



Kenyon Messenger™

DECEMBER, 2021

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Volume 15 • Issue 8

Lacey's Kitchen & Cocktails Now Open in Kenyon

Announcements

Christmas Drawing

Enter to win a holiday gift collection including gift cards to local restaurants, an 8 pack of festive cupcakes from Flour Child Creations and a \$25 gift certificate to Country Goods! (see ad on page 6)



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Thank you for your support!

• Got crutches? You may have heard that there's a shortage of crutches in the U.S. right now. (There's a shortage of aluminum to build them.) Northfield Hospital + Clinics' supply is running low. If you have gently used crutches you don't need, please consider donating them for patients to use. Aluminum crutches only, in good condition. No wooden or broken crutches, please. Drop off your donation at Northfield Hospital's main entrance (weekdays 7am-4pm) or Emergency Department entrance anytime. The hospital is at 2000 North Ave. in Northfield. NH+C will clean and sanitize the crutches and get them to patients who need them. (Crutches are given free to patients.) Thank you!

Lacey's Kitchen and Cocktails, the brainchild of Head Chef Steve Lacey and businesswoman/G.M. Heather Thram, opened in November at what was formerly Schweich's. Located at 632 2nd Street, Lacey's is now serving new American cuisine; steaks, salmon, pasta, meatloaf, pork loin, salads, sandwiches and appetizers.

On the day we visited, during the Christmas in Kenyon Celebration, we were greeted by a beautiful holiday tree in the lobby and

friendly, energetic wait staff. I was happy to see the decor had mellowed a little from when Lawrence Schweich owned it. They kept that impressive, glorious, bar up-front and the walk up to the Hostess podium is impressive. Feels like you're really going into a 5-star place.

We were shown to the back, where a happy multi-generation family of 7 was just finishing their dinner and a table of ladies sat chatting comfortably over their dessert.



Chef Steve Lacey

Christmas in Kenyon



Santa was at S.I.F.T on Saturday afternoon (additional pictures on page 7)

General Manager Heather Thram - Mom of 5 kids - points out that petite portions of regular meals appeal to seniors and children, and are often healthier options.

(continued on page 6)

All Seasons Food Shelf to Move to New Location this Month



All Season Food Shelf serves residents in Kenyon, Wanamingo, Dennison, Nerstrand and West Concord. We are open Monday 2-5pm, Thursday 12-3pm and Saturday 9am-12pm. Anyone who needs food is eligible for our services. Customers who are unable to pick up their order can designate someone to pick up their order for them.

Anyone who needs services can call 507-789-6162. During business hours staff will be able to assist the customer.

(continued on page 6)

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Religion

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December, 2021

Genesis: The Beginning



By Pastor Colin Rueter,
New Life Church

Let's start with our journey into God's word! I pray this encourages, helps, and guides you as you dive into the Bible. Each month I will present another book of the Bible in listed order not chronological, give context and outline, and practical application for us today. If you find yourself in need of a Bible, please reach out to me. To help if you haven't read your bible before, I will be quoting verses as needed with their 'address'. So, for Genesis 1:1, the first "1" is for chapter reference, the second "1" is for the verse within that chapter. Let's get in God's word!

Gen-e-sis (/'jenəsəs/) noun

- the origin or mode of formation of something.

We will start with the book of Genesis. While this book does not have a stated author, tradition attributes this book to Moses. There is no conclusive reason to deny the Mosaic authorship of Genesis. With this authorship

confidently assumed, we can conclude that this text was probably written around 1420 B.C. between the time of the Exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt and Moses' death. It will seem as though there are assumptions with this text for authorship and date. With many ancient texts, religious or not, archeology and additional manuscripts are used to confirm and be confident in conclusions made for author and date written.

This first book begins with a profound statement, "In the beginning, God..." (Genesis 1:1). This assumes God exists and always has existed. If I could summarize this first book, it is about God creating the world and everything in it as He begins to work out His plan with choosing a special people to be called His own. Most of the major doctrines in the Bible are introduced in some form in Genesis. Along with the fall of man, God's promise of salvation or redemption is recorded (Gen. 3:15). The first two chapters describe how God created all things starting with the whole universe down to the littlest ant by speaking: "God said...and it was so" (Gen. 1:6-7,9,11,14-15). It must be noted that human beings received a special handling by God as He breathed life into mankind to bring man to life, and from man's rib, woman was formed (Gen. 2:7, 21-22). These first two people, Adam and Eve, were placed within a Garden, Paradise, to live in perfection and fellowship with God. In Genesis 3, we see them fall into rebellion (sin) by listening to a crafty serpent and disobeying God (Gen 3:1-7). This rebellion throws the whole of creation into a moral freefall leading to the

choosing of Noah and his family to build an ark before God floods the entire world (Gen. 6-7). After the earth "resets" by repopulation, that God chooses a man, Abram (later named Abraham), to be the patriarch of a specially blessed people – later called Israel – to be the means of God bringing about the salvation mentioned in chapter three (Gen. 12, 15). This choosing of Abraham was simply because he believed in God and counted that belief (faith) to him as righteousness. Patriarchal history records the lives of four great men: Abraham (Gen. 12-25:8); Isaac (Gen. 21:1-35-29); Jacob (Gen. 25:21-50:14); and Joseph (Gen. 30:22-50:26). Genesis concludes with the story of Joseph, through a miraculous chain of events, ruling in Egypt. We see that these events may have been meant for evil, but God meant them for good (Gen. 50:20).

So what? Why does all of this matter? The overriding theme of Genesis is God's eternal existence and His creation of the world. God is, always was, and always will be, ruling over all. At a very basic level, this book answers the question, "Where did I come from?" and "What is my purpose?" This book shows us that all people, regardless of culture, nationality or language, are accountable to the Creator. But because of sin, introduced into the world at the Fall, we are separated from Him. Then through one people, Israel, God's redemptive plan for mankind was revealed and made available to all. We rejoice in that plan. Since God created the universe, the earth, and every living being, we can trust Him to handle the con-

cerns in our lives. God can take a hopeless situation and do amazing things if we will trust and obey in faith. Terrible and unjust things may happen in our lives, as with Joseph, but God will always bring about a greater good if we have faith in Him and His sovereign plan. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

I pray this encourages you as you read from Genesis this month, looking to celebrate Christmas as a time to reflect on God fulfilling His promise to bring a Savior through a humble birth in a manger. Next month, we will look at the Book of Exodus. Blessings and grace!



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Sunday, December 12 - 3: Vang - 11:00
Wednesday, December 15
Taizé evening prayer at Dennison - 7:00 PM
Sunday, December 19
Dennison - 9:00 AM - (Songs of my Life)
Vang - 11:00 (Christmas Carols with Sunday School and
"Noisy Offering" for ELCA Good Gifts)
Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
Dennison - 5:00 PM; Vang - 9:00 PM

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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NERSTRAND

Don Kloster, Pastor • 507-334-2822
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Christopher Culuris, Pastor
507-824-2457
130 West 3rd Street, Wanamingo

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Thank You, Lord!

*Scripture Reading — 2 Samuel 7:18-29
"Do as you promised, so that your name will be great forever." — 2 Samuel 7:25-26*

In the book A Grace Revealed Jerry Sittser tells about the tragic deaths of his wife, mother, and daughter in an auto accident. He wondered what could come out of such a horrific ordeal. He settled on redemption as the word that brought him hope: "[God] wants the harsh conditions [of life] to shape us and eventually the whole world into something extraordinarily beautiful. Redemption promises to transform, so completely."

David endured family squabbles, death threats, and many military battles before he experienced a time of rest and peace as Israel's second king. Through it all, he knew "the Lord was with him." And now the Lord had made a promise that his kingdom would endure and his throne would be established forever. The king knew he had to obey God's Word and seek to follow God's will, reminding his people every step of the way. David knew that Israel was "the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself and to make a name for himself." God was working to make something out of David's life and out of this nation for his good purposes all the nations.

Similarly, we are never beyond the redemptive work of David's descendant Jesus in his desire to make something out of us today.

Prayer
Lord, may I trust your redemptive work of always pruning, encouraging, and molding me to serve your good purposes. In Christ's name, Amen.

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Wednesday Mass 5:00p.m.

Obituaries

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Lucille Mildred Ronningen

Lucille Mildred Ronningen joined her loving husband in the arms of our Heavenly Father on October 14, 2021, in her home of 46 years, surrounded by family and loved ones.

Lucille Mildred Syverson was born August 27, 1923. She was born and raised in Cherry Grove Township. She attended country school at District 146. In 1944, she married Kenneth Ronningen. She worked alongside her husband on their dairy and crop farm until they retired and built their dream home in 1975. Kenneth died January 16, 2000.

Lucille loved her beautiful flower gardens, which were featured in many photography settings, newspapers, and magazines. She took pride in her home and yard and they were always immaculate. Most important to Lucille was family. She never missed a birthday or holiday. She made many Christmas Eve dinners and baked many holiday treats. Lucille and Kenneth loved to travel and went on many bus trips all over the United States and Canada with a unique group of traveling friends.

She was a faithful member of Lands Lutheran Church, lifelong member and supporter of the DFL, Farmers Union, Garden Club.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herman and Edeth Syverson, infant son, husband Kenneth, and sister-in-law Betty Syverson.

Survived by son Kelly (Joann) Ronningen, and grandchildren Renae (Rodney) Streich, Karen Jones, Kurtis (Alli) Ronningen, great grandchildren Stella Streich, Knute Ronningen, Aislynn Ronningen, and Matilda Jones, brother, Charles Syverson, nieces and nephews.

A private burial was attended by family. A celebration of life may be held at a later time. Memorials may be sent to Lands Lutheran Church Cemetery, and Friends of St. Rose (<http://www.friendsofstrose.org/>)

Arrangements were made by Rochester Cremation services. Condolences may be left at rochestercremationservicesmn.com

Beatrice Adeline Tollefson

Beatrice Adeline Tollefson, 89, formerly of Kenyon, MN, died Oct. 26, 2021, in Burnsville, MN.

Beatrice "Bea" Holte was born November 22, 1931, and grew up in Blair, WI. After graduation, she met widower Lynn Tollefson, and his daughter, Diane. They married March 8, 1952, and welcomed two more daughters, Susan and Vicki, to their family. After settling in Kenyon, Bea enjoyed selling Avon and Christmas Around the World, but was especially proud of her work as a buyer at Fold-craft Co. In 1989, Dahlen Jewelry and Mr. T's



8, 1952, and welcomed two more daughters, Susan and Vicki, to their family. After settling in Kenyon, Bea enjoyed selling Avon and Christmas Around the World, but was especially proud of her work as a buyer at Fold-craft Co. In 1989, Dahlen Jewelry and Mr. T's

Beahive, Lynn and Bea's dream business, became reality in downtown Kenyon. "Retirement" consisted of traveling to auctions in search of treasures and running the store. Bea loved making connections with local and "passing-through" customers, and antique enthusiasts. After Lynn's death, she maintained the store for five years before moving to the Northfield Retirement Community, in Northfield, MN, which she lovingly called home for four years. Bea loved her husband of 60 years, their family, and the life they built, together. She loved playing Bridge, sewing, dancing, auctions, antiquing, bargains, coincidences and telling stories.

Survived by daughters Diane (Roger) Randall, Susan Tollefson and Vicki (David) Lind; granddaughters Kimberly (Joel) Boulanger and Koni (Jason) Hudak; great-grandchildren Jackson, Maddy, Jake, Katie, Jenna, Megan, and Tabitha; brother Douglas (Marlene) Holte; sister-in-law Elsie (Jerry) Narveson; and nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by husband Lynn Tollefson; granddaughter Becky Randall; sister and husband Anita and Ron Wemple; brother-in-law and wife David and Peggy Tollefson.

Family memorial service was at 2:30 PM, Saturday, October 30, 2021, at Castle Rock Valley Cemetery, Farmington, MN.

Arrangements by Bierman Funeral Home and Crematory. biermanfuneralhome.com.

Eunice Stenbakken

Eunice Stenbakken, 91, of Kenyon, passed away Tuesday, November 23, due to complications with pneumonia, having tested negative for Covid-19 two days prior.

She was born in Pine City, May 21, 1930. "Euny," to her friends, graduated from West Concord High School in 1948. She was married to the late Edwin Koberstein in 1950 and later married to Marlin Stenbakken on October 30, 1970.

Euny worked for the Northfield Hospital for 43 years. She worked in several departments over that time, from nursing to housekeeping and custodial. She was well known for her diligence and dedication to her work. These were qualities witnessed first-hand by family members that worked alongside her in the later years of her career.

Euny was host to many years of cherished family holiday celebrations (sometimes including lively card games). She especially shined her love to her nine great-grandchildren.

Euny is survived by sisters Elaine Bucsho and Lola Babcock, son, Ronald Koberstein, and her daughters, Sandra (Greg) Amundson and Julie (Jack) Hartin, her grandchildren, Paul, Tim, Sherri (Raye), Brandy (Edward), Benjamin, Emily (Nick), and Andy, and her great-grandchildren, Tyler, Allison, Austin, Ian, Brayden, Gabriel, Berk, Lucas, and Mila.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Birdge and Julia Babcock, her first husband, Edwin Koberstein, second husband, Marlin Stenbakken, daughter-in-law, Donna Kober-

stein, granddaughter, Amy Hartin, and nine brothers and sisters: Bud, Ole, George, Irene, Mary, Pearl, David, Bev, Evelyn.

A funeral service was held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at Grace Lutheran Church in Nerstrand with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Grant Aaseng officiated. Interment was in Valley Grove Cemetery in Wheeling Township.

Alice Irene Berg

Alice Irene Berg, 86, of Wanamingo, passed on November 2, 2021 at Mayo Hospital in Mankato MN.

Alice was born on January 3, 1935 in Nerstrand, MN to George and Claribel (Prestrude) Kispert.

She graduated from Kenyon High School in 1953 and shortly after met Duane Berg. Duane and Alice were married on October 15, 1955 and raised four children in Wanamingo, MN.

Alice worked various jobs in her lifetime. She worked at Wanamingo Schools as a playground Aide and a cross walk guard, she spent some time running an in-home daycare and worked at the daycare in Trinity Lutheran church in Wanamingo, Wannacare. She enjoyed watching the kids she had at the daycares grow up as that gave her great pride. Alice also worked at Riverview Manor in Wanamingo, working nights and helping the residents there. She always enjoyed seeing the residents for many years after she was done as they would walk her home. Her favorite "job" was her family". Alice was everything family, whether it was watching a sporting event, attending a concert, or a Labor Day Weekend bocce Tournament at the lake. If a child, grandchild, or great grandchild had an event, Alice wanted to be there. She was always there with the biggest smile. Alice treated her family with her famous cheese ball, awesome brownies and melt in your mouth caramel bars. Every family event had at least one of these for everyone to enjoy.

She is survived by her husband, Duane; children, Beverly (Steve) Wolf, Jill (Reed) Kvittem, James (Debra) Berg; grandchildren, Nicole Donlon, Michelle Winter, Tara Hogy, Taylor Kvittem, Brett Kvittem, Amanda Jo Berg, Edel Berg, Tia Minter, Ashley Urevig, Bailey Berg, Alivia Berg; 11 great-grandchildren; sister, Jean Overby; and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; son, Bruce Berg; son-in-law, Tom Johnson; brother Gerald Kispert, and sister, Claire Kispert

Visitation was held on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Mahn Family Funeral home-Larson Chapel in Zumbrota, MN.

Memorial service was held Wednesday Dec. 8, 2021 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo at 11 a.m. Inurnment immediately followed the service.

Thomas R. Sahl



Thomas Richard Sahl, 66, of Kenyon, died at his home surrounded by his loving family on Saturday, December 4, 2021 of Multiple Systems Atrophy (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/multiple-system-atrophy/symptoms-causes/syc-20356153>).

He was born December 15, 1954 in Faribault, Minnesota the son of Philip and Bernice (Keck) Sahl. His father, Philip, died in an accident when he was young and his mother married Lloyd Jystad. He grew up on a hobby farm near Kenyon and graduated from Kenyon High School in 1973. He continued his education at Golden Valley Lutheran College for two years and the last two years at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN where he graduated. On May 26, 1979, he married Linnea Youngquist at Elim Lutheran Church in Robbinsdale. Thomas worked as a heavy equipment operator in construction for 28 years and most recently at City Works in Kenyon for 11 years before retiring due to his health. He was also an EMT in Kenyon for 15 years. Thomas has attended Faith Community Church in West Concord for 25 years. When not working he enjoyed family activities, hunting for agates on the North Shore, playing games of any kind, , canoeing and camping. His family was his most rewarding accomplishment. Another highlight was helping with road and pipeline development at Upon The Rock Christian Camp in LaVeta, Colorado.

He is survived by his wife, Linnea Sahl of Kenyon; children, Aanya (Todd) DiBrito of Rosemount, Racheal (Andrew) Carlson of Zumbrota, and Kirsten (Kyle) Langeslag of Faribault; grandchildren, Ayla DiBrito, Aiven DiBrito, Finnley Carlson, Tucker Carlson, Kalan Langeslag, and Kollins Langeslag; siblings, Mike (Joan) Sahl of Plano, TX, Linda (Larry) Bennett of Rotunda West, FL, Julie (Mark) Huseth of St. Cloud, Terry (Jackie) Sahl of Stewartville and Daniel (Sarah) Jystad of Kenyon, and nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Philip Sahl; mother, Bernice (Keck) Sahl Jystad; step-father, Lloyd Jystad.

The family requests facemasks be worn at the visitation and funeral. A Visitation will be on Friday, December 10th from 4:00 – 7:00 PM and one hour prior to the service Saturday, December 11th all at Faith Community Church in West Concord. A Memorial Service will begin at 9:30 AM Saturday, December 11, 2021 Faith Community Church in West Concord with Pastor David Breederland officiating. A light lunch reception will follow. Private burial will be held at a later date in Gol Lutheran Cemetery in Kenyon.

Memorials are preferred to Upon The Rock Christian Camp or Multiple Systems Atrophy research study (philanthropy@mayo.com and designate MSA Research Study).

Obituaries

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December, 2021

Charles (Charlie) Henry Vangsness

Charles (Charlie) Henry Vangsness



Passed away peacefully at Mayo Clinic Hospital-St. Marys Campus in Rochester, MN on November 27, 2021 at the age of 89 after a very recent diagnosis of stage four cancer.

Born April 26th 1932 to Henry and Myrtle (Pearson) in Roseglen Township, North Dakota. The family moved to Goodhue County, Belle Creek township around 1935 to the family farm which was settled by Charlie's Grandfather in 1879. Charlie purchased the farm from his parents in the mid 1960's, he lived on and farmed this land and resided there with his wife Janice until his last days. Charlie was a devout Christian and lifelong member of Minneola Lutheran Church, he was confirmed there in 1946 and later was a Sunday School Teacher for several years and served on many committees. Charlie attended Husevold country school and graduated from Wanamingo High School in 1950.

In 1954 he spent one year on the Great Lakes as a Merchant Seaman aboard the Joshua A. Hatfield. Around this time he also worked odd jobs in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area. Later he returned to the family farm where he farmed with his younger

brother Vernie for many years. Charlie also milked dairy cows until 1993. He never truly retired, as he worked many years working for Peterson Turkey Farm in Cannon Falls and finally "retired" about three years ago. Hardest working man you'd ever meet but claimed to have hardly worked a day in his life because he always enjoyed what he did.

Around 1966 he met Janice Norgren at the Schlieff's Little City Ballroom in Inver Grove Heights. They were married in St. Johns Lutheran Church in Elizabeth, MN on March 31st 1967. They had twin girls, Kim and Kelly on March 19th 1968 and another girl, Karen on February 3rd 1973. His girls helped on the farm in most everyday and looked forward to all the trips to town in the purple Chevy pick-up.

Charlie was a busy man and hardly ever sat still except to read the newspaper and to visit with friends and family while sitting on the deck. He loved to fish, trips to deer camp and family road trip vacations and driving his 4-wheeler. Charlie was an avid beekeeper for over 40 years and had a large "customer" base. He spent a lot of time in his woodshop. He liked old time country and western music as well as a good polka band and dancing with his wife. He was a big Minnesota sports fan of the Vikings, Gophers and Twins. He read the newspaper and watched the news daily. He always kept an eye on the weather daily. He drank milk and coffee every day and ate horseradish, honey and butterscotch pudding and like any good Norwegian he ate

a lot of lutefisk and lefse (maybe a secret to his longevity).

Charlie had an uncanny gift for remembering people and names without hardly a moment's hesitation even if 50 years had passed since he had seen or spoken to them

Truly what bought Charlie the most joy were his grandkids. They were each treated very special, and he lived to see them compete or participate in their activities. He would amaze them with his ability to wiggle his ears, one at a time or both at the same time

Survived by his wife Janice of 54 years; three daughters, Kelly (Kyle) Wallaker, Kim (Ronny) Thompson and Karen (Mike) Allen; five grandchildren, Luke and Ava Wallaker, Ivan Thompson and Easton and Hailey Blissenbach; brothers, Arvid (Barb) Vangsness and Vernon (Linda) Vangsness; many nieces and nephews.

Proceeded in death by his parents Henry and Myrtle Vangsness, Sisters Arlene Struck, Clarice Cardinal and Doris Kyllo. Brother-in-Laws Norm Struck, Eli Cardinal and Maurice Kyllo.

Memorials are suggested to Minneola Lutheran Church or Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The memorial service will be 11 a.m. Saturday, December 4, at Minneola Lutheran Church (13628 County 50 Blvd, Goodhue, MN) with Pastor Hannah Bergstrom de Leon officiating. Visitation will be 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, December 3 at Mahn Family Funeral Home-Larson Chapel in Zumbrota, and one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorials are suggested to Minneola Lutheran Church or Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The full obituary may be viewed at mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com.

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Ann Traxler
Attorney



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Lacey's Kitchen & Cocktails Now Open in Kenyon

(continued from page 1)

Head Chef Steve Lacey has been in the Hospitality and Food and Beverage industry for 37 years. A 1992 graduate of Culinary School in Vermont, Lacey discovered his passion as a teen-ager. For the busy father of 3 - one of whom was working the day we visited - Golf Clubs and large-scale events catering have been his livelihood ever since.

I ordered a hot tea and Hubs ordered a soda while we looked at the menu. We were happy to see a number of clearly marked Gluten Free options, including a Tandoori Chicken Salad - which we hardly ever see! There was a Jambalaya; which could be served spicy or regular! I am a stickler for beautifully presented fresh food and good food-handling practices and I was happy to see everything at Lacey's was top notch.

We opened with the artichoke dip and opted for the pita chips. (\$8) We could have chosen

kettle or tortilla chips, but we are trying to watch our Gluten intake. Not sure if Pita Chips have any less Gluten than the alternatives, but it seemed tastier. The wait time for the Appy to arrive was good and the atmosphere was pleasant. The place is very clean and warmly decorated in pecan colored wood with comfortable seating. We did not mind chatting over our drinks and snacks. Drinks being brought to other diners looked amazing.

The entree arrived promptly. I opted for the Veggie burger - a blend of quinoa, corn, black beans and brown rice with pickles and fried onions (\$11) on a Gluten Free bun (add \$2)

At this point I am compelled to mention the condiments. I over-ordered. I just absently asked for Mayo, Mustard, and Ketchup. Lettuce and Tomato. I guess that's what I normally get on a burger? I expected the kitchen to just brush on a little. I was surprised when everything was delivered in a small souperon as a separate plate for dinner. Charming, but not what I was expecting and way more than I needed. It felt wasteful on my part. I didn't want to take it home and I felt bad leaving so much. I'd choose differently next time. Truthfully, I didn't need all that extra stuff. The lettuce was crisp, had a lovely color and was very fresh. Onions were caramelized nicely. Just some mayo would have done the job. The bun was fresh, soft

and yummy. And Gluten Free! Yay!

I opted for the sweet potato tots (another delightful surprise!!) as my side dish. Maybe it's just my newly-acquired Minnesota palate but the Chipotle Mayo had a bit of a kick to it. Portions were plentiful.

Hubs ordered the Wagyu Burger with fries. (\$12) I tasted the Wagyu beef and it did not disappoint. Cooked exactly as ordered on a soft potato bun.

Even though we had not finished our lunches, we decided to have dessert. Life is short. I ordered the Sticky Toffee Cake (\$6) We ended up taking most of it home. It was excellent warmed up with some ice cream in front of the TV later that evening.

As I polish off the other half of my Veggie burger while writing this, I must grudgingly acknowledge that if both of us eat at Subway, it's over \$30 bucks. Which seems absurd to me and it's not just the price; In comparison, at Lacey's we had an Appy, 2 burgers, drinks plus dessert and the bill was \$43 before tip. So NOW, that \$30 at Subway seems REALLY absurd. Assuming we order 2 entrees at Lacey's...we're out the door for LESS than the sandwich shop. No brainer.

The relaxing vibe, a chance to slow down and just look around for a minute, the menu

offerings, food handling, presentation, portions, cleanliness and friendly, eager service were great. We absolutely will return to Lacey's. I plan on trying Nona's Pasta with the Rosemary cream sauce, the Gyro salad, the Traditional Wedge and also the Tandoori Chicken salads,

I look forward to delicious Sunday meals after church; Heaven knows we have needed a nice, reliable place to go in Kenyon for a long-time. As the wife of a hard-working farmer, good food is of utmost importance. I need it fast and I need it good. Bonus points if the place is pretty and the staff is pleasant. I personally am hoping for an Eggs Benedict option on Sundays, but we'll see what the Chef has plans for going forward.

No word on the units upstairs -- which is the question everyone always asks -- except that they are currently rented.

The restaurant is open the back half of the week beginning on Wednesday at 11 a.m. Their telephone number is: 507-623-1173 Reservations are recommended. There is a lunch menu and a dinner menu; not all meals are served at all times. Call ahead.

More details can be found at www.laceyskc.com

All Seasons Food Shelf to Move to New Location this Month

(continued from page 1)

If a customer calls outside of business hours they can leave a message and staff will get back to them on our next business day. We offer no-contact shopping; staff takes the grocery order over the phone, bags the groceries and places them outside for the customer to put in their vehicle.

Our new location has a private entrance off of the alley behind the All Seasons Thrift Store. The easiest way to get there is to turn up the alley behind the All Seasons Thrift Store. We are located halfway down the alley on the left. Our signs have not yet been installed but, once they are, will make it easier for community members to find us. We will be moving to our new location the last week of December. The new address is 516 2nd

Street, Kenyon.

Our inventory comes from a combination of donations from the community, orders from the Channel One Food Bank and shopping at our local grocery store. I have found our community to be extremely generous in helping to fill any empty spots on our shelves, freezers and refrigerators. We use monetary donations to buy non-perishable foods such as milk, eggs, cheese, cuts of beef, chicken and fresh produce outside of gardening season. We stock nonperishables like beans, canned vegetables, canned fruit, baking ingredients, cereal, pasta, rice, etc. We also have personal care products: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, mouth wash.

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Christmas in Kenyon

December, 2021

- KENYON MESSENGER -

Page 7



A couple local ladies having fun around town



Santa knows if you have been naughty or nice



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That's the Latest

- KENYON MESSENGER -

December, 2021

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That's the Latest Plowville



By Emery Kleven

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

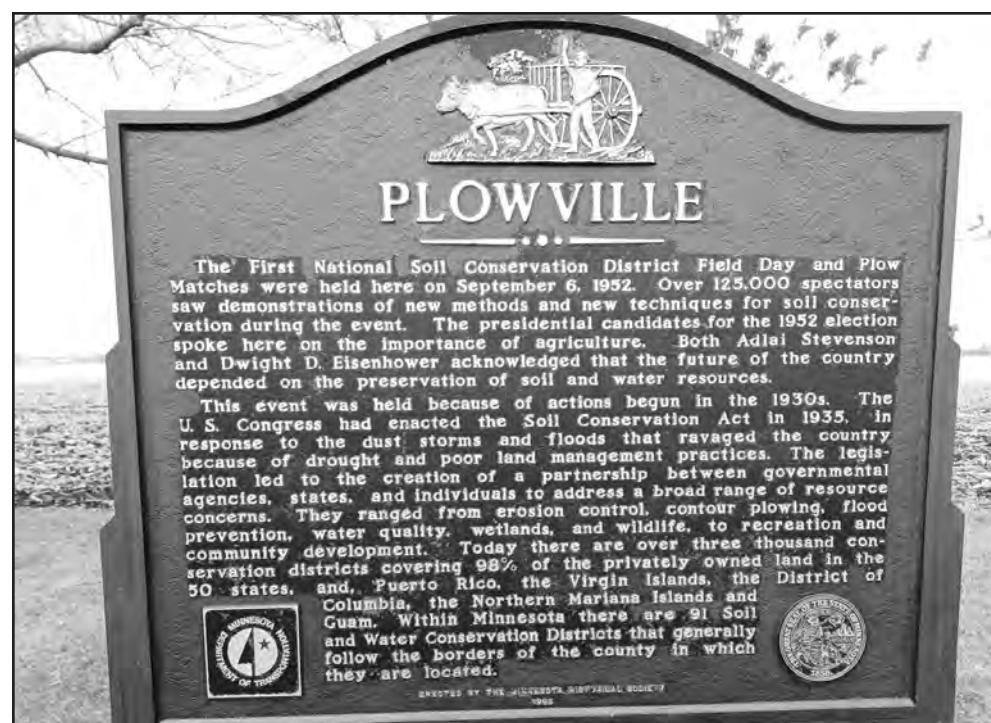
I heard the news of Senator Bob Dole's death on December 5th and that took me back to Farmfest 1976. This was when Farmfest was held just outside of Lake Crystal west of Mankato. Bob Dole, a U.S. Senator from Kansas was the Vice Presidential candidate of Gerald Ford. Dole came to Farmfest to campaign a day after Democratic Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter had been at Farmfest. My parents were at Farmfest that day and I

went the next day. While they saw Carter they did not get to meet and greet him. I on the other hand, got to shake hands with Senator Dole as he was greeting people there. It was my first time to meet and shake hands with a Presidential or Vice Presidential candidate. Many of you might recall that because of a serious injury from World War II, Dole's right hand was not used by him except to hold a pen in it. He shook hands left handed after the war. In 1996, Dole was his party's nominee for President against the incumbent Bill Clinton.

As a side note, it was President Clinton who in 2000 invited me and a number of my farm broadcast colleagues to the White House to take part in a large meeting in the East Room as he was championing permanent normal trade relations with China.

Speaking of Presidential candidates, in late October I took the 'old' highway 14 from Dodge Center to Kasson and stopped at the historical site that is along the now County Road 34. It had been many years since I actually stopped there and I needed to refresh my memory of the event that took place in 1952. The first thing that struck me as my memory was being rebooted was that the crowd was estimated at over 125,000 spectators. My dad was among the many and I heard the stories but really never thought about it much other than the fact that General Eisenhower was there.

The second thing that struck me as odd as I



The historical marker along highway 34 between Kasson and Dodge Center shows the sight of one of the biggest farm events held in Minnesota. Both Presidential candidates from 1952 were among the over 125,000 people who attended.

look at it today is that a huge Soil Conservation field day would be called Plowville. It reminds me of a South Dakota State University agronomist and conservationist who once told me that he would never drive

through Minnesota during daylight hours as he did not want to see all the land that was still being tilled with a moldboard plow.

(continued on page 9)

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That's the Latest

- KENYON MESSENGER -

December, 2021

Page 9

That's the Latest Plowville

(continued from page 8)

Now granted this was about 20 plus years ago and we have made great strides to make lawn ornaments of most moldboard plows but to name the first National Soil Conservation field day complete with plow matches Plowville is a bit of an oxymoron.

As I was tearing some old flooring in our new house to be replaced with new flooring, I found some classified advertising from the January 27, 1973 Capital Times newspaper

out of Madison, WI. There were a lot of old Farmall and Oliver tractors listed in the want ads. The car ads were quite interesting as well. If only you could buy a 67 Pontiac for \$688 today. There were Mavericks, Pintos, Galaxie 500's and Datsuns for sale. There was a 1947 Willys Jeep in lime green with carpeting throughout and only 59,000 actual miles. No price was listed. On another page there was a dairy farm and a beef farm for sale listed by Gochenaar Realty of Richland Center, WI. Is that any relation to you Larry?

People forget that there was a lot of tobacco grown in Wisconsin and Minnesota years ago. Here's a case in point in this farm listing from 1973. A farm for sale just south of Madison near Stoughton, WI had an ad that read; 41 acres with 11 acres tobacco base,

good 6 bedroom home with large modern (that's how it was spelled in the paper) kitchen, gas heat, large attached garage, set up for beef and dairy. Large tobacco shed.

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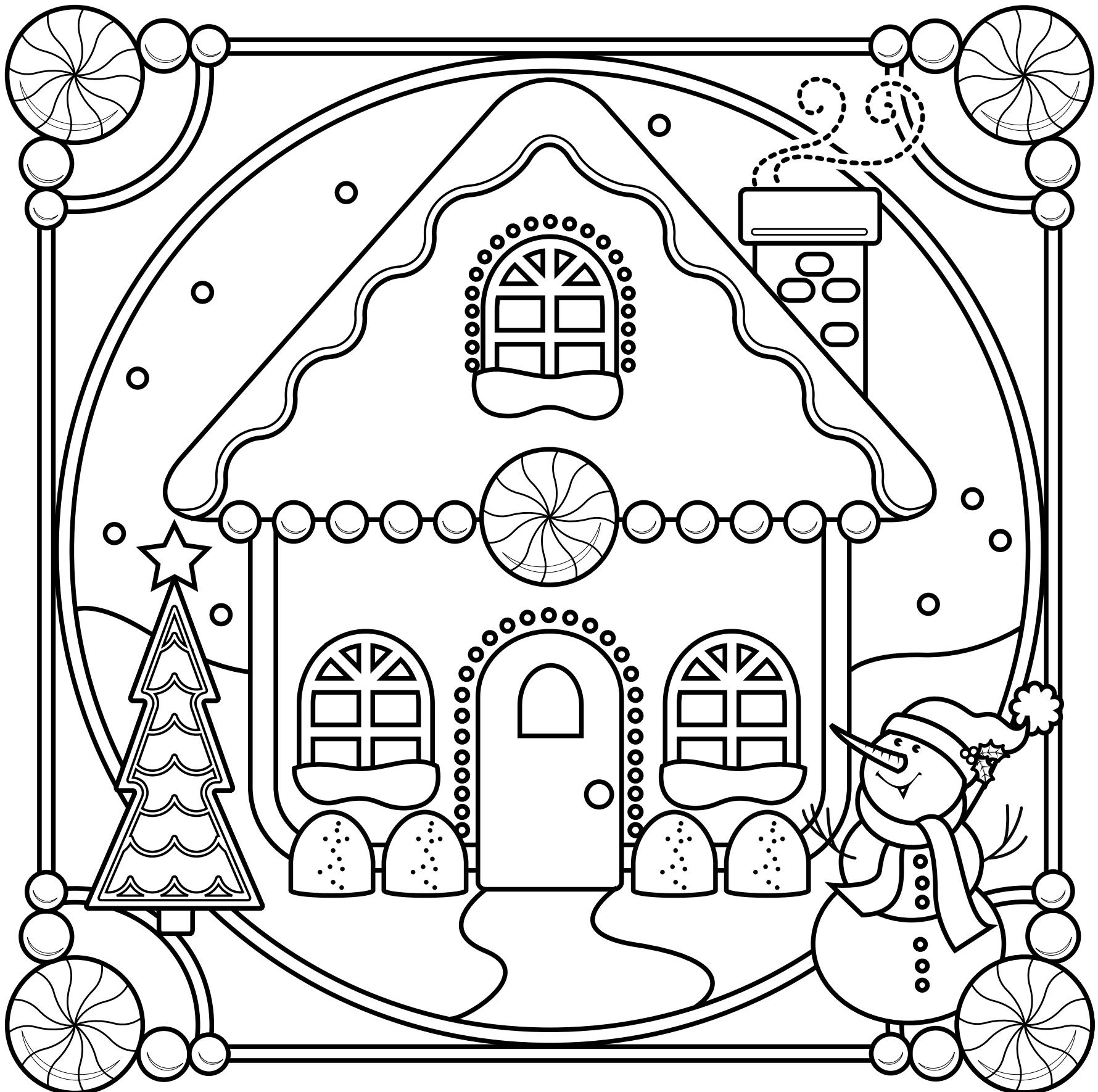
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December 13

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December 15

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Kenyon, MN

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Kenyon, MN

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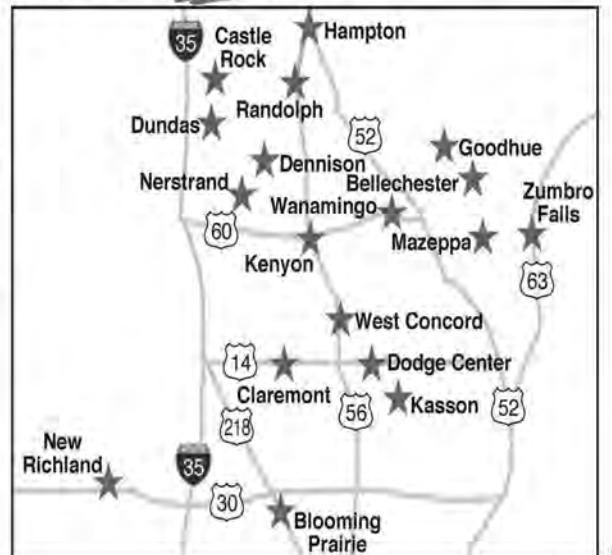
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K-W Noble Knights

December, 2021

- KENYON MESSENGER -

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**K-W Noble Knights of the Week
for November 12, 2021**

Front Row: Hudson Prondzinski, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Tucker Westlund, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Charlie Baker, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Ariel Ordalen, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Abby Lerfeld, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky. Back Row: Aubri-annah Imgrund, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Evelyn Nystuen, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Colton Hanson, Gr. 4, Ms. Jen Subra; MaKaydee Konop, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



K-W Noble Knights of the Week for November 19, 2021

Front Row: Eleanor Johnson, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; David Aguilar Garcia, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Gretta Haugen, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Hunter Aronson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Charlie Boyum, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Logan Schmitz, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Hayden Brown, Gr. 4, Ms. Jen Subra; Randy Gomez Hernandez, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

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FROM NORTHLFIELD: Go east on Hwy. 246 to Dennison, continue east out of Dennison 3 miles, take a right on Hwy. 56 south for 2 long miles. Take a right heading west on Cty. 49 Blvd., go 1/2 mile. Our cabin is right before Vang Lutheran Church.



**K-W Noble Knights of the Week
for December 3, 2021**

Front Row: Roman Johnson, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Nathan Barraza, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Isabelle Hanson, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Adrian Moreno, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Brooklyn Arnold, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Keeton Luedtke, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Arwyn Sweet, Gr. 2, Ms. Val Ashland; Alan Moreno, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Hunter Taylor, Gr. 4, Ms. Jen Subra; Stella Manduano, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

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Greater Minnesota Communities Adapt and Demonstrate Resilience in the Face of COVID-19

By University of MN Extension

Adaptation and resilience are key concepts in sustainability and help each of us and our communities navigate, adjust and bounce back from challenges that include climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

As ripple effects from these challenges continue to impact communities across the state, we asked leaders from the University of Minnesota Extension Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP) to share some of the lessons learned in their regions since the early days of the pandemic to today and what gives them hope for the future.

Drawing on responses from each region, several themes and key insights emerged that show how communities across Minnesota are continuing to adapt and demonstrate resilience in the face of local, regional and global change, this year and beyond.

Digital tools help keep communities connected

One of the first lessons learned expressed by RSDP leadership is that communities have embraced new technologies and digital forms of communication that have helped keep projects and communities moving forward.

"Meeting and collaborating virtually works quite well in many ways," said Molly Zins, executive director of Central RSDP. "In addition to increasing access for some and reducing the time and expense for travel, we found that virtual meetings have a pretty quick learning curve and can provide an engaging, interactive experience."

Similar observations were shared across all of the regions. For example, Northeast RSDP's board and work groups successfully adapted to a distanced, virtual process for their work, creating new ways to discuss projects, track work and priorities, and even vote on which projects to support.

"Not only did this process find a sufficient mechanism to exchange ideas and bring forward deeper issues, the number of people able to participate actually increased from previous years," said David Abazs, executive director of Northeast RSDP.

With the success of digital approaches to this work, it's not surprising that regions will continue drawing on virtual tools to supplement their programming and partnerships in the future. Anne Dybsetter, executive director of Southwest RSDP, summed up a key question about these digital approaches that will continue being explored in each region moving forward.

"What new partnerships are possible if the barrier of distance is eliminated due to virtual communication?" Dybsetter asked.

Hope for in-person connections

While all of RSDP's regional leaders expressed appreciation for virtual programming and projects that could be completed with digital communication, each noted how they and their partners are looking forward to more in-person meetings and events to help build connections and sustain relationships across the regions.

As conditions shifted with the pandemic this summer and fall, RSDP regional executive directors worked closely with their boards to determine their meeting preferences. Some regional boards identified outdoor meeting locations while others preferred to continue meeting virtually at this time.

"I am so grateful to all of the ways that technology has been able to support connections-making," said Andi Sutton, executive director of Southeast RSDP, who joined the organization in summer 2021. "Though I do still think that in-person meetings play a strong role in relationship- and trust-building for the long term," she added.

Sutton expressed how seeing and working with partners in person will be critical to building a strong sense of community among board, work group and project partners. These in-person connections will also help as she continues learning about the region and the various sustainability challenges and successes facing communities.

Other leaders echoed Sutton's sentiment about the importance of in-person relationship building.

"As we continue to adapt in this pandemic, we'll look for ways to work in person in all the ways we can do so safely.

That probably means focusing on one-to-one or small group gatherings, connecting outdoors, and keeping an eye on COVID conditions in the community," said Northwest RSDP executive director Linda Kingery. "The RSDPs have found that a lot of business can be conducted online when people know and trust one another, so in-person connections might intentionally focus on relationships."

Rapid response projects highlight inclusivity, innovation and ingenuity

Another important lesson and impact across Greater Minnesota came from the work done to support communities in need. In addition to the regular RSDP Idea Brief and project application process, each region awarded rapid response projects to community groups to address urgent needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. These projects highlighted the inclusivity, innovation and ingenuity of Minnesotans working to address short- and long-term sustainability challenges in their regions.

For example, one of the rapid response projects supported by Central RSDP was a project called "Emergency Halal Food Supply Hub" in St. Cloud. Community groups and Somali grocery stores partnered to create an emergency halal food supply to serve low-income Somali families. Store customers were provided the opportunity to donate to the in-store emergency halal food supply in an effort to sustain or grow the program.

Zins noted that this project's success was due in large part to its inclusivity and how it met the community being served where they were, delivering culturally appropriate food



RSDP's five regional executive directors: David Abazs (Northeast), Andi Sutton (Southeast), Molly Zins (Central), Linda Kingery (Northwest) and Anne Dybsetter (Southwest). photo courtesy of U of M Extension

to those in need.

"Flexibility and adaptability are not only key, but essential. From project work plans to meeting agendas to daily tasks, exercising a nimble response to the circumstances at hand is vital for long-term efficacy and success," Zins said, about the rapid response work in her region.

As part of the rapid response projects supported by Northeast RSDP, Abazs shared how the region engaged new partners and saw a record number of proposals compared with previous years. One of the funded proposals was a Yurt Village project helping those experiencing homelessness in Duluth. To address the unprecedented numbers of people facing housing insecurity, this project is helping bring the community together to provide 24/7 warming and hygiene facilities and raise awareness about the urgent action needed to keep all our neighbors safe this winter.

Another project supported by Southwest RSDP lifted up the ways cultural and creative elements can help us navigate and understand moments of crisis and imagine new

ways of moving forward. This project, called the Dakota Community Artist in Residence project, helped produce and share videos about local artists including Talon Cavender-Wilson and Fern Cloud who shared more about their approaches and artwork that they created as part of the residency. These videos are available from PBS, here and here.

"Organizations, communities and leaders shifted gears and rapidly made changes that we otherwise never could have imagined—so now we know it's possible," Dybsetter said.

Supporting and learning from community resilience

Regional leaders looked forward to ongoing partnership with and learning from communities across the state as they continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges.

"I'm looking forward to continuing to learn from and be inspired by the profound resilience and innovation we're seeing in communities across the state," Zins said.

The Magic of Christmas

The holidays are a special time, full of love and laughter, family and friends. We'd like to wish you and your family peace and prosperity now and in the months ahead. May this holiday season be your best one yet and may your home and our community be blessed with all that Christmas brings. Happy Holidays!

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Neighbors

- KENYON MESSENGER -

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Family Fun for All at Dakota City December 11 & 12

Dakota City, located on the Dakota County Fairgrounds in Farmington, will once again host its annual CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE event December 11 & 12. Last year, due to covid restrictions, a drive through event was held, hosting over 6000 people. This year the event is live once again, with many of the buildings open to once again enjoy in person.

Visitors of all ages can take a step back in time to the early 1900's era rural Dakota County Village, and experience the sights and sounds of living history and Christmas past. The Village buildings will be illuminated inside and out throughout the village. Activities planned for this years event include the horse drawn trolley, taking guests thru the streets of the village. Visitors can walk thru the village, with many of the buildings open and heated with real wood-fired burning stoves to help take the chill off. Kids are encouraged to write a letter to Santa at home, and bring it to mail box at the Village Post office. If they include a self addressed stamped envelope, St. Nick will even get them a reply! Santa will be in the Depot greeting the kids so Par-

ents and Grandparents can come take pictures with Santa for those that want to. There will be some cooking in the Harris House. Caroling and music will fill the air inside and outside the church. The Minnesota Fire Engine Club will have several fire trucks on display near the fire barn. The Drug Store will be open with treats and food for sale, including hot dogs, soda, hot cocoa, and Old Fashioned 1919 Root Beer. (Credit Cards are not accepted, so bring some good old fashioned CASH!) There will be the PUTZ house display at the bank building, and parents can help the kids make old fashioned craft ornaments and decorations in the old school house. Everyone can experience a more simple life and this bygone holiday era. At press time, Dakota City reminds everyone there are volunteer opportunities available during this event, and year 'round at the village. Check the website at www.dakotacity.org for more information

Dakota City was established at The Dakota County Fairgrounds in 1978, and is a 1900's era agricultural village and museum. 22 buildings, including an operational blacksmith shop, newspaper office, train depot, barber shop, family home and more represent the business and rural social life of a rural early 1900's community. Dakota City is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that strives to preserve rural heritage and connects, through education and interpretation, current generations to life and agricultural heritage of the early twentieth century. Updated schedules and information are available at

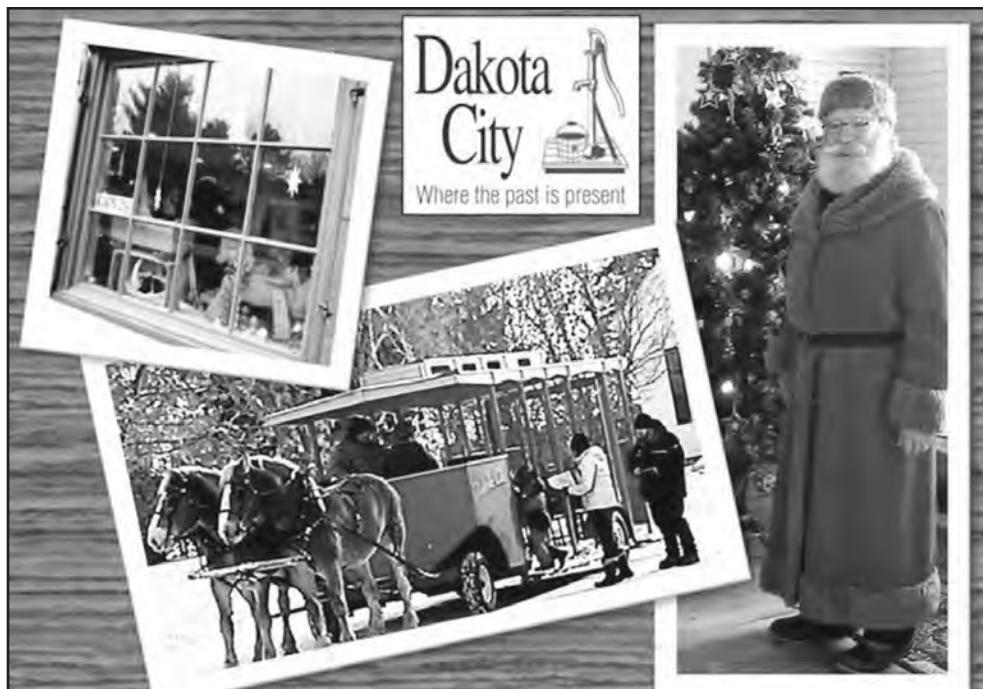


photo courtesy of Dakota City

www.dakotacity.org, and on their facebook page. The Cost is just \$5.00 per person and children under age 5 are Free. Start your own Christmas Tradition this year at Christmas in

The Village December 11th and 12th at Dakota City in Farmington, located at the Fairgrounds.



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Nerstrand Fire & Rescue Receives Grant for Rescue Equipment

Nerstrand Fire and Rescue recently received a \$2,700 grant from Compeer Financial's Fund for Rural America for purchase of a Grain Rescue Auger and Automated External Defibrillator.

The funds provided by this grant will help us in two critical life safety incidents: Grain Entrapment and Sudden Cardiac Arrest. The grain rescue auger will be utilized in conjunction with our recently donated rescue tube to evacuate grain from within the tube; relieving the pressure surrounding the victim

Rice SWCD 2022 Tree Sale Open



Trees like these potted white cedar are available to purchase during the 2022 Rice SWCD Tree Sale.

The Rice Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce that they are now accepting orders for the 2022 Rice SWCD Tree Sale. From shrubs to beautiful trees, the district has a great selection of species to meet the conservation needs of property owners. The trees may be planted for windbreaks, wildlife habitat, agroforestry, erosion control, and other conservation practices.

The Rice SWCD Tree Sale features twenty-seven species of trees and shrubs available for spring planting. New species this year include silver maple and concolor fir. Most of the stock is bare-root, but a few potted evergreens are available. The district may also be able to special order species not listed on the order form.

Orders are taken from December into April on a first come first serve basis. Many species sell out, so after February 26th, please call for availability. The trees typically arrive around the second week of April. The district

also offers tree mats, fertilizer packets, and other tree supplies that can help make your planting a success.

Again this year, tree orders can be placed online and be paid by credit card. Visit the Rice SWCD's online store at www.riceswcdonlinestore.com. If you would like to receive a paper copy through the mail, please contact the Rice SWCD office at 507-332-5408. You can also download a paper copy from our website at www.riceswcd.org.

If you are looking to restore your woodlot, windbreak, or want to create woodland habitat for wildlife or birds, please contact the Rice SWCD office for assistance with planning and implementation. District staff with backgrounds in forestry are available to answer any questions you may have regarding species selection and can help you make the right choice of trees and shrubs. Contact the district today!



Left to right: Jamie White-Titus - Compeer Financial; Eric Hokanson - Compeer Financial; Carmen Bonde - Nerstrand Captain Fire & Rescue; Joe Johnson - Chief Nerstrand Fire & Rescue; Nate Bonde - Assistant Chief Nerstrand Fire & Rescue; Derek Estrem - Firefighter/EMR Nerstrand Fire and Rescue; Rachael Johnson - Compeer Financial; John Bonde - Captain Nerstrand Fire & Rescue

allowing rescue personnel to remove the individual. Sudden Cardiac Arrest caused by certain heart rhythms can only be treated with an automated external defibrillator or "AED". This new AED is compatible with

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It will be fun and there will be some treats to enjoy.

Sportsmanship is Winning As One



By Harvey Mackay

An anthropologist proposed a game to some children in Africa. He placed a basket of fruit near a tree and told them that whoever got to the tree first could have all the fruit.

When he gave the signal to go, all the children held each other's hands and ran to the tree together. Then they sat in a circle enjoying the fruit.

When the anthropologists asked why they'd run as a group when the winner could have had more fruit on his own, one child said, "How can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?"

For years I've maintained that nice guys can finish first. Leo Durocher may have been a great Major League Baseball manager, but he was a misguided cynic when he remarked that "Nice guys finish last." Many of the most

successful people I know are also among the nicest. There's just too much evidence out there to deny it.

More than just a warm, fuzzy feeling, being nice and being a good sport are not mutually exclusive. No one wants to play with a jerk – or a cheater, a showoff, or a braggart. One of the best commercials currently running features athletes of all ages stopping in the midst of competition to help other people up.

Another excellent example of sportsmanship occurred at the 1969 Ryder Cup, a biennial men's golf competition between teams from Europe and the United States. The team competition was tied at 15.5 in the final match between Britain's Tony Jacklin and American Jack Nicklaus, who reached the 18th hole tied. Nicklaus made his par putt, and Jacklin faced a three-foot putt to earn the first ever tie in the competition. Instead of forcing his rival to make the putt, Nicklaus picked up Jacklin's ball marker and conceded the tie.

Nicklaus said, "I don't think you would have missed that, Tony, but I didn't want to give you the chance."

The annals of sports are filled with inspiring stories of that sort. Successful businesses should have the same chapters in their histories. But if your business doesn't, examine the deficiencies in the culture and make some improvements.

In business, being nice doesn't mean being ineffective. My mother taught me, "It's nice to be important but more important to be nice." My father always said, "You get more in life with sugar than with vinegar."

Frightened and mistreated people under-

perform. Talent doesn't flourish in a culture of doom and gloom, intimidation and insecurity. A bullying executive is an executive unsure of himself or herself. The people they supervise realize how damaging this is. Morale sags, performance suffers and profits decline.

The methods for fostering sportsmanship in business are much the same as they are when teaching children. Play fair. Avoid arguing. Follow directions. If you lose, don't make excuses. If you win, don't rub it in. Appreciate what others do well. Be supportive and respectful. Be willing to learn. Have a positive attitude.

Learn from your mistakes and push yourself to do better next time. If someone else makes a mistake, encourage them instead of criticizing them. Try your best, that's all anyone can expect.

We teach our kids to show respect for teammates and officials, and it's the same for co-workers. Realize that through proper sportsmanship, we all win and our company wins.

I am a strong believer in competition. I think it makes all of us better. However, I understand that some leaders try to eliminate competition at work because it can cause conflict. That's where sportsmanship really comes into play. Encourage everyone to do their best and cheer their success. Then use this success as incentive to achieve greater results. Leaders should want people to stretch themselves and get out of their comfort zones.

Competition isn't all about contests and in-



centives. It's about people pushing themselves to be better every day. The goal is to be the best you can be and never give up. If you win, be gracious.

Sportsmanship should be a requirement at work. Leaders should set the stage and demonstrate that the team is more important than individuals. We're all in this together. Don't be offended by others' success; cheer them on and learn from them.

Simon Nguyen said, "Victory is remembered for at most two decades; an act of good sportsmanship is remembered for a lifetime."

Mackay's Moral: Sportsmanship: lose with grace, win with class.

Reprinted with permission from nationally syndicated columnist Harvey Mackay, author of the New York Times #1 bestseller "Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive."

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Letter to the Editor

- KENYON MESSENGER -

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December, 2021

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

Letter to the Editor: Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools: A Time For Change

Curriculum

According to A Principal Looks Back: Standards Matter by Kim Marshall from David T. Gordon (Ed.), *A Nation Reformed: American Education 20 Years after A Nation at Risk* (2003), curriculum leaders must raise questions like the following: What is excellence in education? For what purpose is it sought? How can it be achieved? How can it be measured? Which is more important—the pursuit or the achievement of excellence? Furthermore, if excellence is a major curriculum goal, its attainment will depend primarily on decisions made by curriculum leaders and teachers—those who plan the curriculum (Parkay, Hass & Anctil, 2010).

So let us begin with the concept of curriculum. After all, it is the engine that drives teaching and learning (Jasparro, 1998). More than a list of subjects or topics covered in a school, it encompasses a number of independent factors including what and how students learn; what teaching strategies are most effective; and how the structure of the school supports both student achievement and teacher effectiveness (Rogers, 1977). Once in place, a highly qualified staff is the force that will take all of these variables and turn them into a quality learning environment.

Twenty years ago President George W. Bush signed into law a Federal program called the Adequate Yearly Progress Legislation (No Child Left Behind). With the primary emphasis on accountability for student achievement of academic standards; increased flexibility and local control; a greater role for parents and their children's educational program; and a greater emphasis on the use of scientifically based instruction (Best Practices), its overall objective was to raise the educational performances of **all** children. In each case, the goals were noble...the standard-based concept was proven...and no one could argue that mathematics, reading, and language arts are not important disciplines to master. That is unless you have given into today's American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the National School Board Association, or organizations and political operatives that have now come on the scene to promote a Marxist ideology. Sadly, they, along with school boards across the country, have knowingly or unwittingly abandoned these noble goals at the expense of our children and grandchildren (see recent legislation in California and Washington State). If we are not careful; if we are not willing to fight for this great Republic, this godless ideology may find its way into our school district as well.

As we look at the provisions of the Adequate Yearly Progress (MCA testing in today's vernacular as found in Minnesota), I find a number of reasons that will lead to student success in the classroom. Permit me to list the following:

To begin with, they serve as a "yardstick" whereby school districts like Kenyon-Wanamingo can show whether or not their

students are making academic progress on a continuous basis. No longer left to the whims of administrators and local school boards who seem to have an uncanny ability to make excuses or skew the results, they are meant to offer truthfulness. Just remember...you get what you put into them. Moreover, they have the added purpose to measure specific subgroups in the school district. In each case, they are important to know when it comes time to plan for what should be a never ending concept: curriculum improvement.

Second, no school district worth its "salt" remains static. Research confirms that quality school districts are constantly moving forward in their efforts to make it work for their students. Always vigilant and never resting on their laurels, they use test results as part of the criteria for monitoring student performance so that they can implement a review process that is meant for change at the right time...and always...in the right places. If one takes the time to look at a list of schools that are recognized as schools of excellence, they will find that they are continually evolving. This keeps them on their toes and away from the false narratives that have become common practice across this country.

Third, the adequate yearly progress called for in the legislation becomes the school district's **report card**. While there may be achievement numbers that are manufactured at the local level (see locally generated Summative and Formative data), the publicly reported yearly progress finds its origin through the Minnesota Department of Education who, in turn, releases the MCA scores back to the school district once they have been scored and recorded. It is at this point that accountability must take on a new face if school districts are going to promote quality education for **all** of its students.

Finally, it is important for school districts to take a close look at the individual buildings. While it is true that buildings may have their own culture, one must not forget that the emphasis placed on student learning is a by-product of the district's philosophy. When a school district consistently fails to make adequate yearly progress, it is time to get serious about who and what is running the show. At some point, it will always come down to **leadership**.

As one reflects on my opening paragraph, it becomes obvious that the key word is **excellence**. Excellence in education; excellence in achievement; excellence in curriculum and leadership. While I think it is safe to say that most school districts aspire to reach this level of performance, in the end, there will always be a large number that come short of the mark. When this happens, **Red Flags** will appear for all to see. In the case of the Kenyon-Wanamingo School District, I find the first one to be particularly disturbing. Why? Because it represents an attitude that must be extinguished if excellence is to follow. In truth, it cries out for change. Let us take a look at these flags.

First, and foremost, if there is such a thing as a cardinal sin in curriculum and instruction, it will always come from someone who should know better; someone so bold as to

make a public pronouncement (see Kenyon Leader, October 27, 2021) that "Not voting to fund a district with low MCA test scores goes beyond reading and math now, as lots of students count on extracurriculars for multiple reasons." When you couple this with the fact that it came from a school board member who has tolerated years of low mathematics and reading scores, it sends the message that the leadership team does not have to worry about MCA test scores. Just keep doing what you are doing and the public will pick up the tab.

Second, when a school district, that once found itself in the upper tier of student proficiency in mathematics and reading, finds itself consistently at or near the bottom when compared with a group of 16 school districts located in Southeastern Minnesota (this includes the State), it is time for change.

Third, when the school district's 2021 mathematics (33%) and reading (41%) student proficiency percentages continued their downward spiral from what was already a succession of low MCA scores from the 2017-2019 school years (there were no 2020 scores due to COVID-19), it is time for change.

Fourth, when a school district's college readiness score is less than a fifth of the student body (17.5%), it is time for change.

Fifth, when only 14% of all AP students (students who take classes with college/university credit attached to them) are able to pass just one qualifying examination, it is time for change.

Sixth, when a school district's student proficiency ranks worse than 58% of high schools across the State, it is time for change.

Finally, when a school district's student proficiency percentages find little or no consistency from year to year, it is time to do a full assessment of your curriculum and instruction model. Incidentally, while it would be tempting to blame teachers for a less than average student performance at Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools, when the problem is system wide with no indication of a sustainable change, one is forced to look elsewhere for answers and needed solutions.

Promises

As we look beyond the recently passed levy referendum, we see that it came with a series of promises. Beginning with the promise to maintain a variety of course offerings, they would go on to include updating the curriculum, retaining quality teachers, focusing on low class sizes, and stabilizing the school district's finances. While past practice would seem to indicate that our school boards have not always kept their promises to the patrons, it would be my hope that those who voted to increase our property taxes would hold the current school board and its administration accountable. If not, the public needs to understand that our children and grandchildren will continue to pay the price for their leaderships' ineptitude.

Fall 2022

Before I share some final thoughts, I would like to remind the school board that they were able to weather the storm of public debate and adverse opinions because no one was up for reelection during the current

school year. That will change in 2022. With such critical issues as the Nuclear Family, Cancel Culture, Cultural Marxism, Critical Race Theory, White Fragility, the 1619 Project, Equity, Black Lives Matter, and Leadership at the local level, it will be time to put people to the test.

Final Thoughts

Although one could spend a lot more time reviewing the literature and preparing arguments either for or against the current delivery system at Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools, I believe the signs indicate that there is sufficient concerns to warrant an in-depth review of what is currently taking place at my alma mater. While I no longer have any doubt that there are forces that would like to prevent this from happening, I think it is time for these people to get over the misguided perception that: "If you are not for them, you must be against them." This is the type of leadership that causes school districts to become stagnate and out of touch with the one variable that is present in all quality school districts: the right to disagree and grow as a unit.

Finally, I would like to end my thoughts with some questions that I believe are relevant to the time at hand. It is my prayer that these questions will help to generate additional questions to where we are as a school district and where we would like to be in the future. As the great Sir Winston Churchill said at the height of WWII, "Truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it and ignorance may deride it, but, in the end, there it is." Let us see where the truth takes us as a community. In addition to where we are and what the future holds for us, I offer the following as starting points of discussion:

- Does the existing delivery system enhance achievement for all sub-groups of students?
- Are there RUBRICS being used to answer the sub-group question? If not, WHY?
- Are current student performances what you have in mind under the existing delivery system?
- Are you listening to people whose experiences as educators offer a different perspective than your own?
- Are you concerned about accountability and the impact it can have on the school district?
- Are you prepared to take an honest and unbiased look at what is currently taking place in the school district?
- Are you prepared to make changes that would be in the best interests of our students and the community at large?
- Other questions TBD....

I trust the Kenyon-Wanamingo School Board will give this and other expressions of concern some serious consideration as they look to the future of our children and grandchildren. Just remember, you do not represent just yourselves. This is OUR school...and it is time to get serious about the work at hand.

Dr. James Russell Lehman, '63
215 Trondheim Road
Kenyon, MN 55946
507-273-7635

Local Government

December, 2021

- KENYON MESSENGER -

Page 21

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council Meeting was duly held in the City Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. on the 12th day of October 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Henke.

The following members were present: Mayor Doug Henke, Council Members Mary Bailey, Molly Ryan, Tom Gard, and Dan Rechtzigel

Also, present: Administrator Mark Vahlsing, Engineer Derek Olinger, Attorney Scot

Bookkeeping

Security State Bank of Kenyon is seeking a highly motivated and focused individual for its Bookkeeping position.

Responsibilities include:

- GL, reconciliation, core system management, accruals, report writing, internet banking, ACH notifications and general operational support.
- Responsible for assessing core technology features and functions.
- Represent the bank through community involvement.

Job Requirements include:

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- Proven experience with the FiServ/ITI or equivalent system.
- Must thrive on technology change or possess the ability to drive change.
- High level of computer literacy, including Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.

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- Knowledge of/access to a computer
- Enjoy small town atmosphere
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or call Terry at 507-951-7417

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Messenger**

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dressed under warranty. The final paperwork should be ready by next month.

Pay Request #12 – Wencl Construction

Motion by Gard second by Ryan to approve pay request No. 12 to Wencl Construction in the amount of \$3,230.25 for work completed through October 7th. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Business Park/Utility Extension Project

Update

Engineer Olinger stated that A-1 Excavating has completed work at the Business Park. This is a final payment. Any additional repairs will be addressed under the warranty.

Pay Request #8 – A-1 Excavating

Motion by Henke second by Ryan to approve final pay request No. 8 to A-1 Excavating in the amount of \$80,834.72 for work completed through October 7th, contingent on receiving the project closeout documentation. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Crack Filling of Streets

Engineer Olinger stated that the crack sealing project was completed last week.

Trondheim Road Extension

Engineer Olinger stated that there have been recent inquiries regarding the extension of Trondheim Road west to meet 20th Avenue. Olinger presented a cost estimate and other considerations to extending this street. Administrator Vahlsing stated the next step would be to look at amending the 10-year infrastructure plan to add this extension. This item will be added to the November agenda.

LEGAL

New On-Sale and Sunday

Liquor License

Attorney Riggs stated that an application for an on-sale and Sunday liquor license had been submitted by Heather Thram. She and Steven Lacey are in the process of opening Lacey's Kitchen and Cocktails at the former Kenyon Bar and Grill location.

Motion by Ryan second by Bailey to approve the liquor license for Lacey's Kitchen and Cocktails.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Lacey's Kitchen and Cocktails - On Premises Charitable Gambling License Application -Kenyon Snowdrifters

Administrator Vahlsing stated that the Kenyon Snowdrifters were seeking approval to operate charitable gambling at Lacey's Kitchen and Cocktails.

Resolution 2021-14 Approving the Lawful Gambling Premises Permit Application for the Kenyon Snowdrifters. to Conduct Lawful Gambling at the Lacey's Kitchen and Cocktails Located at 632 2nd Street, Kenyon, MN 55946

Motion by Bailey second by Gard to adopt Resolution 2021-14. Motion carried 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Granicus Peak Agenda Management Software

Administrator Vahlsing updated the Council on the Granicus Peak Agenda Management System. He demonstrated how Granicus Peak will work and what the format will look like.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

KMU Meeting: Tuesday, October 19 @ 2:00 p.m.

Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency Annual Meeting Wed, October 20th

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 9 @ 7 p.m.

Township Fire Contract Meeting: Tuesday, December 7th @ 6 p.m.

2022 Budget & Levy Public Meeting: Tuesday, December 7th @ 6:30 p.m.

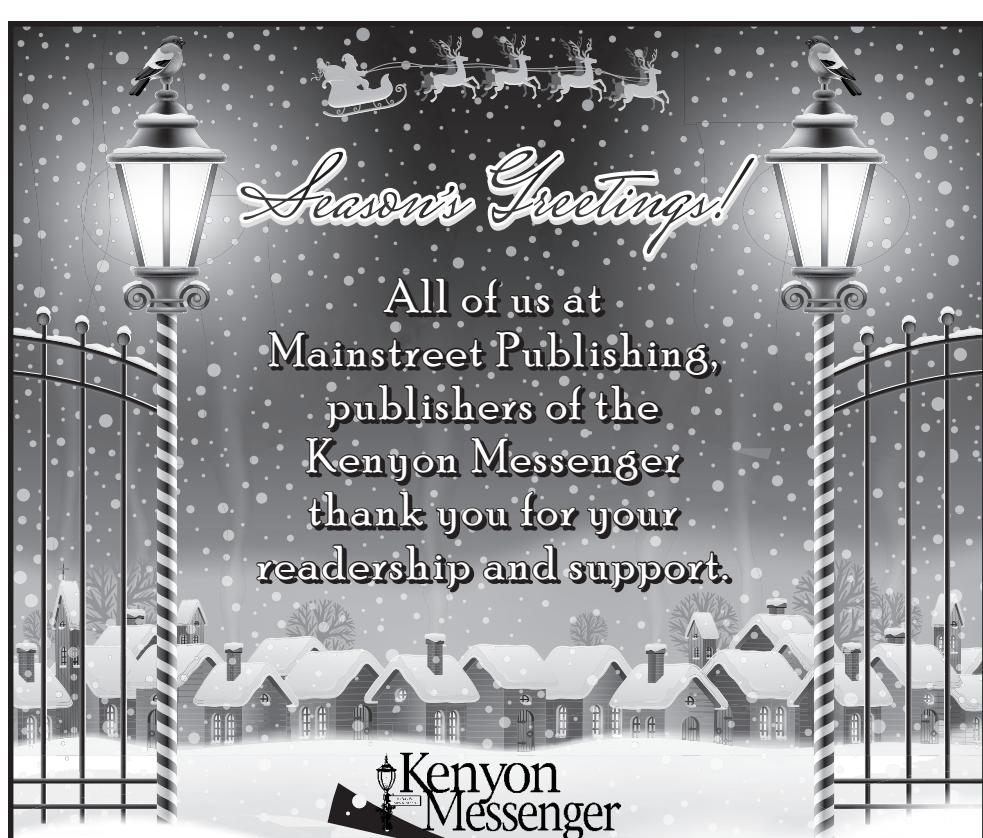
COUNCIL AND STAFF GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Henke recognized Sue Dodds for her 26 years of service to the City.

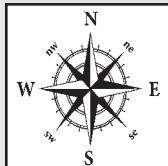
Officer Taylor stated that the two new part-time officers are now working solo.

Motion by Rechtzigel second by Henke to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Holli Gudknecht, Administrative Assistant
Douglas Henke, Mayor



Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Breaking Amish



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.

We live near a number of Amish communities. Seeing a family in a horse drawn buggy is a common sight. But what is becoming more common is to see the family in a minivan. The whole family, infants, teenagers, mom, dad and grandparents. Saw a group of them down at the Pit Stop, a local gas station, in a van getting gas. They have a designated driver, someone who is willing to make cash for driving them to town for supplies. I was looking for some manual labor so I walked over and asked the man sitting there with his wife and their toddler. They were waiting for one of their family to finish their appointment at the chiropractor.

So, I broached my query about the job I was looking for and the father told me his boys

would do the job, if I could come and pick them up. My next question was where and when and for that information I suddenly had two teenage boys in the rear seat offering me their cell phone numbers.

We have a neighbor down the road who is farmer by the name of Enoch. He has helped us out with lots of projects and is always willing to work. Enoch and Elizabeth have cell phones but keep them in a small phone booth down the driveway from the farmhouse. I assume that is where the charging station is but we found that if we call their number, we almost always get their teenage daughter. Seems that she spends lots of time down there where the telephone is. Who would have thought that?

We needed to clear some woodland so we set up a time. Enoch showed up with his two sons in their one-horse buggy, with a wheelbarrow on top and a chainsaw and extra gas and oil in the back. My wife offered the boys a cold drink from the refrigerator in the house. They picked soda pop. The kids are very hard workers and do not engage in much conversation.

We stopped by the local hardware store up the road for some bags of wood shavings. It is owned by an Amish family and they stock about everything you would expect at a hardware store. The wife was explaining about another store down the road and part of her directions was that when you turned on a certain road you would lose cell phone signal. Nothing signals progress more than a middle age Amish housewife explaining cell phone coverage on the backroads of Tennessee.

A Minnesotan: Christmas Memories



By RosaLin Alcoser

It's Christmas time again. For most families this is a joyous time full of family time, good memories, mishaps, and traditions.

Now that I am an adult I have found different past Christmases stick in the front of my memory more than other years than others. After all some of them are unforgettable because really who could forget the year that the dishwasher broke and the oven with the ham got turned off instead of the dishwasher while Grandpa and Dad tried to fix it. Or the year that Mom played

six different Christmas Eve services between the hours of noon and midnight.

The year that's really sticking with me this year is my first Christmas in Minnesota; which was also my first Christmas with snow. This Christmas is important to me because it is the year that I got my most important childhood possession Zoey Bear.

That year I had expressed that I wanted a Teddy Bear with dangly limbs so that it wasn't sitting up all the time; because really we all know that it can be hard to sleep with a stuffed toy that sits up all the time when you are little. So my Grandmother and her friends went to a Teddy Bear Shop in the Ozarks- yes that was a thing in the late 90s- and hugged every bear in the store and fretted over if they had picked out the right one.

I can tell you they definitely did pick the right one. I can still vividly remember opening up the box that Christmas and saying "Well there you are Zoey. I've been wondering when you would show up." and off I went with that bear for the next 21 years.

Who knows why some memories stick out more some years over others but the memories that do stick out are usually some of the best.

HAVE A VERY MERRY
Christmas
HOLIDAY
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Todd Greseth
Goodhue County District 3 Commissioner

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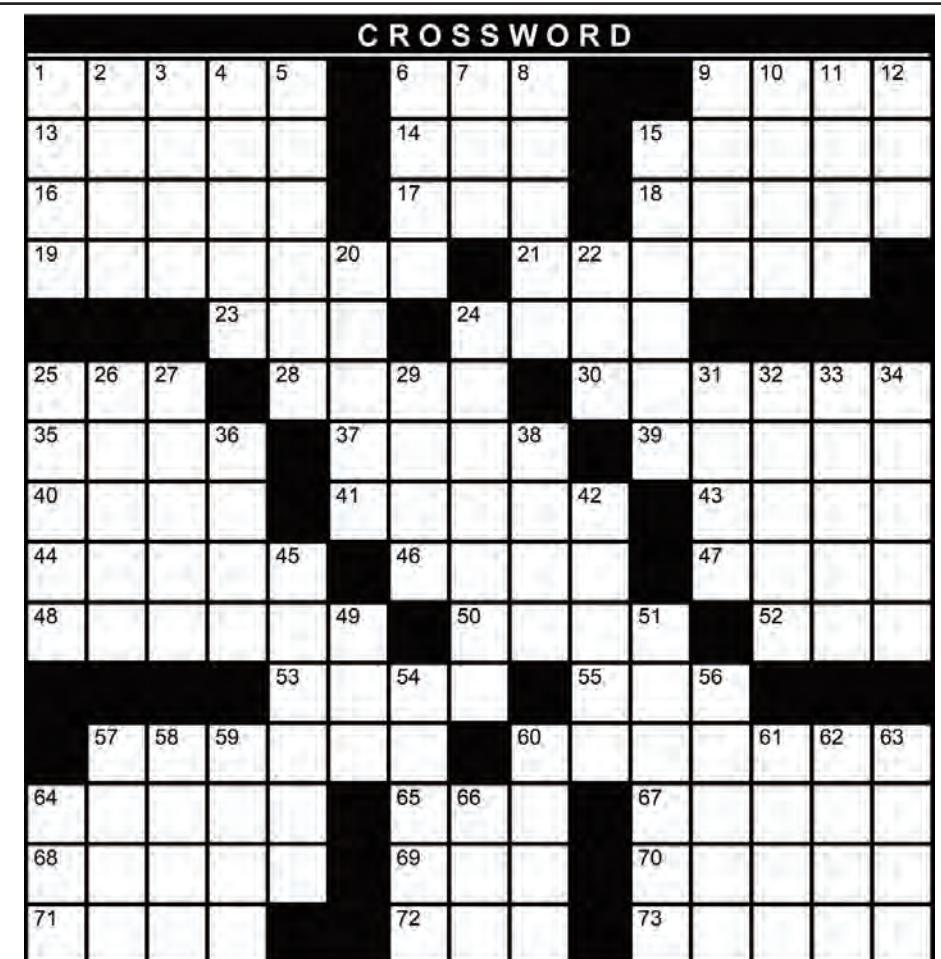
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THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ACROSS

- Pilgrim's destination
- Make a scene
- Rubik's puzzle
- Hawaii environs
- Toothy fish
- Cone-shaped dwelling
- White Swan in "Swan Lake" ballerina
- Wan Kenobi
- Decorate with wreaths and holly, e.g.
- *Either dessert or source of heat (2 words)
- * Day, or second day of Christmastide
- Land parcel
- Strauss of denim fame
- Broadband access overseer, acr.
- Clarified butter
- Acute one and obtuse one
- Southeastern Asian country
- Jouster's breastplate
- Shrewdness
- Caspian basin river
- *Pasadena's Tournament of _____
- Tel _____, Israel
- Native American emblem
- "Why not?"
- Hitchhiker's quest
- Omits when speaking
- Hard to find
- Bear's winter quarters
- Hoodwink
- Scepter's partner
- *Number of days in Christmastide
- **"Ugly" holiday party garb?
- Prepare a letter
- "Bingo!"
- Hunger for
- Pass-the-baton race
- *Cranberry sauce sometimes comes from it
- Same as tori
- Raise the roof
- German river
- Stall sound

DOWN

- Whiny and miserable
- Shade of beige
- Finish a ceiling, to a plasterer
- Marlboro alternative
- Not digital
- Bug-eyed
- Not Uber
- Social group
- Ghana monetary unit
- Second word of many fairytales
- Cause of Titanic's demise
- Poetic "even"
- Burdensome
- Not this or that
- Lab eggs
- Time off
- *Champagne holder
- *Wassailing composition
- Raccoon's South American cousin
- Feeling of superiority, pl.
- _____ gum, food additive
- Furiously angry
- Exclude or omit
- *Number of candles in kinara, Kwanzaa
- *Troika vehicle
- "Will be," according to Doris
- Asian goat antelope
- Potpourri
- Chevy Suburban, e.g.
- Builds
- *Popular holiday wish
- Munchausen's title
- *Bedecked arbor
- Shakespeare, to his friends?
- And others, for short
- Minus
- Tropical edible root
- Anon's partner
- Take a load off
- Like some humor
- *Traditional main holiday dish

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Merry Christmas

— AND —

HAPPY NEW YEAR

There's no time more fitting to tell you how much we have enjoyed working with you this year and to wish you the best in the year to come.

**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
from all of us at
Security State Bank!**

Closing December 24 at Noon.

Closed December 25 and January 1.



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