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Volume 15 • Issue 9

### **K-W School Board Votes to Remove Salary Cap**

At the January organizational meeting of the Kenyon-Wanamingo school board, the discussion centered over the salary cap which was established last year during the budget crisis.

(continued on page 13)



### Announcements

RENEW YOUR **VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTION** TO THE **MESSENGER!** See the insert in this

issue



· Got crutches? You may have heard that there's a shortage of crutches in the U.S. right now. (There's a shortage of aluminum to build them.) Northfield **Hospital + Clinics' supply is running** low. If you have gently used crutches you don't need, please consider donating them for patients to use. Aluminum crutches only, in good condition. No wooden or broken crutches, please. Drop off your donation at Northfield Hospital's main entrance (weekdays 7am-4pm) or Emergency Department entrance anytime. The hospital is at 2000 North Ave. in Northfield. NH+C will clean and sanitize the crutches and get them to patients who need them. (Crutches are given free to patients.) Thank you!

# **Scott Van Epps Nominated for** Minnesota Teacher of the Year

Wanamingo Schools, has recently been nominated by Mr. Ryan for Minnesota Teacher of the Year sponsored by Education Minnesota. This is Mr. Van Epps's 16th year as a teacher at Kenyon-Wanamingo Middle/High School. Scott is a graduate of Kenyon-Wanamingo High School. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics Education from the University of River Falls in 2000 and later completed his Master's Degree in Education from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Scott has recently continued his education by taking graduate level Math courses through Southwest Minnesota State University.

In the nomination for Teacher of the Year,

Scott Van Epps, Math Teacher at Kenyon- Matt Ryan, K-W High School Principal last four years. wrote, "Mr. Van Epps is a veteran teacher who manages his classroom in a way that has a focused academic feel. He has an organized Google Classroom that helps students stay connected to his instruction which was especially important during Distance and Hybrid Learning. Mr. Van Epps teaches a range of classes from Algebra 8 to College Algebra. The willingness of Mr. Van Epps to pursue the additional graduate level credits needed to be credentialed to teach College Algebra has provided an excellent opportunity for our students to earn college credit while enrolled at K-W High School! Mr. Van Epps has also taken on the role of mentor while supporting three new math teachers during three of the

Scott brings a calm, steady, and positive approach to his work every day. His presence provided has much needed consistency during such an inconsistent time in education the past few years! Thank you, Scott, for



**Scott Van Epps** 

your work and all that you do for K-W Schools!'

Congratulations to Mr. Scott Van Epps on this honor and for the positive impact he has had at KenyonWanamingo Schools.

### **Goodhue County 4-H Youth Make a** Small Difference in Hundreds of Lives

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Goodhue County 4-H'ers participate in holiday cards for heroes

Throughout the months of November and December, 4-H members from across Goodhue County participated in a service project called Holiday Cards for Heroes. (continued on page 6)

Pictured to the left: Joel Rustad, Goodhue County Veterans Service Officer, and Aly Kloeckner, Goodhue County 4-H Extension Educator, with the cards created and written for the Holiday Cards for Heroes project.

### **Kenyon City Council**

An increase of 6.4% for the 2022 levy was approved by the council members. 22% of the levy goes for bond repayments and the balance for general expenses. The 2022 budget showed an increase of 3% in wages and 5% in health insurance costs for city employees. Part of the discussion of a smaller levy increase was the effect on the city police force. A reduction would have cut 240 man hours from the budget.

Other city departments reported on their budgets. The library will see a 15% decrease, offset by hiring part-time employees to replace a retiring librarian.

(continued on page 13)

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### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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Religion

### **Exodus: 'Names'** & 'Departure'



By Pastor Colin Rueter, New Life Church (colin@nlcwanamingo.org)

Happy New Year! As we continue our journey through the Bible, we come to the second book, Exodus. Interesting as we depart from one year and enter another – so see this in the Book of Exodus.

Exodus: ex·o·dus / eksədəs/ noun --- Meaning a mass departure

The author of this book is Moses (Exodus 17:14; 24:4-7; 34:27). With the author known, we can conclude that this text was probably written between 1440 and 1400 B.C. The name of the book brings with it two definitions. The name of Exodus is a Greek word that means "going out" and points to the content of Israel leaving Egypt. However, this book was not originally written in Greek. So Exodus is not its original name. To Hebrew

readers, this is the book of Sh'mot, which means "names", as found in the first verse: "These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household..." - Exodus 1:1. To the ancient Hebrew mind, a name was not just a unique or identifying title of a person, but spoke of someone's character or destiny. Moses means drawn out — His life was used to draw Israel out of Egypt. Elijah means The Lord is my God, and His life was marked by bold and uncompromising stands for the Lord. The most important of them all – Jesus means salvation. Names have valuable meaning. The first thing God wants us to understand in this book is that He knew the names, or the character and destiny, of His people in Egypt. Not just one person, but "each one with his household." In the beginning of the book, we read the names of those who came down to Egypt. Each of the sons of Jacob is named. Those are the same names that later become names of the Israeli tribes. The entire "Book of Names" describes the struggles and many turns in the life of Israel. But from the beginning, God knew and He was watching over them.

It may be helpful, as well, before giving an overview that we must look at the text alone, as best we can without influences from Hollywood "remakes" of this historical story. So, leave the cartoons and Charlton Heston aside

Exodus begins where Genesis leaves off as God deals with His chosen people, the Jews. It traces the events from the time Israel entered Egypt as guests of Joseph, who was powerful in Egypt, until they were eventually

delivered from the cruel bondage of slavery into which they had been brought by "...a new king...who did not know Joseph" (Exodus 1:8). Chapters 1-14 describe the conditions of oppression of the Jews under Pharaoh, the rise of Moses as their deliverer, the plagues God brought upon Egypt for the refusal of their leader to submit to Him, and the departure from Egypt. God's sovereign and powerful hand is seen in the miracles of the plagues—ending with the plague of death of the firstborn and the institution of the first Passover—the deliverance of the Israelites, the parting of the Red Sea, and the destruction of the Egyptian army. The middle portion of Exodus is dedicated to the wandering in the wilderness and the miraculous provision by God for His people. But even though He gave them bread from heaven, sweet water from bitter, water from a rock, victory over those who would destroy them, His Law written on tablets of stone by His own hand, and His presence in the form of pillars of fire and cloud, the people continually grumbled and rebelled against Him. The last third of the book describes the construction of the Ark of the Covenant and the plan for the Tabernacle with its various sacrifices, altars, furniture, ceremonies, and forms of worship, showing that God is concerned with how we worship Him.

SO WHAT? The overriding theme of Exodus is: Redemption. When times are hard, we often feel forgotten by God, but this is not the case. Regardless of where we are or the time that time that has passed, any great deliverance happens because God knows our names.

He calls us by name and comes for us, just as He did for Israelites in Sh'mot (Exodus). Like the Israelites who left Egypt, all believers in Christ are redeemed and consecrated to God. Under the Mosaic Covenant, people annually sacrificed unblemished animals according to specific regulations in order to have their sins covered, or atoned for, by that animal. The author of the New Testament book of Hebrews tells us, "Like the Israelites who left Egypt, all believers in Christ are redeemed and consecrated to God. Under the Mosaic Covenant, people annually sacrificed unblemished animals according to specific regulations in order to have their sins covered, or borne, by that animal. The author of the New Testament book of Hebrews tells us, "But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (Hebrews 10:3-4). Jesus's sacrifice on the cross fulfilled the Law. As the perfect Lamb of God, He took away our sin permanently when He sacrificed Himself on our behalf. 'We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). Jesus has fulfilled the Law and thus made a way for us to be redeemed and reconciled back to God (Matt. 5:17; Romans 5:8-11; Colossians 1:13-14). The God of heaven knows your name, go to Him in faith, and be reconciled to Him through

Next month, we will look at the Book of Leviticus – the Law for the people of God. Blessings and grace in this New Year!



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Worship Times – January

Sunday, January 16: Vang – 9:00 AM

Dennison – 11:00 AM (Songs of My Life) Dennison - 11:00 AM (Songs of My Life)
Wednesday, January 19
Dennison - 7:00 PM - Taize Evening Prayer
Sunday, January 23: Vang - 9:00 AM
day, January 30: Vang - 9:00 AM (Intern Al Aakre joining
us for worship)

Dennison - 11:00 AM Annual meeting afterwards

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### AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

### 'Hours and Days and Years and Ages'

Scripture Reading — Psalm 103:13-18

Scripture Reading — Psalm 103:13-18
From everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him... — Psalm 103:17
As we enter the new year, we often reflect on the past year. One thing I experience with the passing of each year is that I often look back and wonder, "Where did the time go?" As we reflect on the past year and the fleeting passage of time, we are reminded that no matter how fast time seems to go by, God is still faithful. As Psalm 103 says, "From everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him." As quickly as the time comes and goes, there is one thing that never changes: the Lord's great love for us. In the hymn "Hours and Days and Years and Ages" we sing about time passing away swiftly. Yet God is still our God, and he is ever faithful. No matter what we have faced in the past year—and no matter what we will face in the

in the past year—and no matter what we will face in the year ahead—God remains and will be our faithful, loving

God.
What a comforting thought: God's love remains with us from "everlasting to everlasting." That is a really long time, for eternity!
God's love for us in Jesus Christ never changes. As stanza 3 of the hymn says, "When life's dangers overwhelm us, you will ever be our stay;/ through your Son you are our Father, always changeless, come what may."

Praver: Dear God, as we come to the end of another year we thank you for showing us your love "from everlasting to everlasting." Amen.

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### ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Cory Rohlfing Deacon Newell McGee 108 Bullis St., Kenyon Sunday Mass 8:00a.m. Wednesday Mass 5:00p.m **Obituaries** 

### Sigurd Godfrev Ree

Sigurd Godfrey Ree, 86, of Wanamingo,



passed away on December 11, 2021 at Pine Haven Care Center in Pine Island. He was born on August 31, 1935 to Selmer and Selma (Froyum) Ree. He

graduated from Wanamingo High School

in 1953 and was baptized and confirmed at Lands Lutheran Church. After high school he joined the local national guard for 9 years. Irene and Sigurd dated in high school and were married on August 13, 1960 and raised four children on the family farm in Wanamingo. Sigurd was a dairy farmer who also drove school bus for 56 years

Sigurd enjoyed spending time with his family, following high school and college sports and watching his nieces perform in the Rochester water ski shows. He was an avid reader and looked forward to the challenge of completing the daily newspaper crossword puzzle. In his later years, he found joy in researching and collecting toy tractors, often finding favorites that reminded him of his childhood.

He is survived by his wife, Irene; children, Sheldon Ree, Marlys (Steve) Duxbury, Jerilyn Ree, Karen Leider (Carter Nickolay); grandchildren, Aaron (Caitlyn), Kayla, and Kendra Duxbury; great-grandchild, Estelle Duxbury; sisters, Audrey Bordson, Eunice Guttromson; Godchildren, Rebecca Baker, Tom Swanson, Kathy Dubois, Matt Thoreson, Emily Rickter; and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Mahn Family Funeral Home – Larson Chapel in Zumbrota.

Memorial service was held Thursday, De-

cember 16, 2021 at 2 p.m. with an hour of visitation Prior at Wanamingo Lutheran Church.

### Harris Goplen

Harris Goplen, age 92, passed away Mon-



day, December 20, 2021 at Mayo Clinic Hospital-Saint Marys Campus in Rochester. Harris Jeroy Goplen was born August 19, 1929 in Pine Island, Minnesota to Henry and Nettie Goplen. He was raised in that area and graduated

From Wanamingo High School. Harris was united in marriage to LaDonna Nuzum on September 8, 1984.

Harris enjoyed woodworking and constructed many pieces of furniture for his friends and family over the years. He was also a great baseball player and dancer in his younger years, and participated in softball in the later years.

Harris is survived by his wife, LaDonna; 3 children from his previous marriage, Sandy, Shelly (Bob) Schuster and stepdaughter Marcia. Harris had 3 stepchildren from LaDonna's previous marriage, Rhonda, Craig and Rachelle. He had a total of 16 grand-children; 11 great-grandchildren; 3 siblings, Ruby Miller, Doris Borgschatz and Joe (Marcia) Goplen; numerous nephews and nieces.

Harris was preceded in death by his parents; his sister Elaine; three brothers-in-law; one step-son and one step-daughter.

The memorial service was at 2:00 p.m. Monday, January 10, 2022 at Mahn Family Funeral Home – Larson Chapel in Zumbrota. Visitation was one hour prior to service at the funeral home. Interment was at Stordahl Lutheran Church Cemetery. Online condolences are welcome and may be shared at mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com.

### **Martha Janet Gochnauer**

Martha Janet Gochnauer, 81, of Kenyon,



died Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

She was born April 2, 1940 in Cherry Grove Township, Goodhue County, Minnesota the daughter of Chester and Clara (Hillesland) Overboe Sr.

She attended country school and graduated from Wanamingo High School in 1957. Following her schooling, she worked at Federated Insurance in Owatonna for 10 years before staying at home to raise her children. On August 23, 1969, she married Larry Gochnauer at Dale Lutheran Church. The couple made their home on a farm in Concord Township for ten years before moving to Larry's home place.

Martha courageously adapted to the diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis and endured that journey for 44 years. She loved dancing (even in her wheelchair), cooking, baking and caring for her grandchildren. She was a faithful member of Hegre Lutheran Church and NIS (Neighborhood Improvement Society).

She is survived by her husband, Larry Gochnauer of Kenyon; children, Jason (Shelly) Gochnauer of Kenyon, Jeremy (Kris) Gochnauer of Kenyon and Branden Gochnauer of Kenyon; 3 grandchildren, Jacob (Megan) Gochnauer of West Concord, Elizabeth (Justin) Gochnauer of Janesville and Samuel Gochnauer of Kenyon; 2 greatgrandchildren, Ryder and Graysen Gochnauer; brother-in-law, Marvin Anderson of Rochester; sister-in-law, Avis Overboe of Pine Island and nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Chester and Clara; son, Jeffrey; daughter-in-law, Tori; brother, Chester Overboe Jr. and sisters, Clara (Jerry) Clark, June Smith and Elaine Anderson.

Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home, West Concord on Friday, December 17th from 4:00 - 7:00 PM and at Hegre Lutheran Church on Saturday from 12:00 - 1:00 PM. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 1:00 PM at Hegre

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Lutheran Church. Pastor Richard Hegal officiated. Interment was in the Hegre Lutheran Cemetery.

Memorials are preferred to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

### **Patricia Ann Lunde**

Patricia Ann Lunde, 87, passed away peace-



fully in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on January 1, 2022. She had been living with her daughter for two plus years.

Patricia, also know as Pat or Patsy, was born on August 10, 1934, to Archie and Alice (Kragness) Welty in Red Wing.

She had 3 sisters and 2 brothers. She was always a hard worker and loved being in the kitchen. Pat worked at "Kidsduds" in Cannon Falls, taught herself to sew and became an expert at baking delicious treats.

On February 3, 1952 she was united in marriage to Burnell Lunde and they made their home in Wanamingo. Pat became a "farmer's wife" and started milking cows, gardening and canning. She also became a mom,as she and Bernie had two children, Duane and Lorraine. Later on, they became the owners of "Pat and Bernie's Cafe" in Wanamingo. Here Pat really shined as she made her own hamburger buns, rolls, doughnuts and cookies. (and many other other amazing things in the kitchen). Pat enjoyed meeting people, serving others and was a Giver, her whole life. She never missed a chance of feeding people, especially her friends and family.

She also worked as the head cook for Wanamingo Public School and was the cook for Semcac, a meals- on- wheels program in Zumbrota and Wanamingo.

Pat was very strong in her Lutheran Faith, loved spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren, she enjoyed her gardens and just being with people. She will be dearly missed.

Left to cherish her memory include; her children, Duane (RoxAnn) Lunde, Lorraine (Dave) Osheim, "adopted children" Dera (Paul) Landry, Joline Emerson, grandchildren; Shane Lunde, Sheldon (Mandi) Lunde, Kristin (Jon) McInerney, Megan (Eric) Dieren, Laryssa Osheim, great-grandchildren; Arin Kyllo, Adlee Lunde, Lincoln McInerney, Jack McInerney, Beckett McInerney, Luke Dieren and Tatum Dieren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Burnell (2008), and her 5 siblings; Inez, Genevieve, Norma, Glen and John. Funeral services were held Friday, January 7th, at the Dale Lutheran Church in Kenyon. Visitation began at 1:00 PM with a service immediately following at 2:00 PM. Burial was at the Dale Lutheran Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank the caregivers at Dougherty Hospice House for the exceptional care of their mom.

Blessed be her memory.

(obituaries continued on page 4)

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**Obituaries** 

### Helen J. Keller

Helen J. Keller, age 85, of Nerstrand, died



Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at the Northfield Hospital.

Helen J., the daughter of Elmer and Eva (Forsyth) Hill, was born on April 1, 1936, in LaCrosse, WI. She was the oldest of 6 children. Her family farmed near Rushford, MN and

she graduated from Rushford High School in 1954. Following her graduation, she attended Luther College in Decorah, IA for one year and then Winona State for one year. After that, she headed to Minneapolis where she resided at the Girl's Club. Several uncles and aunts had encouraged her to come to the "city" and while there she worked at Daytons. She met her husband-to-be through a blind date and the rest is history.

She married Wilmer "Pete" Keller on September 10, 1960 at Highland Prairie Church in Peterson, MN and then moved back to the country to farm and live the remainder of her life in rural Nerstrand. They had twins, John and Catherine. They were active members of First English Lutheran Church where Helen served as a Sunday School teacher, Church Council member, participant in the Women's Circle Group and WELCA Treasurer.

For 34 years she worked at the Faribault Area Training and Education as a teacher's assistant mainstreaming special needs students into the high school and also into the work-

spent many hours in the field plowing and cultivating. She had been known to help move a few cows and hogs if an extra body was needed. Her favorite part of living on a farm was the abundant land to grow vegetable and flower gardens. During the summer months there were always clothes hanging to dry on the clothes lines and you could hear Christian music playing through the open windows.

During retirement, Helen and Pete could be found at Wimpy's in Faribault having lunch, and in the evenings at their grandkids school activities and sporting events.

When she was just 4 years old, she survived

force after graduation. On the farm, she also a devastating house fire that killed her two and Holden Keller; two siblings, Carroll (and younger sisters. She also had scoliosis of the spine which later in life was physically draining at times. But she never dwelled on these things. She felt much compassion for the disabled and less fortunate. She taught her family to always be grateful for what God had given them. Going to church became more difficult as she got older, but she always had KDHL on Sunday mornings to hear the worship services.

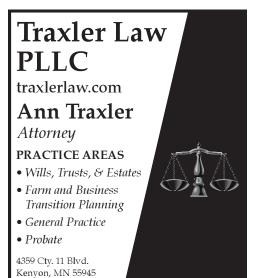
"Well done, good and faithful servant"

Survivors include her two children, John (and Cheryl) Keller of Faribault and Cathy (and Tom) Malecha of Mahtomedi; three grandchildren, Blake and Lindsey Malecha

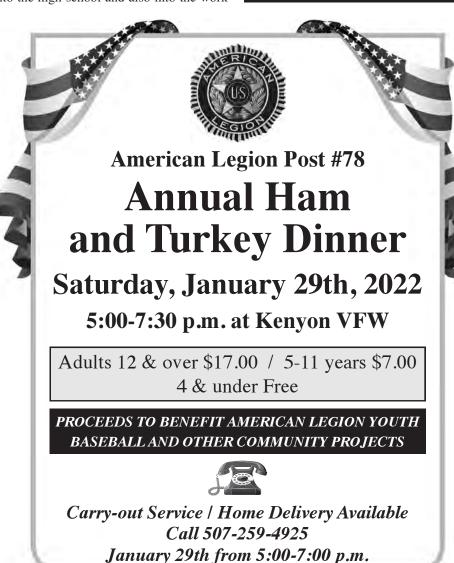
Corrine) Hill and Carrie (Richard) VanCitters; one sister-in-law, Arlene Bultman; other relatives; and friends.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Wilmer; two sisters in infancy, LaVonne & Evelyn; and one brother, Ray-

Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 12 noon at First English Lutheran Church, Faribault. Reverend Mark Johnson, officiated. Interment was at Valley Grove Cemetery, Nerstrand. Visitation was held at the church for one hour prior to the service on Saturday.







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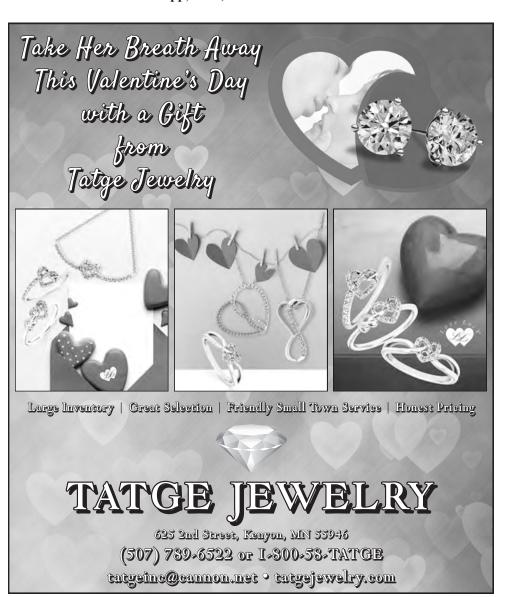


January, 2022 - KENYON MESSENGER - Page 5



K-W Noble Knights of the Week for December 14

Front Row: Oakley Benbrooks, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Genevieve Hendrickson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Laila Mandujano, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky. Back Row: Elliott Salveson, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Reid Miner, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Joenah Breyer, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Gwendalynn Hendrickson, Gr. 4, Ms. Jen Subra; Gwendellyn LaForce, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing. Not pictured: Brayden Rapp, Gr. 1, Ms. Katie Benbrooks





K-W Noble Knights of the Week for December 21
Front Row: Fabian Smith, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Brody Wagner, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Sawyer Hanson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Karter Drum, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Hudson Schwering, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky. Back Row: Trinity Nelson, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Scarlett Eggert, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Alleyah Sprute, Gr. 4, Ms. Jen Subra; Briar Garrison-Luepke, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



K-W Noble Knights of the Week for January 17
Front Row: Jaxson Cline, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; HunterMae Wetzstein, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Lilian Piper, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Leia Patterson, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky. Back Row: Raven Hawes, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Madalyn Lee, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Ashlynn Amiot, Gr. 4, Ms. Jen Subra; Egan Grant, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

Community

### **Goodhue County 4-H Youth Make** a Small Difference in Hundreds of Lives

(continued from page 1)

4-H members and families were encouraged to write holiday letters to veterans and service members who are spending the holidays at the VA Medical Center this year.

The 4-H program collected over 300 cards

and presented them to Goodhue County Veterans Service Officer Joel Rustad. The Veterans Office will facilitate the distribution of the cards to the VA Medical Facility in the Twin Cities

This project was an opportunity to instill the idea in our 4-H members that service can come in many shapes and sizes - a small service project like creating and signing cards for our service members will now impact over 300 lives in a small but meaningful way this Holiday Season.

Goodhue County 4-H and the Veterans Office would like to thank each of the 4-H members and clubs who participated in this project.

With more than 200 screened adult volunteers, 600+ 4-H members and 19 4-H clubs across the county, Goodhue County is ranked

one of the largest 4-H programs in Minnesota. To find out more information about 4-H, or to locate a 4-H club in your area, visit the 4-H website at please extension.umn.edu/local/goodhue, or contact

the Goodhue County 4-H Extension Educator, Aly Kloeckner, at the Goodhue County Extension Office at (651) 385-3100 or schw1348@umn.edu



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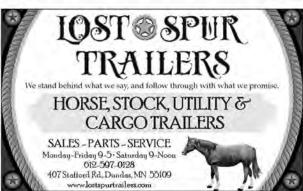
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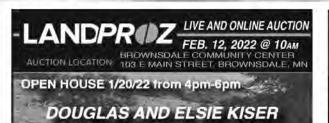
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January 16, 2022
Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 8, 2022
Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 28, 2022
Starts Closing.... Jan. 16, 2022
Kenyon, MN
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Large Online Only Auction. Antiques, Collectibles, Farm Primitives, Scandinavian Items, Glassware, Furniture, Stoneware, Household Items and More.
Furniture, 30, 2022
Fidding Begins: ... Jan. 28, 2022
Starts Closing.... Feb. 6, 2022
Kenyon, MN
ONLINE ONLY 6004 LOTS
COLLECTOR TOY & MEMORABILIA
AUCTION
6004 Lots of Collector Farm Toys, Frl, Spec Cast, Precision, Collector Edition, All Branch, Semis, International, Farmall & CIH Memorabilia
February 20, 2022
Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 28, 2022

Farmall & CIH Memorabilia
February 20, 2022
Bidding Begins: ...Jan. 21, 2022
Bidding Begins: ...Jan. 21, 2022
Bidding Begins: ...Jan. 21, 2022
Bidding Begins: ...Feb. 12, 2022
Bidding Begins: ...Feb. 20, 2022
Bidding Begins: ...Feb. 12, 2022
Bidding Begins: ...Feb. 20, 2022
Bidding Begins: ...Feb

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Farm Support Items
March 17, 2022
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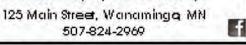






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\*Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of The Messenger.

### **Critical Race Theory:**

### The Hateful Dismantling of Our Schools

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out--

because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out--

because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out--

because I was not a Jew.

And then they came for me-and there was no one left to speak for me.

Martin Niemoller

Those who kept silent yesterday will remain silent tomorrow.

Elie Wiesel (Night)

History tells us that Martin Niemoller and Elie Wiesel never met. One a German Pastor and colleague of a great man of God, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the other a fourteen years old Jewish boy waiting to be executed at a German prison camp. According to their own words, they would watch silently as loved ones and friends paid the ultimate price for their indifference. They would lament their behavior for the rest of their lives.

Her name is Denise Specht. As the current president of Education Minnesota (once known as the Minnesota Education Association), she is quoted as saying in a recent message to her loyal followers, "The effort to ban Critical Race Theory is a well-coordinated national campaign against the efforts of public schools to increase racial and gender justice within their walls." Moreover, she would go on to say, "The campaign's tactics are intended to intimidate individual educators and harass school boards. They could lead to laws and policies that deny our students the freedom to learn an honest history of our country."

One of the things I have always enjoyed as an evaluator of teachers and programs was the opportunity it afforded me to take a close look at the building's classrooms. While this is not meant to suggest that freshly painted walls and newly installed carpets were signs that quality education was taking place in the building, I found that pictures, murals, bulletin boards, quotations, and teacher generated book/reading displays had a way of communicating what kind of instruction was being emphasized in the respective classrooms. In reality, it became a window into who the teachers were and what they stood for.

Over the course of my many years in education, I have had the opportunity to serve four school districts as both an elementary teacher as well as an elementary, middle school, and junior/senior high school principal. More recently, I served as a substitute teacher in eleven Minnesota school districts. While it was not my original goal to critique the personnel and programs in the respective buildings, in the end, it became difficult to ignore what would ultimately become a disturbing look into what is now becoming a common practice in public education. With a

boldness that almost defies imagination, teachers belonging to Education Minnesota are perfectly willing to re-write American History at the expense of our children and grandchildren and, ultimately, the future of our nation. I refer you to a small sampling of what I have witnessed during my recent travels:

- A sign posted directly behind a classroom teacher's desk that said, "I Stand With Planned Parenthood."
- A high school full of rainbows (God's covenant sign with man) and an accompanying text that promotes the claim: "You Are Safe Here." While we now know what they are trying to instill in our children and grand-children, in the end, it is an outright assualt on the Biblical teachings of Christianity.
- A sign with the caption: "Change the Culture." In light of our political climate, this is tantamount to a rallying cry for the kind of behavior we saw in Minneapolis two summers ago.
- A classroom with an enlarged picture of Margaret Sanger displayed as a center piece surrounded by other notable politicians and abortion activists.
- A book entitled: "White Fragility" openly displayed for all to see. Written by one of the heroines of the Marxist movement in America, it included an introductory quotation that said, "A necessary book for all people interested in societal change."
- A curriculum written by the New York

Times entitled: "The 1619 Project." This is a curriculum whose sole purpose is to teach our children that American History must be rewritten because it is a lie.

- The corner of a high school science wing being used as a "shrine" for Charles Darwin. In talking with high school students in the building, it was learned that "Creationism" is excluded from the curriculum.
- A middle school teacher overheard teaching his students that the reason for the January 6, 2021, riots at the United States Capitol was because, "President Trump wanted the rioters to kill legislators."

Before we move to Critical Race Theory, let me make a final point in regards to Education Minnesota. When they made the decision to joint the political agenda supported by the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, they left little doubt as to what they have in mind. Now that they have joined hands with an organization that claims to be 'the soul of our nation,' they have taken on the mantle of activism as well as the self-proclaimed starting point: to change our public schools. It reminds me of an old Marxist adage that says, "Give us your children for a generation, and we will change the culture."

It is happening right before our eyes.

Now that I have given you an indication of what is happening in classrooms across Minnesota.

(continued on page 12)

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### Letter to the Editor

(continued from page 11)

I want to introduce you to a theory that is fast becoming "America's new institutional orthodoxy: Critical Race Theory" (Christopher F. Rufo, Battlefront Research, March 30, 2021). Driven by the United States Department of Education, the Biden administration and, yes, supported by Education Minnesota and the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, "It begins with the presumption that race is the primary way to identify and analyze people" (La Noue, 2020). In addition, "CRT not only undermines and exploits America's unique and very successful fusion of diversity and cultural assimilation, but it makes the declaration that society is a systematically racist white-dominant culture" (Levin, 2021). Sadly, it is now being taught in 3500 classrooms and in all 50 states. So what is Critical Race Theory and why should we be concerned for our children and grandchildren?

Let me begin by saying that CRT is an academic discipline based on Marxism. Formulated in the 1990s by a small group of Marxist law professors, it is built on totalitarian elements of coercion and suppression of dissent. 'Its goal is to redefine human history as a struggle between "oppressor" – white people - and the "oppressed" - everybody else similar to Marxism's reduction of history to a struggle between the "bourgeois" and the "proletariat." It labels institutions that emerged in majority – white societies – as racist and "white supremacists," and has gradually proliferated in recent decades from academics to government structures, school systems, and the corporate world.' Moreover, it makes the claim that 'an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously and that an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex' (Peter Svab, As Reported in Epoch Times, June 2-8, 2021). If this does not get your attention, just take a look at some examples of how CRT is being applied in our nation's schools. It is as follows:

• In Cupertino, California, an elementary school forced first grade students to deconstruct their racial and sexual identities, and rank themselves according to their "power and privilege."

- In Springfield, Missouri, a middle school forced teachers to locate themselves on an "oppression matrix," based on the idea that straight, white, English-speaking, Christian males are members of the oppressor class and must atone for their privilege and "covert white supremacy."
- In an Illinois school district teachers compared their white students to the devil.
- In Atlanta, Georgia, a school segregated classes to keep their white students away from their black students.
- In a Maryland county school teachers told five year old students that white people are a disease creating a pandemic of racism.
- In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, an elementary school forced fifth grade students to celebrate "Black communism" and simulate a Black Power rally to free 1960s radical Angela Davis from prison where she had once been held on charges of murder.
- In Settle, Washington, the school district told white teachers that they were guilty of "spirit murder" against black children and must "bankrupt their privilege in acknowledgment of their thieved inheritance."

In the end, "Critical Race Theory prescribes a revolutionary program that would overturn the principles of our Declaration of Independence and destroy the remaining structure of the Constitution" (Christopher F. Rufo, Battlefront Research, March 30, 2021).

As we look back to a time when there was a visible righteousness taught in our public schools, it never occurred to me that there would come a day when the majority of our teachers, administrators, and school board members would become the outright enemies of our children and grandchildren. Driven by an agenda that is flush with labor union influence, the same people who claim to be 'the soul of our nation,' have attached their "dark" star to a belief system that is in the business of dividing the masses and destroying public education forever. And if that is not bad enough, Education Minnesota has been joined in the CRT movement by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators, the Minnesota Association of Secondary Principals, the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association, and the Minnesota School Boards Association. Trust me people, they are not our friends.

So where do we go from here? How do we protect those who have no hope without our help? While there is no doubt that our first step is to restore God to His proper place in

our lives, over a century ago Abraham Kuyper provided us with a rallying cry when he said, "When principles that run against your deepest convictions begin to win the day, then battle is your calling, and peace has become sin; you must, at the price of dearest peace, lay your convictions bare before friend and enemy, with all the fire of your faith." I have a feeling that Dr. Kuyper's message was meant for people like you and me.

Before I share a final thought, I would like to remind the public that we are not alone. Due to the past 18 months of Distance/Virtual Learning, scores of parents and legislators have had the chance to see what their children and grandchildren are being exposed to by the public schools. As a matter of fact, their growing legions include large numbers of teachers and other staff members who are now privy to what the political Left's game plan really is. Just recently, a group of Minnesota State Senators and Representatives, including Republican Senator John Jasinski of Faribault, discovered that the social studies standards being review by The Minnesota Department of Education were promoting a specific political worldview. Working behind the scenes, they were taking liberties at the expense of historical events like the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Holocaust, and notable historical figures like President George Washington. Contrary to what is

being reported in some venues, Critical Race Theory was being covertly embedded into the standards. Thanks to these legislators, the standards have been put on hold for two years. There is still much work to be done...and it starts with the public.

In conclusion, it is time to stop the politicians, unions, school boards, and their false narratives and threats from determining the fate of our children and grandchildren. While I appreciate the fact that this is not an easy assignment, it is time to show a collective courage and begin challenging the enemy when and where we can. Just remember, if you let these people destroy the future of our children and grandchildren; if you let your local school boards to go unchecked, you will allow them to destroy our great Republic. And if you allow them to destroy the Republic...there is a high probability that it will not pass this way again.

And then they came for our children and grandchildren, and this time I spoke out--

because I believe in a dream that once belonged to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A dream worth fighting for.... Silent No More

Dr. James Russell Lehman Kenyon, MN 55046



### SEEKING THE TRUTH

Asking for your assistance....

On November 9, 2021, members of the Kenyon City Council formed a quorum and held an unannounced special meeting at the completion of their regularly scheduled business. Due to the fact that the audio portion of the video and proceedings has been lost to the public, we are looking for someone who recorded the meeting on Amazon, Apple, or the Kenyon Community Channel.

If you could provide us with a copy of the proceedings, please contact: Dr. James R. Lehman at 507-273-7635.

January, 2022 - KENYON MESSENGER - Page 13

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council Meeting was duly held in the City Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. on the 9th day of November 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Henke.

The following members were present: Mayor Doug Henke, Council Members Mary Bailey, Molly Ryan, Tom Gard, and Dan Rechtzigel

Also, present: Administrator Mark Vahlsing, Engineer Derek Olinger, Attorney Scott Riggs, Administrative Assistant Holli Gudknecht, Police Chief Jeff Sjoblom, Michelle Vlasak reporter for Kenyon Leader, Finance Clerk Kathy Flikke, Todd Greseth

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### CITIZEN COMMENT

Todd Greseth, Goodhue County Commissioner, updated the council on what the Commission is doing and issues they are working

### ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Rechtzigel second by Gard to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0-0.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Bailey second by Henke to approve the Consent Agenda and payment of check numbers 72943 through 73027; 3813E through 3829E; and additional checks 73028 through 73034.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

# PRESENTATIONS/ PUBLIC HEARINGS/ RECOGNITIONS/PROLAMATIONS ENGINEERING

### **Red Wing Avenue Project Update**

Engineer Olinger stated that discussions are continuing with Wencl on liquidated damages on this project.

### Discuss Addition of Trondheim Road to Infrastructure Management Plan

Engineer Olinger presented a summary of the effects of the potential Trondheim Road Extension project on the infrastructure management plan, as directed at the October Council meeting. The Council would like to find a way to add this project to the Infrastructure Plan without removing any existing projects from the plan. Olinger and Vahlsing will do more research to check on any outside

funding sources that may be available for Infrastructure projects.

### Riverside Park FEMA Flood Repairs

Griffin Construction has started work on the project. The work should be completed by mid-November.

### LEGAL

### Request Approval of Internal Posting for Hiring of Police Officer

Chief Sjoblom requested approval to post the opening for a full-time police officer internally to the current part-time officers. The Personnel Committee agreed with this request when they met on November 3. Attorney Riggs stated that this request is reasonable.

Motion by Ryan second by Henke to authorize the internal posting for the full-time police officer position.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Update on Purchase of Police Vehicle**

Police Chief Sjoblom updated the Council on the status of the new F150 Police Truck that was ordered in 2020. Notification was received that the order has been accepted by Ford for production and will hopefully be fulfilled by late spring in 2022.

### NEW BUSINESS Discuss Purchase of Robcat "

### Discuss Purchase of Bobcat "Toolcat" UW56 Vehicle

Public Works Director Ehrich discussed the possible purchase of the Bobcat "Toolcat" vehicle. The Cost would be \$69,974. If this vehicle was purchased, the John Deere 1575 Utility vehicle would be sold. The estimated value of the John Deere 1575 is a minimum of \$20,000, putting the net price at approximately \$50,000. Administrator Vahlsing recommended financing the purchase with a 4-year lease with an estimated annual payment of \$13,432 starting April 2023.

Motion by Bailey second by Ryan to authorize the purchase of the quoted Bobcat "Toolcat" UW56 vehicle. Motion carried 5-0-0.

**Police Department – New Vehicle Logo**Chief Sjoblom presented a proposed new logo for the police vehicles.

2022 Proposed Agreement for Continuation of our City-County

### Joint-Powers "Agreement for State Building Code Administration"

Administrator Vahlsing stated that Goodhue County requires the City of Kenyon to approve a yearly agreement to conduct residential and commercial building inspections. The County has done an excellent job conducting inspections for the City. The term of the contract would be for one year starting January 1, 2022.

Motion by Rechtzigel seconded by Gard to approve the 2022 agreement with Goodhue County for State Building Code Administration. Motion carried 5-0-0.

### Update on Kenyon Business Park Lot Sales Price and Marketing Plan Business Park Lot Sale Price

Administrator Vahlsing stated that the EDA Board set the selling price at .99¢ a square foot for the land in the Business Park. Tax increment financing (TIF) will be used to reduce this actual sale price.

### **Business Park Marketing Plan**

Administrator Vahlsing reviewed a marketing strategy, community profile and a marketing flyer that CEDA and the EDA developed for the Business Park.

### Revision to the Rules as Part of the Standard Operating Guidelines – Kenyon Fire Department

Assistant Fire Chief Ehrich stated that the Fire Department is recommending that the rules in the Standard Operating Procedures be revised to reflect requirements for attendance by members. The Fire Department membership voted to recommend the rule changes.

Motion by Henke second by Bailey to adopt the revised Fire Department Standard Operation Procedure.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

### Resolution 2021-15: Adopting Assessment for Delinquent Utility Bills

Administrator Vahlsing stated that this resolution would authorize delinquent utility bill amounts and other fees to be certified on property taxes.

Motion by Rechtzigel second by Bailey to adopt Resolution 2021-15 adopting assessment for delinquent utility bills. Motion carried 5-0-0.

### Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

KMU Meeting: Tuesday, November 16 @ 2:00 p.m.

Township Fire Contract Meeting: Tuesday,

December 7th @ 6 p.m.

2022 Budget & Levy Public Meeting: Tuesday, December 7th @ 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 14 @ 7 p.m.

### COUNCIL AND STAFF GENERAL COMMENTS

Police Chief Sjoblom praised Officer Mitch Taylor on doing a great job with the Pink Patch Project.

Motion by Ryan second by Bailey to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Holli Gudknecht, Administrative Assistant Douglas Henke, Mayor

### **Kenyon City Council**

(continued from page 1)

The liquor store included a new air conditioner in their budget for \$6,000 and that they planned to pay off the remodeling project funds from 12 years ago this year. The police chief would like a fourth officer added this year, but the council stated that they couldn't find room in the budget for that. The big wild card in the 2022 budget will be the effects of inflation on the departments this year.

### K-W School Board Votes to Remove Salary Cap

(continued from page 1)

The K-W school board salary is currently \$1,000 with an additional \$50 per meeting attended and an annual amount of \$250 for negotiation committee members. Removing the cap would not increase the amount paid school board members, but board members Anderson and Bakken stated that it sent the wrong message to the voters. Others argued that the meetings required board members to miss work and invest personal time without compensation. After discussion the board voted 5-2 to approve removing the salary cap.

K-W school board meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7pm. Even numbered months will be held in Kenyon and odd numbered months will be in Wanamingo.

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### Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

# Farmer Seed Corn Dealers



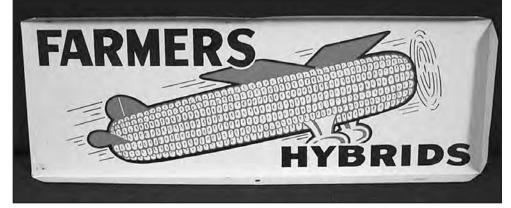
By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell.
Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when its warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

Cleaning out some buildings on the farm this fall I came across some metal seed corn company signs. Does anyone else remember when many farmers were also seed corn dealers? It was a common thing in the 1960's. All throughout the country along side the mail box was a tin sign with the seed corn company and often the farmers name below. Dekalb, Pioneer, Blaney, Funks, Mallard, Lowe, Trojan, Crows, Renk, Supercrost, Northrup King and Farmers Hybrid are a few that come to my mind. I can still remember the farmer's names as well who sold each brand.

Each farmer would grow his crops and try to sell his neighbor on the variety that produced the highest corn yield on his farm. Small pocket notebooks were handed out with a few pages of advertising of the companies seed varieties and plenty of ruled pages for record keeping of planting dates, fertilizer rates and anything pertinent that occurred during the summer.

My dad planted a seed plot every year. In the spring, Wally Thompson, the field rep for



Farmers Hybrid would come out and they would measure, mark, plant and record dozens of varieties of seed corn. Four rows of each. Plant to the end of the field and then dump the seed back in the bag and put a different variety in the seed hopper and head back across the field. Neighbor farmers would drop off a partial bag of seed of their brand to be planted as well.

The fun part was in the fall. When harvesting time came and the field day arrived. Wally would show back up with the weigh wagon and the combining commenced. Farmers showed up to watch the results and the yields tallied on a big tagboard chart. Everyone was excited to see how the corn yields were competing. And there was pop, coffee and doughnuts for all as the results unfolded. The farmer seed corn dealer whose variety did the best would be getting orders for that seed variety for the coming year from all his neighbors. Everyone hedged their bets by ordering a few bags each of the top five or more performers. I was a little kid but this seemed as fun as a

day at the fair to me. A couple hours in the middle of a cornfield listening to my neighbor farmers talk farming beats almost anything else hands down. It was a noble profession and I was in the presence of the experts as they passed around their wisdom.

After the harvest was over and the field work done, I could look forward to the seed company meetings in the winter. My dad took me with him and I reveled in the event. It was usually held at a fancy restaurant in the evening and started out with a great meal. Not like the local café or my mom's supper. This was a steak and baked potato, and a couple things I didn't recognize but always delicious. Then came the sales pitch for next year's new varieties and expectations and awards for farmer dealers who sold the most bags of seed corn that year. They passed out pencils, pens, notebooks, stickers and those tin signs that we put out by the mailbox to tell all our neighbors what company my father represented. It made me feel pretty important as a young kid to know my dad was a farmer dealer.

### A Minnesotan: Snow Fall



By RosaLin Alcoser

It is already a known fact to me that watching it rain from the 11th floor of a high rise apartment can be anti-climatic. However, what I have learned in the last few weeks is that watching it snow from the same height can be extremely pretty.

A couple of weeks ago we got the first really big snow of the year here in the Twin Cities on a Friday afternoon, prompting me to work from home for most of the day. Because just because I can drive through snow and my Subaru can make it through loose sand doesn't mean that I want to do that.

Being high up though makes the snow fall better in a different way from the ground; don't get me wrong I love to watch the snow fall from home on the ground level. But when you're high up, you don't have any chance of having to go out in the snow for the rest of the day, and looking out over the snowfall the world looks like a snow globe.

During that first really big snow of the season when I looked out my window it reminded me of looking into my mother's snow globe that she would put out at Christmas.

That first snow also reminded me that when you watch a snow plow from high up that all the plows- big and small- look a lot like the robots from Wall-E. Which is tons of fun to watch because not only can you watch the plows go while pretending that they're little animated worker robots, but you can also give them names. I for one like to call the one that does the loop for my building 3X7-J; because why not.

At the end of any day when we don't have to go away, watching the snowfall can be pretty and sometimes fun. It can be even more fun when you get to watch it from a different perspective... and when you're not the one who has to move it after.





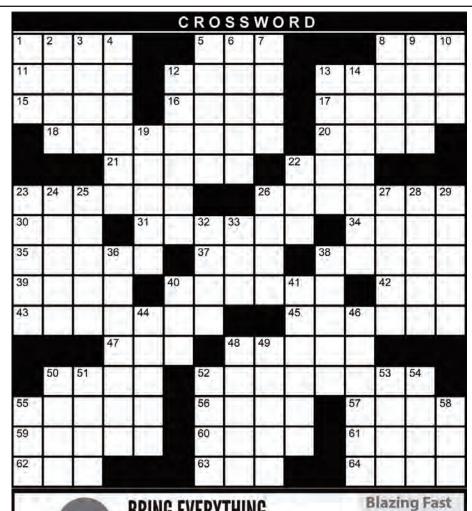
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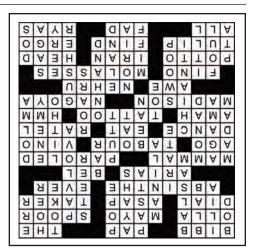
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- THEME: FOOD & DRINK
- ACROSS 1. \*Lettuce variety
- 5. Drivel
- 8. \*CafÈ alternative
- 11. \*Cantina cooker12. \*Waldorf salad ingredient
- 13. Animal trail 15. Radio knob
- 16. Hurry up, acr.
- 17. One who accepts the offer
- 18. \*Anise-flavored spirit 20. "Happily \_ after'
- 21. Operatic solos
- 22. \_\_\_\_ Air in L.A. 23. Hairy vertebrate
- 26. Freed
- 30. In the past
- 31. Small type of drum
- 34. \*Wine in Italy
- 35. Charleston, e.g.
- 37. Chow down
- 38. a.k.a. honey badger
- 39. Wet nurse
- 40. HervÈ Villechaize on "Fantasy Island"
- 42. Expression of doubt
- 43. Founding Father
- 45. City in Japan 47. Shock and
- 48. Jawaharlal's last name
- 50. \*Driest type of sherry
- 52. \*a.k.a. black treacle
- 55. Softly-softly, loris' cousin
- 56. A Flock of Seagulls' 1982 hit (2 words)
- 57. \*Cabbage amount
- 59. Alexandre Dumas' "The Black \_\_
- 60. What seekers do
- 61. Consequently
- 62. Everything
- 63. Temporary craze 64. Swedish shag rugs

- **DOWN**
- 1. Physique, informally
- Pelvic bones
   Spill the beans
- 4. Certain fir
- 5. \*Fusilli or ziti
- 6. Same as #39 Across, pl.
- 7. Supreme pontiff
- 8. Puff
- 9. Field worker
- 10. Be off base 12. Capital of Philippines
- 13. Be at the helm
- 14. \*Ballerina-inspired dessert
- 19. All worked up 22. \*Granola serving
- 23. TÈa Leoni's ".
- 24. Old World lizard
- 25. Unicellular organism
- 26. Stroke on a green
- 27. Lithograph, for short
- 28. Japan to U.S. in WWII
- 29. \*Stuffed grapevine leaf 32. \*Flageolet or azuki
- 33. \*Popular breakfast cereal
- 36. \*Type of #34 Across
- 38. Lion sounds
- 40. One little piggy?
- 41. Easily available (2 words)
- 44. One clean one?
- 46. \*Betty Crocker fruit snack
- 48. Waterwheel
- 49. Serengeti grazer
- 50. Unplayable baseball 51. It will, contraction 52. Irk
- 53. Like a ghost
- 54. Long novel
- 55. School support org.
- 58. Opposite of don'ts





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HAPPY NEW YEAR

# Happy New Year to all of our friends and customers near and far!

We hope 2022 brings nothing but the best to you and yours.



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