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Volume 19 • Issue 4

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 were 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.

(continued on page 3)

Woodys Expansion



Woodys expansion includes the new Liquor Box Liquor Store, which is now open. Stop in and check out their their great Off Sale selection.

Randolph High School Holiday Concert



photo courtesy of Randolph School

The Randolph High School Holiday Concert was held December 13 in the south gym. The junior band and choir and high school band performed. *(additional pictures on pages 4 & 5)*

Announcements

• **Lunch Bunch** is a group of RHS Alumni that meets at 11 a.m. the third Thursday of the month for lunch at Little Oscar's. All alumni and friends are invited to join us.

Do you have an announcement?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

KYMN Looks to the Future with Video Production

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

KYMN took has taken first step into video broadcasting and created an exciting new facet in the way the station is able to present a live broadcast.

(continued on page 7)

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Come to the Manger: Find Hope

There was a young man who constantly quarreled with his father. Finally, he left home without saying goodbye. He continued to keep in touch with his mom but cut connections with his dad.

After a few years, he wanted to come home for Christmas very badly. But he was afraid his dad would not allow it. His mom wrote to him and urged him to come home. Inside, he felt he couldn't do that until he knew his father had forgiven him. They wrote back and forth a few times about it.

Finally, there wasn't time for any more letters. His mother wrote and said she would talk to his dad. If he had forgiven him, she would tie a white rag on the tree right next to the railroad tracks in their back yard. He would be able to see the tree before the train reached the station. If there were no rag, he would go on and not stop.

The young man started for home. As the train got close to his home, he became so nervous he couldn't look out the window. So he said to his friend who was sitting next to

him, "I can't bear to look. Would you sit in my place and look out the window for that big tree in my back yard next to the tracks. Tell me if there is a rag on it or not."

So his friend traded places with him and looked out the window. After a while the friend said, "Oh, I see the tree."

The son asked, "Is there a white rag tied to it?"

For a moment, his friend didn't say anything. Then he turned, and in a soft voice said, "There is a white rag tied to every limb of the tree."

Jesus came to live here on earth, and he made his home, his dwelling, among us. "Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them." John 14:23. Jesus said that he comes to live with those that are His followers! God, Father & Son, with come and make their home with each of us that call on the name of the Lord and are His! The God of heaven, the creator of the universe desires to make His home with every person that believes in Him. He is a personal God- He desires a relationship with each of us and just like our family- it begins in our homes- in our hearts! Jesus said that he came to make a home with us! Making a home is far more than the wood, cement, and paint- it's the people inside. It's the people we do life with, fight with, love on, and celebrate and cry with! Making a home is far more than brick and mortar. It's learning to love unconditionally. Learning to put others ahead of ourselves, learning to go the extra mile within the relationship to make things work! That's family, that's home.

Home is where you feel comfortable, it should be where you feel safe to be yourself. Home is the place where you are real and where you are content. Home brings up many pictures of family, fun and good food. Often home is where we return to for holidays. Going home can feel safe- or for some

coming home will stir up other memories best left buried.

All of our homes come with challenges and problems, which come from the sin in this world. Many homes have become battle grounds, places of fear and insecurity instead of havens for our troubled spirits. Other homes struggle to get bread on the table, or utilities working. Still others lack love and nurturing that every person needs. But that wasn't the way it was supposed to be. As sin entered the world through Adam- so the world entered the 'homes' of humankind.

Jesus came to bring us that hope. He came to be with us and live in us so that we would be ready for our permanent home in heaven with him someday. He came to give us hope for today and forever. The author of Hebrews 11:1, wrote, "Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see." Sadly, many are without the hope of Jesus today. And they turn to other people and things to give them some hope for the future.

The Christian faith is not a hope-so hope, but a know-so hope. It's not like the hope of the world which disappoints but rather it's a hope anchored in God and in the Word of God and in the God who can do all things. The hope we can have only comes through faith.

Hope is about expectation. You don't look forward to things you already possess. Hope requires that we look forward to something and move toward that thing with the assurance that we will eventually acquire it. For believers in Christ, we can give thanks to the Spirit within us, because we are able to put our hope in God and wait patiently to be united with Him. One day everything will be put to right- one day all things will be made new. Until that day we live in hopeful expectation.

We all need a place to call home. We all need a place to feel love and feel cared for.

Jesus came to live with us, to give us hope, to love us and to care for us. He left the comforts of heaven to be born as an infant to a poor Jewish couple and He would be born in a manger in Bethlehem- He came to make his home in our hearts- to be our God so that we would be His people.

This past year may be leaving you feeling broken or isolated. This year may have left you grieving or fearful or hurt. It's ok if to feel sad. You don't have to feel like a downer amid celebration. You can sit at the feet of a Savior who came for you where you are right now. That's how Immanuel works. It's God with us in the dirt giving us hope in the face of despair. "Those who walk in darkness have seen a great light, on those living in spaces of deepest darkness a light has dawned." - Isaiah 9:2

Jesus Christ is our hope for today- and for all our tomorrows. He came to bring hope to our hearts- to our homes and to the darkest pits of our life. He's got tomorrow in His hands- Go to Him- trust Him- Find Hope.

OBITUARY

Robert "Bobby" Allen Anderson



Robert "Bobby" Allen Anderson, age 57 of Randolph, MN, died at his home on November 16, 2021.

Bobby is survived by his nephews, Jeremy Cairl (Ginny) and Jason Cairl; niece, Kristen Fleming (Tom); great nephews and niece, William Fleming, Joseph Cairl, and Whitney Fleming.

A memorial gathering was held on Friday, December 10 from 6pm-8pm at Lundberg Funeral Home in Cannon Falls.



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RANDOLPH BAPTIST CHURCH

29020 Dawson Avenue in the heart of Randolph (adjacent to Randolph Public School grounds).

Sunday School 9:00a.m.

(children, teen, and adult classes)

Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.

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Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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 Sittler 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.

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NOTICE

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

Memories of Christmas Past

(continued from page 1)

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.

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.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR



As we gear up for another Christmas, we're happy and grateful to be celebrating it with the customers and friends who have made our year so special. We appreciate your trust in us, and we're proud to serve this community.

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Randolph High School Holiday Concert



photos courtesy of Randolph School



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Randolph High School Holiday Concert

December, 2021

- RANDOLPH-HAMPTON-CASTLE ROCK MESSENGER -

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*May the Joys of the Season
Be With You All Year*

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



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Season's Greetings

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We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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Leading the Return to Work



By Stevie Ray

The pandemic has created more introspection among business leaders than any other event in recent history. The early months of shut-downs and reorganization caused leaders to question just about every old-school belief in how business is done. Months later, the question was, "When will we get back to normal?" Then, when Open sign was finally relit, no one seemed to want to work anyone. Soon, arm-chair psychologists had theories as to why Americans didn't seem to want to work anymore. But it didn't take long for those theories to take a beating.

The easiest culprit was extended federal benefits. I mean, who would want to go back to a 9-5 when they are getting hundreds of dollars a week from Uncle Sam for doing nothing? Surely, once those benefits stopped, job applications would start flooding in. Except, when the benefits ceased, workers did

not return. Another reason was lingering fear of COVID in an in-person workplace. Only time, and the eventual fading of COVID, will tell if that assumption holds water.

Another hot topic kicked around when people talk about the worker shortage is the question of wages. According to some, people are tired of being paid a barely-living wage just so some investor can walk away with the profit. The assumption has always been that, when unemployment dries up, employees will return. I mean, some money is still better than no money at all. Right? It turns out, no.

Those of us who study influence and human behavior are constantly reminded that money, while certainly important, holds less sway than many other factors when people are weighing important decisions. Look at the ways companies try to woo new hires:

Huge banners listing fantastic starting wages. Ask restaurant servers across the country who are quitting en masse just how much money matters when they are being told by customers to lower their mask and smile before getting a tip. (This is happening a lot. If you do this, please stop.)

Signs at the front door that state Join a (winning) (fun) (happy) team. The sign is meaningless when you walk through the store and see staff that is anything but happy, fun, or winning.

Posters by the check-out counter that list the discount employees get by working there. Are you really advertising that you want people to work there so they can spend the money they earn at the very place they work? And who buys so much stuff from one place

that working there is a smart financial decision?

I am going to go out on a limb and claim that these ideas are the result of different generations not talking to each other. Business leaders are still comprised of Baby Boomers, Gen X-ers, and the oldest Gen Y. These folks are trying to influence the mindset of young Gen Y and Gen Z. (If you are hiring Generation Alpha, born after 2011, we need to talk about child labor laws.) If there is one constant in the universe, it is that older folks are much better at talking than listening. So, an older business leader thinks "We'll promise great pay and a great place to work. Isn't that what everyone wants?" But that leader is using logic borne from a different generation. These tactics are the product of talking to a new generation without listening to them.

One sure outcome of the pandemic is that it has forced people of widely differing views to acknowledge that other viewpoints cannot simply be brushed aside, ignored, or disrespected. This trend should extend to how business leaders communicate with staff. Of course, people will return to work. Savings accounts and government support don't last forever, but with birth rates the lowest they

have been in over 40 years, and immigration's unsure future, smart leaders must act to change their workplace culture now.

The first step is to find a new way to communicate with staff. Younger employees are not blank slates. Each generation has unique experiences that shape a particular world view. If you want to lead a workplace that attracts the best, do more listening than talking. And resist the temptation to compare the needs and desires of your generation to those whom you are trying to hire. To attract people, don't pitch...listen.

Stevie Ray is a keynote speaker and trainer, bringing his program, "The Roadmap to Influence" to organizations nationwide.



We look forward to seeing you again soon in 2022!

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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KYMN Looks to the Future with Video Production

(continued from page 1)

With Jimmy LaRue and AJ Reisetter on the call, and many KYMN staffers working behind the scenes, KYMN presented a video broadcast of the Northfield boys hockey team's 5-0 win over Red Wing. Fans were able to tune in on the KYMN website and watch the game on their computers and mobile devices.

KYMN station manager and owner Jeff

Johnson said that video production is something that has been discussed in the KYMN offices for some time. There has been a desire to take this step, but the challenges have been too great. With questions of how to staff a broadcast, and the high cost of the technology necessary to present something that meets acceptable standards, there has been a problem with feasibility, he said. Until now.

"[The cost] has kind of leveled off in recent years, and...the market has created some solutions that we didn't have a couple of years ago. So now is the time to leap. We bought some video equipment and such, and we had our first video streaming [broadcast] of a game, and everything went very well."

Lance Reisetter, who has been the point man for video productions said the plan mov-

ing forward is to match video with the radio broadcasts. But that could change quickly, due to the ease of use in the technology.

"The fact that we can sit in the ice arena and do this by simply plugging into electrical outlets is amazing," he said.

In the coming months, the station will add substantially to the broadcast schedule. The technology the station is using allows for the broadcast of multiple events simultaneously, and the plan is to take advantage of that capability.

"There are still a few bugs,' said Johnson, "but we'll have them worked out by the end of the winter sports season."

Reisetter said this move is a necessary one for both KYMN and the communities it serves.

"High School sports is so important, especially to smaller towns like Northfield and Randolph, and even Farmington. KYMN has been broadcasting local sport for decades, and it's vital that we keep up with the times."

Season End Conference Achievements for 2021 Fall Randolph Clay Target Team

Congratulations to the following for Fall 2021 Trap League achievements in 1A-Conference 15.

Top 25 in Conference Male:

2nd Place, Senior Cory Timm with a season average of 23.9/25

#15, Sophomore Will May with season average of 22.4/25

#25, Sophomore Vance Heindenreich with season average of 21.60/25

Top 25 in Conference Female

#18, Sophomore Jocelyn Zingler with season average 16.70/25

#22, Senior Kilyn Fredrickson with season average 15.70/25

#24, Freshman Chloe Vought with season average 15.0/25

Top Overall in State of MN

Ranked #18 Senior Cory Timm

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For something different

Sportsmanship is Winning As One



By Harvey Mackay

An anthropologist proposed a game to some children in Africa. He placed a basket of fruit near a tree and told them that whoever got to the tree first could have all the fruit.

When he gave the signal to go, all the children held each other's hands and ran to the tree together. Then they sat in a circle enjoying the fruit.

When the anthropologists asked why they'd run as a group when the winner could have had more fruit on his own, one child said, "How can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?"

For years I've maintained that nice guys can finish first. Leo Durocher may have been a great Major League Baseball manager, but he was a misguided cynic when he remarked that "Nice guys finish last." Many of the most

successful people I know are also among the nicest. There's just too much evidence out there to deny it.

More than just a warm, fuzzy feeling, being nice and being a good sport are not mutually exclusive. No one wants to play with a jerk – or a cheater, a showoff, or a braggart. One of the best commercials currently running features athletes of all ages stopping in the midst of competition to help other people up.

Another excellent example of sportsmanship occurred at the 1969 Ryder Cup, a biennial men's golf competition between teams from Europe and the United States. The team competition was tied at 15.5 in the final match between Britain's Tony Jacklin and American Jack Nicklaus, who reached the 18th hole tied. Nicklaus made his par putt, and Jacklin faced a three-foot putt to earn the first ever tie in the competition. Instead of forcing his rival to make the putt, Nicklaus picked up Jacklin's ball marker and conceded the tie.

Nicklaus said, "I don't think you would have missed that, Tony, but I didn't want to give you the chance."

The annals of sports are filled with inspiring stories of that sort. Successful businesses should have the same chapters in their histories. But if your business doesn't, examine the deficiencies in the culture and make some improvements.

In business, being nice doesn't mean being ineffective. My mother taught me, "It's nice to be important but more important to be nice." My father always said, "You get more in life with sugar than with vinegar."

Frightened and mistreated people under-

perform. Talent doesn't flourish in a culture of doom and gloom, intimidation and insecurity. A bullying executive is an executive unsure of himself or herself. The people they supervise realize how damaging this is. Morale sags, performance suffers and profits decline.

The methods for fostering sportsmanship in business are much the same as they are when teaching children. Play fair. Avoid arguing. Follow directions. If you lose, don't make excuses. If you win, don't rub it in. Appreciate what others do well. Be supportive and respectful. Be willing to learn. Have a positive attitude.

Learn from your mistakes and push yourself to do better next time. If someone else makes a mistake, encourage them instead of criticizing them. Try your best, that's all anyone can expect.

We teach our kids to show respect for teammates and officials, and it's the same for co-workers. Realize that through proper sportsmanship, we all win and our company wins.

I am a strong believer in competition. I think it makes all of us better. However, I understand that some leaders try to eliminate competition at work because it can cause conflict. That's where sportsmanship really comes into play. Encourage everyone to do their best and cheer their success. Then use this success as incentive to achieve greater results. Leaders should want people to stretch themselves and get out of their comfort zones.

Competition isn't all about contests and incentives. It's about people pushing them-



selves to be better every day. The goal is to be the best you can be and never give up. If you win, be gracious.

Sportsmanship should be a requirement at work. Leaders should set the stage and demonstrate that the team is more important than individuals. We're all in this together. Don't be offended by others' success; cheer them on and learn from them.

Simon Nguyen said, "Victory is remembered for at most two decades; an act of good sportsmanship is remembered for a lifetime."

Mackay's Moral: Sportsmanship: lose with grace, win with class.

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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UPCOMING 2022 AUCTIONS

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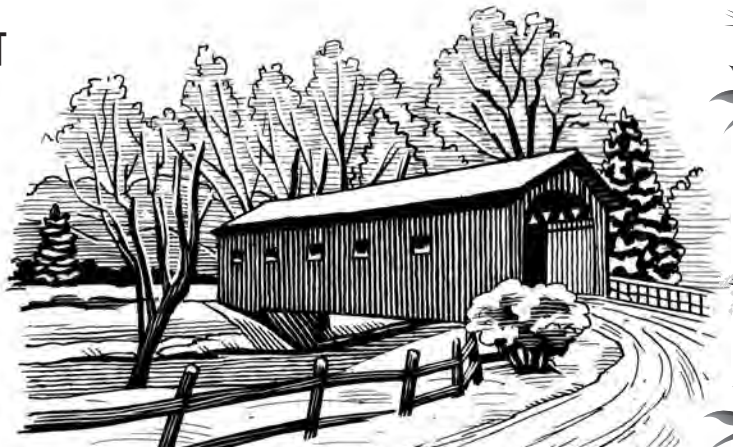
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Opportunities for farmers who recently changed practices to improve soil health and for farmers who are just beginning their carbon journey



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Farmers can get more information and see if they qualify by visiting <https://www.truterra.com/CarbonSurvey> before February 1, 2022.

The Truterra carbon programs available through CFS offers two distinct pathways for farmers to get rewarded for their stewardship: One program is designed to reward recent adopters for their investment in carbon-sequestering practices; a second, new program is designed to engage and support farmers through the process of implementing practices for the first time.

“At Central Farm Service, we are very eager to steward this offer for our owners, states KC Graner, CFS SVP of Agronomy. Our owner customers have invested many years into their Central Advantage GS platform to store, manage, and mine their data for insights on bettering crop production and profitability. This foundation of Central Advantage parlays perfectly into all things Carbon and Sustainability, says Graner, as the data will be the currency by which growers capitalize on these emerging markets. TruTERRA offerings fit right into our Central Advantage data systems and allow growers an opportunity to begin testing the waters on new profit opportunities.”

The first pathway, the 2022 Truterra carbon program, is designed for farmers who have recently adopted soil health management practices that store additional carbon in their soils, such as significant reductions in tillage and the addition of cover crops. Farmers may be eligible to receive \$20 per ton of additional carbon stored. The eligible cropping systems include corn, wheat, or cotton as part of farmers' crop rotations.

The second pathway, the 2022 Truterra carbon market access program, is designed to be an on-ramp for farmers just getting started with regenerative practices and rewards farmers for taking the first step toward improving soil health in preparation to potentially market their carbon next year. Participating farmers may be eligible to receive a one-time payment of \$2 per acre for eligible practice change in crop year 2022. Participating farmers will maintain ownership of their carbon rights in current and future years and are not required to make a long-term commitment. Importantly, at the end of crop year 2022 farmers may be eligible to receive an offer from Truterra for carbon removed through these practices in 2023 and beyond.

The Truterra carbon program and carbon market access program offered through CFS is one of the largest carbon credit programs in the US and represents unparalleled speed to market from program enrollment to farmer payments. The programs focus on generating the industry's most attractive farmer return per acre and providing the most farmer-favorable contract opportunity in the crowded carbon marketplace.

For more information about the 2022 carbon program and how to get involved, visit <https://www.truterra.com/Carbon>.

About Central Farm Service (CFS)
Central Farm Service (CFS) is committed to sustainability and the cooperative way of doing business. Our members own the company, guide the decision-making process, and share the benefits that come from working together. Headquartered in Truman, Minnesota, we serve more than 4,000 producers in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. We are highly diversified with products and services in grain marketing and merchandising, crop production and seed, feed manufacturing, bulk petroleum, and producer financing. Each day we strive to live our purpose of providing Trusted Service and Cooperative Value to members. To learn more, visit www.cfscoop.com.

About Truterra, LLC
Truterra is a leading sustainability solutions provider, advancing and connecting sustainability efforts throughout the food system at scale – from farmers to ag retailers to value chain collaborators including food and fiber companies. Truterra positions farmers for success by providing them tools and resources to establish a stewardship baseline, track progress on every field they farm, access conservation resources, and prepare for ecosystem services market opportunities. The Truterra™ network brings together the best in agricultural technology and precision conservation to drive sustainability across the food system, feeding people, safeguarding the planet, and supporting farmer livelihoods. Truterra was launched in 2016 by Land O'Lakes, Inc., a member-owned cooperative that spans the spectrum from agricultural production to consumer foods. To learn more, visit www.truterra.com.

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The Season of Giving



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

'Tis the season of giving, which I find to be one of the most inspirational times of year. I am always overwhelmed by the generous contributions that donors make to Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) or to SMIF's 30 Community Foundations. To me, this sends a clear message that keeping dollars local can help communities flourish.

As we do each November, Minnesotans rallied together once again to give to the causes they care about most on Give to the Max Day. This year's "Giving Holiday" raised a record \$34 million, a clear testament to why Minnesota ranks in the top three most generous states in the nation. I am also proud to share

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.

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 community 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



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

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 includes 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.

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

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Saturday, January 1, 2022 10 am
Location: Lonsdale American Legion, Lonsdale, MN

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Hampton City Regular Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2021

The Hampton City Council met on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at the Hampton City Hall for the regular scheduled meeting. Present were Mayor John Knetter; Council Members Cindy Flodeen, David Luhning, Anthony Verch, and Nick Russell. Also present was Brad Fisher with Bolton and Menk; Chris Meyer, City Treasurer; Jay Biedny, Michael Wiese, and Todd Howard from Dakota County; Scott Qualle with MNSPECT; and City of Hampton residents Neil Hoadley, Gene Meyers, Anita Meyers, and David I. Hanson.

Regular Meeting called to Order - Mayor Knetter called the Regular Scheduled Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Mayor John Knetter; Council Members Cindy Flodeen, David Luhning, Anthony Verch, and Nick Russell.

Disclosure of Interest - None

Approval of October 12, 2021 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes - Motion by Verch seconded by Luhning to approve the October 12, 2021 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

Approval of Disbursements - Motion by Luhning seconded by Verch to approve the November disbursements. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

Mayor Knetter mentioned that two Dakota County Sheriff Deputies were present at the meeting and asked if they would like to speak. Councilors were asked how things have been lately, and the response was that things have been quiet. Deputies reminded everyone to report any kind of suspicious activity, and also mentioned that catalytic converter thefts continue to be a problem in the county, along with break-ins to out buildings.

Petitions, Requests, and Communications:

Request to be on the agenda - Bring the City run-off channel that runs parallel to Water St., from Main St. to Hwy 47, back to compliance - Neil Hoadley - Hoadley mentioned that this is something that he has spoken about in the past, but he has spoken to the EPA and MPCA and has new information on this topic. Hoadley noted the location of the run-off channel and how it flows. He described the reasons why he believes the run-off channel isn't functioning as it should. Knetter stated that the runoff channel is not on City property, and the City cannot make changes to the grade of someone else's property. Hoadley stated that his sources told him that the City has oversight and inspection authority of the channel. Knetter and Luhning both stated that this has been looked at before by Cory Bienfang of Bolton and Menk. Knetter said that there was nothing that could be solved that night.

The City will contact Bienfang to get his notes on the issue.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

Resolution 2021-10 - Stating the Findings of Fact and Recommendation Regarding the Conditional Use Permit Request Submitted by Dakota County for Property PID 18-00800-77-017 -

Knetter asked Councilors if they had any questions about the Conditional Use Permit. He then stated that he would like Councilors to direct their attention to the three recom-

mendations made by Brad Fisher of Bolton and Menk in his October 27th memo regarding what Bolton and Menk considers needs to be done to proceed with the CUP approval. Knetter mentioned that the recommendations are included in the resolution document. Jay Biedny, Capital Planner for Dakota County was in attendance and addressed Council about the recommendations. He stated that item #3 of the recommendations regarding potential housing development is not something that the County has planned as a part of the process for the construction of the Dakota County southern fleet maintenance facility. He stated that the previous owner had a plat map that showed housing in that general area, but it is not something that the County is interested in doing. It is merely a potential opportunity for that to possibly occur sometime in the future because Dakota County has no use for that portion of the property in the long term. Knetter asked Biedny what the County would do if the City didn't remove item #3 of Bolton and Menk's recommendations from the resolution. Biedny responded that he felt that recommendation #3 would be the responsibility of the developer if Dakota County would ever sell that portion of the property, and it would be the developer that would have to abide by the City's rules.

Fisher stated that the reason for the recommendation mainly had to do with limitations for access to that portion of the property because it is so long and narrow, and that the hope would be to establish a right-of way for that reason.

Biedny responded that the County's position is that they do not want any residential property owners to have access to their private road. He stated that the private road will have large trucks on it and, if residential homeowners have Hampton City Regular Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2021 access to the road, the County views that as a conflict. He stated that the County is open to having that portion of the property being spun off and developed in the future, but that it should not be tied to the of their construction of their private road for the facility. It is not something the County's attorneys would approve. Additional discussion about access to Highway 50 and the importance of not having the City's water system dead-end at any point to maintain the city's infrastructure. Knetter asked Fisher if there was any middle ground regarding recommendation #3. Fisher responded that, as long as there is no guarantee that that portion of the property would be developed in the future, if it does happen then Bolton and Menk would work with the County at that time, and also work with the State to see if they could get another access off of Highway 50. Additional discussion about access to Highway 50.

Biedny stated that his main concern about item #3 is, down the line if the County would sell that portion of the property to a developer, that the County's position would be that, because the CUP was approved, the County would be obligated to give residents of that development access to their private road. That is not the County's intent. - Motion by Verch seconded by Luhning to approve Resolution 2021-10 as written, but with the removal of condition #4, and its subparts, for the CUP approval. All voted in favor. None

opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

Biedny requested to speak again. He thanked Council for their actions today. He also mentioned that the County has gone through the wetland delineation that was included in Council packets, and when they go through the TEP process it will be available for public comment for two weeks, so any landowner that feels they would be affected by that should submit written comments into that process.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees:

Engineer Report - Brad Fisher with Bolton and Menk stated that, beyond what was just discussed at the meeting, one other thing that they worked on as far as engineering is a meeting that he, Cory Bienfang, and Marlin Reinardy attended with MNDOT regarding the Hwy 52 reconstruction project. The focus of the meeting was to try to identify a solution to the City's ballfield drainage issue. He stated that MNDOT is well aware of what the issues are, and Bolton and Menk is in the process of working with them to find that solution. It is not something that will be resolved immediately, but as the state is in the process of developing their plans, Bolton and Menk will be in communication with them to come up with the best solution for the scope of their project.

Water / Sewer Report - Mayor Knetter reported that the sewer discharge has been completed. He believes that all hydrants have been flushed, but needs to check the list to make sure all have been done. Also, a solenoid was replaced in the pump house.

Park Report - Councilor Verch stated that things in the parks are good. He has both hockey goals at his house and is doing some repairs to them. They will be repainted and nets will be replaced. He also ordered new nets for the inside hockey rink.

Street Report - Councilor Luhning stated there is nothing to report.

Old Business:

Lease of property at 5370 Lincoln Street - Mayor Knetter stated that progress has been made with this. He mentioned that, under New Business, there is an item to replace the garage heater and there is an estimate in Council packets for that. Knetter asked Councilors about their wishes regarding entering into a lease agreement. He mentioned that the rent amount that has been offered is \$800.00 per month, and the lessee would pay for all utilities, minus the electricity that is used for the ball park. The City

would retain 10-feet of space, in length, for the storage of tools and equipment. Knetter again mentioned that the garage heater would definitely need to be replaced if the City were to lease the building. Councilors agreed that leasing the building is a good idea because it is only costing the City money at this point. Knetter feels that he and the City Clerk can prepare a lease agreement, but that he would want it to be reviewed when completed by the City's attorney. Knetter stated that one of the things he wants in the lease agreement is that they can't have any vehicles parked outside of the building, other than the personal vehicles of the lessee. - Motion by Verch seconded by Russell to approve leasing the property located at 5370 Lincoln Street. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

Knetter commented that he should have mentioned something during the Parks Report. Councilor Russell has volunteered to flood and maintain the hockey rink, and Knetter would like to thank him for that.

New Business:

MNSPECT Building Inspections Contract Amendment - Scott Qualle of MNSPECT was in attendance. He addressed Council, providing background information about the company. Qualle stated that the length of contract extensions has varied in the past, however at this time he would like to propose a 3-year extension. All provisions of the contract would remain the same. Discussion about the ownership status of MNSPECT. Luhning mentioned that he appreciates all of the work that MNSPECT has done for the City, but he said that the last two contract extensions were for two years, so his proposal is that the City accept the contract extension but believes it is in the best interest of the City to do a 2-year extension. Qualle stated that his preference is for a 3-year extension, but that he would sign off on whatever Council decides. Motion by Luhning seconded by Flodeen to extend the contract for a period of two years. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

Well No. 1 Control Panel - PLC and Panel View Upgrade - Automatic Systems Co. - Mayor Knetter reminded Council that the existing control panel is obsolete and will no longer be able to be serviced, so needs to be replaced.

(continued on page 17)

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(continued from page 16)

Quote received from Automatic Systems Co., which was reviewed by Knetter along with experts in the industry. It was agreed that the price is competitive and this is the newest type of control panel that is made. Discussion about using ARPA funds for purchase. Knetter assured Councilor that those funds will be spent on other needs. Motion by Verch seconded by Russell to accept the Well No. 1 Control Panel quote received from Automatic Systems Co.

All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

Main Street Generator Service Contract – Interstate Power Systems, Inc. – Mayor Knetter summarized the items included in the service contract and the cost of each. Councilor Verch commented that he feels the

charges are reasonable for what the City receives with the service in that it ensures that the City has a well-maintained generator that will work when the City needs it. Motion by Verch seconded by Luhning to accept the Main Street generator service contract received from Interstate Power Systems, Inc. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

Old City Hall Garage Heater Replacement – Brockman’s Heating & Cooling – Mayor Knetter stated that replacing the garage heater is necessary in order to rent the old City Hall building. Motion by Luhning seconded by Russell to accept the garage heater replacement estimate received from Brockman’s Heating & Cooling. All voted in favor.

None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

Public Comment – Dave Hanson of 23533 Water Street requested to speak prior to meeting adjournment.

He stated that, when the Dakota County southern maintenance facility is constructed, the wastewater from the building will be going to the lift station near his property. He feels that it would benefit the City to hard wire the generator to the lift station because of the amount of snow and ice that will come off of the plow trucks when washed. Knetter mentioned that he was glad that Hanson brought this issue up because a generator for the lift station is a qualifying expense for the City’s ARPA funds. Knetter stated that the City would need to work with the new owners of the property, which would be the County, in order to execute such a project. Knetter also stated that purchasing a backup

generator for that lift station was a top priority of his even prior to the time when the County contacted the City earlier this year about the southern maintenance facility project. He feels that installing a back-up generator for that lift station is important for the City, even if the County’s maintenance facility wasn’t going to be constructed there.

The City simply needs to obtain an easement or purchase a small piece of property for the placement of a generator.

Adjournment - Motion by Verch seconded by Luhning to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed.

Motion passed 5:0. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy O’Brien

City of Randolph Regular Council Meeting November 10, 2021

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

Roll Call

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

Public Comments

None made.

Minutes

A motion to approve the October 13, 2021 was made by Podritz, seconded by Friedrich.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Approval of Treasurer Report

Sandy discussed the quote from DSG for the water meters that are needed. The quote is for \$5,458.70 which includes a 4 inch meter and 3 1-1/2 inch meters and all accessories needed to hook them up. The also gave us \$2,380.00 for the 4 meters that were returned.

The costs for the new meters needed would be \$3,078.70.

Motion by Appelgren to move forward with the quote from DSG for \$3,078.70, seconded by Podritz. Voting in favor, Appelgren, Podritz, Carlock and Haro, opposed by Friedrich. Motion passed 4:1.

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

Approval to Pay Bills

The check for One Hour Heating is for the work to be done on the pump house on November 19th and they require payment on the day work is done. The work will all be completed on that day.

to approve the payment of bills as written was made by Friedrich, and seconded by Haro.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Old Business

No old business to discuss.

New Business

Dakota County Deputy

Deputy Sam Weber stopped in and reported there was nothing new to report at

this time.

He asked if we had anything we wanted to discuss and we talked about the boat on Dickman Avenue that has been there for over a year. He will stop over and discuss it with the homeowner.

Building Permit for John Banazewski

Mark our building inspector discussed that he had placed a stop work order on the project at Banazewski’s property and it was removed and the structure was put up after he told them they needed to come to a meeting for a permit. Mark indicated according to our ordinances they needed to come before the council for approval. The mayor said it is not a permanent structure because he did not cement it in. He was going to cement it but decided not to at this time. Under Section 527 anything over 140 sq ft needs to get approval and his is approximately 860 sq ft. Car ports are considered temporary and not permanent as long as they are not cemented in. We need to look at our ordinances which we will do next year and Mark will assist us with this project. We should have it in the ordinance how we define building and structures. Mark indicated that the state changed it so you can build a shed up to 200 sq ft without a permit.

The council decided to approve the carport as is at this time and if any changes are made to it such as pouring cement they could need to come to a meeting.

Motion by Appelgren to approve Banazewski’s carport and past carports as is and in moving forward we will change our ordinance to make it more clear, seconded by Friedrich. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Mark also noted that stop work orders that are posted it is illegal to remove them and we need to let citizens know they are not to remove them. There could be a fine if they remove it or if a licensed contractor is involved, their license could be in jeopardy.

Water Rates

Todd Hagen from Ehlers discussed different options regarding water rates. We discussed refinancing the bank loan and whether or not we want to reimburse the general fund for the amount owed from the water account. With no increase we will not have a healthy water fund and would be in the negative. We need to get the water fund in a positive balance. The water fund should not be supported by the general fund – it should be treated as

a separate business account. Its state law that a water fund should operate on its own. Sewer is more flexible. The \$20.00 repair fund was to save more for repairs and that should be built up. Also the repairs that were recently done should last for 15 – 20 years before we would need to do any major repairs.

Friedrich made a motion to approve Option No. 4 to raise the water usage rate and water tower repair charge by 23% for 2022, seconded by Appelgren. Voting in favor, Friedrich, Appelgren and Haro, opposed, Podritz and Carlock, motion passed 3:2.

Refinancing of Bond

Todd Hagen from Ehler’s also discussed the refinancing of the bond. The amount is subject to change. If we get a better rate, the amount will be less. We can always prepay at any time. It would all be finalized by December 8th for our net meeting and plan to close on December 28th.

Carlock made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-11 Providing for the sale of \$328,000 Taxable General Obligation Water Revenue and Refunding Bonds, seconded Podritz. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Building Inspector

Mark discussed that he needs to enforce the building code as well as our ordinances and we need to be on the same page as him. There are some conflicts with some of the ordinances and they need to be reworded so they are clear. They need to be clarified.

We will put this on our January agenda to discuss having a meeting next year to work on our ordinances.

Also it was noted that in the future if anyone needs a permit they should be referred to Mary or Mark. Council members should not make a decision except as council meetings regarding permits. It is preferred that they talk to mark. Also it was noted that it is a misdemeanor if they do work without a permit. We will plan a meeting next year to go over our ordinances. Mark will assist and we will check with Korine to see if she is also available to attend the meeting.

Mark also noted that the fee schedule for square footage cost is from 1998 and should be updated to place the valuations where they should be. Mark will update it and bring it to the meeting. He also noted we need to include a definition of habitable for separate

buildings.

Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County

Clerk Haro noted that our JPA with Dakota County expires on December 31, 2021, which was a three year agreement. Do we want to renew it? There was an increase in fees.

Motion to renew our JPA with Dakota County was made by Friedrich, seconded by Appelgren. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Amendment to Development Agreement for Hereford Hills 3rd Addition

Korine mentioned that the Development Agreement with Dan Wenstrom needs to be amended since Dan paid the park fees.

Podritz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-12 amending the Development

Agreement for Hereford Hills Third Addition, seconded by Friedrich. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Prosecution Firm for City of Randolph

It was noted that the law firm of Levanter, Gillen & Miller who we just approved to do the city prosecution work has decided they will no longer do this type of work. We need to look for another firm to assist the city. She recommended a firm in Apple Valley. We will table this until next month so that we can look at fees for this type of work.

Sewer Update

Matt noted they are still moving forward with getting land for the holding ponds. They are starting on the preliminary design. They have to get appraisals together. We will have several meetings to discuss with the public before anything gets approved.

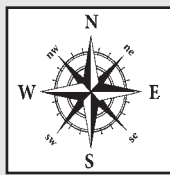
Miscellaneous

Clerk Haro noted that we need to finalize the tax levy at the December meeting and asked what time we should start. It was decided we will start the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to go over the budget prior to the start of the council meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Podritz, seconded by Friedrich, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0. Respectfully submitted,
Mary Haro

*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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- THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS
- ACROSS
- Pilgrim's destination
 - Make a scene
 - Rubik's puzzle
 - Hawaii environs
 - Toothy fish
 - Cone-shaped dwelling
 - White Swan in "Swan Lake" ballerina
 - ___-Wan Kenobi
 - *Decorate with wreaths and holly, e.g.
 - *Either dessert or source of heat (2 words)
 - * ___ Day, or second day of Christmastide
 - Land parcel
 - Strauss of denim fame
 - Broadband access overseer, acr.
 - Clarified butter
 - Acute one and obtuse one
 - Southeastern Asian country
 - Jouster's breastplate
 - Shrewdness
 - Caspian basin river
 - *Pasadena's Tournament of ___
 - Tel ____, Israel
 - Native American emblem
 - "Why not?"
 - Hitchhiker's quest
 - Omits when speaking
 - Hard to find
 - Bear's winter quarters
 - Hoodwink
 - Scepter's partner
 - *Number of days in Christmastide
 - *"Ugly" holiday party garb?
 - Prepare a letter
 - "Bingo!"
 - Hunger for
 - Pass-the-baton race
 - *Cranberry sauce sometimes comes from it
 - Same as tori
 - Raise the roof
 - German river
 - Stall sound
- DOWN
- Whiny and miserable
 - Shade of beige
 - Finish a ceiling, to a plasterer
 - Marlboro alternative
 - Not digital
 - Bug-eyed
 - Not Uber
 - Social group
 - Ghana monetary unit
 - Second word of many fairytales
 - Cause of Titanic's demise
 - Poetic "even"
 - Burdensome
 - Not this or that
 - Lab eggs
 - Time off
 - *Champagne holder
 - *Wassailing composition
 - Raccoon's South American cousin
 - Feeling of superiority, pl.
 - ___ gum, food additive
 - Furiiously angry
 - Exclude or omit
 - *Number of candles in kinara, Kwanzaa
 - *Troika vehicle
 - "Will be," according to Doris
 - Asian goat antelope
 - Potpourri
 - Chevy Suburban, e.g.
 - Builds
 - *Popular holiday wish
 - Munchausen's title
 - *Bedecked arbor
 - Shakespeare, to his friends?
 - And others, for short
 - Minus
 - Tropical edible root
 - Anon's partner
 - Take a load off
 - Like some humor
 - *Traditional main holiday dish

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