be to track down. Contact information for some big insurers include: Prudential 800-778-2255; MetLife Metlife.com/policyfinder; AIG 800-888-2452; Nationwide 800-848-6331; John Hancock JohnHancock.com – click on "Lost or unclaimed policy form" at the bottom of the page under "Quick Links."

Search unclaimed property: If your dad died more than a few years ago, benefits may have already been turned over to the unclaimed property office of the state where the policy was purchased. Go to MissingMoney.com, a website of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators, to search records from 39 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Or, to find links to each state's unclaimed-property division use Unclaimed.org.

If your dad's name or a potential benefactor's name produces a hit, you'll need to prove your claim. Required documentation, which can vary by state, is detailed in claim forms, and a death certificate might be necessary.

Search fee-based services: There are several businesses that offer policy locator services for a fee. The MIB Group, for example, which is a data-sharing service for life and health insurance companies, offers a policy locator service at MIB.com for \$75. But it only tracks applications for individual policies made since 1996.

You can also get assistance at Policy Inspector (PolicyInspector.com) for \$99, and L-LIFE (LostLifeIns.com) for \$108.50, who will do the searching for you.

Thanksgiving

At this special time of year, we're reminded how fortunate we are to be a part of this wonderful community.

We wish you the best this Thanksgiving and always.

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MN Department of Agriculture Receives Federal Funding to Address Farm Stress and Mental Health \$500,000 USDA Grant Will Involve Multiple Organizations

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is awarding the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and 11 project partners \$500,000 to advance work in farm stress and rural mental health in Minnesota.

The MDA's "Bend, Don't Break" initiative will build upon existing efforts to connect farmers and rural Minnesotans with resources to help reduce stress, anxiety, and crisis situations, such as the drought that is affecting many Minnesota farms and ranches. It will support, improve, and promote services, such as mental health counseling, farm advocates, marriage retreats, and a 24/7 Farm & Rural Helpline, and will expand a radio show and

podcast series that profiles farmers who have navigated difficult situations.

"We know from working with farmers that suicide, farm transition and succession, legal problems, family relationships, and youth stress are crucial issues where we can all make a difference," Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen said. "We're thankful that the USDA can help us expand our efforts."

The initiative will also enhance the skills and responsiveness of professionals who work with farm families in stress through workshops, trainings, and other resources.

The MDA will partner with 11 organizations, including several that serve Indigenous

or emerging/underserved farmers. Partners include:

American Indian Community Housing Organization, Big River Farms, Farmers' Legal Action Group, Latino Economic Development Center, Leech Lake Tribal College, Minnesota Dairy Initiative, Minnesota Department of Health, Red River Farm Network, South Central College, University of Minnesota Extension, Urban Farm & Garden Alliance.

View the full list of USDA NIFA Farm and Ranch Stress Assistant Network grant recipients.

Fruits Dogs Can and Can't Eat

It's not uncommon to want to spoil your dog by sharing table scraps or your favorite people food snack instead of a dog treat. After all, if it is safe for you to eat, it must be OK for your dog to eat, right? Not necessarily. While many people foods are perfectly safe for dogs, some are very unhealthy and downright dangerous, so it's critical to learn which fruits and vegetables dogs can eat. Dogs digest foods differently than humans do, and eating the wrong foods can lead dogs to long-term health problems and, in extreme cases, even death. As omnivores, dogs have no real need for fruits or vegetables as part of their diet, but an occasional fruit or veggie as a treat is OK. Fresh dog foods also pre-portion fresh veggies into meals. Read on to find out which fruits and vegetables are OK for sharing in moderation and which should be avoided.

Apples are an excellent source of vitamins A and C, as well as fiber for your dog. They are low in protein and fat, making them the perfect snack for senior dogs. Just be sure to remove the seeds and core first. Try them frozen for an icy warm weather snack. You can also find it as an ingredient in apple-flavored dog treats.

While avocado may be a healthy snack for dog owners, it should not be given to dogs at all. The pit, skin, and leaves of avocados contain persin, a toxin that often causes vomiting and diarrhea in dogs. The fleshy inside of the fruit doesn't have as much persin as the rest of the plant, but it is still too much for dogs to handle. In moderation, bananas are a great low-calorie treat for dogs. They're high in potassium, vitamins, biotin, fiber, and copper. They are low in cholesterol and sodium, but because of their high sugar content, bananas should be given as a treat, not part of your dog's main diet.

Blueberries are a superfood rich in antioxidants, which prevent cell damage in humans and canines alike. They're packed with fiber and phytochemicals as well.

Teaching your dog to catch treats in the air? Try blueberries as an alternative to store-bought treats.

Cantaloupe is packed with nutrients, low in calories, and a great source of water and fiber. It is, however, high in sugar, so should be shared in moderation, especially for dogs who are overweight or have diabetes.

With the exception of the fleshy part around the seed, cherry plants contain cyanide and are toxic to dogs. Cyanide disrupts cellular oxygen transport, which means that your dog's blood cells can't get enough oxygen. If your dog eats cherries, be on the lookout for dilated pupils, difficulty breathing, and red gums, as these may be signs of cyanide poisoning.

Both cranberries and dried cranberries are safe to feed to dogs in small quantities. Whether your dog will like this tart treat is another question. Either way, moderation is important when feeding cranberries to dogs, as with any treat, as too many cranberries can lead to an upset stomach.

Cucumbers are especially good for overweight dogs, as they hold little to no carbohydrates, fats, or oils and they can even boost energy levels. They're loaded with vitamins K, C, and B1, as well as potassium, copper, magnesium, and biotin.

Grapes and raisins (dried grapes) have proved to be very toxic for dogs no matter the dog's breed, sex, or age. In fact, grapes are so toxic that they can lead to acute sudden kidney failure. Always be mindful of this dangerous fruit for dogs.

The Mango is a sweet summer treat is packed with four different vitamins: A, B6, C, and E. They also have potassium and both beta-carotene and alpha-carotene. Just remember, as with most fruits, remove the hard pit first, as it contains small amounts of cyanide and can become a choking hazard. Mango is high in sugar, so use it as an occasional treat.

Oranges are fine for dogs to eat, according to veterinarians, but they may not be fans of any strong-smelling citrus. Oranges are an excellent source of vitamin C, potassium, and fiber, and in small quantities, the juicy flesh of an orange can be a tasty treat for your dog. Vets do recommend tossing the peel and only offering your dog the flesh of the orange, minus any seeds. Orange peel is rough on their digestive systems, and the oils may make your dog literally turn up their sensitive nose.

Small amounts of cut-up fresh or frozen peaches are a great source of fiber and vitamin A, and can even help fight infections, but just like cherries, the pit contains cyanide. As long as you completely cut around the pit first, fresh peaches can be a great summer treat. Skip canned peaches, as they usually contain high amounts of sugary syrups.

Pears are a great snack because they're high in copper, vitamins C and K, and fiber. It's been suggested that eating the fruit can reduce the risk of having a stroke by 50 percent. Just be sure to cut pears into bite-size chunks and remove the pit and seeds first, as the seeds contain traces of cyanide. Skip canned pears with sugary syrups.

A few chunks of pineapple is a great sweet treat for dogs, as long as the prickly outside peel and crown are removed first. The tropical fruit is full of vitamins, minerals, and fiber. It also contains bromelain, an enzyme that makes it easier for dogs to absorb proteins.

Raspberries are fine in moderation. They contain antioxidants that are great for dogs. They're low in sugar and calories, but high in fiber, manganese, and vitamin C. Raspberries are especially good for senior dogs because they have anti-inflammatory properties, which can help aging joints. However, they do contain small amounts of xylitol, so limit your dog to less than a cup of raspberries at a time.

Strawberries are full of fiber and vitamin C. Along with that, they also contain an enzyme that can help whiten your dog's teeth as he or she eats them. They contain sugar, so be sure to give them in moderation.

While the ripened fruit of the tomato plant is generally considered safe for dogs, the green parts of the plant contain a toxic substance called solanine. While a dog would need to eat a large amount of the tomato plant to make him or her sick, it's better to skip tomatoes all together just to be safe.

It's important to remove the rind and seeds first, as they can cause intestinal blockage, but watermelon flesh is otherwise safe for dogs. It's full of vitamin A, B-6, and C, as well as potassium. Watermelon is 92 percent water, so it's a great way to help keep your dog hydrated on hot summer days. (You can even find watermelon-flavored dog treats these days.)

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Building a Foundation for Southern Minnesota's Future



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

For me, autumn always signals a natural time to slow down and contemplate the past year as we bundle up and move indoors. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we use this time each year to reflect on the partnerships that have resulted in a brighter future for southern Minnesota. We do this by celebrating a handful of these partnerships in our annual Impact Report.

In the first story, Beth Fynbo shares her entrepreneurial journey as the founder and CEO

of Busy Baby in Oronoco. When she became a parent, she had an idea for a placemat that suctioned to surfaces and allows caregivers to connect babies' toys to a tether system so they can no longer be dropped and thrown. As she turned this idea into a successful business, SMIF supported her through three loans. She has also participated in SMIF's CEO Peer Network to connect with other entrepreneurs who helped her pivot during the pandemic. Since she first reached out to SMIF three years ago, Beth has grown to a seven-figure business and even made an appearance on ABC's Shark Tank.

Another entrepreneur, Angel Uribe, shares her story about starting Stages of Change Center, a business which empowers individuals to rethink their relationship with alcohol or drugs. Her business, based in Eagle Lake, began in 2011 with no financing or support. In 2016, she joined SMIF's Prosperity Initiative program which provides business coaching to entrepreneurs who identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC). This program helped her to develop business competencies and strategies that are still helping her navigate her business with greater confidence today. During the pandemic, she has remained engaged with SMIF through a Prosperity Initiative Peer Network and by participating in business trainings. Angel is currently a SMIF Board of Trustee member.

In the Early Childhood space, we spoke with Jenny Carrier who is the community education director at Kasson-Mantorville Public Schools. As one of SMIF's 25 Early Childhood Initiatives, which are collabora-

tives that address important needs for children and families in their communities, they have a long history with SMIF. One month prior to the first shut down brought on by the pandemic, they received a Child Care Expansion Grant from SMIF, which filled a critical need of providing onsite child care for ages six to 12 years. During the past year they received two more SMIF grants to support improvements in their building and expansions in their programming, resulting in 12 new jobs.

Finally, the leaders of one of SMIF's 30 Community Foundations shared their story. Mick McGuire, president of Montgomery Community Foundation (MCF) wanted to start a Community Foundation for people to give back to their hometown. Since beginning in 2018, they have supported many local projects, including the restoration of a mural and an historic log cabin. Liz Krocak, vice president of MCF, shares about MCF's COVID-19 response efforts, which included grants to the food shelf and to the Montgomery Economic Development Authority. SMIF provided matching grants for these efforts, in addition to a Small Town Grant which they used to distribute "Monty Bucks" to people in need to spend at local businesses.

The voices that are highlighted in this year's impact report capture the ongoing growth, community togetherness and innovative spirit of our region that is always there, regardless of what is happening in the



A \$2,000 grant from Montgomery Community Foundation to Tri-City United Elementary School allowed the school to purchase ukuleles, an instrument that is more conducive to COVID restrictions than recorders.

world. While SMIF played a significant role in helping individuals and communities throughout the pandemic, one detail that shines through each of these stories is that SMIF was there for these folks long before it began, building a foundation of support and trust over many years.

I invite you to read the stories from our 2021 Impact Report by visiting smifoundation.org/impactreport. It is through partnerships like the ones highlighted in this report that we can make an impact on southern Minnesota's future.

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

Holly Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: November 27 & December 4, 11
Sundays: November 28 & December 5, 12
Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

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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.

HAPPY Thanksgiving DAY

We wish you all the best at Thanksgiving and always!

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DODGE CENTER COUNCIL MINUTES October 11, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, October 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. City Council Chambers and Tele-Meeting, City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas

Council members absent:

City staff and others present: Bryce Lange, City Administrator; Tina Kozisek, Administrative Assistant; Mark Barwald, Maintenance Superintendent; David Myrom, Community Development Technician; Daren Meier, City Engineer; Tim Woessner, City Attorney, others.

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bill Ketchum at 6:00 p.m.

Adopt Agenda

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation

None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve minutes of the September 13, 2021, September 27, 2021, and October 1, 2021 City Council Meetings, and the June 29, 2021 Planning and Zoning Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Payment of Bills

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Sko-

gen, to approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Administrator's Report

A. Mastic Gap Repairs

Staff received an estimate from Borgen Incorporated to do mastic gap repairs for water valves, manholes, and 325 feet on the north-west side of town, for a total of \$10,000. There is still budget available to cover these costs.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas, to approve mastic gap repair for a total of \$10,000. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Paint Striper

Maintenance has received a quote from Sherwin-Williams to purchase a paint striping and driving unit to be used to repaint street markings. The striping unit is \$7,900 and the driving unit is \$6,450, for a total cost of \$14,350.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Trelstad, to approve purchase of a paint striping and driving unit for a total of \$14,350. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Proposed Truck Route

Staff is requesting to have the portion of 1st Avenue NE that is north of County Road 34 be removed from the truck route and replaced with North Street.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to change the truck route from 1st Avenue NE to North Street. Motion carried unanimously.

D. 2022 County Road 7/3rd Ave. Reconstruction Project

Dodge County has scheduled construction

for County Road 7/3rd Ave for 2022, and they have contacted the City to see if there is any City owned infrastructure that needs to be replaced. Talking with engineers and maintenance there are some improvements that could be made, Resolution 2021-018 outlines the scope and purpose of the project, as well as the engineer's estimate and maps of the location of the project.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve Resolution 2021-018, A Resolution Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Broadband Grant Administrator

With the acceptance of the Broadband Grant, it has become apparent that a grant administrator would be beneficial to the City. There were two applications, however one withdrew their application. Staff is recommending to use Wiseth as the Broadband Grant Administrator for a fee of \$68,500.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve using Wiseth as the Broadband Grant Administrator for a fee of \$68,500. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Plan LLC Lot Reconfiguration

Resolution 2021-019 was presented for Council's consideration. The Planning & Zoning Commission met and held a public hearing on October 4, 2021, and are recommending approval of Resolution 2021-019.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Trelstad, to approve Resolution 2021-019, A Resolution Approving Plan LLC Lot Configuration. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Mac Mic Properties

Resolution 2021-020 was presented for Council's consideration. The Planning & Zoning Commission met and held a public hearing on October 4, 2021, and are recommending approval of Resolution 2021-020.

Motion made by Maas, seconded by Skogen, to approve Resolution 2021-020, A Resolution Approving Mac Mic Properties Lot Combination. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Carr's Tree Service Conditional Use Permit

The Planning & Zoning Commission met and held a public hearing on October 4, 2021, for a conditional use permit for Carr's Tree Service, and are recommending Council approval of the permit. Resolution 2021-021 was presented for Council's consideration.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve Resolution 2021-021, A

Resolution Approving a Conditional Use Permit for Carr's Tree Service. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Dodge Center Farmers Market Request

A representative from the Dodge Center Farmers Market has requested use of the community center on the second Saturday of each month during the winter months, when they cannot have the market outdoors.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Trelstad, to take staff's recommendation to deny use of the community center on the second Saturday of each month. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Smart Rural Community Road Sign

KMTelecom has contacted staff regarding their recent accreditation with the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association as a Smart Rural Community provider, and they would like to present a sign to the City to be placed on a main road as a visual representation of this achievement.

No action was taken at this time.

K. Council Workshop

Council decided on December 1, 2021 at 8:00 AM.

L. Community Center Request

Staff was contacted with a request to hold a land auction in the community center on November 20, 2021 from 10:00 AM – Noon. Council would like to look into the policy for community center use for "for profit" requests.

No action taken at this time.

Closed Executive Session

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to accept the recommendation of the attorney and accept settlement amounts of \$15,000 for the Jensen property and \$12,000 for the Crandall property. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Blaisdell asked if any more discussion had happened regarding the 2020 Improvement Project penalties. There was some discussion about option, but no decisions have been made. Wiseth will be providing options at an upcoming Council meeting.

Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to adjourn at 6:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Kozisek, Administrative Assistant



Wishing you an abundance of joy and prosperity at Thanksgiving and all season.

Happy Thanksgiving from our entire team!



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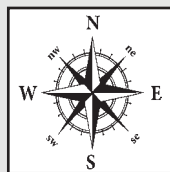
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes One for the Old Times



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.

Coming back to Minnesota this spring we had made the decision to sell the house that my grandparents had lived in. As a rental it was becoming more of a problem to us. That meant a renovation, so we started working. Then things began to change. After stripping it down and cleaning it up, we noticed the charm hidden underneath.

The house was built out of fir. Not pine. Fir gets harder as it ages. You have to drill

eighty-year old fir floor joists. It will bend a nail right over. This was a home to my grand-parents. Two of the nicest people you would ever meet. I knew my grandmother for over forty-years, but my grandfather died the year I was born. My memories of my grandfather Otis, came from some of my neighbors.

Lester Derby was one of my neighbors who lived in the valley next to us when I was growing up. Lester and Lillian were great friends of our family. I remember Lester telling me about my grandfather about forty-years ago. Lester and his wife had moved onto their farm and had three children. Their house had a porch on the front where Lillian did the laundry. One day Otis was visiting Lester and asked how Lillian would do the laundry when the winter came and it would be too cold outside. Lester commented that he would like to enclose the porch, but farming in the 1950's did not look like the money would be available. The next day, Otis stopped down and handed Lester \$500. He said, "fix the porch for your family, pay me back when you are able."

My neighbor Jim Buehler told me about my grandfather Otis. Otis had arthritis quite bad and got around on crutches in his last years. Jim had watched my grandfather cultivating corn and the grass would plug up

the cultivator shovels. Most people would get frustrated and raise the cultivator and pop the clutch to bounce the sod balls of the shovels. But not my grandfather. Jim said he watched him raise the front mounted cultivator, back up and then dismount from the tractor and slowly make his way around the front and push the dirt and grass off the shovels with one crutch. Calmly and patiently, each time with the demeanor of a man who was un-

flappable.

As I stripped the house down to the sub-floor and bare studs, I realized that I was looking at a house no one had seen since my grandfather built it, over eighty years ago. The memory of a simple farmer who lived the righteous way seemed worthy to preserve. My wife and I decided we would move into it and keep it for our summer home.

A Minnesotan: Thanksgiving



By RosaLin Alcoser

Thanksgiving 2019 was my first year back in Minnesota from Missouri. Don't get me wrong I loved Thanksgiving in Missouri, spending it with my older sister and getting Chinese food out so that we did not have to cook a large meal for two. Which made 2019 the first more traditional Thanksgiving I had had in a couple of years.

My family has the tradition of getting up watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade every year and making a big meal. The thing that stands out to me the most about that's year's Thanksgiving is cooking that meal.

The reason that cooking this meal stands out to me is because my mother's oven would not stay shut on it's own. Meaning that it was my job that day to keep the oven door shut; so I sat with my back against the oven door to hold it shut for a better part of the day so that the Thanksgiving meal could bake.

Thanksgiving 1999 was my family's first Thanksgiving in Minnesota, which is also the first time I can remember seeing snow. However, it is the Thanksgiving of 2019 that sticks in my mind this year.

Thank You

(continued from page 1)

Our goal with the Messenger is to help insure our home towns, still have a community voice of its own, direct mailing to all residents in the zip code. This format allows the community to maintain a local monthly paper, and better connect local residents, businesses and the community. We also understand the need for more timely information within the month, so we look forward to expanding our digital and online offerings in the coming months, while still maintaining our dedication to our hometowns!

We remain a small family owned business with a goal of supporting our rural communities and businesses.

We are proud to continue to offer you this local hometown paper, in your mail box each month. Our future success depends on the support of our local community, and we thank you in advance for your continued support of The Messenger!



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All of us at Mainstreet Publishing, publishers of the Dodge Center Messenger thank you for your readership and support.

Happy Holidays!





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