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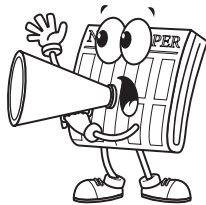
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JANUARY, 2022

Volume 3 • Issue 10

Announcements

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



• The United Methodist Church of Dodge Center at 20 First Street NE offers a meal carry out from 5:00-6:00pm the third Wednesday of each month.

Do you have an announcement?
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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.

(continued on page 5)

Mid America Distribution Company Has New Owner



By Kenya Narveson

The path to success is not always easy – just ask aspiring entrepreneurs, and they will tell you the tiresome, persistent process that has kept them awake on many nights. As you continue to pursue your career dreams, reading up on successful entrepreneurship stories can help boost morale, especially if you already have a business plan or have taken out a loan. All you need is a boost of encourage-

ment.

Erik Bilicki is the proud new owner of Mid America Distribution Company. His background includes working in retail and distribution technology with Fortune 100 Companies. After college, he started his career with a small computer company based in Detroit, Michigan where he worked in a warehouse cleaning refurbished computer parts. He then eventually moved up in the company and ran a distribution center for them. Later, Target employed him at headquarters to work on technology for distribution.

(continued on page 6)



Erik Bilicki

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. Thee Hubbell House will be closed until April for an extensive kitchen remodel project.



(continued on page 6)

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 6)

Triton FFA

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Saturday, February 26th • 4:00-8:00 PM
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4:00-5:00 PM Reserved Seating for Donors • 5:00-8:00 PM Open Dining
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OPEN MIC

Thursday, January 20 from 7:00-10:00 PM • Thursday, February 3 from 7:00-10:00 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 sim-

ply 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.

OBITUARY

Donna Mae Johnson

Donna Mae Johnson, 85, of Dodge Center, MN passed away on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at her home.



Donna was born on September 9, 1936, in Waseca, MN to Roy and Alma (Stoltz) Engelhardt. Donna met her husband, Richard Arthur Johnson, and they were married for sixty-five years. She enjoyed attending craft shows and shopping. She loved going on car rides and spending time with her family and friends. She was devoted member of Grace Lutheran Church in Dodge Center for over 50 years.

Donna is survived by her children, Brenda (Mike) Meyer of Zumbrota, MN, Kevin (Connie) Johnson of Hewitt, MN, Wanda (David) Kaiser of Dodge Center, MN, and Barbara (Tony) Johnson of Dodge Center, MN; ten grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren; siblings, Elaine (Don) Dvorak, Lyle (Rosie) Engelhardt, Sharyl (Dallas) Herrick, and Lorinda (Mike) Schieck; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Richard; two sisters and two brothers.

A celebration of life will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Friday, January 21, 2022, at the Dodge Center American Legion Post 384, 401 Highway St W in Dodge Center. A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, January 22, 2022, at Grace Lutheran Church, 404 Central Ave N in Dodge Center, with Pastor Elliot Malm officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Inurnment will be at a later date in Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center, MN.



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308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center
Intern Pastor Kira Anderson • 507-374-2174
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Christian Education 9:15a.m.
Contemporary Worship 10a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

404 Central Avenue N, Dodge Center
Rev. Elliot Malm • 507-633-2253
Worship 9a.m.; Sunday School 10:30a.m.

Praise Fellowship Church

602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center
Roger Langworthy • 507-374-6400
Kid: Church 9:15a.m.; Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.

Dodge Center Methodist Church

201 1st St. SE, Dodge Center
Rev. Chad Christensen • 507-374-6885
Worship 8a.m.

St. John Baptist De La Salle

20 2nd St. NE, Dodge Center • 507-374-6830
Mass Saturday 5p.m.

Living Water Assembly Church

104 1st St. NW, Dodge Center
Roy Andrews • 507-374-6561
Sunday 10a.m.

Dodge Center SDA Church

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Anchor of Hope Church, a 7th Day Baptist Congregation

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Saturday 10a.m. Worship; 11:45a.m. Sabbath School

Bible Lutheran Church

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www.biblelc.org • 612-803-1212
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.
(weekly sermons available on YouTube and on website)

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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Darrel Herbert Schoppers

Darrel Herbert Schoppers, 82, of Dodge Center, MN passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at his residence in Dodge Center, MN.

Darrel is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Ann Schoppers; daughters, Suzann (Manny) Gutierrez, Wendy (Mike) Apitz; son, Curtis (Angel) Schoppers; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Tracy Jo; and grandson, Jonathan.

A family memorial service will be planned for a later date. Memorials can be sent directly to the family at 101 1st St SW #15 Dodge Center, MN 55927.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street SW P.O. Box 502, Dodge Center, MN 55927 (507) 374-2155. Blessed be his memory.

Susan (Sue) J. Papenfuss

Susan (Sue) J. Papenfuss of Kasson, Minnesota passed away on Tuesday, December 7. Sue was born on June 27, 1948 to Lilamae D. and Aldrich O. Iverson in Minneapolis, Minnesota. ;

Sue grew-up in West Concord, Minnesota with her parents and two sisters.

She went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Winona State University.

Sue taught at Dodge Center (Triton) Elementary school for 30 years. She loved helping her students learn, and the connections with her teaching friends.

She met her future husband, a fellow teacher, Glen H. Papenfuss in the school cafeteria. They were married on June 19, 1976. Sue and Glen enjoyed traveling and visited many national parks and museums across the United States.

Sue was a devoted, thoughtful mom who loved spending time with her daughter Jackie.

Sue was an avid reader who loved her cats. She was happiest at home with Glen with a book in her hand and a cat on her lap. Sue was a loving, generous, and gentle soul who will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and kitties.

She is survived by her husband Glen, her daughter Jackie (Fabio) Morescalchi; her sister, Dahni (Jim) Lermon of Berne, MN; her niece, Dena (Christian) Cornelius and great nephews Bryce and Asher of Phoenix, AZ; two uncles, Burton (Shirley) Iverson of Naples, FL, and David (Doris) Nasby of Rochester, MN.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Nancy Neumann of Mesa, AZ, and son-in-law Eric Olsson of Scottsdale, AZ.

A private family memorial will be held at a later date. Should friends desire, contribu-

tions in memory of Sue can be made to Safe Haven Pet Rescue or Camp Companion.

Helen L. Higgins

Helen L. Higgins, 92, of Rochester, MN, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at St. Marys Hospital on Friday, December 24, 2021.

Helen was born August 10, 1929, in Dodge Center, MN to William and Fay Wohlfiel, the last of seven children. Helen graduated from West Concord High School and moved to Rochester. She married Forest Higgins on February 3, 1951, and lived in Jacksonville, Florida for two years while Forest served in the Navy. They returned to Rochester where Helen worked for Dison's Dry Cleaners until her retirement in 1991.

Helen was a founding member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church where she worked with "Kids Night Out," served on the alter guild, was an usher, knitted prayer shawls, participated in discussion groups, and served in the kitchen for funerals. Helen remains a member of St. Luke's. Forest and Helen founded the H&F Round-A-Liers where they taught round dancing for 14 1/2 years, as well as square danced for 34 years. Helen loved spending time with her family, early on

camping and boating on the Mississippi River; and during retirement, traveling around the country, visiting family and friends, and sight-seeing with Forest. Helen enjoyed reading, counted cross stich, and tending her garden. Helen and Forest spent many hours entertaining family and friends on their back deck during the summers and just sitting while enjoying their yard and garden.

Helen is survived by her sons William (Suzi) of Hilton Head, SC, and Lawrence (Pam) of Bloomington, MN; a daughter Kathrine of Richfield, MN; three grandchildren; Lisa, Nicole, and Justin; and a great-granddaughter, Brooke. She is proceeded in death by her husband of 69 years, Forest; brothers Alvin, Calvin, Kenneth, and Leonard; sisters Evelyn and Fern; and a grandson William C. Higgins, Jr.

A memorial service was Saturday, January 15, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Rochester. Rev. Justin P. Chapman officiated. Bars and coffee followed the service in the church fellowship hall. Due to current health concerns and restrictions, everyone was asked to respect social distancing and the wearing of face masks both at the funeral service. Helen's ashes were interred in the columbarium at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Rochester, MN.

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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

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)

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TRITON CLASS OF 2022




SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

BREANNA KLEJESKI

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.



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Historic December Weather

(continued from page 1)

But there's a time and place where unique weather experiences deserve to be high-

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

Mid America Distribution Company Has New Owner

(continued from page 1)

During his working days, Erik always aspired to be an entrepreneur. He encountered an opportunity to buy an existing business that would allow him to use the knowledge he gained from his career experiences.

The previous owners of Mid America Distribution Company wanted to sell the business to someone that could help grow the business and cared about the core values of the company.

Mid America Distribution Company has been in business since 1979. The early years of this well-known and profitable company started by selling sunglasses from of their vehicles. The business has grown since then and supplies over 700 convenience stores, grocers, hardware stores, gas stations, truck stops, travel plazas, and entertainment venues with a

variety of consumer goods. Known for their personalized service, most of their customers are small, independent chains; not large country wide franchises. Mid America ensures that their customers have the right products on the shelf to keep businesses profitable. They are also able to keep inflation costs down by having products here in the states and readily available. Some products offered are: Jean Ross Eyewear, Onyx cell phone accessories, toys, greeting cards, and much more. The company is also looking forward to launching an apparel brand named Big Foot Trading Company. The company currently operates with 14 employees and they are hiring for several part time and full time positions in different locations.

Erik believes in showing the youth what it takes to be successful. "I remember having a job in high school. It's fundamental to learning work ethic and teaching kids what business is all about and providing a safe place for them to work". He credits his success to learning work ethic during his part time high school job experience. Erik is a family man and believes in supporting the local community with job opportunities. Mid America Distribution Company's core values will always remain a priority with Erik Bilicki in the driver's seat.

Hubbell House to Re-open with New Owners

(continued from page 1)

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.

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



Hubbell House 1857

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.

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Ride For Wyatt

(continued from pag 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").

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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

January 30, 2022
Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 21, 2022
Starts Closing: ... Jan. 30, 2022

Kenyon, MN
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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

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

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

February 20, 2022
Bidding Begins: ... Feb. 12, 2022
Starts Closing: ... Feb. 20, 2022

Kenyon, MN
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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, Lumax, Advertising Semi's, Salt Glazed Crocks, Cylinder Phonographs, Lionel Trains

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

March 17, 2022
Bidding Begins: ... Mar. 7, 2022
Starts Closing: ... Mar. 17, 2022

Afton, MN
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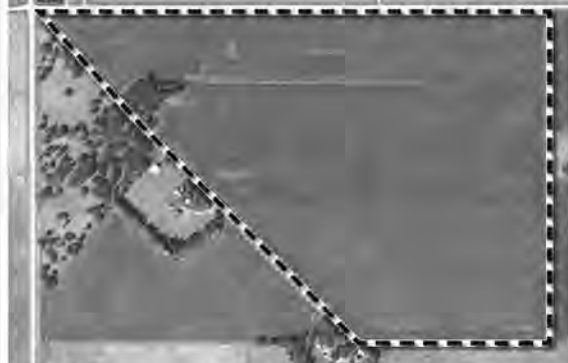
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How to Write a Loved Ones Obituary

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.



DODGE CENTER CITY COUNCIL DECEMBER 13, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. City Council Chambers and Tele-Meeting, City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas Council members absent: City staff and others present: Bryce Lange, City Administrator; Marianne Sobek, City Treasurer; Ingvild Herfindahl, Library Director; David Myrom, Community Development Technician; Deputy Clements.

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bill Ketchum at 6:00 p.m.

Adopt Agenda

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing – Abatement of Junk – 18 1st Ave. NE

Mayor Ketchum opened the hearing at 6:01 pm. Community Development Technician, David Myrom, gave background on the three issues with the property. Brett Thompson, property owner, was present, and addressed Council regarding the property conditions. Mr. Thompson brought pictures showing improvements to the property. Being there were no additional comments Mayor Ketchum closed the hearing at 6:17 pm. Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to give Mr. Thompson until January 15, 2022, to finish clean up to the property at 18 1st Ave. NE. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing – Truth in Taxation

Mayor Ketchum opened the hearing at 6:17 pm. City Administrator Lange was available to answer questions residents may have regarding the tax levy. A gentleman asked about the 34% increase to his property taxes from 2021 to 2022. Mayor Ketchum explained that the increase isn't all from the City, and that a good portion of that is because of the increase to this particular property value increase. Being there were no additional comments Mayor Ketchum closed the hearing at 6:26 pm.

Public Hearing – Currency Exchange for Harold's Club

Mayor Ketchum opened the hearing at 6:26 pm and being there was no comment closed the hearing at 6:26 pm. Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve the Currency Exchange License for Harold's Club. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing – 3.2 Off-Sale Liquor License Fee

Mayor Ketchum opened the hearing at 6:26 pm and being there was no comment closed the hearing at 6:27 pm. Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Trelstad, to increase 3.2 Off-Sale Liquor License Fees from \$15 to \$50. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve minutes of the November 22, 2021 City Council Meeting, the November 15, 2021 EDA Meeting, and the October 14, 2021 Library Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Payment of Bills

There was one additional payable to Ama-

zon Credit for \$26.79. Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve payment of bills as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Administrator's Report

A. Truth in Taxation Presentation Lange went over the budget presentation with Council.

B. Currency Exchange License for Harold's Club This was done during the public hearing at the start of the meeting.

C. 3.2 Off-Sale Liquor License Fee This was done during the public hearing at the start of the meeting.

D. Brush Dump Season-End Employment Termination This is just a formality since the brush dump has officially closed for the season. Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve termination of four brush dump employees due to season end. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Utility Assessment Letters Staff is seeking approval to send utility assessment letters. Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Blaisdell to approve sending utility assessment letters. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Library HVAC Two bids were received from Nelson's Gas to replace the Library's HVAC system. Staff is recommending accepting the bid from Nelson's Gas for the High Efficiency Payne furnace in the amount of \$16,073.36, to be paid for using the City's ARPA funding. Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas to approve accepting the bid from Nelson's Gas for the High Efficiency Payne furnace in the amount of \$16,073.36, using the City's ARPA funds. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Potential TIF District No. 16 Lange presented information on a possible TIF District for a redevelopment project at the "Old School" location. Ari Kolas, a representative of Hamilton Real Estate Group, was present, and he gave some examples of the type of construction they would be interested in building on the site.

H. 3rd Avenue 2022 Reconstruction Project Lange presented several options that the City could contribute during the 2022 3rd Avenue Reconstruction Project, planned by Dodge County. Motion made by Maas, seconded by Trelstad, to accept the base estimate and two alternates. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Safe Routes to School Grant Lange presented Resolution 2021-025 and the application for the Safe Routes to School Grant. Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas, to approve Resolution 2021-025, A Resolution Approving the Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grant Application. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Broadband Grant In order to receive our broadband grant there are three resolution that are required to be adopted by the City. Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Skogen, to approve Resolution 2021-026, A Resolution Accepting City Policies. Motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve Resolution 2021-027, A Resolution Adopting and Excessive Force Policy. Motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Trelstad, to approve Resolution 2021-028, A Resolution of Adoption of Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation

Assistance Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

K. PeopleService Renewal Proposal Staff is recommending that if Council does not wish to renew the City's contract with PeopleService early, that Council approve the annual adjustments agreement. Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas to approve the annual adjustments agreement with PeopleService. Motion carried unanimously.

L. 2017 Street Project Finalization Resolution 2021-029, A Resolution Accepting Final Completion and Authorizing Final Payment, was presented for Council's approval. Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Trelstad, to approve Resolution 2021-029, A Resolution Accepting Final Completion and Authorizing Final Payment. Motion carried unanimously.

M. Dodge County Republican Community Center Request Dodge County Republicans

are requesting to hold their caucus at the community center on February 1, 2022. Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas, to approve use of the community center by the Dodge County Republicans for a fee of \$75plus deposit. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Sobek reminded Council to get their fourth quarter pay slips in by the end of the week. Skogen asked Lange how the meeting with Ims went, Lange stated it went better than expected. Skogen also stated she would be attending the next meeting remotely.

Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, Tina Kozisek, Administrative Assistant

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DODGE CENTER COUNCIL MINUTES DECEMBER 27, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, December 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. City Council Chambers and Tele-Meeting, City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas Council members absent: City staff and others present: Bryce Lange, City Administrator; Tina Kozisek, Administrative Assistant; Angie Jarrett, Ambulance Director; AJ Gengler, Assistant Ambulance Director; Deputy Miner.

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bill Ketchum at 6:00 p.m.

Adopt Agenda

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve minutes of the December 13, 2021 City Council Meeting, the December 8, 2021 EDA Meeting, and the November 9, 2021 HRA Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Payment of Bills

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas, to approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Ambulance Director Jarrett gave Council updates on run numbers and staffing issues. Mayor Ketchum requested to discuss letter D.

(Ambulance Employee Temporary Reclassification) of the Administrator's Report at this time. There is currently a full-time paramedic that will be on an unspecified leave, so Jarrett would like to temporarily hire a part-time EMT to help in covering open shifts. Jarrett has spoken with a current paid-on-call employee who is on leave from school, and he is interested in filling those extra shifts. The temporary employee would be paid \$15.25 per hour for the shifts he is covering, and when he is on-call he would be paid is regular on-call wage and his normal run wage. Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve temporarily hiring a paid-on-call ambulance member at \$15.25 per hour from December 28, 2021 to no later than February 1, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Report

A. City Hall Software Upgrade
Lange presented research and a recommendation from staff on a financial software upgrade. Staff is recommending switching financial software to Civic Systems. The total cost for the upgrade is \$69,750, which can be paid in 3 yearly installments. Funding for this would come from the ARPA funds the City receives. Motion made by Maas, seconded by Skogen, to approve purchase of Civic Systems financial software for \$69,750 and using ARPA funds to pay for the costs. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Handbook Update
Lange presented updates to the Personnel Handbook which include remote work policies, department specific policies, leave policy updates, and adding Juneteenth to the holiday leave schedule. Motion made by

Blaisdell, seconded by Trelstad to approve updates to the Personnel Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approve Budget

Lange presented Resolution 2021-024, A Resolution Adopting the 2022 Levy and Budget. Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve Resolution 2021-024, A Resolution Adopting the 2022 Levy and Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Ambulance Employee Temporary Reclassification

This was voted on during staff reports

E. Outstanding Accounts Receivable and Assessments

Lange presented outstanding accounts receivables and assessments that staff would like to assessed to the taxes, reassessed, or written off. Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Skogen to approve reassessing properties that can be reassessed and writing off those that the City can no longer collect on. Motion carried unanimously.

F. United Way Community Center Request

The United Way of Dodge County is requesting to use the community center the 3rd Tuesday of each month for their monthly meeting. They have been using the room for several years and there have been no problems. Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas to approve use of the community center on the 3rd Tuesday of each month by the United Way of Dodge County. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Park Staff – End of Season Termination

Karla Tate has done a wonderful job this year cleaning up the flower beds and plant areas around the City. To clean up books for

2021 staff is seeking approval to formally terminate Tate. Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen to terminate the seasonal employment of Karla Tate. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Hangar Lease Transfer

The owner of Airport Hanger 26, Jerry Berg, is requesting to sell the building and transfer the lease to Matthew Kundart. Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve the lease transfer from Jerry Berg to Matthew Kundart. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Nuisance Assessments

Lange presented Resolution 2021-030, A Resolution Certifying Nuisance Fines to the County Auditor for Collection. Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas, to approve Resolution 2021-030, A Resolution Certifying Nuisance Fines to the County Auditor for Collection. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Accounts Payable Cycle

Staff is requesting to run a short payables cycle to allow payables received between December 22-December 30 to be paid. Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve a short payables cycle to be run for bills received December 22-December 30, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Blaisdell asked about next steps with Ims.

Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, Tina Kozisek, Administrative Assistant

Milo Peterson Ford Co.

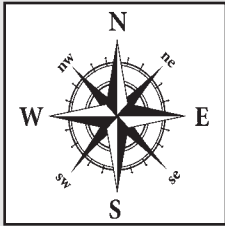
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<p style="text-align: center;">2014 FORD TAURUS</p> <p style="font-size: small;">3.5L V-6, gray metallic, 156,860 miles, 4 door #21030D</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; 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;">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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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Farmer Seed Corn Dealers



By Terry Campbell

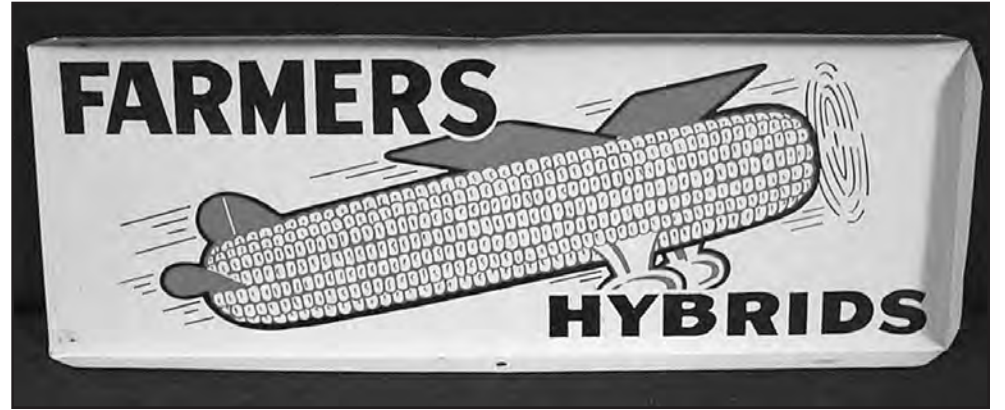
This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

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 neigh-

bor farmers talk farming beats almost anything else hands down. It was a noble profession and I was in the presence of the experts as they passed around their wisdom.

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

A Minnesotan: Snow Fall



By RosaLin Alcoser

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

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

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

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

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

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

WINNERS OF THE MESSENGER CHRISTMAS DRAWING

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

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

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We'd like to share our thanks and best wishes with everyone who has been a part of our year.



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