

Postal Customer ECRWSS

Volume 18 • Issue 4

Garden Tractor Pull Returns to Dennison Days

The annual Dennison Days Festival takes place Friday and Saturday, June 21 & 22.

The Gopher State Garden Tractor Pullers will return to main street Friday Evening on Mainstreet in Dennison hosted by 625 Bar & Grill. More information is available at www.gsgtp.com.

Following the pull,

Russ Franek and The Biscuits will take the stage to entertain event goers Friday Night.

(continued on page 5)



Russ Franek and The Biscuits will be a part of Dennison Days playing Friday night after the garden tractor pull on main street.

• Happy Spring! As a reminder, the irrigation restrictions run from May 1st to October 15th. Please be mindful of which day to water your lawn!

Announcements

• The Dundas Clean-Up Day is Saturday, May 11th from 7am-11am at the Mill Towns Trailhead parking lot. If there are questions you can contact Dick's Sanitation at 952-469-2239.

Do you have an announcement? Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

City of Northfield Plans to Sell 5th Street Property to Loon Liquors

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

Two years after purchasing the former Northfield News building at 115 5th Street West for \$1.2 million, the City of Northfield has announced its intention to sell the property to Loon Liquors as the company looks

to expand its distillation operations and cocktail room.

In March of 2022, the city purchased 115 5th Street West and 411 Water Street as part of a long-term redevelopment strategy to keep downtown Northfield healthy and to



Rice County Steam & Gas Annual Flea Market & Swap Meet May 25th & 26th

The Rice County Steam & Gas Show has announced their annual Swap Meet and Flea Market for May 25th & 26th. A full line up of events are included.

New flea market vendors are welcome. check out their website and facebook page for more information. www.ricecountysteamandgas.com





MOTHER'S DAY

Jacey Saemrow and **Karlie DeGrood Crowned 2024 Rice County Dairy Princesses**

Pictured to the left: Jacey Saemrow and Karlie DeGrood were selected Rice County Dairy Princesses for 2024 at the Rice County Dairy Princess Banquet on March (additional picture on page 7)

make the land adjacent to the river more active. At the time, the plan was to build a structure at 5th and Washington Streets that would house a new Municipal Liquor Store, with the Northfield News building serving as a temporary relocation site. After those plans fell through, the property became available (continued on page 10) for resale.

Jeff Johnson Announces **He Will Retire from KYMN Radio This Fall**

Courtesy of KYMN Radio Jeff Johnson of KYMN Radio announced that he intends to retire this fall.

Johnson, who purchased the station in 2008, has worked at KYMN for the better part of 37 years. During his tenure he has held many roles, including sports director, news director, and sales. He was the voice of Carleton Col-



Jeff Johnson, Owner & Host of The Morning Show

lege football for several years on this radio station (continued on page 4)



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Eternal One for Your Joy



By Colin Rueter

A brief note and correction from last month's article. I wrote, "Denial of Jesus, obedience in repentance, and following the God's commandments is fruit of true faith." Instead, it should have said, "Denial of the false ideas of Jesus..." I assure you that I remain centered on orthodox Christian doctrine and have not strayed from the faith. Your salvation is from Christ alone, acknowledge Him and humble yourself before Him, and be saved.

Now, as we begin walking through this treatise of Christian doctrine, I want to explain a little of the format moving forward. We will be walking through this text the same way that faithful pastors/preachers should walk through biblical texts on Sunday mornings in sermons, verse-by-verse. Another name for this is expository preaching. While I am not preaching with my voice, there will be an explanation and application to our verses each month. In many churches today, we see topical sermons that use various scripture removed from context to examine and teach on a topic. However, the danger in this is misusing verses, pulling verses out of their context, and missing the glorious connections that the Bible has to itself. We may have our favorite verses or books of the Bible, but as God's people, we love the Bible as a whole. The most faithful way to handle the Bible is to proclaim the full counsel of God's word in context and without skipping sections of scripture that are difficult, weighty, or convicting (Acts 20:27, 2 Timothy 14-15).

Our author, the Apostle John, writes with the aim to teach about the basics of faith in Christ and help the audience reflect honestly on their faith. So, John begins from the beginning, the beginning there was before there was anything, when all that existed was God Himself. See the beginning of Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." This makes the beginning of John 1:1 profound: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John takes us back to this time in eternity past, to meet this One which was from the beginning. The eternal One is Jesus, friends. The second person of the Triune God, the King of kings, Lord over all. We know this from the whole of scripture, but John continues as he explains in verse 1 and 2, "which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with

the Father and was made manifest to us..." This indicates that this eternal being came to earth, and John (among many others) personally experienced Him. The idea is that this eternal subject of John has audibly heard, physically seen, intently studied (have looked upon), and tangibly touched (hands have handled) would have enormous implications for his readers. The implications were enormous because they said that this eternal God became accessible to man in the most basic way, a way that anyone could relate to. This eternal One can be known since He has revealed Himself to us. Enormous because they proved that John's words have the weight of eyewitness evidence. He did not speak of a myth or of a matter of clever storytelling. He carefully studied this eternal One and he knew whom he spoke about. Enormous because it debunked dangerous teachings that were creeping into the church, such as Gnosticism. Part of the teaching of Gnosticism was that though Jesus was God, He was not actually a physical man, but instead some kind of pseudo-physical phantom. Yet John declared, "I heard Him! I saw Him! I studied Him! I touched Him!" John identifies this eternally existent being, who was physically present with John and others (note the repetition of "our" and "we"), as the Word of Life. This is the same word, Logos, spoken of in John 1:1. The idea of the Word (Logos) was important for John and for the Greek and Jewish worlds of his day. For the Jew, God was often referred to as the Word because they knew God perfectly revealed Himself in His Word. For the Greek, their philosophers had spoken for centuries about the Logos the basis for organization and intelligence in the universe, the Ultimate Reason which controls all things. It is as if John said to everyone, "This Logos you have been talking about and writing about for centuries - well, we have heard Him, seen Him, studied Him, and touched Him. Let me now tell you about Him." This life was manifested, meaning that it was made actually and physically real. John solemnly testified as an eyewitness who has seen and now declare to you. As John calls Jesus eternal life, and adds, with the Father, John remembered the words of Jesus (John 5:26, 6:48, and 11:25). We can say that people are eternal, but we say this with the understanding that we mean they are eternal in the future sense only, not past tense like God. There was an eternal relationship of love and fellowship between the Father and the Son. Jesus referred to this in John 17:24: "For You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

So What?



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John closes his first paragraph with an invitation to have fellowship with Christians and with the Father and Son, in order that our joy (everyone who has fellowship with God and His people) would be complete. You can enjoy this fellowship even though you do not understand all the intricacies of the Trinity. You can use your eyes even though you don't know every detail of how your vision works. You can know God and believe in Him as He has revealed Himself, even though you can't understand everything about His person or nature. The idea of fellowship is one of the most important ideas in this letter of John's. It is the ancient Greek word 'koinonia', which speaks of a sharing, a communion, a common life. It speaks of a living, breathing, sharing, loving relationship with another person. This simple and bold statement means that one can have a relationship with God. This idea would surprise many of John's readers, and it should be astounding to us. The Greek mind-set highly prized the idea of fellowship, but restricted to men among men - the idea of such an intimate relation-

ship with God was revolutionary. This fellowship is shared life and is essential. This doesn't mean that when Jesus comes into our life He helps us to do the same things better than before. We don't add Jesus to our life. We enter a relationship of a shared life with Jesus. We share our life with Him, and He shares His life with us. The result of fellowship is fullness of joy. This joy is an abiding sense of optimism and cheerfulness based on God, as opposed to happiness, which is a sense of optimism and cheerfulness based on circumstances. Charles Spurgeon wisely said, "If any of you have lost the joy of the Lord, I pray you do not think it a small loss.' Come find the fellowship, joy, and life you've been looking for through Christ. Next month we will look closer at the text in Chapter 1, verses 5-10 & Chapter 2, verses 1-6. Until then - may you know JOY that only comes from Christ! As always, if you have questions, need prayer, a word of encouragement, or a cup of coffee, please contact me personal my email: niloc1214@gmail.com



Jesus Unites Us

I am the vine: you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit....

Are we really united to Jesus like branches to a vine? Yes, and amen! And does that mean we are also

Are we really united to Jesus like branches to a vine? Tes, and amen! And does that mean we are also united with other people who are Christians? Yes, it does.

If we are united with Christ, we are like a branch of the holy vine of God. Yet there are other branches too, and the people represented by all those branches are loved by God just as we are—even if we might disagree with them in some ways or don't understand why they believe as they do. Sadly, there are divisions in the worldwide church of Jesus Christ, and those can often be ugly and unnecessary. Do different Christians see things differently? Yes. Do they act differently? Yes. May we separate from them, when they are living branches in the vine of Christ? No. To do so would be arrogant and hurtful.

Sometimes, however, people come up with false teachings that deny the truth of Christ (as in 1 John 2:18-27). And if they insist on following those teachings, they can mislead others and cut themselves off from the vine of Christ. That is a terrible tragedy, and we need to know how tragic it is when something like that happens. Let's do all we can to remain united with Christ and with the other branches of Christ's church. Jesus says, "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love. . . . Love each other as I have loved

Forgive us, Lord, if we think that we are always right and that others should conform to our way. May we seek unity in you, the true vine. Amen.

CANVAS CHURCH

404 Schilling Drive, Dundas

Lead Pastor: Jed McGuire • www.canvaschurchmn.com Sunday service: 9:00am and 10:30am Wednesday youth grades 6-12: 6:30pm

LITTLE PRAIRIE UNITED METHODIST 2980 130th St. E. Pastor Penny Bonsell • pastor@littleprairieumc.org 507-663-6150 church phone • 651-503-4279 Cell 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship; Sunday School & Nursery; Adult Group 8a.m.

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

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

NORTHFIELD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 5600 East 110th Street Pastor Dan Runke \bullet 663-0133 \bullet northfieldefc.org 9:30 a.m. Worship; 11:00 a.m. Christian Life Classes

HOSANNA CHURCH - NORTHFIELD 205 2nd St. S., Dundas Pastor Dean Swenson • 507-664-9007 • www.hosannalc.org

Sunday: 9am & 10:45am Worship with Hosanna Kids Church ages 3-5th grade and Child Care for ages 6wks-3years at both services

Fellowship time with refreshments between services. Wednesday: Middle School Ministry - doors open at 5:30; programming 6-7:15; High School Ministry - doors open at 7pm; programming 7:30-9pm

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

GOSPEL OF LIFE FAMILY CHURCH "PREACHING JESUS CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED" 2010 Jefferson Road, Suite A, Heritage Square on Hwy. 3, Northfield admin@gospeloflifechurch.org • www.gospeloflifechurch.org
Sunday 10:30a.m.; Wednesday 6:00p.m.

Obituaries

Daniel Swanson

Daniel Swanson, age 77 of Minnetonka (for-



merly of Dundas), passed away at his home on Tuesday morning, April 9.

Danny was born on May 3, 1946 in Faribault, the son of Carl and Dorothy



Northfield High School where he met the love of his life, Gloria Amy; the pair were united in marriage on December 30, 1965 and they shared 50 years of dedication to one another before Gloria's passing in 2016. Their journey included his time in the Navy, having two beautiful daughters, building a business in Texas, coming back home to Minnesota, building a life in Minnetonka and an amazing career with the City of Minnetonka, where he retired and his final years after retirement were spent with his girls, grandkids, dancing, fishing, friends and family on Clearwater Lake and traveling to Mississippi visiting his fiancé, Sandy, and making new friends.

Danny is survived by his daughters, Wanda (Dan) Crews and Mychelle (Ryan) Jones; grandchildren, Joshua Anderson & Jessica Crews as well as Ally & Patrick Jones; siblings, Clancy, Elaine, & Terry Swanson; his fiance, Sandy Shaw; as well as his nieces, nephews, other extended family, and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Gloria; parents, Carl and Dorothy; and a brother, Carl.

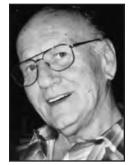
A Celebration of Danny's Life with many stories (as he would want) was held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, April 17 at the Bierman, Benson, & Langehough Funeral Home of Northfield. Visitation was held from one hour prior to the service from 12:00 to 1:00. Interment with Military Honors was held at Prairie Creek Cemetery. Everyone was invited to join the family at Fireside Lounge & Supper Club in Dennison for a luncheon after burial. www.northfieldfuneral.com

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

batteries, vard waste and brush

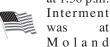
Gerald R. Hanson

Gerald R. Hanson, age 80, of Rosemount,



died Thursday, April 11, 2024, at his home.

Memorial services were held at Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.



Moland

Cemetery, rural Kenyon. Military honors were provided by the Rice County Central Veterans. Visitation was for one hour prior to the service on Monday.

Gerald Russell, the son of Clarence L. and Genevieve (Burbach) Hanson, Sr., was born on January 6, 1944, in Red Wing. Jerry graduated from Northfield High School and soon after he was ordered to serve in the United States Army, he continued to serve his country in the Army Reserves. He married Sandra J. Flom on June 1, 1963, in Faribault and they made their home in Rosemount. Sandra preceded him in death in 2012. Jerry worked for Greif Bros Corp for over 36 years as a supervisor. Trips to the casino, fishing and vacationing in Ft. Meyers Beach, Florida were his favorite things to do.

Survivors include his children, Scott Hanson, Cheryl (and Al) King, Valerie Howe and Amy (and Brent) Luedtke; nine grandchildren; five great grandchildren; sisters, Judy (and Harold) Parker and Sharon Heine; other relatives and friends.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, Genevieve and Clarence Hanson; wife, Sandra and brothers, Clarence Jr., Ronald, Henry and Allen.

Craig "Craiger" Pumper

Craig "Craiger" Pumper, age 69, of North-



field, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. Craig Steven Pumper was born on June 25, 1954. in



Northfield, to Joseph

and Dorothy (Malecha) Pumper. He graduated from Northfield High School before serving his country with distinction in the Army National Guard for a decade, concluding his service in 1980. He worked for his dad at Joe's Plumbing and Heating for over 20 year, continued working in various construction roles until starting work at Wanzek Construction in the early 2000s and would continue working there until retiring in 2019. He was a hard worker and knew a little bit about everything. His heart found its match in Donna Berres, whom he met at a dance at the Armory in Northfield. Their dance continued through life as they wed on October 1, 1977. Together they built a home and a family in Northfield.

Craig's joy was multiplied with the arrival of each grandchild. He took great pleasure in attending their games and sharing his passions with them, always eager to teach them how to fish or hunt. Craig's enthusiasm for life shone brightly through his interests. An avid fisherman, he treasured excursions to Lake Mille Lacs among other fishing spots. His dedication to hunting was evident in his more than three decades of trips to Montana, where he also built and maintained a cherished cabin. A sports fan at heart, he cheered vigorously for the Twins and the Wild.

Handy with his hands, Craig found relaxation in working on his Polaris Ranger, always cleaning and tinkering, ensuring everything he touched worked just a bit better. His sense of humor and undeniable knack for fixing things made him the go-to man in any situation.

As we say farewell to a man who brightened every room, we are comforted by the countless memories and the love that Craig bestowed upon the world. He will be dearly missed and forever cherished.

Survivors include his wife. Donna: four children: Matt (Deena Otto) of Northfield, Angie (Rafael) Perez of Northfield, Jon (Mandy) of Victoria, and Jake (Cate) of Victoria; and Jamie Olson of Cambridge; grandchildren Ashton, Collin, Cohen, Cash, Bella, Corbin, Evalyn, Ava, Phoebe, Noella, Addison, and Roman; mother, Dorothy of Northfield; siblings, Colleen (Tom) of Wisconsin Dells, Daniel (Nancy) of Northfield, Joel (Jeanne) Pumper of Northfield, Corrine (Fred) Beumer of Cannon Falls, Kaylene (Phillip) Little of Faribault, Keith (Nina) of Northfield, Laureen (Lance) Snesrud of Northfield and Jeffrey (Shari) of Owatonna; other family members and friends. He preceded in death by his father, Joseph Pumper and son Andrew.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 AM, Monday, April 22, 2024 at the Church of St. Dominic, Northfield. Visitation was 2-5 PM, Sunday, April 21, 2024, at the Church of St. Dominic and continued one hour prior to the service. A reception followed the service at the church.

Arrangements are with the Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home & Crematory. www.northfieldfuneral.com

Melvin A. Edelbach, Jr.

Melvin A. Edelbach, Jr., 79 of Kellogg,



passed away Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at Mayo Clinic - St. Mary's Campus, Rochester, MN.

Page 3

Melvin Allan was born February 4, 1945, Wauin WI to mandee, Wilma (Fink) and Melvin Edelbach, Sr.

He grew up in the Buffalo County, WI area. On April 18,1966 he married Sharon R. Kelly and together they raised six daughters: Jeanine, Linda, Lisa, Lori, Nancy, and Cindy.

Melvin enjoyed hobby farming and logged with his brother William for many years until a near fatal injury in 2009. A skilled wood crafter and tinkerer. A faithful member of the United Church of God. He loved spending time with his family and grandkids. He set such a great example for his family in his faith, work ethic and honesty.

He is survived by his wife Sharon; daughters: Jeanine Case; Linda (Ted) Gamble; Lisa (Todd) Fox; Lori (Brad) Passe; Nancy (Steve) Shanahan; and Cindy (Darrin) Dillinger; 13 grandchildren: Shane, Vachelle, Katey, Matt, Rileigh, Breena, Isabel, Jack, Luke, Grant, Austin, Tyler, and Trent; one great grandson Revan; four step-grandchildren: Dan, Toni, Emily, Adam; 10 step-great grandchildren: Logan, Ian, Hannah, Mason, Johnelvis, Owen, Christopher, Gianni, Easton, Ashton; a sister Ellen Amy and many other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a granddaughter Melanie; a grandson Dustyn; and eight siblings: Loren, Dawn, William, Russell, Shirley, Ivy, Marvin and Jesse.

A visitation was held from 10 am to 12 pm, Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at Abbott Funeral Home, Wabasha, Interment was at Hillside Cemetery, Minneiska, MN.

Services entrusted to Abbott Funeral Home & Crematory, Wabasha, MN. Words of sympathy or remembrance may be left at www.abbottfh.com

(obituaries continued on page 4)





Questions? Please call Dick's Sanitation at 952-469-2239.



Page 4 - DUNDAS MESSENGER - April 24, 2024

Jerry Robert Hubbard

Jerry Robert Hubbard, age 76, passed away



on Friday morning, April 12, at the Minnesota Veteran's Home in Minneapolis. Jerry was born on November 13, 1947 in Northfield, the son of James 'Jim' and Maxine (Marshall) Hubbard, Sr. Jerry graduated from Northfield High

School in 1966 and went on to attend two years at Mankato State College as well as two years at the Northwest Technical Drafting School where he received a degree in architectural drafting in 1970.

Jerry married the love of his life, Elizabeth 'Jane' (Errington) Hubbard, on March 14, 1969 at the First United Church of Christ in Northfield and they made their homes during their fifty-five years of marriage in Minneapolis and Bloomington, Minnesota; Manhattan and Junction City, Kansas; and Shakopee, Minnesota before making their way back home to Northfield, for good, in 1976.

Jerry was inducted into the United States Army in January of 1971 and completed his basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; he was then stationed as an MP in the 1st Infantry Division (Big Red 1) at Fort Riley, Kansas, throughout his active duty. Jerry was proud to serve his country until his honorable discharge from Army active duty in October of 1972. He continued serving as an Army Reservist until 1977.

Jerry accumulated over 35 years of dedication and hard work to College City Beverage, in various capacities over his career, before his final position as a draught technician, that dated back to his part-time work there as a teenager. Jerry was proud to be a member of the American Legion for 40 years; he was also a member of the Waterford Warriors Snowmobile Club and Ducks Unlimited.

Outside of work, Jerry was a devoted husband, dad, and grandpa as well as an avid outdoorsman. He cherished every moment spent

outdoors hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, or riding his Harley Davidson. Woodworking, and tinkering with model cars, trains, or anything he could get his hands on in the garage were also favorite activities. Memorable staples in Jerry's life included family holidays, vacations, a trip through the Black Hills when the kids were young, several trips with Jane to Sturgis for the motorcycle rally, two ventures to Hawaii with Jane, and spending time on the waters of both Crane Lake and Lake Mazaska with family and friends. He also held a special place for the family pets over the years namely Snoopy, Missy, Buff, Khan, and Nutmeg, the Siamese cats, and Pepper, the black lab.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Jane Hubbard; children, Nicole 'Nikki' (Jayson) Nelson and Trevor (Brittney) Hubbard; grandchildren, Sabrina and Jerrin Nelson and Brooklyn and Briggs Hubbard, all of Northfield; brothers, James 'Jim' Hubbard, Jr. of Tennessee, John 'Jack' (Linda) Hubbard of Wisconsin, and Jav (Susan) Hubbard of Florida; sister-in-law Mary Gale of Bloomington; as well as his nieces, nephews, other extended family, and friends. He was preceded in death by an infant son; his parents, James 'Jim' and Maxine Hubbard, Sr; and a sister-in-law, Verlie Hubbard, as well as his parents-in-law John and Laura (Gibson) Errington; brother-inlaw, John 'Jack' Errington; and sister-in-law, Beverly 'Bev' Coffey; and nephew Anthony

A Celebration of Jerry's Life will be held at 3:30 PM on Thursday, April 25 at the Northfield United Methodist Church. Visitation will be held on Wednesday evening, April 24 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Bierman, Benson, & Langehough Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to the Minnesota Veteran's Home of Minneapolis at the following link: https://mn.gov/mdva/donate/minneapolis-

donations.jsp

Memorials may also be made to the Brain
Aneurysm Foundation in memory of Jerry at

the following link: https://give.bafound.org/site/Donation2?df_i d=5231&mfc_pref=T&5231.donation=form

Elouise Quinnell

It's with heavy hearts that we announce the



passing of Elouise on Friday, April 5th, at her beloved farm of 68 years, surrounded by her family. Born in Northfield, Elouise spent her formative years on her family farm in Dennison and was a faithful member of St.

John's Lutheran Church from a young age.

Elouise's life changed when she met and married Milo Quinnell on June 24, 1950. Their journey together included travels with Milo during his military service, eventually settling down and purchasing their farm in 1956. Together, they raised six children, nurturing a home filled with love, laughter, and the aroma of Elouise's delicious cooking. She found joy in being a homemaker, taking pride in baking and cooking for her family and any unexpected guests who crossed their threshold.

Her days were filled with tending to the garden, caring for chickens, and selling fresh eggs, demonstrating a strong work ethic and a deep connection to the land. Remarkably, she continued to mow the lawn well into her 90s, embodying resilience and determination.

Throughout their 67 years of marriage, Elouise and Milo shared countless precious moments. They enjoyed simple pleasures like bowling, neighborhood card parties, and dancing to their favorite polkas and waltzes, creating memories that will be cherished by their family for generations to come.

The family farm was not just a place to live but the heart of their family and a gathering place for friends. It was a testament to Elouise's dedication and love for her family, providing a nurturing environment where memories were made and traditions were honored.

Elouise lived independently on her farm until her final moments, a testament to her strength, resilience, and unwavering spirit. Though she may no longer be with us in body, her legacy of love, hard work, and cherished memories will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Elouise is survived by her children, Keith (Annalise) Quinnell, Scott (Sandy) Quinnell, Marybeth (Kent) Harris, Craig (MaryAnnette) Quinnell, Randy (Terri) Quinnell, Michelle (Chad) Weed; 12 grandchildren;16 great-grandchildren; and two sisters Bel Quinnell and Janet (Jim) Topp. Elouise was preceded in death by her husband, Milo; parents, Elsie & Helmer Estrem; siblings, Willard Estrem, Ed Estrem, Barb Halvorson, and Lorraine Chavie; and grandson, David Ouinnell.

Memorials can be directed to St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield.

A funeral service was held at 11 AM, Thursday, April 11, 2024, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield. Visitation was from 4-7 PM, Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home, and continued one hour prior to the service at the church. A reception followed the service. Interment was in Oaklawn Cemetery, Northfield.

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

Jeff Johnson Announces He Will Retire from KYMN Radio This Fall

(continued from page 1)

When he took the reins as owner and General Manager, he also assigned himself the role of Morning Show host, where he has become a familiar voice to thousands of early-rising Northfielders

As the owner, he said he has always sought to give the Northfield Community a voice and ensure that KYMN was always connected deeply to the community. He credited his radio mentor for instilling that philosophy in him.

"Working for Wayne Eddy for 15 years you learn – Wayne really instilled the idea that you serve the community. Anybody can play music if they want to or say something dumb on social media, but being responsible, and being responsible toward the community is certainly something I learned from Wayne."

Johnson has an agreement in place to sell the radio station to the current KYMN News Director, Rich Larson, who intends to keep that same commitment to strong, Northfield-centric programming.

Johnson said he intends to sign off sometime this fall. He will stay on at the station for now, helping Larson work through the ownership transition. After that, he said, he would like to leave Minnesota during the cold weather months, but he will never be far from Northfield.

"KYMN will always have a place in my heart, and I'll never be too far from it. And I will be a listener from here on out. I'm going to be around here right through the summer, through the transition and maybe after Defeat of Jesse James days, start thinking about following the sun somewhere. I will not be a stranger."



For something different

Your Home for Twins Baseball

Tim McNiff Weekday Mornings www.kymnradio.net

April 24, 2024 - DUNDAS MESSENGER - Page 5

What's Normal?



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS Licensed Nutritionist

As we progress into the first days of Spring, we look back on a winter season that was not the typical Minnesota winter. We can also look back to the fourth anniversary of the

Garden Tractor Pull Returns to Dennison Days

(continued from page 1)

The Kids Pedal Pull returns Saturday morning this year, and will take place on main street at 11 AM Saturday Morning as part of a full day of events during the festival. Live Music Saturday evening from Shane Martin will round out a full day of events on June 22nd. A full schedule of events will be available soon at www.dennisondays.org and will appear in The Messenger and websites soon.

Covid pandemic and the infamous shutdown the entire society endured. As that experience dragged on there was an increasing desire to see things "return to normal." But how do you define normal?

Normal is "a standard, or regular pattern" according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, and is often associated with a routine, or possibly a habit. One individual online described "normal" as that action or belief that is accepted by 62% of the population. However, what is considered normal may not be healthy, or good for you. How comfortable are you with making a healthy choice that is not be seen as 'normal'?

The Standard American Diet is a common phrase used by nutritionist with the emphasis on the first letter of each word - S.A.D. The normal choices for food consumption among Americans has resulted in SAD consequences. Back around 1901, the normal consumption of sugar per American was around 5 pounds of sugar per year. Today, the normal consumption of sugar per American is over 100 pounds of sugar per year. Before 1930, vegetable oil, corn oil, soybean oil, and canola oil did not exist. Today, soybean oil and corn oil are the top oils consumed promoting significant inflammation. There are a multitude of foods available in our warehouse grocery depots that our great grandparents would not recognize. What we consider normal today has brought about SAD consequences.

Unfortunately, in our culture, normal is not the same as healthy. Consider some of these examples:

• More than 70% of the American popula-

tion is overweight or obese leading to heart disease, diabetes, and a weakened immune system

- Premenstrual cramps, headaches, and irritability each month is considered normal
- Constipation with bowel movements less than once a day is considered normal
- Braces to straighten teeth and pulling wisdom teeth is considered normal
- More than 10 prescriptions per American is the current average

To make a healthy choice, or choose a healthy lifestyle is not considered normal. Do some of these healthy choices seem 'abnormal' to you:

- Have some vegetables with your breakfast
- Be sure to drink 8 cups of filtered water (or more) each day
- Eat an apple every day
- Eat only three meals a day with no snacks between meals
- Each meal should include a protein (meat, egg, dairy, or beans)

When what is normal is not a healthy choice, you and I have the opportunity to be an influence to our circle of friends and relatives to help them recognize a healthy option. To be an influencer is to be one who helps others to be interested and to recognize there is another choice available. The normal advertisements and recommendations coming across the television screen are not presenting healthy options, they are presenting normal options. Internet videos presenting extreme diets and exercise are not presenting healthy options, they are sales gimmicks. The healthy options are going to

be consistent, naturalbased options your great grandparents would recognize. Healthy options are lifestyle choices that promote longevity, fertility, and a healthy environment. You can be an influencer



SCAN MI

to help move the American culture back to a healthy standard. Perhaps one day, healthy choices will be the "new normal."

I invite you to join me this spring at the Northfield Holistic Health Summit "New Beginnings" Saturday, May 4, 2024, to learn more about healthy lifestyle choices and the resources available to you. Ten local health practitioners will be presenting information on – herbs, homeopathy, acupuncture, toxins, neurology, allergy therapy, and more. Purchase your ticket today for this event that includes a healthy catered meal by Café Shawn. Ticket sales close on April 30. More information at

https://www.nutritionproportion.net/health-summit2024 or scan the QR code.

Make your health a priority in 2024. Change is required, but the outcome is worth the effort. Little changes can make a big difference over time. If you would like to pursue a healthy lifestyle and increase longevity, I can help.

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

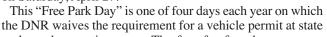


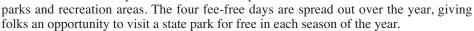
FREE PARK DAY

Free Entrance to Minnesota State Parks on April 27

Minnesotans are encouraged to explore outdoors with friends and family

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 74 state parks and recreation areas on Saturday, April 27.





"Minnesota state parks and recreation areas are great places to make memories with loved ones," said Ann Pierce, director of the DNR Parks and Trails Division. "Spring is an ideal time to reconnect with the natural world and enjoy the beauty of Minnesota's state parks and recreation areas. I encourage visitors to look for signs of spring like earlyblooming wildflowers, migrating birds, and the opening of green leaves on trees. Our goal is for those who visit on Free Park Day to be inspired to come back again soon.'

Each spring, Free Park Day is held on the Saturday after Earth Day. Earth Day is a great time to remind visitors to always recreate responsibly to protect natural resources. For example:

Spring is a time of increased wildlife activity; respect wildlife by observing from a dis-

Please stay on trails when hiking or biking to avoid erosion and damage to sensitive plants and wildlife habitat.

Love the blooming spring wildflowers? Resist the urge to pick – take a photo instead. Leave flowers, rocks and other natural objects as they were found.

Interpretive naturalists at some park locations have planned programming for the Free Park Day. There is no cost to participate in these events. Find more details about these highlighted events or see the full state park events calendar online.

The DNR recommends visitors wear clothing appropriate for the weather and bring water



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Community

Down on the Farm/ **Up at the Cabin**

Becoming a Farmer: First Steps

By Monica & Claudia Vanderborght

A farm dog -- for companionship and protection.

Monica's daughter had two dogs, both labcrosses. Together, they could get into so much trouble!! If they weren't locked in their kennels each and every time the family left the home, disaster would greet them upon return: upturned garbage cans spilling their contents, pillows and sofa cushions strewn about, shoes chewed, once they even managed to open the refrigerator door and raid the contents. Mocha and Ice didn't have a bad life, but their weekdays were relegated to their kennels. Ice was a sweetie with those he knew - but a car accident had left him with only three legs and abuse made him untrustworthy around strangers, particularly men. Mocha was an easy girl with a wonderfully loud, deep, (and often too frequent) bark. After a few lessons at PetCo, Mocha knew basic commands and actually followed them on occasion.

Mocha absolutely loved her new-found

freedom. She followed Monica everywhere, although she kept a safe distance when the chainsaw was in use. The rule of "No Dogs on the Couch" was quickly forgotten - when Monica was on the couch, Mocha was there. When Monica was in bed, Mocha was there. The two spent many hours outside each day, and she was Monica's constant companion.

Cats – for amusement and critter control. Monica is adventuresome and brave, but when it comes to rodents and snakes Monica reacts like a typical girl.

Never mind that Monica fearlessly drove her 4WD Jeep over / through trails (and creeks and large rocks) in Minnesota and Wisconsin with the Dakota Dirt Diggers. (An important lesson that would also serve her well on the farm: "If you aren't getting stuck, you aren't learning anything.") All by herself, Monica traveled 49 states and several Canadian provinces on a Goldwing motorcycle. In 2005 she volunteered to be deployed with the Naval Reserve: ten days later she was on a plane to CENTCOM in Tampa for paperwork and immunizations; two weeks later she was on the long flight to Qatar.

Brave, yes. But when it comes to snakes and rodents, Monica actually believes she can levitate when startled by either. Perhaps it is the scream that gives the extra lift. Cats, for critter control, were absolutely essential.

So four kittens came to the farm: two from CraigsList, two from a friend. Each grandchild was tasked with naming one kitten. Cuddles and Tippie were siblings (who hated each other and hissed whenever the other drew near). Shelley and Oliver were lively, curious, and

chased each other all over the house. Slowly, the kittens were given greater outdoor freedom as they grew.

One dog, four cats, and dozens of boots (Monica, kids, grandkids, friends of grandkids) can bring in a tremendous amount of dirt and mud from the outside. The barelynice house with easy-to-clean floors was appreciated.

Autumn turned to winter. The days got shorter and colder. Claudia, who for decades had heated her homes exclusively with wood. assured Monica that the fire could burn all day without supervision. It could burn all night too. If the grandkids wanted to find the kittens, the fireplace was the first place they looked.

Every January, the fifth grade teachers and students headed to Eagle Bluff for a three-day field trip. This was the first extended "vacation" Monica would be away from home. (Not really a vacation, having to supervise all those children – and their parents.) But it was a wonderful learning experience for the kids, many of whom had lived their entire lives in apartments with hundreds of TV channels and piles of video games. Mocha returned to Ice's house for a three-day sleepover. Thermostats for the electric heaters were set to 55 degrees. Food and water was left for the kittens ... although one wasn't looking well. Shelly was lethargic and showed little interest in food or water. Either she would be okay, or she wouldn't. Monica left for the field-trip, hoping for the best.

The internet was slow at Eagle Bluff, but Monica looked up symptoms of feline diseases. She asked for advice from the teachers. All symptoms pointed to feline leukemia first, difficult steps had been taken.



- a death sentence for Shelley and probably the other three. It was a long three days and a dreaded return home.

Mocha was thrilled to be out of the suburbs and back on the farm where she could run free again. Three kittens seemed fine, but Shelley was seriously ill. Monica still had two days before the weekend to consider options. Her colleagues sympathetically suggested that Shelley be taken to the vet for a confirmed diagnosis and to be euthanized. All the suburban friends agreed.

But Monica resolved: wasn't she a farmer now? Farmers don't take their cats to the vet to be euthanized - they do it themselves. Farmers do not let their animals suffer. It was a difficult, agonizing, painful decision. But when she got home from school that day and saw the pitiful state Shelley was in, Monica knew what she had to do. It was a rough, rough weekend – but she knew she had done the right, the farmer thing.

Several months later, Oliver started going downhill — the same symptoms. This time the decision was no easier, but farmers do not let their animals suffer. Oliver's suffering was shorter, and the decision was easier, though no less painful.

Monica felt she had just passed a huge milestone in becoming a legitimate farmer. The



Jacey Saemrow and Karlie DeGrood Crowned 2024 Rice County Dairy Princesses



From left, dairy maid Ava Kelm, dairy maid Rae Duhme, dairy princess Karlie Degrood, 2023 Princess Kay of the Milky Way Emma Kuball, dairy princess Jacy Saemrow, dairy maid Molly Albers and dairy maid Macy Albers at the Rice County Dairy Banquet.

Photo courtesy of Emma Kuball

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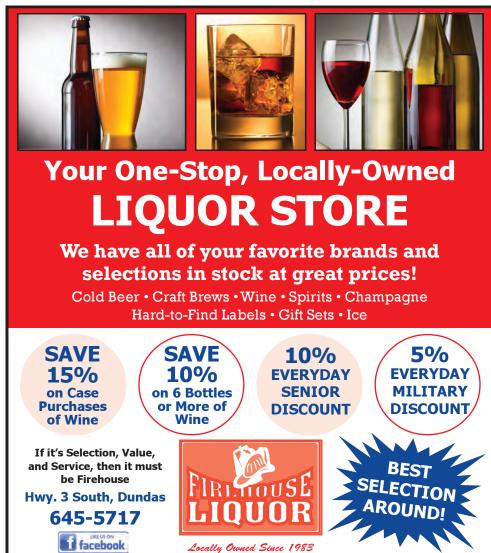
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Page 10 - DUNDAS MESSENGER- April 24, 2024

Spring Allergies



Dr. Neal Godse,
University of Minnesota Medical School
and M Health Fairview

As we say goodbye to winter and welcome in spring, it also signals the start of allergy season. The sneezing, itching and watery eyes accompanying spring allergies can overshadow the joy of the season.

Neal Godse, MD, with the University of Minnesota Medical School and M Health Fairview discusses spring allergies symptoms and strategies to keep it under control.

"Allergic rhinitis, a common condition affecting the nose, results from inflammation triggered by allergens like pollen and dust. Symptoms include congestion, sneezing, runny nose and itchy/watery eyes. If untreated, it can lead to other problems like fatigue, difficulty with focus and poor sleep. Treatment options include oral and topical antihistamines, nasal saline and topical steroid nasal sprays. These medicines help control the inflammation that allergens trigger and relieve symptoms. Be careful with long term use of oral or nasal decongestants. These can lead to damage of the lining of the nose and make issues like high-blood pressure worse.'

"I advise patients to start taking an antihistamine and a topical steroid spray on a daily basis a few weeks before their allergy season starts to allow the medicine to build up in the lining of the nose and prevent the allergic inflammation from even starting. When symptoms persist despite these initial medicines, it may be worthwhile to seek evaluation to see whether our more advanced allergy treatment options may be beneficial."

"My team in the University of Minnesota Medical School's Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery is focused on understanding the inflammation underlying allergic rhinitis and how it affects patients with other chronic inflammatory diseases of the nose and sinuses. We hope to improve patients' lives by providing targeted, comprehensive treatment for inflammatory disorders of the nose and sinuses."

Dr. Neal Godse is an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School and a rhinologist and skull base surgeon at M Health Fairview. His research focuses on better understanding and treating patients with cancer of the nasal cavity and skull base. He is



also interested in the novel applications of emerging technologies to patients with these issues and chronic inflammatory sinus disease.

City of Northfield Plans to Sell 5th Street Property to Loon Liquors

(continued from page 1)

A statement issued by the City of Northfield said Loon Liquors plans to remodel the building to accommodate a needed expansion. They hope to add a kitchen to provide farmer-focused food offerings and continue their craft beverage operation.

The craft distillery is owned and operated by its two co-founders Simeon Rossi and Mark Schiller, both graduates of Northfield High School, who have what the statement called a "Northfield-centric mission." They currently distribute to more than 300 liquor stores, bars, and restaurants in Minnesota. This expansion will create the opportunity to expand regionally; possibly into international markets.

According to the statement, the city will continue to refine redevelopment plans for downtown including the Ameriprise building, Northfield Liquor Store and the public parking lot site located at 5th and Washington Streets.

The city held a public hearing Tuesday April 23rd in the City Hall Council Chambers. After the public hearing, the City Council deliberated and considered action on the sale.



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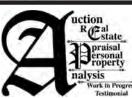
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From Shoreline to **Stream: Water Monitoring** Volunteers Needed



By Emmie Scheffler, **District Technician**

Minnesota is prided on being the land of 10,000 lakes. Did you also know that Minnesota has 83,000 miles of streams? That is a lot of water! These waterbodies offer a large number of benefits, ranging from wildlife habitat to recreational opportunities. The lakes and streams provide all these benefits to us, but who helps take care of the lakes and streams to ensure they are provided for?

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has been tasked with monitoring Minnesota lakes and streams for pollution and assisting with water health issues. With the high number of lakes and streams, that is a large task. The MPCA does not have the manpower to monitor each of them every year. There has been an adopted approach to prioritize water monitoring based on the watershed level priorities and needs to help narrow down what MPCA staff and other partners are able to handle for monitoring.

This does not mean that monitoring on all the lakes and streams is not important and that is where local citizens come in. Citizens have been helping for 50 years with filling in gaps where monitoring is needed through the MPCA's Volunteer Water Monitoring Program. Last year, 1,367 volunteers helped with the task of monitoring Minnesota's lakes and streams.

Monitoring involves collecting samples twice a month or more during the summer. These samples are taken with a Secchi disk, a tube that measures water clarity and is provided by the MPCA. Lake monitors navigate by boat or paddle to predetermined locations on the lake to assess water clarity. Stream monitors collect data either from the streambank or from a bridge spanning over it.

Low clarity in streams can show excess sediment and in lakes excess algae. In order to track water quality trends over time, a minimum of eight years and 50 points need to be collected.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) relies on data collected by volunteers to assess whether lakes and streams adhere to water quality standards set to safeguard aquatic life and recreational pursuits such as fishing and swimming. At times, volunteer-generated data constitutes the sole monitoring effort for specific water bodies, underscoring the vital role of volunteer contributions in our efforts to preserve the wa-



ters of Minnesota.

There are a large number of lakes and streams still needing monitoring in the Cannon River Watershed. If you are interested in these efforts, more information can be found

https://www.pca.state.mn.us/get-engaged/volunteer-water-monitoring. No experience is needed and staff at Rice SWCD can come help show you how to monitor the first time if needed or are available if there are questions on other monitoring that has taken place in the watershed. Feel free to reach out to our office at 507-332-5408.

Learn more about the program by watching this YouTube video:

https://youtu.be/k11xzQ6N7EQ?si=zdwfdUBavKlBY3PD

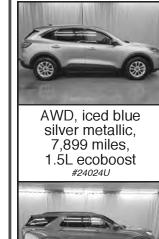
Emmie Scheffler is a District Technician with the Rice Soil & Water Conservation District and is the Plan Administrator for the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. She also assists landowners and farmers with the implementation of soil erosion control practices and tree windbreaks. Contact Emmie with your questions at 507-332-5408.

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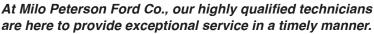
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April 24, 2024 - DUNDAS MESSENGER -Page 13



Friends and neighbors,

To mark the occasion of Tax Day, House and Senate Republicans held a press conference to talk about how Democrat single-party control of government has affected our bank ac-

You probably remember. In their first year with complete control of the state budget, they spent through a \$19 billion surplus and raised nearly \$10 billion in taxes – including regres-



Ducks Unlimited had their Day at the Capitol and I was able to connect with many friends and colleagues. Pictured with me is Jeff Schuette.

DUNDAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Monday, March 25, 2024

7:00 p.m. City Hall

Present: Mayor Glenn Switzer Councilors Luke LaCroix, Grant Modory, Luke Swart-

Absent: Ashley Gallagher

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Regular Minutes of March 11, 2024
- Consider Resolution 2024 08 Declaring the Official Intent of the City of Dundas to Reimburse Certain Expenditures from the Proceeds of Bonds to be Issued by the City
- Consider Resolution 2024-09 Transferring Funds from the General Fund to the Public Safety Capital Fund
- Disbursements \$166,454.21

Motion by Modory, second by LaCroix, to approve the consent agenda. MCU

• Consider Approving Resolution 2024-10 Requiring Write-In Candidates for a City Office to File a Written Request to Have the Candidate's Write-In Votes Individually Recorded

Motion by Modory, second by Swartwood, to approve Resolution 2024-10 Requiring Write-In Candidates for a City Office to File a Written Request to Have the Candidate's Write-In Votes Individually Recorded. MCU

• Consider Approving Resolution 2024 – 11 Approving the Contamination Cleanup Grant Application and Committing Local Match and Authorizing Contract Signature for a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment at 315 Railway Street North

City Planner Nate Sparks introduced the item and provided background on the DEED Grant Application process as it pertains to the Phase II Environmental Analysis at 315 N Railway St.

Motion by LaCroix, second by Swartwood to approve Resolution 2024-11 Approving the Contamination Cleanup Grant Application and Committing Local Match and Authorizing Contract Signature for a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment at 315 Railway Street North. MCU

• Consider Bids and Award a Contract for Forest Ave/Depot Street Reconstruction City Engineer Dustin Tipp introduced the item and said that of the four bids received, the low bid is from BCM Construction, Inc for \$451,906.20.

Motion by Modory, second by LaCroix to award the bid for the reconstruction of Forest Ave and Depot Street to BCM for \$451,906.20. MCU

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES **City Engineer – Dustin Tipp**

Tipp reported that staff continues to work on a quote to install the decorative light poles along Railway.

Tipp also reported that WSB has pulled the project scope and estimated costs together for the County Road 1/Trunk Highway 3 project and will bring it to the Public Works Committee on April 17 for review.

City Planner – Nate Sparks

Sparks reported that SF3964 and HF4009, currently under discussion at the State Legislature, and if approved will have a significant impact on local zoning, ostensibly under the guise of increasing affordable housing. Sparks will draft a letter that the Mayor and City Council will consider sending to local representatives and/or speaking directly to local reps.

ADJOURN

Motion by Swartwood, second by LaCroix, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM. MCU Minutes prepared by Jenelle Teppen, City Administrator/City Clerk



Veterans Day at the Capitol was a success. We honor those who served, fought, and sacrificed for our country!

sive taxes like the gas tax and sales taxes. bonuses for referrals that lead to enlistment in And there are even more tax hikes on the table right now!

It has almost become a cliche by this point, but we really can't keep doing this. I think we all agree there are priorities that need our attention, but we have a duty to be responsible

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You can read more or watch our press conference here: https://www.mnsenaterepublicans.com/on-tax-day-republicans-remind-mi nnesotans-about-democrats-massive-10billion-tax-hikes-warn-them-for-even-moretax-hikes-being-proposed/

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA **VETERANS**

This week the Senate passed a bipartisan veterans bill that authorizes a new Referral Bonus Program. The program would provide

the Minnesota National Guard.

"Authorize" is the key word there – the bill doesn't require the National Guard to implement the program; it merely gives them the option to do so as a way to assist in recruitment efforts. A handful of other states have launched similar state-funded programs.

This program isn't just about increasing numbers. It is a practical way to show veterans they have our strong support by rewarding those who help us grow our military commu-

Read more about the bill bipartisan here: https://www.mnsenaterepublicans.com/bipartisan-veterans-bill-creates-referral-bonusprogram/

Sincerely, Bill Lieske

Minnesota Senate, District 58

Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of The Messenger.

To the Editor:

Dundas Messenger or Dundas Misinformation?

Our quaint little local paper has taken on a distinct Tennessee flavor. The editor and some of the columnists seem to have roots in the redest redneck state of our fifty. Most of them provide no background on themselves or any kind of credentials. While I often agree with Doug Jones when he goes after the Northfield City Council, his recent letter to the editor has some very wild math in it. Is it not the editor's job to at least try to do some fact checking? Doug is now a contributor and a very amateur photographer for the Messenger. That will surely give him a free voice with his letters. But what most gets my goat is the column by Ms. Burshem. She ends her health and wellness article with a wild conspiracy theory. She is a chiropractor, endorsing a book by Senator Rand Paul (an eye doctor) who was interviewed by none other than Tucker Carlson, (a lap dog of Trump and Putin) accusing Dr. Fauci of causing the pandemic, making \$5 million off of it and killing millions! Fauci, you will remember was the only sane member of Trump's original pandemic task force. Talk about fake news. Harley Tate, Dundas



Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Rock and Roll Hotel



By Terry Campbell

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

We like going to rock concerts. One of our favorite bands is the southern rock group, Blackberry Smoke. Always a great show every time we see them and we are willing to travel see them perform. So, when my wife got tickets to see Charlie and Benji doing an acoustic two man show in Decatur, Alabama I was ready to go.

The Princess theater was a four-hour drive from our home in Tennessee, so we figured an overnight trip was in order. Driving back in the middle of the night after a show is not fun anymore. She booked a hotel overlooking the Tennessee River, the same river that our home in Tennessee is on. I am a farm boy and she is a city girl. Hence a room on the fifth floor seems like a great idea to her but not so much to me. A great view is not as important as keeping my feet on the ground.

When we checked in at the front desk a couple came in behind us. She was young, excited all and caught up in the moment. Her boyfriend was Benji Shank's brother and they were opening for the band that night. And here were fans coming to see the show and her exuberance could hardly be contained. Her boyfriend gave her the look like she was a bad dog. Maintain your composure and don't interact with the common folk. She suddenly looked a little downcast. After I saw their performance, I thought he should have let her have her 15 minutes. They were a long

way from the level of talent required for anyone to notice or remember them.

We ate at the Magic Mushroom pizza restaurant just around the corner from the theater, saw a great show and headed back to the hotel. That is where the events got a little weird. At 2am I was jolted out of a sound sleep. And nothing to do with mushrooms, either.

I woke up to a strange popping sound and then smelled smoke. I sat up and looked at the cabinet where the television was mounted and saw smoke rolling out of the door. I looked at the hotel room door and realized it was partially open. My next epiphany was that my wife wasn't there. I am sitting on the edge of a bed in a hotel room, alone on the fifth floor with windows that I already knew wouldn't open. There was a burning smell, smoke rolling out of the credenza in front of me and still an occasional popping sound. The door was propped open and my wife was nowhere to be found. My mind processed the information and analyzed that she wouldn't have fled a fire without waking me up. I hoped anyway. I opened the cabinet door to find a microwave complete with a microwave popcorn package inside way past the two minutes necessary to pop the popcorn properly. In fact, it was just about to the point where it would set a hotel room on fire.

Now I have been able to wake up out of a deep sleep to run out and chase cattle in the middle of the night. But this event was giving my brain a while to process. At the moment none of it made any sense. Fortunately, at this point my wife walked back in the door to explain the circumstances I was witness to. She wanted a snack in the middle of the night and started the popcorn, when she realized we had no drinks in the hotel room so she headed out the door to the vending machine around the corner which turned out to not be operating so she took the elevator down to the next floor to find a soda, and at that time not realizing that the microwave had been set to twenty minutes instead of two. Since hotel rooms always smell pretty funky anyway, the burned popcorn was kind of an improvement. It didn't set off the smoke alarm so we were able to resolve the incident without anymore excitement. The popcorn was beyond edible, but there was still the leftover pizza.



Benji & Charlie

A Minnesotan: Matters of Turkeys and Armadillos



By RosaLin Alcoser

Over the years I have discussed geese, ducks and of course goats. However, what I have yet to discuss are turkeys.

My current neighborhood has a roaming gang of wild turkeys that has at least ten members. Which I go to great lengths to avoid as they are wild turkeys. With good cause too as I once watched them chase a college student down the street. As I watched from my living room window it got me thinking about two encounters that I've had with wild turkeys. Except mine were both out in rural Minnesota rather than being chased down a Twin Cities suburban street.

My first encounter was when I was about

five or six years old. I had gone with my father to the farm of one of his church members at the time. This particular member did not keep a dog but still needed something to keep wild animals out of his chickens. So he kept an attack turkey.

This attack turkey was a big old Tom that was roughly the same size that I was at the time. And this turkey did his job well and pretty much attacked anything that it saw. Including me.

Well that big old Tom came running at me and I ran as fast as my little legs could carry me until it was called off. It felt like I had been chased forever. In reality it probably only chased me for all of one to two minutes but it felt like forever.

About 10 years later I had my second encounter with a wild turkey. I was walking outside with my mother and sister when I saw something stirring in the brush out of the corner of my eye. Then suddenly it moved and like any logical person would do I screamed "Armadillo!" Well the screaming caused it to fly up into the air right in front of me. To which I screamed again "Flying armadillo!"

Of course as this is Minnesota and not the South it was in fact not an armadillo nor can armadillos of any kind fly. As you might have already guessed it was in fact a turkey. More especially it was a mother hen who thought I was after her nest and was doing her best to get me to move away from it

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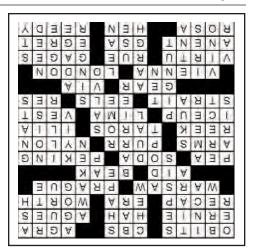


THEME: EUROPEAN CAPITALS

- **ACROSS**
- 1. Parting words
- Broadcasting acronym
 Taj Mahal city
- 13. Ernest, to mommy 14. "Fat chance!"
- 15. Fits of shivering
- 16. Rundown
- 17. Historical period its weight in gold"
- 19. *Namesake of famous pact signed in 1955
- 21. *"The City of a Hundred Spires"
- 24. Bird's groomer
- 25. Pod nugget
- 28. Fountain order
- 30. Duck dish a certain way 35. Picture on a coat
- 37. Feline vibration
- 39. Stocking fiber 40. Stink to high heaven
- 41. Cocoyam, pl. 43. Pelvic bones
- 44. Frost over (2 words)
- 46. Stew bean 47. Sleeveless garment
- 48. Predicament
- 50. Snakelike fish
- 52. Himonitor
- 53. Toothy wheel
- 55. *Street, in capital city in #38 Down
- 57. *On the Danube 60. *On the Thames
- 63. Virtue, in Italian
- 64. *Street, in capital city in #25 Down
- 66. Dashboard instruments
- 68. Beside, archaic 69. Geological Society of America
- 70. Type of heron
- 71. Parks or Luxemburg
- 72. Pecking mother
- 73. Like oboe's sound

- the land of the free ...'
- 2. Cold one
- Peruvian Empire
 Miss America topper
- 5. Blood infection
- 6. Prepare to swallow
- 7. *Dublin's cultural quarter neighborhood, "Temple
- 8. Parallelogram, e.g. 9. All excited
- 10. Spiritual leader
- 11. Network of nerves 12. Certain something in a tray
- 15. Rouse
- 20. Take puppy from a pound
- 22. "Hamilton: An American Musical" singing style _ Reef
- 24. Great _
- 25. *On the Seine
- 26. Not slouching
- 27. Arabian chieftain
- 29. Like Roman god Janus
- 31. *Also the most populous city in Ukraine
- 32. More ill
- 33. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful _
- 34. Annoying tiny biters
- 36. Arctic jaeger
 38. *Located in boot-shaped country
- 42. Sound of artillery
- 45. Kind of hickory nut
- 49. Jack's inferior
- 51. Like a Grammy nominee
- Frustration, in print
- 56. "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush," e.g.
- 57. Source of veritas
- 58. Wraths
- 59. Volcano in Sicily
- 60. Ground beef description
- 61. Fairytale giant
- 62. "All You ____ Is Love" 63. Variable, abbr.
- 65. Put to work
- 67. Hog heaven





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