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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.

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.

(continued on page 4)

Beth's in Stiches Opens Storefront

A new business is on 104 Main Street in Wanamingo. Beth Windhorst has moved her shop from her home near Hader into town.

Beth grew up near Kuttawa, Kentucky but moved north and married and raised her family here. She retired from teaching a couple years ago and now devotes her time to sewing and doing elder care.

Over the last four years she has been doing alterations for customers in the Red Wing, Cannon Falls, Hastings and Zumbrota areas. Beth credits her mom with teaching her to sew while she was in middle school. A friend asked her to sew her daughter's bridesmaid

dress a few years ago and she has been busy sewing ever since.

The name of her business reveals her passion for sewing as well as her love of a good joke. Being a teacher for thirty-three years, she found a fun way to cope with things was to see the light side and share it with others.

Beth alters basic clothing, hems pants, takes in tops and stays real busy with wedding gown and prom dress alterations.

In the spring she may have thirty dresses at one time to prep for customers. She also sells bridal jewelry in addition to vintage gowns and dresses.

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Announcements

• **Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard invite you to become a member.** Join us and help us make the Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard an even bigger success. WVHG meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Wanamingo Community Center. The VFW will meet from 7-7:30p.m. The Honor Guard will meet from 7:30-8:30p.m. For more information contact Paul Rugg 507-824-3306, Gary Floan at 507-732-7740, or Larry Van De Walker at 507-421-4674.

• **Hiawathaland Transit:** Service hours are 7:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. Call dispatch at 866-623-7505 Monday through Friday 6am-9pm and Saturday 7:00am-5:00pm. Visit threeriverscap.org for more information.

Scott Van Epps Nominated for Minnesota Teacher of the Year



Scott Van Epps

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 com-

pleted 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, Matt Ryan, K-W High School Principal 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.

(continued on page 4)

Wanamingo City Council

2022 will say goodbye to the old water tower in Wanamingo. The city council approved the new water tower project and the construction will commence in the spring.

The new quarter million-gallon structure will be erected south of the industrial park and be painted white with the new city logo on it. After the new water tower is operational the iconic silver tower as well as the structure north of town will be dismantled. The cost for the new water tower and removal of the two existing structures will be about \$1,270,000.



(continued on page 6)

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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 for now.

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 por-

tion 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 Jesus.

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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January 23: 9:00a.m. Worship; 9:45p.m. Sunday School

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January 30: 9:00a.m. Worship; 9:45a.m. Sunday School



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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

'Hours and Days and Years and Ages'

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 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.”

Thank you, Lord!

Prayer: 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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Sigurd Godfrey 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, December 16, 2021 at 2 p.m. with an hour of visitation Prior at Wanamingo Lutheran Church.

Harris Goplen



Harris Goplen, age 92, passed away Monday, 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 grandchildren; 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 Soci-

ety).

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

Patricia, also known 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 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 Kylo, 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.

Jill Rebecca Froyum

Jill Rebecca Froyum, 40, of Las Vegas, NV passed away Sunday, January 9, 2022 with her family by her side, after her fight with cancer. Jill was born January 3, 1982, in Rochester, MN to Eric and Lorraine (Hareldson) Froyum.

Jill grew up in Fountain, MN before moving to rural Zumbrota, MN in 1994. She graduated from Kenyon-Wanamingo High School with the class of 2000. After high school, Jill attended Waldorf College before working at Treasure Island in Red Wing. She then worked for airlines at MSP and Las Vegas, where she was currently employed, for many years.

Jill enjoyed playing softball; from summer town-ball in Fountain, through high school, and while in college. She was in many theater, choir, and singing performances. She was baptized at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Lanesboro, MN) and confirmed at Stordahl Lutheran Church (Zumbrota). Jill will be remembered for her friendships and being a refuge and helper for anyone needing it. You could always find tie-dye and peace symbols if Jill was around. She was an amazing and truly unique person. Jill was loved by many and holds a special place in the hearts of all who knew her, and especially by her son Xavier.

Jill is survived by her son Xavier, and her boyfriend Tom Irwin of Las Vegas; parents Eric and Lorraine Froyum; brothers- Jacob (Naomi) Froyum of rural West Concord, MN, and Seth (Shawna) Froyum of Port Orchard, WA; nephews and nieces- Autumn, Coy, Levi, Evelyn, and Emmett; Grandma Ruth Hareldson; aunts and uncles; many cousins; and her friends and coworkers.

She was preceded in death by grandparents Walter and Betty Froyum and Orris and Lucille Hareldson.

A service will be held in Las Vegas, NV with another memorial service held in MN at a later date.

Left to cherish her memory include; her

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Wanamingo Messenger



Scott Van Epps Nominated for Minnesota Teacher of the Year

(continued from page 1)

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

K-W School Board Votes to Remove Salary Cap

(continued from page 1)

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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K-W Noble Knights



**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; Gwendalynn 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 Schwing, 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

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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

Beth's in Stitches Opens Storefront

(continued from page 1)

One day she envisions making a wedding gown from scratch. She would also like to teach sewing classes at some point. Beth started a facebook group for those interested in sewing called Sewists of Southeast MN.

Her business is open by appointment only and you may reach Beth at 507-251-5659.



Wanamingo City Council

(continued from page 1)

There will be additional costs for the new pump houses to be built. Discussion of lighting for the new tower may be in the future as the estimates are expected to exceed \$50,000. Efforts to salvage the old tower and relocate it to another site by a private party are questionable because of the cost involved.

The 40,000 gallon Wanamingo water tower was built in 1926 and was also the site of a plane crash in 1930. The pilot and two friends took off from a field in what is now the Industrial Park. As they gained altitude into the northwest breeze the plane

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The budget for 2022 has been approved and the levy will show an increase of 6.5%. New house construction and commercial building improvements in the last year have helped to keep overall real estate tax increase to about 5%.

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January 16, 2022
Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 8, 2022
Starts Closing: ... Jan. 16, 2022
Kenyon, MN
LARGE ONLINE ONLY ANTIQUE & COLLECTOR AUCTION FOR THE ELROY FLOM ESTATE
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January 30, 2022
Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 21, 2022
Starts Closing: ... Jan. 30, 2022
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John Deere Compact Loader Tractor, JD Lawn Tractor, Snowblower, Power & Hand Tools, Jeep Wrangler, Dump Trailer, Compact Tractor & Skid Loader Attachments, Furniture

January 30, 2022
Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 21, 2022
Starts Closing: ... Jan. 30, 2022
Kenyon, MN
RING 2 OF THE ONLINE ONLY CLEAN DOUBLE ESTATE AUCTION OF THE BLACK & JELLM ESTATES
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February 1, 2022
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February 6, 2022
Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 28, 2022
Starts Closing: ... Feb. 6, 2022
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February 20, 2022
Bidding Begins: ... Feb. 12, 2022
Starts Closing: ... Feb. 20, 2022
Kenyon, MN
ONLINE ONLY LIFETIME VINTAGE TOY COLLECTION AUCTION
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March 12, 2021 ... 9:00 AM CST
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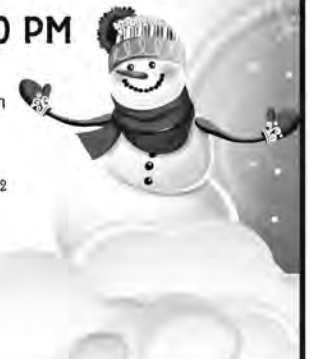
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**Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of The Messenger.*

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 Associa-

tion), 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 grandchildren, in the end, it is an outright assault 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.

(continued on page 12)



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(continued from page 11)

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

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 An-

gela 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 politi-

cians, 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 Repub-

lic...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

CITY OF WANAMINGO
City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, December 13, 2021 7:00 P.M.
Wanamingo City Council Chambers – 401 Main Street
Wanamingo, MN

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.

PRESENT: Council: Ryan Holmes, Larry VanDeWalker, Stuart Ohr, Eric Dierks, and Jeremiah Flotterud

Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters

ABSENT: City Administrator: Michael Boulton

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Kennedy, Brandon Theobald – WHKS, and David Friese – News Record.

ADOPT AGENDA: Dierks motioned to adopt the amended agenda, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Ohr motioned, seconded by VanDeWalker. Passed 5-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

A) Brad Kennedy reported on:

- 1) Cleaned up brush around Diamond Path manholes and MN HWY 60 retention pond outlet
- 2) Jetted 2nd Avenue, between 5th Street E and Beverly Street, sanitary sewer line. There were issues with one of the homeowner's sewer service lines
- 3) Put up Christmas/Holiday lights and banners on Main Street
- 4) Cleaned leaves out of storm sewer catch basins around town by sucking the leaves with vacuum
- 5) Replaced 22 new water meters around town. Hoping to replace 20 per month to complete the entire town in two years
- 6) Purchased new saw and blades for water line repairs in early fall and it was just delivered
- 7) Finished getting snow equipment ready for season
- 8) Put away the park benches and garbage containers located on the Main Street sidewalks for snow season

Flotterud asked when the maintenance staff will be working on the ice rink. Kennedy stated that water would be sprayed on the rink area to make ice as soon as the weather is cold enough to keep frozen. Flotterud asked what the progress was on the MPCA Letter response items. Holmes and Kennedy stated that they had attended a meeting with Administrator Boulton and City Attorney David Jacobsen to formulate a plan to implement the response items. Jacobsen is drafting changes to the Wanamingo Code of Ordinances and current City policies. Holmes stated that this process could take time unless the City wishes hire an outside attorney to complete this faster.

B) Brandon Theobald of WHKS reported on:

- 1) Presented the Cenex Water Tower portion of the 2022 Utility Improvements bids
- 2) Three bids were received from Caldwell Tanks, Inc., Maguire Iron, Inc., and Gerard Tank & Steel Inc.
- 3) Caldwell Tanks Inc. was the low bidder at \$1,268,000 plus the \$10,000 City Logo paint option
- 4) The City Engineer's estimate is \$1,250,000 plus the \$10,000 City Logo paint option
- 5) Recommend awarding Caldwell Tanks, Inc. the water tower portion of the bid
- 6) Stated that WHKS had worked with Caldwell Tanks, Inc. in the past and have a good working relationship
- 7) Plans and Specifications for the well house and water main looping portions of the 2022 Utility Improvements will be presented to the City Council with request to go to bid in January. Bidding would then take place in February.

VanDeWalker, Flotterud, Dierks, and Ohr stated that they wished to include the City Logo paint option included. Theobald stated that the option is included in Wanamingo Resolution 21-089 for Council consideration later in the meeting. Flotterud asked about placing the Kenyon-Wanamingo Knights logo on the tower. Theobald stated that the logo could be added but may clash with current color scheme of the City logo. VanDeWalker asked how long the current paint job of the tower and proposed logo would last. Theobald stated that the paint job and logo would last roughly 20 years. Flotterud asked what the cost for lights at the tower would be. Theobald stated that specific estimates had not been put together since initial look at costs exceed \$50,000. Theobald stated that he and Boulton had concluded that the costs exceeded the proposed project scope.

(continued on page 13)

Wanamingo City Council

(continued from page 12)

Council asked that Theobald provide the Council estimates for lights as an academic exercise to know what costs would be even if they are not financially feasible with the project. Ohr asked if there would be storage space at the base of the tower. Theobald stated that the proposed tower would not have storage space as other larger scale versions of this style tower have at the base.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION:

Public Hearing - Mayor Holmes opened the 2022 Budget & Levy Public Hearing at 7:15PM. Administrator Boulton provided a written memo of the Preliminary/Proposed 2021 Budget, budgeting and levy process. The overall levy is proposed to increase 6.50% from \$845,000 to \$900,000. The new Concast addition now has a taxable value of \$276,700. This would bring in roughly \$11,344.70 (slightly less than half City portion) in property taxes (0.041). Jeff Benson's new storage building has a taxable value of \$142,800. This would bring in roughly \$5,854.80 (slightly less than half City portion in property taxes (0.041)). Jason Grant Trucking new truck shop building has a taxable value of \$142,200. This would bring in roughly \$5,830.20 (slightly less than half City portion in property taxes (0.041)). New construction within the community over the last six years (15 new taxable homes in 2020) will aid with the increase to the taxable market value increase. The new construction will off-set roughly 2/3's of the proposed levy increase (3.5% of the proposed 6.50% increase). In 2023 the DET Properties LLC (Marcstone) expansion and addition residential growth (10 new homes in 2021) will continue to expand the tax base. Goodhue County calculated the 2022 tax capacity numbers based on the proposed levy and new valuation figured into tax capacity and taxable market values. Wanamingo tax capacity will go from \$1,083,296 (includes TIF) to \$1,141,146 (Includes TIF) or an 5.34% increase. Wanamingo Market Value will go from \$100,837,900 to \$106,000,200 or an 5.11% increase. The tax pool (what the levies divided out by) will go from \$1,017,990 to \$1,075,840 or an 5.68% increase. The tax rate is proposed to go from 83.163 to 83.655 or an increase of 0.492%. The Wanamingo City Council proposed levy increase to \$900,000 will have a slight net increase on tax rates. Homeowners and business owners will see slight increases in their City portion of their tax rates. The increase in 2022 valuations (Roughly 5.34%) of a property will have a minor impact on actual City portion of tax dollars that each property will pay in 2022. This will mean City portion of property taxes currently paid per \$100,000 valuation will increase based on the value of the increase in value. Mayor Holmes stated that there are still concerns with inflation pushing the costs higher than expected. Holmes stated that Boulton would be closely watching the budget in 2022 to ensure that current expected expenses do not exceed the projected revenue due to inflation. Ohr asked how much was budgeted for the Prairie Ridge Estates Park shelter improvements. Mayor Holmes stated that the budget includes up to \$15,000 for the Prairie Ridge Es-

tates Park shelter improvements. Flotterud stated that he was comfortable with making the proposed \$55,000 (6.5%) increase to the levy due to the small effect on property taxes.

VanDeWalker stated his desire to keep up staff wages with inflation for 2023. VanDeWalker stated that he was comfortable with the proposed levy. Holmes stated that he would support the proposed levy as the final levy. Mayor Holmes closed the public hearing at 7:22PM.

RESOLUTION:

21-082 = Adopting Final 2022 Budget: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

21-083 = Certifying Final Tax Levy for 2022: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by VanDeWalker. The 2022 levy would go from \$845,000 to \$900,000 (\$55,000 increase or 6.5%). Passed 5-0-0.

21-084 = Approving Fire Department Budget & Township Budget Contract Allocation Formula for 2022: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

21-085 = Approving Licenses (Cigarette & Liquor) for 2022: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Mayor Holmes reminded that Council that the tobacco license is being recommended to increase from \$40/year to \$50/year. Passed 5-0-0.

21-086 = Adopting 2022 1st Quarter Maintenance Work Plan: VanDeWalker moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

21-087 = Approving Smith Schafer Engagement Letter for 2021 Audit: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

21-088 = To Not Waive the Monetary Limits on Tort Liability Established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

21-089 = Receiving Bids and Awarding Bid for the Cenex Water Tower Portion of the 2022 Utility Improvements Project: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by VanDeWalker. Passed 5-0-0.

21-090 = Approving a Land Lease Agreement with Kenyon-Wanamingo School District, No. 2172, for the Operation of an Ice Rink and Warming House: VanDeWalker moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

Ordinance #196 - 2022 Fee Schedule - 1st Reading - Mayor Holmes went over the recommended changes from 2021 Fee Schedule for the proposed 2022 fee schedule including increasing the water meter cost from \$290 to \$315, increasing the cigarette license fee from \$40.00 to \$50.00, increasing the sewer debt service/base fee from \$18.00/month to \$20.00/month, increasing the monthly garbage fee from \$14.25/month to \$15.21/month, and increasing the monthly recycling fee from \$6.30/month to \$6.45/month. The increase to the cigarette license fee will help to cover actual costs. The increase to the water meter fee helps to cover increases to the actual costs of the water meters and readers. Boulton stated that the proposed monthly sewer base rate/debt service fee increase of \$2.00/month to each hook-up would bring in roughly \$12,000 in new revenue in 2022. The garbage and recycling monthly increase reflect the yearly

contract increases with Waste Management. Throughout the year, including the budgeting process the Council has discussed and has recommended the above changes. The City Auditors recommend that the Council review sewer/water rates and make small adjustments regularly to capture revenue as opposed to large jumps. The wastewater treatment plant will need upgrades in the near future which could cost millions of dollars. The plan is to replace the Mingo View and downtown water towers, a new chemical building, and additional water main looping in 2022 which will cost over \$2.5 million. Mayor Holmes asked if the Council wished to see changes made to the proposed fee schedule before the January City Council. No changes were requested.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Holmes went over Administrator Boulton's 2021 Wanamingo Economic Development Update Memo. 2021 continued to have delays of material and labor shortage from COVID-19. However, 2021 continued the recent trend of growth and improvements throughout the community. The City has seen commercial building additions, a number of new homes, and infrastructure improvements.

Two commercial buildings had expansions or rehabs, Marcstone building expansion and Maple Island building rehab from warehouse to office space. Marcstone's building has a permit value of \$530,000. Maple Island has a permit value of \$325,000.

In the residential side we have seen ten (10) new home building permits issued in 2021. The ten homes have a collective building permit valuation of \$1,753,000. The ten (10) units is considered a great year of residential growth in Wanamingo. There have also been a number of new decks, a couple of solar arrays, and other home improvement building permits in 2021.

The 2020 US Census numbers were released. Wanamingo had a reasonable high rate of self-enumeration, but nearly fifty (50) housing units in Wanamingo were not counted leaving one hundred (100) or more residents off the final count. The final 2020 US Census has Wanamingo at 1,113 residents, up from 1089 in 2010 (an increase of 24 residents 2.5% increase). The importance of accurate population counts directly affect State and Federal funds to Wanamingo and other government units that aid Wanamingo residents.

2022 has some planned private and public work on the horizon. The City staff are working on a commercial project with Jason Grant Trucking for a warehouse and office. Jason Grant is working on architectural drawings. Grant has purchased two vacant lots from Brian Growth and an EDA owned lot in the industrial park. Mr. Grant split off half of the EDA owned lot and sold it to Hader Farm Trucking. Hader Farm trucking may put in a truck wash. Revland Alignment has been working toward an addition to their building in 2022. City staff have been working with other business owners on commercial expansions that may occur in 2022. There continues to be interest in residential single-family dwellings. City Staff anticipates slowdown of construction in 2022 leading to fewer new homes. The City will be constructing a new water tower, new well

house, and additional water line loops in 2022. This project will be bid in phases at the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022. The City has been working with Zumbrota, Pine Island, Goodhue, and Mazeppa regarding a regional wastewater treatment facility. The current wastewater treatment facility is at the end of its life and will need to be replaced within the decade. The feasibility study will be completed at the end of 2021. The City could choose to be part of a regional facility or construct their own facility, depending on funding. Having capacity and reliability in the water and wastewater treatment are keys to allowing for future growth and current sustainability of the community. The North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District hinges on State funding through the bonding bill and Point Source Implementation grant in order to be financially feasible.

Mayor Holmes provided an update on the North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District. The Senate Capital Investments Committee was presented the proposed North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District project on November 24th. Each of the communities have wastewater treatment facilities. The feasibility study showed the costs to be similar in constructing separate plants, however the costs to operate one plant are projecting a \$500,000/year savings. The presentation was to construct one sanitary sewer treatment plant with collection system for the Cities of Goodhue, Pine Island, Wanamingo, and Zumbrota. The proposed project is estimated to cost \$84 million (including inflation). The request to the State of Minnesota is for \$42 million. The assumption is to obtain 25% (\$21 million) from Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) and the remaining 25% (\$21 million) from increased user rates. The plan on user rates is meet and slightly exceed the minimums (\$80-\$90/month) set by USDA. These minimums are set to qualify for rural development funding. Even though funding is not being requested the rates are an affordability benchmark to show that the local contribution is maximized. The presentation went great and was well received by the senators. They liked the idea of regionalization and long-term savings. The feedback was concern with the size of the request and if the project could be broken up into phases. The committee was reminded that the size of the request was spread out among four communities. It may not be feasible to phase the project. The committee will continue to share our story and work on the project financing moving forward in the 2022 legislative session.

*Next City Council meetings are on 1/10/2022 at 7:00pm.

*City Council discussed employee recognition event, usually held in January. Mayor Holmes and City Administrator are working on dates in mid-January to be hosted at Area 57 café. Administrator Boulton will send out invites to the Council and staff once the date and time have been finalized.

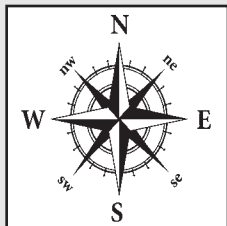
Adjourn: At 8:00 PM a motion to adjourn was made by VanDeWalker and seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest:

Michael Boulton, City Administrator

Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Farmer Seed Corn Dealers



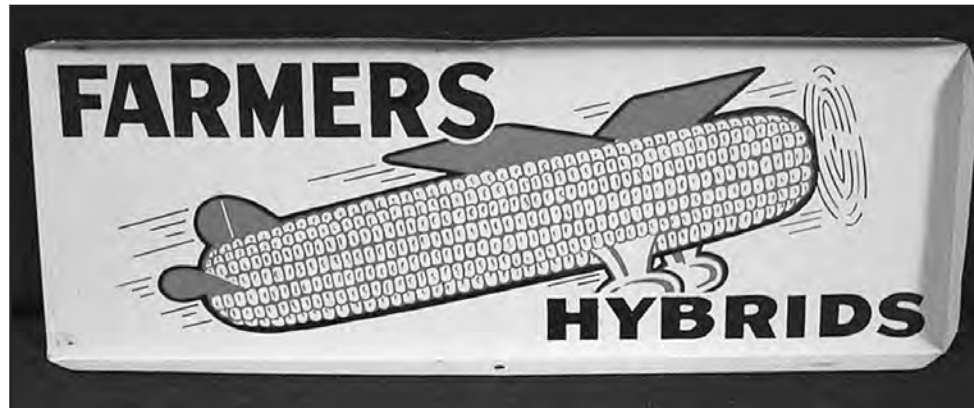
By Terry Campbell

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

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.

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.



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Sharon Moore	Amy Niebur
Monique Therabath	Deb Langerud
Heather Crandall	Grace Sullivan
Melissa Walerius	Becky Dominie
Elise Ness	Deb Gnotke
Cheryl Gardzinski	Lori Windhorst
Elyce Darcy	Miranda Predmore
Annie Stensland	Maurine Olson
Lauren Piper	

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Reward Information: When Kasasa Cash Back qualifications are met during a Monthly Qualification Cycle, you will receive 3.0% cash back on up to a total of \$400.00 debit card purchases that post and settle to the account during that cycle period. A maximum of \$12.00 cash back payments may be earned per Monthly Qualification Cycle. You will receive reimbursements up to an aggregate total of \$25.00 for nationwide ATM withdrawal fees incurred within your Kasasa Cash Back account during that Monthly Qualification Cycle. We reimburse ATM withdrawal fees based on estimates when the withdrawal information we receive does not identify the ATM withdrawal fee. If you have not received an appropriate reimbursement, we will adjust the reimbursement amount if we receive the transaction receipt within sixty (60) calendar days of the withdrawal transaction. When your Kasasa Cash Back account qualifications are not met, no cash back payments are made and ATM withdrawal fees are not refunded. Cash back payments and nationwide ATM withdrawal fee reimbursements will be credited to your Kasasa Cash Back account on the last day of the current statement cycle. Rates, rewards, and bonuses, if any, are variable and may change daily after account is opened without notice to you. No minimum balance is required to earn or receive the account's rewards. Rewards less than a penny cannot be distributed.

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- One (1) monthly direct deposit, ACH credit or ACH debit posted and settled
- Twelve (12) debit card transactions posted and settled
- Enrollment in and agreement to receive E-Statements are qualifications of this account.
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