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FEBRUARY, 2022

Volume 19 • Issue 6

## The Messenger Recipe Contest



Share your favorite recipe with other readers and you can win a free dinner out on us. Just e-mail your favorite recipe to us. Each month we will feature 2 recipes. If we use your recipe and print it, you will receive a free certificate.

(see ad on page 6)

## Celebrating the Future Farmers and Leaders of America National FFA Week February 19-26



Starting in 1948, the National FFA Board of Directors designated a weeklong tradition to recognize George Washington's example and legacy as a leader and farmer. For the past 73 years, FFA members across the country have taken part in agricultural, leadership and service-based activities during National FFA Week.

"National FFA Week is a significant event that really showcases the heart of our organization," says Christine White, chief program officer for the National FFA Organization.

(continued on page 7)



## Announcements

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

Do you have an announcement?  
Email:

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Mike Iverson (from left), Lori Allard and Hudson Mrotz work together to make butter at Hope Creamery in Hope, Minnesota. The creamery turned 102 years old Dec. 22, 2021. photo by Kate Reichtzigel

## Over 100 Years in Business

Hope Creamery continues tradition for more than a century

Courtesy of Dairystar.com

HOPE, Minn. – The employees of Hope Creamery collaboratively decided they would make butter to celebrate over 100 years of being in business; the creamery turned 102 years old Dec. 22, 2021.

"To me it's an honor," Mike Iverson said. "Most businesses barely make 100 years old now let alone a business that's still in the same building."

Lori Allard agreed.

(continued on page 4)

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## Christ our Ultimate Conqueror!

From 1961- 1994, there was a physical partition between East and West Germany- right in the heart of Berlin. The wall virtually went up overnight! Berliners woke up to find a barrier made up of coiled barbed wires and concrete blocks. The wall was 96 miles (154.5 km) long stood and stood between 115 and 15 feet (4.57 meters) tall. There were actually 2 walls built with a 160-foot death strip between them. There were 302 watchtowers, 20 bunkers, 55,000 land mines, 259 dog runs, and machine guns that were activated by trip-wires.

The wall was built to keep the East Berliners from going into West Berlin to work- it was built to keep people in- Walls separate- As we conclude chapter 8 Paul writes, "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love." Paul says- I am convinced! It isn't a thought, or just a consideration, or a possibility- he is convinced- completely certain about something or firm in one's belief with regard to a particular cause or issue. He wrote, I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's Love. He is completely certain that there is nothing- not a thing · not a single thing · not anything · nothing at all · nil · zero · naught. Not one thing can ever—there is no time; past

present or future- separate us- Keep us from- make a wall, between us and God's love. That's powerful! There's hope in that verse- there's a huge reminder that I have done nothing that will totally destroy Jesus' love for me. There's nothing he will not forgive, there's nothing that can get in the way of His love for me. Let that soak in- when we're in love we fill that way about that special person- we say our vows- until death do us part- saying that there is nothing that will get in- between our love for one another- yet, divorce is all around us- Unrealistic expectations make our marriages a war zone with walls separating one another. But Paul says, I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love." God loves us. God loves His creation. God loves us so much that He gave His one and only Son- so that we may have life with Him forever. That's love- undeserved and selfless. That's God's love.

Paul elaborates: "Neither death nor life," Death doesn't even separate us from God's love. Even when death takes us- God is there- His desire is that we go with Him in death- his heart grieves for those that choose eternal death without Him. Life as well can't separate His love from us- we can choose to accept it or not- but He has already given it through His Son.

Then, neither angels nor demons" no matter the power of the spiritual world- neither the angels or demons can get between God's love for us. The powers of the evil will try- but they are no match for His Love. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." The powers of darkness will try to get the best of us- But Jesus is love and He is more powerful than the darkest night or the blackest evil of a person's heart.

This one hits home a bit more, "neither our

fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow" Can separate us from God's love. We all have our fears and worries don't we? Yet, even if we are afraid or worrying about tomorrow- He still loves us and is patient with us. He knows us- He desires that we remember His promises: "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life— whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?"

28 "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?"

31 "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?'" 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God[e] above all else, and live righteously, and he

will give you everything you need.

34 "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." Matthew 6:25-34. Jesus said- don't worry- me and my Father got this! Even our fears over tomorrow- can't separate us from His love!

And we're to also remember, that "not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Nothing in ALL Creation will EVER be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed to us in Jesus Christ!!! I have to say- I really love these verses! These verses fill me with hope, when I'm tempted to despair, they fill me with courage, when I am afraid, and trusting in this kind of love definitely leaves me feeling like a conqueror! As a believer- you can have this same confidence. You can trust in the Lord Jesus Christ- Our ultimate conqueror-

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**AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY**  
Learning Together

Scripture Reading — Luke 24:13-19  
As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. — Luke 24:15

Social media does not provide a healthy setting for Christian debate on controversial issues. It's too easy for users to sound off with hurtful words over people's interpretations of Scripture, judging them to be dead wrong or even devil-led.

Imagine such an online debate between people who believed in Christ's resurrection and those who considered it fake news. Thankfully, the calm, respectful discussion we find on the road to Emmaus invites a genuine discovery of the truth. Where these two gathered, Jesus showed up and was there with them (see Matthew 18:20; 28:20).

God designed that his people would live, learn, and grow together in community. None of us has perfect knowledge of God's Word, but we gain insight by studying it with others. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

I have participated in many small groups in which we studied the Bible, which is "useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16), and applied it to life situations. As a pastor, I do not have all of the answers, but I have found that when we communally seek to know him better, Jesus joins us and we sense his presence.

As Christ-followers, we can scare people away with our insistence on being right, or we can attract people with our invitation to walk and learn together with Jesus as our guide.

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



## Randolph Students Participate in the Gopher Conference Honor Band



Congratulations to Peter McNamara, Katelyn Hare, and Nathan Leske. They participated in the Gopher Conference Honor Band. Peter was the soloist in Chasing Sunlight. The band sounded incredible!! *Courtesy of Randolph School*

## Randolph Students Artwork Displayed at the Gopher Conference Art Show

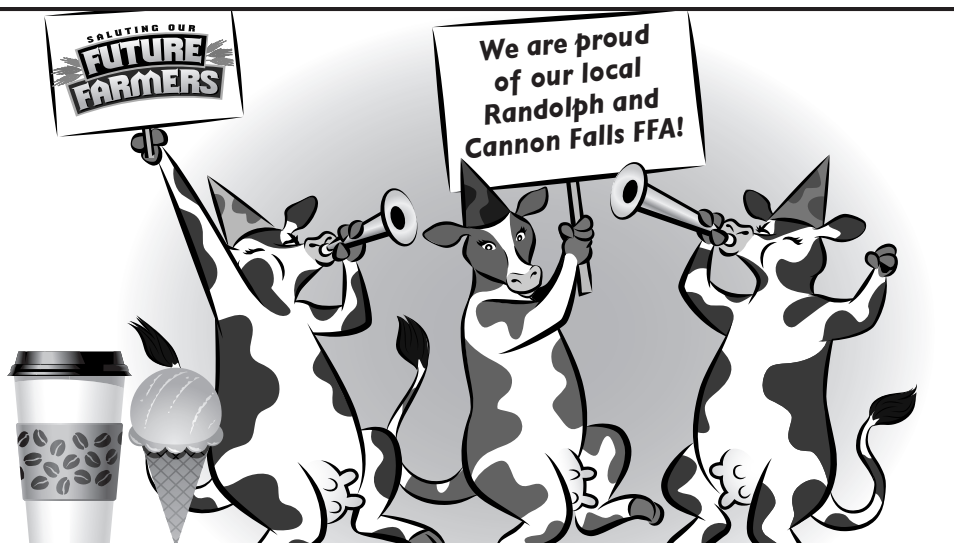


Student artwork from Randolph at the Gopher Conference Art Show. Lexi Smith, Ava Bildersback, Katelyn Hare are the artists. *Courtesy of Randolph School*

## Kindness Week at Randolph School



We had a guest speaker to wrap up Kindness Week - Randolph Alum and current Dakota County Sheriff Deputy Mike Fendrick! Deputy Fendrick talked about kindness and service to the community. *Courtesy of Randolph School*



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## Over 100 Years in Business

(continued from page 1)

"It's a joy to come to work here," she said. "I think we all feel that."

Iverson and Allard are two of the few employees who help to make butter every week at Hope Creamery in Hope.

The creamery is owned and operated by Victor and Kellie Mrotz. Other employees are the Mrotzes' son, Hudson, and Cody Blouin, who also helps to make the butter, four part-time truck drivers, a salesman and an office manager.

The first butter churned out of the creamery was on Dec. 22, 1919.

"Back then, this was a one-stop shop for farmers as farmers could get their fuel, feed and milk processed here," Iverson said. "They tried to incorporate everything a farmer needs into one entity."

At the time, the upstairs part of the building was also used for community events, 4-H meetings and a dance hall.

"The building was a modern marvel at the time because it had two stories and indoor plumbing," Iverson said.

Attracted by the building's history, local community and the butter, Victor Mrotz knew

he had to do something when the creamery was looking at closing in 2001.

"I had grown up on a farm where my parents milked cows until I was about 10 years old," Mrotz said. "From living in Minneapolis for 16 to 17 years and working as a salesman, I was still getting the paper and read that Hope Creamery was about to close. I couldn't let that happen."

So, Mrotz, who was farming with his dad at the time, talked to a friend about the creamery and decided to purchase the building in March 2001.

"Kellie and I taste tested a bunch of different butters before we bought the creamery," Mrotz said. "We didn't know if it was different at the time, but it was definitely different in taste and texture. So, we bought the building, and it's been in our names ever since."

The Mrotzes have made changes to keep sanitation practices up to date, but the general butter making process has remained the same as it was in the 1950s.

"All of our equipment is original from the '50s and '60s," Hudson said. "Before that, the churn was original, but it was run off of a steam engine."

Today, they purchase 15,000 pounds of separated cream from Plainview Milk Products every other week and process 8,000 thousand pounds of butter. As a byproduct, buttermilk is given to pig farmers.

"There is no manual for making butter,"

Hudson said. "You can only learn it by working alongside other butter makers."

Gene Kruckeberg was the head butter maker for 40-plus years; Kruckeberg passed in 2017. Mrotz's friend, Jay Logan, worked under Kruckeberg and took over the position until he passed suddenly in 2019. Before passing, Logan taught Hudson and Allard who later taught Iverson.

"Since then, it's taken the three of us to backward engineer the process and piece everything together," Hudson said. "It's still

(continued on page 5)



Hope Creamery churned its first butter Dec. 22, 1919. At the time, the building was also used for 4-H meetings, community events, a dance hall and as a one-stop shop for farmers where they could get their feed, fuel and milk processed. photo submitted

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## Over 100 Years in Business

(continued from page 4)

the same recipe it was 40 years ago when Kruckeberg was making it.”

After the cream is received, it goes through six hours of slow vat pasteurization and then put in the batch churn.

“The process is really slow; you can’t rush it. We believe that gives the butter a better flavor and better product,” Iverson said. “It’s one step at a time, and every batch is different. You can’t walk away during any part of the process.”

Once the butter is made, it is wrapped into 1-pound blocks as either salted, unsalted high fat or unsalted butter.

“That’s the way it was done a long time ago with Friday boxes,” Iverson said. “These boxes were the old way of packaging butter. You would put the butter fresh off the churn into a metal or wooden box, let it harden and then cut the butter with a hand-operated machine that would use wires to cut the butter into 1-pound blocks.”

Iverson said new machines are costly, and the 1-pound blocks are tradition and what the creamery is known for.

For Iverson and Allard, their favorite part about the butter making process consists of the taste testing.

“Five minutes before it’s ready to package, you get to taste the freshest Hope butter you will ever taste in your life,” Iverson said. “I

don’t know of anybody who eats more butter than we do.”

Hudson enjoys the process.

“It’s so methodical and always interesting every time making butter; there’s never a dull moment,” he said.

About 70% of the butter is marketed toward restaurants and grocery stores in the Twin Cities metropolitan area where Mrotz has the most experience. The creamery’s first commercial account was the restaurant Lucia’s.

“Lucia’s really believed in us and supported the eat local food movement,” Hudson said. “After that, it’s kind of taken off and spread through word of mouth.”

About 15-20 cases are sold directly from the creamery to local customers.

“We have people coming who have bought butter out of this building for three generations,” Iverson said. “They don’t want us to stop making butter. An 80-year-old lady came in here one time and told us about how the butter reminds her of what her grandma used to make on the farm.”

Allard agreed.

“We’re always eager to sell butter, and we can see it in the customers’ eyes that we are making a difference,” she said. “People smile.”

After all these years, Hope Creamery plans to keep making butter in its traditional ways for many years to come.

“We christened that day this year, and I think that will be part of the tradition to make butter that week,” said Hudson of Dec. 22, 2021. “And I think all of us will be on board to make at least a batch or two on the day of.”



Hudson Mrotz explains how butter is made in the batch churn Jan. 5 at Hope Creamery in Hope, Minnesota. The batch churn is one of the many pieces of original equipment from the ‘50s and ‘60s. photo by Kate Rehtzigel



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Dairy Inn is a local landmark, continuously operated since 1956. It is an independent seasonal ice cream shop and grill with loyal customers. Property has a small indoor dining area, walk-up windows suited well for pandemic times and ample parking. Kitchen was completely remodeled in 2018, to include: wiring, plumbing, gas lines, walls/ceiling, epoxy floor, cooktop/fryers, tankless water heater, hood vent, ansul system, POS, etc. This place is ready to go! Sale includes the business, furniture, fixtures, equipment, and real estate. Cannon Falls is a busy community in the summer, with Lake Byllesby, the Cannon Valley Trail and Cannon River all nearby, and sources of customers. *Call Eric today for a showing!*



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## Celebrating the Future Farmers and Leaders of America

*(continued from page 1)*

"Local chapters use this as an opportunity to highlight program success, recognize community supporters and amplify the mission of the organization."

This year, more than 700,000 FFA members will spend the week of Feb. 20-27 developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

They will do so in creative and innovative ways. Whether volunteering to clean up the local fairgrounds or throwing a citywide party to celebrate the 1732 birth of our first president, there is no limit to how this week can be recognized.

"It could be hosting a breakfast for teachers, an open house for FFA supporters or bestowing chapter-level degrees. It truly is an opportunity to celebrate all things FFA. As a former member and agricultural educator, FFA Week is something I always looked forward to since it was a way to share my passion for the organization," White says. "FFA members should embrace the planning, execution and celebration that occurs with developing activities and events for FFA Week. The skills of teamwork, communication and advocating are ones you will carry with you

beyond your FFA experience."


Keep track of all that is happening by following #FFAWeek on your social channels. Find more about all the resources available at [FFA.org/National-FFA-Week](http://FFA.org/National-FFA-Week).

Thank you, Alumni and Supporters!

Whether they wore the blue jacket or support an organization they were never a member of, these individuals are celebrated on National FFA Alumni and Supporters Day. Since 1971, alumni and supporters have found ways to significantly contribute to their local chapters. Jeremy Krerowicz, the past president of the Denmark FFA Alumni in Wisconsin, fondly remembers his time as a member, and he used those experiences as motivation to lead the 2020 Outstanding FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter.

"Our members love to see the students grow," Krerowicz says. "We love seeing them being recognized at state and national conventions, during their chapter banquet and throughout the community. It shows that we are doing our part. We help them with the resources they need to get that far."

In every state in the nation, alumni and supporters chapters work to create environments where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. They are raising funds to send members to the Washington Leadership Conference, hosting students with supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs), helping to advocate for their local chapters and more. 2022 marks the 51st anniversary of the National FFA Alumni Association. Thank you, alumni and supporters!



The National FFA Organization promotes the growth of tomorrow's agricultural leaders through education. **We salute Cannon Falls and Randolph FFA members for their dedication to developing leadership skills, confidence and career direction that will help them succeed in their chosen fields.**

From hard work on the farm to important lessons in the classroom, FFA has shown its strength and determination to achieve success.




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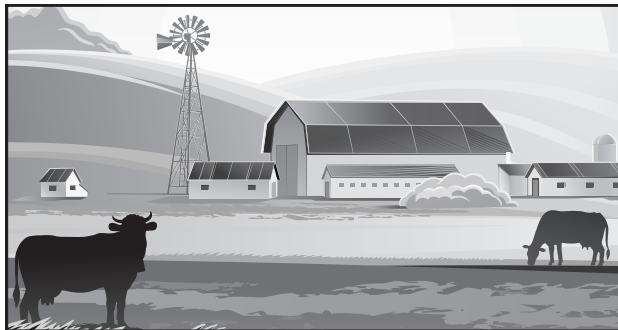
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Show your friends and neighbors as well as all the readers your culinary expertise!

Just send us your recipe with the ingredient list and preparation instructions and we will draw 2 recipes each month to run in the Messenger with your name as the submitter.

**E-mail your recipe to  
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If we use your recipe and print it, you will receive a free certificate. Be sure to include your name and address so we can mail you a gift card if your entry is the winner.

### *The original Minnesota Tater Tot Hot Dish*

We'll walk you through how to make this classic tater tot casserole recipe. There are lots of variations on the hotdish, but this easy recipe is a good place to start. You'll need:

- 3/4 to 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen tater tots
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 2/3 cup 2% milk
- 1 cup shredded cheese

To start, break out your favorite large skillet—cast iron works great here! Heat it over medium heat, then add the ground beef and onion. Season with salt and pepper and cook until the meat is cooked through. Drain any excess grease.

Transfer the ground beef and onion mixture to a greased, two-quart baking dish. Top with the frozen tater tots.

In mixing bowl, whisk together the milk and condensed soup and then pour it over the potatoes. Top with shredded cheese—use whatever cheese you like best.

All that's left is to pop this hotdish into a 350°F oven and bake uncovered for 30 to 40 minutes, or until heated through.

Serve this up with a quick side salad and some homemade rolls and you've got dinner! If you really want a full Midwestern experience, try these dessert recipes right from the heartland. They're just the way to finish off this hearty meal dontcha know!





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the grants comes through the AGRI Program to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries.

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Project examples include buildings or facilities for the production of livestock or livestock products, development of pasture for use by livestock, including but not limited to lanes, watering systems, and fences, and equipment for livestock housing, confinement, feeding, and waste management.

We must receive your proposal no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday April 5, 2022, for it to be considered. We encourage you to use our online application.

More information about the grant can be found on the AGRI Livestock Investment Grant website.

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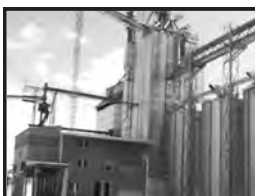
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## Hampton City Council Special Meeting and Regular Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2022

The Hampton City Council met on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at the Hampton City Hall for a special meeting and the regular scheduled meeting. Present were Mayor John Knetter; Council Members Cindy Flodeen, David Luhning, Anthony Verch and Nick Russell. Also present was Brad Fisher with Bolton and Menk; Chris Meyer, City Treasurer; and Tim Quast.

**Special Meeting Called to Order** – The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss Resolution #2022-01 – Setting salaries, fees, licenses and permits, charges for services, schedules, appointments and annual designations. Mayor Knetter called the special meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Mayor Knetter began the discussion by asking Councilor Russell if he would like to take on the role of Hockey Rink Manager, and about being paid for his work on the hockey rink. Russell stated that he doesn't need any compensation, and that any money he would be paid for his work he would rather have invested into the hockey rink. He also mentioned that Tim Quast, who is helping him with the hockey rink maintenance, would be coming to the meeting to address Council about needs for the rink. Discussion ensued about current maintenance issues that need attention. Councilor Luhning asked Russell if he would accept compensation for the work. He pointed out that, if Russell wasn't doing the work gratis, then the City would hire someone else to do the work. Luhning told Russell that he feels the Hockey Rink Manager should receive compensation for the work, but if Russell wants the funds to be invested back into the rink, he can donate them back to the City for that purpose. Russell stated that he is fine with doing that. Knetter stated that election judge hourly rates had not been changed for several years and asked Councilors for their opinion about a rate. A rate of \$17.50 per hour was decided upon.

He also mentioned that the City will be hiring someone to handle the election duties previously handled by the City Clerk. Luhning commented that he felt the fee for copies is low, considering the high cost of copy machine toner, and stated that he would like a \$0.10 increase for that fee. Councilor Verch commented that, when comparing hourly wages and what the increase for election judges will be, he feels the Cleaning Staff position should have a similar type of increase because she does a good job and it would help with employee retention. He suggested an increase from \$15.91 per hour to \$17.00 per hour.

For hourly rates of other employees, Knetter suggested a 4% increase for the City Clerk and Treasurer and a 3% increase for all other employees. Knetter asked Brad Fisher of Bolton and Menk if the City's sewer access fee of \$1,850 is in line with that of other cities. Fisher stated that it is but that it is on the low end. Knetter would like that fee to increase \$150 to \$2,000. Discussion regarding which date to move the November Council to because the second Tuesday in November is election day. Councilors agreed to change the November meeting date from the 8th to the

15th.

Knetter asked if anyone had any other suggestions for changes to the fee schedule. Chris Meyer, City Treasurer, mentioned that the City may want to look at its water/sewer quarterly fees for next year. Councilor Luhning commented that it was discussed when fees were last increased that the City should increase fees regularly to keep up with operating cost increases.

Councilors reviewed the 2022 Appointments and Designations. Councilor Russell stated that he would be willing to help out with the parks. Councilor Verch asked Russell if he wanted to take on that designation being he was already taking care of the hockey rink. Verch stated that he then would assume the designation for Water Meter Maintenance. Russell agreed to that.

**Adjournment** – Motion by Verch seconded by Luhning to close the special meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

The special meeting closed at 6:57 p.m.

**Regular Meeting called to Order** - Mayor Knetter called the Regular Scheduled Meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. Present were Mayor John Knetter; Council Members Cindy Flodeen, David Luhning, Anthony Verch, and Nick Russell.

**Disclosure of Interest** – Mayor Knetter stated that he works for the City's Water/Sewer Department.

**Approval of December 14, 2021 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes** – Motion by Luhning seconded by Verch to approve the December 14, 2021 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

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

**Public Comment** – Mayor Knetter asked Tim Quast, who was in attendance, if he would like to address Council now, or if he would like to wait until the Parks Report is done. Quast chose to speak now. He stated to Council that he has been taking care of the ice rink this winter with Councilor Russell. He is wondering if Councilors plan to make improvements to the ice rink, as he has ideas on what is needed to improve the facility. He asked if funds are available for making improvements. Knetter thanked Quast for his work at the ice rink and told him that funds are available in the Parks budget for improvements. Quast said that one of the ideas he has is to put some sort of mat down and/or sandbagging around the rink to prevent water from escaping when they are filling the rink. Quast also suggested that the City use a tractor with a snowblower attachment for snow removal. He said that he has a tractor and could get a snowblower attachment and donate the use of that to the City. He told Council that current snow removal equipment can cause damage to the ice. Russell commented that, after the last snowfall, the skid loader caused quite a bit of damage to the ice. Councilor Verch mentioned that, even in the summer the rink surface is in bad shape. He thought the City might want to mill it down and possibly put a white silicone coating on the surface to improve ice conditions. He

asked that Quast work with Russell regarding potential rink improvements.

**Petitions, Requests, and Communications** – None

**Ordinances and Resolutions: Resolution 2022-01** – Setting salaries, fees, licenses and permits, charges for services, schedules, appointments and annual designations – Mayor Knetter stated that this resolution confirms the recommendations made by Council during the special meeting. Motion by Verch seconded by Russell to approve Resolution 2022-01. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

**Resolution 2022-02 – Regarding the Administration of the Wetland Act of 1991** – Discussion among Councilors that they remembered that this came up before, and that it was pretty standard, but they couldn't recall why they opposed the resolution. Mayor Knetter asked Brad Fisher to review the resolution and give his opinion regarding passing it. Fisher stated that the wording in the resolution was pretty standard. He said that, by approving the resolution the City would give up some control regarding wetland issues, but at the same time the City would have to have a professional to handle administrative issues. He stated that he and other employees of Bolton and Menk are generally on the application side of wetland issues, not administration. Discussion ensued regarding the loss of control on wetland issues, but

Knetter feels that the County would work with the City on any wetland issues that come up in the future. Motion by Verch seconded by Flodeen to approve Resolution 2022-02. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

**Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees:**

**Engineer Report** – Brad Fisher with Bolton and Menk had one update for Council. Another meeting has been scheduled with MNDOT regarding the Hwy 52 reconstruction project. The purpose of the meeting is to follow up with MNDOT regarding the status of their design as a whole, but also as it specifically relates to the City and the ball-field drainage issues. Fisher, Cory Bienfang, and a couple of other individuals from Bolton & Menk have done a high-level analysis of the drainage issues to determine possible options of what could be done to correct the problem. So, the plan is to meet with MNDOT officials to see if the design they have planned will correct the drainage issues. If not, Bolton and Menk will have options to present to MNDOT at the meeting.

**Water / Sewer Report** – Mayor Knetter reminded Council that the PanelView control replacement project is on hold until Marlin Reinardy, Water/Sewer Superintendent, returns from Arizona.

*(continued on page 13)*

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## City of Randolph Regular Council Meeting January 12, 2022

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

### Roll Call

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

### Public Comments

It was asked if we could post the agenda for the monthly meeting on the city website a few days before the meeting each month.

### Minutes

A motion to approve the December 8, 2021 regular council meeting minutes was made by Haro, seconded by Appelgren. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 4:0.

### Approval of Treasurer Report

Sandy indicated water bills will go out this month. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Podritz, seconded by Haro. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 4:0.

### Approval to Pay Bills

There were several in/out checks for the Fire Department and there was also a donation from the Ferguson Foundation to the Fire Department. Motion to approve the payment of bills as written was made by Podritz, and seconded by Haro. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 4:0.

### Old Business

Nothing this month

### New Business

Dakota County Deputy Deputy Adam Suedkamp was present and asked if we had anything to discuss. It has been quiet because of the cold weather.

### List of Committees

Acting Mayor – Sarah Podritz Parks - Mayor Robert Appelgren and Clerk Mary Haro Sidewalks - Council members Jacob Friedrich and Sarah Podritz Streets – Mayor Robert Appelgren and Council member Jacob Friedrich Wellhead – Clerk Mary Haro and council member Todd D. Carlock Civil Defense - Reed Kosir Building Inspector – Mark Ceminsky City Attorney - Korine Land of Levander, Gillen & Miller Prosecution Firm for City – Campbell Knutson City Engineer - Bolton & Menk Official Bank - Merchants Bank Official Newspaper - Cannon Falls Beacon Insurance - Kevin Rodgers - Northfield Insurance Motion to approve the appointments of the committees for the year was made by Appelgren, seconded by Podritz. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 4:0.

### Building Permit for Stephanie and Jacob Groenke

We discussed their application for a permit for a new garage. There were several questions. The building inspector indicated he needs two copies of the signed plans. He also indicated in looking at the Dakota County property site it shows the property line going through the building and he thinks some of the property lines could be off so in order for him to check the setbacks he needs to be sure where the property lines are. He suggests that a survey be done. They indicated that the current garage is going to be torn down and this would be a perfect opportunity to make sure the property lines are right and the setbacks are correct. The lines need to be verified. He also noted that since it is 1500 sq. feet it needs to have footings and it can't take up more than 30% of the back yard. There were asked to get an "as built" from Dakota County regarding their septic. Mark also asked that he get a plot plan that shows the house, septic, and dimensions from the house. This will be tabled until the February meeting so they can get the information to Mark so that he can do the review plan.

### Bolton & Menk Sewer Update

Matt Blazer of Bolton & Menk gave an update on what is happening with the sewer project. They meet with one of the property owners and they need to get some more information so they will meet again within the next month and hopefully have an update at our next meeting.

Matt had a discussion with Dakota County and they are looking at redoing the County Road (292nd Street) in the future and it will be a joint project that will result in some cost savings to the city. They are in the preliminary design stage. They will work with us and do a joint powers agreement with us. Mark indicated that they plan to hold an open house in late March or early April to update citizens on the project.

### Historical Society Building

Mark noted that the lot is zoned as Public Institutional and there is some discrepancy that they may have to go through the state to be inspected. It was questioned as to why it was zoned as public institutional and he was told that they applied for it to be zoned as that. It was asked if it could be commercial but didn't know if that would change the tax basis or what else could change. He just wanted to update us on what could be happening with the building.

### Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Appelgren, seconded by Carlock, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 4:0. Respectfully submitted, Mary Haro

(continued from page 12)

**Park Report** – Councilor Verch reported that he has the new hockey nets assembled and still has work to do on one.

**Street Report** – Councilor Luhning reported that plowing is still being done well and professionally, and that he recently spoke with Roger Otto, giving him more discretion on the decision of when to plow the streets after a snowfall, as currently Mr. Otto calls Luhning for that decision. Luhning told Otto that he would give him that leeway now, but they would revisit the issue if Luhning feels that changes need to be made regarding the timing and frequency of plowing.

### Old Business –

**City Attorney Services** – Councilors reviewed Korine Land's November 28th email at last month's meeting which stated that LeVander, Gillen & Miller would no longer provide prosecution services as of December 17, 2021. At that meeting it was discussed that the City would need to find a new law firm to handle its criminal cases, but it was also discussed that the City may want to have all of its legal services handled by one firm. Mayor Knetter stated that, after further consideration, having one firm handle all of the City's legal work wouldn't be an option at this time because of the pending litigation with Northfield WiFi. So, the decision tonight would be to choose a firm to handle the City's criminal cases only. Knetter asked if anyone was familiar with any of the firms who provided proposals for review. Verch stated that he is familiar with Dougherty, Molenda, Solfest, Hills & Bauer, and that

they are a great firm. Discussion ensued regarding fees charged by each firm. Russell mentioned that he also heard good things about Dougherty Molenda. Knetter mentioned that their fees are in line with the other firms. He asked for a motion on the matter. Motion by Verch seconded by Luhning to select Dougherty, Molenda, Solfest, Hills & Bauer to handle the city's criminal prosecution services. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

### New Business:

**Planning Commission Appointments** – Laura Johnson and Nick Russell's terms ended in 2021. Both submitted Interest Forms to serve an additional term. Motion by Luhning seconded by Verch to appoint Laura Johnson and Nick Russell to the Planning Commission. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

Designate ARP Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to be used to purchase a lift station back-up generator. Mayor Knetter mentioned that this was discussed after the CUP was approved for the county maintenance facility. He stated that a City resident who lives near the lift station recommended the purchase of another generator. Motion by Russell seconded by Verch that ARP Local Fiscal Recovery Funds be designated for the purchase of a lift station back-up generator. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0.

**Adjournment** - Motion by Verch seconded by Flodeen to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5:0. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Judy O'Brien

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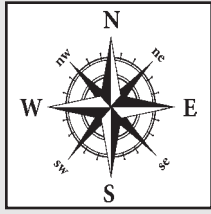
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes River Boats



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.*

One thing that always fascinates me are the barges moving up and down the Cumberland River near where we live in Tennessee. They seem huge, especially when you pass them on the river in small runabout.

They call them pusher boats or tow boats and they are about fifty feet long with a 4,000 horsepower diesel engine powering them. The towboats on the Cumberland River are limited to a tow of 15 barges lashed three wide and five long because of the locks at the dams and the channel of the river. On the Mississippi River, south of St. Louis the tows can be three times that size with a pusher boat with an 11,000 horsepower diesel engine.

Each barge is 195 feet long and 35 feet wide. It can carry 1,500 tons, which is 15 times the capacity of a rail car and sixty times the capacity of a semi-trailer. They carry 20% of the nation's coal and that is the standard load that goes up the Cumberland River to the power plant at Cumberland City. This



payload can take up to half a mile to stop, so boats on the river are supposed to give the barges a wide berth. The barges have a draft of 9 feet when fully loaded but the hull is designed so they don't create a large wake. With the number of small fishing and pleasure crafts on the river this is an important feature.

Crews on the towboats work thirty day shifts with a month off in between. There are six to eight guys living on the towboat and one of them is a full time cook to keep the

crew fed. They like the schedule because it allows them a free month to hunt and fish.

The towboats have the most modern navigational systems to keep them on course and a large screen GPS that shows where the boat will be 90 seconds ahead. There are many turns in the river and the captain has to keep that long barge in the center of the channel. Another challenge is looking out for stalled

fishing or leisure crafts in front of the barge. In the event of a boat dead in the water ahead of them, the crew will sprint to the front of the barge to try and push the helpless boat aside. The tow boat uses all the power it has to push the loaded barges up river, but coming back with a tow of empty barges it hardly works at all.

## A Minnesotan: Ice Fishing



By RosaLin Alcoser

Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes and as Minnesotans we spend a good chunk of our lives at the lake. We spend the late spring and summer out on the lake as well as the fall and the winter out on the lake. Basically Minnesotans spend our free time on the lake.

While the summer months have boating and playing on the lake all the seasons have one lake actively in common. Fishing. No matter what there seems to be some point in every season when Minnesotan's fish weather that be from the shore, a boat, or by walking out into the middle of the frozen lake drilling a hole in

the ice and fishing through that.

Now my Southern family is not from up here, but I did spend most of my childhood in Minnesota and well now... I'm still in Minnesota. So, I have been ice fishing, once as a child and was so annoying that I never got taken again.

Which I was fine with at the time and am still fine with now. While my older sister enjoyed ice fishing when we were kids I did not mostly because I didn't care for the cold, fishing or walking out onto the frozen lake.

You might be asking exactly how seven-year-old RosaLin got herself banned, by Grandpa, from ice fishing for life. Well as I have already mentioned it was for being annoying but it was how I was annoying that got me banned.

At the time I was very into Lilo and Stitch on Disney and as a result at the time I knew a couple of Elvis songs. Which I sang down the fishing hole the one time I was taken ice fishing. I must say the fish of the mid-2000's were not big Elvis fans and we did not catch much that day- the guy on the other side of the lake who never caught anything did, but we didn't nor did others around us.

I honestly think that's a good enough reason to never take me again and I'm ok with that.

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Contact Melissa or Becky  
at 507-403-2777  
The Community Room is available  
at no charge. Contact us for details.



RANDOLPH  
**507.403.2777**

CASTLE ROCK  
**651.463.7590**

FARMINGTON  
**651.463.4014**



You know us. We know you.

# CASTLE ROCK BANK

HOURS: 7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM WEEKDAYS

[www.castlerockbank.net](http://www.castlerockbank.net)

