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CITY OF CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021 7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Tasha Dahl, City Council Members Heather Grey and Jacob Klejeski. Members absent: Deb Ellis and Vickie Madsen.

City staff and others present: City Administrator Connor LaPointe, City Clerk/Treasurer Liz Sorg, City Maintenance Worker Glen Hvitved, City Fire Department First Assistant Casey Dahl, City Attorney Mark Rahrick, Bryon Wolf with the Claremont Agency, and Doug and Tamara Stimpert.

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC INPUT

Doug and Tamara Stimpert bought 1 of the RK&T lots in June. Due to the setback requirements, the size of the house with an attached garage, and an additional garage to store their items inside they are requesting purchasing another lot which they would join into 1 lot. They will start building in the spring. The Council had no issues with the purchase of the extra lot. City Attorney Rahrick will draft a Purchase Agreement for 221 4th Place for approval at the next meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Klejeski to approve the Consent Agenda: Minutes of the September 14, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting, Minutes of the October 4, 2021 Special City Council Meeting, Minutes of the August 23, 2021 EDA Meeting, and Minutes of the June 1, 2021 Planning and Zoning Meeting, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

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Memories of Christmas Past

Mary recalls Christmas when she was a child. Sunday School Christmas programs were a big event and always held on Christmas Eve. The children would get a bag of candy and an apple after the program. Her family would then go home to open their own presents. She has two older brothers and four younger sisters in her family.

Christmas Day would be spent together with her dad's family. One of the delicacies they looked forward to was her grandfather's recipe for plum pudding. He was from England and brought the family recipe with him, a recipe Mary still has to this day. The fruit and currants would take four hours to steam and then he added a hot sauce to the finished dessert.

The children did not get any big presents when they were young. It was during the Great Depression years and most gifts were small items and practical things like clothes. She remembers going ice skating with brothers and sisters on Christmas Day.

There was also grade school programs at the small country school she attended. There were about twenty children in the eight grades at the country school house. It was exciting to take part in the program in front of their parents, and at the end Santa would appear and give out some candy. The teacher would also give each child a small gift.

When Mary was older and taking nursing training, she had to travel to Chicago and was away from home over the Christmas holiday. Her parents made a meal and froze it and mailed it to her, where they prepared it and ate it at the nurse's station.

Jean grew up on a farm in Iowa and recalls Christmas as a wonderful time of year in her

childhood. They always had a Sunday School program on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day was a time that her dad slept in while the kids got up early to do the chores on the farm. There were seven kids in the family and the boys would milk the cows and feed the hogs while the girls fed the chickens and collected eggs. When they returned to the house, dad wouldn't get up until he had his morning coffee. Only then could the kids open their presents. She remembers simple gifts like clothes, coloring books, paints and dolls. Jean recalls getting a Betsy Wetsy doll one year for a gift. Their stockings were always filled with fruit and a small toy. She was born during the depression so there wasn't a lot of money spent, but she remembers always being a happy family.

Christmas Day was a big meal for the family with a farm raised turkey, potatoes and gravy and pie. Her and her sisters always helped cook the Christmas dinner as well as bake special cookies for her mom and dad. There was always plenty of food and supper was leftovers from dinner. She doesn't recall ever having a Christmas tree when she was young. On the Sunday after Christmas the family would go to see her grandparents.

She remembers lots of snow when she was a young child. One year her dad stretched a rope from the house to the barn to be sure they could find their way safely in the winter snow storms.

When Jean and her husband had a family, they would send the boys out to cut a tree from their farm. They would then decorate it with popcorn on strings.

Jenine grew up in Arkansas and recalls



when she was in the fifth grade that the kids got two weeks off for Christmas vacation. Then right when they were supposed to go back to school a snow storm hit and they ended up with an additional two weeks of snow vacation. Her dad found a piece of linoleum flooring and they turned it upside down to make a toboggan to slide down the snow-covered hills. There were no snowplows in their area but she remembers a truck driving around with two men in the back throwing sand on the road with shovels.

For Christmas Eve they would go to her grandparent's home. It was always a meal of oyster stew. Someone in the family would dress up like Santa and come downstairs and hand out candy to kids and adults.

(continued on page 3)

**Warmest Wishes
at Christmas Time**

May the joy and warmth of the holiday season
stay with you throughout the year.

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at Christmas**

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Pastors Corner



By Pastor Michael Zaske

Faith Lutheran Church, Dodge Center

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.....I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.....Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Written by St. Paul (Romans 7)

As part of my effort to become more acquainted with the history of the United States and the world, I have been reading a book entitled *The First World War* by an author named John Keegan. The "Great War", as World War I used to be referred to before the start of the Second World War, ended over one hundred years ago. Hence, we do not hear much about the First World War anymore, nor does it come up very often in casual conversation these days.

For the past month, I have been captivated by the Great War, and I have delighted in reading Keegan's book about it. The opening sentence of the book is quite poignant—Keegan writes: "The First World War was a tragic and unnecessary conflict." As I read the accounts about the various terrifying battles

of the war and the immense loss of life in the remainder of the book's 427 pages, again and again I found myself drawn back to that sentence which opened the book: the entire conflict we call World War I was both tragic and unnecessary!

When I think of Keegan's analysis, I couldn't help but think of the various 'conflicts' that have emerged during my own life over the years due to foolish decisions I have made along the way. I think it would be safe to say that Keegan's opening line would apply to most of the conflicts that have occurred in my life: "When Mike Zaske did this _____ (fill in the blank), it brought about a tragic and unnecessary conflict."

But that's the nature of sin, as sin always leads to tragic and unnecessary conflicts in our lives. If you don't believe me, try purposely breaking a few of the Ten Command-

ments and see what happens. No doubt, you will find that the results will be tragic and unnecessary.

It would seem logical, since we know that sin always leads to tragic and unnecessary conflicts, that we should simply stop sinning. Problem solved, right? If only it were that easy. As St. Paul wrote in the quote above, we cannot stop doing those things we know will lead only to heartache for us by our own efforts, even when we know the consequences. We can be warned a million times, and yet our will ultimately isn't strong enough to resist. Our only hope lies outside of ourselves—the only way sin can be overcome in our lives is if somebody will rescue us from ourselves.

Such a "rescuer" exists! His coming, in fact, was predicted long ago by the prophets. When this rescuer arrived on the scene, he came in a way that nobody expected: he was born to a poor peasant girl in a humble cowshed...he slept in a feed-trough...he was brought up in a little, out-of-the way place not much bigger than the town of Wasioja...he was brutally murdered on an instrument of torture called a cross, a death he stated was for the forgiveness of sins...and he was raised from the dead to new and everlasting life.

This rescuer is Jesus. And he is the only one who can rescue us from our tragic and unnecessary conflicts. Please welcome him into your heart this Christmas.

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, worshipping 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, fiadodgecounty.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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Area Church Directory

Thank You, Lord!

Scripture Reading — 2 Samuel 7:18-29

"Do as you promised, so that your name will be great forever." — 2 Samuel 7:25-26

In the book *A Grace Revealed* Jerry Sittser tells about the tragic deaths of his wife, mother, and daughter in an auto accident. He wondered what could come out of such a horrific ordeal. He settled on redemption as the word that brought him hope: "[God] wants the harsh conditions [of life] to shape us and eventually the whole world into something extraordinarily beautiful. Redemption promises to transform, so completely."

David endured family squabbles, death threats, and many military battles before he experienced a time of rest and peace as Israel's second king. Through it all, he knew "the Lord was with him." And now the Lord had made a promise that his kingdom would endure and his throne would be established forever. The king knew he had to obey God's Word and seek to follow God's will, reminding his people every step of the way. David knew that Israel was "the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself and to make a name for himself." God was working to make something out of David's life and out of this nation for his good purposes all the nations.

Similarly, we are never beyond the redemptive work of David's descendant Jesus in his desire to make something out of us today.

Prayer

Lord, may I trust your redemptive work of always pruning, encouraging, and molding me to serve your good purposes. In Christ's name, Amen.



1st Presbyterian Church

200 East Street, Claremont
528-2320

Pastor Doug Walters
Sunday Worship at 10:00a.m.

St. John Lutheran Church

4532 SE 84th Avenue, Claremont
528-2404

Pastor Alan Broadwell
Sunday Service at 10:30a.m.

Email your church announcements, schedule, etc.
to: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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Memories of Christmas Past

(continued from page 1)

Christmas Day dinner was always baked ham, scalloped corn, jello with berries in it and whipped cream on top. Treats were always decorated cookies and bon bons. Her favorite gift was the year she received a ride on horse with springs to give it a bouncing action.

Colleen grew up in Mantorville in a family, where she was the eldest of eight children. Her Christmas memories were going to church on Christmas Day and then opening their gifts when they returned home. The Christmas meal was a simple one with chicken or roast beef. The kids each had Christmas stockings and they were filled with candy, jelly beans were her favorite. Her mother always made fudge, which they enjoyed after the meal. She and her siblings would make Christmas presents for their parents. She remembers most of the gifts the kids got were clothing.

When she was about fourteen years old, she recalls being in the school Christmas play. Their Christmas vacation fun included sliding down the hills in Mantorville.

The family did have a Christmas tree that the boys would cut and bring home. They hung handmade decorations on it along with tinsel

and some bubble lights. Her parents would place the presents underneath the tree until Christmas Day.

Barb grew up living in the country in western Minnesota and was the oldest of four kids. She recalls how her mother would decorate the house, and especially the tree so beautifully every Christmas season. They would hang their Christmas stockings in a window sill, since they didn't have a fireplace.

The kids would get to open one present on Christmas Eve and the rest of them on Christmas Day. Some of the gifts she remembers were dolls and roller skates. She had an aunt who was a school teacher and would spend many holidays with the family since she was unmarried. Her aunt was very generous with gifts and one year asked Barb what she wanted for Christmas. Barb responded with, "a boyfriend". What she received was a large Howdie Doody doll.

Christmas dinner was usually turkey or ham. She recalls sledding, playing cards and board games for entertainment in her youth since television had not become a household thing. After her children married, they started another family tradition of gathering on Christmas Eve and each family would bring a soup to share for the supper.

Rolland grew up on a farm as a child and remembers his father would bring in a real tree and each of the four kids would take turns putting the ornaments on the tree. They would go to church on Christmas Eve and open their gifts on Christmas Day. Most of the gifts he got as a kid were clothes. He recalls having turkey and pumpkin pie for their



dinner. When he was young, he remembers being in the all-school Christmas program.

Later his father went to work for Hormel and the family moved into town. Things were better after his dad started working at the meat packing plant. He remembers his dad bringing home a large Christmas package of

treats from Hormel that the whole family enjoyed during the holidays.

Blizzards were memorable when he was a kid and he recalls one year when they went to visit the grandparents, the snow storm was so bad they could hardly see past the hood of the car.

Mildred Mae Kubat

Mildred Mae Kubat, 92, of Claremont, died Thursday, November 25, 2021 at Owatonna Hospital.



She was born April 16, 1929 in Owatonna Township, Steele County, Minnesota the daughter of Adolph and Libbie (June) Standke. She was baptized and confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna. Mildred graduated from Owatonna High School in 1947. She worked at Jostens for a few years before marrying Jerome Kubat on September 1, 1951 at St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna. The couple lived on the Polachek farm, then moved to Ellendale and later purchased a farm near Claremont. Along with raising her three children, Mildred worked at Johnson Motor Company and North Central Plastics in

Ellendale.

She was a faithful member of First Lutheran Church in Ellendale where she enjoyed serving with the Ruth Circle. She was also a member of the Owatonna VFW Auxiliary.

In her younger years, Mildred enjoyed cross country skiing on the farm, gardening and canning. More recently, she enjoyed crocheting, cross stitch and bird watching. She enjoyed fall and spring trips to visit extended family in Wisconsin and drives in the country. A highlight was meeting at the Kitchen in Owatonna to celebrate birthdays with the Standke cousins.

She is survived by her children, Sharon Menefee of Ellendale, Stuart (Gala) Kubat of Clarks Grove and Spencer (Barbara) Kubat of Webster; grandchildren, Angie Menefee, Grant (Mai) Menefee, Jessica (Jay) Eidem and Mitch (Rachel) Kubat; step-grandchildren, Stacy (Nathan) Tempel, Nicole (Mark) Caldron and Erik Seath and four great-grandchildren, Henry Eidem, William Eidem, Millie Menefee and Mabel Menefee.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Adolph and Libbie; husband, Jerome and brother Milton (Lucille) Standke.

A Funeral Service was held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Dave Klawiter officiated. Interment was in Steele Center Cemetery south of Owatonna.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Warmest wishes to you and yours for a healthy and happy year ahead.

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It's the most wonderful time of the year, and we're so grateful to be celebrating it with all of you.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



CLAREMONT SERVICE CENTER

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Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

The attitude of gratitude. It is a simple saying, but when put into practice, it has the power to help you find happiness. I think the human instinct of wanting happiness in our lives is pretty normal. The reality of daily life is that we are faced with a number of adversities that can impact our attitude in a negative way. If we focus on what is going wrong, and we focus on what we don't have, we will certainly find it, and that will lead to a feeling of unfulfillment and unhappiness. The great thing about attitude, it is a choice that we can make each and every day. We can choose our attitude, and choosing to have an attitude of gratitude is a pathway to being a happier person. I believe it is also contagious and helps others have a positive attitude. In our world

today, it seems that so much of the focus is on what is wrong, how about looking at what is right? What if we all chose to focus on what we are grateful for. I know it is an older movie, but the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" comes to mind when I think about having an attitude of gratitude. Looking at the ability to choose your attitude, combined with having an attitude of gratitude has actually been observed and studied in research. The research indicates that people that are have an attitude of gratitude are genuinely happier.

In an online article "Giving Thanks Can Make You Happier" published by Harvard Health, sums up the word gratitude:

"The word gratitude is derived from the Latin word gratia, which means grace, graciousness, or gratefulness (depending on the context). In some ways, gratitude encompasses all of these meanings. Gratitude is a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible. With gratitude, people acknowledge the goodness in their lives. In the process, people usually recognize that the source of that goodness lies at least partially outside themselves. As a result, being grateful also helps people connect to something larger than themselves as individuals — whether to other people, nature, or a higher power."

The month of December at Triton we have had a gratitude challenge. I have challenged the staff to have an attitude of gratitude. Each day of the month I have shared video's, quotes and opportunities for reflection. I realize that COVID has created a number of

opportunities to focus on what is going wrong, but I am so grateful that I chose the education profession. I am grateful that I have the opportunity to work with the people of our great communities. I have been blessed to work in our school district over the past 29 years. It has provided me with so many opportunities to learn and grow as a person. I believe that Triton Public Schools is a special place. We have great facilities, and a great staff. Our district offers more concurrent credits for our students than any other district in the area. 10 different college credit courses to gain over 30 credits while never having to leave the building! We also have the ability to get to know all of our students. We have excellent class sizes with an all in one setting. There really are many things to

be thankful for when you look at the Triton School District, and I am thankful to have the opportunity to be a part of our great school district.

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!

#WeAreTriton

• Web Article <https://www.health.harvard.edu/health-beat/giving-thanks-can-make-you-happier>

Light Up The Holidays

May the warm glow of the Christmas season touch your heart and spread to those around you.

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TRITON CLASS OF 2022

ELLIOT NOBLE

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Elliot Noble is a senior at Triton High School. Her parents are Jessica and Adam Noble and she has one brother Gaston. In school she is active in Link Crew, SADD, yearbook. She also plays volleyball and taking pictures for the yearbook. After school she likes to hang out with friends, go shopping, listen to music and take late night car rides. Her favorite movies are horror movies and she enjoys all types of music. After graduation she plans to pursue a career in photography possibly as a crime scene photographer.

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S THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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Dear Savvy Senior:

I'm interested in tracking down some old friends I've lost touch with over the years but could use some help. What websites can you recommend that can help me find them?

Tracking Tom

Dear Tom: Thanks to the Internet, tracking down long[1]lost friends from many years ago is relatively easy to do and, in most cases, it won't cost you a cent. Here are some tips and online tools to help you get started.

Remembering the Details

Before you begin your search, a good first step is to jot down any information you can remember or find out about the people you're trying to locate. Things like their full name (maiden and married), age or birth date, last known address or phone number, old e-mail address, names of family members, etc. Knowing details can help you turn up clues while you search.

Social Media and Search Engines

After you compile your information, a good place to start your search is at social media sites like Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram. And search engines like Google and Yahoo. When using search engines, type in the name of the person you're searching for in quotation marks, for example, "John Smith." You can narrow your search by adding other criteria like their nickname or middle name, the city or state they may live in, or even their occupation.

People Search Sites

If your initial search comes up empty, you can also use people searches like AnyWho.com, Intelius.com or WhitePages.com. These sites will provide a list of potential matches from across the U.S. Because many people share the same name, these sites will also supply details to help identify the right person, perhaps including their age, prior hometowns, names of relatives, colleges attended or employer. While these sites are free to use at a basic level, they charge a small fee for providing certain details like the persons contact information. WhitePages, however, sometimes provides home phone numbers for free. Niche Finding Sites Here are a few other niche people-finding websites to help you with your search. To look for old high school classmates, try Classmates.com. This site has contact information only for people who have registered with it. But even if your friend hasn't registered, it could provide contact info for another classmate who remains in touch with your friend. Another option is to check out your high school alumni website. Not every school has its own site, but some do, and you can look for it by going to any search engine and typing in the name of the school with the city and state it's located in. You can also search at AlumniClass.com, a huge hosting site for thousands of high schools across the U.S. If you're looking for old college friends, look for an alumni directory on the school's website. You might be able to access your friend's contact info by completing an online registration. Or, try calling or emailing your alumni relations department and ask them to pass on your contact info to your friend.

If you're looking for someone you served with in the military, Military.com offers a free "Buddy Finder" service that has a database of more than 20 million records – visit Military.com/buddy-finder. You can also search for free at GIssearch.com, TogetherWeServed.com and VetFriends.com. If you can't find any current information about the person you're searching for, it could be that he or she is dead.

To find out if that's the case, use obituary databases such as Tributes.com and Legacy.com, which has a newspaper obituary search tool from hundreds of U.S. newspapers.

Lacey's Kitchen & Cocktails Now Open in Kenyon

Lacey's Kitchen and Cocktails, the brain-child of Head Chef Steve Lacey and businesswoman/G.M. Heather Thram, opened in November at what was formerly Schweich's. Located at 632 2nd Street, Lacey's is now serving new American cuisine; steaks, salmon, pasta, meatloaf, pork loin, salads, sandwiches and appetizers.

On the day we visited, during the Christmas in Kenyon Celebration, we were greeted by a beautiful holiday tree in the lobby and friendly, energetic wait staff. I was happy to see the decor had mellowed a little from when Lawrence Schweich owned it. They kept that impressive, glorious, bar up-front and the walk up to the Hostess podium is impressive. Feels like you're really going into a 5-star place.

We were shown to the back, where a happy multi-generation family of 7 was just finishing their dinner and a table of ladies sat chatting comfortably over their dessert.

General Manager Heather Thram - Mom of 5 kids - points out that petite portions of regular meals appeal to seniors and children, and are often healthier options.

Head Chef Steve Lacey has been in the Hospitality and Food and Beverage industry for 37 years. A 1992 graduate of Culinary School in Vermont, Lacey discovered his passion as a teen-ager. For the busy father of 3 - one of whom was working the day we visited - Golf Clubs and large-scale events catering have been his livelihood ever since.

I ordered a hot tea and Hubs ordered a soda while we looked at the menu. We were happy to see a number of clearly marked Gluten Free options, including a Tandoori Chicken Salad - which we hardly ever see! There was a Jambalaya; which could be served spicy or regular! I am a stickler for beautifully presented fresh food and good food-handling practices and I was happy to see everything at Lacey's was top notch.

We opened with the artichoke dip and opted for the pita chips. (\$8) We could have chosen kettle or tortilla chips, but we are trying to watch our Gluten intake. Not sure if Pita Chips have any less Gluten than the alternatives, but it seemed tastier. The wait time for the Appy to arrive was good and the atmosphere was pleasant. The place is very clean and warmly decorated in pecan colored wood with comfortable seating. We did not mind chatting over our drinks and snacks. Drinks being brought to other diners looked amazing.

The entree arrived promptly. I opted for the Veggie burger - a blend of quinoa, corn, black beans and brown rice with pickles and fried onions (\$11) on a Gluten Free bun (add \$2)

At this point I am compelled to mention the condiments. I over-ordered. I just absently asked for Mayo, Mustard, and Ketchup. Lettuce and Tomato. I guess that's what I normally get on a burger? I expected the kitchen

to just brush on a little. I was surprised when everything was delivered in a small soupcon as a

separate plate for dinner. Charming, but not what I was expecting and way more than I needed. It felt wasteful on my part. I didn't want to take it home and I felt bad leaving so much. I'd choose differently next time. Truthfully, I didn't need all that extra stuff. The lettuce was crisp, had a lovely color and was very fresh. Onions were caramelized nicely. Just some mayo would have done the job. The bun was fresh, soft and yummy. And Gluten Free! Yay!

I opted for the sweet potato tots (another delightful surprise!!) as my side dish. Maybe it's just my newly-acquired Minnesota palate but the Chipotle Mayo had a bit of a kick to it. Portions were plentiful.

Hubs ordered the Wagyu Burger with fries. (\$12) I tasted the Wagyu beef and it did not disappoint. Cooked exactly as ordered on a soft potato bun.

Even though we had not finished our lunches, we decided to have dessert. Life is short. I ordered the Sticky Toffee Cake (\$6) We ended up taking most of it home. It was excellent warmed up with some ice cream in front of the TV later that evening.

As I polish off the other half of my Veggie burger while writing this, I must grudgingly acknowledge that if both of us eat at Subway, it's over \$30 bucks. Which seems absurd to me and it's not just the price; In comparison, at Lacey's we had an Appy, 2 burgers, drinks plus dessert and the bill was \$43 before tip. So NOW, that \$30 at Subway seems REALLY absurd. Assuming we order 2 entrees at Lacey's...we're out the door for LESS than the sandwich shop. No brainer.

The relaxing vibe, a chance to slow down and just look around for a minute, the menu offerings, food handling, presentation, portions, cleanliness and friendly, eager service were great. We absolutely will return to Lacey's. I plan on trying Nona's Pasta with the Rosemary cream sauce, the Gyro salad, the Traditional Wedge and also the Tandoori Chicken salads,

I look forward to delicious Sunday meals after church; Heaven knows we have needed a nice, reliable place to go in Kenyon for a long-time. As the wife of a hard-working farmer, good food is of utmost importance. I need it fast and I need it good. Bonus points if the place is pretty and the staff is pleasant. I personally am hoping for an Eggs Benedict option on Sundays, but we'll see what the Chef has plans for going forward.

No word on the units upstairs -- which is the question everyone always asks -- except that they are currently rented.

The restaurant is open the back half of the week beginning on Wednesday at 11 a.m. Their telephone number is: 507-623-1173 Reservations are recommended. There is a lunch menu and a dinner menu; not all meals are served at all times. Call ahead.

More details can be found at www.laceyskc.com



Chef Steve Lacey

Just color this picture and you will be a winner of a great prize!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Return to Heritage Bank, West Concord location by December 20, 2021.



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December 15
 Bidding Begins: Dec. 4, 2021
 Starts Closing..... Dec. 15, 2021
Kenyon, MN
 TIMED ONLINE ONLY DOUBLE ESTATE AUCTION
 eXmark Zero Turn Mower, John Deere Lawn Tractor, Dr Trailer Leaf Vac, Lawn & Garden Items, Power & Hand Tools, Clean Antique & Modern Furniture, Collectibles, Glassware, Farm Primitives And Much More

January 16, 2022
 Bidding Begins: Jan. 8, 2022
 Starts Closing..... Jan. 16, 2022
Kenyon, MN
 LARGE ONLINE ONLY ANTIQUE & COLLECTOR AUCTION FOR THE ELROY FLOM ESTATE
 Large Online Only Auction. Antiques, Collectibles, Farm Primitives, Scandinavian Items, Glassware, Furniture, Stoneware, Household Items and More.

January 9, 2022
 Bidding Begins: .. Dec. 31, 2021
 Starts Closing..... Jan. 9, 2022
Kenyon, MN
 ONLINE ONLY CLEAN TRIPLE ESTATE AUCTION
 MG Convertible Car, Fish-N-Ski Boat, Wood Working Tools, Power Tools, Antique & Modern Furniture, Glassware, Fireking, Hummels, Farm Primitives, Commercial Kitchen Equipment

January 30, 2022
 Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 21, 2022
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February 6, 2022
 Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 28, 2022
 Starts Closing..... Feb. 6, 2022
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AUCTION **310.76 Acres+/- Freeborn Co., MN** Sections 20 & 29 of Hartland TWP, Sections 11 & 12 of Carlston TWP - 3 Tracts **AUCTION 12/11/21 ID #2142**

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LISTING **37 Acres+/- Steele Co., MN** Section 14 of Summit TWP - 25+/- CRP Acres - Abundance of Deer & Turkey - Pheasant Habitat **\$166,500 ID #2136**

LISTING **245.42 Acres+/- Blue Earth Co., MN** Section 23, 26 & 27 of Cambria TWP - Well Managed Recreational Property - Great Hunting **\$765,000 ID #2155**

LISTING **40 Acres+/- Olmsted Co., MN** 9329 85th St NW, Pine Island MN - Offered as 2 Tracts - 22+/- Tillable Acres - 2 Building Entitlements **\$495,000 ID #2129**

LISTING **19.9 Acres+/- Goodhue Co., MN** Section 27 of Welch TWP - Next to Welch Ski Village - Great Hunting - CRP Income Acres. **\$198,900 ID #2011**

LISTING **67.23 Acres+/- Mower Co., MN** Section 26 of Racine TWP - Nearly all tillable - Outstanding CPI of 94 - Excellent Investment Property. **\$477,333 ID #1964**

LISTING **240 Acres+/- Freeborn Co., MN** Section 16 of Manchester TWP - 189 +/- Cropland Acres - CPI of 84.4 - Great Outlet - Tillable near Manchester. **\$2,000,000 ID #1505**

PENDING **155.38 Acres+/- Steele Co., MN** Sections 22 & 27 of Blooming Prairie TWP - Offered as 2 Tracts - Drain Tile in Place. **UNDER CONTRACT ID #2148**

PENDING **124 Acres+/- Mower Co., MN** Section 18 of Lyle TWP - Nearly All Tillable - Offered as 2 Tracts - CPI of 74.2 - NW of Lyle, MN **UNDER CONTRACT ID #2128**

PENDING **114 Acres+/- Freeborn Co., MN** Section 34 of Pickerel Lake TWP - Nearly All Tillable - CPI of 79.1 - SW of Albert Lea, MN **UNDER CONTRACT ID #2167**

PENDING **55.06 Acres+/- Freeborn Co., MN** Section 9 of Mansfield TWP - 50+/- Tillable Acres - CPI of 90.2 - SW of Alden, MN **UNDER CONTRACT ID #2177**

PENDING **79 Acres+/- Freeborn Co., MN** 79250 123rd St. Glenville, MN - 43.72+/- Tillable Acres - 3 Bedroom & 2 Bath - Built in 1989 **UNDER CONTRACT ID #2123**


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MERRY Christmas

&

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The Season of Giving



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

that SMIF's 30 Community Foundations had their most successful Give to the Max Day yet, raising more than \$85,000 which makes a direct impact on our communities.

As a donor myself, I know that a gift to SMIF is an investment in southern Minnesota's future. I am so grateful to have grown up here and to have built a career – first as a member of Congress representing this region, and now as the president and CEO of SMIF – which allows me to remain rooted in this place I love. Some of my favorite memories from the past 14 years at SMIF are of the countless times I have spent touring the region and seeing firsthand the impact of our work in Early Childhood, Economic Development and Community Vitality. Every time, I come away with renewed energy and passion about what we do.

Our board chair, John Peterson, is a great example of a donor who is invested in his community and the region. John is the owner of Ferndale Market, a third-generation turkey farm in Cannon Falls. He is also a vendor at the upcoming FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace on December 11, an event that SMIF has co-hosted since 2014. This is an opportunity to directly support local farmers and food makers this holiday shopping season.

Even in the midst of his busiest time of year, John generously shared some thoughts with me about why he gives to SMIF: "I'm proud to contribute to SMIF and view it as a reinvestment in the success of the region I call home. Like so many others, my own com-



munity and business have benefited from the Foundation's work, and I'm proud to support the vitality of southern Minnesota and our vibrant local food scene. As a SMIF board member, I have a front row seat to see the impact the Foundation has across our region, as well as the strong stewardship of our resources. I know each dollar I give is put to good use right here in our southern Minnesota communities."

Remember that anyone can be a philanthropist – no matter the size of your gift. What matters is that you support the causes and places most important to you. You can contribute to SMIF at smifoundation.org/donate or to one of our Affiliate Funds, which in-

cludes our 30 Community Foundations, at smifoundation.org/localdonations.

If you are a donor or thinking of becoming one, thank you. Donors make our region thrive – we simply cannot do our work without you. It is the people like you who give back to your communities every day that make me proud to call southern Minnesota my home.

Pictured: John Peterson, owner of Ferndale Market in Cannon Falls, and chair of SMIF's Board of Trustees.

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

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<p>2015 FUSION</p> <p>#21025U</p> <p>1.5L ecoboost, auto, red, 119,149 miles</p> <p>HOLIDAY SPECIAL \$11,999</p>	<p>2014 TAURUS</p> <p>#21030D</p> <p>3.5L V-6, auto, gray metallic, 156,860 miles</p> <p>HOLIDAY SPECIAL \$10,298</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Cold Weather Car Care</h3> <p>At Milo Peterson Ford Co., our highly qualified technicians are here to provide exceptional service in a timely manner.</p> <p>From oil changes to transmission replacements, we are dedicated to maintaining top tier customer service, for both new and pre-owned car buyers! Allow our staff to demonstrate our commitment to excellence.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>Call our service department to schedule your maintenance needs. Open Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 5pm.</p> </div>	

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Red Cross: Donors Needed Now to Address Historically Low Blood Supply



Nearly two years into the pandemic, everyone has earned a holiday break with their family and friends. But as the nation gathers again for celebrations this season, the American Red Cross, which provides 40% of the country's blood, is facing historically low blood supply levels.

Busy holiday schedules, breaks from school and winter weather all contribute to a drop in blood donations this time of year. Those factors, combined with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, make it vital for donors to make an appointment to give as soon as possible. If more donors don't come forward to give blood, some patients requiring a transfusion may potentially face delays in care.

Donors are urged to schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). There is no blood donation waiting period for those who have received a flu shot or a Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine or booster, so long as they are symptom-free.

To encourage donors to help address the historically low blood supply this holiday season, all who come to give Dec. 17-Jan. 2 will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last.

Blood drive safety

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:
Owatonna
12/20/2021: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., First Baptist Church, 123 E Main St.
12/30/2021: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln

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Happy Holidays from all of us at
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How to Prevent Holiday Mishaps for Pets

Make sure your holiday preparations keep pet safety in mind. Dr. Ashley Mitek, a veterinarian at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, offers tips to prevent accidents and injuries that could dampen the holiday spirit.

Minimize Stressors

Hosting lots of guests can be stressful for you, and even worse for a pet that is not accustomed to company (or just isn't very sociable). "You can minimize this stress by giving them a safe space to relax in," advises Dr. Mitek. "Pay particular attention when unfamiliar children come into the home if your pet is not used to kids." Another great pet stress-buster is exercise. "During the winter holidays we tend to not exercise our pets as much because of the cold weather and busy schedules," she notes. "But throw on your coat—and maybe a jacket for your pup too—and go for a walk or a trip to the dog park."

Lastly, as people get time off and go on holiday breaks, switching a pet's schedule around can also bring about stress. Even on your days off, try to keep a consistent schedule for your pet.

Refrain from Food Sharing

It can be tempting to include your pet in the holiday feasting, but some foods can be toxic to animals.

"Ideally you will give only pet-safe treats and avoid human food," says Dr. Mitek. "Sweets that contain chocolate or xylitol are toxic to pets. And many traditional holiday foods contain high levels of fat, which can cause pancreatitis or stomach upset in pets."

If you do slip extra food to your pets, keep in mind the pet's size when you determine the portion. A five-pound Chihuahua can easily get sick from a small amount of human food.

"We all want to show our pet how much we love them during the holidays, but remember, what your dog or cat wants most is your time and love. Instead of handing them a sugar cookie, consider taking them on a walk or snuggling on the couch with them," says Dr. Mitek.

Pet-Proof Your Decorations

"Cats seem to absolutely love ribbon and tinsel! Unfortunately, if these items are ingested they can cause a life-threatening obstruction known as a 'foreign body,' in cats as well as dogs," says Dr. Mitek. Be sure to keep these decorations out of reach of pets.

Likewise, hide any electrical wires connected to decorations, such as strings of lights, since they are an electrocution risk for pets. Decorations made of glass could also pose a danger if they fall and break, and glass shards cut your pet's paw pad.

Be aware that some pets have allergies to real pine trees. Trees may make them itchier and more uncomfortable, possibly increasing their stress level during the holidays.

Watch for Outdoor Hazards

Even though dogs with shaggy fur generally do fine in cold weather, many dogs appreciate a coat. "Pet owners often ask how to keep their pet warm during winter walks. Small dogs, particularly hairless dogs, may do best with a sweater or winter coat for walks. You can also consider pet-safe booties for your dog's paw pads to keep their paws warm too."

Booties also protect paws from rock salt, which can be harmful to pets if ingested. Dr. Mitek recommends keeping a towel by your entryway to wipe off your pet's paw pads as soon as they come in from a walk during winter. For your own home, choose pet-safe ice melt alternatives. Consuming any amount of antifreeze from vehicle maintenance can have serious consequences for cats and dogs. Make sure antifreeze containers or spills are kept away from pets.

Anticipate Noisy New Year's Eve

Loud noises, such as fireworks or even the pop of champagne bottles or party poppers, may scare pets, especially pets with a history of noise phobia. Confining such a pet to their safe space before the noise starts can help reduce the stress. Pets with an extreme phobia of fireworks may benefit from behavioral medications prescribed by your veterinarian.

Lastly, take precautions to ensure your pets cannot get loose and run away when stressed. And as a backup plan, be sure your pets have identifying tags and a microchip so you can be reunited with them if they do escape.

Wishing you and your furry family members a safe and happy holiday season!

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M-F 8am to 5pm; Sat. 8am to Noon

CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL

(continued from page 1)

COMMITTEE REPORTS CITY ENGINEER

Bolton and Menk drafted City main maps for water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer. The maps will also be available on GIS.

They also did sidewalk and ramp evaluations which will be helpful in replacing ADA compliant sidewalks when an adjoining street is done.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Grey to approve the financial reports, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Klejeski to approve payment of

the bills, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

The Committee met and recommended the Council name the new street (that runs parallel to new Highway 14 from Elm Street to Oakview Drive) Southview Drive. A resolution will be available at the next meeting for approval.

The Committee held a public hearing for a renewal to an interim use for Claremont Improvement Corp. They requested the interim use permit renewal to allow RVs in the trailer court. The RVs would be connected to water, sewer, and electricity. The Planning and Zon-

ing recommended the City Council approve the renewal of the interim use permit for a period of 2 years. Motion by Klejeski to approve the renewal of the interim use permit for a period of 2 years, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

EDA

The EDA approved a façade grant for Positive Share/Russell Mosley to improve the outside of his buildings on Elm Street, such as sidewalk repair, exterior painting, and door replacement.

A Pints and Policy will be held October 21 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion for a round-table discussion on the future development of Claremont. The public is encouraged to attend.

PARKS COMMITTEE

The Harmer property appraisal should be getting done soon.

CITY ATTORNEY

Nothing at this time.

PEOPLESERVICE

Monthly reports are in the packets.

ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator LaPointe went through his monthly report.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Bryon Wolf went through the city insurance policy renewal. The yearly policy is \$22,744. Usually, LMC Insurance Trusts sends dividend checks.

Someone had stopped into City Hall and turned in an application for a free lot and paid the \$1000 fee. She was told it is non-refundable. She changed her mind on the free

lot due to the cost of the house she planned on building. She asked if she could get the \$1000 fee back and she was told to write a request which wasn't received. At this time the Council declined to refund the non-refundable fee.

Vickie Madsen resigned effective October 12 due to moving out of city limits. Motion by Klejeski to approve Resolution No. 21-16: Resolution Accepting Resignation and Declaring Vacancy, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

The Council will take applications and hold interviews to fill the vacancy which will run until December 2022. Motion by Grey to approve Resolution No. 21-17: A Resolution Relating to Procedures for Appointing a Person to Fill the Vacant Council Position, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Due to a RK&T lot being sold it needs to be removed out of the TIF District. Motion by Grey to approve the Resolution Amending the Boundaries of Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-4, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

A member of the Fire Department requested use of the west end of the Fire Hall for his son's confirmation on Sunday October 17. Motion by Klejeski to approve the request, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Klejeski to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m., second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg, City Clerk/Treasurer
Tasha Dahl, Mayor

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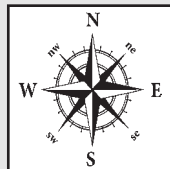
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Breaking Amish



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.

We live near a number of Amish communities. Seeing a family in a horse drawn buggy is a common sight. But what is becoming more common is to see the family in a minivan. The whole family, infants, teenagers, mom, dad and grandparents. Saw a group of them down at the Pit Stop, a local gas station, in a van getting gas. They have a designated driver, someone who is willing to make cash for driving them to town for supplies. I was looking for some manual labor so I walked over and asked the man sitting there with his wife and their toddler. They were waiting for one of their family to finish their appointment at the chiropractor.

So, I broached my query about the job I was looking for and the father told me his boys

would do the job, if I could come and pick them up. My next question was where and when and for that information I suddenly had two teenage boys in the rear seat offering me their cell phone numbers.

We have a neighbor down the road who is farmer by the name of Enoch. He has helped us out with lots of projects and is always willing to work. Enoch and Elizabeth have cell phones but keep them in a small phone booth down the driveway from the farmhouse. I assume that is where the charging station is but we found that if we call their number, we almost always get their teenage daughter. Seems that she spends lots of time down there where the telephone is. Who would have thought that?

We needed to clear some woodland so we set up a time. Enoch showed up with his two sons in their one-horse buggy, with a wheelbarrow on top and a chainsaw and extra gas and oil in the back. My wife offered the boys a cold drink from the refrigerator in the house. They picked soda pop. The kids are very hard workers and do not engage in much conversation.

We stopped by the local hardware store up the road for some bags of wood shavings. It is owned by an Amish family and they stock about everything you would expect at a hardware store. The wife was explaining about another store down the road and part of her directions was that when you turned on a certain road you would lose cell phone signal. Nothing signals progress more than a middle age Amish housewife explaining cell phone coverage on the backroads of Tennessee.

A Minnesotan: Christmas Memories



By RosaLin Alcoser

It's Christmas time again. For most families this is a joyous time full of family time, good memories, mishappes, and traditions.

Now that I am an adult I have found different past Christmases stick in the front of my memory more than other years then others. After all some of them are unforgettable because really who could forget the year that the dishwasher broke and the oven with the ham got turned off instead of the dishwasher while Grandpa and Dad tried to fix it. Or the year that Mom played

six different Christmas Eve services between the hours of noon and midnight.

The year that's really sticking with me this year is my first Christmas in Minnesota; which was also my first Christmas with snow. This Christmas is important to me because it is the year that I got my most important childhood possession Zoey Bear.

That year I had expressed that I wanted a Teddy Bear with dangly limbs so that it wasn't sitting up all the time; because really we all know that it can be hard to sleep with a stuffed toy that sits up all the time when you are little. So my Grandmother and her friends went to a Teddy Bear Shop in the Ozarks- yes that was a thing in the late 90s- and hugged every bear in the store and fretted over if they had picked out the right one.

I can tell you they definitely did pick the right one. I can still vividly remember opening up the box that Christmas and saying "Well there you are Zoey. I've been wondering when you would show up." and off I went with that bear for the next 21 years.

Who knows why some memories stick out more some years over others but the memories that do stick out are usually some of the best.

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- ACROSS**
- 1. Pilgrim's destination
 - 6. Make a scene
 - 9. Rubik's puzzle
 - 13. Hawaii environs
 - 14. Toothy fish
 - 15. Cone-shaped dwelling
 - 16. White Swan in "Swan Lake" ballerina
 - 17. ____-Wan Kenobi
 - 18. *Decorate with wreaths and holly, e.g.
 - 19. *Either dessert or source of heat (2 words)
 - 21. * ____ Day, or second day of Christmastide
 - 23. Land parcel
 - 24. Strauss of denim fame
 - 25. Broadband access overseer, acr.
 - 28. Clarified butter
 - 30. Acute one and obtuse one
 - 35. Southeastern Asian country
 - 37. Joust's breastplate
 - 39. Shrewdness
 - 40. Caspian basin river
 - 41. *Pasadena's Tournament of ____
 - 43. Tel ____, Israel
 - 44. Native American emblem
 - 46. "Why not?"
 - 47. Hitchhiker's quest
 - 48. Omits when speaking
 - 50. Hard to find
 - 52. Bear's winter quarters
 - 53. Hoodwink
 - 55. Scepter's partner
 - 57. *Number of days in Christmastide
 - 60. *"Ugly" holiday party garb?
 - 64. Prepare a letter
 - 65. "Bingo!"
 - 67. Hunger for
 - 68. Pass-the-baton race
 - 69. *Cranberry sauce sometimes comes from it
 - 70. Same as tori
 - 71. Raise the roof
 - 72. German river
 - 73. Stall sound
- DOWN**
- 1. Whiny and miserable
 - 2. Shade of beige
 - 3. Finish a ceiling, to a plasterer
 - 4. Marlboro alternative
 - 5. Not digital
 - 6. Bug-eyed
 - 7. Not Uber
 - 8. Social group
 - 9. Ghana monetary unit
 - 10. Second word of many fairytales
 - 11. Cause of Titanic's demise
 - 12. Poetic "even"
 - 15. Burdensome
 - 20. Not this or that
 - 22. Lab eggs
 - 24. Time off
 - 25. *Champagne holder
 - 26. *Wassailing composition
 - 27. Raccoon's South American cousin
 - 29. Feeling of superiority, pl.
 - 31. ____ gum, food additive
 - 32. Furiously angry
 - 33. Exclude or omit
 - 34. *Number of candles in kinara, Kwanzaa
 - 36. *Troika vehicle
 - 38. "Will be," according to Doris
 - 42. Asian goat antelope
 - 45. Potpourri
 - 49. Chevy Suburban, e.g.
 - 51. Builds
 - 54. *Popular holiday wish
 - 56. Munchausen's title
 - 57. *Bedecked arbor
 - 58. Shakespeare, to his friends?
 - 59. And others, for short
 - 60. Minus
 - 61. Tropical edible root
 - 62. Anon's partner
 - 63. Take a load off
 - 64. Like some humor
 - 66. *Traditional main holiday dish

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