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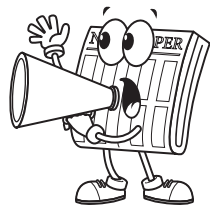
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JANUARY, 2022

Volume 3 • Issue 4

Announcements

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



CITY OF CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021 7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

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

City staff and others present: Clerk/Treasurer Elizabeth Sorg, Maintenance Supervisor Glen Hvitved, First Responder Director Casey Dahl, City Attorney Mark Rahrnick, and Curt Oeltjenbruns.

The agenda will be amended by adding a first responder applicant and setting a date for an EDA meeting. Motion by Grey to approve the agenda with the two additions, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ellis to approve the Consent Agenda which included Minutes of the November 9, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting, *(continued on page 13)*

Hubbell House to Re-open with New Owners

After 75 years of ownership by the Pappas family, the Hubbell House in Mantorville has been sold to Powers Ventures of Rochester. They are a family owned restaurant and catering business with over 159 employees. They started the Canadian Honker in 1984, The Rochester International Event Center in 2006 and Pinnacle Catering in 2013. The Hubbell House will be closed until April for an extensive kitchen remodel project.

The Hubbell House was built by John Hubbell in 1854, first as a 16' x 24' log cabin and then in 1856 the current three story structure, one the first of its kind in Minnesota, was built out of Limestone block out of the local quarry. The building was to become a famous stagecoach stop, saloon and café in the mid-19th century history of Dodge County. The Hubbell House had fallen onto hard times by 1930 and Walt Stussy purchased the building for housing quarry workers during the Great Depression. Paul Pappas



married Walt Stussy's daughter, Irene in 1942 and they opened the Hubbell House as a restaurant on June 29, 1946. On the first day of business they served twenty-four customers with only three employees.

By 1959 on Mother's Day they served

1,500 customers with fifty employees. Don Pappas took over the reins of the Hubbell House from his father Paul, and Don's daughter Alaina became general manager in 2015.

(continued on page 3)

Historic December Weather

By Megan Ziegler

Weather may not always be the most fascinating topic to read about. Reports of sun, clouds, precipitation, and winds can be a bit dull, especially if we're hearing about "average" weather days and trying not to tune out the daily news. But there's a time and place where unique weather experiences deserve to be highlighted. Even in our little niche newspaper publication, we should take the time to recap the crazy weather we all experienced on Wednesday, December 15th through Thursday, December 16th of 2021.

First there was the dense morning fog on



Wednesday, December 15th. I was up and driving by dawn and remember thinking, "It's like driving through a milkshake!"

(continued on page 12)

Ride For Wyatt

The 3rd Annual "Ride For Wyatt" is set for January 29th, 2022.

Wyatt Coy, a would-be 2017 KM graduate, was an avid snowmobiler who loved to "play" in the snow. By all accounts, Wyatt was a friendly, kind soul who was always keen to help others.



Wyatt Coy

(continued on page 3)

Triton FFA

STEAK FEED

Saturday, February 26th • 4:00-8:00 PM
Faith Community Church, West Concord

4:00-5:00 PM Reserved Seating for Donors • 5:00-8:00 PM Open Dining
Take Out is Available

Snow Date March 5th

\$10⁰⁰ Sirloin Steak Dinner
Kids Hot Dog Meal \$5.00

OPEN MIC

Thursday, January 20 from 7:00-10:00 PM • Thursday, February 3 from 7:00-10:00 PM
Friday, January 28 *Hepcats* 7:00 PM • Friday, February 11 *Jazz Groove* 7:00 PM

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Don't Worry, Be Happy at Peace



By Pastor Roger Langworthy
Praise Fellowship Church

There is a music video by Bobby McFerrin, with a catchy little tune “Don’t Worry, Be Happy.” I’m not sure how the typeset will work between my submission and its print in this paper, but I attempted to cross out “Happy” and in its place put “Be at Peace”. Please don’t get me wrong. I love the song. I love the whistling. I love the harmonics – especially the whistling in harmony. And I love being happy. Bobby McFerrin sings of several examples that may be going on in your life i.e. your rent is late, landlord may litigate, but don’t worry, be happy.

Happiness is a fleeting emotion that is usually dependent upon the circumstances being favorable. But the scriptures speak of something deeper than the emotion of happiness and is not so much dependent upon circumstances as it is dependent on God who cares for you. Philippians 4:6-7 starts the same as Bobby’s song, “Don’t worry”, and it goes on to say, “about anything”. Another translation

says, “Be anxious for nothing.” Worry and anxiety are true thieves in life that can easily steal away both emotional and physical health.

But the scriptures don’t just say, “Don’t worry”, it gives us the prescription by which we can exchange our anxiety and worry for the peace of God. See the directive in this scriptural context. Philippians 4:6-7 “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

Although happiness is dependent upon favorable circumstances this peace comes simply because you have prayed, telling God

what you need, and thanked God and in that, exchange your worry for His peace. And the reason that I know this peace is not depending on the circumstances having changed, or suddenly become favorable, is because it says that this peace exceeds anything we can understand. In other words, nothing has changed before this peace comes to you, otherwise it would be understandable. No, this peace comes from God, not from changing circumstances. And this peace of God will guard your heart and your mind. No more will worry, and anxiety steal your emotional and physical well-being.

Jesus said in John 14:27 “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give.

So, don’t be troubled or afraid.” So, Don’t Worry, be... (not just happy) be at peace with the peace of God that goes beyond explanation or understanding.

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FAITH IN ACTION NEEDS YOU!

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

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

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Messenger**

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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.

1st Presbyterian Church
200 East Street, Claremont
528-2320
Pastor Doug Walters
Sunday Worship at 10:00a.m.

St. John Lutheran Church
4532 SE 84th Avenue, Claremont
528-2404
Pastor Alan Broadwell
Sunday Service at 10:30a.m.

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

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Hubbell House to Re-open with New Owners

(continued from page 1)

The Hubbell House has been a favorite with many residents of Dodge County over the last seventy-five years as well as many state and national figures, including United States presidents, athletes and actors. Most of us who have dined there have read the names of past

and present famous people on the placemat while waiting for our meal. Another interesting artifact at the Hubbell is the large painting on the wall just in front of the Senator Ramsey Room. It was painted by Albert Lea artist Sue Geiken and it features 99 famous Minnesotans from the mid 1800's to the late 1970's. Many times I have tested my high school history knowledge to identify those faces.

The new owners have expressed commitment to continuing the high level of quality that the Hubbell House has been known for. Keep an eye out for the grand re-opening of the Hubbell House this spring.



Hubbell House 1857

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Ride For Wyatt

(continued from page 1)

Wyatt lost his battle with depression on January 19, 2017, and his friends and family are determined to share their loss, so that others may not suffer the same fate.

"We wanted to...no, we NEEDED to do something with our grief, to make something out of it," said Matthew Coy, Wyatt's Father, a (nearly) lifelong resident of Dodge County. "We wanted to ensure that, even in death, Wyatt's legacy of helping others lives on. So, when the idea was presented for a snowmobile ride, we couldn't think of a more appropriate way to remember Wyatt, to honor his life, and to realize some purpose in his death."

The event (a 60-ish mile ride starting and concluding from Riverside Park in Mantorville) will take place on Saturday, January 29th. Registration & check-in begins at 12:00 with a ride departure at 1:00. Organizers report there will be a rest-stop along the route as well as a gathering after the ride-portion of the event.

The Mantorville Saloon will be hosting the gathering, complete with Silent Auction from 4 to 7pm, Chili Feed at 5pm and LIVE MUSIC by CJ & the BS Boys who will be performing from 5-9pm.

All proceeds from the event are to support two important causes; The Wyatt M. Coy Memorial Scholarship Fund, whose mission is to support local students pursuing a career related to mental health, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), to continue their mission to educate, support, raise awareness and reduce stigma surrounding suicide. \$60,000 has been raised so far in the previous years and the goal is to reach \$100,000 this year.

Coy reports that support for the event has been widespread, with contributions from the business community and individuals alike. "I think this touches far more people than we, as a society, care to admit, and those people want to be able to 'DO SOMETHING'. This event provides that opportunity in a manner that ensures the efforts and contributions make a real difference."

Rider registration is \$25 and a 'no-snow' contingency plan is in place. More information (pre-registration, commemorative items, etc. can be found at www.eventbrite.com (search "Ride For Wyatt").

John F. Spatenka

John F. Spatenka, age 88 of Blooming Prairie, died Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at Benedictine Living Center in Owatonna.



John Frank Spatenka, the son of George and Vlasta (Kubat) Spatenka, was born on November 27, 1933, near Owatonna. He attended country school and then Owatonna High School, graduating in 1952. He farmed with his family and also helped on the Myers family farm. On July 14, 1954, he was united in marriage to Janice Myers at First Presbyterian Church of Claremont. The two raised their family on a farm outside Claremont before moving to Blooming Prairie. While farming he started working for Owatonna Canning Company. He stopped farming and worked road construction with Farr Construction. John got his real estate

license and worked for various agencies. He became a broker and started his own agency working in real estate for over 40 years. He enjoyed fishing and driving around the area checking on the crops. The slower the drive the better; often munching on corn chips and licorice. He also enjoyed restoring antique tractors, especially 2 cylinder John Deere. John planted many trees and encouraged other to do the same. He loved spending time with his family.

John is survived by his children, Joylene "Monkey" (Gary) Johnson of Claremont, Jon "Dude" (Kara) Spatenka of Ellendale, and Jeffrey Spatenka of Minnesota; grandchildren, Brad Johnson, Melanie Jortack, Kristine McMahon, Trevor Spatenka, Taelor Spatenka, Dylan Spatenka; seven great-grandchildren; brother Robert Spatenka and sisters Donna Wobschall and Katherine Spatenka-Kyllo. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Janice; son Jerome Spatenka; grandson Tim Spatenka; siblings Joyce Johnson, Lorraine Rowe, Calvin Spatenka, Mary Ann Kopp, George Spatenka, Jim Spatenka, Patsy Bock, and infant siblings Richard, Alice, and Frank Spatenka.

Visitation was from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church in Claremont, on Sunday, January 16, 2022 with a memorial service starting at 3:00 PM. Burial will follow at Claremont Street Cemetery at a later date this spring.

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Cobra Communications



Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

The past couple of weeks we have seen a great deal of change with COVID and the guidelines that we are given to follow. I have had questions about these changes and thought I would try to explain them as best I can. Most of these changes took place during the week of January 10th to the 14th. The Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Friday, January 7th regarding the ETS (Emergency Temporary Standard for OSHA that was set to begin on Monday January 10th. Since the Supreme Court had not made a decision yet, on Monday, January 10th as an employer with 100 or more employees we were required to begin implementing the ETS. School districts around the state had a phone conference with a legal representative that

outlined the expectations and the steps we needed to follow. According to the ETS, 10 day quarantines and isolation were the expectation. It also required employees to be vaccinated or mask and take a test every week. We had a school board meeting on Monday night, January 10th and adopted one of the model policies that we were given to begin implementing the ETS. What made this confusing is that the CDC had new guidelines that had recently changes to a 5 day quarantine and isolation. Our legal guidance on Monday was to follow the ETS and continue using the 10 day quarantine and begin gathering data from staff on who was and who was not vaccinated.

Then on Wednesday, we had a call with the Minnesota Department of Health. On that call they outlined the reasons for the CDC going to the shortened quarantine. The main reason is that they are seeing a shortened infectious period, and that getting students back to school sooner would be possible with this shortened quarantine. They advised us that the shortened quarantines that were adopted by the CDC would eventually become part of the ETS, but they wanted to wait until the Supreme Court had ruled on the matter. So essentially, we were told that we could plan on adjusting the the CDC guidelines because the state of MN and the Department of Health was adopting the shortened 5 day quarantine, even though the ETS still had the 10 day guidelines.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court ruled the

ETS was allowed. That automatically put the 5 day quarantine and isolation periods into play in the state of MN. It also meant that we no longer needed to collect vaccination data and require non-vaccinated employees to wear a mask. Our school district then met with our Incident Command Team and looked at adopting the shortened quarantine periods for our students and staff. This really changes the way our dashboard will look and the very high numbers that were seeing that threatened us having to go to distance learning. We were very close to the 5% number at the end of the week, but by the return to school on Tuesday, January 17th, our numbers were reduced significantly. It certainly has been a crazy time trying to keep up with all of the changes and guidelines that

were are constantly being given, but I feel that we have great staff that has adapted and changed as they have needed to. I am blessed to work with so many amazing people and in such a wonderful district.

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

#WeAreTriton


West Concord Fire Department French Toast Breakfast

Sunday, February 13 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at the West Concord Legion (both dine-in and carry out)

*Serving: French Toast,
Sausage Links, Eggs*

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TRITON CLASS OF 2022



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Breanna Klejeski is a senior at Triton High School. Her parents are Jon and Kim Klejeski and her siblings are Mahaila, Jacob, Emma, Macy and Lily. Breanna is active in FFA and enjoys showing rabbits for ARBA and placed fourth at the county fair. She enjoys riding and driving horses, raising steers, owning a rabbitry, attending auctions, fishing and snowmobiling. She is undecided about her plans after graduation at this time.

BREANNA KLEJESKI

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How to Write a Loved Ones Obituary

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you provide any tips on how to write an obituary? My dad, who has terminal cancer, has asked me to write his obituary, which will be published in the funeral program and run in our local newspaper.

-- Not a Writer

Dear Not a Writer,

I'm very sorry to hear about your dad's prognosis. Writing your dad's obituary would be a nice way for you to honor him and sum up his life, not to mention avoiding any possible mistakes that sometimes occur when obituaries are hurriedly written at the time of death. Here's what you should know, along with some tips and tools to help you write it.

Contact the Newspaper

Before you start writing your dad's obituary, your first step is to check with the newspaper you want it to run in. Some newspapers have specific style guidelines or restrictions on length, some only accept obituaries directly from funeral homes, and some only publish obituaries written by newspaper staff members.

If your newspaper accepts family-written obits, find out if they have a template to guide you, or check with your dad's chosen funeral provider. Most funeral homes provide forms for basic information and will write the full obituary for you as part of the services they provide.

You also need to be aware that most newspapers charge by the word, line or column inch to publish an obituary, so your cost will vary depending on your newspaper's rate and the length of your obit - most range between 200 and 600 words.

Also note that many newspapers offer free public service death listings too, which only include the name of the person who died along with the date and location of death and brief details about the funeral or memorial service.

Obituary Contents

Depending on how detailed you want to be, the most basic information in an obituary usually would include your dad's full name (and nickname if relevant), age, date of birth, date of death, where he was living when he died, significant other (alive or dead), and details of the funeral service (public or private). If public, include the date, time, and location of service.

Gratitude



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

I have been taking some time to reflect on this past year. It was a year that, although challenging for many, filled me with hope and inspiration for the future of southern Minnesota. It was also a year during which we celebrated an important milestone here at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF): 35 years of investing in our 20-county region.

It is impossible to encapsulate everything that I was grateful for in 2021, but this top ten list is a start (in no particular order):

Early Childhood professionals. Child care providers and educators have continued to support the young children of our region under extremely difficult conditions. The Early Childhood trainings we organized have supported hundreds of individuals with continuing education opportunities that are free and close to home. We were also able to provide direct technical assistance to child care business owners, increasing the number of child care slots in the region.

Entrepreneurs. Like Early Childhood professionals, entrepreneurs, including our foundation's loan clients, continue to navigate the new world that has been brought on by the pandemic. I have been energized by the innovative spirit of local business owners who attended our business trainings and the Entrepreneurial Bridge event. It was also a highlight of mine to meet with local food entrepreneurs at the annual FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace which was recently held in Rochester.

Our Community Foundations. The 30 Community Foundations under SMIF's umbrella continue to provide grants and volunteers to grow initiatives in their communities. Some of the projects they have funded over the past year include a summer reading program, downtown events, rural ambulance services and food shelf support.

Our AmeriCorps members. Our AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative members worked one-on-one with young children on developing social and emotional development skills to prepare for Kindergarten success. Our VISTA

members, who help increase economic prosperity of diverse groups in our region, worked on local food projects and initiatives to create more welcoming communities. I am inspired every day by our members who dedicate themselves to serving our region.

Our program participants. We were excited to welcome a new cohort to our Prosperity Initiative program which offers training and coaching to entrepreneurs who identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). We also continued our work with our Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) program which helps small towns create more vibrant economies by finding and supporting local entrepreneurs.

Our grant recipients. Through our various grants, we have been able to support projects ranging from revitalizing downtown spaces to providing critical funding for services that support young children. We also awarded 23,622 children's books to 47 organizations through our Early Literacy Grant program (and many more books through other programs) and a record 554 gallons of paint for community projects.

Our partners. Every day we live our tagline, "collaborating for regional vitality", through the partnerships that have been forged and leveraged to maximize SMIF's impact. From book and paint donations to collaborations on trainings, programs and grants, we simply could not do the work we do without our many partners.

Our incredible donors. Like our partners, none of the work mentioned above would be possible without our donors. These donors are individuals, families, cities, counties, businesses and organizations. I am humbled by their generosity and their belief in the work we do, especially during this critical time.

The staff at SMIF. They continue to adapt and provide meaningful support to the people and communities in our region. Whether it's through the day-to-day work of our regular programming and operations or working quickly to support our region throughout the pandemic, their dedication to this work makes an incredible impact on our region's vitality.

Last, but definitely not least, southern Minnesotans. You continue to show your resiliency and innovation in the face of immense challenges. I am proud to work alongside you as we navigate this new world together and build a brighter future for our region.

In the past 35 years, SMIF has invested \$136 million in southern Minnesota. Here's to the next 35 years!

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



Never Stop Getting Better



By Harvey Mackay

Do you know what makes someone worthy of the title “greatest of all time” or GOAT?

It’s so much more than natural talent, excellent coaching, or dumb luck.

No, it’s the constant effort to improve. Even those at the top of their game must keep getting better no matter how many victories they have amassed.

And this isn’t just confined to sports. The “GOAT” designation can be applied to every kind of occupation.

One example that comes to mind quickly is Tom Brady, superstar quarterback of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, formerly of the New England Patriots. He was recently interviewed in the “Wall Street Journal Magazine” and talked about how he strives to get better every day.

In particular, he was asked “What’s one thing you have too much of?” Brady an-

swered: “I have too many people who tell me too many nice things. I feel like I need more critical evaluation of certain things. So many people want to try and please me. A lot of people don’t want to let me down. But it’s nice to get a real straight, truthful answer.”

Too many people surround themselves with what I call “Yes” people. What I’m referring to are people who kiss up to you and tell you the things you want to hear. When I ask people for advice on something, I always preface it with, “Don’t tell me what I want to hear.”

Like Brady, I realize that the only way to get better is with honest feedback. The amazing thing about Tom Brady is that he is already the GOAT and yet he wants to get better. He knows that if you want to be great you have to continue to improve.

Look at the greats in all sports, from Michael Jordan in basketball to Serena Williams in tennis and Wayne Gretzky in hockey, they all tried to improve every day and season. Jordan picked something to work on during each off-season to be better the following year, be it rebounding, three-point shooting or defense. How many times have you heard an athlete say they are just focused on getting better every day?

It’s much the same in business. Look at Warren Buffet, investment genius and one of the world’s richest people. At age 91 he is still trying to get better every day. He has no intention of slowing down.

As Will Rogers said, “Even if you are on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just

sit there.” Complacency is death. Even if you’re doing the right thing, if you’re not moving forward and getting better, you’ll get run over. The competition will overtake you.

Elon Musk is another shining example. From electric cars to outer space, Musk just keeps reaching further and further – and now his SpaceX company has been ranked as the second most valuable private company in the world.

Lifestyle maven Martha Stewart offered this philosophy, “You should never accept what can be offered to you if you feel it can be improved.” She has plenty of experience with improving all sorts of everyday items.

You don’t have to look far to find examples of people who have achieved success and outperformed even their seemingly impossible ambitions. Somehow, they find the inspiration or the courage to take the next step.

They may not become the GOAT, but they don’t quit just because they’ve had a little success. Half the fun is in the pursuit of greatness.

Every day is a chance to be better than the day before. We can always make room in our lives to get better, whether that means improving our health, our finances or our personal relationships. Even if we think things are perfect, there’s likely an area or two where we could put in a little extra work. That’s not to say that self-improvement is al-



ways easy: It’s not.

We didn’t invent this concept. I daresay humanity would still be living as in prehistoric times had our ancestors not tried constantly to improve their lot. Chinese philosopher Confucius, who lived during the 6th century BCE, offered this wisdom: “The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential . . . these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.”

A hundred years ago, who would have imagined the innovations in communication, transportation, medicine and so many other parts of our lives. A hundred years from now, who knows?

Mackay’s Moral: If it ain’t broke, you can still fix it.

Reprinted with permission from nationally syndicated columnist Harvey Mackay, author of the New York Times #1 bestseller "Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive."

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<p style="text-align: center;">2014 FORD TAURUS</p> <p style="font-size: small;">3.5L V-6, gray metallic, 156,860 miles, 4 door #21030D</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Now \$10,298</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">2013 FORD F-150 4X4</p> <p style="font-size: small;">5.0L V-8, auto, 2 door standard cab, blue flame metallic, 98,884 miles #21237U</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Now \$16,999</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Cold Weather Car Care</h3> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">At Milo Peterson Ford Co., our highly qualified technicians are here to provide exceptional service in a timely manner.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">From oil changes to transmission replacements, we are dedicated to maintaining top tier customer service, for both new and pre-owned car buyers! Allow our staff to demonstrate our commitment to excellence.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Call our service department to schedule your maintenance needs. Open Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 5pm.</p> </div>	

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Owatonna, MN

Sat., June 18, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.
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Trailer - Collector Tractor Parts
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See Website for Terms - AUCTION #2211

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24-108 Broker Auctioneer Greg Jensen - MN, IA - 24-21 - Broker Chad Stavnes - MN - Broker Tim Young - OH

www.maringauction.com AUCTION CALENDAR

<p>January 30, 2022 Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 21, 2022 Starts Closing: ... Jan. 30, 2022 Kenyon, MN RING 1 OF THE ONLINE ONLY CLEAN DOUBLE ESTATE AUCTION OF THE BLACK & JELLUM ESTATES John Deere Compact Loader Tractor, JD Lawn Tractor, Snowblower, Power & Hand Tools, Jeep Wrangler, Dump Trailer, Compact Tractor & Skid Loader Attachments, Furniture</p> <p>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 & JELLUM ESTATES 100+ FIREARMS, RIFLES, Shotguns, Ar Style, Revolvers & Pistols, Winchester, Savage 99, Marlin, Remington, Smith & Wesson, Colt, Hi Standard, Taurus, Military, Ammo, 150 Collector Knives, Leather Holsters And More</p> <p>February 1, 2022 Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 20, 2022 Starts Closing: ... Feb. 1, 2022 Kenyon, MN 169.58 ACRES IN STEELE CO., MN, SELLING ONLINE ONLY FOR THE FINNE/KRUCKENBERG FAMILY FARM 169.58 Acres in Section 26 of Aurora Township, Steele County, MN. 160.9 Tillable Acres, 90 CPI Average, Drain Tile in Place, Class A Farm Land, Century Farm, Selling Timed Online Only Real Estate Auction</p> <p>February 6, 2022 Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 28, 2022 Starts Closing: ... Feb. 6, 2022 Kenyon, MN ONLINE ONLY 600+ LOTS COLLECTOR TOY & MEMORABILIA AUCTION 600+ Lots of Collector Farm Toys, Ertl, Spec Cast, Precision, Collector Edition, All Brands, Semi's, International, Farmall & CIH Memorabilia</p>	<p>February 20, 2022 Bidding Begins: ... Feb. 12, 2022 Starts Closing: ... Feb. 20, 2022 Kenyon, MN ONLINE ONLY LIFETIME VINTAGE TOY COLLECTION AUCTION 600+ Lots of 1920's - 1960's Buddy L, Steel Craft, Wyandotte, Marx, Structo, Tonka, Smith Miller, Model, Heiliner Press Steel Toys, Tin Windups, Tru-Scale, Lumar, Advertising Semi's, Salt Glazed Crocks, Cylinder Phonographs, Lionel Trains</p> <p>March 12, 2021 ... 9:00 AM CST Kenyon, MN SPRING AREA FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION Live and Online Area Farmers Consignment Auction, Tractors, Combines, Semi's, Trailers, Construction Equipment, Planters & Tillage Equipment, Livestock Equipment, Pickups, Cars, ATVs and Farm Support Items</p> <p>March 17, 2022 Bidding Begins: ... Mar. 7, 2022 Starts Closing: ... Mar. 17, 2022 Afton, MN TIMED ONLINE ONLY CLEAN FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION FOR RANDY & JULIE NELSON John Deere 4440, 4040, & 2510 Dsl Power Shift Tractors, John Deere 9410 Combine, 918 & 643 Heads, JD 1750 Planter, 8200 Drill, JD 722 Soil Finisher, New Westfield Auger, Freightliner Tri Axle Grain Truck Auto, 16,000 Bushel Grain Bin, Farm Support Items</p>
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*** Total Acres: 169.58 Acres, Surveyed Nov. 2018
*** Tillable Acres: 160.9 Acres
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*** Drain Tile In Place, Approximately 55,706 Feet of 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 & 12 Inch Drain Tile, Installed By Hodgeman
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Red Cross: National Blood Crisis May Put Patients at Risk



The American Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis – its worst blood shortage in more than a decade. Dangerously low blood supply levels are posing a concerning risk to patient care and forcing doctors to make difficult decisions about who receives blood transfusions and who will need to wait until more products become available.

Blood donations are critically needed to help prevent further delays in vital medical treatments, and donors of all blood types are urged to make an appointment now to give in the weeks ahead. In recent weeks, the Red Cross had less than a one-day supply of critical blood types and has had to limit blood product distributions to hospitals. At times, as much as one-quarter of hospital blood needs are not being met.

Pandemic challenges

The Red Cross continues to confront relentless challenges due to COVID-19, including about a 10% overall decline in the number of people donating blood as well as ongoing blood drive cancellations and staffing limitations. Additionally, the pandemic has contributed to a 62% drop in blood drives at schools and colleges.

“Winter weather across the country and the recent surge of COVID-19 cases are compounding the already-dire situation facing the blood supply,” said Dr. Baia Lasky, medical director for the Red Cross. “Please, if you are eligible, make an appointment to give blood in the days and weeks ahead to ensure no patient is forced to wait for critical care.”

Make an appointment to give blood as soon as possible by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

The Red Cross and the NFL are partnering this January, during National Blood Donor Month, to urge individuals to give blood or platelets and help tackle the national blood shortage. Those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma in January will automatically be entered for a chance to win a getaway to Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles. As an extra thank-you from the Red Cross, those who come to donate will also be automatically entered to win a home theater package and a \$500 e-gift card. Terms apply; visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl for more information.

Who donations help

Kala Breder knows all too well how dire not having blood available can be. In July 2020, hours after the birth of her son by emergency Cesarean section, Breder developed a complication and began bleeding uncontrollably. As doctors fought to save her life, they exhausted the entire blood supply at the hospital as well as all available blood within a 45-mile radius. Ultimately, she was flown to another hospital because there wasn't enough blood locally.

Breder credits the 58 different blood products she received with helping save her life. “Without one of those, I probably wouldn't be here,” she said. “I needed every last unit.”

Volunteers needed

In addition to blood donors, the Red Cross also needs the help of volunteers to support critical blood collections across the country. Blood drive volunteers play an important role by greeting, registering, answering questions and providing information to blood donors throughout the donation process. Blood transportation specialists – another volunteer opportunity – provide a critical link between blood donors and blood recipients by delivering blood to hospitals in communities across the country. To volunteer to support Red Cross blood collections, visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

Blood drive safety

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



are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

Save time during donation

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass®. With RapidPass®, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass®, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

Health insights for donors

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This

additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease who require trait-negative blood. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

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Historic December Weather

(continued from page 1)

It was so thick that I missed a turn that I take daily. Many of you may recall that it was one of the worst morning fogs you've ever encountered.

The National Weather Service website reported that the morning fog was caused by, "record warm temperatures melting snow-pack." Specifically, the preliminary local climatological data for Dodge Center, MN reported a record high that day of 63 degrees Fahrenheit.

As the fog cleared and the day moved along, we were all warned of the possibility for severe storms and wild winds to follow. In our family, we experienced evening youth activities being cancelled by organizations to encourage everyone to stay home and stay safe. The N.W.S. Storm Prediction Center had issued its furthest north "moderate" storm risk level for the month of December.

Many of us were glued to our TVs and our

smartphones as supertime rolled around. We watched the tornado warnings in areas just to the west and south. The National Weather Service said it was, "The first time since record keeping began...that (they) had to issue both a severe thunderstorm and tornado warning during the month of December."

The action really began to ramp up after supertime in our neck of the woods. The N.W.S. described the wind action by stating, "After the thunderstorms, strong gradient winds and widespread wind gusts in excess of 50 mph developed for several hours late Wednesday night and into the overnight hours." Dodge Center, MN officially recorded its peak wind of the month in the early morning hours of December 16th as 55 miles per hour.

The NOAA's Storm Prediction Center included mentions of tree damage, roof damage and power outages for Dodge County when sharing data for wind reports. As for the tornado reports section, counties included were Freeborn, Steele County, and Goodhue where confirmed tornados occurred.

To sum it up, we listened to the wind howl all night while the temperatures tanked, we probably lost power for a while, and most of us woke up to minor property damage. Sticks and branches down, anyone? I bet so! Many of us checked on friends, family and neighbors to make sure we were all OK, and to

help out afterwards as needed. Clearly it was an eventful day and evening, a literal whirlwind of changing temperatures and metrics.

At the end of the day, we'll still think of December most of the time as snowy and cold, with the potential for blizzards. But now

we'll have a unique story to share about our individual experiences that day and evening. It'll start out, "Once upon a wild winter day..." And it'll probably end with, "And thankfully, it wasn't any worse for our immediate area."

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February is National Pet Dental Health Month

"Periodontal disease is the most common disease in dogs and cats over 3 years old," says Dr. Mallory Kanwal, a veterinarian who is pursuing specialization in dentistry at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana.

Periodontal disease begins in pets just as it does in people: as inflammation of the gums that can be avoided with regular toothbrushing. "Unfortunately, dogs and cats aren't brushing their teeth themselves, and that is where we come in. Brushing is the best way to support our pets' oral health" says Dr. Kanwal.

Dr. Kanwal recommends, "Brushing daily or every other day has been shown to significantly reduce the buildup that leads to inflamed gums."

The first step is choosing a pet friendly toothpaste. "Human toothpaste is not safe for pets. It may contain fluoride and xylitol, which are toxic to animals."

If your pet doesn't like any of the commercial toothpaste varieties, Dr. Kanwal suggests using non-toothpastes, such as watered-down peanut butter or cream cheese. "The goal of toothpaste is to make toothbrushing enjoyable, so choose based on what your pet enjoys."

Adding new routines to a pet's schedule is sometimes difficult. "Starting slowly and making sure it is a positive experience is key. Start with them licking the toothpaste off the brush and slowly build to a few strokes of the toothbrush," Dr. Kanwal says.

Pets can sometimes be very excited and move around during toothbrushing. To effectively brush a pet's teeth, the owners should focus on brushing the outside of the teeth. Dogs and cats have very low cavity risk due to differences in tooth shape and the bacteria that live in the mouth.

Starting daily tooth brushing at a young age is ideal, but older pets can learn to enjoy it. Going slowly and using positive reinforcement is key, as is consulting with your veterinarian.

Always consult your veterinarian before starting your pet on a new routine. Your veterinarian can assess your older pet's gum health before you begin brushing. If your pet's gums are already painful, toothbrushing will not be a positive experience.

Tartar buildup on teeth is common. Although brushing can slow additional buildup and progression of gum disease, only a dental cleaning under anesthesia can remove tartar from your pet's teeth.

Pets still need regular dental checkups with a veterinarian even when you brush their teeth routinely.

"Toothbrushing will never replace anesthetic oral exams with dental radiographs, similar to how people still need to go to the dentist twice a year," says Dr. Kanwal. "Dogs that are more prone to periodontal disease, such as small dogs or those with tooth crowding, benefit the most from toothbrushing. However, large dogs still benefit from toothbrushing to improve breath and avoid periodontal disease."

Brushing teeth helps to improve overall pet health, and the training can be reinforced with a dental treat. Dr. Kanwal recommends choosing a treat that has been approved by the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC), a group of veterinary dentists and scientists. VOHC reviews scientific literature on chews, diets, treats, water additives, and other products to evaluate whether those products meet pre-set standards of plaque and calculus reductions.

"The VOHC guides what I buy for my own dog," she says.

Lastly, some pets do not like taking treats, so water additives are an option for picky eaters. "Water additives won't be as effective as toothbrushing or a dental diet, but it can help some animals," says Dr. Kanwal.

"Always have a bowl of water available without any additive so your pet can choose. VOHC-approved dental wipes also help to remove plaque."

Dr. Kanwal says that toothbrushing is the gold standard of at-home dental care for pets. "It is the most effective way to disrupt the plaque buildup that leads to periodontal disease," she says. "It can take time to train your pet to tolerate or enjoy brushing, but once they get the hang of it brushing becomes an enjoyable bonding time and your pet has better breath for giving kisses!"

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CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL

(continued from page 1)

Minutes of the November 23, 2021, Special City Council Meeting, and Resolution No. 21-21: Resolution to Accept the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Established Under the American Rescue Plan Act, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS CITY ENGINEER

The street projects for 2022 will be 2nd Street from Main to Wheat, East Street from 4th to the alley, and an overlay on the west end of Front Street. The county will be overlaying the west end of Front Street, but the parking lanes will be the city's responsibility. In order to proceed with special assessments, the city is required to prepare a feasibility report, hold public hearings, prepare and receive bids, and construction. Bolton and Menk estimate the engineering cost for the scope of work to be approximately \$7500. Motion by Ellis to approve Resolution No. 21-27: Resolution Ordering Preparation of Report on Improvement, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

Motion by Ellis to approve payment of the

bill, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

The fire department unanimously voted to recommend the city council approve David Matejcek as Fire Chief for 2022. Motion by Klejeski for David Matejcek to remain Chief for 2022, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert Ott applied to be on the first responders. He is currently a fire member, and he has his EMT certification. Motion by Ellis to approve Robert Ott to the First Responders, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

EDA

The 2022 CEDA contract is for 8 hours a month at the rate of \$6427. Motion by Grey to approve the CEDA 2022 Contract for Professional Services, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Since there has been difficulty finding volunteers to be on the EDA commission, motion by Ellis to approve Resolution No. 21-28: Resolution Designating the City Council as the Governing Body of the Economic Development Authority, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

PARKS COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Maintenance Supervisor Hvitved suggested the purchase of a snowblower attachment for the skid loader to help clear alleys, big snow piles blocking driving vision, and cleaning up where needed. He got 3 bids: SkidPro is an 84" for \$8998, QuickAttach Attachments is a 79" for \$10,798 and Northland Farm Systems said they couldn't beat either of those. There was \$90,000 budgeted for the snowplow but only spent \$70,000 so the excess money could go towards the snowblower. Motion by Klejeski to purchase the 84" SkidPro snowblower, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Council requested the farm property along 3rd Street be contacted next year for a corn row snow fence.

The council discussed different ways to sell the old snowplow. Motion by Klejeski to sell the plow on MNBid with a \$4000 reserve on it, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY

Nothing at this time.

PEOPLESERVICE

The monthly expenditure report was in the packet.

OLD BUSINESS

James Herrick submitted a written request to adjust his water and sewer bill as he had a high water bill for October's usage of 32,000 gallons. Sorg checked the meter a week (Nov. 9) after the high usage and again on November 30 and it doesn't appear to be leaking since. Motion by Klejeski to adjust the bill to their average of 3,000 gallons and waive the late fees as he has always paid on time, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

In order to have both the City Attorney and City Engineer at the council meetings the date when the council meetings are held will be changed. Motion by Grey to approve Ordinance No. 21-01: Ordinance Adjusting the Regular City Council Meeting Time, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously. The regular council meetings will now be on the first Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Ellis to open public input for the 2022 proposed budget and levy, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously. Curt Oeltjenbruns addressed the council on his property taxes. The council explained the proposed tax levy was set at 3% but after approval tonight, the levy will not increase as it will be set at a 0% increase. They also stated if he had more questions on the tax rate, he can call Dodge County for clarification. Mayor Dahl called for any more input and having none, motion by Klejeski to close the

public input, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Grey to approve Resolution No. 21-22: Resolution Adopting the 2022 Tax Levy and Budget, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously. The council worked hard to have a 0% levy increase.

Due to the severe deficit every year in the sewer fund and a small deficit in the water fund, motion by Ellis to approve Resolution No. 21-24: Resolution Adjusting Water and Sewer Rates, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Grey to approve Resolution No. 21-26: Resolution Certifying Past-Due Bills to Dodge County for Collection with 2022 Property Taxes, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Since 221 4th Place was bought by a family that did not meet the income qualification required by the TIF District, motion by Klejeski to approve Resolution No. 21-23: Amending the Boundaries of Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-4, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Grey to approve Ordinance No. 21-02: Assigning Southview Drive, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

The Dodge County Expo sent a letter asking if the expo were held again this year would the city participate. After discussion, the council decided to decline this year.

Motion by Grey to approve a subscription to Claremont Messenger at the rate of \$20, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

A written request was submitted by a resident at 401 2nd Street as a tree in the boulevard is buckling the sidewalk and leaning towards the road. Since it is on the city boulevard the tree will be removed and the stump will be ground out. The sidewalk chunk is not cracked and will be moved to place back once the tree and stump are gone. Hvitved and Sorg will contact 2 companies to get the lowest quote. Motion by Klejeski to take the lowest quote and have them remove the tree, grind the stump, and put the sidewalk chunk back, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

CEDA Specialist Matt Durand requested council set up an EDA Meeting to discuss possible future development opportunities. Motion by Ellis to hold an EDA Meeting on Tuesday, December 28th at 6:00 p.m., second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ellis to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m., second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:
Elizabeth Sorg, City Clerk/Treasurer
Tasha Dahl, Mayor



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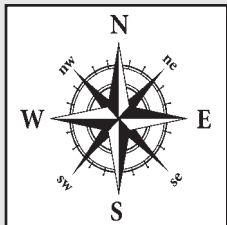
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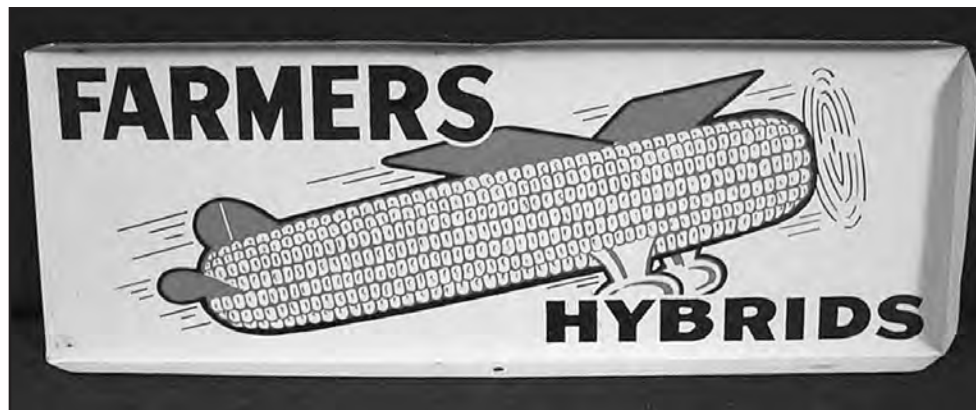
By Terry Campbell

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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