



DUNDAS MINNESOTA

# Dundas Messenger™

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JANUARY 31, 2024

Volume 18 • Issue 1

## Happy New Year!

We want to Thank You for your continued support of the Dundas Messenger again this past year!

*Thank you*

Your hometown newspaper continues with an unwavering goal to bring the local and area news to you.

*(continued on page 6)*

## Announcements

• **Winter Scavenger Hunt put on by the Parks and Recreation Board.** City Hall has the scavenger hunt checklist. The perfect activity for kids to have some winter fun. *(see ad on page 6)*

• **City Hall is closed on February 19th 2024 in honor of Presidents Day.**

• **Absentee Voting:** You can vote early by mail or in person with an absentee ballot. In person absentee voting can be done at Northfield City Hall or the Rice County Government Services building.

For more information please visit [cityofdundas.org](http://cityofdundas.org)

• **Winter Parking Ban:** The winter parking ban is in effect from October 31st through April 15th between the hours of 2am and 6:30am. There is no parking allowed on any city street. Vehicles in violation will be ticketed. Dundas ordinance §71.06. Even if there is not snow on the ground the ordinance is still in effect!

*Do you have an announcement?*

*Email:*

[hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## Dundas Has Interest From Developer for CFS Property

*Courtesy of KYMN Radio*

The City of Dundas took a step closer to redeveloping the property at 215 North Railway Street, which is the site of the former CFS/Dundas Coop fertilizer plant, by conveying the property to the Dundas Economic Development Authority.

The city purchased the property in December after invoking a long held right-of-first-refusal clause with CFS. An agreement signed more than twenty years ago stated that, once CFS had received a purchase offer on the property, the City of Dundas would be allowed to match the offer. Last fall CFS informed the city that an offer had been made, and the Dundas City Council decided to match the price.

City Administrator Jenelle Teppen said the Economic Development Authority has de-

veloped a business subsidy plan for situations just like this, and the city intends to offer the site as a tax increment financing development district to make it more attractive to a developer who might have interest in working with the city. She said meetings have been had with a local developer, and the interest is definitely there.

As the property was once the site of a fertilizer plant, an Environmental Impact Study is required before more can be done. Teppen said Phase I of that study has been completed, however Phase II is a much more detailed and involved process that can cost quite a bit of money, so the City of Dundas has applied to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for a grant to move forward on the process.

The Dundas Economic Development Au-



thority was revived in 2021 to invigorate business development within the city. Teppen said the group has an excellent opportunity to create something very positive for the city with this property.

“It’s pretty exciting for us to be looking at a pretty significant redevelopment project in that area. It’s the best real estate almost in Dundas, right along the banks of the Cannon. It would make a beautiful, beautiful redevelopment.”

Other projects that have involved the revived Dundas EDA include the Slumberland store at 404 Schilling Drive, and the new Tractor Supply facility scheduled to open later this year.

## Chili Cook Off and Live Music part of Dennison Flake Out Festival Saturday, February 3rd



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

The club is holding a raffle in conjunction with the days events to raise funds to support Lions Clubs activities, support other area non-profit entities and those in need, which the club donates to and supports throughout the year.

A \$500 1st Prize, plus other cash and prizes will be given away. Winner will be announced around 9 PM Saturday night at Fireside Lounge. (Need Not Be Present To Win)

Raffle tickets can be purchased at 625 Bar & Grill, Dennison Depot, Fireside Lounge, Heritage Bank, or any Lions Club Member.

*(continued on page 9)*

## Northfield FFA Returns



After 33 years without a Chapter, Northfield FFA is back in the district. For many years, Northfield and Dundas students that wanted to be a part of FFA would commute and participate with the Randolph Chapter. That changed last year when Northfield resumed the FFA.

*(continued on page 9)*

**Flake Out Festival & Winter Parade**  
Saturday, February 3, 2024  
Dennison, MN

- Euchre Tournament • Chili Cookoff •
- Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo •
- Denni Dazzle Parade • Live Music • Raffle •

*(Schedule of Events on page 11)*

**MEAT RAFFLES**  
Sundays at 4:00 PM  
**BINGO!**  
Tuesdays at 6:00 PM

Dennison Lions Club Charitable Gambling Permit #2762

Open Tuesday-Friday at 4:00 PM  
Saturday at 11:00 AM; Sunday at 1:00 PM; Closed Mondays  
- ON/OFF SALE -  
Main Street, Dennison • Phone 507-782-9061

## Year of Favor



By Colin Rueter

Friends, every year we are reminded through Christmas of the eternal joy through Christ. While we may not always feel the joy of the season, we are reminded that this is why Jesus came in the flesh [I recently wrote about this in a blog]. To summarize: Jesus came veiled in flesh to seek and save the sinner by willingly giving his life as the substitutionary atonement for sin, thus reconciling God and humanity for those who believe in Jesus alone by faith [Isaiah 53; Matthew 1:21; John 1; John 3:16-17; Romans 3:21-26, 4:13-25, 5:1-11; Ephesians 2:1-22]. We cannot understand the glories of Christmas without keeping the cross at Calvary and the empty tomb in view. Friends, we have living hope in this.

So, as we look ahead to 2024, I want to remind you, Christian, and plead with those who have not yet trusted in Christ, to look to Him who is faithful, who died for you, and who sits in the throne of glory with abounding grace in this year of favor.

In Luke chapter four, Jesus has begun His ministry and is teaching by the power of the Spirit (4:14-15). He has returned to His hometown of Nazareth to teach in the synagogue to read the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolls the scroll and read from Chapter 61:1-2: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." The people of God knew this passage, along with the passages in Isaiah before and in them created a longing for this day. In this moment, prophecy was being fulfilled! We just celebrated this moment in the season of Christ-

mas, friends.

There have been thousands of babies born who became kings to rule a nation, but only once has a King become a baby to save the nations. Jesus was born into a world of infant massacres, tyrant political leaders, sexual perversion, systematic oppression, a place where outcasts had no voice, and religious leaders were corrupted by power. He came in a very dark time to push back the darkness, to bring light. This same Jesus we need today – thankful that He is the same then, today, and forever. I want to highlight two things from this passage that Jesus fulfills: 1) God's mission and 2) Gives us hope and joy.

God's mission is an extended time of favor (grace) to bring good news through the Anointed One, Jesus. Look at Isaiah 61, verse 1 – there is a coming hope of the Messiah. The One who is to be anointed with the Holy Spirit, bringing good news to the poor, to heal the broken, free captives, and break chains. This chapter comes after Isaiah has spoken of the Suffering Servant (Ch 53), the LORD's abounding compassion (Ch 55), then salvation to all peoples (Ch 56), addressing evil/oppression (Ch 59), and leading into future, everlasting glory for God's people (Ch 60). Seeing His plan be accomplished from before time is God's good pleasure. His mission from eternity past delights God, satisfies Him, as He sees the right timing of the Messiah and salvation coming to the nations. This is the gospel and it is our hope and joy.

The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. It is beautiful and it will triumph. The gospel is the only cause on the face of the earth that will finally succeed as intended. I want to be a part of that cause, that mission! Every other cause, no matter the impact, is doomed to extinction. This passage, after showing us God missions, gives us hope and joy – real hope, real joy. First, this passage gives us hope because we are the ones being given good news in verse 1. We are poor, broken, lost, chained. We are not just set free though...no, we are planted as oaks of righteousness with beautiful crowns, anointed with gladness, and given a garment of praise to the glory of God. This hope of a Spirit-empowered life will then bring us joy, being happy in God. If we look to Him in promised faith, through the Hope He gives... Joy comes with it! Our joy is not in experiences (though we have some), they are grounded in the Living Savior – no one can take that from me or you! The life saturated in God's truth is a life that is deeply durable in the face of drought and a life that succeeds in God's good purposes into eternity because it

is grounded in truth. His objective, never-changing, life-giving, life-sustaining, raise the dead to life, healing all wounds, redeeming the broken, binding the hurting, grace-abounding, TRUTH through His word, the Bible. This is the truth we look to by faith as we look at the promise of the LORD's favor.

Isaiah speaks about the Lord's time, a time of favor when the Anointed One comes and after this time will be a time of vengeance. We are in the first time of favor and are awaiting the day of fulfillment on the day of vengeance in Christ's second coming. Be as-

sure that this Day is coming. For the follower of Jesus, this day is a great day. We see justice done, wrongs punished, and a life of eternity beginning with Jesus forever. However, if you have not placed your faith in Christ alone for salvation, tremble for this Day. God's wrath will be rightly poured out on you for your rebellion and sin. Turn to Jesus today, friend, and be saved from the wrath to come in order that you receive today hope and joy in Jesus.

(continued on page 3)

## Area Church Directory

### The Return of the King

*"Suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple." — Malachi 3:1*

When Jesus is 40 days old, his parents bring him to the temple to present the required offering after a son is born. It's a big day. Here's why.

When the Israelites, under Moses, set up a tabernacle (a portable temple) in the wilderness, a cloud of glory signaled the presence of God. God was there in the midst of his people. Later, when they built a temple, under Solomon, the cloud of glory filled it to overflowing. God was enthroned in the temple as Israel's true King.

Many years later, the prophet Ezekiel saw God's throne leave the temple—and the cloud of glory with it (Ezekiel 10). Soon the temple itself lay in ruins, destroyed by Babylon. Later the people of Israel returned from exile and built another temple. But this time there was no cloud of glory, no sign that God had come to live in the new temple.

Many more years later, Mary and Joseph came to the temple carrying Jesus. And the Lord, Israel's true King, was in the midst of his people once again. What kind of king will he be? And what kind of kingdom will he bring?

We are faced with those questions to this day. How will we welcome King Jesus and his kingdom? With humility? With joy? With thanksgiving? With hope? With holy obedience? The answer is in our lives and in the life of the church.

*Jesus, you came to live among us for a while. And you will come again. We want to welcome you wherever you appear. And wherever you are, your kingdom is. Amen.*

#### CANVAS CHURCH

404 Schilling Drive, Dundas  
Lead Pastor: **Jed McGuire**

[www.canvaschurchmn.com](http://www.canvaschurchmn.com)

Sunday service: 9:00am and 10:30am  
Wednesday youth grades 6-12: 6:30pm

**LITTLE PRAIRIE UNITED METHODIST** 2980 130th St. E.  
Pastor **Penny Bonsell** • [pastor@littleprairieumc.org](mailto:pastor@littleprairieumc.org)  
507-663-6150 church phone • 651-503-4279 Cell

9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship; Sunday School & Nursery; Adult Group 8a.m.

**CITY LIGHT CHURCH** 2140 Hwy. 3 South, Northfield, MN  
Pastor **Pete Haase** • 507-645-8829 Call for service times

**LIFE21 CHURCH** 2100 Jefferson Road (just north of Target)  
Pastor **Brent Bielenberg** • 645-7730 [life21church.com](http://life21church.com)  
10:00a.m. Worship Experience

**NORTHFIELD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH** 5600 East 110th Street  
Pastor **Dan Runke** • 663-0133 • [northfieldefc.org](http://northfieldefc.org)  
9:30 a.m. Worship; 11:00 a.m. Christian Life Classes

**HOSANNA CHURCH - NORTHFIELD** 205 2nd St. S., Dundas  
Pastor **Dean Swenson** • 507-664-9007 • [www.hosannalc.org](http://www.hosannalc.org)  
Sunday: 9am & 10:45am Worship with Hosanna Kids Church ages 3-5th grade and Child Care for ages 6wks-3years at both services  
Fellowship time with refreshments between services.  
Wednesday: Middle School Ministry - doors open at 5:30; programming 6-7:15;  
High School Ministry - doors open at 7pm; programming 7:30-9pm

**MAIN STREET MORAVIAN CHURCH** 713 Division St., Northfield  
Tel: 507-645-7566 • Worship Services at 10:30a.m.

**GOSPEL OF LIFE FAMILY CHURCH**  
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2010 Jefferson Road, Suite A, Heritage Square on Hwy. 3, Northfield  
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[www.gospeloflifechurch.org](http://www.gospeloflifechurch.org)  
Sunday 10:30a.m.; Wednesday 6:00p.m.



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January 31, 2024

## David L. Isaacson

David L. Isaacson, age 78, of Nerstrand, died on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at Three Links Care Center, Northfield.



Funeral services were held at Grace Lutheran Church, Nerstrand on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

Interment was at the Nerstrand Cemetery with military rites will be provided by Rice County Central Veterans Association.

Visitation was held at Grace Lutheran Nerstrand from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday.

A celebration of life was held at the Elks Club 28 3rd Street N. W., Faribault after the interment service.

Arrangements are being completed by the Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault.

David L., the son of Manford L. and Marlys A. (Rongley) Isaacson was born April 27, 1945, in Faribault. After graduating from Faribault High School in 1963, David proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1963 – 1967. David was called home to start his lifelong passion for Allis – Chalmers and farm machinery when his father got sick. On June 1, 1968, David was united in marriage to Penny (Iverson) Thurnau at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Owatonna. David served many years on the Nerstrand City Council and was a volunteer firefighter for Nerstrand Fire Department. He was the mayor of Nerstrand

for many years and a lifelong member of Grace Lutheran Church, Nerstrand serving on many committees. He was a member of Faribault Elks #1166 and Faribault American Legion Post 43. David along with his parents and brothers owned Isaacson Implement, Nerstrand. David and Penny became sole owners of Isaacson Implement in 1990. They were inducted into the Rice County Historical Society in 2022. He also was a member of the Rice County Fair Board for many years and in 2016 received the Rice County Friend of the Fair award for all his support and dedication to the Rice County 4-H Program.

David enjoyed bowling, fishing, snowmobiling, playing cards and traveling with friends and family. David's most precious time was spent with his family at the cabin.

David was a true salesman. He made many friends wherever he was with his pen and paper in his shirt pocket, and he also knew the prices and was ready for a sale. Many customers became not only friends, but family also. Thank you to our customers that supported our family.

Survivors include his wife, Penny; children, Jeff (and Mary) Isaacson, Anne Gilster (Bryan Lowe), Jill (and Rick) Swenson and John (and Alex) Isaacson; grandchildren, Megan (and Derek) Melhouse, Allison (and Adam) Peine, Paige (and Jake) Gilster, Chelsea (and Kaya) Gilster, Kylie Lowe, Lexi (and Joe) Bauer, Madi Isaacson, Mikaela (and Maxwell) Isaacson, Gianna Isaacson, David Isaacson and Noah Isaacson; great grandchildren, Winslow Melhouse, Luna Melhouse and Beau Bauer; siblings, Betty (and Henry) Hull, Gary Isaacson,

Richard Isaacson, Jim (and Marcy) Isaacson; in-laws, Richard (and Joan) Iverson, John (and Lila) Iverson and Peggy (and Curtis) Radtke.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Manford and Marlys Isaacson; father and mother-in-law Mickey and Phyllis Iverson, sister-in-law Peggy Isaacson.

Special thanks to Three Links Care Center

and Allina Hospice, Owatonna, for all the love and care they have given to David.

Memorials may be given in memory to Three Links Care Center, Northfield, Allina Hospice, Owatonna, Grace Lutheran Church, Nerstrand, and the Rice County Historical Society.

(obituaries continued on page 4)

## Year of Favor

(continued from page 2)

So What?

This passage in Isaiah shows God's faithfulness in prophecy fulfilled through Jesus. It reminds us of our greatest need. This season we have been reminded how this need is met. Our need is not a bigger house, a better job, a more loving husband, a more patient wife, or even a spouse, period. It is not better behaving kids, more kids, or even to have kids.

It is not the scholarship or acceptance letter to the college of your choice, more money in your budget, a newer car, keeping your lake cabin, getting the tropical vacation, or gaining more friends, via real life or social media. Our greatest need is to be saved from our sin and God's wrath. You are a sinner. God is Holy.

His righteous judgment will be seen, yet this righteous, Holy judge is full of mercy and compassion and has a mission to redeem us.

God will exchange your suffering and death for resurrection. He has promised spiritual blessings and an eternal life with Him. Jesus is building His Church – He has commanded and empowered us to join the mission. This is what makes Jesus' coming over 2000 years ago magnificent! Because He came: We were poor, now rich. We were brokenhearted, now rejoicing. We were captive to sin, now set free. We were under God's wrath, now called His sons and daughters. It means we are called upon to display his glory. Show that He's glorious. Act like He's glorious. Make much of him like He's the most valuable, glorious thing in the universe because He is. May this be your life's vision as you look ahead to 2024. As always, 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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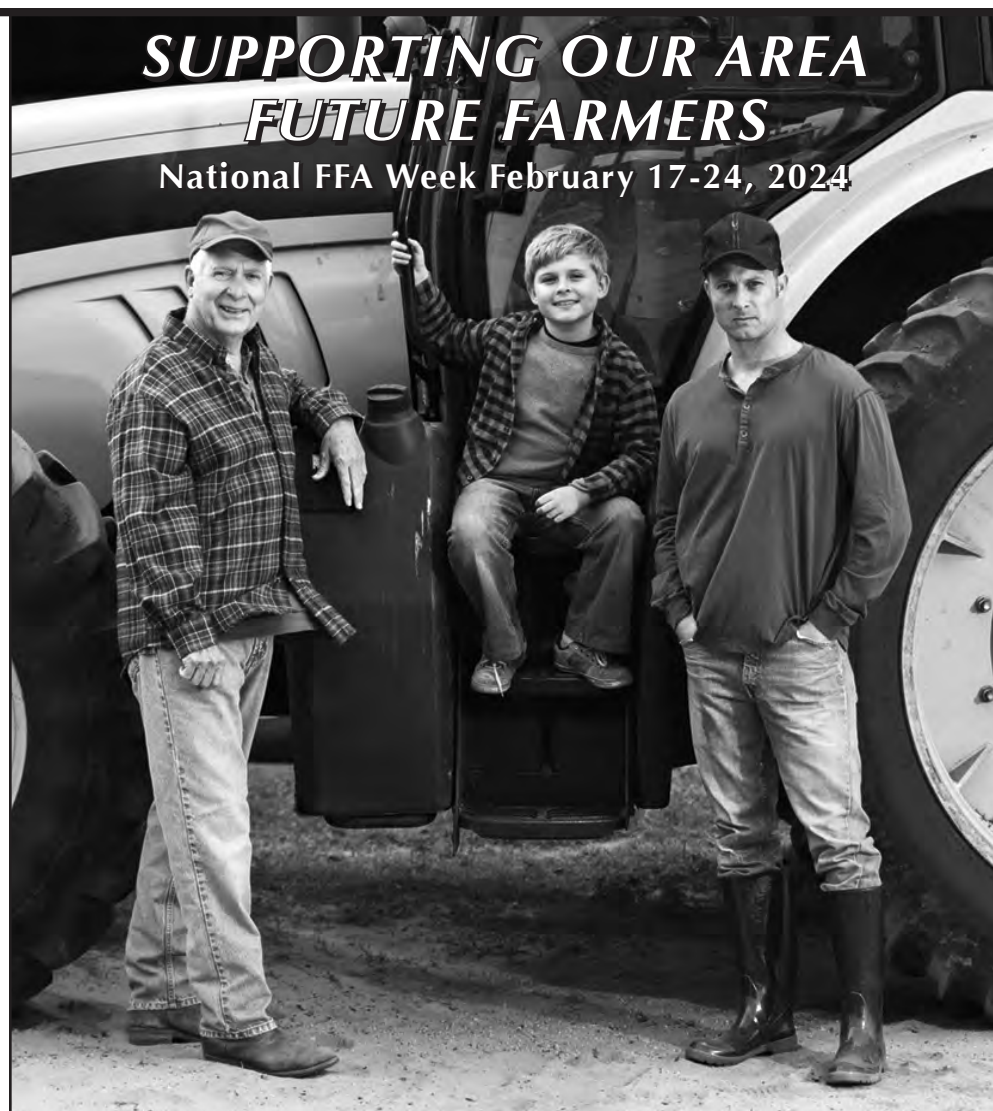
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## SUPPORTING OUR AREA FUTURE FARMERS

National FFA Week February 17-24, 2024

## Cynthia Louise Grisim

Cynthia Louise Grisim, 67, of Northfield, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at Mayo Clinic Methodist Campus in Rochester, MN, after a seven-year battle with cancer.

Born on September 30, 1956, in the small town of Mondovi, Wisconsin, Cindy's roots were as deep and nurturing as the family farm she grew up on. Her warmth and radiant spirit enriched the lives of all who knew her, and her memory will be cherished forever.

Cindy's personal story is woven through the fabric of the communities that were fortunate enough to have her. Following graduation from high school in her hometown, her journey brought her to Faribault, where her embodiment of Midwestern values shone brightly at Wimpey's restaurant and later at Erickson's grocery store in Northfield. It was there she met her husband, Glen, and together they shared a love that provided the foundation for a family of strong bonds and joyful memories. United in marriage on October 16, 1976, at Sacred Heart in Mondovi, their partnership thrived on mutual devotion and respect.

Cindy's professional dedication was evident in her remarkable 35-year tenure at Carleton College, affecting the lives of countless students and colleagues before her retirement earlier this year.

In tandem with her career, Cindy and Glen operated Grisim Farms providing sweet corn for the past 43 years. Her involvement extended from training new employees to the hands-on work of harvesting and selling the corn. The business was a testament to her commitment to nurturing both the earth and human connections. Cindy's artistic talents also flourished in the whimsical painted pumpkins that became an integral part of her family's autumnal traditions. From her father-in-law's initial request, her brushstrokes graced hundreds of pumpkins each season, bringing joy to the community as she brought their imaginative requests to life in collaboration with HyVee, Nelson's Pumpkin Farm, among others.

The same hands that so tenderly cared for her family business were also the hands that cast fishing lines into the tranquil waters of Big Pine Lake at their beloved lake home in Perham, MN. An avid lover of the outdoors, Cindy's zest for life extended to the thrill of roller coasters and the magic of Disney—an enthusiasm she shared with her family on their numerous treks to Disneyworld.

Cindy's selfless nature, endless optimism, and friendly demeanor are the words that best encapsulate her essence. Her ability to uplift others and foster warmth and kindness were unparalleled. Her presence was a bright light that seemed to make the world a better, more hopeful place. Cindy will be deeply missed, but the seeds of kindness she sowed throughout her life will bloom endlessly in the hearts of those she touched.



Cindy leaves behind her husband, Glen; sons, Jesse (Alice) of Shakopee and Chad (Jessica) of Northfield; grandchildren, Jacob, Mason, Clayton, Ashlynn, and Benjamin; and siblings, Shirley (John) Smith of Eau Galle, WI, Sandy (Bernie) Weiss of Mondovi, WI, Tom Brantner (Janet Kopinski) of Mondovi, WI, Dawn (James) Ulwelling of Eau Claire, WI, and Jeff (Sue) Brantner of Prescott, WI. Cindy was preceded in death by her parents, Awald and Bernice (Hayden) Brantner, and her brothers, Gary, David, and Kevin.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 AM, Saturday, January 6, 2024, at the Church of St. Dominic. Father Louis Floeder officiated. Visitation was from 4 to 7 PM, Friday, January 5, 2024, at Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home and continued one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment followed at Oaklawn Cemetery in Northfield.

Online condolences can be made at <https://www.northfieldfuneral.com>.

Arrangements are with Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home & Crematory.

## Helen Peterson

Helen Peterson, age 94, of Northfield, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 14 at the Northfield Retirement Care Center.



Born December 8, 1929, to Carl and Elsie (Schrader) Wegner. Helen grew up with older sister Phyllis, and two younger brothers Harland and Paul. As a child Helen lived on the family farm near Cannon Lake in Warsaw Township, attending country school until 1936 when she moved with her family to a home on Plum Street in Northfield. Helen worked at the Ideal Café as an after-school job before graduating from Northfield High School in 1947. Following graduation, Helen worked as a bank teller in Northfield; it was through that employment that she met her husband, Burton Peterson.

They were married on October 6, 1956, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Northfield. Together they took over the family farm from Burt's mother and raised five children. Helen kept plenty busy juggling being a homemaker and partner to Burt on the farm.

After their children were grown, Helen and Burt moved off the farm and built a house on the hill just up the road to keep an eye on things. The farm, located east of Northfield, is now operated by their three sons.

Helen was known to her family and friends as an amazing cook; she spent many hours tending her flower and vegetable gardens, canning or freezing much of what she grew. Helen could always be counted on to lend a hand when it came to helping with 4-H sewing projects, church quilting circle and other community efforts.

Throughout her lifetime Helen participated in Bowling League, Red Hatter's Club, doing Hardanger embroidery (of which many family members will cherish as gifts), traveling

with Burt and friends, cheering on the Minnesota Twins and UMN Gopher Basketball teams, playing games – especially 500 and dominoes, delivering Meals on Wheels, serving on the Northfield Cemetery Board, and being a devoted member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Northfield.

A fierce supporter of her farm family, Helen always kept tabs on what her boys were up to, and she never missed an opportunity to tell the NRC care team how spring planting or fall harvest was going. Helen found no greater joy than spending time with her children and grandchildren. She was a staple in the stands at 4-H livestock shows, church events, choir concerts, sporting events, and more.

Following a stroke in the spring of 2016, Helen moved to the Northfield Retirement Center, where she remained until her passing.

Helen is survived by her children, Sue Wilberts of Lauderdale, Chris (Marcia) Peterson of Northfield, Brian (Mary) Peterson of Northfield, Julie Ploetz of Cambridge, and Bruce (Carol) Peterson of Northfield; brothers Harland (Evie) Wegner of Northfield, Paul (Marguerite) Wegner of St. Cloud, and sister-in-law Lu Peterson of Edina; 12 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren (with three more on the way), and many other family and friends. Helen is preceded in death by her husband Burton, sister Phyllis and sons in law Chris Wilberts and Scot Ploetz, and nephew Bill Wegner.

Helen's family welcomes you to join them in celebrating her life on Friday, February 9, 2024, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Northfield. Visitation will begin at 9:30 AM, with church service to follow beginning at 11:30 AM. Pastor David Weeks will be officiating. A reception will follow the service at the church. Private interment will be in Northfield Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to St. Peter's Lutheran Church Endowment, Northfield Cemetery, or Northfield Retirement Community.

Online condolences can be made at <https://www.northfieldfuneral.com>.

Funeral arrangements are trusted to Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home & Crematory.

## Edward "Butch" Owen

Edward "Butch" Owen, age 54, passed away at his home in Dundas on Monday, January 15th after a long, courageous battle with lung cancer. Ed was born on February 12, 1969, in Rochester, MN, the son of Dale and Bonnie (Lick) Owen. He grew up in the Cannon Falls area and eventually split his time between Minnesota and Viroqua, WI. He attended Dakota County Technical College and went on to become a computer specialist for Zurich North America Insurance.



Anyone who ever met Ed, noticed his sarcastic sense of humor, his passion for his career, and his deep love of music.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Jo; children, Bri Owen, James Matson, David Wolkenhauer, Bethany (Chris) Wolkenhauer; grandchildren, Carter & William Matson, and Mason Wolkenhauer; sister, Laurie Owen; as well as his niece, nephews, other extended family, close friends, and his beloved dog, Missy.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Lisa Owen.

A Celebration of Ed's Life was held at 12:00 Noon on Friday, January 26 at the Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home of Northfield. Visitation was held for one hour prior to the service from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

## Gayle Georgeanne Claxton

Gayle Georgeanne Claxton, 76, of Kenyon, passed away on Friday, January 26, 2024 at Three Links Care Center.



She was born August 11, 1947 in Stillwater, Minnesota, the daughter of Hans and Fern (Elftman) Tollefson. When Gayle was

eight years old the family moved to South St. Paul, and she later graduated from South St. Paul High School. While in school she met David Claxton and they were later married on August 16, 1966, and they were able to have 57 years together. Gayle attended cosmetology school before working at St. Olaf College and later for Van Clemens as a stockbroker. David and Gayle later moved to the Northfield area and Gayle started Helping Hands, a handyman service.

Gayle always stayed in touch with her family, calling them on the phone to hear about their day and listen to them. You could find her going around looking at garage sales, out in her garden, crafting, or sitting down relaxing with a crossword puzzle. Gayle loved to travel with Dave and her children. She loved going to Washington and Oregon catching crab and having fresh crab meals.

She is survived by her husband David Claxton of Kenyon; children, Ryan Claxton of New York, Rachel (and Bill) Wesbur of Kenyon; sister, Carmen Tollefson of Kenyon.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hans and Fern Tollefson; sister, Cheryl Willis.

Visitation will be at Michaelson Funeral Home, Kenyon on Saturday, February 3rd, 2023, from 2PM to 5PM.

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## Gordon "Gordie" Rahman

Gordon "Gordie" Rahman, age 89 of Red Wing Minnesota passed away on January 18, 2024 at Deer Crest assisted living in Red Wing, surrounded by his family.



Gordon Lee Rahman was born November 3, 1934, in

Northfield, MN, to Franklin and Myrtle (Thielbar) Rahman. He was raised in the Northfield/Dundas area and graduated from Northfield High School in 1952. He was a wrestler in High School and competed at state at 112 lbs. He served in the US Army and the Army National Guard for a number of years. After graduation he became a railroad man, working for the Chicago and Northwestern railroad from 1956 until his retirement in 1996 at the age of 62.

On June 7, 1958, he married Virginia Elaine Fredrickson of Northfield. They had four children, Curtis, Bruce, Lori and John, and settled down in Red Wing Minnesota in 1964. Virginia died of lung cancer in 1998. Gordie lived independently in the family house in Red Wing until a stroke in 2022 changed his health and he required assistance.

Gordie was the oldest of 13 children and was often looked up to by his family as the father figure. So really, his family with Virginia was his second family to raise. Gordie never had any spare time. His hobbies were his antique shop "The Welch Trading Post" and fixing pocket watches, both of which he thoroughly enjoyed. His escape was camping

and travel. He loved his campers and traveled all over the country and on several international trips.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and neighbor. If you needed Gordie, he was there for you. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his four children, Curtis Rahman (Cindra Jurgensen) of St. Louis Park and their children, Eric Rahman (Emma Willenborg) and Michael Rahman, Bruce Rahman (Ourida Rahman) of Tunis, Tunisia, Lori Rother (Craig Rother) of Red Wing and their children, Lucas Rother and Samantha Whipple (Alec Whipple) and great-granddaughters Amelia and Josie and John Rahman (Diane Rahman) of Eden Prairie and their children, Josh and Isaac; his siblings, Jerry Rahmann, Joanne (Steven) Lawrence, Kay Rahman, Nancy (Mike) Lucast, Mona (Robert) Johannson, Alvin Rahman, Marvin (Christy) Rahman, He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Virginia, his sisters Emma and Audrey, and his brothers Arnie, Calvin, Keith and Don.

Funeral service was at 11 a.m. Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at United Lutheran Church in Red Wing. Reverend Justin Boeding officiated. The service was livestreamed. Burial with full military honors was at the Burnside Cemetery. Visitation was from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Bodelson-Mahn Chapel and at the church for one hour prior to the service. Memorials preferred to Red Wing Pottery Museum or United Lutheran Church. The family would like to extend a sincere thank you to his wonderful caretakers at Deer Crest and Brighton Hospice.

## Herbert O. Noreen

Herbert O. Noreen, age 91, a loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a dedicated man of the land, passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 23, 2023 at Sophie's Manor in Centuria, WI.



Herbert Olaf Noreen was born on December 12, 1932

in Northfield, MN, the son of John & Velva (Harmer) Noreen. He grew up on the family farm in Northfield and graduated from high school there in 1950. Herb was a dedicated dairy farmer most of his life and made a lasting impact on everyone fortunate enough to know him. On June 4, 1952, he was married to Carol J. Petersen and together they raised 4 children, Daniel, Debra, Dawn & Dennis. During the 1960's, Herb transitioned from farming into construction, working as a carpenter and foreman in Minneapolis, MN. In 1980, he moved to Clayton Township, WI and eventually quit farming in 1994. During his retirement years, Herb worked at the Amery Senior Center and at Dragonfly Gardens where he built many of the greenhouses. Herb was also known as an avid joke teller and practical joker. He enjoyed spending time outside in nature, bird watching, fishing and gardening. His true passion was flower gardening and growing strawberries. His departure leaves a void that can never be filled, but the memories of his love and laughter will forever be remembered by his family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Carol Noreen; his parents, John & Velva Noreen; his brothers & sisters, Ellen Hanson, Yvonne Swartz, Arland Noreen, Elizabeth Grey, Robert Noreen & John Peter Noreen.

He is survived by Daughters & Sons: Daniel (Linda) Noreen - Northfield, MN; Debra (Jim) Edelbach - Litchfield, MN; Dawn (Lee) Erickson - Clayton, WI; Dennis (Sherry) Noreen - Buffalo, MN.

Grandchildren: Steven (Neysa) Noreen & Lori Noreen; Andrew (Michelle) Edelbach & Edward Edelbach; Melissa Gary, Eric Erickson, LeAnne (David) Latham & Sandra Erickson; Heather (Wil) Shepard, Mikal (Anne) Noreen, & Charles (Mindy) Noreen.

17 Great Grand-Children; Sister Arlene "Tops" Truog - Hagerman, NM; Many Other Relatives and Friends.

There was a visitation from 4 -7 pm on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at the Scheuermann Funeral Home in Clear Lake, WI and a visitation from 11am - 1 pm on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at the Bierman, Benson, Langehough Funeral Home in Northfield, MN. Burial was at the Northfield Cemetery.

Scheuermann Funeral Home and Cremation Service is handling the arrangements.

[www.clearlakefuneralhome.com](http://www.clearlakefuneralhome.com)

## Donald Lee Paddock

Donald Lee Paddock, 89 of Northfield, formerly of Faribault, passed away peacefully Sunday morning, January 28, 2024, at Three Links Care Center in Northfield. He had been a resident there since 2021.

Don was born on a rented farm near Blue Mound, Kansas in Linn County on March 20,



1934. When he was almost a year old, his parents Lee and Fredah bought a farm in Bourbon County. This is where he grew up and graduated from

Prescott Rural High School in 1952. Don

joined the Kansas National Guard. He served for nine years. He enjoyed his Monday night training and a two-week summer camp training, usually at Camp Ripley in Minnesota.

Don went on to Fort Scott Junior College for two years. Then in 1954 he enrolled at Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg, Kansas. He taught for three years in Mound City where Irene was running a beauty shop. They married and lived in the back of the beauty shop. Then they moved to Iola, Kansas for eight years. This is where their children, Chrys and Mark were born. In 1966 They moved to Minnesota. They lived in Dennison and he commuted to Northfield to teach for 23 years. Don taught for 34 years and enjoyed teaching, but decided he had enough. He worked at Foldcraft in Kenyon, a cabinet shop in Northfield, and then a furniture store.

In the early years of being in Minnesota the cold did not bother him. Then with age, it became an issue. Snowbirding in Arizona became the practiced way of life. Don had always enjoyed his puzzles and began the puzzle business. Don started Paddock Puzzles and traveled all over to sell his puzzles at craft shows. People would recognize his puzzle green and he became the "Puzzle Man." Don knew of puzzles going to every continent but Antarctica. After his wife of sixty years, Irene, passed away in 2015, Don moved from Oracle Arizona back to Faribault in 2017. Don kept busy with his daily walks going all over Faribault. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, and will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his children, Chrystine (Clyde) Eggum of Dennison and Mark (Sandy) Paddock of Faribault; grandsons, Andrew (Jennifer) Eggum, Joseph (Dena) Eggum, Erik (Stephanie) Paddock, and Adam Paddock; great-grandchildren, Kaia, Moira, Eve, and Henry; and sister, Jennie. He was preceded in death by his wife, Irene; parents, and sister, Lurene.

Funeral service will be held at 11 AM, Friday, February 2, 2024 at Dennison Lutheran Church. Visitation will be from 4-7 PM, Thursday, February 1, 2024 at Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home and will continue one hour prior to the service at the church. Reception will follow the service and interment will be in Prairie Creek Cemetery, rural Northfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Dennison Lutheran Church or Prairie Creek Cemetery.

Arrangements are with Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home & Crematory, Northfield. [www.northfieldfuneral.com](http://www.northfieldfuneral.com)

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## Happy New Year

(continued from page 1)

In addition, in an effort to deliver the news and information more timely between print issues, last year we launched our on-line edition of the Messenger.

Check it out if you havent already, There is additional bonus content on the site as well that is not in the print edition.

Thanks to local advertisers and your voluntary subscriptions, we are in your mailbox each month. Enclosed in this month's issue is a subscription envelope. We hope you will consider renewing your voluntary subscription.

It insures the paper will continue here in your hometown.

Without this support, we would not be here.

We hope you continue to see value in the Messenger. While there are plenty of social media sources and on line sites out there, most don't deliver the hometown news and message like we do here.

Every year, many newspapers have consolidated or gone out of business.

We have watched this happen many times in recent years in small rural communities, and especially the past several years.

With our small staff of 2.5, we understand this challenge first hand here at the Messenger, which is why we publish the Messenger in its monthly format and update you as needed throughout the month on our web site.

Our goal with the Messenger is to help insure our home towns still have a community voice of its own, direct mailing to all residents in the zip code as well as many out of town subscribers. This format allows your hometown to maintain a local monthly paper, and better connect local residents, businesses and the community. We also understand the need for more timely information within the

month, so check out the web site for important news that happens between print issues. We continue to expand our digital and online offerings while still maintaining our dedication to our hometowns!

We remain a small family owned business

with a goal of supporting our rural communities and businesses. As always, if you have news, information or story ideas, please reach out to us. Again, Thank you for your readership and support.

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## Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin

How to Make Friends in a New  
Community: Being Helpful

By Claudia Vanderborcht

When all is said and done, it still takes time for a home purchase to close. Monica finally had a purchase agreement on a small farm: 20 acres with rolling topography and some fenced pasture, a barely nice four-bedroom home with attached garage, and a huge 40'

x 90' pole barn. And still some summer remained to make local friends before her

teaching job began in September.

Monica's daughter was grown with a family of her own – it's difficult to make friends when your kids are adults. But church would be a key to meeting some local folks and maybe some farmer friends. (Farming sounded like fun, but Monica realized that she knew nothing and would have a lot to learn.)

Monica settled into a local community church. Although the congregation was small, it was welcoming. With instant friends: there were two female veterans, a single middle-aged teacher, and a few families who farmed. Having time on her hands before house closing and school starting, Monica offered to help her new friends with whatever was needed. One family invited

her to help trim grape vines in their vineyard; it was hot, sweaty work, standing on a steep hillside -- but Monica liked being outdoors and loved learning new skills.

One Sunday, Monica listened to the teacher exclaiming frustration about her basement renter: the gal was behind on rent, causing problems, and refusing to leave. Monica had heard many stories from her dad about how difficult it was to evict tenants, usually costing thousands of dollars and causing months of frustration. Monica is a problem solver, had experience with renters, and loves to help others; she offered her new friend help in evicting the tenant.

"Let's make this official," Monica suggested. "Write up a lease and I will pay you \$1 in rent to make the contract legally binding."

Contract in hand, Monica packed a few clothes, her cooler and grill, the air mattress, a few miscellaneous essentials, and moved into the other basement bedroom. The difficult tenant had gone away for the weekend, so while she was gone Monica helped pack her belongings.

Anything that might be used as a weapon (knives, tools) were stored at the bottom of the box, clothes and dishes on top. Two days later, the delinquent renter returned and discovered Monica -- her new, helpful roommate.

The shouting and cursing began, including pleas like, "Where I am supposed to go? I have nowhere to live! How am I supposed to move? I have nowhere to go..."

After pointing out that this was not the homeowner's or Monica's problem, Monica

ignored her. The homeowner simply repeated her requests for rent owed.

Knowing that possession is nine-tenths of the law, Monica was careful not to leave the apartment. When dinner time came and she wanted to use the grill, Monica simply locked the bedroom door and climbed in and out of the window!

The tenant was – of course – furious and threatened to call the police. Both the homeowner and Monica agreed that was a wonderful idea (much to the chagrin of the apartment squatter). A very nice officer came to the home, understood the dilemma, and asked to speak with each person individually.

When it was her turn, Monica presented her driver's license and military identification (knowing that many officers had served in the military).

"I have my own home," Monica explained, "but I am just trying to help my friend, the homeowner."

"You know this isn't the normal way of doing things," the officer said.

To which Monica completely agreed. So the officer phoned the chief for advice on the legalities of the situation.

"Good news and bad news," the officer told the young lady. "No, the homeowner cannot force you to move out. You have a legal right to stay and make the homeowner go through the normal eviction process. The bad news is that Monica, having a legitimate lease, also has a legal right to stay."

Within 24 hours, still shouting and cursing, the delinquent renter packed up the rest of her belongings and moved out. Monica left a day or so later.

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## Healthy Sugar?



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS  
Licensed Nutritionist

In this past season you probably noticed that “sweet tooth” become extra active. The holiday season is filled with opportunity for sweets of all different kinds. For many the holiday would not be complete without a particular candy or cookie or dessert being present. Now as the new year takes hold many resolve to do a better job of self-discipline in choosing what to eat. Let me suggest you direct your effort to improve the quality and decrease the quantity of sugar you consume this year.

There is no question that sugar has a strong hold on our community. From government data we can find that the average American consumed less than 10 pounds of sugar a year back in 1880. More than 100 years later, the average American consumes about 2 pounds of sugar each week. Not only has the quantity increased more than 10-fold, but this sugar is processed to the point of pure energy with no

additional mineral or vitamin content attached to it.

Go back to 1959 and less than one percent of the American population was diabetic. Today more than 30 percent of the American population is identified as pre-diabetic or diabetic. The greatest increase in diabetes is occurring among the young Americans. Those managing diabetes will have more significant medication costs, more doctor visits, and twice as long hospital stays. New medications are coming out promising to control the downward spiral of disease, but the cost of these medicines continues to increase.

There is a better solution. You can choose healthy sugars to replace the pure energy of the white sugar and corn syrup you currently have in the cupboard. As you start this new direction, I encourage you to throw out the white sugar and corn syrup and select healthy sugars that contain minerals and enzymes that will aid digestion and help to keep your health.

These healthy sugars have a variety of flavors. You are familiar with them, but probably have not used them as well as they can be used. So let’s review some of these options:

**Whole Fruit** – a piece of whole fruit at the end of a meal, or as part of a meal is an excellent way to satisfy the sweet tooth and get vitamins and minerals as well. In a previous article, I spoke on the benefit of an apple each day. Make whole fruit a priority in your meal planning and you will be healthier for it.

**Raw Honey** – organic raw honey contains enzymes that will help aid digestion and ad-

ditional nutrients that benefit health. Raw honey will contain active enzymes and unfiltered honey will contain additional bee propolis and pollen that can help reduce some allergies and improve digestion. Less honey will be required in recipes because it tastes sweeter than sugar.

**Black Strap molasses** – molasses is a by-product of the sugar refining process. Molasses contains all minerals that are removed from refined sugar. Rich in iron, calcium, potassium, and copper, this addition to recipes is always noticed. Often associated with gingerbread flavors, but molasses can also be used in many other recipes.

**Maple Syrup** – the sap of the maple tree collected in early spring contains minerals and nutrients essential for the new life of the spring leaves. Grade C maple syrup contains the most vitamins and minerals and is the strongest flavor. Grade A maple syrup also contains minerals and is a good substitute for white sugar in any recipe.

**Rapadura or Sucanat** – these two products

are made from sugar cane juice. The juice does not go through the extensive processing required for white sugar. Therefore, there is still some mineral content remaining with these sweet products. There is a slight molasses or caramel flavor that is pleasant to taste.

Make your health a priority in 2024. There will be change that is required. Little changes can make a big difference over time. Changing your sugar choices can be one of those little changes. If you would like to reverse diabetes or prevent diabetes, I can help you start a plan.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for 2024. I can help you reach those health goals with whole food plans customized to your specific needs. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net Start this year with a new plan. Foundation to Thrive is a 16 week lifestyle transformation to help you reach your health goals in 2024.

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## Northfield FFA Returns

(continued from page 1)

February 17-24, FFA chapters will celebrate National FFA week.

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 74 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. "Local chapters use this as an opportunity to

highlight program success, recognize community supporters and amplify the mission of the organization."

Again this year, more than 700,000 FFA members will spend the week of February 17-24 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, exe-



photos courtesy of T.J. Austin

## Dennison Flake Out Festival

(continued from page 1)

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. 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 12 Noon. Tasting and vot-

ing will be from 12:30-1:30 with a cash prize for 1st and 2nd place. Live music will also be a part of the evening festivities, with BRYAN ANDERSON at 625 Bar & Grill, and the variety band WRECKLESS will be playing at Fireside Lounge.

If you have any questions, contact Lion President Diane at 612-532-0268. See the full schedule of events in this issue of the Messenger.

cution 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.

The organization also wants to Thank Alumni and Supporters!

Whether they wore the blue jacket or simply 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.

(continued on page 12)



## NATIONAL FFA WEEK February 17-24, 2024



The National FFA Organization promotes the growth of tomorrow's agricultural leaders through education.

**We salute Cannon Falls, Randolph, Kenyon-Wanamingo and Northfield 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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**CD Available at:**

37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN  
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**About the Minnesota Country Salute CD Project:**  
 A decade ago while sitting on his porch, Neil Freeman came up with the idea of tying together two groups that BOB FM supports. The Homegrown artists of Minnesota and the military member support organizations. By creating a compilation CD to sell across Minnesota, he nailed it. With the help of many sponsors and listeners who went out and purchased these CDs over the years, BOB FM has donated over \$235,000 to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation, Minnesota Wheels of Honor, and Tribute to the Troops.

If you or your business would like to help further this mission, or help distribute the CD, please contact Neil Freeman, [neil@mybobcountry.com](mailto:neil@mybobcountry.com).

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## Flake Out Festival & Winter Parade

Saturday, February 3, 2024

9:00 AM **Euchre at Fireside on the Patio, 100% Payout**  
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\$5.00/entry. Tasters will pay \$5.00 to taste all entries/vote.

12:00 PM **Bring Entry to Dennison City Hall**

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2:00 PM **Cookoff Winner Announced (1st & 2nd Place Payout)**

3:00 PM **Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo at City Hall**  
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6:30 PM **9th Annual Denni Dazzle Parade**  
**\$150.00 Prize for Best Float!**  
Hosted by the Dennison Lions. Call or text Diane at 612-532-0268

7:00 PM **Live Music from Bryan Anderson at 625 Bar & Grill**

8:00 PM **LIVE MUSIC AT THE FIRESIDE "Wreckless"**

9:00 PM **Raffle Winners Announced at Fireside**

Flake Out Festival Raffle Saturday, February 3

Buy a Raffle Ticket from any Lions Member, Fireside Lounge, Dennison Depot Gas Station, 625 Bar & Grill or Heritage Bank in Dennison for \$5.00 for your chance to win!

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# Northfield FFA Returns

(continued from page 9)

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## Talking Blood Donation with U of M

By University of Minnesota

January is National Blood Donor Month—a time to bring awareness to the critical need for blood donations at the time of year when the supply tends to be at its lowest.

Claudia Cohn, MD, PhD, with the University of Minnesota Medical School and M Health Fairview, explains the crucial need for blood donations, eligibility criteria for donors and recent changes to who can donate blood.

**Q:** Why is it important for people to donate blood?

**Dr. Cohn:** The need for a blood transfusion is constant. According to the American Red Cross, patients in the United States receive a blood transfusion every two seconds. Because blood has a limited shelf life, new blood donations are essential to keep hospitals well stocked. Without blood donations, hospitals would have to turn patients away or leave them untreated. We depend on the altruism and generosity of blood donors to share the gift of life.

**Q:** What are some of the causes of low blood

donation levels?

**Dr. Cohn:** The blood supply is typically lower during the winter months as blood donations often decrease because of the holidays, travel schedules, inclement weather and illness. The need for blood is ongoing—victims of car accidents still arrive in emergency departments and cancer patients still require chemotherapy, for example, both of which use life-saving blood transfusions.

**Q:** What are the eligibility criteria for donating blood?

**Dr. Cohn:** There are criteria in place to protect both the donor and ensure the safety of the patient receiving the blood. Donors must be healthy and capable of donating blood without harming themselves. For instance, a donor's hemoglobin must be more than 12.5 g/dL for females and more than 13 g/dL for males. If a donor's hemoglobin is low, their donation could make them anemic. There are other criteria regarding the medications a donor uses, as well as recent vaccinations and travel history. Importantly, there are criteria to guard against potential bloodborne infectious diseases such as HIV, hepatitis B and C. Anal sex and/or IV drug abuse are considered behaviors that raise the risk of transmission for these diseases, and therefore disqualify donors. However, it's important to note that due to recent federal policy changes, donors who have had anal sex may qualify if they have not had new and/or multiple partners within the past three months.

**Q:** The Food and Drug Administration up-

dated its policy last spring to allow gay and bisexual men to donate blood. Why was this change made?

**Dr. Cohn:** The FDA originally created a blanket ban on blood donations from men who have sex with men (MSM) as they were considered a high-risk group for HIV transmission. However, a gay or bisexual man in a monogamous relationship poses no greater risk to the blood supply than anyone else. The FDA's Assessing Donor Variability And New Concepts in Eligibility (ADVANCE) study confirmed the safety of individual risk assessment. This study found that anyone with a recent history of multiple sexual partners who engages in anal sex poses a risk to the blood supply, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and that MSM pose no greater risk to the blood supply. It is wonderful that federal guidelines were updated to welcome gay and bisexual men—as well as women who have sex with MSM—as blood donors.

Today, all blood donors are asked the same questions about their sexual activity and sexual behaviors, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation. For more comprehensive information about the changes, you can visit the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (AABB) at [aabb.org](http://aabb.org).

**Q:** What are you doing to advance research in the transfusion medicine field?

**Dr. Cohn:** My work currently focuses on improving the national infrastructure for sharing blood-related data that is clinically

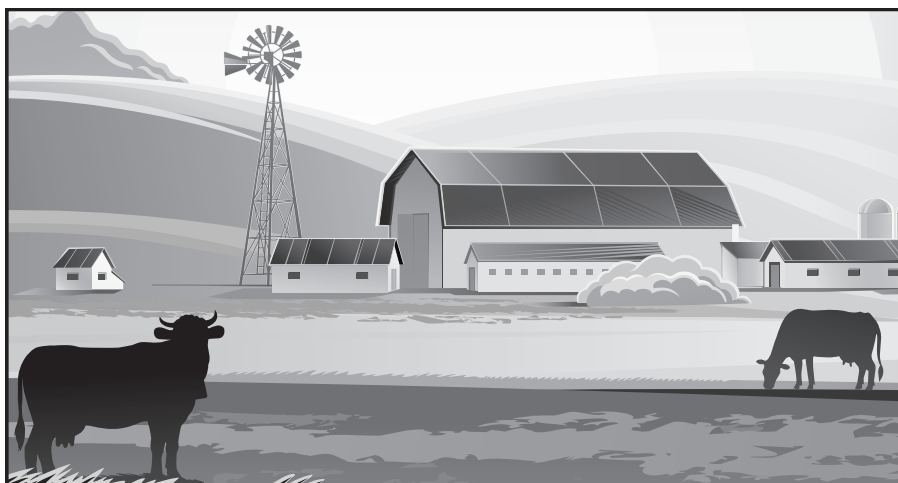
relevant for patients. This information can help reduce incompatible blood transfusions and will be particularly helpful for patients with chronic transfusion needs, such as those with sickle cell disease.

**Dr. Claudia Cohn** is a professor of laboratory medicine and pathology at the University of Minnesota Medical School. She is the medical director of the M Health Fairview University of Minnesota Medical Center Blood Bank and leads the AABB as the chief medical officer. Dr. Cohn conducts research in the field of transfusion medicine and focuses her efforts on two areas: patient blood management and platelet storage and utilization.

### About the University of Minnesota Medical School

The University of Minnesota Medical School is at the forefront of learning and discovery, transforming medical care and educating the next generation of physicians. Our graduates and faculty produce high-impact biomedical research and advance the practice of medicine. We acknowledge that the U of M Medical School is located on traditional, ancestral and contemporary lands of the Dakota and the Ojibwe, and scores of other Indigenous people, and we affirm our commitment to tribal communities and their sovereignty as we seek to improve and strengthen our relations with tribal nations. For more information about the U of M Medical School, please visit [med.umn.edu](http://med.umn.edu).

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## MDA Now Accepting Applications for 2024 Beginning Farmer Tax Credit

*Eligible parties are encouraged to apply early for funding*

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Rural Finance Authority (RFA) is now accepting applications for the 2024 Beginning Farmer Tax Credit, an annual program available to landlords and sellers (asset owners) who rent or sell farmland, equipment, livestock, and other agricultural assets

to beginning farmers.

Total funding available for the 2024 Beginning Farmer Tax Credit program is \$4 million. The credits are funded in a first-come, first-served manner, so applicants are highly encouraged to apply early in the year before the stated deadlines. Both the asset owners and beginning farmers must submit applications with lease and/or sale documents to be eligible for funding and to hold their place in line. They may apply before sales close, if needed.

Qualifying asset owners can include individuals, trusts, or qualified pass-through entities renting or selling land, livestock, facilities, buildings, or machinery used for farming in Minnesota to a beginning farmer. Through changes made to the program dur-

Asset owners can claim credits in one of the following categories in a given tax year for each beginning farmer they lease/sell to:

	Tax Credit Amount	Maximum Tax Credit	Application Due Date
<b>Cash Rentals</b>	10% of annual rental income	\$7,000	July 17, 2024
<b>Share Crop Rentals</b>	15% of annual rental income	\$10,000	July 17, 2024
<b>Farmland Sales</b>	8% of sale price (12% if the buyer is an emerging farmer)	\$50,000	November 1, 2024
<b>All other sales (equipment, livestock, etc.)</b>	5% of sale price	\$32,000	November 1, 2024

ing the 2023 legislative session, parents, grandparents, and siblings are now eligible for the tax credit if they sell farmland to a direct family member. However, this does not apply to leases or non-land sales (e.g., livestock, vehicles).

A beginning farmer is defined as a Minnesota resident with the desire to start farming or who began farming within the past 10 years. They must provide positive projected earnings statements, have a net worth less than \$979,000, and enroll in, or have com-

pleted, an approved farm business management (FBM) program.

Beginning farmers are also eligible for a nonrefundable Minnesota tax credit equal to the amount paid for FBM tuition, up to a maximum of \$1,500. This tax credit is available for up to three years.

Full eligibility requirements and application materials can be found on the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit web page. Questions may be directed to Jenny Heck at [Jenny.Heck@state.mn.us](mailto:Jenny.Heck@state.mn.us) or 651-201-6316.

Save the Date!



## DENNISON DAYS

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## Minnesota's New Flag

The Minnesota state legislature has plans to approve the new design for the state flag and seal of Minnesota on May 11, 2024. It is a radical departure from the existing flag which was adopted in 1893. There were a few small changes over the years. In 1957 the design was tweaked in anticipation of the statehood centennial the next year. The nineteen stars, signifying the 19th state of the Union, were moved inside the emblem and the red sash removed from the bottom of the design. Again in 1983 the color of the flag was changed from royal blue to medium blue. In 1989, Lee Herold, of Rochester designed and proposed a new design he called the North Star flag, but the legislators declined to act on it.

In the current design of the Minnesota state seal and flag a Native American rides on horseback in the background, symbolizing Minnesota's Native American heritage, while a pioneer uses a plow in the foreground. There is a sunset on the western horizon. The straight horizon line reflects the plains covering much of Minnesota. The Native American is riding southward. The native's horse and spear and the pioneer's ax, rifle, and plow represent tools of daily life. The only interaction between the figures is one observing the other. The tools used by the Native Amer-



ican and the farmer represent the tools used for labor and hunting, while the stump symbolizes the taming of the land and the importance of the lumber industry to Minnesota in 1858. The Mississippi River and St. Anthony Falls are depicted in the revised seal to note the importance of these resources in transportation, industry, and the settling of the state. The furrowing of the ground by the plow represents the submission of the land to the pioneer. The plow also symbolizes agriculture's importance to Minnesota and its future. The waterfalls are not on the original state seal. Beyond the falls on the seal are three pine trees representing the state tree (the Norway pine) and the three pine regions of the state: the St. Croix, Mississippi, and Lake Superior.

Certain individuals take issue with the current flag over social complaints. Some believe a flag should be very basic and easy to read design. Others feel that the existing design is fine and not to be messed with. Feel free to contact us and express your opinions on the subject.



CURRENT FLAG



NEW FLAG



CURRENT SEAL



NEW SEAL



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## Lieske: The latest on Minnesota's new flag and seal, Red Flag laws, and earned sick time

A few weeks ago, Minnesota's State Emblems Redesign Commission settled on new designs for our flag and seal. I have been getting quite a bit of emails and calls about both.

Judging by that feedback, you likely are not thrilled with the new flag. I certainly understand your frustration. I don't think the flag needed to change either, nor do I take seriously the idea that the previous flag and seal were racist. The flag and seal were our shared history. Now we risk losing that history.

And though I do not believe we needed to change the flag, the commission missed the mark with the design they chose. We need a flag that more properly represents Minnesota as a whole.

The seal design did seem to be quite popular with the general public. I know there was an effort to simply use the new seal design on the new flag, but the commission's voting members resisted that effort.

One thing to note: the new seal does appear

to violate state law, which prohibits "Symbols, emblems, or likenesses that represent only a single community or person, regardless of whether real or stylized, may not be included in the final design." I would not be at all surprised to see legal challenges to the design in 2024.

Barring a successful legal challenge, it is almost certain that the new flag and seal designs will become official in the coming months. When Democrats authorized the State Emblems Redesign Commission last session, they did not include a mechanism for public approval or veto, nor do the designs need to be approved by the legislature. The commission will issue a report to the legislature, and that will probably be the end of it.

There is one possible recourse: in theory, the legislature could instruct the commission to try again. So if you have strong feelings, you still have a brief window to let your House members, your Senators, and the governor know.

**RED FLAG, EARNED SICK TIME LAWS TAKE EFFECT**

A number of new laws took effect on Janu-

ary 1. I wanted to provide some information about two that I have heard the most feedback about: the new Extreme Risk Protection Order law, also known as Red Flag, and the new Earned Sick and Safe Time law.

Red Flag law allows courts to issue a temporary order prohibiting someone from possessing firearms if they are deemed a danger to themselves or others based on a petition from law enforcement, family members, or others. If granted, the order could remain in place for up to one year.

There is little evidence that red flag laws effectively prevent gun violence, but my two biggest concerns with this law are about due process. First, the burden of proof for issuing these orders is low and the accused is often unaware of the petition or unable to defend themselves. Although penalties exist for false petitions, they are difficult to prove, meaning lawful gun owners could lose their Second Amendment rights through abuse of the system. Second, once a petition is granted, the accused must provide a written request to terminate it and demonstrate clear and convinc-

ing evidence they are not a danger. In other words, the accused is guilty until they can prove themselves innocent. That is not how our judicial system is supposed to work.

The new Earned Sick and Safe Time law requires all Minnesota employers, regardless of size, to provide paid time off for employees to care for themselves or family members. While expanded paid leave is a worthwhile goal, this one-size-fits-all government mandate could have unintended negative consequences - such as reduced hours or wages or even job losses - for workers at small businesses that struggle to afford the new required benefits.

Contact me

Your feedback, ideas, and concerns are what allow me to serve you to the best of my ability. Please share your thoughts with me any time at [sen.bill.lieske@senate.mn](mailto:sen.bill.lieske@senate.mn) or 651-296-5019.

I would also love it if you follow my new, official Facebook page here: <https://www.fb.com/SenatorLieske>.

It is a privilege to serve you!

### DUNDAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Monday, January 8, 2024 7:00 p.m. City Hall

Present: Mayor Glenn Switzer, Councilors Ashley Gallagher, Luke LaCroix, Grant Modory, Luke Swartwood

Staff: City Engineer Dustin Tipp, City Administrator/Clerk Jenelle Teppen

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Switzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Modory, second by Swartwood, to approve the agenda. Motion Carried Unanimously (MCU)

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- Regular Minutes of December 11, 2023
- Resolution 2024-01 A Resolution Designating Depositories and Establishing Procedures
  - for Depositing and Investing Funds
  - Name Official Newspaper - Faribault Daily News
  - 2024 Salary Adjustments
  - Disbursements - December 6- 20, 2023 - \$99,815.55
  - Disbursements - December 21 - January 4, 2024 \$36,848.73

Motion by LaCroix, second by Gallagher, to approve the consent agenda as follows: MCU

#### REGULAR AGENDA

- Appoint Acting Mayor
  - Motion by Switzer, second by LaCroix, to approve Modory as Mayor Pro Tem. MCU
- Appoint Officers and Members of Boards, Commissions, Committees
  - Motion by Switzer, second by Swartwood to approve the following appointments:
    - Switzer to a three-year term to NAFRS
    - Gallagher to a one-year term to the PRAB
    - Gallagher and Switzer to the MTSTJPB
    - Swartwood to a four-year term to the Planning Commission
    - Modory to a one-year term to the Planning Commission
- Appoint Council Members to City Council Committees
  - Motion by Switzer, second by LaCroix, to approve the following Council committees and appointments as recommended by Mayor Switzer:
    - Glenn Switzer and Luke Swartwood to the Finance and Legislation Committee;
    - Luke LaCroix and Grant Modory to the Human Resource Committee;
    - Ashley Gallagher and Luke Swartwood to the Public Safety Committee;
    - Grant Modory and Ashley Gallagher to the Public Works Committee;
    - Glenn Switzer and Luke LaCroix to the Business Development Committee;
    - Jenelle Teppen, City Administrator/Clerk, to all standing committees. MCU
- Announcements
  - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 22 and February 12, 2024 at 7 PM City Hall
  - Park & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting - Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7 PM City Hall
- Special Planning Commission Meeting - Monday, January 22, 2024 at 6 PM City Hall
- Adjourn
  - Motion by LaCroix, second by Gallagher, to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 PM. MCU

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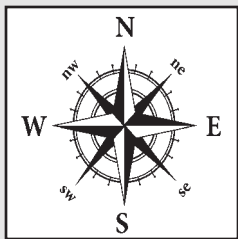
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Back Home on the River



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.*

This is a picture of the Paris Landing bridge. It connects the Land between the Lakes area with the western part of the state of Tennessee. The bridge spans a mile over the Tennessee River and the widest point of Kentucky Lake. It is beautiful on a sunny day and so impressive to see all that water in both directions. This is where we live in Tennessee. Every time I come home down here, I love to look out over the bridge and take in the sight.

One afternoon as we were driving home over the bridge we saw something startling appear beside our car. A Blackhawk helicopter began rising above the bridge to our left. There were two military UH-60's flying at water level beside the bridge. We watched as they landed in an open field in Paris Landing state park. Being curious we turned in and parked in the lot. It was some kind of family of servicemen gathering and lots of kids were waiting to see their dads get out. Fort Campbell, home of the 101st Airborne is only thirty-miles away.

The bridge has quite a rise to accommodate the daily barge traffic and the kid in me couldn't resist the urge to accelerate the Corvette every time we approached the bridge. If you exceed 100 mph it feels like you are in a plane taking off when you reach the top of the bridge. I must not have been the only one doing that because one day I saw a Tennessee Highway Patrol parked by the marina side of the bridge. Nothing like the sight of a squad car to slow you down.

About ten miles upstream is the Danville transfer elevator. We enjoy boating to the site

and the bridge can still be seen in the distance for almost the entire trip. The Danville elevator was a five-story concrete structure that transferred cargo from rail car to paddle wheelers over a century ago. When the lake was formed by the construction of the dam in 1941, the elevator was abandoned and left to stand in the middle of the lake. The arial lift bridge was also removed at that time and a ferry provides passage for automobile traffic across the river there for one dollar per trip.

Twenty-four hours each day barges travel under the bridge as they haul grain, coal and gravel up and down the river. One learns to stay between the green and red buoys on the river, just like the barges do. The dam controls the water level and at winter pool it is six feet lower than summer pool. Unsuspecting boaters during the cold months can suddenly find the bottom of the river in the middle of the lake, and run aground if not careful. We had that happen one fine afternoon last winter as we were exploring the cove near Cypress Bay Marina. We were at least 200 feet from shore as we came around the bend and suddenly we were looking at the rocky floor of Kentucky Lake. I hit the trim and raised the prop out of the water and after further investigation reversed the boat and backed out to deeper water.

The wind coming off the nearly two-mile wide lake can create some substantial waves crashing into the bridge pilings and there is a breakwater at the entrance of the Paris Landing marina to calm the waters. On a windy day there will be over two-foot swells to contend with heading into the marina. The first day we used the boat launch there we encountered quite rough water returning to dock. I rode a wave in looking at the trough and thinking it could easily swamp us. While I tried to keep the bow straight, I could hear my wife yelling "Woo Hoo". She was enjoying the adventure much more that I was. After that we started using Gray's Landing on the other side of the Lake where the water was much calmer.

When we first moved here the Paris Landing Lodge was being demolished to make way for a new facility. The locals were up in arms because the 70 year-old lodge and restaurant was a sentimental place in their hearts. It took about five years to complete the new one but it is a beautiful resort on the lake with a restaurant which is out favorite place to eat and just down the road from our home.

## A Minnesotan: Epiphany



By RosaLin Alcoser

And once again it's a new year. I could talk about something along the lines of it being New Year's, however, I did that last year. Instead let me tell you all about the much more existing holiday that comes right after the New Year which would be Epiphany otherwise known as Kings Day or the 12th day of Christmas.

As I've mentioned before my transplanted hispanic family from the south celebrates Christmas from start to finish. Meaning that starting on Christmas day we celebrate the 12 days of Christmas until January 6th when we celebrate the Epiphany.

Epiphany is when the three kings, or three wisemen, arrive to see baby Jesus

and present him with the gifts.

Growing up this meant that my family spent those 12 days playing games and enjoying a much needed break after the rush of getting everything ready for Christmas Eve services, and some years Christmas Day services, in addition to all of the extra things at the church leading up to Christmas.

In my Belizean father's traditions Christmas is when the big Christmas dinner is had and stockings appear, however, presents don't appear until Epiphany when the three kings bring them.

When my older sister and I were children we would often get some presents on Christmas Day and the rest on Epiphany. Or in years where our parents worked a lot on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day nearly everything would be saved for Epiphany.

For us this was also a day for spiced cookies in the shape of a star, to represent the star that guided the Three Kings to Bethlehem. We didn't make them every year and often we would make a pan of ginger bread instead. However, I remember these cookies being a type of crisp ginger cookie.

Now that we're adults and our family is spread out we don't celebrate in the same way as when we were children. However, we do still celebrate the 12 days of Christmas and always make sure to do something individually while wishing one another a Happy Epiphany.

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- THEME: WINTER FUN
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|---|---|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mulligatawny and gazpacho, e.g.</li> <li>6. Half of NFL</li> <li>9. "Oscar" of sports</li> <li>13. Relating to sight</li> <li>14. Sargasso _____</li> <li>15. Dugout glider</li> <li>16. Not fresh</li> <li>17. First H in HRH</li> <li>18. Face-to-face exams</li> <li>19. *Ice fishing shelter</li> <li>21. "'Polar" activity</li> <li>23. *Type of Christmas tree</li> <li>24. Diagonal</li> <li>25. Tax return professional, acr.</li> <li>28. Kind of cola</li> <li>30. Diaphragm spasm</li> <li>35. Scepters' partners</li> <li>37. Of two minds</li> <li>39. _____ Jean Baker</li> <li>40. *Rabbit's winter one is white</li> <li>41. Sheik's bevy?</li> <li>43. Type of dam</li> <li>44. Butcher's refuse</li> <li>46. Etna's emission</li> <li>47. Secret disclosure</li> <li>48. Stellar</li> <li>50. Chap or fella</li> <li>52. Diabetic ketoacidosis, acr.</li> <li>53. A or O, to blood</li> <li>55. Unit of electrical resistance</li> <li>57. *Finger warmers</li> <li>60. *Certain sleigh ride</li> <li>63. Courtroom excuse</li> <li>64. Gobbled up</li> <li>66. Train runners</li> <li>68. Land of taekwondo</li> <li>69. "Caroline in the City" Thompson</li> <li>70. Relating to Scandinavia</li> <li>71. Not home</li> <li>72. *Last winter mo.</li> <li>73. Klondike river</li> </ol> | <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acronym in a bottle</li> <li>2. Chooses</li> <li>3. Colorado's neighbor</li> <li>4. a.k.a. pilau</li> <li>5. Like a longer route?</li> <li>6. Grayish</li> <li>7. ATM extra</li> <li>8. Carpus, pl.</li> <li>9. Bring home the bacon</li> <li>10. Unforeseen obstacle</li> <li>11. *Skier's aid</li> <li>12. Da or oui</li> <li>15. Jenny McCarthy to Melissa McCarthy</li> <li>20. Engagement, archaic</li> <li>22. _____di-dah</li> <li>24. Onslaught</li> <li>25. *Warming drink</li> <li>26. Faculty members, for short</li> <li>27. Behind a stern</li> <li>29. *Frosty's eyes</li> <li>31. Type of hood</li> <li>32. Apollo of "Rocky"</li> <li>33. Inuit skin boat</li> <li>34. *a.k.a. anorak</li> <li>36. *Betelgeuse, e.g.</li> <li>38. *Snow, in Italy</li> <li>42. Lord's estate</li> <li>45. Lithuania's neighbor</li> <li>49. NaOH</li> <li>51. Like a rosebush</li> <li>54. Church song</li> <li>56. Meow, alt. sp.</li> <li>57. _____in-the-dark</li> <li>58. Milano moolah</li> <li>59. Toe the line</li> <li>60. Product of lacrimation</li> <li>61. Michael Douglas' dad</li> <li>62. "The Sun _____ Rises"</li> <li>63. *What clues #4 and #34 Down have in common</li> <li>65. High affair</li> <li>67. Barack Obama, pre-pres.</li> </ol> |
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