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JANUARY 31, 2024

Volume 21 • Issue 1

Lent 2024 at Dennison Lutheran and Vang

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Soup suppers begin at 6:00, and worship is at 7:00. All soup suppers and worships will be at Dennison Lutheran.

Come worship and pray with Holden Evening Prayer. The Lenten focus this year will be "Alive in the Adventure of Jesus."

Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday

Feb. 21 – "Making it Real"

Feb. 28 – "A New Identity"

March 6 – "A New Path to Aliveness"

March 13 –

"Why We Worry, Why We Judge"

March 20 – "The Choice is Yours"

All are welcome!

Chili Cook Off and Live Music part of 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 an-

nounced 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.

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.

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2023 Chili Cookoff

Announcements

• **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

Supporting Our Local FFA & Celebrating National FFA Week February 17-24, 2024

Randolph FFA Chapter Highlights

Submitted by Randolph FFA

It was a busy 2023 for the Randolph FFA, and 2024 will continue to keep the group busy learning and serving! . Some highlights from 2023 include the FFA food stand that we brought to different locations with the Minnesota Corn and Soybean Growers Association, leadership camps, the Children's Barnyard at the Dakota County Fair. Randolph also placed as Reserve Champion Overall Market and Breeding Livestock exhibitors at the Minnesota State Fair. With the start of the new school year came the start of our monthly all chapter meetings and outreach classes. New to this year, our officer team has come up with a new plan to get more members to attend this class by having guest speakers give a different lesson for the night. Some potential topics are corn/biodiesel, floral design, and dairy production. In October, our chapter raised \$17,100 for our annual Corn Drive for Camp Courage. A big thank you to everyone who donated for this cause. In November, we sent eight members to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

(continued on page 7)

Happy New Year!

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



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

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.

(continued on page 8)

Save the Date!



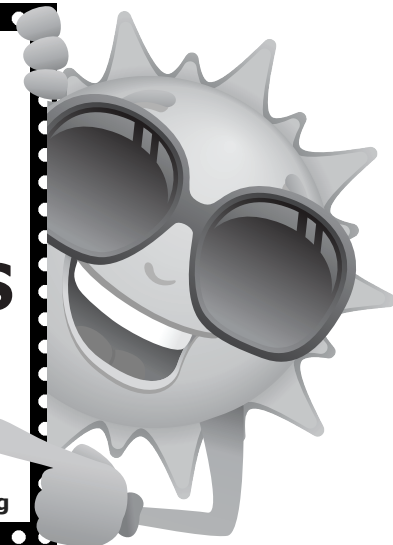
DENNISON DAYS JUNE 21-22, 2024

Be Part of the 2024 Celebration!

Contact The Dennison Lions Club

Meetings Held The Third Tuesday of The Month

Watch for updates at www.dennisondays.org



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 Christmas, 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 assured 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.

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.

(continued on page 3)



Mainstreet Messenger

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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

February 4th: Vang 9 am (Sunday School)
Dennison 10:30 am

February 11th: Vang 9 am; Dennison 10:30 am

February 18th: Vang 9 am (Sunday School)
Dennison 10:30 am
(Annual Meeting 11:30 at Fireside)

February 25th: Vang 9 am; Dennison 10:30 am

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 Edwardson, 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

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.

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

ST. JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Wheeling Township) 19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault
Gary Liker, Pastor • 507-330-0025
www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info
Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

NEW LIFE CHURCH

Colin Reuter, Pastor
525 Beverly St., Wanamingo
9:00a.m. Sunday School for all ages;
10:00a.m. Worship Service
7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

HOLDEN-DALE PARISH

Pastor Dustin Haider • 507-789-6677
Email: holdensecretary@gmail.com
Worship schedule found at:
www.holdenlutheranchurch.org
Holden/Dale Facebook



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 1)

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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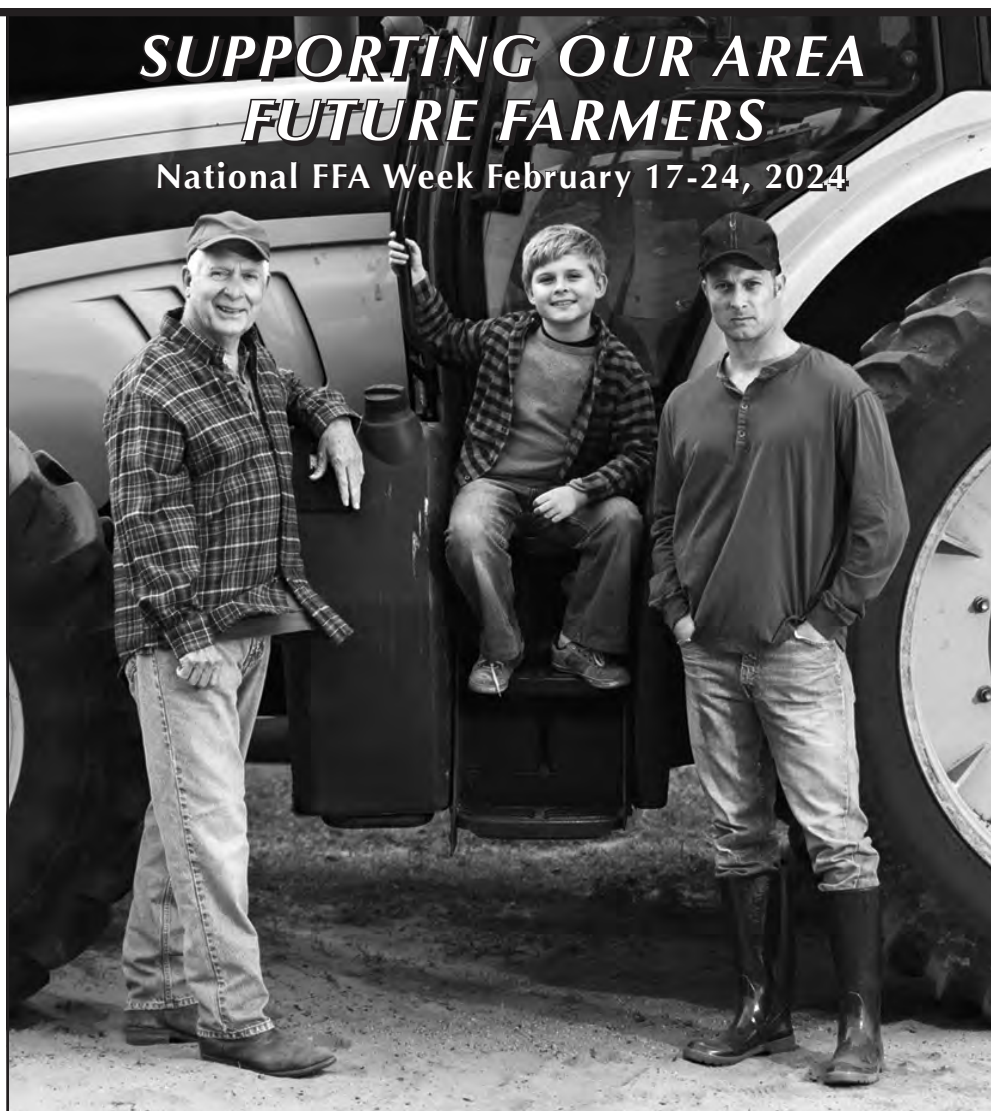
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Cynthia Louise Grisim

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 Claire, 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, 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 Lorentz

Edward Lorentz, age 88, of Cannon Falls, passed away on Saturday, January 13, 2024, surrounded by his family at the Mayo Clinic Health System Cannon Falls.

Ed was born on March 29, 1935, in Hastings, the son of

Frank and Mathilda (Schaffer) Lorentz.

He graduated from Cannon Falls High School in 1954. On June 22, 1957, Ed was married to Mary Ries at St. John the Baptist Church in Vermillion. As a young man, Ed worked for the Roiger-Freeberg Grocery Store until 1963. He then worked a few years for St. Paul Ammonia plant. In 1968, Ed and Mary purchased the Bremer Locker and founded Lorentz Meats, which they ran until he "semi-retired" in 1998.

Ed was active in his community. He served over twenty years in the U.S. Army Reserve,

retiring in 1977 as a Command Sargent Major. Ed was a longtime member of St. Pius V Catholic Church. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Cannon Falls Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, and the American Legion. Ed served on the Cannon Falls School Board. He was active in the Minnesota Association of Meat Processors, serving as President in 1981. Ed and Mary served as Co-Executive Secretaries for this organization for 13 years. He was active as a

volunteer for the Cannon Falls Food Shelf and the Cannon Valley Fair. Ed enjoyed woodworking, sharing good food, and travel.

Survivors include his wife Mary, sons Tom (Beth) Lorentz, Rob (Julie) Lorentz, and Mike (Brenda Myran) Lorentz; grandchildren Andrew, Katherine, Jill (Tommy), Jen (Dan), Maya, Simone, and Thomas; great-grandchildren Edsel, Alexi, Kaiya, and Katara; sister-in-law Kay Lorentz; as well as many nieces and nephews. Ed was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers and sisters Sr. Mary Bona, Nick (Martha) Lorentz, Jerome (Marie) Lorentz, Ann (Irvin)

Freeberg, Francis Lorentz, Joe (Mary Jane) Lorentz, Mary (Carl) Hoffman, and Peter (Pearl) Lorentz.

There was a visitation on Thursday, January 18, from 4:00–7:00 p.m. at St. Pius V Catholic Church, 410 Colvill St. W., Cannon Falls. There was a memorial service, also at St. Pius, on Friday, January 19, at 4:00 p.m., with a visitation one hour prior to the service. A meal followed the Memorial Service on Friday.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the St. Pius V Catholic Church, the Cannon Falls Food Shelf, or Catholic Charities.

KABA KASH NOTICE

The Kenyon Commercial Club is disbanding, thus **discontinuing the KABA KASH program.** Any outstanding KABA KASH will **ONLY** be redeemed for cash by bringing directly to Security State Bank of Kenyon. **DEADLINE** for cash refund of KABA KASH is **5/1/2024.** **NO KABA KASH will be honored after this date!**

Traxler Law PLLC

traxlerlaw.com

Ann Traxler
Attorney

PRACTICE AREAS

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Dustin William Schewe

Dustin William Schewe, 52, of Nerstrand, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday morning, January 18, 2024, at home.



Born on May 30, 1971, in Albert Lea, MN, Dustin's life was a testament to the power of love, laughter, and dedication.

Growing up on a farm near Emmons, MN, Dustin developed a strong work ethic and a love for the outdoors that would stay with him throughout his life. He graduated from Emmons High School in 1989 and went on to earn his degree from Moorhead State University in 1993. It was there that he met the love of his life, Angie Dold. The two were united in marriage on September 13, 1997, in Elrosa, MN, and began their journey together.

Dustin's career in corrections began at the facility in Moose Lake, MN. He transferred from there to Faribault and then to Red Wing. In July of 1998, Dustin and Angie settled in Northfield, MN, where they started their family and built a life filled with joy and purpose. The family recently moved to Nerstrand, where Dustin continued to be a pillar of strength and support.

Dustin was a man of many talents and interests. His fun-loving spirit and big heart made him a joy to be around. An avid fisherman, he found solace and excitement in the great outdoors. His hands were rarely still, as he was always working on cars or fixing something around the house. Dustin spent many days on

the family farm helping with different things. One of his greatest joys was going back to where he grew up. Dustin's willingness to lend a hand was unmatched, and he was often the first to offer help to friends and neighbors in need. Above all, family was everything to Dustin. He was a loving husband, a supportive father, and a dependable son and brother. His presence brought warmth and laughter into every room, and his absence will be deeply felt by all who knew him.

Dustin's life was marked by his loving nature, sense of humor, and handy skills. These attributes were the foundation of the countless cherished memories that his family and friends will hold onto. Dustin's legacy is one of love, laughter, and the willingness to help others, and it will continue to live on through the lives of those he touched. As we say goodbye to Dustin, we celebrate the time we had with him and the impact he made on our lives. His spirit will forever be a guiding light for his family, and his memory will be treasured in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Dustin is survived by his loving wife, Angie; their children, Luke (Matti Prayfrock) of Nerstrand, Mackenzie (Joshua Hoadley) of Inver Grove Heights, and Sophia of Nerstrand; his parents, Virgil Schewe of Albert Lea and Charlene (Dean) Anderson of Osage; his in-laws, Kenneth and Diane Dold of Sauk Centre; his sister, Christine (Kevin) Wilson of New Braunfels, TX; sisters-in-law, Michele (Trevor) Moritz of Sartell and Kerri (Ben) Dirkes of Sartell; brother-in-law, Craig (Jenny) Dold of Sauk Centre; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 11 AM, Wednesday, January 24, 2024, the Church of

St. Dominic in Northfield. Visitation was from 4-7 PM, Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home in Northfield.

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

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

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 Gar-

dens 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



NATIONAL FFA WEEK February 17-24, 2024



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

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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.

Beverly Fay (Flom) Sviggum

Beverly Fay (Flom) Sviggum died at the age of 92 at Cannon Rivers Senior Living on January 25, 2024 where she had lived and had been lovingly cared for since July 2023. After her marriage in 1951, she and Peder lived on the farm in Sogn Valley where they



raised their children. Bev was a farming partner, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, church and community member. Losing her husband Peder of 36 years in 1987 was difficult. Living as a widow for the next 37 years brought strength and perseverance to the matriarch of the Sviggum family.

She deeply loved her family, neighbors, and friends. According to her, there were none better. She did not drive for 25 years and she, as well as her family, were extremely grateful for her "village" who helped with rides, groceries, and visits.

Her favorite musical group was the Statler Brothers and, as they sang, she relished her "place here in this world" and gave "the very best she could". All one had to do was taste her lemon meringue pie or cookies to know her best was blue ribbon worthy, but her contributions went far beyond her baking skills. Bev's life echoed the song, "thank you world for lettin' me contribute to the cause".

She was known throughout the community as Grandma Sviggum and continued to support K-W activities even after her children and grandchildren graduated. She loved attending games, concerts, and other K-W school functions. Her support of the school, Vang Lutheran Church, and community events was steadfast. For decades Bev was the lutefisk expert at Vang's annual event in October. She was a long-time leader in 4-H and enjoyed being part of her Extension group.

Bev would dash off if there was any opportunity to see friends, go to a ballgame, or get ice cream. She often said a clean house was a sign of a misspent life. The dishes could wait. She loved her books, one which emphasized taking the time to be with people and cherish relationships; she knew that was the most important gift she could offer.

While she is no longer with us, Beverly's legacy looms large in the many lives she touched, especially in her five children: Steve (Deb), Jim (Sandy), Dick (Ann), Beth (Steve), and Missy (Dan). Her 11 grandchildren were so fortunate to have such an involved, caring, and loving grandma: Hans (Rachel), Erik (Cortney), Marit (Eric), Peder, Siri, Connor (Rachel), Michael, Kasey, Colin, Will, and Riley. She was blessed to know and be loved by 15 great-grandchildren. She will be deeply missed by her family.

The future of not seeing Bev, giving her a hug, or having her say "Love you, bye", is a sad one, but her love will live on in our

hearts.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said the purpose of life is to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well. Beverly made a difference.

Visitation will be at Vang Lutheran Church on Friday, February 2nd, 2024 from 4PM to 8PM. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 11AM at Vang Lutheran Church with a visitation one hour prior to the service. The Reverend Paul Graham will be officiating. Interment will be in the Vang Lutheran Church Cemetery in Dennison. In memory of Beverly, the family requests that you send flowers to your loved ones.

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

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Supporting Our Local FFA & Celebrating National FFA Week February 17-24

(continued from page 1)

While there they toured Fair Oaks Farm, attended several sessions, went to the rodeo,

Chili Cook Off and Live Music part of Flake Out Festival Saturday, Feb. 3rd

(continued from page 1)

Cook up your best chili recipe and bring it down to city hall at 12 Noon. Tasting and voting 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.

and explored career options in the college and career fair. This year for fruit sales we sold over 4000 items around the community. Also, with the help of members and alumni, we seamlessly unloaded a semi-load of fruit and two trucks, organized everything and sent it all out without any hiccups. In December, our General Livestock Evaluation team placed third overall at the National Western Roundup in Denver, Colorado (team members included: Katie Radman, Ella Hegland, Maria Hegland, and Wyatt Herman). Looking forward, we have a few Career Development Experiences and Leadership Development Experiences being sent to the Minnesota State FFA Convention in April. For CDEs, our General Livestock and Dairy Evaluation teams qualified for state, as well as Mattea Quigley and Jaelyn Holz qualifying individually for Dairy Handling. For LDEs, Gradyn Taylor and Max Kuhn are going for the Creed Speaking contest so far. What a tremendous few months! We hope to make the next ones even better.

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 com-



munity 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, execution and celebration that occurs with developing activities and events for FFA Week."

(continued on page 8)

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Supporting Our Local FFA & Celebrating National FFA Week February 17-24

(continued from page 7)

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. It shows that we are doing our part. We help them with the resources they need to get that far."

In every state in the nation, alumni and supporters chapters work to create environments where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

They are raising funds to send members to the Washington Leadership Conference, hosting students with supervised agricultural

experiences (SAEs), helping to advocate for their local chapters and more. 2024 marks the 53rd anniversary of the National FFA Alumni Association. Randolph FFA is also

fortunate to have a very active alumni as well as great community support.

Thank you, alumni and supporters!

Happy New Year!

(continued from page 1)

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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The Savvy Senior

Are you at risk of developing Glaucoma?



By Jim Miller

What can you tell me about the eye disease glaucoma? My older brother was recently diagnosed with it and lost some of his vision, but never had a clue anything was wrong. Could I be at risk too? --Stressed Sibling

Dear Stressed, Yes! Having an immediate family member with glaucoma significantly increases your risks of developing it, but there are other risk factors you need to be aware of too. Here's what you should know.

What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that

can damage the optic nerve and cause vision loss and blindness if it's not treated. This typically happens because the fluids in the eye don't drain properly, causing increased pressure in the eyeball.

But the scary thing about glaucoma is that with no early warning signs or pain, most people that have it don't realize it until their vision begins to deteriorate.

While there are two main types of glaucoma, the most common form that typically affects older adults is called open-angle glaucoma. This disease develops very slowly when the eye's drainage canals become clogged over time, leading to blind spots in the peripheral or side vision. By the time you notice it, the permanent damage is already done.

Are You at Risk?

It's estimated that more than 3 million Americans have glaucoma today, but that number is expected to surge to more than 6.3 million by 2050. If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions, you're at increased risk of developing it.

Are you African American, Hispanic/Latino American or Asian American?

Are you over age 60?

Do you have an immediate family member with glaucoma?

Do you have diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, migraines or have extreme nearsightedness or farsightedness?

Have you had a past eye injury?

Have you used corticosteroids (for example, eye drops, pills, inhalers, and creams) for long periods of time?

What to Do

Early detection is the key to guarding against glaucoma. So, if you're age 40 or older and have any of the previously mentioned risk factors, especially if you're African American, you need to get a comprehensive eye examination every 18 to 24 months. Or, if you notice some loss of peripheral vision, get to the eye doctor right away.

If you're a Medicare beneficiary, annual eye examinations are covered for those at high risk for glaucoma. Or if you don't have vision coverage, contact EyeCare America, a national public service program that provides

free glaucoma eye exams through a pool of more than 4,600 volunteer ophthalmologists. Visit AAO.org/eyecare-america or call 877-887-6327 to learn more.

While there's currently no cure for glaucoma, most cases can be treated with prescription eye drops, which reduce eye pressure and can prevent further vision loss. It cannot, however, restore vision already lost from glaucoma. If eye drops don't work, your doctor may recommend oral medication, laser treatments, incisional surgery or a combination of these methods.

For more information on glaucoma, visit the National Eye Institute at NEI.nih.gov, and the Glaucoma Research Foundation at Glaucoma.org.



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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 additional 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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Flake Out Festival & Winter Parade

Saturday, February 3, 2024

9:00 AM Euchre at Fireside on the Patio, 100% Payout
Bring partner if possible, not required. \$20 team entry.
Questions contact Jen at 507-649-0602

ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF CONTEST

\$5.00/entry. Tasters will pay \$5.00 to taste all entries/vote.

12:00 PM Bring Entry to City Hall

12:30 PM-1:30 PM Tasting/Voting

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

3:00 PM Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo at City Hall
\$30/packet, 10 games, designer purses and \$150 gift cards

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!

Grand Prize - \$500.00 Cash
2nd Prize - \$250 Cash **3rd Prize - \$100 Cash**
Plus Many Additional Prizes from Local Area Businesses

Raffle Drawing held at 9p.m. at the Fireside Lounge. Need not be present to win.
Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees. Complete list of additional prizes available upon request.

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Dennison Lions Flake Out Festival Raffle

Saturday, February 3

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for \$5.00 for your chance to win!

Grand Prize \$500.00 Cash!
2nd Prize - \$250 Cash
3rd Prize - \$100 Cash

**Plus Many Additional Prizes
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Raffle Drawing held at 9p.m. at the Fireside Lounge.
Need not be present to win.
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Vitamin D more effective than flu shot!



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

11% of U.S. Children are diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). ADHD is characterized by patterns of inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity that interferes with daily living and learning. Recent research has shown that aromatherapy may be a potential helpful tool for children

with ADHD. The essential oil vetiver shows the most promise as it showed changes in brain activity when inhaled. Children who inhaled vetiver three times day for 30 days showed improved brain wave patterns and behavior and did better in school. When the oil is inhaled, microdroplets are carried to an area of the brain that is the center for reason, emotion and smell. The droplets also make their way to the lungs where they enter the circulatory system. Brain activity improvements were measured via EEG (electro-encephalograph) scans.

Studies are showing the link between refined sugar intake and cancer risk. All dietary carbohydrates are digested into sugars called glucose. Compared to natural sugars, the fructose found in fruits and honey, refined sugars and many carbohydrate starches cause an issue in the gut where an endotoxin is produced. The endotoxin destroys mitochondrial cell function which then results in cancer metabolism. This backs up the claim that cancer cells feed on sugar. But, now we know not all sugars, just the refined ones. These are the sugars that are added to foods.

For example, candy, chocolate, ice cream, soft drinks, etc. A study published in 2014 showed that cancer patients that drank two or more servings of sugar-sweetened soft drinks had a 67% chance of cancer recurrence and death compared to those who drank less than two servings per month. All cancer patients should avoid all refined sugars and only satisfy their sweet tooth with fruits and honey.

A consistent review of past and current research is providing evidence that vitamin D deficiency may actually be a cause of colds and flu. Science is now confirming that vitamin D optimization boosts immunity and cuts the rate of colds and flu. Vitamin D supplementation is actually more effective than the flu shot. Studies show that if a person is severely vitamin D deficient (if you are never exposed to sunshine and you do not take a vitamin D supplement, you more than likely are), vitamin D supplementation is 10 times more effective than a flu vaccine. A recent scientific review of randomized clinical controlled studies confirmed that vitamin D supplementation boosts immune system function and cuts rates of cold and flu. People who took vitamin D daily were less likely to report acute respiratory infections like influenza or the common cold.

Chiropractic for kids! Chiropractic care is a 100% all natural approach to building and

maintaining your child's health from birth to adulthood. Here are just a few reasons why chiropractic care makes perfect sense for kids. The number one reason is immune system health. Periodic spinal check-ups remove neural impulse blockages that come from fixated or stuck spinal bones. This decrease in nerve impulses inhibits function and performance of the immune system. Many studies show that spinal alignment issues contribute neural factors that influence immune system function. The number two reason is spinal curvature problems. As a small toddler learning to walk, many bumps and falls are taken. These bumps and falls can cause spinal bones to become fixated in the wrong position. Once the spinal bones are not aligned properly and the child continues to grow or has growth spurts, the spine can grow crooked which causes a curvature issue like scoliosis. Once children become older and even more active (think sports, bike riding, skateboarding etc.), alignment issues from these activities are even more common. In today's society, what child does not spend a lot of time on their phone, tablet or video games? This forward slumped posture not only causes postural issues, but tension on the spinal muscles which then causes misalignment leading to further curvature problems, not to mention neck and back discomfort or headaches.

DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE MESSENGER?

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Flake Out Festival ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF CONTEST

Saturday, February 3

\$5.00 Entry Fee

Tasters will pay \$5.00 to taste all entries/vote.

- 12:00 PM Bring Entry to Dennison City Hall
- 12:30-1:30 PM Tasting/Voting
- 2:00 PM Cookoff Winner Announced (1st & 2nd Payout)

Questions?
Contact Lion President
Diane at 612-532-0268



Flake Out Festival

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Saturday, February 3, 2024
9:00 a.m. at Fireside on the Patio

\$2000 Team Entry **100% Payout**

Bring partner if possible, not required.
Questions? Contact Jen at 507-649-0602.

Growth Continues for Minnesota FFA

By Minnesota FFA



The Minnesota FFA Foundation continues the important work supporting the development of young people through Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) programs and the

FFA.

Minnesota FFA continues to grow both in the number of schools offering AFNR/FFA programs and the number of students enrolled. Thirty new programs have been added in the past four years, bringing the number of Minnesota schools that offer AFNR/FFA programs to more than 220. The growth doesn't stop there, as numerous schools are actively

engaged in the chartering process to add an AFNR/FFA program for the upcoming school year.

"We invite individuals and businesses to make a start-of-the-year donation for 2024, supporting the development of students through the Minnesota FFA Foundation. Donors play an important role, in removing barriers so that the more than 40,000 Minnesota students enrolled in AFNR classes have the opportunity to prepare for careers in agriculture and develop the skills to be leaders for their local community," shares Val Aarsvold, executive director, the Minnesota FFA Foundation.

Support provided to the Minnesota FFA Foundation is directed toward four main areas, including Youth Leadership, Teacher Preparation, Scholarships, and the Minnesota FFA State Convention.

One-time gifts, as well as ongoing and planned gifts, are welcome. If you would like to discuss giving options, contact Val Aarsvold at 507-259-3586 or visit www.mnf-foundation.org.



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Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin

How to Make Friends in a New Community: Being Helpful

By Claudia Vanderborght

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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Once again the net proceeds from this years Minnesota Country Salute CD will go to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation and Minnesota Wheels of Honor. Starting Veteran's Day you'll be able buy your copy at any one of these locations and make sure the service men and women and first responders of Minnesota have the support they need.

CD Available at:



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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.



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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 Be-

ginning 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

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

Updated Minnesota Groundwater Protection Rule Map Now Available

Restrictions begin September 1 of each year

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has issued an updated map that will help farmers across the state comply with the Groundwater Protection Rule. The rule restricts fall application of nitrogen fertilizer in areas vulnerable to groundwater contamination, and it outlines steps to reduce the severity of contamination in areas where nitrate is already elevated in public water supply wells.

The MDA has made changes to the Fall Nitrogen Fertilizer Application Restrictions Map which is accessible on the MDA website. Three Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs) were removed from the map, and none were added. Two of the DWSMAs were found to have non-agricultural sources of nitrate, while the third was removed after further sampling data indicated the nitrate levels were below the threshold for inclusion. Additional information on the fall application restrictions and exceptions to the restrictions can be found on the MDA's website.

The restriction of fall application of nitrogen fertilizer on these acres will begin September 1, 2024. Farmers are encouraged to check the new map prior to fall 2024 to determine if their fields are subject to these restrictions.

For more information on the Groundwater Protection Rule visit www.mda.state.mn.us/nfr.

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 during 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 completed, an approved farm business manage-

ment (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 or 651-201-6316.

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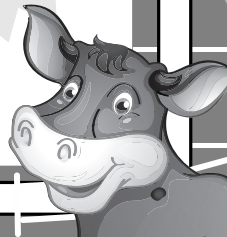


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New Data Sheds Light on Minnesota's Local and Regional Ag Markets

The three-year project led by the MDA and UMN will inform equitable market development

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), University of Minnesota (UMN), and members of the Statewide Cooperative Partnership for Local and Regional Markets have concluded a three-year project to collect baseline data on Minnesota's local and regional agricultural markets. The data, along with a new strategic framework for market development, are now available for public use.

"We are grateful for the many partners that played a role in the Statewide Cooperative Partnership over the last three years," said Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen. "Never before have we had this level of information to guide our work on local and regional markets. The data and

strategic framework that came out of this project provide us with new perspectives on how we can equitably support farmers and producers, retailers, public institutions, and consumers in Minnesota."

Funded by a three-year grant from the USDA Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP), the MDA, UMN, and over 40 partner organizations surveyed Minnesota producers, supply chain partners, and consumers in 2022 to supplement data from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service Agricultural Census.

"The data from our surveys and outreach help tell a more holistic story of the experiences of small and medium-sized farmers in Minnesota and pathways to effectively support them, in a structured way for the first time," said Dr. Hikaru Peterson, the lead researcher for the project and a professor of applied economics in the UMN College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences. "We look forward to using these findings to expand collaborative efforts to strengthen Minnesota's local and regional markets."

Thanks to outreach efforts of partners around the state, the producer survey reached many small, mid-sized and emerging farmers not previously represented in Minnesota's agricultural data. Of the 497 Minnesota producers who completed the survey, only 37% were represented in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. The supply chain survey and consumer survey collected additional information to better understand purchasing factors, preference and demand for Minnesota products, and barriers to buying local.

The Partnership used data from all three surveys to develop a framework of seven priority areas and twenty strategies for building market opportunities for Minnesota producers, supply chains, and consumers. The priority areas include procedural equity; relationship building with tribal nations; outreach, education, and engagement; and built and organizational infrastructure.

Examples of specific strategies under the seven priority areas include:

Provide more technical assistance, training, and information for emerging farmers that are culturally appropriate and offered in multiple languages;

Sustain and expand programming aimed at getting more local food into institutions, retail stores, regional distributors, and places where consumers already shop; and

Collaborate with USDA to increase producer participation in the Census of Agriculture, and identify and invest in ways to collect supplemental data every few years that is needed to support local and regional market development in Minnesota.

The full data reports and action framework can be accessed through the Statewide Cooperative Partnerships website. The MDA and UMN also hosted a webinar to introduce the findings, which can be viewed on the MDA's YouTube channel.

The Statewide Cooperative Partnership will continue to meet regularly to discuss local and regional market data and needs, pursue collaborative approaches to market development and support, and nurture relationships across our food system. These meetings are open to all who are interested in supporting and expanding this work.

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Minnesota-specific Dicamba Herbicide Restrictions Announced for 2024 Growing Season

State restrictions outline date and temperature restrictions

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) today announced that state-specific use restrictions for three dicamba herbicide products will be in place for the 2024 growing season in Minnesota. The restrictions are aimed at curbing off-site movement of the products.

The affected dicamba formulations are Engenia by BASF, Tavium by Syngenta, and XtendiMax by Bayer. These are the only dicamba products labeled for use on dicamba-tolerant soybeans.

The three products will have the following restrictions in Minnesota in 2024:

DATE CUTOFF: No application shall be made south of Interstate 94 after June 12, 2024. North of Interstate 94, use is prohibited after June 30, 2024.

TEMPERATURE CUTOFF: No application shall be made if the air temperature of the field at the time of application is over 85 degrees Fahrenheit or if the National Weather Service's forecasted high temperature for the nearest available location for the day exceeds 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

"These restrictions have been effective over the past two growing seasons at decreasing complaints of off-target movement," said Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen. "These products must be used without impacts on neighboring homes, farms, and gardens. The Minnesota-specific restrictions are based on scientific evidence and have proven to be effective."

During the 2023 growing season, the MDA received 11 formal complaints and four responses to an informal survey, all alleging off-target movement. This is a major decrease from a peak in 2021 which saw a total of 304 formal complaints and survey responses. The MDA implemented the date and temperature restrictions in 2022, which resulted in 32 reports of alleged off-target movement.

There are also other federal requirements for the products that appear on the product labels. They include:

Requiring an approved pH-buffering agent, also known as a volatility reducing agent, be tank mixed with dicamba products prior to all applications;

Requiring a downwind buffer of 240 feet and 310 feet in areas where listed endangered

species are located (visit the EPA website to determine whether a 310-foot buffer is required); and,

Additional recordkeeping items.

In addition to the cutoff dates, Xtendimax and Tavium have crop growth stage cutoffs.

Since dicamba was first registered for use on dicamba-tolerant soybeans in the 2017 growing season, the MDA has fielded complaints each year of alleged off-site movement onto neighboring property. The chemical is highly volatile and can damage non-target plant species through spray drift and/or volatilization. Volatility is influenced by several factors including temperature, relative humidity, rate of application, and crop

stage. The annual totals of complaints were:

- 2023: 15 reports
- 2022: 32
- 2021: 304
- 2020: 128
- 2019: 20
- 2018: 51
- 2017: 249

Engenia, Tavium, and XtendiMax formulations of dicamba are approved for use on dicamba-tolerant soybeans only and are "Restricted Use Pesticides." The dicamba products are only for retail sale to and use by certified applicators.

Pesticide product registrations are renewed on an annual basis in Minnesota.

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New MDA Grant Funding Available for Protecting Livestock

Final date to apply is March 7, 2024

To help Minnesota farmers and ranchers protect livestock from disease and other risks, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering a new grant opportunity to help eligible producers buy and install supplies or equipment that will help prevent disease outbreaks and protect animals not currently covered by existing depredation programs.

The Protecting Livestock Grant Program, also referred to as the Protect Grant, offers one-time competitive grants of up to \$10,000 and requires a 50% match. While all types of livestock operations are eligible to apply, priority consideration will be given to those who produce:

Cervids (farmed elk and deer): Due to new fencing requirements passed during the 2023 legislative session.

Poultry and ratites (ostrich, emu): Due to the ongoing threat of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Since 2022, the most recent outbreak has affected at least 150 poultry operations and more than 6 million birds in Minnesota.

“With risks like chronic wasting disease and HPAI continuing to threaten Minnesota livestock, it’s important for farmers and ranchers to take proactive efforts to protect their animals,” said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. “I encourage all livestock producers to apply for these grant funds to fortify their operations.”

For the purpose of this program, “livestock” includes beef and dairy cattle, swine, poultry, goats, mules, bison, sheep, horses, farmed cervids (deer, elk), ratites (flightless birds including emu), llamas, and honeybees.

Eligible projects include fencing, electronic animal ID systems, air filtration, exclusion systems, Danish entry systems, truck washes, and other strategies to prevent and mitigate disease and other risks.

A total of \$500,000 is available, and the MDA expects to award 50-75 grants. Applications are currently being accepted through March 7, 2024. Applicants will be notified as soon as possible, but no later than April 15, about whether their proposal was funded.

The Protecting Livestock Grant Program is funded through the Agricultural Growth and Research Initiative (AGRI) Program, which provides grants to farmers, agribusinesses, schools, and more throughout the state of Minnesota. The AGRI Program exists to advance Minnesota’s agricultural and renewable energy sectors.

Full grant details and the request for proposals (RFP) can be found on the MDA website.

MDA Announces Additional Farmland Succession Support

A new position will assist farmers and landowners with transfer planning

Farmers and agricultural landowners looking for assistance in creating succession plans for their properties have a new support available through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

The MDA has hired Jim Molenaar as its farmland access and succession teams coordinator. In this newly created role, Molenaar will advocate for and guide farmers and ag landowners through the succession process, bringing in additional outside team members that are necessary for success. These team members could include, but are not limited to, legal experts, accountants, and farm business management (FBM) instructors. There is no cost for this service for those who participate.

“I’m thrilled to partner with the MDA to provide this support to Minnesota’s farmers and producers,” said Molenaar. “The transfer of farmland to the next generation is integral to the future of agriculture in Minnesota, and

I look forward to leveraging my experiences to help farmers and their families successfully transition their legacies.”

Molenaar is an experienced and trusted advisor on the topic of succession and farm ownership. In addition to his new role, he works as a Farm Advocate for the MDA, where he offers one-on-one assistance for Minnesota farmers who face crisis caused by either a natural disaster or financial problems. He is also a retired instructor for the FBM program.

According to USDA, the average age of Minnesota farmers has reached an all-time high of 57.4 years. This new position is just one tool the MDA provides to help transfer ag land and operations to beginning and emerging farmers, ensuring the continued strength and resilience of the state’s agricultural economy. Its FarmLink program brings together those who are looking for ag land, farming operations, or mentors with retiring farmers and landowners who want to see their farms or farming operations continue. The agency also offers the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit and the Down Payment Assistant Grant programs.

Molenaar’s contact information, as well as further details about the MDA’s other land access and succession tools, can be found on the agency’s website.

The farmland access and succession teams coordinator position is made possible with support from the Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence.



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A Few of My Favorite Things from 2023



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation



As the holiday season winds down and we start to look ahead to the new year, I always like to take this time to reflect on, and celebrate, the accomplishments from this past year. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), this means thinking back on the ways that our partners helped to build a stronger southern Minnesota. In no particular order, here are my top ten favorite things that happened in 2023:

1. Small towns were inventive: SMIF's Small Town Grant program surpassed a milestone this year by awarding our 113th project since the program began six years ago. From a National Ruby-Throated Hummingbird Center in Henderson, to an Oktoberfest event in Dundas, the small towns in our region are always coming up with innovative ways to enhance community vitality.

2. Solutions to the child care challenge moved the needle: Through SMIF's technical assistance, we have been able to grow and retain child care options in the region. In St. Peter, a new nonprofit community coalition that includes a child care program is opening. In Northfield, a new business model allowed two new family child care providers to open their businesses in a city-owned building. Additionally, SMIF launched a new "whole community" approach to child care which will provide a network of support for up to four communities as they develop solutions to child care challenges this next year.

3. The regional foods system was strengthened: This year we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace, an event held in Rochester for the public to shop from vendors based in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. More than 1,400 people attended this year's event – the largest on record. The marketplace has had such an impact on the region that Kim Norton, mayor of Rochester, declared the first Saturday in November as Local Foods Day in Rochester.

4. Local wealth was retained: We were delighted to welcome our 32nd Community Foundation under SMIF's umbrella. Southland Community Foundation supports several small towns in Mower County – Adams, Rose Creek, Elkton, Dexter, Taopi and Johnsburg. They have joined a strong cohort of Community Foundations run by volunteer boards that have granted out more than \$7 million to benefit the future of their communities.

5. Early childhood professionals received

continuing education: More than 1,100 early childhood professionals attended the trainings that SMIF offered this year. Topics that are geared toward educators and child care providers focused on the social emotional development of young children and tips on how to grow a child care business. The support we can provide to early childhood professionals creates a better future for southern Minnesota's children and families.

6. Rural communities committed to economic growth: Six communities were recently selected for the 2024 -2026 Rural Entrepreneurial Ventures (REV) cohort: Caledonia, Kasson, Plainview and collectively the communities of Gibbon, Fairfax and Winthrop. REV is a long-term program that focuses on economic growth in small towns by providing planning, coaching, resources and connections.

7. Paint contributed to community vitality: More than 260 gallons of paint were awarded to communities across the region through SMIF's Paint the Town Grant. Since the grant was awarded in May, it has been exciting to see these projects come to life across the region – from a Main Street mural in Elgin, to a paint refresh on historic buildings in Mantorville.

8. Books supported literacy in young children: This year marked 230,000 books that have been distributed across the region through grants and programming over the past 15 years. We were honored to support 53 organizations through SMIF's Early Literacy Grant, which provides children birth to age eight with books.

9. Entrepreneurs flourished: Between providing loans to businesses and working with entrepreneurs directly on growing their businesses, we were excited about the economic activity that we saw this past year. Additionally we were excited to see some of our partners receive awards including West Oakland Auto, a loan client, who was named SBA's Minnesota Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year. The owners of Angie's BOOMCHICKAPOP, another loan client, who were honored by the SBA as a legacy business. They were not the only loan clients with good news. Beth Fynbo, owner of Busy Baby, was written about in a book about successful women inventors, and one of her products was named a Good Housekeeping 2023 Best Parent Award Winner. The Green-

sted became GAP Certified so that they can distribute their microgreens and salad greens wholesale.

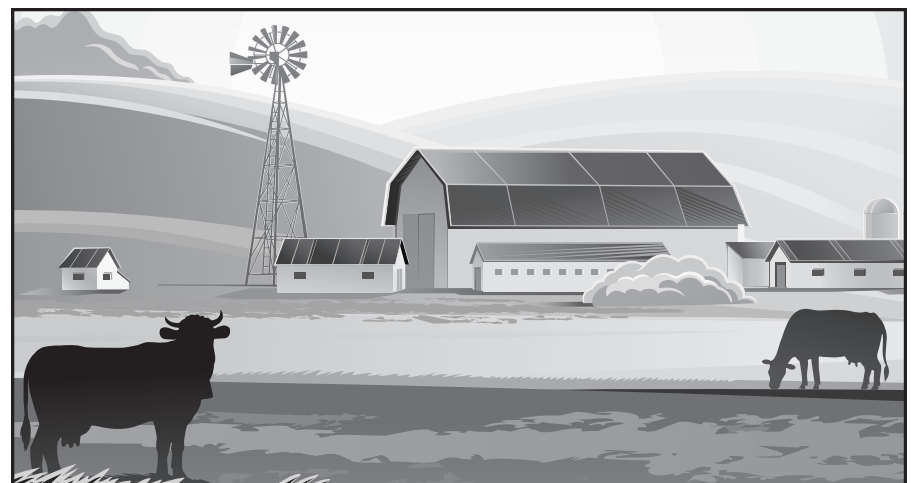
10. Partnerships grew: None of the above accomplishments would have happened without our partners. Some of these collaborations have been around for many years, such as the books that local publishers Capstone and ABDO provide for the Early Literacy Grant program. Other partnerships stem from a history of collaboration that are growing in new, exciting directions, such as Compeer Financial's commitment to supporting and expanding SMIF's REV program. And we are grateful for the new

partnerships that will strengthen our programming, such as Glen Taylor's recent announcement about leaving a legacy for southern Minnesota.

I can't talk about my favorite things from the year without mentioning how grateful I am to our donors and staff. Without their support, we would not be able to make an impact on southern Minnesota's future. We look forward to working with our regional partners again in 2024 to continue investing in the vitality of our region.

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

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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 cover-



ing 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 American 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



CURRENT FLAG



NEW FLAG



CURRENT SEAL



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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 cur-

rent 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.

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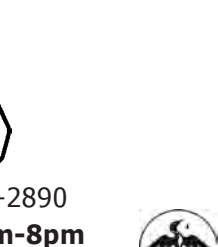
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City of Dennison Regular Council Meeting December 7th, 2023

The December Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Flaten on Thursday, December 7th, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Heidi Cooke, Diane Ruddle, Nichole Schloesser and clerk Jessica Page. Kaylyn Nygaard arrived at 7:05.

Councilor Ruddle move to approve the regular meeting minutes for the November meeting. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0. Councilor Cooke move to approve the Treasurer's report. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

Old Business/Committee Reports/ Building Permits:

Thank You to Charlie Helcl his donation for the new windows in City Hall. Mayor Flaten read a letter for Charlie from the City.

Administrative Issues:

1. Truth and Taxation. Allow for citizens to voice concerns about proposed tax levy amount. No one present to voice concerns regarding the proposed levy.

Resolution # 12-2023-01 is for the approval of the final levy amount. Preliminary levy was Bonding at \$42, 213.00. City General levy was \$147,787.00, for a total of \$190,000.00. Councilor Ruddle move to accept Resolution #12-2023-01 with the same amounts as the preliminary levy. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0

2. Michael Novitzki was in attendance to present ISG's proposal to continue engineering for the City. He left some materials if council members are interested in reviewing them, they are available in the Council Chambers. Proposal sent to the council in advance of the regular meeting.

Micheal and Becky from ISG were present to talk about the proposed contract. Have been working with Dennison for the last several years. Carley would still be the City Engineer, but she's in St. Louis MO. Becky would be our local contact. Planning would be a focus, capital improvement type stuff. GIS information. Long term relationship building.

Council During discussion of the issue, the Council felt that ISG wasn't receptive to the needs of Dennison on previous projects. It was felt that some things may have not been addressed as fully as they needed to be, and as a result there have been some issues that the Council has had to deal with or follow up on that were not expected.

Council explained how the City is working with Bollig Engineering, and that we are working on how to get a plan in place for future infrastructure needs. Council does acknowledge that distance is a factor and that no firm can guarantee funding, both subjects that were brought up in the discussion.

Council asked if they can we still use ISG if the MPCA has a question on one of the projects they have already completed with the City, and ISG said they would be able to help.

3. Flom Disposal Contract. Sent out as soon as received today.

4. Final pay app #5 for the forcemain project. It includes the remaining amount to be

paid on the seeding of the ponds (\$720) and retainage (\$2,7655.40) = \$3,485.40. When it comes to the reseeding of the ponds, even though the quality of the subcontractor's work was questionable, Carley doesn't believe the subcontractor will make a 4th attempt to reseed. The PFA has released all the bonding money, and the remaining amount to be paid would come from that source. Approval of the pay app would close the project. If need be, Dan Storlie and the mayor would reseed areas in the spring that didn't germinate this fall. Councilor Schloesser move to pay the final Pay App for the Forcemain Project. Councilor Nygaard seconded. Motion passed 5:0.

5. Continue discussion on how to use the one-time MN Public Safety Aid (\$9,715.00). The Nerstrand fire chief has requested that the funds be used for equipment for the Dennison Fire Station for turn out gear or truck payments. Total cost to outfit one firefighter with protective gear is \$4,000. Mayor asked the LMC if the aid money could be spent on paying the Goodhue County Sheriff's Department for their monthly patrolling/policing salaries. The LMC says it is an eligible expense. Will talk to the Dennison Lions to see what we can do to work together with them to help provide the turnout gear.

6. Property Complaints:

Pete Lee Building. Inspection done by Doug Morem from Goodhue County on 11-16-23. Pete allowed Doug to take pictures of the inside of the building. Report was sent to the council via email. Doug noted several things: The floor has collapsed and all the contents are in the basement; The integrity of the exterior walls are a concern; Loose brickwork and mortar are a public risk. The building is at a critical turning point of: Complete demolition and removal or a rebuild with an engineer's involvement. Pete did tell Doug that he's been in contact with a potential buyer. If that doesn't work out, he will demolish the building. No timelines given to the City for the potential sale or demolition.

Mayor Flaten texted Pete, and Pete has a potential buyer, but deal hasn't been finalized. County attorney has seen the report. He is not pursuing anything as far as criminal actions? City will follow up with Pete in the future. Get an update for the next meeting.

7. Notice of Violations from the MPCA received by the City on 11-14-23. The mayor, clerk and operator met on 11-21-23 to discuss the corrective actions. Mayor has also sought input from Bollig Engineering and MRWA. Letter sent to the MPCA disputing violation #4, relating to the Dennison Meats being a Significant Industrial User. Mayor and clerk met with the MPCA on 12-4-23 to discuss violation #4 and determine what will be needed to submit the Pretreatment Notification of a SIU. City is asking for an extension for a week on 12-5-2023. Without an extension, the city will have to submit the pretreatment form by December 14th, along with the majority of the corrective action responses then. Another meeting with Jaramie to do the SIU next week. Send out responses to Council before it gets sent out asap. Due on the 14th.

8. One of the violations cited by the MPCA

had do with our lift station and control panel. The PCA is requiring the City to install a third meter which will read when both pumps are running at the same time. Mayor received an estimate from Cedar Lake Electric to do that for \$800.00. Councilor Nygaard move to have Cedar Lake complete the installation of the third meter. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0.

9. Received an estimate from Cedar Lake Electric to install a light at the back door (east side) of City Hall for \$710.00. Not approved.

10. Approve Updated 2024 Annual contract with Warsaw township for Road upkeep. Councilor Ruddle move to approve the Annual Contract with Warsaw Township. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0.

11. Councilor Schloesser move to approve the Liquor licenses for Fireside and 625 Bar and Grill for 2024 when returned from Sheriff's office with no issues. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 5:0.

12. Nichole move to approve Cigarette Licenses for Dennison Depot and Fireside for 2024. Councilor Nygaard second. Motion passed 5:0.

13. New windows at City Hall in large room were installed on 11-27-23 through 11-29-23.

14. Back stop fence in the city park will be fixed on 12-7-23.

15. Primary Elections will be held on March 5th. Will need election judges for the primary. Judges trained for 2022 can serve following a two hour refresher course. Please let clerk know if you are available. Dates are January 30th, Feb 6th and 13th for the Refresher Course.

Citizens Issues:

Plowing on 5th Ave. near the electrical box by the Haase driveway. There is a big dip from where it went under the road and the road has settled. Mayor will call Haase regarding the damage to the road. Will see if Bill can take care of it.

Snow plowing. Nichole has gotten phone calls regarding an area on 2nd Ave where vehicles are parked close to the street during plowing and cause issues. There have been no-tifications regarding the issue, and folks have been informed that their vehicles may

be towed if parked too close to the road for snow plowing.

Mayors Issues:

Utilities:

1. Wastewater Permit application submitted on 11-8-23. MPCA notified city staff they had received the application and it was deemed acceptable.

2. The Nerstrand Fire Dept. conducted their fire flow testing in town on 11-10-23.

3. Outside water meter reader at M. Hansen's house replaced on 11-13-23.

4. Street sweeping occurred on 11-14-23.

5. Mayor submitted the fluoridation equipment grant application through the MN Dept. of Health on 11-17-23. Should find out within 30 days if the city will receive any funds.

6. New water meter installed at the new Jeff Hasse building on 12-4-23.

7. Duetsch graded 5th Ave. Way, making a shallow trench N of Haase entrance on NE side of road where gravel was washing out. (Instead of digging out the ditch.) and back alley behind Fireside, graveled also. Filled pothole by elevator with gravel.

8. Water meter issues:

Nancy Dubans's outside reader work? Eells's water usage issue resolved? Jim Malecha's outside reader fixed yet? City hasn't had an accurate reading at the house for a year and a half. Hire Paul's Plumbing if Nate can't get it fixed? Locker plant-is last reading correct? Need to double check on that reading.

Jessica's Review. Heidi has been working on separating the description. Councilor Ruddle move to close the meeting. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0. Review was completed. Councilor Ruddle move to re-open the meeting. Councilor Schloesser second. Meeting was re-opened.

Councilor Schloesser move to pay the bills. Councilor Nygaard second. Motion passed 5:0.

Mayor Flaten move to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Cooke second. Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Regular meeting is Thursday, January 4th at 7:00.

Councilor Nygaard will be gone for the next meeting in January.





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**Nerstrand City Council Meeting
November 14, 2024
7:00 PM**

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 Gernandt, 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 Resolu-

tion 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

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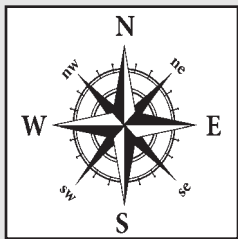
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Back Home on the River



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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