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SEPTEMBER, 2023

Volume 21 • Issue 1

Tackle Cancer 2023

Randolph School is looking forward to hosting another night of giving back on September 29th! *Take a moment to check out what the night has to offer on page 5.*

Please direct questions to Kate Esser at eserk@district195.org.

Announcements

• **Library Extravaganza - Saturday, October 7, 9:00am - noon at Randolph City Hall, 4365 292nd Street E, Randolph, MN 55065.** Enjoy a day celebrating all things library, including a special Storytime at 9:30am, followed by the Brodini Comedy Magic Show at 10:30am. Sign up for a library card and discover library resources. This event is presented in partnership with the Cannon Falls Library and the Northfield Public Library. Bring the whole family for library fun!

• **Randolph Schools is looking for substitute teachers.** Interested parties that do not have a substitute teachers license, but do have a four year degree (in any branch of study) should contact Mr. Kelley to discuss options that you may have. Pay is \$165 per day. This position gives you flexibility to choose when you work. Please contact Mr. Kelley at kelleym@district195.org or call 507-645-4773 ext. 204.

• **Randolph Food Shelf located at St. Mark's Church 28595 Randolph Blvd.** Monthly Open Hours: 1st Tuesday 8:00 - 9:30 am; 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays 4:30 - 6:00 pm. Questions call (507) 263-9182.

*Do you have an announcement?
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com*

55th Annual Chicken BBQ a Success

Courtesy of Randolph-Hampton Fire District

Thank you to all who came out on a HOT BBQ for the 55th annual. The day was filled with laughter, amazing food, dancing and so much love. 4200 lbs of chicken, 4300 lbs of corn and 1,870 people fed.

Thank you to the firefighters current/past/retired and their families/loved ones who helped during and throughout the week leading up to the BBQ. Tremendous amount of work behind the scenes to make it so successful and smooth.

Thank you to the Randolph Volleyball team for serving pop/water and face painting! So many smiles!

Mark your calanders for next year SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH 2024! Keep a lookout as raffle tickets will be available after July



4th!

photo courtesy of Randolph-Hampton Fire District

(additional pictures on pages 6, 7 & 8)

Fire Guts Hastings Creamery



The fire raged at the Hastings Creamery. One major concern for onlookers was the embers floating in the air reaching neighboring properties including the barn at the LeDuc Mansion.

Photo by Bruce Karnick

*Courtesy of Bruce Karnick
bruce@hastingsjournal.news*

The Hastings community received a collective blow to the midsection Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 10:34 p.m. The call came in reporting an 11-alarm fire at the now-closed Hastings Creamery at 1701 Vermillion Street. By the time crews arrived on the scene, large plumes of black smoke could be seen emanating from the building.

(continued on page 9)

Tractor Supply Comes to Dundas



The Tractor Supply Company has selected a Dundas location for a new store. The 600 Schilling Drive address has construction starting now with plans to have the roof on before snowfall and opening intended to be in time for spring 2024.

(continued on page 3)

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Do You Need a New Attitude?

Murder... that seems to be what good mysteries and drama are made of. Why are we so fascinated by this terrible sin of violence? I have to admit that my favorite books genre for pleasure reading are murder mysteries as well. I like to figure out the puzzle and have justice meted out at the end. Why do people kill another human being? Sadly, this has been a part of human history since the beginning of time.

J. Warner Wallace, a veteran homicide detective and co-founder of the Torrance, California, Police Department's cold case unit, who has been featured on Dateline, says that all homicides spring from financial greed, lust, or the pursuit of power.

When we read the book of Genesis in the Bible, we can better understand sin and it's affect on humankind throughout the rest of the Bible. There are vital clues, in chapter 4, the murder of Abel, to what is at the root of the destruction of all relationships between human beings.

We aren't told the exact reasons that God look on Cain's offering favorably- only that He wasn't happy with it. And Cain's response

was one of anger and sulking. And God asked Cain, why are you angry and down-cast? God is checking the attitude of Cain- and possibly it was his attitude towards giving his tithes- that was the real problem in the first place. God always looks at the heart- when we give with a bad attitude or are jealous of others- God knows.

God can't fully bless disobedient people. It's like when I ask someone to do something- my own child or even my spouse; if the response is groaning and anger, I'll just blow it off and do it myself. I'd rather work alone than with someone complaining the entire time. The same goes with someone giving excuses for why they made the decision they did; especially if they blame someone else. It is so easy to justify our sinful actions, or our choices to disobey God and His word.

Negative Attitudes cause us to turn away from God. God is not only interested in what we do and don't do, but also why we do or don't do. Everything is ignored while our motive is considered, then blessed is the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Defiance is a major bad attitude that needs to be cut out of our lives. This is one that Cain noticeable brought to his relationship with God and with his brother Able. If you can't stand to be told what to do. If your blood pressure gets high when someone tells you NO. If you see red when someone gives you an order, you might be defiant. Everyone has a natural will to oppose. Everyone wants to be right. We think we have all the answers. Everything would be better if people would listen to us.

Defiance isn't always open and on display. We might seem perfectly pleasant and agreeable on the outside; while inwardly we plot and scheme to get our own way and do exactly as we please. If you won't hear advice, won't accept help, and have all the answers already - you might have a defiant attitude. This sabotages our victory. It undermines our triumph.

Defiance proves immaturity. Like children, defiant people want the center of attention, and want to have all their needs met immediately or else! Defiant people become angry and resentful when others don't act like they want. Defiant people will blame everyone else for their every problem. Defiant people will spend lots of energy trying to get others to change.

How can we change our stinking thinking? Change our attitude!

- Become aware of needs and deficiencies. "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid." Proverbs 13:18, "Whoever disregards discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored."

- Commit your will/strength to fix. "Commit yourself to instruction; listen carefully to words of knowledge." Proverbs 23:12.

- Act against the wrong and for the right! "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly[a] with your God." Micah 6:8

Do you have an excuse sloshing around in your mind? What lie are you telling yourself today? The Holy Spirit is speaking to again.

We all need to become more aware of ourselves - we do this by becoming more aware of the Lord. We allow Him to do what He has already done.

I am not ashamed to admit my faults and

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failures because I know that God's Grace is as strong as ever. "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6. You and I can claim victory over sin! His Holy Spirit is at work within us so that we do not have to sin- but to live a new life of victory in Him. Imagine how different chapter 4 would have been if Cain had heeded God's correction. God told him that sin was crouching at his door- but he didn't have to give in to it. Cain did not have to kill his brother. Cain could have changed his attitude. Cain could have been victorious.

Jesus, is our example, He took responsibility to the point of dying for the sins of the whole of humanity. He redeemed the relationship between people and God and between people with other people. Jesus' life reflected all that we can be in Him. Jesus demonstrated the difference the Holy Spirit can do in every life that chooses to follow Him by faith. When He denied himself, paying the price for you and me, He showed us the best way to live life; Jesus showed us that by dying to ourselves is when we truly can live! Are you ready to change your attitude?

Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock
Messenger

Business & Subscription Office:
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507-649-3327
Fax: 507-645-9878
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Place your ad in the next issue of the Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger.
Call Terry at 507-951-7417 or email:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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SHOP LOCAL

RANDOLPH BAPTIST CHURCH
29020 Dawson Avenue in the heart of Randolph (adjacent to Randolph Public School grounds).
Sunday School 9:00a.m. (children, teen, and adult classes)
Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.
Jesus and Me (JAM) Kids Club 3:00-5:00p.m. first and second Wednesday of the school month.
Pastor Dennis Ingolfsland
Questions? Call church office 507-663-1437

CHRIST UMC
Rev. Thomas Countryman
29470 Gaylord Ave., Cannon Falls
507-757-8043
www.christunitedmethodist.org
Sunday Worship 8:30a.m.
Sunday School 8:30a.m.

STANTON UMC
Reverend Thomas Countryman
1020 Hwy. 19 Blvd., Stanton • 507-263-4063
www.stantonunitedmethodist.org
Sunday Worship at 10:15a.m.
Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY
Deep Sense of Awe

"Now get up and stand on your feet. . . . I am sending you to [the Gentiles] to open their eyes . . . so that they may receive forgiveness of sins. . . ." - Acts 26:16-18

Consider your own story of faith. One of the ways you can know the awe of God is through your story. Maybe you came to Jesus out of a life of poverty and pain. Maybe you think your story is less than exciting because you grew up in the church and have always been a part of it.

Whatever the case, you have a story to share because it's really about God's story happening through you. In all your struggles, celebrations, griefs, and joys, God has been telling his story of grace in and through you.

When given the opportunity, Paul shared his story. One of the main reasons a personal story is so powerful is that no one can argue against the way God has chosen to work in and through you. Think of moments when you had to trust God with a loved one who was sick, or when you were not sure how to pay a debt and God provided for you. Or maybe you thought your marriage was at the point of no return, but God brought it back.

People can debate theology and doctrine, but they cannot argue against the awesome work of God in and through a transformed life.

May we not lose sight of the power of whom we serve and that we are called to be his people. Let's embrace and celebrate the awe and wonder of God's power each day.

God, undo me today! Soften my heart and bring me freedom so that I may see and know the wonder of who you are. Amen

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Questions? Call 507-263-9182

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7:30a.m. Friday Mass
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9:00 a.m. Worship Service, Coffee After
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
Questions? Call 507-645-0042

Amanda Rose Donkers

Amanda Rose Donkers, age 26, of Nerstrand, MN, passed away September 23, 2023, surrounded by her family at the Methodist Hospital in Rochester, MN, after a hard-fought battle with cancer.



Amanda Rose was born on December

20, 1996, in Minneapolis, MN, to Christopher Donkers and Kristine Paukert. She graduated from Northfield High School with the class of 2015. Amanda worked in accounting with Taylor Truckline, where she continued to work through her illness. She also was highly involved in helping her father run their family farm. Amanda loved life on the farm, her horses, the cows and especially her dogs, Sophie and Walter. She liked her trucks big and loud, and everything had to have cow print. She also enjoyed crafting with her son

Bryson, reading books on the front porch, shopping for most anything, riding motorcycles with friends, horseback riding, and time up north at the lake. Amanda had a great sense of humor and was a very determined person, always persevering to get what she wanted.

She is survived by her son, Bryson James Donkers-Rezac; father and stepmother, Chris and Anne Donkers; mother, Kristine Paukert; siblings, Alex Donkers, and Christina Kuether (Tyler); grandparents, Thomas and Susan Paukert; best friend, Sophia Amy; her beloved dogs, Sophie and Walter; and many loved family members.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Will and Shelly Donkers; and her uncle,

Steve Donkers.

A Celebration of Amanda's life will be on Saturday, September 30, 2023, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Parker Kohl Funeral Home, 1725 Lyndale Ave. N., Faribault. A brief service and time for sharing will take place at 11:00 a.m. followed by a reception. Per Amanda's request, everyone is encouraged to dress in casual wear (jeans, boots, all things western).

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Sarcoma Foundation of America, or to the donor's choice in memory of Amanda.

For online tributes and further information, please visit ParkerKohlFH.com

Tractor Supply Comes to Dundas

(continued from page 1)

TSC started as a mail order business in 1938 providing farmers with quality tractor parts at fair prices. The business was operated from the founder's home in Chicago before opening the first store in Minot, North Dakota in 1940. This location was selected because it was halfway between customers in Saskatchewan, Canada and Texas. By 2011 there were 1,000 Tractor Supply stores and the number has swelled to 2,000 ten years later. The average TSC store covers 20,000 sq. ft.

Tractor Supply stores provide a one-stop shop for the community, serving farmers, livestock and pet owners, ranchers, part-time and hobby farmers, gardeners, homeowners and others. Tractor Supply customers can access a wide range of products including pet supplies, animal feed, propane tanks, fencing, tools and outdoor power equipment, apparel, gifts and decor and more. The stores carry top brands, such as Purina, Carhartt, Blue Buffalo, Makita and Hobart, as well as products exclusive to Tractor Supply. As part of the company's ongoing evolution to continually meet customer needs, select Tractor Supply stores around the country feature a garden center that includes live goods and seasonal items for everyone from novice gardeners to professional landscapers.

Tractor Supply actively participates in their communities by supporting local animal shelters, area 4-H clubs, FFA chapters and more.

TSC is known for staffing helpful and knowledgeable employees at their stores and will be hiring in the area. Wages start at \$28,000.

- Beginning October 1, 2023 -

All New!

MEAT RAFFLES

Sundays at 4:00 PM

BINGO BINGO! Tuesdays at 6:00 PM

Dennison Lions Club Charitable Gambling Permit #2762

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Come See the Movies the Media Are Not Promoting

September 28:

"The Unseen Crisis: Vaccine Stories You Were Never Told"

True story of those who trusted taking the vaccine with devastating consequences. When they asked for help, they were shunned, silenced instead of being heard. Join us as we bring their stories out of the shadows.

October 26: "Nefarious"

An eye-opening movie about evil and how it can become normal or accepted for our convenience. Is evil accepted in our normal day?

November 30: "The Shadow State"

Who is really in control of our food, fuel, money, even freedom of speech? This documentary is about ESG, Environmental Social and Governance, that may soon affect our everyday life. This movie reveals the driving force of the global alliance and the multitrillion-dollar ESG industry that unites government and corporations.

Movies will be shown at the Cannon Falls Sportsman's Club, intersection of County 24 and Oxford Mill Road

Time : Doors open at 6:30 Movie starts at 7 pm

Admission: Donations accepted to cover cost of promotion & venue.

These movies are not suitable for children.

As Concerned Citizens, we feel as a community we need to learn and discuss the cultural issues that are headlines. Come watch these documentaries and movies. We would love to hear your thoughts.
Jack Schlichting 612-325-5528 or jackschlichting@gmail.com

Randolph Elementary Validated as 2023-2024 Minnesota School of Excellence

Randolph Elementary has been validated as a Minnesota School of Excellence (SOE) by the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA). This prestigious honor was awarded to Randolph Elementary for its commitment to innovative teaching and learning.

"On behalf of Randolph Elementary we would like to thank the committee for this prestigious award. We are very honored to have been selected. This award truly reflects the dedication and commitment of our teachers and staff. An award like this means so much to us and shows that all the hard work we do doesn't go unnoticed," expressed Principal Matt Rutledge.

MESPA Executive Director, Michelle Krell, articulated, "Through the Minnesota School of Excellence (SOE) program, grounded in national research on high-performing schools, MESPA has created the premier opportunity in the state for validating excellence and a commitment to continual growth in a school community. This school improvement program examines the entire school community through six national standards, ensuring there is a holistic approach to creating a plan for future achievement and celebrating the unique accomplishments of each School of Excellence."

The Minnesota School of Excellence (SOE) program promotes excellence through a rigorous one or two year-long, self-directed evaluation process. The schools earn validation by completing a school community self-study, developing a plan to build on evident strengths, addressing areas needing improvement, and assessing ongoing results from implementing the plan.

Tami Staloch-Schultz, chair of the Minnesota School of Excellence Committee, said,

"It takes commitment and teamwork to honestly and thoroughly assess areas of strength and at the same time identify a plan for continual growth. The SOE process asks the entire school community – parents, students, staff, administration, and more – to reflect on and celebrate the collaborative work being done in school communities. Schools that receive validation have had important data-driven conversations about what a high-quality learning experience should be for all students and have plans to make that learning experience a reality for many years to come. Honoring the important work of dedicated staff, eager students, and supportive communities is an essential component of becoming a School of Excellence."

Randolph Elementary is part of the Randolph Public School District and serves over 400 students in grades K-6. Their mission is "Working in partnership with the family and the community, [Randolph] is dedicated to providing a caring, disciplined, and challenging environment that enables students to become life-long learners who value themselves, contribute to their community, and succeed in a changing world." Randolph Elementary School is a Blue Ribbon School (2011-2012) and has previously achieved the Minnesota School of Excellence award in 2017.

The School of Excellence process uncovered that a major strength of this school is the embodiment of learner-centered leadership and the capitalization on the leadership skills of others. "The elementary students expressed interest in afterschool activities." The school's leadership team wrote in their SOE application. Thanks to the leadership of teachers and even a high school student the school started to offer a total of 8 different clubs, lasting one season long (fall, winter, or spring). "During these clubs, elementary students had new learning experiences that they may not necessarily get from a classroom," their application explained.

Another significant strength of Randolph Elementary is its community engagement. As emphasized in their application, "Randolph Elementary School prides itself on its ability to build strong, meaningful relationships with not only students, but their families as well.

These relationships help support improved



Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

academic performance and positive social engagement. The high attendance at all school functions is proof of these strong relationships." As an example, the leadership team points out, "There is over 90% attendance rate at both fall and spring parent-teacher conferences."

Because striving for excellence necessitates constant progress, the School of Excellence process also tries to uncover where schools can improve. One area the school would like to continue to grow is building capacity to use knowledge effectively to make decisions. The leadership recognizes that "the school needs to create more opportunities to allow teachers to collaborate and create more interventions to best help students." One way the school is already doing this is by having a Student Assistant Team (SAT) that meets about once per week to discuss and collaborate. When there is a concern about the academic or social progress of a student, the classroom teacher meets with the SAT to de-

termine interventions. MESPA applauds Randolph's goal to create more opportunities for collaboration.

Congratulations to Randolph Elementary under the leadership of Principal Matt Rutledge for achieving the prestigious honor as a School of Excellence.

5 schools achieved recognition as 2023-2024 Minnesota Schools of Excellence:

- Lake Park Audubon Elementary, Lake Park Audubon Independent School District, in Audubon, MN, Principal Craig Bahr
- Randolph Elementary, Randolph Public School District in Randolph, MN, Principal Matt Rutledge
- St. Croix Preparatory Academy, Charter School in Stillwater, Principal Joann Karetov
- South Terrace Elementary, Carlton School District in Carlton, MN, Principal Donita Stepan
- Winsted Elementary, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted Public Schools in Winsted, MN, Principal Jennifer Olson

ENGLISH & GED CLASSES

Free Classes begin Sept. 5th!

Northfield Community Education Center

English Class

Tuesdays & Thursdays

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Farmington Tiger Legacy & Learning Center

English Class and GED Class

Tuesdays & Thursdays

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm



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Email abe@northfieldschools.org or abe@farmington.k12.mn.us with any questions!



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Heiman Receives Golden Ticket

Ruby Heiman, a member of the 14u Randolph Rocket Fastpitch team, was selected out of hundreds of players to receive an invitation to USA Softball Fest in Panama Beach, Florida. Ruby's summer softball team participated in the Game Day USA Battle of the Cheeseheads Softball Tournament in Wisconsin Dells in June. At this tournament Ruby was selected during not one, but two games as her teams' MVP. The third MVP selection from the Rocket Fastpitch team went to Aubree Hanson. Both Heiman and Hanson were invited to participate in the USA All Star Softball Tournament over August 4-6 in Rantoul, Illinois. After a hard-fought weekend, complete with four games and one rained out, the girls team came home as All Star Champions. Winning in the championship



Ruby's Golden Ticket

game 10-6 without committing any fielding errors and taking first place. Heiman was then awarded one of ten golden tickets, which grants access to USA Softball Fest. This opportunity is the most selective in the entire Game Day USA system. Heiman will travel to Panama Beach, Florida over New Years to play in the USA Softball Fest. Her family has opened an account on Ruby's behalf at Merchants Bank if anyone is interested in helping with donations.



Ruby Heiman and the Game Day USA Trophy



Ruby Heiman and Aubree Hanson with the Game Day USA Trophy

RANDOLPH ROCKET FOOTBALL
TAILGATE TO TACKLE CANCER
 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023
\$6.00 5:00-7:00PM
KLAHR FIELD

- HOT DOG
- CHIPS
- WATER
- COOKIE

GREG'S MEATS
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MUST PURCHASE A TICKET TO THE GAME TO ENTER THE GATES

\$7 ADULTS
\$5 STUDENTS
\$5 SENIORS

randy shaver
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RANDOLPH ROCKETS
TACKLE CANCER
 SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

5-7PM TAILGATE BBQ

5-9PM SILENT AUCTION
 50/50 RAFFLE
 BAKE SALE
 MALT STAND

POST GAME SENIOR HEAD-SHAVING TRADITION

7:00 GAME TIME!

COME JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF GIVING BACK!

GAME TICKETS \$5 STUDENTS/SENIORS
\$7 ADULTS

randy shaver
 CANCER RESEARCH & COMMUNITY FUND

PROCEEDS BENEFIT



photos courtesy of Randolph-Hampton Fire District

Back to Normal!

Thank you for all your patience & support!

HOURS UPDATE

Monday 3:00pm-9:00pm
 Tuesday 11:00am-11:00pm
 Wednesday 11:00am-11:00pm
 Thursday 11:00am-11:00pm
 Friday 11:00am-1:00am
 Saturday 11:00am-1:00pm
 Sunday 11:00am-9:00pm
 Sunday 3:00pm-9:00pm

We are also back to our **FULL MENU!**

Watch our Facebook Page for updates!

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Chicken BBQ



Milo Peterson Ford Co.



FALL SPECIALS AT PETERSON FORD

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<p>AWD, 25,198 miles, silver, 1.5L ecoboost #23090U</p>	<p><i>Sale</i> \$25,720</p>	<p>AWD, 138,467 miles, white, 2.0L ecoboost #23014U</p>	<p><i>Sale</i> \$14,444</p>	<p>AWD, desert gold metallic, 15,287 miles, ecoboost 2.0L turbocharged #23114U</p>	<p><i>Sale</i> \$32,970</p>	<p>4WD, 30,035 miles, agate black metallic, 2.3L ecoboost #23039U</p>	<p><i>Sale</i> \$34,599</p>
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Fire Guts Hastings Creamery

(continued from page 1)

By 11 p.m. when the Journal arrived on the scene, the flames had enveloped the entire middle of the property and multiple agencies set up to play defense until the fire was brought under control. They did not gain control until around 2 a.m.

The fire at the manufacturing plant comes as part of a long, drama-filled end of 2022 and all of 2023 for the creamery and its owners, 3D LLC. Wastewater problems began to surface late in 2022 according to a 34-page report filed by the Met Council back in June of 2023. Those problems carried into this year and ultimately led to the disconnection of the creamery from the city sewer lines on June 4.

What followed for the creamery reportedly caused a financial strain that could not be overcome. The plant was forced to pump all of its waste into large temporary tanks on site and those tanks were pumped empty and hauled to an offsite location. That process cost the creamery roughly \$7,000 per day according to former president Justin Malone. In total, Malone said that they had spent nearly \$750,000 to gain compliance with Met Council's wishes. Those efforts failed and on Au-

gust 18, 2023, the 113-year-old business shut its doors. The same fate hit the newly constructed Dairy Store.

The closure brought with it a plethora of action on site for the next few weeks. The wastewater pumps and tanks were removed from the exterior, and it looked like many of the supplies and processing machines were removed from inside the plant with several semis loaded and hauled away. The action looked to last around a week or so and seemed to have wrapped up over a week before the fire.

Fast forward to the night of Sept. 13 when the call came into Hastings Fire Department (HFD) about a fire at the creamery. It did not take long for the fire to fully engulf the building in flames resulting in the mutual aid call going out to several departments in the area. There was also a concern about potential chemicals being in the plant, primarily ammonia.

A Dakota County Sheriff Officer (DCSO) on the scene suggested everyone stay back and definitely stay out of the path of the smoke that was low-hanging and blowing directly across the street down 17th Street West. He then mentioned that there was talk of a shelter in place order going out to residents west of Vermillion Street in the affected area.

The smoke covered both the Dairy Store and Kwik Trip and ultimately forced the closure of Kwik Trip for the night. Because of the smoke crossing Vermillion Street and the need to keep the street open for emergency vehicles, Vermillion Street was closed at



Behind the creamery is where most of the action took place for the fire fighting crews. It was also where the command center was for the operation. Photo by Bruce Karnick

County Road 47 to the south and 15th Street to the north, a nearly half-mile stretch of road.

The shelter-in-place order that was issued shortly after the discussion with DCSO and Fire Marshal Al Storlie. The order was issued for neighborhoods within a five-block radius because of the chemical content of the smoke. That was extended to one mile after reports of smoke had come from residents in homes behind Cub Foods. The shelter in place order was initially communicated through the City of Hastings notification system via the Everbridge app with subsequent reports going out via local media's social

media channels, including the Facebook live videos via the Hastings Journal's page.

"We did have some ammonia releasing when we got here," explained Chief John Townsend at a press conference. "We notified the Dakota County Special Operations Team for their hazmat capabilities. They came out, did some monitoring, isolated some valves and stopped any release that we had. Then they also went around to the neighborhoods, checked some neighboring businesses and checked for levels of ammonia and other contaminants and they didn't find anything.

(continued on page 10)

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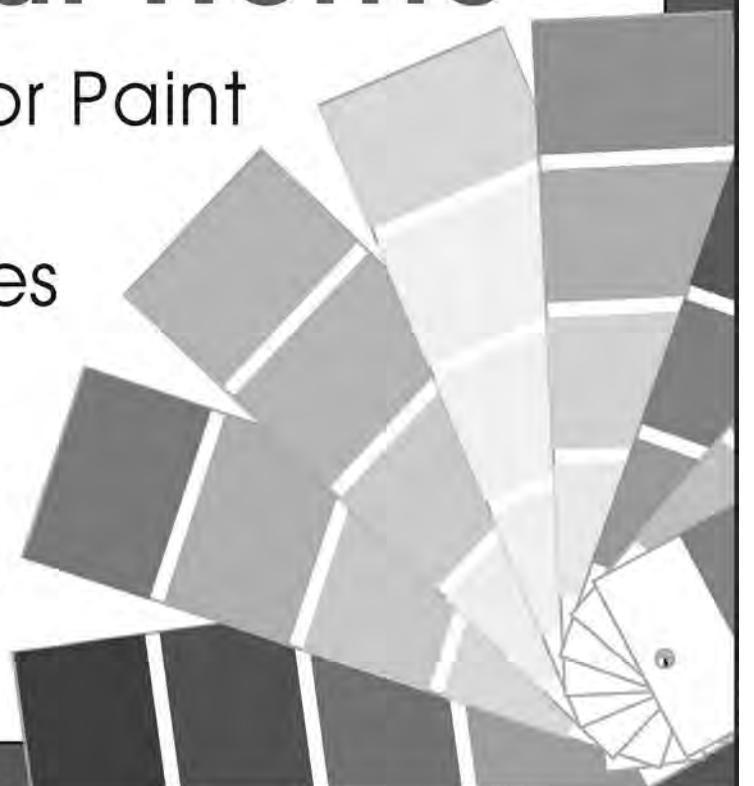
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Fire Guts Hastings Creamery

(continued from page 9)

Certainly, the residents on the west side of 61 had some smoke smells and things like that. They were advised to shelter in place, you know, shut off their air conditioners, shut their windows and doors, those types of things. Stay as they tolerated, if they couldn't tolerate it, they were asked to move on. Fortunately, the hazmat team was able to mitigate and make sure that those things were safe."

At one point, the fire was raging through the midsection of the creamery when something inside popped, followed by a very distinctive hiss which caused the flames to billow a solid 20-30 feet above the roof. Shortly after that, crews were able to gain some ground on the fire, but they maintained a defensive mode well into the morning.

"Because of the potential for collapse and eventual collapse of the ceiling, we were in a defensive mode. It may have looked to someone watching as offensive because we are very busy doing that, but what we would call defensive mode, which means we're not putting anybody inside the structure. We were using master streams from ladders and larger streams through the different access ways and try and get a handle on it that way to keep our

staff safe," added Townsend.

Around 1 a.m. the fire was being visibly knocked back and becoming smaller. By 2 a.m. the flames were no longer visible from the ground level, but crews stayed overnight with many of the First Responders working in shifts to get brief naps in so they could get back to the fight including crews from the multiple agencies that responded to the mutual aid call.

"They were here all night long, worked through a number of shifts and did a lot of great work for this community. They helped us out as we would do for them if they called us. We are pretty fortunate to have that. We had a large number of agencies at this event. We are thankful for all of them," said Townsend.

Thankfully, with a total of 11 fire departments, two ambulance teams, four law enforcement groups and Xcel Energy responding to the event, not one person was injured. In the early morning, Kwik Trip brought the entire group breakfast sandwiches and beverages to help keep them hydrated, including sports drinks.

Chief Townsend spoke around 10:45 a.m. and near the end of the press conference, he gave a rundown of the rest of the day for his team.

"Right now, investigators are looking at some spots in the scene, then we will start working on making sure all the hotspots are out, and we'll do what we need to do to do that. Then from there, it's just a matter of making the space safe while the building owner and owners of the place work through getting it taken care of," he said.



This loading dock was primarily used by trucks returning to the creamery with empty crates when the creamery was in operation. As you can see from the image, there are piles and piles of cardboard boxes on the docks that added to the fuel for the fire.

Photo by Bruce Karnick

Making it safe meant calling in the DCSO Drone Team to use their thermal camera to look for additional hot spots and then using an excavator to knock down some walls to access the hot spots. The concern was the unique construction in a building that has been around for over 110 years and the materials used in the last century to upgrade and expand the building.

It is uncommon in this kind of situation for

a fire to rekindle or reignite after the initial fire is out, but it does happen, especially when the combination of old materials, unique combinations of small spaces that are covered up due to expansions and the inability to access those nooks and crannies due to the massive amount of debris in the way.

(continued on page 15)



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October 24, 2023
Bidding Begins: .. Oct. 14, 2023
Starts Closing..... Oct. 24, 2023
Lakeville, MN
 ONLINE ONLY MOVING AUCTION FOR TERRI PETER & DAN STORLIE
 Samsung SE210 Excavator, 2003 Chevy Duramax Pickup, 1987 Chevy Pickup, 5th Wheel Travel Trailer, Dump Trailer, (3) 40' Semi Van Trailers, 16' Horse Trailer, Freightliner School Bus, Wooden Wheel Buck Board Buggy, Dr. Buggy, 50+ Livestock Gates, Everlocking Pin Gates, Feeders, 5 Hoop Tents, 2 Buildings on Skids and More.

November 4, 2023
Bidding Begins: .. Oct. 14, 2023
Starts Closing..... Oct. 24, 2023
New Richland, MN
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 2015 Chevy Colorado, 2022 John Deere 325G Loader, (10) Skid Loader Attachments, John Deere 3046R Tractor, 2006 Ford F250, 2011 Lincoln MKS, 2012 Polaris XP800, John Deere 1445 Dsl Mower, 500 Lots of Good Power Tools, Firearms, Stainless Steel Appliances, Fancy Oak Furniture, 30+ Collector Toys, Fuel Tanks, Good Quality Well Cared For Items

November 17, 2023 ... 10:00 AM
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VIKINGS GAME DAY SPECIALS!



Fire Guts Hastings Creamery

(continued from page 10)

The crews did a great job of working the building to prevent the chance of a rekindle, but the combination of the above perfect conditions happened and there was a rekindle Saturday afternoon.

Around 3:45 p.m., the Journal was notified of the rekindle as there was more smoke seen coming from the creamery which resulted in another trip to the building for the fire department. They placed a mutual aid call to Cottage Grove just in case things grew quickly, but they were able to extinguish everything much quicker than the first blaze. By 4:30 p.m., the situation was under control.

The Thursday morning investigation did lead firefighters to the spot where they believe the fire started but it did not lead them to a cause yet and no official report has been given on either because both are still under investigation. The cause may never be known given the extent of the damage and debris inside the building. Late Thursday afternoon, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and

Firearms joined the investigation.

As of press time Tuesday morning, no additional information was available from officials, but the city has asked that the emergency notification information be shared. If you are not currently on the emergency list with the city, you can join via this link by downloading the Everbridge app on your phone and then search for the 55033 zip code.

Here is the list of the multiple agencies and companies that assisted with the event.

Fire/EMS

- Hastings Fire Department
- Prescott Fire Department
- Cottage Grove Fire Department
- Saint Paul Park Fire Department
- Newport Fire Department
- Randolph-Hampton Fire Department
- Miesville Fire Department
- Inver Grove Heights Fire Department
- Rosemount Fire Department
- Apple Valley Fire Department
- Farmington Fire Department
- Law Enforcement
- Hastings Police Department
- Dakota County Sheriff
- Minnesota State Patrol
- Dakota County Special Operations Team
- Emergency Medical Services**
- Allina Health EMS River Falls
- MHealth Fairview EMS
- Businesses**
- Kwik Trip
- XCEL Energy



An overhead shot of the most severely damaged portion of the Hastings Creamery. The roof collapsed in this area as it was one of the hottest spots in the fire. This is where a good portion of the production was done at the plant. For reference, the photo through the side door is through the closed door on the upper portion of this image.

Photo provided by Mike Bremer of HCTV.



Saturday afternoon there was a rekindling of the fire. Hastings and Cottage Grove were on the scene quickly to extinguish it within an hour of the initial call.

Photo courtesy of Stephen King

An Apple A Day



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

In last month's article, I presented a solution to the increasing health challenge of Metabolic Syndrome. In that article, eight specific steps were recommended for beginning the process of reversing Metabolic Syndrome. The final step listed was "Eat an apple each day."

You probably have heard the rhyme, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." But what does an apple really do for you? Does any apple work, or only certain kinds? Let's dig a little deeper.

Medications - A 2015 study published in JAMA Internal Medicine by Davis et al observed that those who consumed one apple a day required less prescription drugs. Those

who eat one apple a day probably make other healthy choices as well that contribute to this positive association between apples and reduced drugs.

Heart Disease - A 2017 study published in Molecular Nutrition Food Research by Bon-donno et al compared apples high in flavonoids, which are found in the apple skin, with apples low in flavonoids and observed improved blood flow through the brachial arteries when the high flavonoid apples were eaten. In other words, these apples improved the blood flow through the body. The apples with high flavonoid content will typically be darker red apples that are not too sweet.

Cholesterol - The healthy control of cholesterol has also been improved with an apple a day. A 2017 study in the Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture by GC Tenore compared modern apples with the Annurca apple and observed that two small Annurca apples a day significantly lowered the bad cholesterol and increased the good cholesterol. The Annurca apple is known for its higher flavonoid content. Older, heritage apples typically have high flavonoid and polyphenol content.

Blood Sugar - Those individuals who had a daily intake of apple polyphenols, which are from the skin of the apple, had an improved ability to manage blood sugar compared to individuals who did not consume the polyphenols. This observation was reported in a 2017 study published in Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice by Shoji et al.

One possible reason for this improved sugar control is the polyphenols seem to reduce the sugar absorption ability of the intestines by closing the primary "door" that sugar uses to pass through the intestines, according to Schulze et al in their 2014 published study in Molecular Nutrition and Food Research.

Colon Health - The ability of the polyphenols of apples to "close the door" on sugar transport to cells is one of the pathways to stop the growth of cancer cells in the colon, as observed in a 2016 study by Lin et al in the Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry. A cancer cell has many more "doors" to bring in sugar to accelerate growth, so polyphenols help to close these doors and inhibit the growth of cancer cells. The peeling of the apple contains the highest content of effective polyphenols with antioxidant activity, anti-bacterial activity, and anti-cancer activity, which was documented in a 2016 study by Lin et al in the Journal of Food Science.

The older apple varieties that have high polyphenol content include - Braeburn, Jonathan, McIntosh, Gravenstein, and Annurca. Avoid the newer varieties that have been bred for increased sugar content and size.

An apple a day is the eighth guideline followed in the Metabolic Balance Program®, a program developed 20 years ago in Germany. This program provides a personalized meal plan based on your unique blood chemistry. Those who have followed their personal Metabolic Balance Plan have observed blood sugar levels become controlled, cho-

lesterol levels improve, inflammation decreased, acid reflux disappear, and the body shifts to a healthy weight.

If you would like to learn more about the foods that help you thrive, join me for a LIVE event series planned for September 11, 18, and 25. I will be presenting "PRIORITY FOODS: Protein, Fats, and Carbohydrates" at FiftyNorth in Northfield at 6:30 pm each Monday evening. You can register by calling the Front Desk at (507) 664-3700.

- In this seminar series, we will talk about:
- What proteins are the efficient proteins and how much you need
 - What fats are good fats and what fats are bad fats
 - What Carbohydrates (sugar) is good for you and what to avoid
 - How much of each category should you consume
 - What foods will bring real satisfaction in a meal

If you would prefer to meet for a personal consultation, you can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

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- Make yourself easy for drivers to see by using your lights and flashers;
- Remember that it is Minnesota law to use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 miles per hour; and
- Consider using a following vehicle when moving large equipment on roadways, especially at night.
- Get Some Sleep - Make sure to get enough sleep and rest to refresh the mind and body. If you are spending long hours in a combine or tractor, be sure to take short breaks often.
- Don't Rush - It may take an extra moment or two to walk down every step or double-check a piece of equipment. But that extra time may be a lifesaver. Don't cut corners when it comes to safety.
- Identify hazardous areas on equipment and make sure you stay away from moving parts. Beware of pinch points, shear points, wrap points, pull-in areas, thrown objects, crush points, stored energy hazards and freewheeling parts.
- Shut down equipment, turn off the engine, remove key and wait for moving parts to stop before dismounting equipment.
- Lock entrances to grain handling areas.
- Install ladders inside bins.
- Do not enter grain bins that are being loaded or unloaded. Flowing grain can trap and suffocate you in seconds.
- If it is necessary to enter a bin, shut off and lockout power before entering. Use a safety harness and safety line. Have several people available outside the bin to lift entrant out in case of an emergency.
- Wear proper dust-filtering respirators when working in and around grain handling areas. High amounts of dust and molds could be present and could be very dangerous.

Harvest Fiber Festival Showcases Fiber Arts and Life on the Farm in Dennison September 30 & October 1

Where has the time gone, now in its third year the Harvest Fiber Festival brings fiber front and center in a fun and engaging way.

Sheep will be grazing on their pastures, llamas will be walking on paths, fiber enthusiasts will be drooling, squeezing and touching all sorts of fiber and fiber arts from 20 vendors from various places around the Midwest and one from Texas!

There also will a food truck, bake shop, and pie for the people to graze, games and crafts for kids to do and learn about fiber and life on the farm.

All this free, family fun will take place at the Harvest Hill Acres farm (7477 400th Street, Dennison MN, 55018) near Cannon Falls. Dean and Diana Treangen are the owners of this farm.

Event Details:

Dates: September 30 & October 1, 2023 (rain or shine)

Times: Saturday, 9/30: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 10/1: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Activities:

- 20 fiber arts and other vendors from Minnesota (many local), Wisconsin, Iowa and even Texas.
- Free games and crafts for kids
- Live animal viewing
- Fiber Craft Demos
- Walk the Llamas (\$5.00 fee)
- Food Truck
- Farmers Market on SUNDAY

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the Treangens to pivot. In 2020, they both lost their jobs. At that point, Dean chose to retire and dedicate his time to tending to the farm full-time. Diana redirected her efforts to turn a fiber hobby into a sustainable agriculture business opportunity.

The craft room connected to the barn became a yarn store. The fiber from their sheep and llamas are used in the products produced on the farm. Vendors are friends and local producers in the area. Each year, the festival becomes a community event for two groups. The local communities and their children, fun, and free and learning about agriculture with sheep as their teachers. The fiber community, continues to thrive in Minnesota and many of the volunteers at this event are people, that come to this farm during the year just to knit. The Harvest Fiber Festival now in its third year.

For more info and daily updates, check out the Harvest Hill Acres Facebook page. Or their website www.harvesthillacres.com



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Creating a Sense of Belonging



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

which are dedicated to making southern Minnesota a welcoming place for all. We were excited to see many of our partners in our region celebrating the nationwide Welcoming Week in early September. One of the organizations that was very active during this time was B.E. Welcoming based out of Blue Earth. SMIF has supported the organization with two Small Town Grants. They organized a number of programs throughout the week, including a community bonfire, a story walk and inclusive yard signs to celebrate the people who make Blue Earth what it is.

Many of the inclusive programs that SMIF supports are focused on children in our region. SMIF's Early Care and Education Grant, which is currently open, helps fund early care and education services for children birth to age five, including initiatives which support underserved and diverse populations. During the previous grant round, Healthy Community Initiatives in Northfield used their grant for community outreach to promote local programming that helps low-income and BIPOC families prepare young children for kindergarten. The Rochester Montessori School used their grant to design weekly lessons for small groups using culturally relevant stories and activities for diverse classrooms. To learn more about this grant, visit smifoundation.org/earlycaregrant and apply by October 2.

We are also excited to open up a special round of SMIF's Inclusive and Equitable Communities Grant in late October. This grant supports initiatives which will build inclusive, welcoming entrepreneurial environ-



ments and opportunities, especially for BIPOC individuals and/or immigrants or refugees. Earlier this year, the Council of Churches Refugee Services in Mankato was awarded an IEC Grant to support small business leadership skills and engage in cross-cultural learning. The Owatonna Public Schools is using their IEC Grant to provide immigrants and BIPOC adults the opportunity to learn more about how to successfully launch

a small business. Look for details about this grant on our website in a few weeks at smifoundation.org/inclusive.

Belonging begins with us. We can all help make southern Minnesota a welcoming place for all.

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

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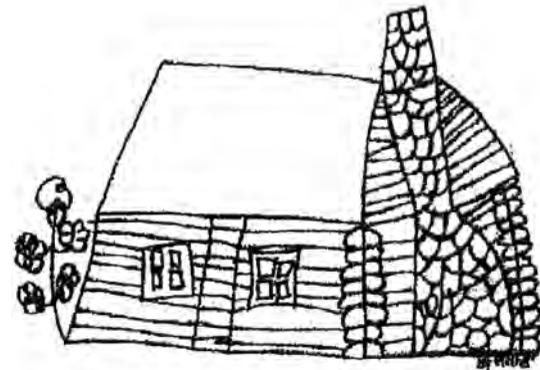
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Harvest Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: September 30, October 7, 14, 21, 28

Sundays: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.



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Apple Orchard in the Valley

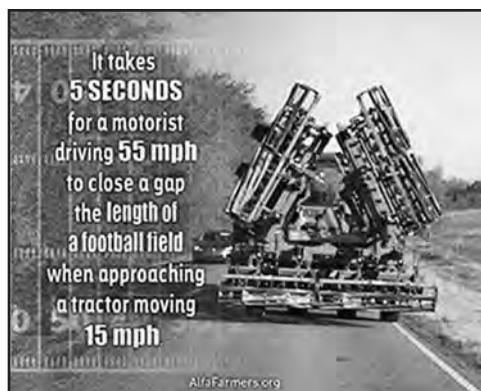
Fall is a time for apples and the place to go is Sogn Valley Orchard just outside of Denison. They have 1,400 trees on the farm producing over 25 different varieties of apples for you to enjoy. Apples are picked and packaged for you to pick up at their store where they also have fresh pressed apple cider for sale as well.

John Zimmer bought the 20 acre orchard in 2007 and has been improving it ever since. He has maximized his apple production using a trellis system to support the tree branches and uses integrated pest management to minimize using chemicals.



You can stop by the orchard and visit from noon to 6pm everyday through November 3rd. They are located at 37750 41st Avenue Goodhue County Road 9. Way just 3/4 mile east of highway 56 on

Fall Harvest



Fall is in the air and with the cooler weather comes changing leaves, shorter days and harvest season. It's a busy time of year on the road with more farm equipment and the hustle and bustle of students returning to school and afterschool activities. It can be easy to become distracted when juggling work and kids, but it is important to stay alert behind the wheel to be sure that everyone makes it home safely.

Motorists:

Slow down and use caution when approaching farm equipment. Don't assume the equipment operator can see you.

Watch for debris dropped by farm equipment.

Wait for a safe place to pass.

Drive with headlights on.

Farm equipment operators:

Use lights and flashers to make equipment more visible.

Use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 mph.

Avoid encouraging or signaling motorists to pass. Pull over when safe and let traffic pass.

Consider using a follow vehicle when moving equipment, especially at night.

Pick up any debris left on the highway by the equipment.

Please remember to watch for slow-moving farm equipment. Be patient, be kind and share the road. Together, we can drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.

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INSPECTION DATE:

Monday October 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PAYMENT & PICK UP DATE:

Thursday October 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Randy Thompson -ESTATE-



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The Hampton City Council met on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at the Hampton City Hall for a special meeting and the regular scheduled meeting. Present were Mayor John Knetter; Council Members David Luhring and Anthony Verch. Also present was Brad Fisher with Bolton and Menk; Chris Meyer, City Treasurer; Marlin Reinardy, and Judy O'Brien, City Clerk.

Special Meeting Called to Order – The purpose of the special meeting was to amend the current budget, if needed, and prepare the city budget for the year 2024. Mayor Knetter called the special meeting to order at 6:42 pm.

Judy O'Brien, City Clerk, provided a budget worksheet for Council discussion and explained that the General tax levy will increase \$47, which is a 0.02% increase. The Debt Service tax levy will increase \$2,119, which is a 2.41% increase. Therefore, the total tax levy will increase \$2,166, which is a 0.67% increase from 2023. O'Brien reviewed budget line item changes for 2024, which were listed in the memo provided to Council for the 2024 budget worksheet.

There were no public comments.

The budget will be again be discussed, and a resolution approving the 2024 tax levy will be on the agenda, at the September City Council meeting.

Adjournment – Motion by Verch seconded by Luhring to close the special meeting. All

voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 3:0. The public hearing closed at 6:50 p.m.

Regular Meeting called to Order - Mayor Knetter called the Regular Scheduled Meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. Present were Mayor John Knetter; Council Members David Luhring, Anthony Verch, and Nick Russell. Also present was Brad Fisher with Bolton and Menk; Emma Otto with Ottomatic Lawn Care, LLC; Martin Whetsel, Bruce and Kim Doffing, Chase Bartels, Chris Meyer, City Treasurer; and Marlin Reinardy,

Disclosure of Interest – None

Approval of July 11, 2023 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes – Motion by Luhring seconded by Verch to approve the July 11, 2023 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Approval of Disbursements – Motion by Verch seconded by Luhring to approve the August disbursements. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Public Comments:

Marlin Reinardy addressed Council regarding the City Hall flag pole. He had been unable to lower the flag and it had been recently discovered that the reason for that is that the cable was frayed. This likely was caused by the weight of the two flags on the flag pole being too much for the cable.

Reinardy wanted to recognize Larry Kuehn, of Kuehn's Crane Service for his time and the use of his equipment, which he donated to the City. He also wanted to recognize Mike Wagner for the time he donated to ride up in the aerial lift and remove the flag from the pole. Mayor Knetter mentioned that there will be a resolution on the September Council meeting agenda that will formally recognize Kuehn and Wagner for their donations.

Martin Whetsel, of 4782 Aspen St., was in attendance to volunteer to handle enforcement of the City's parking ordinances, which is a topic that has been discussed at several recent Council meetings, Mayor Knetter thanked Whetsel and told him that this is something that will require additional Council discussion, so will be on the September City Council meeting agenda.

Emma Otto, of Ottomatic Lawn Care, was in attendance to let Council know that Ottomatic is interested in extending the snow plowing contract with the City. Mayor Knetter told Otto that the approval for the snow plowing contract will be on the September City Council meeting agenda.

Petitions, Requests, and Communications:

Delinquent Water/Sewer Accounts – Mayor Knetter referred to list of two delinquent W/S accounts included with Council member packets. Brief discussion regarding how long it would be until water would be turned off. Motion by Luhring seconded by Verch to approve shutting the water off for the accounts listed. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Ordinances and Resolutions - None
Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees:

Engineer Report – Brad Fisher of Bolton & Menk reported on the Frontage Road Turnback Agreement & the MnDOT TH 52 Project. All work on this project has been completed, other than the mill and overlay of the frontage road, which will be done at the end of the TH 52 construction in 2024.

The other item on Fisher's report is the Dakota County Maintenance Facility CUP amendment. The City has requested additional information from the County that the County will not have until after its August board meeting. The City must take action on

the application by September 30th, so Council will have the opportunity to consider the application and vote on whether or not to approve at its September meeting.

Water / Sewer Report – Mayor Knetter reported that the new fluoride pump was installed. Also, there are electrical issues with the Well #2 pump that are being worked on. Additionally, the sonar scan of the sewer ponds is scheduled to be done tomorrow.

Park Report – Councilor Russell stated that he and Marlin Reinardy have been doing some crack sealing at the tennis courts. Also, there is a problem with weeds in the parks about which he spoke with Emma Otto, of Ottomatic Lawn Care.

Street Report – Council Luhring stated that RCM had done some street repairs in the Heights of Hampton, which was the first round of repairs. They missed doing the alley by the Roundup, so will need to return to do that as well.

Unfinished Business:

Dakota County Fleet Maintenance Facility Property (PID 18-00800-77-017) Conditional Use Permit Amendment Request - Motion by Luhring seconded by Verch to table this item until the September Council meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

New Business:

Old City Hall storage space – Mayor Knetter stated that the City received a request from the building renters to use the space that is currently being used by the City for storage. Marlin Reinardy reported that much of what is in that space is items no longer needed by the City, or belong to the Fire Department. He stated that some of the items are charitable gambling equipment belonging to the Fire Department. Mayor Knetter stated that he would contact the Fire Department this week about the equipment. Reinardy also mentioned that a dumpster would need to be rented for the clean-up.

Adjournment - Motion by Verch seconded by Luhring to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy O'Brien

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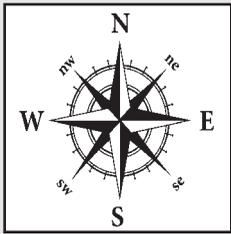
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes



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.

I found this Minneapolis Moline tractor replica at a garage sale I took my wife to. I don't intentionally do garage sales but occasionally an interesting item pops up. I am at that age where I do not try to accumulate anymore worldly treasures. Just seems like more junk to leave to someone to dispose of after they dispose of me. But this one just called out to me.

It really isn't much of a tractor replica, more of an abstract collection of parts and could be many things if not painted that iconic yellow/orange with the Minneapolis Moline logo on the side. It started out life as a Singer sewing machine and was repurposed for some nostalgic antique tractor buff.

When I was a very small kid, I remember my grandfather's Minneapolis Moline Z tractor. I do not believe it ever ran during my lifetime. Just sat in the grass on the north side of the hog barn. My sister and I used to climb up on it and pretend we were driving tractor when we were very young. There were lots of levers that moved back and forth with a satisfying clunk while we shifted gears and engaged the power on our imaginary adventures.

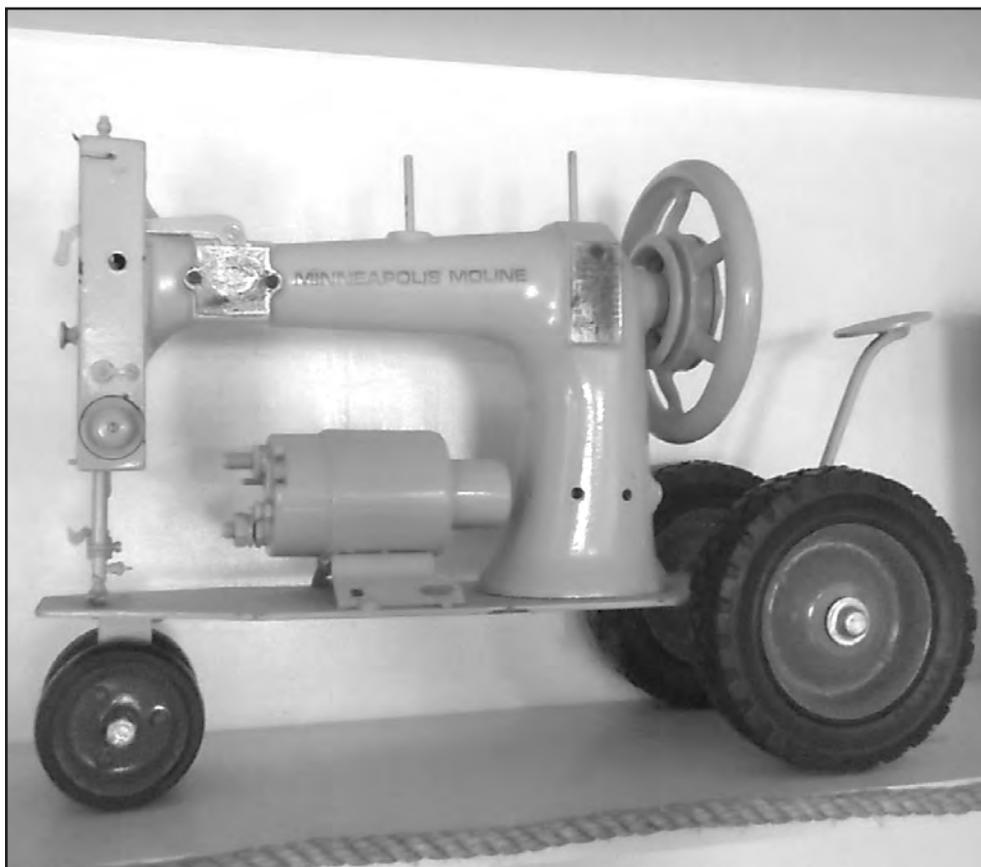
One day my activity aroused a bumble bee which had taken up residence under neath the

metal cowl of the tractor. He proceeded to sting me on the arm and I ran to the house howling for my mom. She put salve on my wound and soothed my pain but told me not to play on it any more. That was her standard advice when I did something she felt could harm me. I climbed the silo. She told me not to. I went up in the hay loft, she told me not to. Eventually I learned to not tell her what I did. My dad just figured what didn't kill me, made me stronger. That is why young boys hang out with dad more often.

It had a great history on the farm though. I believe it was the first rubber-tired tractor that my grandfather owned. They were made between 1949 and 1953. The Z was rated at 36 horsepower on the belt and 32 horsepower at the drawbar. My neighbor Richard Matti told me once about how proud my grandfather was of it and they used it to power a threshing machine in the early years.

One story related to me was how one fall it was very cold when they were doing fall plowing and my grandfather would drive the farm pickup along-side the tractor in the field. The hired man would drop the plow in the ground and tie the steering wheel with a rope and then ride in the warmth of the pickup to the other end of the field. It went slow enough with a two-bottom plow that he could easily climb on and off while it was moving. He would climb aboard, untie the rope and raise the plow out of the ground at the end of the field in time to turn it around and then get back in the warm pickup as the tractor lumbered along turning over the soil. The kind of activity we all learned not to tell mom about until much later.

We live in the house where my grandparent's spent their final years. My wife suggested putting it in the room where my grandmother kept her sewing machine. One piece of history to remind me of both my grandparents. It seemed worth it to bring home this treasure. Although now I know the real treasure are the memories about two wonderful people that it brings back to me.



A Minnesotan: Down at the Riverside



By RosaLin Alcoser

Wade in the water, wade in the water children. Wade in the water, God's going to trouble the water. Well it's Labor Day and this marks the start of school and the end of summer activities. Which also means that churches that are going to hold outdoor Baptism have reached the end of being able to do so for this year.

After all there's no better way to end the summer then to go down to the river for a good old fashioned outdoor Baptism. Which if truth be told is a lot more exciting than the indoor ones done during the rest of the year. This is because normally even if your church normally does Baptism by sprinkling when it takes place at the river it will normally be done by immersion.

Personally I was Baptized during outdoor Baptism back in 2004. Except it was done outside in a turned off hot tub. This was done mainly because the church was next to the Zumbro River in a place where the

current was way too strong to safely hold a Baptism in. Great part to go tubing in not so much for safely dunking people in and out of the water.

My father is a pastor, who currently works for two little Methodists churches out in western Minnesota. Now the thing to know about my Belize pastor father is that while he might work for the Methodist he's an acuity Southern Baptist. Which is one of the denominations that baptize by immersion.

One of his churches held an outdoor Baptism by the river the weekend before Labor Day this year. Their plan was to go out into the river, which water levels have been pretty low this year, and sprinkle just like they would do inside of the church building except while standing in the river. Practical but unexpected right?

Which is what it would have been if anyone else except maybe my father had been the one doing all of this. Because the day of, he changed the plan and decided that he was going to baptize everyone who was getting baptized that day by immersion in the low creek levels.

My mother sent me a video about an hour after my father, wearing his fishing wader under his robe, lowered a parishioner into the water, bringing them back up and then both of them immediately falling back into the water. Which made the whole thing a lot more executing than the original plan.

Luckily for my father, I know him, and remind my mother to send him with a spare change of clothing. Because I knew somewhere in the back of my mind that baptism at the river would result in something existing enough to need a dry change of every.

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1. Brainchild
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 11. Pressing tool
 12. Senegal's neighbor
 13. Literary theme
 15. Scissors sound
 16. Final notice
 17. *Notre Dame's Fighting _____
 18. *Home of the first Super Bowl winners
 20. National League Pennant series, acr.
 21. Steer clear
 22. "Glee" actress _____ Michele
 23. Befuddled
 26. *One of 4 NFL teams sharing a home field
 29. Fish story
 30. Stockings
 33. "Doggone it!"
 35. Rand McNally book
 37. Mozart's "L'_____ del Cairo"
 38. Whiskey drinks?
 39. Comedy act
 40. Be more of a fox
 42. Dead or Black, e.g.
 43. Obliquely
 45. Roof supporter
 47. High or low card
 48. Employer's good news
 50. Hyperbolic tangent
 52. *College player not using eligibility
 55. Beastly person
 56. Double-reed instrument
 57. *Nike Pegasus 39
 59. Smidgeons
 60. Paddleboarding acronym, pl.
 61. Seaside bird
 62. *Thirty-_____ teams in NFL
 63. *Ravens' or Lions' time, acr.
 64. *Rushing unit
- DOWN
1. "_____ Now or Never"
 2. "Shoot!"
 3. Arabian bigwig
 4. Fund-raising letter
 5. Torah teacher
 6. Homer's famous poem
 7. Feel for
 8. Larger-than-life
 9. A Supreme singer
 10. Emerald _____ borer
 12. Poet's death lament
 13. Fungal skin infection
 14. *Home of the Citrus Bowl in Florida
 19. Not odds
 22. Lily, in French
 23. Unfortunately, exclamation
 24. *a.k.a. Iron Mike
 25. Charcuterie stores
 26. Nibble away
 27. Have faith
 28. Ranees' wrap
 31. LummoX
 32. Calendar abbr.
 34. Russian autocrat
 36. *Home to College Football Hall of Fame
 38. Secret supply
 40. *Extra point
 41. Van Gogh flowers
 44. Partners of pains
 46. Spirited
 48. Puzzle with pictures and letters
 49. Take as one's own
 50. Think, archaic
 51. Grand theft target
 52. *The oldest college football Bowl
 53. Actress Perlman
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