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DECEMBER, 2023

Volume 21 • Issue 3

Save the Date!



DENNISON DAYS
JUNE 21-22, 2024

Be Part of the 2024 Celebration!
Contact The Dennison Lions Club
Meetings Held The Third Tuesday of The Month

Flake Out Festival Planned for February 3rd



The Dennison Lions Club is planning the 2024 Flake Out Festival & Winter Parade on Saturday, February 3rd, 2024.

The club is holding a raffle in conjunction with the days events to raise funds to support Lions Clubs activities and help support other area non-profit entities and those in need that the club donates to and supports throughout the year. A \$500 1st Prize, plus other cash prizes will be given away.

The Annual Lighted Parade will take place

at 6:30 PM, and anyone can participate. A Cash Prize will be given to the best float.

Other returning favorites include Euchre at Fireside, beginning at 9 AM with 100% Prize Payout and Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo at City Hall at 3 pm. Returning this year will be a Chili Cookoff Contest. Cook up your best chili recipe and bring it down to city hall at 11 AM. Tasting and voting will be from 11:30-12:30 with a cash prize for 1st and 2nd place. If you have any questions, contact Lion President Diane at 612-532-0268. Watch for a full schedule of events coming soon.



2023 parade

Announcements

**Dennison/Vang
December 31st Service**
December 31st 9:00 am service will be at Vang.

- Wednesday Wear, Nerstrand United Methodist Church hours are Wednesdays 1 - 5 and Saturdays 9 - 12. Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys and books. All things are free with donations accepted. Come and see what we have!
- Dennison City Council meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
- The Nerstrand City Council meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at the Nerstrand City Hall. Office hours are: Monday 8:30-11:00; Tuesday by appointment; Wednesday 8:30-11:00; Thursday 5:00-7:00; Friday by appointment. 507-332-8000.
- Warsaw Township Meeting is held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Warsaw Township Hall. Meeting time is 6:00p.m.
- The Wheeling Township meeting will be held on the second Monday of each month at 8:00p.m. at the Wheeling Township Hall. Contact Rebecca Vergin, Township Clerk.

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

Santa Visits Dennison



Charlotte

The Dennison Lions Club hosted Santa at Heritage Bank in Dennison earlier this month. Guests enjoyed pictures with Santa along with treats and beverages. This annual event is hosted each year by the Dennison Lions Club at Heritage Bank in Dennison. (See additional photos inside)

Christmas Memories from the Past



David is 89 years old this Christmas. He remembers Christmas as a child in Salt Lake City, where his dad was a teacher at a school in Utah. The lived in a two-story house with a steep stairway leading to the upper level. On Christmas morning the kids would sit on the steps waiting for their parents to open the door.

(continued on page 7)

Minnesota Country Music Salute CD Raises Funds for Military Families

2023 marks the final Minnesota country music salute CD which was created to raise funds for the Minnesota Military Family Foundation and Minnesota wheels of honor. Bob FM radio, with broadcast signals across southern and central Minnesota started this project 10 years ago, and this will be the final CD in the series.

You may go to the Bob FM radio website and order a CD, or locally you can pick it up at the Fireside Lounge and Supper Club in Dennison Minnesota. 100% of the proceeds are given to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation and the Minnesota Wheels of Honor.

(continued on page 3)

POOL TOURNAMENT
January 13th

Scotch Doubles or Singles
Sign up at 11:30am • Start time 12:00pm



625 BAR AND GRILLS
EST. 2022

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What's Inside?
Our best wishes for a Merry Christmas, of course!
Thank you for being such an important part of our year.

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Christmas: "Season of Hope"



By Colin Rueter

Hope is a powerful topic. In C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, there is a scene where Mr. Tumnus, a fawn in Narnia, is lamenting to Lucy Pevensie about the fact that due to a terrible curse, Narnia endures an everlasting winter but they never have Christmas. In fact, there is no celebrating of any kind. Every day is the same—cold, dark, and desperate. "It is winter in Narnia," said Mr. Tumnus, "and has been for ever so long... always winter, but never Christmas." Later, all the children hear sleigh bells. It is the driver of a sleigh who is a giant of a man dressed all in red and white. It is Father Christmas! He declares, "I have broken through at last. [the White Witch] has kept me out for a long time, but her magic is weakening. Aslan is on the move! A merry Christmas! Long live the true King!" Hope is coming for Narnia!

The hope that I speak of, that Lewis shows us as Aslan in the story, is a person! Hope is Emmanuel, God with us! Hope is not wishful thinking in positive change, but recognizing that the God who created all things came to this place of perpetual winter to shine His light and give us perpetual, living hope through His Son. We were cold, helpless, and

lifeless, so God came in the flesh, born of a virgin, sinless throughout His whole life, giving His life as a ransom for many, and being raised from the dead so that all who believe in Him would not perish but have eternal life. Our hope is living because Jesus lives today and we celebrate this Christmas season with a hope that does not disappoint.

I want to close by bringing us to a specific passage that is not common to Christmas. The Apostle Peter wrote a letter to a people who are suffering for their faith in Jesus Christ. He writes a common greeting in verse 1 & 2, reminding them that they were chosen by God, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father. 1 Peter 1:20 says that Christ Himself was foreknown by the Father in the same way. God didn't just know about us; He knew us—personally—and He chose us, even while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8). We are chosen through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit to set us apart for God, making us people God can call holy and His children. We fulfill our purpose in God choosing us as His children when we obey Christ. Here is our text this Christmas from 1 Peter 1:3-9, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved

by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls." Peter reminds us that God is to be praised because He has caused us to be born anew to a living hope, real hope through Jesus Christ, and that the temporal world now cannot overcome that hope. Though trials may come, they test our faith and refine it so that it is revealed as genuine, real, and active in our life. Though we do not see Jesus, we know and love Him, therefore we obey and faithfully walk with Him. Light momentary affliction today prepares for us the glory when we see Jesus' face to face and our joy is full.

Do you have the sense some days, like those Pevensie children shivering and confused in a cold land, that despair clouds your hope? You are not alone. Many people cringe at the mere thought of another pain or trial, others rise to the occasion, most are somewhere in between. Friends, Christmas is a season of hope, even though with everything going on in our world today we are tempted to despair. Peter's encouragement is one of perseverance in faith because God is with us. It isn't enough for us to simply get up every morning and trudge through each day nor paste a smile on our faces and ignore trou-

bles. C.S. Lewis brilliantly wrote *The Chronicles* allegory soon after the World War, a time of despair for many and time of needed reflection on true hope. It seems that a story like this is needed again and again to awaken our hearts to see the world as it is, always winter, and yet give hope to our hearts that it won't stay this way – Christmas is coming, Aslan is on the move, Hope is here. Come to Jesus this Christmas and know Hope. May He help us to reflect on the hope He brings through the written word that we would know Him better this Christmas season. So onward! It is in the darkest times that our collective light shines brightest for the world to see and by grace praise our Father in heaven. Merry Christmas and hold fast Christian. Behold, the King is coming soon!

Friends, this season can bring a plethora of emotions, including loneliness, sadness, and anxiety, even with the hope that Jesus brings. Therefore, if you have questions, need prayer, a word of encouragement, or a cup of coffee, please contact me via my personal email: niloc1214@gmail.com

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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Glory of Jesus

They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left.

— Mark 15:27

When we think of the glory of God, we probably have something like Isaiah 6 in mind. The prophet Isaiah had a vision of God in a heavenly temple, "high and exalted, seated on a throne." Seraphim (fiery creatures with wings) were flying about, singing, "The whole earth is full of his glory." And the temple trembled and shook (Isaiah 6:1-4).

That's glory. Glory is big. Glory is high. Glory is powerful. No doubt that's what James and John have in mind when they ask to sit on either side of Jesus in his glory. They want the best seats in the house. They want to be where the action is. They want to be where power resides.

They have no idea what they're talking about. Because Jesus is on a long mission that will redefine glory. Glory will not describe an untouchable God so high up as to be invisible, except in a vision. No. Glory will now describe God in human flesh, lifted a few feet off the ground and nailed to a cross. Glory will now describe the God available to be touched, to be spat upon, to be mocked. This is what it means for God to be human. And this is how glory is redefined when God becomes a suffering servant.

"We have seen his glory," John says (John 1:14).

Jesus, we praise you for your glory. It's a glory that overturns our expectations. Thank you for setting them right-side up. Amen.

LUTHERAN

Dennison/Vang Lutheran Parish
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN • 507-645-6042
Website: www.dennisonvang.org
Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com
Pastor Paul A. Graham

Worship on Sunday mornings at Vang at 9 a.m. and Dennison at 10:30 a.m. This year, our focus is "We Make the Road by Walking."
All are welcome, come as you are.

Gol Lutheran Marv Kormann, Pastor
Marv Kormann, Pastor • 507-789-6311
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Grace Lutheran, Nerstrand
Mike Ahrens S.A.M.
Service 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran
9:00a.m. Sunday School
10:00a.m. Coffee Time 10:30a.m. Worship Service

Hegre Lutheran
Pastor Chris Brekke
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

Moland Lutheran
Nancy Edvardson, Pastor • 10:30 a.m. worship

First Ev. Lutheran
Luther Mathsen, Pastor
Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC
Shannon Bauer, Pastor
24289 Cty. 24 Blvd., Cannon Falls
Sunday Worship at 9:00a.m. followed by fellowship.
Thursday Bible Study at 9:00a.m.

Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Mainstreet Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

METHODIST

Nerstrand United Methodist
Gary Liker, Pastor
507-330-0025
Worship 9:00a.m.

Stanton United Methodist
Rev. Tom Countryman
Worship 10:15a.m.
Church Phone 507-263-4063

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(Wheeling Township) 19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault
Gary Liker, Pastor • 507-330-0025
www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info
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Pastor Dustin Haider • 507-789-6677
Email: holdensecretary@gmail.com
Worship schedule found at:
www.holdenlutheranchurch.org
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Larry D. Kern

Larry D. Kern, age 80, of Kenyon died on November 18, 2023, surrounded by family at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester after fighting multiple health issues.

Larry Delano Kern, the son of Sebastian and Violet (Eisen) Kern, was born on October 1, 1943, in Faribault. He grew up on a farm near Kenyon and graduated from Faribault High School in 1961. He entered the Army Reserves and was called in to active duty during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He returned to Kenyon after his service and worked with local farmers selling fertilizer and seed.



He worked as the manager of Nerstrand Agri Center for over 35 years. On December 29, 1965, he was united in marriage to Barbara Root at Christ the King Church in Medford. In his younger years he enjoyed playing softball, bowling and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He continued his love of sports through out his life and was an avid Vikings fan. Larry also enjoyed deer and took trips out west Pheasant hunting with his brothers. Larry loved jigsaw puzzles. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church and the American Legion.

He is survived by his wife Barbara of Kenyon; children Michael Kern of Owatonna, Matthew (Lisa) Kern of Kenyon, Michelle (Mark) Lager of Northfield, Melissa (Chad) Boettcher of Northfield; 8 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and 7 siblings. He was preceded in death by his

parents, daughter Holly Mae, and 3 brothers. Visitation was held Wednesday, November 22, 2023 from 9:30 am to 10:30 am at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Kenyon. Mass

was held on Wednesday, November 22nd at 10:30 AM at the church. Interment was in the Resurrection Cemetery near Medford.

Minnesota Country Music Salute CD Raises Funds for Military Families

(continued from page 1)

Ten years ago, Neil Freeman, General Manager and long time on air voice of Bob FM radio, came up with the idea of tying together two groups that the regional station supported, The homegrown musical artists of Minnesota and the military member support organizations.

By creating a compilation CD to sell across Minnesota the project was a success. With the help of many sponsors, artists and listeners who went out to purchase these CD's over the

years, the station has donated over \$235,000 so far to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation Minnesota Wheels of Honor and Tribute to the Troops. Freeman noted, "this will be the last year we produce the CD, as people consume music in many different ways now, but we look forward to extending our support in the future to these fine organizations in other ways. Further information can be found on the station website at www.mybobcountry.com

FREELANCE WRITERS WANTED

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Qualified applicants will possess:

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- Great people skills
- Knowledge of/access to a computer
- Enjoy small town atmosphere
- The ability to work some night hours as needed for editorial



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MERRY Christmas

&

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Christmas Memories from the Past

(continued from page 1)

The presents were not wrapped, but were on the dining table covered by a sheet. They would join hands and march around the table like a train until the sheet was removed. One year they received the nicest gift ever. His dad found three pedal cars second hand and each boy got one. There was a firetruck, and airplane and a car. The girls would get clothing.

Their dad would get a tree a couple days be-

fore Christmas and the kids would decorate it with strips of shiny, silver icicles. The family would draw names and each one would buy a gift for whose name they had. David always hoped someone other than his older sister would draw his name, because she gave him practical things. He remembers that his mom would sew clothing out of feed sacks and they were quite good material.

For the Christmas day meal there would be chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberries and home baked bread. They would get real butter, which was hard to come by due to the war rations. His dad loved nuts and he had a nutcracker to open the shells. There was also licorice, bubble gum and jelly beans for treats. All the kids participated in the church program and he enjoyed the festive time of getting dressed up and singing Christmas songs. They went to a Methodist Church there, which was only unusual because it was a Mormon county.

One of his non-Christmas memories was riding back to Minnesota in his parent's 1949 Chevrolet each summer to visit the grandparents. Dave loved the green grass and fishing so much her moved back to Minnesota when he came back from his two years in the service.

Nancy is 84 years old. She recalls her parents going out to chop a tree for Christmas when she was young. They were gone a long time. Her mom was real particular about the tree. It had to be perfect. When her dad put the tree up in the house the kids got to decorate it. The next morning when she got up, she realized that her mom had redecorated the tree while they slept.

There were seven kids in her family growing up. They went to church on Christmas

Eve. The kids would have their part to recite in the program and costumes to match. They usually would each get a new outfit to wear for Christmas. Afterward they would open gifts. The boys would get toys like trucks and the girls got dolls and clothes. Her dad would give them some money to buy small presents for each other. They didn't have much, but they were happy. Christmas day the house was full of company. Her grandparents would arrive early in the day with small gifts like socks and underwear. The relatives would show up in time for a big meal. The main course was lutefisk, lefse and oysters. There was also turkey, potatoes, gravy, apple and pumpkin pie, her favorite. Afterwards the kids would go outside to play and make snow angels and snowmen.

Larry is 87 years old and grew up in a family of six kids, four boys and two girls. They lived in Rochester and his dad worked at the Mayo Clinic. He recalls how his dad rode his bike to work at the clinic every day and they didn't own a car until the family purchased a new 1955 Plymouth.

When Larry was young the family would celebrate Christmas by opening gifts on Christmas eve. One of the gifts he received as a young man was a wrist watch, which he considered about the greatest thing on earth. Another gift he recalls from his youth was a pair of cowboy boots. His birthday also fell in December, an event that kind of got lost in the excitement of the holiday.

On Christmas day there was always dinner with the family consisting of turkey and dressing. His grandparents were from Ireland.

(continued on page 8)

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Do you have musical talent!? Grace Lutheran Church in Nerstrand is looking to find someone to provide music for our 9 am Sunday services. Organist/ pianist would be ideal, but one or the other could work too. We'd love to hear from you! Open to all.



Christmas Memories from the Past

(continued from page 7)

After Larry got older, he played the dollar drop game with the kids, where they tried to catch a crisp new dollar bill before it hit the floor. A few years ago he asked if they were too old to play the game, but they wanted to keep up the tradition so he procures some new money from the bank for the occasion.

Larry lived at Ryan's Bay in Lake Zumbro for over fifty years and used to drive the ski boat and pickup boat as well as serve as the announcer for the water ski performances on the lake.

Mary is 95 years old and grew up on a farm in western Minnesota. She remembers the Christmas programs at the country school and churches when she was young were more about Jesus' birthday than Santa Claus. They consisted of Christmas songs and recitations the kids memorized. She can recall playing an angel in one of the pageants. There was a man dressed as Santa who gave each kid a bag of candy at the school program.

As the oldest of seven kids, Mary helped a lot with the cooking at Christmas time. Family would come over for the Christmas meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet po-

tatoes and cranberry salad. One specialty was her dad's favorite treat from old England. He would steam plum pudding with raisins and currants for four hours and then make a sweet sauce that was poured hot over the pudding. The memories of the meals with the family was more important than the gifts.

For fun they would ski behind the pickup on country roads. The kids took turns with the one pair of skis and had to remember to throw the rope over the mailboxes as they passed by. After the lakes froze they would ski behind the pickup on the flat surface as there were no hills to be found where they grew up.

When Mary went to nursing college in Chicago her parents mailed her a Christmas dinner in dry ice one year. She cooked it and shared it with her nurse friends who were all far away from their homes over the holidays.

Jean is 94 years old and grew up on a farm with her twin sister and one brother. The family endured lean years but her parents always made it a special day for the kids and managed to have some toys for gifts along with clothes and games. She recalls a baby doll for a gift one year.

The family would go to church on Christmas eve and then on Christmas morning would wake to open gifts. The Christmas meal included ham, pork roast, potatoes, chocolate milk and pies. Activities were always playing games as a family. They included Yahtzee and card games like Old Maid. One of her favorite treats was the chocolate cake her mom would bake.

Arletta is 89 years old and grew up living

in town with her five brothers and sisters. She remembers going to church on Christmas eve and the next day all her uncles, aunts and cousins went to grandmother's house for a big meal. There would be 30 to 40 all packed in the house together. Her grandmother cooked on a wood stove and served turkey, dressing, cranberry bread and apple pie. There would also be homemade ice cream in the afternoon.

Presents were pajamas and books for the girls and toy car, trucks and farm machinery for the boys. Her favorite was a handmade doll with a china face.

After the noon meal the adults would sit around the table and play 500 while the kids headed outside to slide down the nearest hill

on sleds and toboggans.

Bev is 94 years old and was an only child growing up in town during the Great Depression era. Christmas was a big event at her parent's house and her mother baked all sorts of wonderful holiday foods. She got to open her gifts Christmas eve and her favorite gifts as a child were dolls and a doll buggy.

She especially remembers school and church Christmas programs where each child would memorize a piece to be recited in front of the parents.

Christmas day they would get in the car and drive to a relative's farm for a big meal and afterwards she played outside with her cousins.

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Season's Greetings

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We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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A Strong Immune System



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

As we move into the winter months, there is a steady increase in colds and flu reported throughout the country. This yearly cycle of illness has become almost routine to the point that many expect to get sick and just believe it is an unavoidable fact of human existence. However, another amazing fact about human existence is the complex immune system ex-

isting in each one of us. Your immune system is the built-in defense process that works to keep you alive. Without this immune system, you would not be alive today. This system is constantly guarding against germs and invaders that want to take advantage of you. We need to become more aware of how this immune system works and how to support the important work it does.

White blood cells are the “troops” on the front line of your immune system. There are many types of white blood cells, just like there are different branches of the military. Each type of white blood cell does a specific job to protect your body. Just like our military men and women, these white blood cells need food to be able to keep doing their job well. When specific nutrients get limited, then the white blood cells will not be able to complete the job well. To keep your front line “troops” in top condition for the winter season, you need to make sure these cells are getting the nutrients they need.

Some of the key nutrients include:

VITAMIN C – one of the least expensive vitamins on the market and an essential nu-

trient to help the white blood cells eliminate bacteria and germs. Early in the COVID pandemic Vitamin C in high doses was identified as a helpful nutrient to reduce symptoms. Intravenous Vitamin C was used in hospitals to help reverse the downward health spiral of many patients. Best food sources of Vitamin C include: Bell peppers, broccoli, kiwi, whole oranges, and strawberries. Vitamin C chewable tablets with bioflavonoids will be a higher quality choice for supplement. I do not recommend orange juice because the high sugar content of the juice will make the white blood cells sluggish.

VITAMIN D – is a fat-soluble vitamin essential for balanced cell activity. This vitamin is able to enter the nucleus of the cell to turn on and off important processes. We learned from the pandemic that those individuals who had 30 ng/ml or higher of Vitamin D in their blood did not need to go into the Intensive Care of the hospital for COVID treatment. Sources of Vitamin D include: Cod Liver Oil, Goose liver, salmon, sardines, and whole eggs. The whole food choices listed are preferred to any fortified food source. More resources on Vitamin D are available at www.grassrootshealth.net.

ZINC – is an essential mineral for a strong immune system. Current descriptions of virus infections suggest that a virus takes over a cell and forces it to replicate more virus particles. The COVID virus is described to produce excess spike proteins which begin to cause damage in the body. Zinc helps to stop this replication process be-

fore it gets out of control. Zinc is also essential for constructing the proteins that will fight against bacteria. Best food sources for zinc include: Beef, lamb, lentils, pepitas, and cashews. A zinc tablet of 15 mg / day is another way to supplement if you do not eat these food sources regularly.

While sugar is known as an energy source, it does not help the immune cells to get more work done. A 1973 study observed that when white blood cells were exposed to glucose sugar they slowed down and remained sluggish for up to 5 hours. The same study observed the cells were most actively attacking bacteria when there had been no sugar around for 24-36 hours. As you move into the holiday season, be attentive to how frequently treats are consumed and pay attention to your body signals. A glass of water will help your immune system more than another candy.

You only get one body in this lifetime. Make sure you take good care of it and do not wear it out sooner than necessary.

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Unlocking Harmony: Embracing the 3rd Universal Law in Everyday Living



By Susan Hinrichsen
CHC, CLC, MC
susiecoaches@gmail.com

In a world filled with chaos and constant motion, the search for balance and harmony becomes a universal pursuit. Many turn to ancient wisdom and spiritual principles for guidance, and one such guiding light is the 3rd Universal Law. Rooted in the belief that energy flows where attention goes, this law offers a profound path to finding equilibrium in our lives.

Understanding the 3rd Universal Law

The 3rd Universal Law, often expressed as "Energy Flows Where Attention Goes," is a fundamental principle that underscores the interconnectedness of our thoughts and experi-

ences. It suggests that the focus of our attention shapes the energy around us and, in turn, influences the outcomes we manifest in our lives.

Implementing the Practice

1. Mindful Awareness:

Start by becoming aware of your thoughts and emotions. The practice of mindfulness allows you to observe your mental landscape without judgment. Take note of where your attention naturally gravitates.

2. Positive Affirmations:

Consciously direct your attention toward positive affirmations. By repeating uplifting statements, you channel your energy into constructive pathways, fostering a more positive and harmonious environment.

3. Visualization Techniques:

Visualization is a powerful tool in implementing the 3rd Universal Law. Envision your goals and desires with clarity. Picture the life you wish to lead, and as you do, you're actively directing energy toward the realization of those dreams.

4. Gratitude Practice:

Shift your focus towards gratitude. Acknowledge and appreciate the positive aspects of your life. Gratitude not only redirects your attention but also attracts more of what you're thankful for.

The Role of Life Coaching

While implementing the 3rd Universal Law into your life may seem straightforward, many individuals find value in the guidance of a life coach. These professionals specialize in helping individuals navigate the journey of self-discovery and personal transforma-

tion. A life coach can provide personalized strategies, accountability, and support as you work to redirect your energy and cultivate a more harmonious existence.

Life coaching sessions often involve discussions about your goals, challenges, and the specific areas of your life where you want to apply the principles of the 3rd Universal Law. Through this collaborative process, you gain insights, develop actionable plans, and receive encouragement to stay on course.

In essence, a life coach serves as a trusted ally on your path to unlocking the full potential of the 3rd Universal Law, guiding you toward a life that reflects your deepest desires

and aspirations. Whether you're seeking clarity in your career, improvements in relationships, or enhanced overall well-being, a life coach can provide valuable support on your journey to intentional living.

The Call to Action

As we navigate the complexities of modern existence, the 3rd Universal Law stands as a beacon of hope—a reminder that we possess the power to shape our reality through the focus of our attention. By integrating this law into our daily lives, with the additional support of a life coach, we embark on a journey of self-discovery and transformation, unlocking the doors to a more harmonious and fulfilling existence.

Merry Christmas

Thanks so much for your business at the holidays and all year.

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Peyton Temple Makes History!

By Cheri Roshon

The Kenyon Area Historical Society Board of Directors has made history! Recently, the board added 2 new members, Lori Thompson, a lifelong Kenyon resident, and Peyton Temple, the youngest board member in the history of Kenyon.

Peyton is 13 years old, and has always had a penchant for Kenyon's history. He is the son of Angie Anderson, and the great grandson

of Howard Held.

Peyton's interest in history began with his great great great grandfather's business. It was the first Chevrolet dealership in Minnesota. Frank G. Held opened the dealership in 1908. He had opened a farm implement business in 1896, after migration to Kenyon from Wisconsin in 1895, and once the motor vehicle industry began, he thought it would complement his implement sales. Frank was successful in this endeavor, and ran it until 1961, when his grandson Howard stepped in. Howard took over, and added the Held Bus Service in 1969. In 1992, he shut the dealership down and focused on selling cars. In 2012, he stopped selling cars, and turned his focus to the bus service, which is still in op-

eration.

I asked Peyton what made him decide to join the board of directors. He goes to school and works at Angie's Restaurant, and for most kids his age, that is enough. But he has been interested in Kenyon's history for quite awhile, and is full of information. Also, it is important to say after meeting with him, I wouldn't call Peyton a "kid" by any means. He is definitely a young man! He also manages the Knights varsity basketball team, works for Denny Veblen in his lawn care business, and has a lawn care business of his own since 2018. Before we got more into the interview, I had to ask him what he does in his "spare" time, for fun. He said he likes to ride his electric bicycle.

He found himself looking for and collecting memorabilia from the car dealership, and his interest grew. Bob Peterson saw him buying things at Rose Fest, and after talking to Peyton, he asked the Board about asking Peyton to join as the youngest board member. They agreed and approached Peyton, who happily accepted the offer, and in October, made history himself, as the youngest board member ever! With his curiosity and drive,



maybe Peyton will become the next town historian! Congratulations, Peyton, on your focus and dedication to your cause, and on your history making appointment to the Kenyon Area Historical Society Board of Directors!

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Celebrating 800 Years of Nativity Displays

By Catherine Eayrs

As we celebrate Christmas in 2023, Christians around the world are celebrating the 800th anniversary of the tradition of the Nativity scene displayed in homes, churches, and communities. But how did this important religious tradition evolve?

Historians confirm that Saint Francis of Assisi chose Greccio, Italy, as a favored location to visit because the people of this community were devoted to their faith. A local wealthy nobleman and his wife, John and Alticama Velita, offered Francis a place to build a humble hermitage or haven. Here, Francis meditated on the incarnation in which God took human form in the birth and life of Jesus.

Francis asked his good friend, John Velita, to organize the people, animals, and manger with hay so that those who came to worship could experience the birth of Jesus in sight, sound, and smell.

Francis presented the mystery of how we (humans) are connected to the divine and nature in the first live Nativity on Christmas 1223 in a cave in Greccio, Italy. This crèche,



Angel with candles, hand carved by Fritz Fuchs

or scene, helped children understand how God came to earth in physical form as recorded in the biblical account of the birth of Jesus to Joseph and Mary, dwelling in a

humble stable amid an ox and donkey. Thus, the God of greatness came to earth in poverty. An angel's announcement to shepherds and a special star shining brightly above Bethlehem brought wise men seeking this baby—the Savior of the world.

Biographers and followers of Saint Francis, Thomas of Celano and Bonaventure, wrote the earliest record of the Nativity scene circa 1260. This scene, also known as the crib, manger, or stable, has stirred faithful Christians of numerous denominations throughout the ages.

For centuries, art objects depict the Nativity scene in many forms as painters, sculptors, writers, actors, composers, and musicians demonstrate their talents through their interpretations of this Gospel story. Presently, Christians experience a love for the Nativity through worship, pageants, concerts, greeting cards, decorating, and gift giving. In the United States, amidst numerous secular holiday traditions, Christians re-

member the most sacred tradition—that Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

I had a marvelous experience to see the display of a very special kind of Nativity figures while living and working in Switzerland 30+ years ago. Brienz, a community near Interlaken in Canton Bern, is a famous wood-carving center. Tourists visit the wood-carving school in Brienz and find a variety of beautifully, hand carved figures for sale in local shops in this area as well as in shops in the major cities of Switzerland that feature Swiss made crafts.

Fritz Fuchs, a world-renowned woodcarver and instructor from the Brienz area, visited the Berne Swissfest at Zwingli United Church of Christ, in rural West Concord, several times in the 1980s through the early millennium. Fritz brought a sampling of Swiss folk figures, animals, and Nativity figures to sell at the Swissfest. He designed his own line of Nativity figures and spent several months every year for several decades car-

(continued on page 15)



Fritz Fuchs hand carving my angel figure in 2010 at a shop in Interlaken

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Celebrating 800 Years of Nativity Displays

(continued from page 14)

ing only these figures to keep up with the demand of Nativity sales. Among my most cherished possessions are the Nativity figures hand carved and given to me by Fritz and his family.

I found one of Fritz's most unique, religious designs at his home when my daughter, Annemarie, and I visited the Fuchs family in 2010. It was his depiction of Mary holding the baby Jesus, carved in basswood with an additional element—triangles of all sizes shaped throughout the figure. His abstract interpretation masterfully shows the form of the earthly mother and child as well as the incarnation through triangles—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Fritz Fuchs died in 2021 yet his legacy at Christmas time lives on throughout the world. His hand carved Nativity figures are lovingly displayed at Christmas time by many Swiss people and foreigners who visited Switzerland.

A local woodcarver, LuVerne Schettl, of Oronoco, Minnesota, has made a few of her own Nativity figures. She belongs to the Rochester Woodcarvers. Mrs. Schettl, now

age 91, was interviewed a few years ago for the local magazine, Today, which featured her collection of more than 250 Nativity scenes in the December 2015 issue. Her collection is from all over the world and made from various materials—crystal, teakwood, paper, clay, metal, etc. Mrs. Schettl also displays the Nativity in paintings and tapestry. Her granddaughter helps her set up her most cherished display of a Nativity village featuring 100 pieces. The tallest display is assembled outdoors and was given to her by her daughter and son-in-law, Andrea and Keith Maxson, of rural Pine Island.

I recommend the following local event for you to see many forms of the Nativity: Wonder of the Nativity—The public is invited to this free annual event featuring more than 200 Nativity scenes displayed on December 1st and 2nd at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2300 Viola Heights Drive NE, Rochester, MN. Visit the website: <https://friendsofrochestermnstake.com/nativity/>

Commemorating the 800th Year of the Nativity, the Sisters of Saint Francis at Assisi Heights, Rochester, Minnesota, are presenting a play, Lighting the Way to Christmas with St. Francis and the Animals, on December 3rd and 4th.

The public is invited to register for this indoor event as luminaries light your path to the Spirituality Center where you may also see beautiful Nativity scenes displayed.

Visit the website:

<https://rochesterfranciscan.org/events/>

Join the celebration of the Nativity this year and make your Christmas special in your own way. If you miss the special events mentioned this year, check them again in 2024.



Nativity figures hand carved by Fritz Fuchs

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K-W Noble Knights of the Week for November 10, 2023

Front Row: Rose Burginger, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Marshall Jensen, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Caden Fortsch, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Wyatt Caron, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Liza VanDeWalker, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Warner Hendrickson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Jaxson Rueger, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Sabin Varanelli, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Lily Knott, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Alaria Hunt, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Arely Cortez, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



K-W Noble Knights of the Week for November 21, 2023

Front Row: Kaylynne Westlund, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Peyton Luedtke, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Camilla Ortega, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Jaxson Cline, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Back Row: Mira McNeal, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Henry Skillestad, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Jack Priebe, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Hannah Edwards, Gr. 4, Ms. Chloe Gohman; Haddie Breyer, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

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K-W Noble Knights of the Week for December 1, 2023

Front Row: Layla Amundson, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Nora Callahan, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Scott Hogy, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Brecken McCabe, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Haddie Schwering, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Hugh Ellingsberg, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Julian Ramirez, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Alaska Rongve, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Brinley Murdick, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Wyatt Intlekofer, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Ben Keller, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

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Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin

Adventures in Real Estate: How Not to Buy a Farm

By Claudia Vanderborght

“Stay home and dork around...”

Well, you can't do that living in a four-bedroom, split-level home on one-half acre in a typical Farmington neighborhood. Adventures require new locations and new experiences -- and Monica and Claudia have adventure flowing through their veins.

Monica was an experienced home buyer, having already bought and sold several suburban homes. Shopping for and buying rural real estate was different, and a farm -- where she could stay home and dork around -- was yet more challenging. First, Monica had to figure out the what, where, when, and why of the real estate purchase.

What:

Four bedrooms? (Renting out a room or two certainly helps pay the mortgage ... Monica had done that before.)

Split-entry / walk out. (Monica had added kitchens to two other homes, essentially converting them into duplexes. A separate entrance would be nice.)

Not a "nice" or "perfect" home. (Beige carpeting, like in the Eagan townhouse, would be a disaster on a farm.) Dogs, grandchildren, muddy boots ... a pretty home was not im-

portant.

20 acres (probably out of her price range) with pasture land, rolling hills, and some trees. All wishful thinking. But wishing isn't all that bad.

45 minutes from Apple Valley and east of 35W. (Eliminates driving into the sun on the morning and evening commute, and it wouldn't be too far for friends and family to visit.)

Some kind of outbuilding.

When:

No immediate rush. (Monica had already sold her home and had been sleeping on an air mattress in her dad's Apple Valley townhouse for several months.)

Why:

Monica had never tried farming before. It sounded like fun!! She would have plenty of reasons to stay home and dork around!

Wish list in hand, Monica and her good friend Norm started looking at rural homes and small farms. Each and every time Monica found a good candidate and put in an offer, the place had already been sold. Arghh!

Finally, Monica found a lovely rural home in Wastedo: it needed some work and a garage, but it had been on the market for some time and it met many of the criteria on the wish list. An offer was made and accepted. Jubilation!!

Unfortunately, the jubilation did not last long. First, the owner refused to schedule the required home inspection. Then, she canceled all appointments -- usually at the last minute. The owner wouldn't answer phone

calls from Monica or any realtors. Monica tried stopping by the house, but no one would answer the door. This was crazy!!! (Remember the When? Time was quickly running out as school would begin in three months and Monica did not want to start the new school year sleeping on the air mattress). Besides, an agreement had been signed. What was the problem?


Monica would not give up (stubborn German heritage) and left several notes. These were answered with a Temporary Restraining Order for harassment. Monica did some research and discovered that the owner was most likely in default and -- trying to stall the bank's attempt at foreclosure -- had put the house up for sale and accepted an offer, never

intending to honor that agreement.

Now Monica was angry. She had lost months of opportunity time and still had no home, nor any current prospects. (Don't make a German angry.) First, Monica called the bank's loan department and reported the attempted fraud. Then, she filed a claim for Breach of Contract in Small Claims Court. The judge noted that his court was not the place for this type of case, but still sided with Monica and awarded her the earnest money plus an extra thousand dollars.

But house hunting was becoming less and less fun.

Then she found a 20-acre property in Wanamingo township that had just dropped its price. But that's a story for next time.



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Kenyon-Wanamingo School District Celebrates Outstanding Educators: Donkers, Ashland, Boyum and Bartholome Named Teachers of the Year

The Kenyon-Wanamingo School District is proud to announce the recognition of our exceptional educators, Tony Donkers, Val Ashland, Nicole Boyum and Whitney Bartholome as Teachers of the Year. This prestigious honor reflects their unwavering dedication to fostering a love for learning, inspiring students, and contributing significantly to the educational community.

Tony Donkers, a first-grade teacher at Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary, has demonstrated exemplary commitment to his students' academic and personal growth. His innovative teaching methods and genuine passion for education create an engaging and supportive classroom environment. Mr. Donkers goes above and beyond to ensure that each student feels valued and understood, fostering a love for learning that extends beyond the classroom.

Val Ashland, an esteemed third grade educator at Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary, has

been a pillar of inspiration for both students and colleagues alike. Ms. Ashland's dynamic teaching style and compassionate approach to education make her a beloved figure in the school community. Her dedication to creating a positive learning environment has had a profound impact on students, instilling a sense of confidence and curiosity that extends far beyond the classroom.

Nicole Boyum, 5/6 math teacher at Kenyon-Wanamingo Middle School, has created a classroom environment for students that is safe, comfortable, and an excellent place for students to learn. Her calming presence and excellent classroom management skills lead to a high level of student engagement. She works hard to differentiate her curriculum to meet the needs of all students. She incorporates a good balance of tried-and-true instructional methods along with using the latest technology resources.

Whitney Bartholome, K-W High School Counselor, is an excellent resource and support for students and staff in so many different ways. Some of her work includes building student schedules, helping new students transition, teaching HS Prep class, college and career planning, helping students with college applications and scholarships, and supporting students with academic needs. She is always an easy person to talk with who is willing to listen and help all stu-



Tony Donkers



Val Ashland



Nicole Boyum



Whitney Bartholome

dents and staff!

The Teacher of the Year award is a testament to the exceptional contributions to Kenyon-Wanamingo School District. Superintendent Beth Giese states, "the commitment to educational excellence and the well-being of their students is truly com-

mendable. We are so honored to have these fine educators on our team". Colleagues and administration were impressed by their innovative teaching methods, dedication to professional development, and the positive impact they had on the lives of those they teach.

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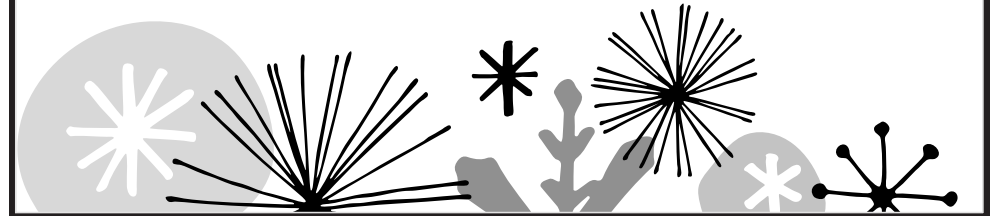
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That's the Latest Farmwork



By Emery Kleven

Emery is now a retired farm broadcaster after starting at KDHL in Faribault in 1987. He's a 1971 graduate of West Concord High School. You can view past columns at his website RoadFarming.com. You can email him at emery@roadfarming.com.

our January issue.

Now to what I really wanted to write about this month; I have written about and I tell people my background of growing up on the farm 2 miles north of West Concord and eventually taking over the farm from my parents before leaving for the world of farm broadcasting. I have over the years, gotten the question about if I miss the farm and do I miss any certain aspects. The short answer is yes...and no.

I do miss the rural life and small town living but I get back to visit enough to get over that. I do, in the fall, walk out in Keiven's field to see how the corn or beans look up close. The corn this year looked very good considering we had a dry year. I've not heard the official yield from this past growing season but I'm sure it's upwards of 200 bushels per acre.

I don't miss the long hours spent at planting season or harvest season. I certainly don't miss picking rock out of the fields. Nowadays they just replant the rocks by running a big roller over them. Where was this technology back in the day? I also don't miss walking the soybean fields to pick or cut weeds, in particular the buttonweeds, sunflowers, giant ragweed and the occasional volunteer corn. I had a broadcasting friend who used buttonweed as a front of the house decorative plant. He asked if I knew what this plant was. I said, 'yes, would you like me to yank it out for you?' 'No, I kind of like it', he said. I don't need to tell you he was a city kid having grown up in the Twin Cities.

I see sunflowers planted on purpose in gardens. And yes, I realize that the high plains states grow acres upon acres of it, but for me, it was a weed that did not belong in the soybean fields. *(continued on page 23)*

First off, an update from last month when I wrote about a state fishing record set in South Dakota. In late October, a North Dakota fisherman, Aaron Schuck, broke a 21 year old record for the largest walleye caught in South Dakota. In the 'hook and line' category, Schuck's walleye, caught in Lake Oahe, weighed 16 pounds and 8 ounces. Just after the November Messenger went to print, Schuck's 3 week old record was broken when Keith Pazour of Pierre, SD, caught an even bigger walleye on the same lake. Pazour's fish, verified by the SD Game, Fish and Parks department, weighed in at 17 pounds and 13 ounces and was 33 inches long. We'll see if one over 18 pounds will be caught in time for

Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson of the Minnesota State Patrol



Question: I just saw something about a Minnesota traffic safety program that's been around for 20 years. Can you talk more about that?

Answer: Yes, here is some information we shared on our DPS blog: "Minnesota has seen a 32 percent reduction in traffic fatalities between 2003 and 2022, in part due to the Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) traffic safety program.

The Department of Public Safety joined traffic safety partners across Minnesota to mark 20 years of saving lives through the TZD program last week with a conference in Rochester aimed at keeping us all safe, whether you're a driver, passenger or pedestrian. In the two decades the program has existed in Minnesota, our model has gained national recognition and our roads have been considered some of the safest in the nation.

"Traffic statistics aren't just numbers. Each one represents a lost life that devastates the world of that person's family and friends," Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Director Mike Hanson said. "The Toward Zero Deaths program has saved — and will continue to save — lives."

Minnesotans made significant progress over the years to reduce traffic fatalities, but the challenge now is to regain momentum in saving lives. Over the last 10 years, we haven't seen the consistent, significant reduction in traffic deaths compared to the first decade of the TZD program. The past three years have seen new challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic that led to less traffic and more speeding.

"These challenges are re-energizing us to find new ways to continue the progress of the past two decades," Hanson said. "Minnesotans expect and deserve safety on our roads."

The Minnesota legislature approved state funding this year to create the Advisory Council on Traffic Safety. The council is bringing together additional stakeholders and communities, and it's opening up state funding opportunities that didn't exist before. It'll give us more flexibility in local education and outreach and a formal way to tell lawmakers what needs to change to improve traffic safety.

We have stepped up traffic safety enforcement with projects such as Project 20(23) and Highway Enforcement for Aggressive Traffic (HEAT) patrols with the Minnesota State Patrol and other law enforcement agencies in the Twin Cities area and statewide.

The Minnesota departments of health, public safety and transportation, along with traffic safety partners statewide, are working to create a culture of traffic safety in our communities. But we can't do it without your help. Staying safe on our roads is as simple as driving the speed limit, never driving impaired and always paying attention."

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)



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Laura Freeberg (laura@freebergins.com)
Geri Geiken (geri@freebergins.com)

That's the Latest Farmwork

(continued from page 22)

Sunflowers aren't as bad as velvetleaf but for me, it stirs up those weed pulling days. I am surprised that some of these city folks don't use the giant ragweed for a hedge. Kingweed as I called it, grows fast and very tall. It's a hardy and sturdy plant too. In the fall, you can chop them down and burn them in the outdoor fire pit.

One thing I do miss, kind of, is the baling hay in the small square bales. They're actually rectangles but they ended up being called small squares. That's why geometry was hard for farm kids. I couldn't do it for a full afternoon anymore like I used to, but it was a good exercise program. I've written before how Coach Lorry Gunhus would make a visit to the farm during the summer to see if I was baling enough hay and if I'm sure I picked up every last rock in the bean fields. I assured him I was and I did.

More than the work of heaving bales of hay 5 high on the rack against the wind, where the chaff blows right back at you, I miss the smell of alfalfa drying in the sun. I will still occasionally pass a field with that very smell and I have to stop and reminisce about years gone by. Then I start to sweat in the heat and decide I don't miss all of the work associated with that great smell.

I often think of the line that it'd be nice to



The old New Holland 270 baler made a lot of 'rectangular' square bales on the Kleven farm with lots of sweat equity put into each bale.

know you're in the good ole' days while a lot but not as much as I probably should you're actually in them. I think I've done that have.

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Nerstrand City Council Meeting November 14, 2023

7:00PM

PRESENT: Mayor Todd Evavold, Council Members Dan Pflieger, Monica Gernandt, John Harris, Kevin O'Brien

ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Public Works Steve McDowell, Sandy Borders, Interim City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
MOTION: Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Harris, second by Council Member O'Brien

Ayes: Evavold, Pflieger, Gernandt, Harris, O'Brien Nays: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2023

B. Payment of Claims dated:

1. November 14 2023

Council was given a year to date financial report. Council Member Gernandt asked about the payment listed under elections since there were no elections this year. Staff will check the amount and report back to the Council.

Council Member Gernandt requested that the payroll amounts be listed in addition to the vendor payments.

MOTION: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Gernandt, second by Council Member Harris

Ayes: Evavold, Pflieger, Gernandt, Harris, O'Brien Nays: None

Goodhue County Land Use Management – Building Code Administration, Permit and Inspections Agreement

The agreement was presented to the council for discussion. The City has an agreement with Goodhue County regarding the building permits and inspections. The County is asking that the city continue with the agreement.

MOTION: Motion to approve the Agreement with Goodhue County for the Land Use Management – Building Code Administration, Permits, and Inspections as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Gernandt, second by Council Member Pflieger

Ayes: Evavold, Pflieger, Gernandt, Harris, O'Brien Nays: None

Discussion of Utility Charges for 17497 Lamb Ave.

The resident at 17497 Lamb Ave requested that he not be charged for sewer at that location because he said that the sewer has never been properly connected. The property is currently vacant. Steve McDowell stated that in order not to charge the property owner for sewer service the sewer pipe would need to be dug up and capped off so that it couldn't be used. Council requested that staff send a letter to the property owner explaining what needs to be done with the sewer connection.

Resolution 2023-10: Certification of Unpaid Utilities to 2024 Property Taxes:

There are two properties that the council recommended be certified to the property taxes for the unpaid utilities. The amount to be certified to the taxes is \$3861.84 for a period of one year and at an interest rate of 10%. Property owners have been notified of the assessment.

MOTION: Motion to approve Resolution 2023-10 Certifying unpaid utilities to Property Taxes as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Ger-

nandt, second by Council Member Harris

Ayes: Evavold, Pflieger, Gernandt, Harris, O'Brien Nays: None

Resolution 2023-11 – Appointment of Part-Time City Clerk

Resolution 2023-11 would appoint Ariana Mudge as part-time City Clerk for the City of Nerstrand. The position would be for 20 hours per week at a rate of \$23.00 per hour. Pending a satisfactory six-month review there would be a wage increase to \$26.00 per hour. December 11th would her first day of employment.

MOTION: Motion to approve Resolution 2023-11 Appointment of Part-time City Clerk as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Gernandt, second by Council Member Pflieger

Ayes: Evavold, Pflieger, Gernandt, Harris, O'Brien Nays: None

Resolution 2023-12 – Designation of Polling Place

This resolution would designate Nerstrand City Hall, 221 Main Street, as the polling location for the city of Nerstrand.

MOTION: Motion to approve Resolution 2023-12 Designating Nerstrand City Hall as the polling location for elections.

Motion made by Council Member Gernandt, second by Council Member Harris

Ayes: Evavold, Pflieger, Gernandt, Harris, O'Brien Nays: None

Lease Agreement for Shields Building

Currently a portion of the Shields Building is being rented by Martin Dettling at a rate of \$100 per month and the lease agreement expired on November 1, 2023. The council discussed the rental of the building which included increasing the rent to \$150.00 per month. The current lessee will be notified of the rent increase.

MOTION: Motion to approve the Shields Building rental agreement to \$150.00 per month.

Motion made by Council Member Gernandt, second by Council Member Harris

Ayes: Evavold, Pflieger, Gernandt, Harris, O'Brien Nays: None

New lease agreement with the change in rent will be sent to Martin Dettling for signature.

Discussion of City Ordinance of Dispensaries

Mayor Evavold requested that this be discussed as to whether or not the City would allow Cannabis

dispensaries in the city. There will be more discussion regarding this on future agendas.

Transfer of Money from a dormant savings account to a Certificate of Deposit (CD) at Lake County Community Bank

The City has a dormant savings account with about \$57,000 in it. The account has not had any activities in it for a few years. Currently the account is in a Money Market interest bearing account. Lake County Community Bank has been offering CD at a better rate of interest. Staff will check with the bank as to the conditions of the CD (early withdrawal penalties, and the interest rates).

Extension of Mowing Contract for 2024 for 2 years at Current Rate

The city currently has a contract with CSG Dirtworks to mow for the city. The city would like to extend the contract for two more years at the same rate of \$380.00 per week for mowing and trimming.

MOTION: Motion to approve the mowing

contract with CSG Dirtworks as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Pflieger, second by Council Member Harris

Ayes: Evavold, Pflieger, Gernandt, Harris, O'Brien Nays: None

Public Works Director: Steve McDowell

McDowell reported on the MN Pollution Control Agency report regarding the inspection of the wastewater treatment facility. The plant was inspected on October 18, 2023 to determine the compliance of the Nerstrand Wastewater Treatment Facility with the terms and conditions of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System / State disposal system permit. McDowell is working with PCA regarding any items that not in compliance.

McDowell reported that the heater in the Shields Building was not working properly. He also reported that the water tower inspection has been completed. He will bring to the next agenda information regarding the well house roof repair. The city will be accepting bids for the stump grinding for the stumps behind city hall.

Pump House Roof Repair:

The Pump House at 321 1st St. South roof is in need of repair. Barga Incorporated has submitted a quote for the repair. The quote for the repair is \$6,625.00.

MOTION: Motion to approve the quote from Barga Incorporated in the amount of \$6,625 for the repair of the pump house as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Gernandt, second by Council Member Harris

Ayes: Evavold, Pflieger, Gernandt, Harris, O'Brien Nays: None

Mayor Report:

Mayor Evavold reported the Bolling Engineering will be attending the next council meeting and doing a presentation.

Council Member Reports:
Council member Pflieger commented on several items.

- Someone had reported about water running across their driveway and not running toward the alley on Cherry Street.

- Clerk Hours – it was recommended that the clerk working hours would be reasonable for the people in town

- Council members phone numbers should possibly be on the web page.

- Lights at the band shell in the park. The lights at the band shell were left on after the park had been used. McDowell will check the lights and shut them off at the breaker

- Hours for the band shell: recommendation that the band shell be closed at 10:00 pm

- Complaints about dogs running loose and the number of dogs allowed per household. Staff will check the ordinances and report back.

Next City Council Meeting is scheduled for December 12th, 2023 at Nerstrand City Hall
Motion Adjourn:

MOTION: Motion by Council Member Gernandt, second by Council Member Pflieger to adjourn.

Ayes: Harris, Evavold, Pflieger, Gernandt, Harris, O'Brien Nays: None

Todd Evavold

Mayor Todd Evavold

Sandra Borders, Interim City Clerk

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Warmest wishes to you and yours for a happy and healthy year ahead.

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651-775-3873

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OTTE EXCAVATING INC.
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MERRY CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!

The holiday season is here, and we can't think of a better time to share our warmest wishes to all of our friends and neighbors who make this community a wonderful place.

We appreciate you, and your loyal support!

We will be closed December 25 and January 1 so our employees can celebrate the holidays with their families.



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