



# West Concord Messenger™

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DECEMBER, 2021

Volume 5 • Issue 11

## Announcements

• West Concord City Hall and Public Library will be closed Friday, December 24; Monday, December 27 and Friday, December 31.

## 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 7)*

## Memories of Christmas Past

Mary recalls Christmas when she was a child. Sunday School Christmas programs were a big event and always held on Christmas Eve. The children would get a bag of candy and an apple after the program. Her family would then go home to open their own presents. She has two older brothers and four

younger sisters in her family.

Christmas Day would be spent together with her dad's family. One of the delicacies they looked forward to was her grandfather's recipe for plum pudding. He was from England and brought the family recipe with him, a recipe Mary still has to this day. The fruit



and currants would take four hours to steam and then he added a hot sauce to the finished dessert.  
*(continued on page 8)*

## Berne Church to Host Live Nativity



*photo 2020 live nativity*

**Berne Church will be hosting a live nativity including live animals on December 18th from 7:00-9:00 PM. The event will be drive through. We invite everyone to attend to celebrate the season.**

## West Concord Man Charged in String of Thefts

Shawn Clement, of West Concord, is currently in the Olmsted County jail charged with four felonies relating to thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles. Law enforcement has been tracking Clement for the last eighteen months in connection with the thefts as well as his involvement in a few stolen motor vehicles. More charges are expected as the investigation continues.



**Shawn Clement**

*(continued on page 7)*

*The Magic of Christmas*



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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*Merry Christmas!* **OPEN MIC** *Happy New Year!*  
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## Joy in Unlikely Places



By Peter Moen

With Christmastime has come the normal traditions. The trees are up and decorated, presents are populating under the tree, Christmas music is playing, plans for family gatherings are taking place, snow(!) is even on the ground, and the list goes on. These traditions are special in any given year, but this year holds even more significance as we try to safely leave the uncertainty and restrictions from last year behind us.

Even with the return back to some semblance of normalcy it is worth a reminder that we are a far cry from where Christmas all started. A dark night where a star burned bright. Shepherds were visited by angels who brought glad tidings. And not a palace with comfort and support, but a stable filled with beasts and hay and a manger is where the birth of the King of kings and Lord of lords—Jesus Christ.

It was a time when the Roman Empire was the ruling force. Their plan of conquering the known world included forcing everyone to conform their way of thinking and stifling any

uprising that resisted. It was a time when the religious elites of Israel lorded religious practices over the adherents of Judaism; it was a calcified religion even while it waited for a Messiah to rescue them from the Romans.

And it was a time for a wild-eyed voice crying out in the desert. A voice calling out the leaders—the brood of vipers—to repent from their ways and to prepare for the one still coming, the one who would be more powerful than this wild-eyed prophet named John. This John the Baptist would go on to say, “Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” This reckoning, this comeuppance for the whole world is a call for us to have...joy!?!?

Yes, JOY! This is another in a long list of paradoxes of the Gospel of our Lord & Sav-

ior Jesus Christ. In the midst of a powerful regime in the Roman Empire. In the midst of religious rulers bent on keeping power. In the midst of prophets calling out the masses to repent and be saved. We are meant to have joy during this Christmas season not for the trees, gifts, lights, music, but for the awesome fact God came to live among us and ultimately die for us on the cross for our sins.

This joy is not a feeling of happiness. As someone once said, “Happiness comes from happenings, but joy comes from Jesus.” Our joy is a trained ideal that Jesus has defeated death and given us hope not only in this life but also throughout eternity. This joy is the gift that sustains us in our own hardships and suffering.

In the midst of imprisonment and no doubt

being beaten for his faith, the Apostle Paul gives us the example we ought to strive for:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

May we seek out a peace which surpasses all understanding, a peace that allows us to rejoice in all circumstances. May we find our joy not in the things of this world, but of the otherworldly action taken by a babe who was born to the virgin Mary, Emmanuel, God with us.

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&  
Happy New Year

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**NOTICE**

The Concord Cemetery Association will be having it's annual meeting on **Tuesday, January 11, 2022** at 6:30pm at the **Concord Church of Christ** 55087 200th Ave. West Concord, MN 55985

**West Concord Messenger**

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For advertising information call Terry at 507-951-7417 or email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

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Facebook: WC Faith Community Church

**Hegre Lutheran, ELCA**  
51939 Highway 56 Blvd., Kenyon • 507-527-2353  
Sunday: 9:15a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Worship

**Trinity Lutheran, ELCA**  
301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778  
Pastor Chad Christensen • [trinitychurchwc.net](http://trinitychurchwc.net)  
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:  
[Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn](https://www.facebook.com/Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn)  
Sundays 9:30a.m. Worship in building and live streamed on Facebook.  
Tuesday Men's Bible Study, 7:00a.m. at church and via Zoom  
Call church for more information on ministries and events.

**United Methodist**  
2nd & Main, West Concord • 507-475-1157  
Pastor Mark Schlasner  
Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship

**Church of Christ**  
55087 200th Ave., West Concord • 507-527-2723  
Pastor Peter Moen  
9:00a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Worship  
[concordchurchmn.com](http://concordchurchmn.com)

**Zwingli United Church of Christ**  
“The Berne Church”  
23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340  
Pastor Karen Larson  
Sunday 10:00a.m. Worship; Find us on Facebook

**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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Dinner 4pm-10pm  
Sunday 11:30am-9pm

**Minnesota Restaurant Association**  
Restaurant of the Year Award

## Grant Hindal

Grant Hindal, 82 of Kenyon, passed away Friday December 3rd, 2021 at Mayo Clinic Health Systems St. Mary's campus.



Grant was born June 26, 1939. He grew up in West Concord Minnesota.

Grant and his wife Linda moved to Cannon Falls in 1972

and moved to Kenyon in the spring of 2021.

Grant worked as a mechanic and in auto parts sales.

Grant was an active member of the Cannon Falls Rotary club and the Rotary district youth exchange committee.

Grant is survived by his wife Linda of 51 years. His daughters Angela Hokanson and Julie (Len) Maggi; grandchildren, Alexis, Trentin, Brant, and Dean.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers.

Grant donated his body to the Mayo clinic body donation program. Memorials to First Congregational Church UCC in Cannon Falls, or the Rotary club in Cannon Falls or charity of your choice.

## Keith Robert Cook

Keith Robert Cook, age 68, of Kenyon, passed away Friday, November 26, 2021, at Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna.



Keith was born November 12, 1953, the son of Robert and Glenys (Stoerzinger) Cook in Hastings. He spent much of his early years growing

up and working on the family farm in Farmington. The family then moved to West Concord where Keith graduated from high school in 1972. He was united in marriage to LeAnn Pool in 1973 and the couple had three children, Christopher, Brian, and Holly. Keith began working on his parent's farm and also for area farmers until he purchased his own dairy farm as well as crop land in Kenyon.

Keith was the kind of guy that would keep busy tinkering or fixing things and the one that was always there to help when needed. A man of many trades, Keith built the home that he lived and also helped to build other houses in the area. He enjoyed his time away up North fishing, but mostly being able to spend time with friends there. He could be considered, at times, stubborn, but he was a hard worker and thought things through to make sure everything was just right. When Keith wasn't working, you could find him either playing a round of golf or relaxing in his gazebo that he built himself. He was a devoted member of Gol Lutheran Church where he volunteered his time in many ways. Keith was a self-taught guitar player and enjoyed playing for leisure any chance he could get. His pride was his grandchildren and loved the time he spent with them.

Keith is survived by his children Christopher in Kansas, Brian (Karla) of Owatonna, Holly (Mason) Flom of Kenyon; six grandchildren Braxtyn, Matthew, Jenna and Callie Cook, Carter and Addison Flom. He is also survived by his sisters Carolyn (John) Korba of Faribault, Kathy (Ron) Meyer of West Concord; his brother-in-law Christ Karsten of Medford; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister Cindy Karsten; brother Craig; and a sister at infancy.

Funeral services were held at Gol Lutheran Church, Kenyon on Sunday, December 5, 2021, beginning at 2:30 PM. Visitation was on Sunday from 12:30 PM until the time of the service at the church. Burial was at Gol Lutheran Cemetery in Kenyon. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Gol Lutheran Church-Sadden.

## Wesley Charles Fausch

Wesley Charles Fausch lost his courageous battle with Parkinson's on November 24, 2021. Wes was born on August 18, 1946 to Charles and Lucille (Edwards) Fausch in Morristown, MN. He graduated in 1964 from Southern School of Agriculture in Waseca. He went on



to graduate from the University of Minnesota in Vocational Agriculture and received a Masters of Education. He taught in West Concord, MN and the University of Minnesota-Waseca. In 1978 he joined Pioneer Hi-Bred in Johnston, Iowa, where he spent 30 years until his retirement in 2008. He enjoyed working with farmers and growers in his various positions.

Wes met his wife, Christine Windedahl in 1964 and they married July 12, 1969 in Round Lake, MN. They had two sons, Adam (Rachel) and Joshua (Lindsey). After living in Iowa for 41 years, they returned to Minnesota in 2019, residing in New Market. Along with enjoying spending time with his family and traveling, he was an avid woodworker, snowmobiler, motorcycle enthusiast, and boater at his lake cabin in Iowa. And he loved his cars!

Wes is survived by his wife and best friend of over 52 years, Christine; sons, Adam (Rachel) and Joshua (Lindsey); six grandchildren, Eleanor, Charles, Wyatt, Jackson, Zachary, and Lilliana; sister, Karen (Lee) Swanson; sister-in-law, Alene (Mike) Brewer; nieces, nephews, and several cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service was held Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 2:00 PM at Christiania Lutheran Church (26691 Pillsbury Ave., Lakeville, MN). Pastor Jon Rhodes officiated. Visitation took place 1 hour prior to service at church. Lunch followed.

Memorials preferred to the Michael J. Fox Foundation or donor's choice.

## Shirley J. Giesler

Shirley J. Giesler, of West Concord died Wednesday, November 17, 2021, on her 88th birthday, at Fairview Care Center in Dodge Center.



Shirley Jean Vangness was born on the Vangness family farm behind the cemetery on November 17, 1933 in West Concord to

Jacob and Julia (Phillips) Vangness. She grew up on the farm with her ten older siblings, and she was a 1951 graduate of West Concord High School. Shirley was united in marriage to Roy Giesler on January 2, 1954, and the couple was blessed with eight children. Shirley was a devoted wife and mother, and a gifted homemaker. She was a talented baker, quilter, and seamstress, and she even raised her own chickens. Shirley was very devoted to her church, and made sure God was a part of children and grandchildren's lives as well. Shirley's sense of humor, love and kindness toward others, and her famous buns and caramel rolls will be dearly missed by those who had the privilege of knowing her.

Shirley is survived by her children, Michael (Mary) Giesler of Pine Island, Dori Giesler-Greene of Dodge Center, Darlene Giesler of Ostrander, Diane (Steve) Riese of Mantorville, William (Kristin) Giesler of West Concord, Lynn (Clint McRoberts) Freerkson of Harmony, Cathy (Scott Storm) Carroll of Missouri, and Sarah (Frank) Hodgman of West Concord; 21 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren, plus two on the way.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Roy Giesler; and ten older siblings.

Shirley's family would like to thank the staff at Fairview Care Center for their kind and compassionate care.

A visitation took place Sunday, November 21, 2021, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna, and Monday, November 22, from 10:00 AM until the start of the 11:00 AM funeral service at Concord Church of Christ. Following the service, Shirley was laid to rest next to her husband at Concord Cemetery.

## Robert L. Rhodes, Sr.

Robert L. Rhodes, Sr., 85, of West Concord, peacefully passed away on September 1, 2010, at his home.



Bob was born August 23, 1925, in Springbrook (Washburn County), Wisconsin to Fred and Augusta (Wiehmyer) Rhodes. He moved with his family to

Dodge County in 1929. He married Alice Hughes on April, 27, 1951. Alice passed away in 2006.

Bob is survived by five children, Bob Rhodes, Jr of Owatonna, Doug (Vicki)

Rhodes of West Concord, Deb (Randy) Zupancich of Farmington, Bonnie (Terry) Lemmerman of Zumbrota and Chuck (Monica) Rhodes of Dodge Center; four grandchildren, Richard, Melinda, Amanda and Greta; five great grandchildren; five sisters, Mary Gillard of Kasson, Charlotte (Charles) Hughes of Kasson, Carole Walker of West Concord, Linda (Marshall) Beckett of Ladysmith, WI, Joann (Delmar Paulson) of West Concord and one brother, Jerry (Arlene) of Owatonna.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and two brothers.

Family and friends were invited to a celebration of his life on Sunday, September 19, 2021 to 5 p.m. at the American Legion Post #295 in West Concord.

The family requests memorials to Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Research or to an organization of your choice.

## Dale V. Allen

Dale V. Allen, 84, of West Concord passed away peacefully at home with family by his side on Sunday, Dec 5, 2021.



Dale was born on April 26, 1937, in Grand Meadow, MN to Vernon and Violet Allen. He married Ruth Hoppin, on April 27, 1958, at Dexter United

Methodist Church. They moved to Kasson, MN where they raised their four children (Lori, Lynn, Arlie, Leah). Dale worked at IBM in Rochester for 35 years until his retirement in 1991. In 1997 Dale and Ruth moved to West Concord and lived on the farm where Dale was raised as a teenager.

Dale loved to play golf, hunt, fish, watch his children and grandchildren play sports, and play cards. He enjoyed happy hour visiting with friends.

Dale is survived by his wife Ruth, daughter Lori (Dana) Strain, son Arlie (Jennie) Allen, daughter Leah (Paul) Leisen, 10 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and brothers Roger Allen and Jerry Allen.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents Vernon and Violet Allen, daughter Lynn Allen, and sister Darlene Sommers and Donna Atkinson.

Due to the Covid pandemic, a private service was held for immediate family only.

In lieu of flowers the family would prefer memorials be directed to them for distribution later according to their own wishes.

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West Concord Messenger



## 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.

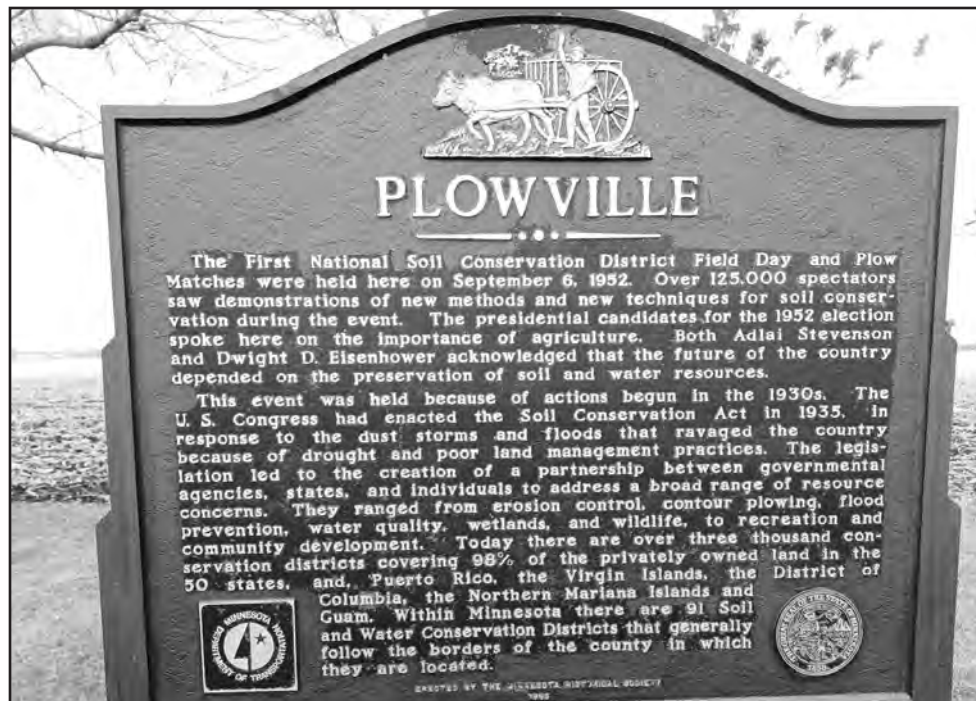
Speaking of Presidential candidates, in late October I took the 'old' highway 14 from Dodge Center to Kasson and stopped at the historical site that is along the now County

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 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.

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



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.

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 Gochenaur 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. \$50000 - good terms.

May your Christmas be Merry and your New Year full of happiness.

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# Museum Musings

## December 1897 - A Long Time Ago

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

I love to read novels and historical fiction, but as you may have noticed, reading old newspapers simply captivates me—especially old newspapers about our hometown. It was my kind of fun to recently read the four weekly December 1897 West Concord Enterprises.

The town, then only 12 years old, was all astir about the winter social events coming up. The West Concord Citizens' Entertainment Bureau had sold 125 Season Tickets at 75 cents each and the community was looking forward to the first event of the season. Miss Eleanor Miller, Chicago elocutionist, accompanied by first-rate musicians, was going to perform dramatic readings at the town's Opera House. (The Opera House unfortunately, only a few years later, was lost to one of the many fires of the time—and never rebuilt. In its stead, the new 1911 City Hall, which we know now as the Municipal Liquor Store, functioned as an Opera House for many years.) Since acting was looked upon as not totally respectable for women in the late 19th century, talented intelligent women found their own venue and travelled from opera houses to concert halls throughout the United States performing dramatic readings, poetry and plays, accompanied by fine musicians. Reviews of Miss Miller's appearance proclaimed that she "captivated the audience." After paying Miss Miller and her musicians \$32 for their performance, the city entertainment bureau had \$90 left to pay performers for the rest of the season. By 1906 performer Eleanor Miller was principal of the School of Expression and English in St. Paul, training students in the "power of the spoken word".

West Concord's chapter of The Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal insurance organization that sought to make certain that families would be cared for if the provider of the family passed away, was hosting its third annual Ball with music and dinner. Anyone who didn't enjoy dancing was invited to step in the back hall and play cards. There was more than one way to have a good time.

David Quackenbush's orchestra was in demand. They'd been busy playing dances in Hayfield, Dennison, Fairpoint, and of course, West Concord—to enthusiastic reviews. Mr. Quackenbush's Main Street store sold pianos, organs, sheet music, other musical goods and even sewing machines. (You can see David's violin at the museum in the Farmers and Merchants Room.) With all the social activity going on, the West Concord Enterprise asked, "Who says West Concord is dull?"

The Ladies Guild of the Episcopal Church sponsored a sale of handmade quilts and "fancy" articles as well as a 10 cent New England Supper. New England suppers were popular fundraisers in that era, usually including baked beans, steamed Boston brown bread, Indian pudding, and pumpkin pies. The church women were delighted to raise \$30.00.

The Enterprise reported that city merchants were "enjoying a big holiday trade!" Mixed nuts, including hickory nuts, were available at Sheils Brothers Store at the "lowest prices". Fresh candies were available at Rediker's. It was a good time to get a new wagon or buggy at Charlton and Wright because they were closing out their vehicles. If a gentleman needed to get "spiffed up" a bit before Christmas, the City Tonsorial Parlor, E.A. Blaisdell, proprietor, awaited him with a whole range of barbershop services. The West Concord Jeweler reported that Santa had arrived with the "finest line of Christmas goods ever shown in town."

It was a cold month. The newspaper reported that almost every night of the first week of December had reached 12 below. Brrrrrr . . . There was more than a little excitement in town when August Sorn's team of horses attempted a runaway through the streets of West Concord with a sleigh behind. When they turned the corner by the hotel, the sleigh tipped over and one of the horses fell on the ice. It wasn't long before a dozen or so men got hold of the horses and, as the Enterprise said, "spoiled their fun."

The Union Electric Telephone Company secretary came to West Concord and installed a phone at the bank and repaired some other city phones while he was in town. The Collins Hotel changed hands. (Stop by the Museum to see the Collins Hotel register one of these days—it's interesting)

The citizens of West Concord gave a special Christmas present to the city marshal, Jas. McCarthy—a brand new police uniform. The paper said, "Our marshal wears the regulation blue with brass buttons with considerable dignity. To offenders of the law it is a strong reminder that peace must be maintained and we have an officer that will see that it is."

The Methodist Episcopal Church and the Baptist Church put up beautiful Christmas trees in the spirit of the season. As young Anne Frank so wisely said, "We live with the objective of being happy. Our lives are all different and yet the same." The trappings of life in 2021 are, of course, different from 1897, but the spirit of the Christmas season permeated life then, just as now.

*Merry Christmas to all of you from us at the Museum!*



**OPERA HOUSE**  
**FRIDAY, DEC. 10,**  
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**Eleanor Miller.**  
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 Season Tickets, 75c; Single Entertainment 25c

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The attitude of gratitude. It is a simple saying, but when put into practice, it has the power to help you find happiness. I think the human instinct of wanting happiness in our lives is pretty normal. The reality of daily life is that we are faced with a number of adversities that can impact our attitude in a negative way. If we focus on what is going wrong, and we focus on what we don't have, we will certainly find it, and that will lead to a feeling of unfulfillment and unhappiness. The great thing about attitude, it is a choice that we can make each and every day. We can choose our attitude, and choosing to have an attitude of gratitude is a pathway to being a happier person. I believe it is also contagious and helps others have a positive attitude. In our world today, it seems that so much of the focus is on what is wrong, how about looking at what is

right? What if we all chose to focus on what we are grateful for. I know it is an older movie, but the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" comes to mind when I think about having an attitude of gratitude. Looking at the ability to choose your attitude, combined with having an attitude of gratitude has actually been observed and studied in research. The research indicates that people that are have an attitude of gratitude are genuinely happier.

In an online article "Giving Thanks Can Make You Happier" published by Harvard Health, sums up the word gratitude:

"The word gratitude is derived from the Latin word gratia, which means grace, graciousness, or gratefulness (depending on the context). In some ways, gratitude encompasses all of these meanings. Gratitude is a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible. With gratitude, people acknowledge the goodness in their lives. In the process, people usually recognize that the source of that goodness lies at least partially outside themselves. As a result, being grateful also helps people connect to something larger than themselves as individuals — whether to other people, nature, or a higher power."

The month of December at Triton we have had a gratitude challenge. I have challenged the staff to have an attitude of gratitude. Each day of the month I have shared video's, quotes and opportunities for reflection. I realize that COVID has created a number of opportunities to focus on what is going wrong, but I am so grateful that I chose the education profession. I am grateful that I

have the opportunity to work with the people our our great communities. I have been blessed to work in our school district over the past 29 years. It has provided me with so many opportunities to learn and grow as a person. I believe that Triton Public Schools is a special place. We have great facilities, and a great staff. Our district offers more concurrent credits for our students than any other district in the area. 10 different college credit courses to gain over 30 credits while never having to leave the building! We also have the ability to get to know all of our students. We have excellent class sizes with an all in one setting. There really are many things to be thankful for when you look at the Triton School District, and I am thankful to have the opportunity to be a part of our great school

district.

Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have regarding our school district. You can email me at [schlich@triton.k12.mn.us](mailto:schlich@triton.k12.mn.us) or you can call me at 507-418-7530 to reach me at the district office. I would be happy to set up a time to meet with you or your organization. I believe that communication is an important aspect of my job responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to learn from your perspective. GO COBRAS!

### #WeAreTriton

• Web Article -

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/giving-thanks-can-make-you-happier>

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## TRITON CLASS OF 2022



ELLIOT NOBLE

### SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Elliot Noble is a senior at Triton High School. Her parents are Jessica and Adam Noble and she has one brother Gaston. In school she is active in Link Crew, SADD, yearbook. She also plays volleyball and taking pictures for the yearbook. After school she likes to hang out with friends, go shopping, listen to music and take late night car rides. Her favorite movies are horror movies and she enjoys all types of music. After graduation she plans to pursue a career in photography possibly as a crime scene photpgrapher.



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## 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.

## West Concord Man Charged in String of Thefts

(continued from page 1)

Clement was arrested at a camper in West Concord last week where he was living with his girlfriend and a child. The value of the property he has stolen is in excess of \$100,000. Catalytic converters are often cut out of the exhaust system of a vehicle by thieves and sold for the scrap metal inside. The damage is seldom covered by insurance and the vehicle owner is left with an inoperable vehicle as well as a repair bill of as much as \$1,500 to replace the catalytic converter.

Clement left a trail of evidence over the last year as he carried out his crimes in southern

Minnesota and Iowa. He drove through a golf course south of Rochester to gain access to an auto repair business, leaving behind destroyed golf course property and damaged parts from his pickup as well as court paperwork and receipts with his name on them. At an RV dealership in Oronoco where he stripped catalytic converters from RV's he left his cell phone behind underneath a vehicle. Law enforcement attached a tracking device to his vehicle and used his cell phone history to connect him to thefts in the area, as well as Wisconsin and Iowa.



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## Memories of Christmas Past

(continued from page 1)

The children did not get any big presents when they were young. It was during the Great Depression years and most gifts were small items and practical things like clothes. She remembers going ice skating with brothers and sisters on Christmas Day.

There was also grade school programs at the small country school she attended. There were about twenty children in the eight grades at the country school house. It was exciting to take part in the program in front of their parents, and at the end Santa would appear and give out some candy. The teacher would also give each child a small gift.

When Mary was older and taking nursing training, she had to travel to Chicago and was away from home over the Christmas holiday. Her parents made a meal and froze it and mailed it to her, where they prepared it and ate it at the nurse's station.

Jean grew up on a farm in Iowa and recalls Christmas as a wonderful time of year in her childhood. They always had a Sunday School program on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day was a time that her dad slept in while the kids got up early to do the chores on the farm. There were seven kids in the family and the boys would milk the cows and feed the hogs while the girls fed the chickens and collected eggs. When they returned to the house, dad wouldn't get up until he had his morning coffee. Only then could the kids open their presents. She remembers simple gifts like clothes, coloring books, paints and dolls. Jean recalls getting a Betsy Wetsy doll one year for a gift. Their stockings were always filled with fruit and a small toy. She was born during the depression so there wasn't a lot of money spent, but she remembers always being a happy family.

Christmas Day was a big meal for the family with a farm raised turkey, potatoes and gravy and pie. Her and her sisters always helped cook the Christmas dinner as well as bake special cookies for her mom and dad. There was always plenty of food and supper was leftovers from dinner. She doesn't recall

ever having a Christmas tree when she was young. On the Sunday after Christmas the family would go to see her grandparents.

She remembers lots of snow when she was a young child. One year her dad stretched a rope from the house to the barn to be sure they could find their way safely in the winter snow storms.

When Jean and her husband had a family, they would send the boys out to cut a tree from their farm. They would then decorate it with popcorn on strings.

Jenine grew up in Arkansas and recalls when she was in the fifth grade that the kids got two weeks off for Christmas vacation. Then right when they were supposed to go back to school a snow storm hit and they ended up with an additional two weeks of snow vacation. Her dad found a piece of linoleum flooring and they turned it upside down to make a toboggan to slide down the snow-covered hills. There were no snowplows in their area but she remembers a truck driving around with two men in the back throwing sand on the road with shovels.

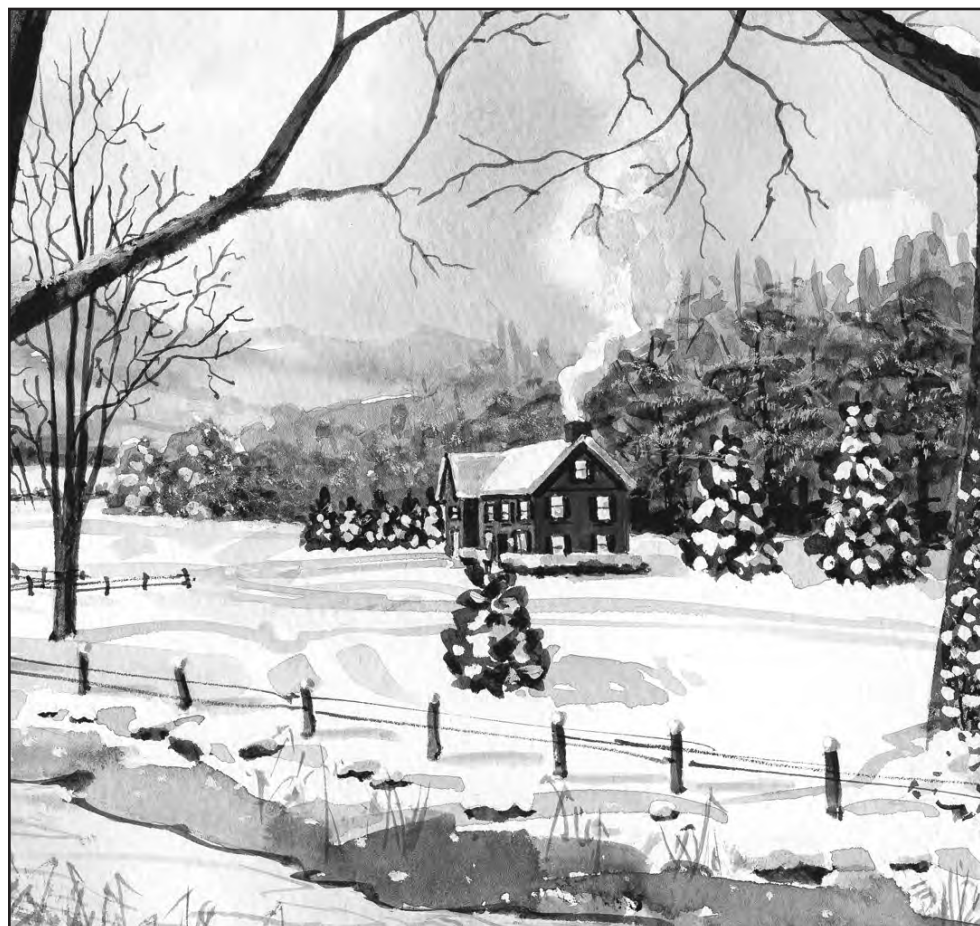
For Christmas Eve they would go to her grandparent's home. It was always a meal of oyster stew. Someone in the family would dress up like Santa and come downstairs and hand out candy to kids and adults.

Christmas Day dinner was always baked ham, scalloped corn, jello with berries in it and whipped cream on top. Treats were always decorated cookies and bon bons. Her favorite gift was the year she received a ride on horse with springs to give it a bouncing action.

Colleen grew up in Mantorville in a family, where she was the eldest of eight children. Her Christmas memories were going to church on Christmas Day and then opening their gifts when they returned home. The Christmas meal was a simple one with chicken or roast beef. The kids each had Christmas stockings and they were filled with candy, jelly beans were her favorite. Her mother always made fudge, which they enjoyed after the meal. She and her siblings would make Christmas presents for their parents. She remembers most of the gifts the kids got were clothing.

When she was about fourteen years old, she recalls being in the school Christmas play. Their Christmas vacation fun included sliding down the hills in Mantorville.

The family did have a Christmas tree that the boys would cut and bring home. They hung handmade decorations on it along with



tinsel and some bubble lights. Her parents would place the presents underneath the tree until Christmas Day.

Barb grew up living in the country in western Minnesota and was the oldest of four kids. She recalls how her mother would decorate the house, and especially the tree so beautifully every Christmas season. They would hang their Christmas stockings in a window sill, since they didn't have a fireplace.

The kids would get to open one present on Christmas Eve and the rest of them on Christmas Day. Some of the gifts she remembers were dolls and roller skates. She had an aunt who was a school teacher and would spend many holidays with the family since she was unmarried. Her aunt was very generous with gifts and one year asked Barb what she wanted for Christmas. Barb responded with, "a boyfriend". What she received was a large Howdie Doody doll.

Christmas dinner was usually turkey or ham. She recalls sledding, playing cards and board games for entertainment in her youth since television had not become a household

thing. After her children married, they started another family tradition of gathering on Christmas Eve and each family would bring a soup to share for the supper.

Rolland grew up on a farm as a child and remembers his father would bring in a real tree and each of the four kids would take turns putting the ornaments on the tree. They would go to church on Christmas Eve and open their gifts on Christmas Day. Most of the gifts he got as a kid were clothes. He recalls having turkey and pumpkin pie for their dinner. When he was young, he remembers being in the all-school Christmas program.

Later his father went to work for Hormel and the family moved into town. Things were better after his dad started working at the meat packing plant. He remembers his dad bringing home a large Christmas package of treats from Hormel that the whole family enjoyed during the holidays.

Blizzards were memorable when he was a kid and he recalls one year when they went to visit the grandparents, the snow storm was so bad they could hardly see past the hood of the car.

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## Lacey's Kitchen & Cocktails Now Open in Kenyon

Lacey's Kitchen and Cocktails, the brain-child 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 upfront 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.

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.

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



**Chef Steve Lacey**

everything was delivered in a small soupcon 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](http://www.laceyskc.com)

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## Leading the Return to Work



By Stevie Ray

The pandemic has created more introspection among business leaders than any other event in recent history. The early months of shut-downs and reorganization caused leaders to question just about every old-school belief in how business is done. Months later, the question was, "When will we get back to normal?" Then, when Open sign was finally relit, no one seemed to want to work anyone. Soon, arm-chair psychologists had theories as to why Americans didn't seem to want to work anymore. But it didn't take long for those theories to take a beating.

The easiest culprit was extended federal benefits. I mean, who would want to go back to a 9-5 when they are getting hundreds of dollars a week from Uncle Sam for doing nothing? Surely, once those benefits stopped, job applications would start flooding in. Except, when the benefits ceased, workers did not return. Another reason was lingering fear of COVID in an in-person workplace. Only time, and the eventual fading of COVID, will tell if that assumption holds water.

Another hot topic kicked around when people talk about the worker shortage is the question of wages. According to some, people are tired of being paid a barely-living wage just so some investor can walk away with the profit. The assumption has always been that, when unemployment dries up, employees will return. I mean, some money is still better than no money at all. Right? It turns out, no.

Those of us who study influence and human behavior are constantly reminded that money, while certainly important, holds less sway than many other factors when people are weighing important decisions. Look at the ways companies try to woo new hires:

Huge banners listing fantastic starting wages. Ask restaurant servers across the country who are quitting en masse just how much money matters when they are being told by customers to lower their mask and smile before getting a tip. (This is happening a lot. If you do this, please stop.)

Signs at the front door that state Join a (winning) (fun) (happy) team. The sign is meaningless when you walk through the store and see staff that is anything but happy, fun, or winning.

Posters by the check-out counter that list the discount employees get by working there. Are you really advertising that you want people to work there so they can spend the money they earn at the very place they work? And who buys so much stuff from one place that working there is a smart financial decision?

I am going to go out on a limb and claim that these ideas are the result of different generations not talking to each other. Business leaders are still comprised of Baby Boomers, Gen X-ers, and the oldest Gen Y. These folks are trying to influence the mindset of young Gen Y and Gen Z. (If you are hiring Generation Alpha, born after 2011, we need to talk about child labor laws.) If there is one constant in the universe, it is that older folks are much better at talking than listening. So, an older business leader thinks "We'll promise great pay and a great place to work. Isn't that what everyone wants?" But that leader is using logic borne from a different generation. These tactics are the product of talking to a new generation without listening to them.

One sure outcome of the pandemic is that it has forced people of widely differing views to acknowledge that other viewpoints cannot simply be brushed aside, ignored, or disrespected. This trend should extend to how business leaders communicate with staff. Of course, people will return to work. Savings accounts and government support don't last forever, but with birth rates the lowest they have been in over 40 years, and immigration's unsure future, smart leaders must act to change their workplace culture now.

The first step is to find a new way to communicate with staff. Younger employees are not blank slates. Each generation has unique experiences that shape a particular world view. If you want to lead a workplace that attracts the best, do more listening than talking. And resist the temptation to compare the needs and desires of your generation to those



whom you are trying to hire. To attract people, don't pitch...listen.

Stevie Ray is a keynote speaker and trainer,

bringing his program, "The Roadmap to Influence" to organizations nationwide.

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<p>Sat., April 16, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.                  If you have one item or a full line, give us a call early to take full advantage of advertising. Tractors, combines, haying &amp; tillage equipment, planters, wagons, farm pickups and grain trucks, recreational items, construction equipment, all types of farm machinery.                  To consign, call Holland Auction at 507-684-2955 or Tracy Holland at 507-456-5128. Live and Online Bidding  <b>LARGE MACHINERY AUCTION</b>                  Ellendale, MN</p>	<p>Sat., April 30, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.                  10+ Collector Tractors - Wood Threshing - Farm + Horse Equipment - Trailers - Outdoor Items  <b>PRESTEGARD FARM</b>                  Owatonna, MN</p>
<p>Sat., June 18, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.                  40+ John Deere Collector Tractors Trailer - Collector Tractor Parts John Deere Memorabilia - Misc. Items  <b>PHIL BRIGGS - ESTATE</b>  <b>KAREN BRIGGS - OWNER</b>                  Ellendale, MN</p>	

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## AUCTION CALENDAR

**December 15**  
 Bidding Begins: .... Dec. 4, 2021  
 Starts Closing..... Dec. 15, 2021  
**Kenyon, MN**  
 TIMED ONLINE ONLY DOUBLE ESTATE AUCTION  
 eXmark Zero Turn Mower, John Deere Lawn Tractor, Dr Trailer Leaf Vac, Lawn & Garden Items, Power & Hand Tools, Clean Antique & Modern Furniture, Collectibles, Glassware, Farm Primitives And Much More

**January 16, 2022**  
 Bidding Begins: .... Jan. 8, 2022  
 Starts Closing..... Jan. 16, 2022  
**Kenyon, MN**  
 LARGE ONLINE ONLY ANTIQUE & COLLECTOR AUCTION FOR THE ELROY FLOM ESTATE  
 Large Online Only Auction, Antiques, Collectibles, Farm Primitives, Scandinavian Items, Glassware, Furniture, Stoneware, Household Items and More.

**January 9, 2022**  
 Bidding Begins: .. Dec. 31, 2021  
 Starts Closing..... Jan. 9, 2022  
**Kenyon, MN**  
 ONLINE ONLY CLEAN TRIPLE ESTATE AUCTION  
 MG Convertible Car, Fish-N-Ski Boat, Wood Working Tools, Power Tools, Antique & Modern Furniture, Glassware, Fireking, Hummels, Farm Primitives, Commercial Kitchen Equipment

**January 30, 2022**  
 Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 21, 2022  
 Starts Closing..... Jan. 30, 2022  
**Kenyon, MN**  
 ONLINE ONLY CLEAN DOUBLE ESTATE AUCTION FROM THE BLACK & JELLUM ESTATES  
 John Deere Compact Loader Tractor, JD Lawn Tractor, Snowblower, Power & Hand Tools, 55 Long And Hand Guns, Ammo, Jeep Wrangler, Dump Trailer, Compact Tractor & Skid Loader Attachments, Furniture

**February 6, 2022**  
 Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 28, 2022  
 Starts Closing..... Feb. 6, 2022  
**Kenyon, MN**  
 ONLINE ONLY 600+ LOTS COLLECTOR TOY & MEMORABILIA AUCTION  
 600+ Lots of Collector Farm Toys, Ertl, Spec Cast, Precision, Collector Edition, All Brands, Semi's, International, Farmall & CIH Memorabilia

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 or call Terry at 507-951-7417




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Southern Minnesota Area Rural Transit



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 safe, reliable, accessible and courteous public transportation services in response to the needs of our communities

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SMART Transit is hiring in Owatonna. Responsibilities include transporting the public, following a set schedule, and maintaining vehicle reports. Requirements include good driving record, above average communication and people skills, the ability to work independently and meet the physical demands of the job. High school diploma preferred. Must have or obtain a Class C CDL and passenger endorsement. Will train if needed. Must pass all necessary MnDOT testing and requirements.

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Dodge Center  
507-374-9555

2588 Bridge Avenue (Northbridge Mall)  
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507-373-9194

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Hours: Monday: 11am-10pm  
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1015 W. Frontage Rd., Suite 103, Owatonna • South of Lowe's  
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**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!**  
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There's no limit! Give the gift of Fireside this year,  
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\*Bonus Certificates are valid January and February 2022.  
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37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN • 507-645-9992 • [www.firesidelounge.net](http://www.firesidelounge.net)

MONDAY & TUESDAY CLOSED  
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Thank you for your continued support of The Fireside!

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### New Richland Star Eagle

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Claremont, Dodge Center, Dundas, Goodhue-Bellechester, Kenyon, Mainstreet (Dennison & Nerstrand), Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls, Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock, Wanamingo, West Concord

507-951-7417

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

### Steele County Times

507-583-4431

Email:

bptimes@frontiernet.net



# Golden Link

Southern Minnesota

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**AUCTION** **160 Acres+/- Faribault Co., MN** Section 28 of Emerald TWP - 103,295 Feet of Tile - 156 +/- Tillable Acres - Soil Tests Available **AUCTION 12/4/21 ID #2140**

**AUCTION** **310.76 Acres+/- Freeborn Co., MN** Sections 20 & 29 of Hartland TWP, Sections 11 & 12 of Carlston TWP - 3 Tracts **AUCTION 12/11/21 ID #2142**

**LISTING** **140 Acres+/- Rice Co., MN** Section 2 of Wells TWP - 98+/- Tillable Acres CPI of 82 - Recreational Opportunities including Hunting - Beautiful Pond **\$980,000 ID #2165**

**LISTING** **37 Acres+/- Steele Co., MN** Section 14 of Summit TWP - 25+/- CRP Acres - Abundance of Deer & Turkey - Pheasant Habitat **\$166,500 ID #2136**

**LISTING** **245.42 Acres+/- Blue Earth Co., MN** Section 23, 26 & 27 of Cambria TWP - Well Managed Recreational Property - Great Hunting **\$765,000 ID #2155**

**LISTING** **40 Acres+/- Olmsted Co., MN** 9329 85th St NW, Pine Island MN - Offered as 2 Tracts - 22+/- Tillable Acres - 2 Building Entitlements **\$495,000 ID #2129**

**LISTING** **19.9 Acres+/- Goodhue Co., MN** Section 27 of Welch TWP - Next to Welch Ski Village - Great Hunting - CRP Income Acres. **\$198,900 ID #2011**

**LISTING** **67.23 Acres+/- Mower Co., MN** Section 26 of Racine TWP - Nearly all tillable - Outstanding CPI of 94 - Excellent Investment Property. **\$477,333 ID #1964**

**LISTING** **240 Acres+/- Freeborn Co., MN** Section 16 of Manchester TWP - 189 +/- Cropland Acres - CPI of 84.4 - Great Outlet - Tillable near Manchester. **\$2,000,000 ID #1505**

**PENDING** **155.38 Acres+/- Steele Co., MN** Sections 22 & 27 of Blooming Prairie TWP - Offered as 2 Tracts - Drain Tile in Place. **UNDER CONTRACT ID #2148**

**PENDING** **124 Acres+/- Mower Co., MN** Section 18 of Lyle TWP - Nearly All Tillable - Offered as 2 Tracts - CPI of 74.2 - NW of Lyle, MN **UNDER CONTRACT ID #2128**

**PENDING** **114 Acres+/- Freeborn Co., MN** Section 34 of Pickerel Lake TWP - Nearly All Tillable - CPI of 79.1 - SW of Albert Lea, MN **UNDER CONTRACT ID #2167**

**PENDING** **55.06 Acres+/- Freeborn Co., MN** Section 9 of Mansfield TWP - 50+/- Tillable Acres - CPI of 90.2 - SW of Alden, MN **UNDER CONTRACT ID #2177**

**PENDING** **79 Acres+/- Freeborn Co., MN** 79250 123rd St. Glenville, MN - 43.72+/- Tillable Acres - 3 Bedroom & 2 Bath - Built in 1989 **UNDER CONTRACT ID #2123**



**Alex Wayne**  
Land Agent  
Minnesota  
507-456-6559

alexwayne@landproz.com



**Greg Jensen**  
Land Broker / Auctioneer  
MN & IA - 24-21  
507-383-1067

gregjensen@landproz.com



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Broker Andrew Fansler - IN | LandProz Country Living Broker Amy Willett - MN, IA, MO

# MERRY Christmas

&

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we put the finishing touches on another year, we'd like to send our best and brightest holiday wishes to you, our valued customers.

*We cherish the gifts of your friendship and support at the holidays and all year.*

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505 Frontage Rd NE  
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Phone: 507-775-7280  
Email: a.sanders@insurancebrokersmn.com

## Winter has Arrived: AAA Urges Motorists to be Prepared

Snow and cold weather can make driving conditions more difficult and the first few snowfalls of the year often catch motorists unprepared.

Most of Minnesota now has at least a dusting, if not multiple inches, of snow. The snow, coupled with the high winds and cold weather that is coming through, can be a recipe for disaster on the roadways because together they create risky driving situations including low visibility, drifting and blowing snow, and slick roads. AAA Minnesota-Iowa is advising motorists to allow extra time to get to a travel destination, monitor weather conditions, and follow advice from authorities. If it is not safe and you don't have to travel, don't drive.

### Defensive Driving

When taking to the road during winter weather, remember to drive with caution to help maintain your safety as well as that of passengers, fellow motorists, and roadside workers. AAA recommends the following tips for winter driving:

Before starting out in snowy weather, take time to remove the snow from the entire car so it doesn't blow onto your windshield or the windshields of other drivers. Make sure your mirrors and lights are clean and clear.

Go slow in snow. Posted speeds are for ideal conditions.

Watch for icy surfaces on bridges and intersections, even when the rest of the road seems to be in good condition.

Look farther ahead in traffic. Actions by other drivers will alert you to problems and give you extra seconds to react.

When changing lanes, avoid cutting in front of trucks, which need more time and distance than passenger vehicles to stop.

Don't use cruise control when roads are wet, snowy, or icy.

Remember that four-wheel drive helps you get going quicker, but it won't help you stop any faster.

In the event of a skid, ease off the accelerator and don't lock the brakes. Carefully steer in the direction you want the vehicle to go and straighten the wheel as soon as the car begins to go in the desired direction.

### Proper Preparation

Preparing for frigid weather conditions will help keep your vehicle on the road, advises AAA. Motorists can help keep their vehicles on the road by ensuring scheduled maintenance is completed. A routine inspection of battery, brakes, belts, hoses, oil, fluids, tires, and other vehicle systems can help prevent inconvenient and costly break downs.



AAA also recommends motorists keep emergency supplies in the vehicle, including a cell phone, boots, gloves, blanket, an alternate heat source, shovel, and first aid kit. If stranded, stay with the vehicle. If the engine starts, run it only long enough to keep warm. Make sure the exhaust pipe is free of snow. It's also advised to keep the fuel tank at least half-full to avoid fuel-line freeze-up and to

provide extra fuel for running the engine if stranded.

If you encounter an emergency vehicle with flashing lights along the road, slow down well in advance and carefully move over one lane, if available. Slipper roads make for dangerous conditions for those helping other motorists on the roadside.

# Milo Peterson Ford Co.



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**HOLIDAY SPECIAL**  
**\$24,555**

### 2018 EXPLORER XLT



#21211U

Black, 3.5L V-6 auto,  
29,540 miles

**HOLIDAY SPECIAL**  
**\$38,420**

### 2018 ESCAPE



#21177U

1.5 ecoboost, auto,  
magnetic metallic,  
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**\$20,999**

### 2019 EDGE



#21062U

2.0L ecoboost,  
turbocharged, auto,  
AWD, 26,917 miles

**HOLIDAY SPECIAL**  
**\$29,675**

### 2015 FUSION



#21025U

1.5L ecoboost, auto,  
red, 119,149 miles

**HOLIDAY SPECIAL**  
**\$11,999**

### 2014 TAURUS



#21030D

3.5L V-6, auto, gray  
metallic, 156,860 miles

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**\$10,298**

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3020 457th Street Way, Kenyon • 507-789-6113 • SALES HOURS: M-T-Th 7:30a.m.-8p.m.; W-F 7:30a.m.-6p.m.; Sat. 8a.m.-4p.m.



## West Concord Public Library December 2021 News

Children and adults alike enjoyed making Christmas crafts at the library on Saturday, December 4th, as a part of Christmas in West Concord. It was a fun, creative morning.

There will be no story time until further notice. Watch for information regarding future start up.

The Library and City Hall will be closed Friday, December 24th, Monday December 27th, and Friday, December 31st, for the upcoming holidays.



**Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!**

*Library hours:*

*Monday 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm*

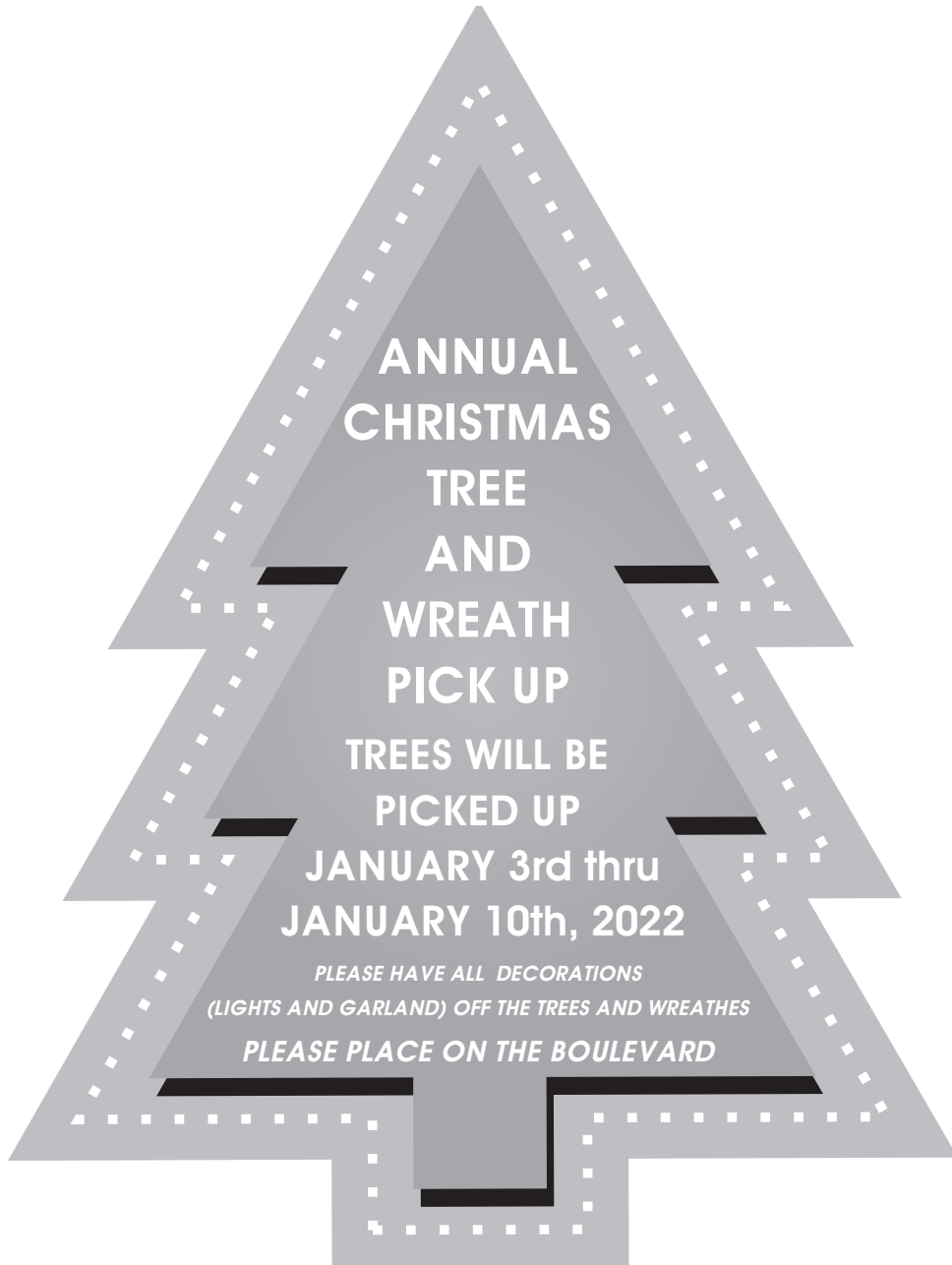
*Tuesday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm*

*Wednesday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm*

*Thursday 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm*

*Friday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm*

*Saturday and Sunday - Closed*



**City of West Concord  
Council Meeting Agenda  
Thursday, December 16, 2021  
7:00 PM  
West Concord City Hall**

**6:00 p.m. Truth in Taxation Hearing  
6:30 p.m. Public Hearing for Municipal Liquor Store**

**General order of Business:**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Additions to Agenda**
- 4. Consent Agenda**
  - a. Approve City Council Meeting, November 18, 2021
  - Approve Informational City Council Meeting, November 23, 2021
  - b. Approve Payment of Claims
- 5. Public Comment**
- 6. City Business**
  - a. Review and finalize the 2022 Utility Rates – Ehlers – Jeanne Vogt
  - b. Review and adopt Financial Management Plan – Final Pay 2022 Levy and Impact analysis on median valued homes – Ehlers – Jeanne Vogt
  - c. Resolution 2021-27 Approving 2022 Tax Levy
  - d. Resolution 2021-28 Authorizing Signatory Change
  - e. Approval of 2022 Assessment Agreement Between the City of West Concord and Dodge County and approve payment of \$4,856.00 before February 28, 2022.
  - f. Motion to approve and enter into a Tower Lease Agreement with WiFi LLC of Kasson and installation of WiFi at the Maintenance Shop
  - g. Resolution 2021-29 to approve the hiring of Karine Kvam as Bartender for the Municipal Liquor Store
  - h. Refund of Liquor Liability Coverage for 2020 & 2021 in the amount of \$2,645.00.
  - i. Approve quote for Liquor Store Repairs to the WiFi
  - j. Exempt Parcel in question with Dodge County
  - l. Review and finalize the Gambling Contract
- 8. Report of Officers**
  - a. Report from West Concord Interim City Administrator
    1. Update on Dollar General
  - b. Report from West Concord Police Chief
    1. Monthly Report
  - c. Report from West Concord Librarian
    1. Monthly Report
  - d. Report from West Concord Public Works
    1. Monthly Report
  - e. Report from People Services
    1. Monthly Report

*A Proud Heritage, A Bright Future*





**The City of West Concord is seeking to fill the following positions...**  
**City Administrator, Library Director, Library Staff, Bartenders.**  
 Please stop at City Hall or visit our website for an application.  
 180 East Main Street  
 West Concord, MN 55985  
**Westconcordmn.com**  
 Office 507-527-2668  
 Fax 507-507-2669

**WEST CONCORD CITY HALL AND PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 27**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31**

## Energy & Water Bill Assistance

The Minnesota Department of Commerce is expanding the Minnesota Energy Assistance Program to pay water and sewer bills for Minnesotans who apply and qualify for energy assistance.

Commerce is using \$15 million in additional American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding designated for water assistance.

Commerce has expanded income eligibility to help more Minnesotans than ever before pay costs to heat and cool their homes, power their lights and electricity, provide fuel delivery, and, if needed, repair or replace homeowners' heating systems.

Minnesota Energy Assistance Program  
 Dodge County EAP Office:  
 Community Action Agency  
 105 S Mantorville Avenue - PO Box 36  
 Kasson, MN 55944  
 Phone: 507 634-4350  
 Fax: 507 634-4351

## Truth in Taxation Public Meeting December 16th, 6:00 PM at City Hall

"Truth in taxation" is a process first enacted by the legislature in 1988 to enhance public participation in Minnesota's property tax system.

The process consists of these three components:

Each local government is required to formally adopt a "proposed levy" in September for the upcoming year; the final levy, when ultimately adopted, may not exceed the proposed levy.

County auditors generate parcel-specific notices of proposed taxes for all parcels of property based on the proposed levies.

Each local government is required to hold a public meeting after the notices come out where budget and tax issues are discussed, and where public testimony must be allowed, prior to adopting its final levy.

This is NOT a meeting to appeal property valuation or amount of tax levied. Property owners are afforded that opportunity in the spring (typically April) when the County issues Valuation Notices.

December 16th - Municipal Liquor Store Public Meeting  
 09\_29\_10\_Liquor\_Store.jpg  
 CITY OF WEST CONCORD  
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
 December 16, 2021

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of west Concord, Minnesota, will meet in the Council Chamber, city Hall, on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the City of west Concord Municipal Liquor Store.

All persons desiring to be heard with reference to the proposed budget should attend this meeting. written comments must be received by 1:00 p.m. on December 13, 2021, at the West Concord City Hall, c/o City Administrator, 180 East Main Street, P.O. Box 435, West Concord, MN 55985.  
Dated: October 13, 2021

## Housing Rehabilitation & Homebuyer Funds Available

**Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority**

**134 East Second Street  
Wabasha, MN 55981**

P: (651) 565-2638

F: (651) 565-3836

Office Hours:

7:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday - Thursday

7:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Friday

### Application

First Time Homebuyer Funds Now Available

\$1,086,723.00 Available for Loans to First Time Homebuyers in Dodge, Goodhue, Wabasha, and Winona Counties

The Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority announced that Dodge, Goodhue, Wabasha, and Winona Counties received a \$1,086,723 allocation to provide homeownership opportunities through single-family mortgage revenue bonds.

The mortgage offered is a 30-year, fixed rate loan.

These funds are available exclusively to residents in Dodge, Goodhue, Wabasha, and Winona Counties (excluding the Cities of Red Wing and Winona) on a first come, first served basis!

## Snow Removal & Parking Restrictions

A snow removal period means a period of time commencing at the beginning of each snowfall and lasting for 48 hours after a snowfall, even if the snow has been removed from city streets.

During a snow removal period, it is unlawful to park or leave a standing vehicle on any street between the hours of 1:00 AM and 6:00 AM.

Snowfall on personal properties is the responsibility of property owners.

Snowfall affecting privately owned utilities is the responsibility of those agencies.

Snowfall on County, State, or Federal properties is the responsibility of those governments.

Public Works will perform a full evaluation of the extent of snow removal actions needed and prioritize the work to be performed.

Nuisance snow 1-2 inches

Measurable snow 3-6 inches

Extensive snow 7+ inches

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Secondary removal is all remaining City streets, Community Buildings, and Churches.

Tertiary removal is all alleys and the waste water treatment plant.



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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.

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## MDA to Seek Approval for 2022 State-Specific Restrictions for Dicamba Herbicide

By Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) today announced that it will work with the makers of four dicamba herbicide products and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement state-specific use restrictions for Minnesota during the 2022 growing season. The restrictions are aimed at curbing off-site movement of the products.

The affected dicamba formulations are Engenia by BASF, FeXapan by Corteva, Tavium by Syngenta, and XtendiMax by Bayer. These

are the only dicamba products labeled for use on dicamba-tolerant soybeans.

Because of a high number of alleged drift complaints in the 2021 growing season, the MDA plans to register the four products for use in Minnesota in 2022 with the following additional restrictions:

**DATE CUTOFF:** No application shall be made south of Interstate 94 after June 12, 2022. North of Interstate 94, use is prohibited after June 30, 2022.

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

The state-specific restrictions would require EPA approval and would appear on the federal label for each product. The MDA will also require product makers provide approved education and training of applicators.

"We understand that dicamba is an important tool in combating herbicide resistant weeds in dicamba-tolerant soybeans," said Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen. "However, these products must be used without impacts on neighboring homes, farms,

and gardens. The additional restrictions are based on scientific evidence from our drift investigations and discussions with the University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota Soybean Growers Drift Taskforce."

From 2018 to 2020, the MDA had placed an annual June 20 cutoff date on registered dicamba products based on research and pesticide misuse complaints. The EPA enacted a federal cutoff date of June 30 in 2021 and did not allow states to impose additional restrictions through a Special Local Need label. The state also implemented a temperature cutoff for the 2018 growing season.

Other federal requirements for the products that will appear on the 2022 labels include:

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

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

Additional recordkeeping items

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

Since dicamba was first registered for use on dicamba-tolerant soybeans in the 2017 growing season, the MDA has fielded com-

plaints each year of alleged off-site movement onto neighboring property. The chemical is highly volatile and can damage non-target plant species through spray drift and/or volatilization. Volatility is influenced by several factors including temperature, relative humidity, rate of application, and crop stage. The annual totals of complaints were:

2021: 304 reports 2020: 128 2019: 20 2018: 51 2017: 249

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

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



## How to Prevent Holiday Mishaps for Pets

Make sure your holiday preparations keep pet safety in mind. Dr. Ashley Mitek, a veterinarian at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, offers tips to prevent accidents and injuries that could dampen the holiday spirit.

### Minimize Stressors

Hosting lots of guests can be stressful for you, and even worse for a pet that is not accustomed to company (or just isn't very sociable). "You can minimize this stress by giving them a safe space to relax in," advises Dr. Mitek. "Pay particular attention when unfamiliar children come into the home if your pet is not used to kids." Another great pet stress-buster is exercise. "During the winter holidays we tend to not exercise our pets as much because of the cold weather and busy schedules," she notes. "But throw on your coat—and maybe a jacket for your pup too—and go for a walk or a trip to the dog park."

Lastly, as people get time off and go on holiday breaks, switching a pet's schedule around can also bring about stress. Even on your days off, try to keep a consistent schedule for your pet.

### Refrain from Food Sharing

It can be tempting to include your pet in the holiday feasting, but some foods can be toxic to animals.

"Ideally you will give only pet-safe treats and avoid human food," says Dr. Mitek. "Sweets that contain chocolate or xylitol are toxic to pets. And many traditional holiday foods contain high levels of fat, which can cause pancreatitis or stomach upset in pets."

If you do slip extra food to your pets, keep in mind the pet's size when you determine the portion. A five-pound Chihuahua can easily get sick from a small amount of human food.

"We all want to show our pet how much we love them during the holidays, but remember, what your dog or cat wants most is your time and love. Instead of handing them a sugar cookie, consider taking them on a walk or snuggling on the couch with them," says Dr. Mitek.

### Pet-Proof Your Decorations

"Cats seem to absolutely love ribbon and tinsel! Unfortunately, if these items are ingested they can cause a life-threatening obstruction known as a 'foreign body,' in cats as well as dogs," says Dr. Mitek. Be sure to keep these decorations out of reach of pets.

Likewise, hide any electrical wires connected to decorations, such as strings of lights, since they are an electrocution risk for pets. Decorations made of glass could also pose a danger if they fall and break, and glass shards cut your pet's paw pad.

Be aware that some pets have allergies to real pine trees. Trees may make them itchier and more uncomfortable, possibly increasing their stress level during the holidays.

### Watch for Outdoor Hazards

Even though dogs with shaggy fur generally do fine in cold weather, many dogs appreciate a coat. "Pet owners often ask how to keep their pet warm during winter walks. Small dogs, particularly hairless dogs, may do best with a sweater or winter coat for walks. You can also consider pet-safe booties for your dog's paw pads to keep their paws warm too."

Booties also protect paws from rock salt, which can be harmful to pets if ingested. Dr. Mitek recommends keeping a towel by your entryway to wipe off your pet's paw pads as soon as they come in from a walk during winter. For your own home, choose pet-safe ice melt alternatives. Consuming any amount of antifreeze from vehicle maintenance can have serious consequences for cats and dogs. Make sure antifreeze containers or spills are kept away from pets.

### Anticipate Noisy New Year's Eve

Loud noises, such as fireworks or even the pop of champagne bottles or party poppers, may scare pets, especially pets with a history of noise phobia. Confining such a pet to their safe space before the noise starts can help reduce the stress. Pets with an extreme phobia of fireworks may benefit from behavioral medications prescribed by your veterinarian.

Lastly, take precautions to ensure your pets cannot get loose and run away when stressed. And as a backup plan, be sure your pets have identifying tags and a microchip so you can be reunited with them if they do escape.

*Wishing you and your furry family members a safe and happy holiday season!*

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## The Season of Giving



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

'Tis the season of giving, which I find to be one of the most inspirational times of year. I am always overwhelmed by the generous contributions that donors make to Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) or to SMIF's 30 Community Foundations. To me, this sends a clear message that keeping dollars local can help communities flourish.

As we do each November, Minnesotans rallied together once again to give to the causes they care about most on Give to the Max Day. This year's "Giving Holiday" raised a record \$34 million, a clear testament to why Minnesota ranks in the top three most generous states in the nation. I am also proud to share that SMIF's 30 Community Foundations had their most successful Give to the Max Day yet, raising more than \$85,000 which makes a direct impact on our communities.

As a donor myself, I know that a gift to SMIF is an investment in southern Minnesota's future. I am so grateful to have grown up here and to have built a career – first as a member of Congress representing this region, and now as the president and CEO of SMIF – which allows me to remain rooted in this place I love. Some of my favorite memories from the past 14 years at SMIF are of the countless times I have spent touring the region and seeing firsthand the impact of our work in Early Childhood, Eco-

conomic Development and Community Vitality. Every time, I come away with renewed energy and passion about what we do.

Our board chair, John Peterson, is a great example of a donor who is invested in his community and the region. John is the owner of Ferndale Market, a third-generation turkey farm in Cannon Falls. He is also a vendor at the upcoming FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace on December 11, an event that SMIF has co-hosted since 2014. This is an opportunity to directly support local farmers and food makers this holiday shopping season.

Even in the midst of his busiest time of year, John generously shared some thoughts with me about why he gives to SMIF: "I'm proud to contribute to SMIF and view it as a reinvestment in the success of the region I call home. Like so many others, my own community and business have benefited from the Foundation's work, and I'm proud to support the vitality of southern Minnesota and our vibrant local food scene. As a SMIF board member, I have a front row seat to see the impact the Foundation has across our region, as well as the strong stewardship of our resources. I know each dollar I give is put to good use right here in our southern Minnesota communities."

Remember that anyone can be a philanthropist—no matter the size of your gift. What matters is that you support the causes and places most important to you. You can contribute to SMIF at [smifoundation.org/donate](http://smifoundation.org/donate) or to one of our Affiliate Funds, which includes our 30 Community Foundations, at [smifoundation.org/localdonations](http://smifoundation.org/localdonations).

If you are a donor or thinking of becoming one, thank you. Donors make our region thrive – we simply cannot do our work without you. It is the people like you who give back to your communities every day that make me proud to call southern Minnesota my home.

*Pictured: John Peterson, owner of Ferndale Market in Cannon Falls, and chair of SMIF's Board of Trustees.*

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



## THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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**Dear Savvy Senior:**

***I'm interested in tracking down some old friends I've lost touch with over the years but could use some help. What websites can you recommend that can help me find them?***

**Tracking Tom**

Dear Tom: Thanks to the Internet, tracking down long[1]lost friends from many years ago is relatively easy to do and, in most cases, it won't cost you a cent. Here are some tips and online tools to help you get started.

**Remembering the Details**

Before you begin your search, a good first step is to jot down any information you can remember or find out about the people you're trying to locate. Things like their full name (maiden and married), age or birth date, last known address or phone number, old e-mail address, names of family members, etc. Knowing details can help you turn up clues while you search.

**Social Media and Search Engines**

After you compile your information, a good place to start your search is at social media sites like Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram. And search engines like Google and Yahoo. When using search engines, type in the name of the person you're searching for in quotation marks, for example, "John Smith." You can narrow your search by adding other criteria like their nickname or middle name, the city or state they may live in, or even their occupation.

**People Search Sites**

If your initial search comes up empty, you can also use people searches like AnyWho.com, Intelius.com or WhitePages.com. These sites will provide a list of potential matches from across the U.S. Because many people share the same name, these sites will also supply details to help identify the right person, perhaps including their age, prior hometowns, names of relatives, colleges attended or employer. While these sites are free to use at a basic level, they charge a small fee for providing certain details like the persons contact information. WhitePages, however, sometimes provides home phone numbers for free. Niche Finding Sites Here are a few other niche people-finding websites to help you with your search. To look for old high school classmates, try Classmates.com. This site has contact information only for people who have registered with it. But even if your friend hasn't registered, it could provide contact info for another classmate who remains in touch with your friend. Another option is to check out your high school alumni website. Not every school has its own site, but some do, and you can look for it by going to any search engine and typing in the name of the school with the city and state it's located in. You can also search at AlumniClass.com, a huge hosting site for thousands of high schools across the U.S. If you're looking for old college friends, look for an alumni directory on the school's website. You might be able to access your friend's contact info by completing an online registration. Or, try calling or emailing your alumni relations department and ask them to pass on your contact info to your friend.

If you're looking for someone you served with in the military, Military.com offers a free "Buddy Finder" service that has a database of more than 20 million records – visit [Military.com/buddy-finder](http://Military.com/buddy-finder). You can also search for free at [GSearch.com](http://GSearch.com), [TogetherWeServed.com](http://TogetherWeServed.com) and [VetFriends.com](http://VetFriends.com). If you can't find any current information about the person you're searching for, it could be that he or she is dead.

To find out if that's the case, use obituary databases such as [Tributes.com](http://Tributes.com) and [Legacy.com](http://Legacy.com), which has a newspaper obituary search tool from hundreds of U.S. newspapers.

## 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 underperform. 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 incentives. 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.

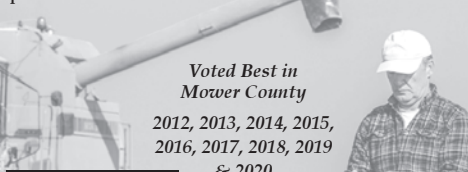
Simon Nguyen said, "Victory is remembered for at most two decades; an act of good sportsmanship is remembered for a lifetime."

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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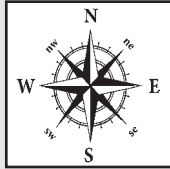
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## *Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes* **Breaking Amish**



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, mishappes, 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.



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