

# Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger™

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DECEMBER 11, 2024

Volume 21 • Issue 12

## SERVING OUR HOMETOWNS

We want to Thank You for your continued support of the Randolph - Hampton - Castle Rock Messenger this past year!



In an era of online everything, your monthly local newspaper continues with an unwavering goal to bring hometown news to you.

Thanks to local advertisers and your voluntary subscriptions, we are in your mail box each month.

Without this support, we would not be here. We hope you continue to see value in the Messenger. While there are plenty of social media sources and on line sites out there, most don't deliver the hometown news and message like we try to do here.

*(continued on page 7)*

## Memories of Christmas Past

Each year we visit with some of our senior citizens and relate their tales of Christmases long ago. Here are four stories from years in the past.

**Judy** remembers celebrating the same Christmas traditions each year with her family. There was a bustle of cooking going on in the kitchen and her mother would suggest the kids go decorate the tree as a way to keep them distracted and out of the kitchen.

They always had a short needle evergreen tree and all the kids would help to put the decorations, old fashioned light bulbs and icicles on the tree.

They celebrated with their extended family of thirty plus people. They would eat supper consisting of turkey with all the fixin's including rice pudding for dessert, starting at 6pm and afterward do the dishes before singing carols and opening gifts. The fun

lasted until bedtime around ten pm. Judy would play the piano while the family sang Christmas carols. Her cousin even wrote a poem about the family event. She usually received clothes but one year she recalls that she and her sister both got the same kind of doll. The kids would play games like canasta, cards, puzzles and board games.

**Elaine** was the oldest of three and they were the only grandchildren of her mother's parents so they were doted on by the grandparents. Her parents were very Lutheran so she remembers being very involved in the Christmas program and church service. One Christmas eve she played piano and organ for the church program.

Her dad worked for a butcher and also had his own smokehouse where he made sausage and smoked hams for the holiday meals. There was always a big delicious ham for



Christmas dinner. In their house they had lots of cookies and her siblings helped make the cookies, decorate the cookies and best of all help eat the cookies.

One year her mother was able to get them a piano for a Christmas gift and their pastors wife gave them all music lessons. The other memorable gift she recalls was when her grandmother gave her a new watch.

**Rosie** was one of six children in her family. They lived on a farm in Iowa but her dad was a preacher. Her grandma and grandpa always spent Christmas with their family.

*(continued on page 7)*

## Announcements

• **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.

• **Thursday, December 12 - Grades K-3 Music Concert 1:30 & 6:00 p.m.**  
• **December 20-January 1 - NO SCHOOL**

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

## Dakota City Christmas in the Village December 14, 15, 2024



All ages will enjoy the many displays and buildings that reflect the sights, sounds, and scents of the season! The buildings are heated and horse-drawn trolleys will be available to take visitors throughout the village. Hot chocolate, apple cider, hot soups and ice cream are available in the Drug Store. Cookies, apple cider donuts and popcorn will also be available. Cozy firepits and benches will be set up outside the fire barn.

Parents may choose to bring their children's letter to St. Nicholas in a self-addressed envelope (not sealed) to the event.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Body of Missing Cannon Falls Man Found

RELEASE - On 12-07-24, at approximately 2:20pm, a body believed to be that of the missing 60-year-old Cannon Falls man, was recovered



from the Cannon River. Positive identification will be made by the Medical Examiner.

The male was located during a coordinated search by several agencies.

*(continued on page 3)*



# FREE FOOD FOR YOU!

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## Keep Christ in Every Day!

Around this time of year you may see signs reminding you to “Keep Christ in Christmas!”

That’s a good reminder, because we’re tempted to get so busy with celebrating the earthly traditions of the holiday- shopping for presents; putting the lights and the tree up; baking cookies and planning family gatherings- that we lose sight of the real thing Christmas is supposed to be about.

What is Christmas about? The angel said it

### Dakota City Christmas in the Village December 14, 15

(continued from page 1)

After the event, children will receive a letter in the mail from St. Nicholas. Saint Nicholas will be visiting with children in the Depot. The popular model engine train display (scale G) will be back this year again in the library.

Choir groups and musicians will be sharing music in the Church. Sing along Christmas Carols will also be available there. Some of our choir groups enjoy caroling outside and walking through the village as they sing! Demonstrations will take place in the Carpenter shop, Harris House, McMenomy House and the Blacksmith Shop.

Admission price is \$5 with children under 5 free. Tickets are available online at dakotacity.org or at the gate.

Please enter the Dakota County Fairgrounds on Second Street off of Ash Street/Hwy 50.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Please call our office at (651) 460-8050. Please leave a message if you get our voicemail. We are probably out in the village, preparing for the event! You can email us also at info@dakotacity.org. Check us out on Facebook!

to the shepherds on the first Christmas night: “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” (Lk 2:11 NIV) I hope this Christmas the biggest part of your celebration will be remembering that Jesus the Savior was born for you, to pay for your sins and win you a place with him in heaven forever as a gift of God’s grace.

There will be some great opportunities to do that in some of the special Christmas services that area Christian congregations, including the ones I serve, will be holding this season. If you don’t know much about the one whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, or what it means, come and find out!

But I think there’s another, even greater danger Christians are tempted to fall prey to than leaving Christ out of Christmas: That’s leaving Christ out of our everyday lives.

The devil would love it if Christians would all confine Christ mainly to an hour per week or so of their lives, at most, when they go to church- and live the rest of their lives without thinking much about Christ or letting him make much of a difference in their lives. The

world around us will tempt Christians to do just that. And the sinful flesh that still lives inside of Christians will tempt them to feel it’s easier to live their daily lives in this way, because then they fit in better with the world around them and many of the people around them.

But Christ isn’t just for Christmas; and he’s not just for Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. If you belong to Christ, then he is THE most important part of your life- He is your life! - 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Sadly, we Christians, myself included, don’t always treat him that way. But when we remember the One we belong to- the same One whose birth we celebrate at Christmas- that makes a wonderful difference in our lives, whatever day of the week or year it is.

When we remember him, we remember that we have forgiveness of all our sins in him, and the privilege of being God’s children as a gift, through faith in him, who paid for our sins on his cross.

When we remember him, we remember the

guidance he has given us for our daily lives, that blesses us and others when we follow it- whether it’s “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” or “You cannot serve both God and money,” or “Seek first his (God’s) kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things (food, clothes, etc.) will be given to you as well.” (Mt 5:44, 6:24 & 6:33 NIV)

When we remember him, we have the security of knowing death won’t be the end for us, but he will raise us to eternal life with him; and the security of knowing he who so loves us and has such power is with us and watching over us in love right now.

When we remember him, we know our life on earth is not meaningless, but we get to do all things to his glory and give him praise, and to be his tools to pour out his gracious love on others, and it brings joy to him, to whom we belong, and joy to our hearts, too!

Dear fellow Christians, keep Christ in Christmas; but even more, keep him in every day of your life! Amen.



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Pastor Dennis Ingolfsland  
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Rev. Thomas Countryman  
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Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the  
Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger at:  
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*“Do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”*  
— Luke 12:11-12

There is a common misunderstanding in many churches. Many Christians think there is a big difference between proclaiming God’s Word from a pulpit and sharing his truth in a conversation. Similarly, lots of Christians think the apex of evangelism happens on a Sunday morning in a sanctuary and not in a coffee shop or in a car ride to work.

As Christians, we often think that to share the gift of salvation with someone, we first have to be qualified academically or be trained in a special way. As a result, we can get tangled up in our inabilities, bogged down by our insecurities, and overwhelmed with fears of failing ourselves, others, or—even worse—God.

But you aren’t called because you’re qualified; you’re qualified because you’ve been called. Your life, regardless of religious education or ability to speak in public, is a testimony in itself. It’s the story of God’s redemption and restoration plan in you.

God knew you even before he established the foundations of the earth. He created you, wired you, and called you by name. God has adopted you as his child into his eternal family, and he has entrusted you with his kingdom work, which simply means sharing with someone the good news of forgiveness from sin and of new life in Christ forever. So share the good news today!

God, thank you for qualifying all of us whom you have called. Strengthen us by your Spirit to share the good news of your kingdom. Amen.

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& 1st Wednesday at 11:00a.m.  
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Questions? Call 507-263-9182

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7:30a.m. Monday Mass  
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**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NEW TRIER**

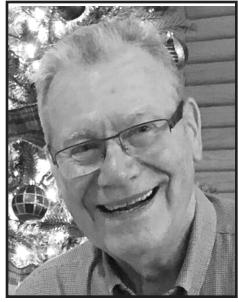
[stmarys-newtrier.com](http://stmarys-newtrier.com)  
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## Ronald Adolph Reinardy

At the age of 85 years old, on November 16, 2024, Ronald Adolph Reinardy died after months of gracious suffering, and a lifetime of faithfully racing after Christ.



Ron was born September 13, 1939, to Adolph and

Lorraine (Wahlstrom) Reinardy, and grew up in the country near Hampton, MN. He attended elementary at St. Mathias catholic school. He then attended the St. Paul Seminary during his freshman and sophomore years of high school, before graduating from Randolph High School in 1957.

Ron briefly served in the US Navy, from which he was honorably discharged. After the service he went to work for Hudson Co. in Hastings, then Armour's in South St. Paul. He began his career at Koch Refinery in 1966 and for 33 years. Ron was a well respected worker

before retiring in 1999. He was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus where he held a number of offices including two stints as Grand Knight. He was also a member of the Catholic Watchmen, and for many years enjoyed teaching catechism. He was a member of the church choir at St. Pius V as well as the Cannon Falls Community Choir where he beautifully sang for decades.

Ron often spoke of his love and appreciation of all of his children and family. He loved his beautiful wife more than anyone, second only to Christ. He told Pat after their third date, "I'm going to marry you." He would tell you, she was a bit more skeptical and took a little more time and convincing before agreeing to marry him. Ron and Patricia Lorentz married in September of 1961 and remained faithful to each other for 63 years. She spent 552,258 hours of their marriage as his ever loving and caring wife; checking to see if he was hungry. Through the good times and through the hard times, they loved each other. They built a large family according to God's providence, who includes Jean (Jim) Glass-

ing, Jeff (Mindy) Reinardy, Jerry (Carolyn) Reinardy, Jill (Frank) Villarreal, Joe (Renee) Reinardy, and Jennifer (Dustin) Hensley; 15 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. Other survivors include his siblings James (Gina) Reinardy, Marlin (Marlene) Reinardy, Marian Endres, Robert (Karen) Reinardy, Joyce (Leo) Nicholai; as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Adolph and Lorraine, his son Kevin, brother Gary, and brother-in-law John Endres.

There was only one person Ronald cared above all, and that is God. However, his love for God did not detract from his love for family, friends, or the community around him. The love of God enhanced his love of those around him. His greatest hope for anyone was that they would love Christ, who he loves. His greatest hope to anyone who met him

would be that they see Christ in him.

Let us pray for the passing of our beloved brother in Christ, friend, grandpa, dad, and husband, but not as those with no hope. "For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep." -1 Thessalonians 4:14

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to First Choice in Red Wing, or to the Refresh and Renew Fund at St. Pius V.

Mass of Christian Burial was on Friday, November 22, 2024 at 11:00 am at St. Pius V Catholic Church, 410 Colvill St, Cannon Falls, MN 55009. There was a visitation on Thursday, November 21, from 4-7:00 pm and one hour prior to the funeral Friday, both also at the church. Interment was in St. Pius V Catholic Cemetery.

## Body of Missing Cannon Falls Man Found

(continued from page 1)

The Cannon Falls Fire Department was conducting an in-water search when the body was located in about 5 feet of water on the south side of the river. The location is downhill from the male's residence on Larkspur Lane in Cannon Falls.

The male went missing on 12-02-24, at approximately 8:11 pm, while taking his dog for a walk in the woods. The dog returned from the walk but the male didn't. The Cannon Falls Police Department has been handling the initial call. Various agencies have been searching the area, including the Cannon River, since the initial call. Foot, drone, and airboat searches had been conducted.

Agencies involved in the search: Cannon Falls Police and Fire Departments, Cannon Falls Ambulance, Goodhue and Dakota County Sheriff's Offices, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota State Patrol, Randolph and Miesville Fire Departments, and the Dakota County Special Operations Team.

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Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock  
**Messenger**

MERRY  
*Christmas*

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and wish everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*



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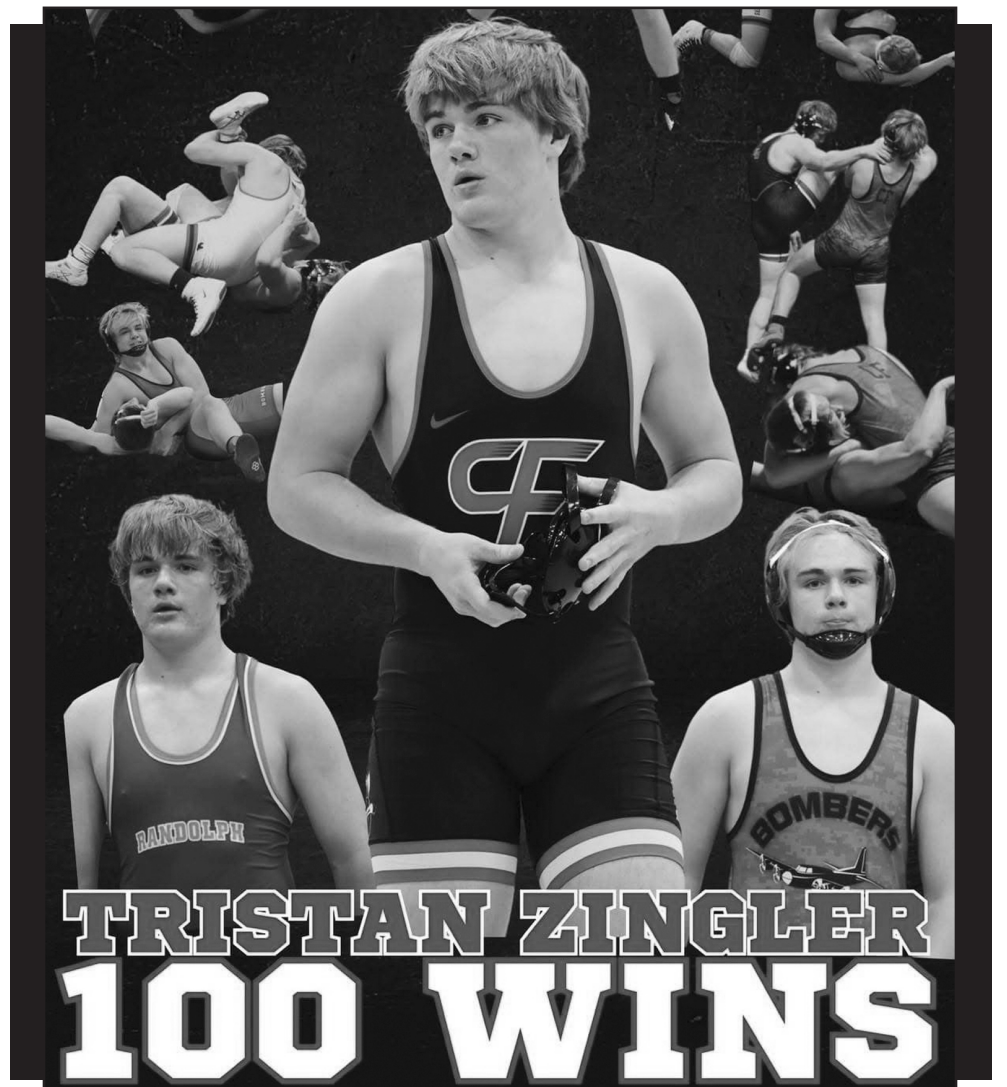
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# Congratulations, to Jonathon and Tristan!



courtesy of Randolph School



courtesy of Randolph School

Merry Christmas  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Merry Christmas

As we gear up for another Christmas, we're happy and grateful to be celebrating it with the customers and friends who have made our year so special. We appreciate your trust in us, and we're proud to serve this community.

*Best Wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

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## Coach Trom and Coach Marks Named Class AA Softball Coach and Assistant Coach of the Year



On Saturday, October 12, the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association recognized both Coach Dennis Trom and Coach Chelsi Marks as Class AA Softball Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year, respectively. Congratulations! *courtesy of Randolph School*

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 Hometown News at  
**[www.randolphmn.com](http://www.randolphmn.com)**

### Carter Raymond Signs with Gophers

**Carter Raymond Signs with Gophers**

Carter has officially signed her letter of intent to play softball at the University of Minnesota. Congratulations Carter! #skiumah #gogophers *courtesy of Randolph School*

### Happy Holidays

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## Fifteen Fascinating CVEC Courses for Seniors this Winter



Registration started November 25 for Cannon Valley Elder Collegium (CVEC) Winter Term courses, for participants age 50 and older. Courses focus on arts, social and physical sciences, and humanities. Instructors include college professors and community experts. CVEC participants enjoy learning and meeting new friends.

CVEC's Winter Term starts January 6, and ends February 28. Most CVEC courses meet once a week, and run for eight sessions - for

the low tuition fee of \$50 (a fee which hasn't changed in over 25 years). Scholarships are available. In-person classes meet at Northfield MN locations. Go to [www.cvec.org](http://www.cvec.org) for complete course information, and to register online.

### In-person Classes:

Light Fantastic - light and sight, decoded by our eyes and brain

The Protestant Reformation - the progress of church reform

Middlemarch - classic Victorian novel  
Civil Liberties and the Constitution - examining America's Bill of Rights

Jazz Appreciation - developing jazz listening skills

Short Story Masters/George Saunders and the Russians - reading alertly, with pleasure

The US Intelligence Community - how intelligence serves the government

American Architecture: Arts & Crafts to Prairie School and Beyond - including MN examples

Coral, Oceans, and People: Exploring the Astounding, Mostly Hidden World of Coral Reefs

Get Your Brain Dancing - safe, accessible, brain-healthy movement

Aging is Hard: Can Philosophy Help? - how philosophers have viewed aging

### Online/Zoom Classes:

New York Cinematic Stories - New York in the movies

The American Film Musical - explore this distinctive genre

From Colonialism to Independence: Caribbean Writers Tell Their Stories - Caribbean culture

### Hybrid Class - both in-person and online via Zoom

Philosophers Reflect on Friendship - what it means to live well together

For over 25 years, Cannon Valley Elder Collegium (CVEC) has offered noncredit, entry-col-

lege-level courses for those age 50 and older. CVEC participants come from throughout Minnesota's Cannon River valley region, and beyond. Classes are offered in person (typically in Northfield MN), and online via Zoom. For more information or to register, go to [www.cvec.org](http://www.cvec.org).

## School Closings/Delays Information

Courtesy of Randolph School

School closings and delays are a process that we take seriously. Some examples of what is taken into consideration are safety, educational processes, family disruption and specific school district circumstances. With the winter season coming upon us I wanted to get information out to our School District families and community so you have an understanding of our thought process regarding school closings and delays. Listed below are criteria used in making these decisions.

\* Safety- Includes temperature and road conditions for our school buses, students and families driving. Communication occurs between the plowing services and Randolph School personnel who drive the roads early in the morning. We make every effort to decide between 5:30 a.m. and 5:45 a.m.

\* Temperature- Minus 25-30 degrees regular temperature and minus 35-40 wind chill, depending what part of the winter we are in, are red flags when consideration begins for closing/delaying. We use the National Weather Service information which takes its data reading from the Stanton Airport.

\* Communication is via TV Stations 4, 5, and 11. Randolph Schools Quick Hits, and Randolph School Web Site. However, if only a small number of schools report to TV stations then it may not be put on the air.

\* Randolph Child Care- When school is closed we also close Randolph Child Care. When school is closed early during the school day we close Randolph Child Care one hour after school is dismissed early. Same scenario when school is delayed two hours then Randolph Child Care is delayed two hours.

\* Randolph Preschool and ECFE- These programs also follow Randolph Schools when closed or delayed. When School is delayed 2 hours, there will be no A.M. preschool. When school is closing early, then preschool will close early, and there will be no Monday evening ECFE if it is on a Monday.

Reminder: Distant Learning Day may coincide with a Snow Day.



## Holly Thyme Craft Show

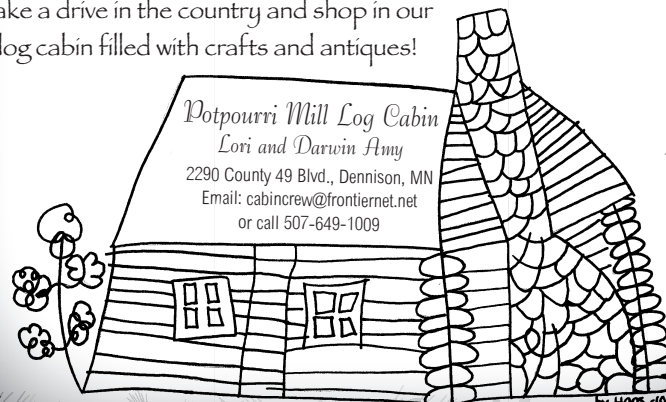
Saturdays: November 30, December 7, 14

Sundays: December 1, 8, 15

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

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## That's the Latest On the Farm



**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.*

My friend and colleague at the West Concord Historical Society, Colleen Hayne, does a lot of research before she writes her Museum Musings.

The museum has old WC Enterprise papers that go back to before 1900. Me, I usually make up stuff or go from memory of some event. However, for this column, I did a little research. I was actually looking for my pocketknife but then I ran across some old radio scripts from 1989/90.

While working at KDHL, I would write and record Ag commentary programs for the Minnesota Farm Network that would be broadcast statewide. My 90 second commentary would

air Monday through Friday during the weeks I was scheduled. The programs would deal with the current activities of agriculture. Other farm broadcasters including Don Wick and Mike Murphy, would do these programs on a rotating schedule. The program was called 'On the Farm'.

I kept all of my scripts that were typed out IN ALL CAPS on an IBM Selectric, much like the typewriter that I learned to type on in Mrs. Peterson's typing class at West Concord High School. One of the scripts I found was about living on the farm. When you live on the farm, you take a lot of things for granted. But if you're a new person on the farm, there are some rules you need to learn. For instance, never chip, chop or scrape frozen manure with your mouth open. Never let a farm dog lick you in the face. Never question someone yelling 'Run for it!'

If you make a gentleman's agreement, eventually you'll need a lawyer. If you shook hands on it, you may need two lawyers. The chainsaw that always starts on the first pull will need three men and a boy to start it at the auction sale. If your wife empties your pockets to wash your work clothes, you'll feel lost for about a week until you get

everything back in your pockets where they belong. (This, by the way, is why I was looking for my pocketknife). Never spread manure with the wind and never go to town without first checking your face in the mirror.

Another program dealt with how to teach kids about living on the farm. To teach kids what animals are, we tell them that they're all cows, even if it is a bull or steer or heifer. It's a bit technical for a 5 year old. But by the time they're say 29 or so, it's okay to tell them that a bull is a man cow. A steer, well now that's a has-been bull. A heifer, that's a future cow. You can do the same for other animals. Horses for example, we teach our children or grandchildren to look at the horse, but is it a stallion, mare, Philly or gelding? Eventually we need to call a cow a cow and

a bull a bull.

Finally, I came across an old market report I did one day. Helium was up, feathers were down. Paper was stationary. Fluorescent tubing was dimmed in light trading. Knives were up sharply, Cows steered into a bull market while escalators continued their slow decline. Weights were up in heavy trading, Light switches were off. Mining equipment hit rock bottom while diapers remained unchanged. Shipping lines stayed at an even keel while the market for raisins dried up. Coca Cola fizzled and caterpillar stock inched up a bit. Balloon prices were inflated, Scott Tissue touched a new bottom and batteries exploded in an attempt to recharge the market. That's the latest!

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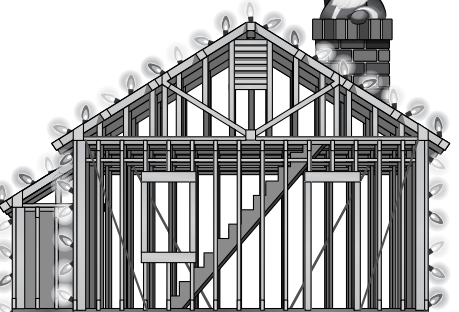
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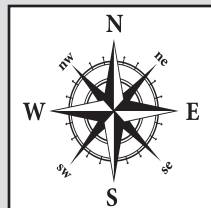
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

# My Best Christmas Ever



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 always liked Christmas, it was a fun season. I remember going to town and walking the snowy cold streets from store to store and listening to Christmas music playing on the outside speakers. I remember high school girls signing Christmas carols on the bus during the ride home. It seemed like such a happy time. And then there was the anticipation of gifts. I would page through the Montgomery Wards, Sears & Roebuck and J C Penney catalogues and make lists in hope my parents would buy me that special thing I wanted.

My parents on the other hand were frugal. We were a farm family in the 1960's. There was not a lot of extra money floating around and they didn't feel like gifts were as necessary as a young kid did. So, I learned that many of those dreams were only going to

come true if I took care of them myself.

What I really wanted was a snowmobile. So, I read snowmobile magazines and collected snowmobile literature from every dealer we visited. I tried to convince my dad that a snowmobile was a necessity out here on the farm. I couldn't ride my horse in the winter, so there was only one way left to get around in the snow. But I might as well have wanted a space craft, because it just seemed that far out of reach.

My dad was very logical. I couldn't argue with him and win. He said I would need to be big enough to start a snowmobile myself. He proved it by taking me to the dealership and letting me pull on the recoil cord. An eleven year old boy was just not strong enough. He intended to make me self reliant. A good lesson for a kid, but wait until you are older was a hard pill to swallow. So, I hoped and dreamed as I watched snowmobiles ride by the farm in the ditch and just did my chores every night after school.

One cold snowy December evening I was in the farrowing barn cleaning, bedding and feeding the sows. I made my spending money caring for the hogs. Kind of a little prodigal son analogy there that might have been the reason my dad assigned me those chores. I heard a strange sound outside and went out to investigate. Some times a neighbor would swing by on a snowmobile and I was always ready to run out and see it. But this time it wasn't a neighbor, it was my dad. And he was driving a snowmobile.

It was a brand new Ski Doo Olympic 12/3. It was beautiful. I wasn't sure of the circumstances but it was looking good, very good. My dad explained to me that the 12 stood for the horsepower and the 3 indicated that it was a third lighter than the other models. That way I could wrestle it out of a snowbank when it got stuck. And it had a decompressor button, so a young kid like me could start it. Suddenly, I was the king of the world. He explained that I would have to pay for it if I wanted it and we went to the First



National Bank in West Concord the following evening and I signed a loan for \$600.

When you are a kid with a tough, rugged old farmer for a dad, you don't really expect much for a show of affection from him. But he found the snowmobile that would work for

me and made it possible for me to have it. When I didn't imagine it would ever happen. He had been looking out for me the whole time. What a parent does for their child means more than words. It was the best Christmas ever.

## A Minnesotan: Oh Christmas Tree



By RosaLin Alcoser

Once again Christmas is rolling around for the year. Christmas is my father's favorite holiday. He loves the presents and the food, but the thing he gets most into with it is the Christmas tree. He's not into decorating it though, he's into going to pick out the Christmas tree.

Some families pick out a tree from a tree farm or lot all together. In my family my father goes to pick out the tree by himself. There was a brief period in time when the local Boy Scout troop would just set aside a tree for us, but for the most part my father has always been the one to pick the tree.

Every year the tree would either go one of three ways. It would fit perfectly, which was normal in the years the Boy Scouts set aside the tree. It would be way too big, taking up most of the room and occasionally having to be cropped to fit. Or it would be what my mother calls a Charlie Brown Tree.

A Charlie Brown Tree is when you bring home the smallest and most scraggly tree

that you can find. The one that most people would never bring home, but you decided to bring home and try to decorate anyway. Because once you do it will look so much better. In reality it won't but that's what you tell yourself while buying it.

The house I grew up had a big living room with tall 9 foot ceiling. Which was perfect for my father's overly zealous Christmas tree selection. The last Christmas we spent in that house was the year he went the most over the top with the tree. It was bigger than any tree he had brought home before. It was also way too big to fit in my parent's tree stand.

Being too big for the tree, the tree, which at this point only had lights and some glass balls on it, of course fell over in the middle of the night. Glass and sap covered everything in the room and my mom spent the days leading up to Christmas trying to get it off of the floor. After that the tree stand was replaced with a bigger one to accommodate the overly zealous trees.

Which worked most years, except the first Christmas that my older sister came home with her husband. That year my dad brought home a Charlie Brown Tree. That he cut down himself. This tree not only had holes in it, but also was way too small for the tree stand. Causing it to fall down, thankfully undecorated, for the opposite reason of the overly zealous tree for a few years before.

That year the tree ended up being tied to the bannister in multiple places at its base and lashed into the stand. Then to keep the tree from leaning it had to be tied again higher up on its trunk, also to the bannister, with a piece of ribbon.

Since then the tree's he's come home with have been nice and reasonable. However, I'm sure there's another overly zealous and Charlie Brown trees to come down the road.

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## Minnesota Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Recap

By Minnesota Farm Bureau

The MFBF Annual Meeting represents the culmination of the grassroots policy development process for the organization, with issues surfaced by counties at the local level presented to the state delegates for adaptation into the MFBF policy book. Based on the surfaced issues, the Board of Directors then set priority issues for the upcoming year, focusing on the top issues from throughout the process.

Vice President Carolyn Olson of Lyon County was re-elected to a two-year term. Also re-elected to the board for three-year terms were Jeff Pagel of Olmsted County (District 1), and Miles Kuschel of Cass County (District 6). Also elected to complete two years of a three-year term vacated by former District 7 Director Shayne Isane was Bruce Brenden of West Otter Tail County. Newly elected members to the board serving one-year terms were Tiffany Kobbermann of Pope County as the Promotion & Education Chair and Katie Drewitz of Fillmore County

as the Young Farmers & Ranchers Chair.

Several Young Farmers & Ranchers competitions were held, including the Excellence in Agriculture contest, Achievement Award, and Discussion Meet. The winners of each competition will represent Minnesota at the American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas in January.

Winning the Excellence in Agriculture competition was Luke Daninger of Forest Lake (Washington County). The award recognizes individuals on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, and involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations.

Winning the Achievement Award were Dustin and Katie Wiese of Pequot Lakes (Cass County). The award recognizes individuals on a combination of their farming operation growth and financial progress of operation, Farm Bureau leadership, as well as leadership outside of Farm Bureau.

Winning the Discussion Meet was Megan Horsager of Clara City (Chippewa County). The contest is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. Individuals are evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a pre-determined topic, with the top contestant offering cooperation and communication while analyzing agricultural problems and developing solutions.

Six students were the recipients of scholar-

ships through the Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation. View recipients.

Recipients of the Al Christopherson Scholarship include Kendra Blaschko (Le Sueur County), Emma Kuball (Rice County), Owen Rozeboom (Dakota County) and Ella Thome (Mower County).

Recipients of the Paul Stark Memorial Scholarship include Alexis Hoefs (Le Sueur County) and Mary Lanoue (Lyon County).

Former Minnesota State Fair Director Jerry Hammer, John Hart with the USDA Wildlife Services program, and Tom Rothman who recently retired with the University of Minnesota - Extension received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award, and three couples were recognized as Honorary Life Members:

Bernie Aronson of Lincoln County  
Jerry and Lori Beckel of Le Sueur County  
Al and Diane Christopherson of Kandiyohi County

Katie Emmett with Sleepy Eye FFA was named the FFA Advisor of the Year.

Nick Schiltz, instructor at Riverland Com-

munity College, was recognized as the Post-Secondary Agriculture Educator of the Year.

Nicole Kudrle, University of Minnesota Extension educator in North St. Louis County, was named the Extension Educator of the Year.

Mark Dorenkamp with Brownfield Ag News was named the Ag Communicator of the Year.

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## Minnesota Farm Bureau Sets 2025 Legislative Session Priority Issues

By Minnesota Farm Bureau

EAGAN, Minn. - The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) Board of Directors recently identified its top legislative priorities

for the 2025 session following the organization's annual meeting, held Nov. 21-23.

These priorities reflect grassroots policies established by Farm Bureau members, focusing on key issues impacting agriculture and rural communities in Minnesota.

"The Minnesota Farm Bureau is committed to advancing a set of priority issues that reflect our members, agriculture and the issues they face on their farms and ranches across the state," said MFBF President Dan Glessing.

As the state's largest organized agriculture group, Minnesota Farm Bureau advocates on behalf of its members across a wide range of issues. The following five priority areas have been identified for the upcoming state legislative session to support the vitality of



farmers, ranchers and rural communities:

**Generational Farming** - Support and champion those interested in entering and transitioning farms generationally.

**Environmental Stewardship** - Implement practical and scientific conservation policies using resource management, funding and voluntary practices.

**Research & Innovation** - Shape tomorrow's agriculture with smart ideas, education, and forward-looking solutions.

**Economic & Rural Prosperity** - Create a successful environment that expands opportunities and resources to strengthen rural

communities and the agriculture industry.

**Animal Emergency Preparedness** - Ensure that Minnesota is well-positioned to respond to and prevent crises affecting farmers and their livestock.

"No matter what happens during the next legislative session, our members know the importance of engagement with elected officials to shape policy that will positively impact their livelihoods," said Glessing. "We look forward to working with both sides of the aisle and agency leaders to share our stories."

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## Grant Available to Aid in Weather Resilience

*Program will help farmers and ranchers prepare for extreme weather*

Recognizing the risks posed by extreme weather, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering a grant opportunity to help eligible producers make their operations more resilient to drought, flooding, and severe weather events like storms, tornadoes, and straight-line winds.

The Preparing for Extreme Weather Grant, also referred to as the Prepare Grant, offers grants of up to \$10,000 for Minnesota livestock and specialty crop producers to buy and install supplies and equipment for weather event preparation. It requires a 50% match.

"Minnesota agriculture needs to prepare for more climate extremes in the future," said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. "This will help farmers and ranchers increase the resiliency of their operations and reduce some of the stress and anxiety around the weather."

For the purposes of this grant program:

Livestock includes aquaculture, bees, beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, poultry, goats, mules, farmed cervids, ratites (including ostriches and emus), bison, sheep, horses, and

llamas.

Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops, and floriculture. See USDA's list of Specialty Crops for further examples.

Eligible projects include — but are not limited to — water tanks, pipelines, and wagons/trailers; wells (new improvements, fixes, replacement pumps); irrigation equipment (including drip irrigation); fans; misters; livestock shade systems; and windbreaks.

The MDA expects to award 50 to 75 grants through a competitive review process. There is \$500,000 available for this program. Applications will be accepted through 4 p.m. Central Time on February 12, 2025, and the MDA will notify applicants as soon as possible, but no later than March 26, 2025, about whether their proposal was selected for funding.

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

The Preparing for Extreme Weather Grant is funded by the Agricultural Growth and Research Initiative (AGRI) Program, which supports advances in Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy sectors.



## Dundas Tractor Supply Company Store to Hold Pet Adoption Event

*Adopt your new best friend December 14, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

DUNDAS, Minn. – The Dundas Tractor Supply is inviting customers to attend a Pet Adoption Event on December 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"As an active advocate and supporter of pet rescue and adoption, Tractor Supply strives to inform our customers of the pet adoption process by providing a safe and comfortable space for placing adorable animals in welcoming homes," said Randy Witte, manager of the Dundas Tractor Supply store. "Through this and other year-round adoption events, our goal at Dundas store is to connect adoptable pets with interested owners."

The pet adoption event is open to the public and friendly, leashed pets. It will take place at Tractor Supply at 600 Schilling Drive

During the event, the following community partners will be on hand with dogs and cats looking for homes.

- Dispatch Dogs
- On site 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The rural lifestyle retailer, which is a one-stop shop for all things pet, including a wide variety of food, treats, toys, crates, carriers, training tools and health supplements, will help alleviate needs and support important program initiatives.

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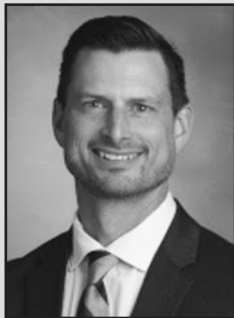
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## Talking Rural Health with U of M



Dr. Kirby Clark  
University of Minnesota

In the next 10 years, one in three Greater Minnesota residents is projected to be 65+ years old — increasing the demand for healthcare services for older adults. At the same time, one in three rural physicians plan to leave the workforce in the next five years, according to the Minnesota Department of Health. These compounding issues raise important questions about the future of rural healthcare.

Kirby Clark, MD, with the University of Minnesota Medical School and M Health Fairview, talks about issues facing rural communities, the shortage of rural physicians and how this growing problem can be addressed.

**Q: What are some of the biggest health issues facing rural communities today?**

Dr. Clark: Rural communities face several pressing health issues, including a shortage of physicians and other healthcare providers, limited access to specialty care, inadequate access to comprehensive primary care and an increasing load of chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, mental health disorders, addiction and health issues related to aging.

Rural areas have disparities in health outcomes for a variety of reasons, including geographic isolation, poverty, economic instability and reduced access to social services. In addition to the healthcare system, employment opportunities, educational opportunities and access to healthy food are key to a community's health. Addressing these issues requires expanding access to care, improving prevention and supporting

community-based health initiatives.

**Q: Why is there a shortage of physicians in Greater Minnesota? What can be done to address this shortage?**

Dr. Clark: The shortage of physicians in Greater Minnesota stems from a combination of factors, but the main issue is the challenging and sometimes obscure path for rural youth to become rural physicians.

*(continued on page 14)*

*Merry Christmas*

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# Talking Rural Health with U of M

(continued from page 13)

Additional factors include the challenge of practicing medicine in a rural community, which requires an impressive skill set and depends on colleagues and organizational support.

The programs that prepare physicians for comprehensive, full-scope primary care, including obstetrical care, do not always get the recognition and promotion in the public eye that might make it a more attractive path for trainees and young people, either. Trainees may also prefer the amenities of larger cities.

To address this shortage, we should make the path clear for rural youth to become physicians in their communities, promote rural primary care as a career path and invest in rural-focused medical education programs. Supporting our current rural physicians to give them the time and resources to connect with and inspire the next generation is also a key part of the puzzle.

**Q: What are the benefits of training medical students in rural areas?**

Dr. Clark: Training medical students in rural areas has benefits for both the students and rural communities. By training in rural communities, students gain first-hand experience providing patient care to rural people, men-

tored by rural doctors who are experts in rural medical care. The students learn to be adaptable, flexible, and creative — the skills necessary to treat diverse patient populations and a breadth of medical conditions with limited resources. When students are able to have a long, immersive training experience in a rural community during this formative time in their lives, they can see the joy in rural practice and living in a rural community, and can aspire to become a rural doctor one day. Not only do the rural communities get a chance to recruit their next doctor, the students also bring fresh ideas and knowledge to rural medical practices and rural communities.

**Q: What's a common misconception about rural health?**

Dr. Clark: One common misconception about rural physicians is that they are not as highly trained or skilled compared to physicians in urban areas. Rural physicians quite often have a broader skill set and manage a wider variety of conditions. Many of the most incredible and skilled physicians I know practice in our rural communities. Not only do I see them providing up-to-date, comprehensive care in their communities, but I see these rural doctors at medical conferences pursuing additional training and leading discussions throughout their careers. Rural doctors understand their communities and their health needs, so they seek out the training to provide what their patients need.

*Kirby Clark, MD, is an assistant professor at the U of M Medical School, a family medicine physician with M Health Fairview, the director of the Rural and Metropolitan Physician Associate Programs and faculty of the St. John's Family Medicine Residency Program.*

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## Alcohol Truths



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS  
Licensed Nutritionist

the big deal? Let's identify some truths about alcohol.

Alcohol has been a beverage produced by humans for centuries. When grains or fruits are processed with specific yeast or bacteria the result is the production of alcohol as a byproduct of the fermentation process. A standard US drink contains fourteen grams of alcohol. Fourteen grams of alcohol are in a typical twelve-ounce beer, a five-ounce glass of wine, or a 1.5 ounce shot. The longer the distillation process, the greater the concentration of alcohol in the drink.

The type of alcohol produced from this fermentation is ethanol. Ethanol is the only alcohol considered safe to consume. Other forms of alcohol are fatal if consumed. While ethanol does not immediately cause death, there are some health concerns to consider.

In science laboratories, ethanol is used as a sanitizing agent. To clean lab tools and counter surfaces, ethanol is used to kill anything on the surface. To guarantee a surface is clean and ready for the next science ex-

periment, everything is cleaned with ethanol. Ethanol kills any bacteria cells that may be on equipment or a countertop. If ethanol is trusted as a chemical to kill bacteria, what do you think it does to cells in your body?

To a single cell, ethanol would mean death, but your body does have a way to detoxify from alcohol, but at a cost. The first step changes ethanol to acetaldehyde, which is a known mutagenic agent, which means acetaldehyde can promote cancer. The American Association for Cancer Research published the 2024 Cancer Progress Report and noted an increased risk of six types of cancer associated with consuming alcohol. Those types of cancer include liver, breast, colon, esophagus, stomach, and head and neck cancer. The increased risk is the result of the increased acetaldehyde effecting the cells of the body to promote the development of cancer cells.

In a 2024 study from the UK Biobank, there were 135,103 older adults ranked according to the amount of alcohol consumed and the report of cancer diagnosis. A low-risk drinker was described as an individual who consumed between 1 and 10 drinks per week. Even at this low consumption level, a low-risk drinker had higher cancer mortality compared to an occasional drinker. With increased alcohol consumption, the cancer risk increased.

In addition to the cancer concerns, alcohol effects the size of your brain. A 2022 study published in Nature Communications reviewed the MRI brain scans of 36,678 middle-aged adults. Even low levels of alcohol consumption resulted in a decrease in gray matter and white matter of the brain. The ev-

idence showed decreased brain volume got worse with increased consumption of alcohol.

Alcohol consumption has negative effects on other areas of the body as well. As noted, alcohol kills bacteria, so the good bacteria in your intestines will be killed also. The result is an imbalance of the bacteria community inside your gut that results in inflammation, decreased immune strength, and increased digestive problems. The balance between testosterone and estrogen is affected by alcohol consumption. Alcohol promotes the conversion of testosterone into estrogen. Extra high levels of estrogen are associated with increased cancer risk and decreased levels of testosterone effect a decline in muscle mass and fertility. Alcohol also increases the production of cortisol, a hormone related to stress. High cortisol levels are related to sleep disorders, inability to relax, and increased anxiety. None of these goals are on my Christmas list this year.

As you move through the holiday season, consider how you are celebrating. There are many ways to enjoy the celebration and the relationships of the season without using alcohol. Make healthy choices that will benefit you and the ones you love.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. I can help you realize greater health freedom in 2025. You can contact me at [nutritionproportion@gmail.com](mailto:nutritionproportion@gmail.com), or check out my website at [www.nutritionproportion.net](http://www.nutritionproportion.net)

*\*Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*

What do you know about alcohol? Is a little alcohol once in while okay? During a physical exam a frequent question asked is how much alcohol you consume, so what is

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## Weight Training for Health



By Shauna Burslem, D.C.

Resistance weight training is a highly effective exercise method that offers numerous health benefits, particularly for those conscious of maintaining their vitality and youthfulness. One of the most impressive advantages is its anti-aging effects. Engaging in regular weight training helps maintain muscle mass and strength as we age, combating the natural decline that occurs over time. This preservation of muscle is crucial not only for physical appearance but also for maintaining functional independence as we grow older. By incorporating resistance training into your fitness regime, you can slow down the aging process and promote a

healthier, more youthful body.

In addition to its anti-aging benefits, resistance weight training plays a vital role in promoting bone health. It stimulates bone growth and increases bone density, reducing the risk of osteoporosis and fractures, which are common concerns for aging populations. The stress that weight training exerts on bones encourages them to adapt and strengthen, making it an essential exercise for maintaining a robust skeletal framework. This benefit is particularly important for women, who are at a higher risk of developing osteoporosis as they age. By prioritizing weight training, individuals can ensure that their bones remain strong and resilient throughout their lives.

Beyond its impact on aging and bone health, resistance weight training significantly enhances muscle tone and metabolism. Regular lifting results in more defined muscles, contributing to an improved physique and increased self-confidence. Furthermore, the increase in lean muscle mass from resistance training elevates your resting metabolic rate, allowing your body to burn more calories even when at rest. This effect can aid in weight management and fat loss, making it an invaluable tool for those looking to improve their overall body composition. By integrating resistance weight training into your routine, you can enjoy these metabolic benefits while achieving a toned and healthy body.

Scientific evidence shows autism isn't just a neurological condition, according to the authors of a scientific review published on

Preprints.org. Science researchers Brian Hooker, Ph.D, Jeet Varia Ph.D., and Martha Herbert, M.D, Ph.D, a pediatric neurologist and neuroscientist, co-authored the report, which is undergoing peer review with Development and Psychopathology, a Cambridge University Press journal.

The authors examined the findings of 519 studies to illustrate how autism spectrum disorder (ASD) affects multiple body systems, including the immune, digestive and central nervous systems.

Herbert, an autism researcher since 1995, told reporters the science of autism has become "enormously richer" and ASD "can no longer be considered just a 'psychological' problem — it's a whole-system problem ... involving many systems that influence each other." She and her co-authors also contend that the latest scientific evidence suggests ASD is largely driven by environmental factors. These include exposure to toxins in food, the environment, medicine or personal care products.

COVID-19 vaccines pose a 112,000% greater risk of brain clots and strokes than flu vaccines and a 20,700% greater risk of those symptoms than all other vaccines combined, according to a peer-reviewed study that calls for a global moratorium on the vaccines. The study, published last week in the International Journal of Innovative Research in Medical Science, found reports of 5,137 cases of cerebral thromboembolism after COVID-19 shots over 36 months. This compares to 52 reported cases following flu vaccination and 282 cases for all



vaccines over the past 34 years. According to the study, this represents an "alarming breach in the safety signal threshold concerning cerebral thrombosis adverse events" following COVID-19 vaccination. The research data was collected from the U.S. government's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), for their analysis. This data is published on the CDC website and is collected from doctors and hospitals filing reports on adverse events from the COVID-19 vaccine as well as other vaccinations such as the flu shot. The data also indicated 9,821 reports of atrial fibrillation — an irregular heart rhythm that is "the most common identifiable cause of cerebral arterial thromboembolism"

*\*Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*

# Merry Christmas

AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

We hope your Christmas is merry and bright.

May it find you surrounded by everything that brings you happiness!

Thanks to all of our friends, neighbors, and customers for your support in 2024.

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## The Savvy Senior How to Find Legal Help When You Can't Afford a Lawyer



By Jim Miller

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend any programs or organizations that provide free or low-cost legal services to seniors? I believe I need some professional legal help but have limited income and very little savings.

--Almost 70

Dear Almost,

Whether you need help drawing up a will or a contract, or you're facing some sort of legal jeopardy or dilemma, hiring an attorney can

be expensive. Most lawyers today charge anywhere between \$100 and \$300 an hour. Fortunately, there are a number of different programs and organizations that offer free legal advice and may help you find a free or low-cost attorney. Here's where look for help in your area.

**Legal Aid:** Directed by the Legal Services Corporation, legal aid provides free legal assistance to low-income people of all ages. Each community program will differ slightly in the services they offer and income qualifications. Visit [LSC.gov/find-legal-aid](http://LSC.gov/find-legal-aid) to locate a program near you.

**LawHelp:** Powered by Pro Bono Net, a national nonprofit organization, LawHelp.org is a terrific resource that will help you locate free legal aid near you, get answers to your legal questions and even fill out legal documents. These free services are for people with low to moderate incomes.

**Free Legal Answers:** This is an online program created by the American Bar Association that matches low-income clients with volunteer lawyers who agree to provide brief answers online for free. This service will not answer criminal law questions and it's not available in every state. See [ABAFreeLegalAnswers.org](http://ABAFreeLegalAnswers.org) to look for a program in your state.

**Senior Legal Hotlines:** There are around 30 states that offer senior legal hotlines, where all seniors over age 60 have access to free legal advice over the telephone. To find out if this service is available in your state,

go to [ProSeniors.org](http://ProSeniors.org) and click on "Resources," followed by "U.S. Senior Legal Hotline Directory."

**Senior Legal Services:** Coordinated by the Administration on Aging, this service may offer free or low-cost legal advice, legal assistance or access to legal representation to people over the age of 60. Your Area Agency on Aging can tell you what's available in your community. Call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 to get your local number.

**Local Law Schools:** More than 200 university law schools across the country have pro bono programs that offer free legal assistance provided by law students, who are supervised by their professors. See [AmericanBar.org/groups/center-pro-bono](http://AmericanBar.org/groups/center-pro-bono) - scroll down and click on "Directory of Law School Public Interest and Pro Bono Programs" to locate a program near you.

**Pension Rights Center:** This is a nonprofit consumer organization that provides free legal assistance for problems with pension,

401(k) or other retirement plans. Go to [PensionRights.org/find-help](http://PensionRights.org/find-help) to search for help in your state.

**Stateside Legal:** For military members, veterans, and their families, StatesideLegal.org provides access to free legal information and legal assistance in your area.

**National Disability Rights Network:** This is a nonprofit membership organization that provides legal assistance to people with disabilities through their Protection and Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program. If you are disabled, visit [NDRN.org](http://NDRN.org) to find help in your state.

**Other Options:** If you can't get help from one of these programs, or find that you aren't eligible, another option is to contact your state or local bar association to see if there are any volunteer lawyer projects in your area or if they can refer you to a low-fee lawyer. To contact your state or local bar association, go to [FindLegalHelp.org](http://FindLegalHelp.org).

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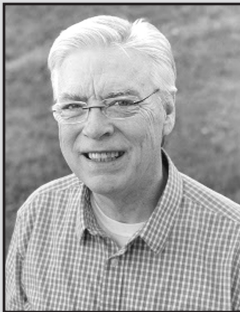
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## SMIF Awards \$200,000 in Small Town Grants



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) recently approved 25 grants totaling \$200,000 to support small towns of 10,000 or less in SMIF's 20-county region. Each grant seeks to impact the culture, education, economy and/or social aspects of a town by investing in collaborative initiatives that help make the community more welcoming.

The Small Town Grant program was launched in 2017 to support smaller communities which can benefit from additional financial resources to help them grow and address challenges. The recent approval of 25 grants has pushed the total of Small Town Grants awarded to 138 projects since the program began. Through this program, SMIF has surpassed a milestone this year, investing more than \$1 million for a total of \$1,172,490 in the small towns of our region.

The Small Town Grant program is supported, in part, by a generous donation in memory of Paul O. Johnson who wanted southern Minnesota's smallest communities to thrive. Paul's legacy is being continued by his family, Amy De Jong, Paula Rehder and Scott Johnson.

The 2024 Small Town Grant award recipients are:

\$10,000 to A Great Day Farm Foundation in Dundas to expand adaptive cycling opportunities for adults with disabilities.

\$10,000 to Adams Town and Country Recreation Pool Corporation to host a Day of Caring where community members will come together to build a pickleball court.

\$7,835 to the Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce to create videos featuring city attractions and events that will attract people to consider Cannon Falls as a place to live.

\$4,954 to the City of Emmons to create a more welcoming environment at the city park by building a shade structure with picnic tables and replacing or painting old equipment.

\$6,925 to the City of Eyota to bring new vendors with multicultural food to the farmers market and to enhance the city website to bring people together.

\$4,953 to the City of Kilkenny to turn a vacant lot into a community space with benches, lighting, flowers and a band shell.

\$4,953 to the City of Lanesboro to rehabilitate a softball field and park shelter to be accessible, inclusive and inviting to all

residents.

\$10,000 to the City of Mantorville to beautify their Main Street by reflecting the town's varied backgrounds and values in its design and improving accessibility for people with disabilities.

\$10,000 to the City of Oronoco to enhance the city's brand identity to recruit new businesses, attract new residents and increase commercial and residential development.

\$10,000 to the City of Saint Charles to implement a new city comprehensive plan that will foster a sense of belonging by prioritizing inclusivity and accessibility in designs for public spaces, amenities and services.

\$7,125 to the City of Springfield to build a strategic economic and housing development plan for the city through a series of community engagement events that will result in a shared vision of community needs.

\$10,000 to the Dodge County Environmental Services in Mantorville to create interpretive signage for a more inclusive Restoration Park.

\$9,685 to the Forward New Prague Foundation to complete landscaping for the Praha Outdoor Performance Stage located in a public park.

\$2,000 to the Hummingbird Trail Association in Henderson to host a kickoff event for their trail project.

\$10,000 to the Madelia Community Theatre Inc. to create the Madelia Arts Collaborative, a hub hosting multiple artistic disciplines in the hopes to enrich the cultural fabric of Madelia and provide lifelong learning opportunities for all residents.

\$10,000 to Mainspring in Caledonia to support an engagement process which will uncover how Mainspring can better support local entrepreneurs and artists in the forthcoming renovation of the building's lower level, creating a multi-use community space.

\$10,000 to the Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center (Farmamerica) in Waseca to host farm-to-fork events by partnering with local farmers, chefs and organizations like the Hmong American Farmers Association and to develop a hydroponic lab.

\$10,000 to the Montgomery Arts and Heritage Center to make Montgomery Museum in the Streets, a walking tour to celebrate the diverse stories that make up the community's history.

\$10,000 to the National Ruby-Throated Hummingbird Center in Henderson to create exhibits and interactive visual displays for their center.

\$7,500 to Rushford Area Historical Society to create an all-inclusive community museum with accessibility to displays and a storage facility.

\$4,000 to the Spring Valley Business Alliance to create ADA accessible pocket parks along the city's historic downtown.

\$7,070 to the St. Charles REC Club to brighten Main Street with new streetlight banners designed with input from residents to foster a sense of ownership and inclusion.

\$10,000 to STEP, Inc. in Fairmont to disperse essentials baskets to help new residents, people with income below the federal poverty threshold and individuals involved in elder services feel a sense of belonging.

\$10,000 to the Village of Le Roy to construct the Le Roy Main Street Pocket Park, an accessible and inclusive space designed



with the input of residents to create a sense of community.

\$3,000 to Waterville Arts and Recreation Council to purchase metal framing to complete "Summer in Minnesota," a mural constructed, designed and painted by residents.

"We knew when we started this program that it could have a huge impact on the smallest communities in our region," said Tim Penny, president and CEO of SMIF. "Now, 138 projects later, we have invested more than \$1 million into southern Minnesota through this grant. This is an investment that will last for generations. We are once again grateful to Paul Johnson's family for continuing his legacy and giving SMIF an opportunity to leverage additional funding for small town support. Without them, we would

not have been able to reach this milestone so soon."

"We are pleased and honored to be able to continue our father's legacy by supporting small towns in the region of Minnesota where we were raised," said Paula Rehder.

"We are seeing the potential of his gift realized through the amazing projects that these small communities have proposed that will make a difference in the part of the country that was near and dear to our father's heart," said Amy De Jong.

For more information about the Small Town Grant Program, visit [smifoundation.org/smalltowngrant](http://smifoundation.org/smalltowngrant) or contact Sarah Scheffert, communications and community vitality specialist, at 507-214-7015 or [saraha@smifoundation.org](mailto:saraha@smifoundation.org).

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## Parents, Guardians Responsible for Kids' Safety Around Cold Water

By Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Rapidly falling air temperatures, danger-

ously cold water, and the likelihood of skim ice on some ponds across Minnesota means it's imperative for parents and guardians to talk with their kids about the importance of safety ahead of the Thanksgiving break.

Whether through thin ice or into open water, falls into the water this time of year can turn tragic quickly, and an unexpected fall can incapacitate even the strongest swimmers in short order. It's up to parents and guardians to teach their kids about the dangers of cold water, and ensure they're properly supervised anytime they're around it.

"Many kids have an innate curiosity about the water, but they likely don't understand the dangers," said Capt. Adam Block, boating law administrator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "All water this time of year is dangerous, from the small neighborhood pond to the state's biggest lakes and rivers."

The best way to stay safe around cold water, or survive an unexpected fall in, is to wear a life jacket. Foam life jackets are better than inflatable life jackets this time of year, since cold water means the latter might not fully inflate. In addition, Block recommends people carry a phone in case they need to call for help, let others know where they're going and when they plan to return, and plan for how they'll deal with an unforeseen incident.

### Did you know?

New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly-formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially-thawed ice may not.

Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a



foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous. This is especially true near streams, bridges and culverts. Also, the ice on outside river bends is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current.

The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process. The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.

Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous. It only means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.

Schools of fish or flocks of waterfowl can also adversely affect the relative safety of ice.

The movement of fish can bring warm water up from the bottom of the lake. In the past, this has opened holes in the ice causing snowmobiles and cars to break through.

For more information on ice safety contact the MN DNR and ask for our free ice safety publications, which include the brochures, "Danger, Thin Ice" and "Cold Water Kills" and the wallet-sized reference card and 11X14 posters titled, "Minimum Recommended Ice Thicknesses." Metro (651) 296-6157 or toll free outside the metro area 1-888-646-6367 or email the Information Center at [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us) opens in a new browser tab.

For more information about surviving a fall into cold water, see the cold water dangers page of the DNR website.

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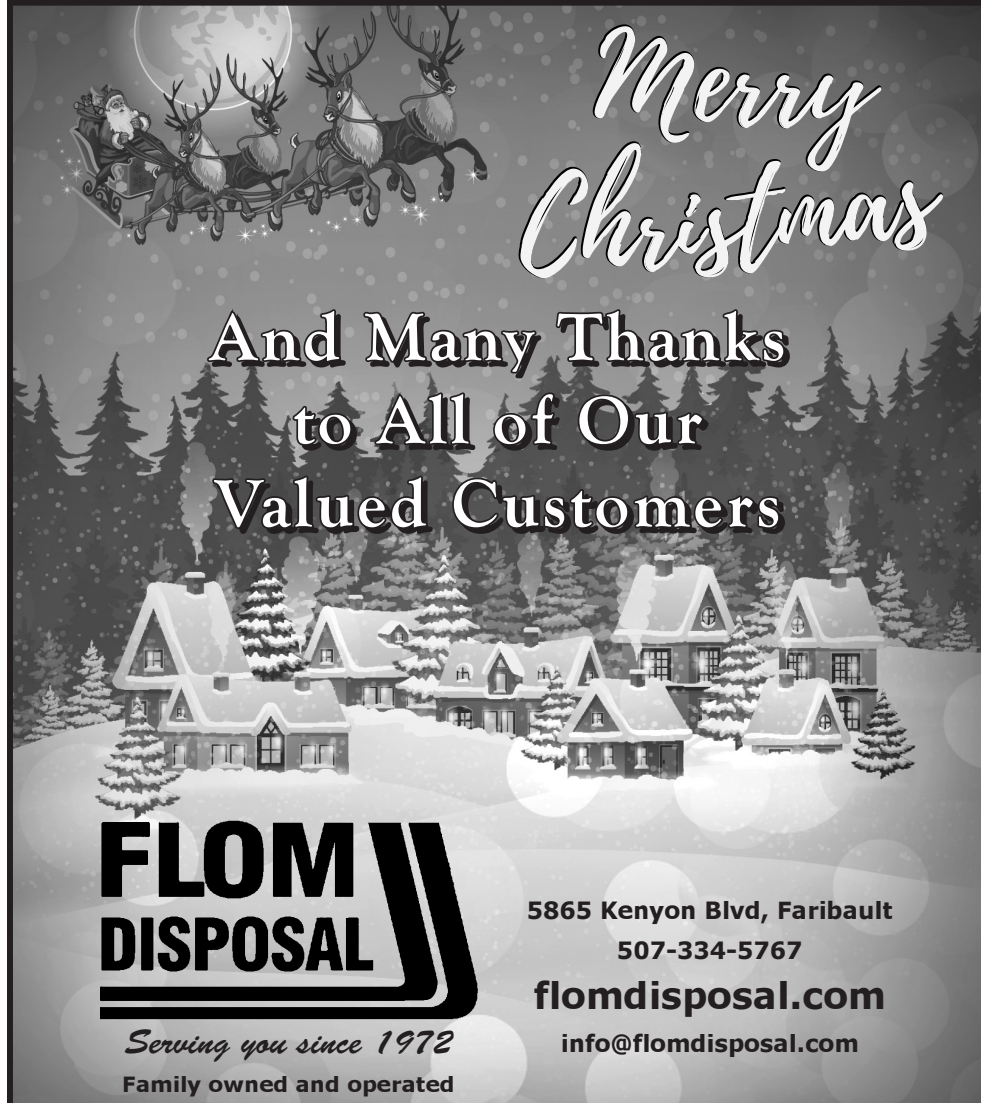
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## Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,  
Minnesota State Patrol



**Question:** I have some new drivers in our house. We got talking the other day and they didn't know what "hand signals" were. Can you write about that to help inform others that might not be aware?

**Answer:** Congratulations on the new drivers. That is an exciting and concerning time as you help them get more experience and confidence as they undergo the process.

When the signal is given by means of the hand and arm the driver shall indicate intention to start, stop, or turn by extending the hand and arm from and beyond the left side of the vehicle in the following manner and these signals shall indicate as follows:

- left turn: hand and arm extended horizontally
- right turn: hand and arm extended upward, except that a bicyclist or motorcyclist may extend the right hand and arm horizontally to the right side of the bicycle or motorcycle.

- stop or decrease speed: hand and arm extended downward.

**Question:** Who is responsible for making sure the roadway is cleaned up and free from spilled liquids, glass and other car parts from a crash?

**Answer:** I have noticed that responding agencies and tow companies usually work as a team to treat the injured, direct traffic, investigate the crash and clear the scene as soon as possible for everyone's safety. This is especially important on roadways with higher speed limits.

Below is a general list of responsibilities at a crash scene, although each scene differs as to the crash severity and what is needed.

### Law enforcement general responsibilities:

- Securing the incident scene
- Assist disabled vehicles
- Provide medical aid until help arrives
- Serve as incident commander along with

### Fire/Rescue

- Direct traffic
- Conduct crash investigation
- Supervise scene clearance

### Fire/Rescue/EMS general responsibilities:

- Protect the incident scene
- Provide medical care
- Provide initial HAZMAT response and containment
- Suppress fire
- Rescue crash victims from vehicles
- Arrange transportation for the injured
- Provide advance emergency medical care

- Determine destination and transportation for the injured
- Coordinate evacuation with fire, police and ambulance/airlift
- Remove medical waste from scene
- Assist in incident clearance

### Towing Companies general responsibilities:

- Removing vehicles from scene
- Protecting victims' property and vehicles
- Provide transportation for uninjured vehicle occupants
- Remove debris from roadway (scene)

**Question:** Winter is here. Can talk about tire safety and how a person can tell if their tires are still good?

**Answer:** Winter season is a good time to remind motorists about the importance of installing and maintaining good tires. Tires must be able to carry your vehicle's weight and grip the surface of the road properly. Inspect tires regularly for cuts, cracks, uneven wear, bald spots, bulges, and punctures. Carry a good spare tire and check its pressure often. Tires do not have as much traction on gravel or dirt roads as they do on concrete or asphalt roads. Tires have been known to lose up to 1 psi (pounds per square inch) every month. Check your tire pressure often and never drive with under-inflated tires.

- The vehicle's recommended tire pressure is located on a sticker inside the driver's door of your vehicle or in the owner's manual.
- Check your tires before you've driven or at least three hours after you've driven your

vehicle.

- Insert a pressure gauge into the valve stem on your tire. The gauge will show a measured psi.

- Compare the measured psi to the psi found on the sticker inside the driver's door or in the owner's manual. DO NOT compare to the psi on your tire's sidewall.

- If the measured psi is above the number, let air out until it matches. If below, add air until it reaches the proper number.

- Check your tires often for wear and damage problems. A tire is illegal if the tread is less than one-sixteenth of an inch deep. An easy way to check for wear is by using the penny test.

- Take a penny and hold Abraham Lincoln's body between your thumb and forefinger.

- Select a point on your tire where the tread appears the lowest and place Lincoln's head into one of the grooves.

- If any part of Lincoln's head is covered by the tread, you're driving with the legal and safe amount of tread. If your tread gets below that, your vehicle's ability to grip the road in adverse conditions is greatly reduced.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson — Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us) Twitter: MSPPIO\_SOUTH

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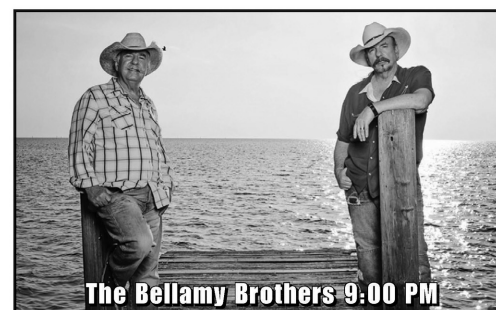
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## Hampton City Council Meeting October 8, 2024

The Hampton City Council met on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at the Hampton City Hall for the regular scheduled meeting. Present were Mayor John Knetter; Council Members David Luhring, Anthony Verch and Nick Russell. Council member Jerry Huddleston was absent. Also present was Brad Fisher of Bolten & Menk as well as Chris Meyer, City Treasurer and Marlin Reinardy.

**Regular Meeting called to Order** - Mayor Knetter called the Regular Scheduled Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Disclosure of Interest** - None

**Approval of September 10, 2024 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes** - Motion by Luhring seconded by Russell to approve the September 10, 2024 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

**Approval of Disbursements** - Motion by Russell seconded by Luhring to approve the October disbursements, including the Approval for final payment for the Pavement Maintenance Project in the amount of \$12,767.28. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

**Public Comments** - Marlin Reinardy asked if the frontage road was going to get striped. The Mayor said that they were going to. Brad Fisher spoke up and said that he would have to look back at it and that he couldn't recall but he assumes that it should have been. The Mayor then asked Fisher if he could reach out to the people in charge to get the stripping taken care of. Both the Mayor and Fisher agree that they remember stripping being included, with Fisher saying that he remembers talking about wider shoulders and something about semi-parking.

Mayor Knetter recognized a Deputy in attendance, thanked him for his service and asked him if he had anything to report. The Deputy approached the podium warning of a new scam that is going around. This information is being shared to everyone, but the scam is people are being notified by phone that they missed a court date or that they have a federal subpoena that they didn't show up for and the authorities are saying that they can pay by bitcoin. There have been three victims here in Dakota County and they have lost \$20,000, \$15,000, and \$5,000 in this scam. The Deputy went on to mention that it is believed that the scam is coming out of an actual prison from out of state, an organization of people that work in the prison. The scam is country wide and they're posing as Law Enforcement, saying that you owe fines and that you need to pay it. They're pretty aggressive in nature. The Deputy says to don't fall for it, that Law Enforcement doesn't operate that way, that they don't demand payment through bitcoin or any other way. He then goes on to report that they have received a lot of school bus stop-run violations. And that it's a misdemeanor if the kids are not off the bus and gross misdemeanor if the kids are off the bus. It's a pretty high offense and they have been heavy on that. He also wanted to mention that on the Sheriff's page on the Dakota County website that there is a form for a request for extra patrol and that he encourages residents to use that form. The dispatch center has also rolled out an online, non-emergency service that you can access online to fill out a form. It creates a CAD,

which is a call for them, and its to be used for non-emergency. They are still actively investigating for the missing woman, Nicole Anderson, and that if anyone has any information to please let them know. They are also bringing in new people, new faces, and constantly hiring.

Members of the Council then went on to thank the police for their efforts in getting the speed on 47 through town under control.

Websites mentioned above:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/Sheriff> - to fill out the extra patrol request form

<https://dakota911mn.gov/> - to fill out the non-emergency service form

**Petitions, Requests, and Communications:** A request of the Communication of Bank Authorized Signers. A motion is needed to remove Judy O'Brien and add Kelly Roan to the Bank Signing Authority. Motion by Luhring and seconded by Verch to remove O'Brien and add Roan. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passes 4:0.

**Ordinances and Resolutions:**

**Resolution 2024 - 13 Resolution Adopting City-Led Engineering Practices for Private Development of PID 180080030012** - Was removed and dismissed

**Resolution 2024 - 14 Resolution Accepting Work for the 2024 Pavement Maintenance Project Motion made by Russell seconded by Luhring to approve the now called Resolution 2024 - 13** Accepting work for the 2024 Pavement Maintenance Project. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passes 4:0

**Resolution 2024 - 14 Resolution Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract - 100,000 Elevated Water Storage Tank Project Motion made by Luhring seconded by Verch to table the Resolution 2024 - 14** until the next City Council Meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passes 4:0

**Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees:**

**Engineer Report** - Brad Fisher of Bolten & Menk: The bids came in for the water tower. They came in higher than what was hoped for. There is a limited number of contractors who perform water tower work in the Midwest and they all have a healthy amount of work right now. That combined with the inflation impacting the increased material prices. The last thing that we got hit with is just the fact that it is a smaller water tower. When we're trying to scale out these, a lot of it has to do with material amount based on the size of the tower. There is a base amount of work that has to go into these. We're seeing that reflected here in the bid prices. We have 61 days after the bid opening to decide, November 18th is the deadline. Or not accept the bid and rebid in the spring. The only real way of seeing the prices going down is if the workload where to decrease. But it's a gamble to see if and when that could happen. Based on that Fisher's recommendation is if the city's treasurer finds it financially feasible for the city, he would recommend approval based on the bids that was given back. Fisher stated that they also did some research on the bidding as they weren't not expecting numbers to be so high, they did research on recent bids and reached out to other communities, stating that bids on water towers don't happen every day, but he did say the

decision to not go with PFA funding through the state was neither a plus nor a minus. In general, he found that those coming in were 15% to 20% higher when you had Buy America, Steal Provisions and everything that comes along with utilizing that money. It certainly wasn't a detraction for the city to decide to not go with that. One last thing Fisher wanted to add, because it was in the Bolten & Menk contract: We went through bidding and whenever we do make that decision, we can table this, if we table up the decision on the award, we have a proposal that was also included in here for our services for contract administration and inspection, as well as material testing throughout construction. That would be something that you'd want to consider as part of that, letting us know if there's a different level of service you'd like to see out of us. What we had included in there is what we think is necessary based on our experience with other water towers from an inspection standpoint, but certainly open to feedback on that once we get to a point of needing to decide, but just understanding that that's a piece of what goes into the total project cost, not just the construction cost.


Councilmember Luhring asked what the difference is between one and two. Alternate 1 (Resolution 2024 - 14) is too remove and salvage the existing 75,000-gallon tank. Al-

ternate 2 (Resolution - 14) is to demolish the existing 75,000-gallon tank.

Marlin wanted to know if we're getting a 125,000-gallon tank, the council assured him that with everything they had read it was to be a 100,000-gallon tank. He was inquiring because only increasing by 25,000-gallon might be too small. Both the Mayor and Fisher told him that with smaller communities, like Hampton, you need to have water turnover. If you make too big of water tower, the water won't turn over and you end up having issues with potential freezing in the winter and causing issues down the line with long term maintenance and water pressure as well.

Chris Meyer, City Treasurer came in, the bids for the Water Tower came in \$400,000 over budget. He said with the pavement project that we just did, we used the sewer fund to fund that project and it depleted a lot of the excess. We could do and Chris throws out a number, maybe \$100,000, \$150,000, but not \$400,000. He said that he will talk with Shannon Sweeney and they will get all the numbers in order. Mayor Knetter said that he would like to sit down with Chris after he talks with Shannon.

Anytime Hampton has a project Shannon will pull up the numbers, he'll do the tax impact on the houses and will provide all that information. *(continued on page 25)*



**FOR COMMUNITY RELEASE**

## Dakota County Sheriff's Office

Joe Leko, Sheriff

Bulletin #24-4  
10/01/2024

REWARD OFFERED


ENDANGERED MISSING PERSON

**Nicole "Nikki" Anderson**

- 5' 10"
- 135 lbs
- Last seen wearing a long grey sweater and camouflage pants.


Nicole Anderson was last seen in Randolph Township in Dakota County the morning of Saturday, July 6, 2024.

She was on foot and does not have her cell phone, wallet, or medications.



*Last known image of Anderson ^ on 7/6/2024 at 08:54 hours.*

The Dakota County Sheriff's Office is offering a reward of \$5,000 for information regarding Nicole Anderson's whereabouts or the prosecution of those involved in her disappearance. Private parties have pledged an additional \$40,000 reward to be distributed independently of the Sheriff's Office. Only tips received through the Dakota County Sheriff's Office or Crime Stoppers that lead to the location of Nicole Anderson or the prosecution of those involved in her disappearance are eligible for the reward.



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**Reference DCSO Case # 24-000819**

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FOR COMMUNITY RELEASE



## Hampton City Council Meeting

(continued from page 24)

The Mayor said that we need to understand all the information before we move forward. Councilmember Luhring asks Chris if he could provide all that information at the next City Council meeting.

Mayor Knetter went on to ask if anyone would like to go and look for any grants, there are some federal funds. Councilmember Verch said that he might have time to look. Mayor Knetter said that Angie Craig has a website you can visit that helps with getting grants.

Brad Fisher went on to finish his staff report by mentioning just a small AUAR update. The 30-day public comment is still going and will officially close on October 24th at 4:00pm. Councilmember Verch wanted to ask Fisher one thing: You had said there were certain things that Bolten & Menk does, everything you guys bid out is no fluff as far as the water tower project. You said we had taken away certain inspections and stuff like that, but that's not recommended. Mayor Knetter interjected with: That would not be for the water tower bid, that would be for their services. Councilmember Verch answered: They're services, so that's over and above what I'm seeing here. I don't see how we can bring that down enough to make it feasible. But are there major things that can be done? Fisher went on to answer: We'll hire a geotechnical firm that would do the materials testing. The terms in the industry are you have a specified density, which means that we come out and test and we verify that you do compaction to a specific density. So, they take a sample of the material, figure out what that compaction rate is, test that to verify that they're getting compaction.

The other end of it is, quality compaction, essentially that's just a fancy word for saying we're gonna stand out there and watch it to the best of our visual ability and make sure that you compacted that. That would be a little bit of savings. To your point that'll decrease by \$5,000 if you didn't want to do steel testing, which is what you typically do. Mayor Knetter states: I would not recommend we do that. Councilmember Verch asks: I was wondering, some of these testings, is that the responsibility of the contractor that's erecting this tower as well? Fisher replied: Some things are included in the contract; other things are done by a third party that we hire. Some things we allow them to do essentially in-house and we just observe it the other way around is we hire that third party to come in and do it, mainly for the site inspections. It'd be welding inspections, things like that, where we have a certified welder come in and actually observe the welding inspections. Councilmember Verch asked: I just didn't know if there was overlap as far as compaction tests, they should probably be doing that on their own, or have a third party come in, but you're also having someone come in. It's your responsibility, not theirs, and they're good? Or was that just an example? Mayor Knetter answered: It's a QAQC. The contractor is responsible to do it. We want someone there to say it's been done right. Same with welding check, if you don't check somebody's welds and let's say you want an x-ray of the weld and they x-ray the same weld seven times. This one looks great, but that wasn't the entire tower. Councilmember Verch added: And I just didn't know if there was overlap within the bid that

they were required to have a third party test it or something. Fisher went on to clarify: No, we went through that, internally, which was something I have not shown you, but to me they identified the items that are being completed by the contractor and then what our specialty staff needs to complete. And then a subset of that is called my civil group by roadway utility extension on Lincoln St. That's what my team is going to be more in charge of a certain subset of that, call it 20,000 of that. We have identified in there for when they're actually putting in the sanitary sewer and water main and building up that roadway so that's another thing where right now I think we have allocated like 25 hours a week to watch them which isn't even full time but if that's another place where you could say hey we just want you to stop in two days a week not be there every single day checking in on them again you're slowly taking a little bit away and that's something that we can do if it's going to help make it more financially feasible from the city's perspective you just have to understand that you're losing the level of service by doing that. Councilmember Verch responded by saying he got it and thank you.

**Water / Sewer Report** – Mayor Knetter went on to report that in water: we're cutting that last quarter samples into tomorrow morning, sewer is actively discharging right now, potential samples are good I guess as far as I know. There is movement on the phosphorus reduction, there's something coming in the next 12 months. One will be as addition to the water bill last quarter asking people to not put any phosphorus sold products or something like that. More infor-

mation to come on that as we go through the current permit for the sewer plant.

**Park Report** – Councilmember Russel went on to report: No Major updates. The only inquiry that was out there was just trash removed from the parks.

**Street Report** – Councilmember Luhring went on to report: Nothing to report on streets, just that Kelly got the street sweeping scheduled for fall. Luhring asked a question for next year, is there a mechanism for us to do better weed control on the curb and gutter? The weeds between the joint of asphalt and curb is getting crazy. It's not good for the roads. Mayor Knetter suggested maybe spraying, again starting it next year.

### Unfinished Business:

**Engine break ordinance** – Tabled until next meeting. A few notes to mention. The council still likes the Sauk Centre Engine Break Ordinance. The Mayor got an email back from Cory saying that we can't put a sign on 52. The State does not allow that. Signs can be put along 47 and 50, the County was okay with that, and the City can put signs anywhere on the City right-of-way. Fisher stated that has to do with the proximity to the off-ramp. There is a certain distance they do allow with MnDot right-of-way, but there is a very, very clear defined policy about where there allowed and the proximity to the off-ramp is what isn't allowing us to do it here.

### New Business: None

**Adjournment** - Motion by Verch seconded by Russel to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Roan



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### CROSSWORD

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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THEME: SPORTS
- ACROSS**
1. Combat vehicle
  5. Semi
  8. \*Biathlon gear, sing.
  11. Keiko of "Free Willy"
  12. \*Ashi Waza and judo sport
  13. Audience's approval
  15. Tandoori bread
  16. Ned Stark's daughter, "Game of Thrones"
  17. R`ntgen beams
  18. \*Warning track sport
  20. Monetary "thank you," pl.
  21. Indigo dye shrubs
  22. "Arabian Nights" bird
  23. Destroyer
  26. Danced to certain Polish music
  30. Crematorium container
  31. One without magic powers in Harry Potter stories
  34. Largest volcano in Europe
  35. Do nothing (2 words)
  37. Singer Yoko
  38. Be at the helm
  39. Tropical tuber
  40. \*Player who delivers in a crucial sports moment
  42. Recipe qty.
  43. Display proudly (2 words)
  45. Smells
  47. Lake, in France
  48. Clean a spill (2 words)
  50. #8 Across, pl.
  52. \*Cornerback and direct snap sport
  55. Russian pancake
  56. Pasta option
  57. Go cold turkey
  59. \*Reward for multiple sports championships, pl.
  60. "Breaking Bad" victim
  61. The Beehive State
  62. King Kong, e.g.
  63. Type of lightbulb, acr.
  64. Spooky
- DOWN**
1. Boatload
  2. Riyadh native
  3. \*Collegiate sports grp.
  4. Topeka native
  5. Not urban
  6. Short poems of pastoral life
  7. \*Hockey score
  8. \*Powerful shot in hockey
  9. 11th letter of Roman alphabet, pl.
  10. Elvis' "\_\_\_ Now or Never"
  12. White and black stork
  13. Glorify
  14. \*Gully and deep mid wicket sport
  19. Foe
  22. Fish eggs
  23. Corrodes
  24. Heap of "David Copperfield"
  25. Preface
  26. Scheme
  27. Mr. T's TV show "The \_\_\_"
  28. Olden days constipation treatment
  29. \*Bag of nails and baby ton sport
  32. \*Eagle and mulligan sport
  33. African migrator
  36. \*Turkey and split sport
  38. Woody perennial
  40. Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.
  41. He gets a flag?
  44. Reprieve in a desert
  46. Not light-transmitting
  48. Dots and dashes code
  49. Did like goo
  50. Women's underskirt
  51. Plural of cow, arch.
  52. \*Sports transgression
  53. Plucked string instrument
  54. Pinocchio, e.g.
  55. Type of undergarment
  58. Olden day "your"

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



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

*and Happy New Year!*

The holiday season is here, and we can't think of a better time to share our warmest wishes to all of our friends and neighbors who make this community a wonderful place.

*We appreciate you, and your loyal support!*

We will be closed December 25 and January 1 so our employees can celebrate the holidays with their families.

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