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November 19, 2026 Volume 23 • Issue 11

Christmas in the Village



The village is buzzing for Christmas in the Village at Dakota City in Farmington December 5 & 6 and December 12 & 13th , Saturdays from from 3-8 pm, and Sundays from 3 -7 pm at the Dakota County Fairgrounds.

All ages will enjoy the many displays and buildings that reflect the sights, sounds, and scents of the season!

(continued on page 9)

Randolph Schools Referendum Fails

On November 3, the operating levy for Randolph Schools failed with 724 NO votes and 674 YES votes. *(continued on page 18)*

Announcements

• **Randolph Community Food Shelf,** St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 289595 Randolph Blvd, Randolph, MN. 507-263-9182. Randolph MN Area Food Shelf. Monthly Food Shelf Hours: 1st Tuesday 8-9:30am. 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays 4:30-6:00pm. Randolph Community Food Shelf is for anyone in need within the Randolph School District (Randolph, Stanton, Hampton, New Trier areas). We are here to help! Please pull around to the Southwest corner door for easy loading of your items.

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

Breakfast with Santa December 6

Courtesy of Randolph-Hampton Fire Dept.

The Randolph-Hampton Fire Department is excited to invite you and your family to our annual Breakfast with Santa!

(continued on page 8)



photo courtesy of Randolph-Hampton Fire Department

St. Mary's Catholic Church Annual Sausage Supper

St. Mary's Catholic Church in New Trier's Annual Sausage Supper will be held Sunday, November 22. Dine in and drive through available from Noon-5:30p.m.

There will be raffle tickets, meat raffles, silent auction, crafts and refreshments.

(For more information, see ad on page 2.)

Cookie Decorating Event at Randolph Historical Society Saturday, December 5

The Randolph Historical Society will be hosting Joyce Rapp, a talented cake and cookie decorator Saturday, December 5th, 2026 from 11 am to 2 pm.

Parents are welcome to bring the kids to join in the fun and decorate Christmas Cookies during the event. There will be giveaways including cookie cutters and a cookbook. You can reach out to the historical society for further information.

Sapphire Event Room to Present A King, Cash & Diamond Christmas Shows December 18th





Many have seen the the popular Vegas Style Tribute Show featuring the music of Johnny Cash, Elvis, and Neil Diamond in Dennison, featuring Chris Olson as Elvis, and Doug Allen Nash's Tribute to Johnny Cash and Neil Diamond.

(continued on page 12)

Thank You - 2026 Corn Drive for True Friends



Thank you to everyone that helped us have a safe and successful Corn Drive for True Friends Camp. We have raised a little under $9,000. (donations and corn).

Courtesy of Randolph FFA





Come hungry, bring the kids, and kick off the Christmas season with your friends and neighbors!

BREAKFAST WITH Santa

The Randolph-Hampton Fire Department invites you and your family to our annual Breakfast with Santa!

(Rumor has it, THE GRINCH will be making an appearance, too!)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 • 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Randolph-Hampton Fire Station
5265 238th St E, Hampton

WHAT'S ON THE MENU:
Fresh Pancakes
& Sausage
Coffee, Milk & Juice

FUN FOR THE KIDS!
Visit with Santa
Meet the Grinch
Fun Holiday Activities
Plenty of Christmas Cheer!

FREE WILL OFFERING
All donations are greatly appreciated and help support your local volunteer fire department!

It's Cookie Time!

December 5th
11am-2pm
at the
Randolph
Museum

GIVING AWAY...
COOKBOOK
and BAKING ITEMS!!

FREE
COOKIE CUTTERS!

Hosting Joyce Rapp

~ Outstanding Cake and Cookie Decorator ~

Come and see how she decorates beautiful Christmas cookies!

Kids! Come and decorate Christmas cookies!

Randolph Historical Society Event

4374 292nd Street East, Randolph, MN

Let's get in the Holiday spirit! See you on December 5th!

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Annual
Sausage Supper

NEW TRIER, MN

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2026

DINE IN & DRIVE THRU
12:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Sausage Supper

PORK SAUSAGE	GLAZED CARROTS
GERMAN POTATO SALAD	BUNS
SAUERKRAUT	DESSERT
COLD POTATO SALAD	

Meal Prices

CHILDREN	$5.00
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ADULTS 90+	FREE

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A Battle Plan for the End Times



By Ashley Dudek,
founder of Isaiah Ministries, bringing Biblical teaching to help overcome life's everyday challenges.
www.isaiahministries.cc

No food! Desolation! Bloodshed! Signs in the heavens! An evil ruler! Empty stores! Corruption! Civil war! These may be a few things you think of when it comes to the end times. However, what does the Bible say?

Last month I shared how I was going through some health complications and how I created a five-step spiritual battle plan to help me when I am faced with not feeling well. I mentioned how a person could make a battle plan for other things such as depression or marriage struggles, and I even mentioned making a plan for the end times.

A spiritual battle plan could be made up of (1) praise and worship, (2) specific verses for what you are facing, (3) truth statements and God statements, (4) the armor of God, and (5) thanksgiving. Let's incorporate these suggestions into a specific battle plan for the end times, but first let's learn some ways we can be prepared for the end of the age.

The number one way you can prepare for the end times is by having a relationship with Jesus. A relationship with Jesus first starts by accepting that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and asking the Lord to forgive you of your sins.

After you have accepted salvation in Jesus, then you get to know Him. You talk to Jesus as a friend. You share your whole life with Him—your struggles, your joys, your worries, everything. Nothing will surprise Jesus, my friends, just be real with Him. Read the Bible and dialogue to the Lord as you do so. Get your oil (see Matthew 25:1–10).

The next way you can prepare for the end of the age is to know the biblical narrative of the end times and not the secular one. How do you do this? You get your sweet nose in the Word of God. You study, digest, and dialogue with Jesus about the verses that talk on the end times. What verses talk on the end times, you may ask? Great question, I will get you started with some key terminology and Scriptures on this very thing.

Take the following vocabulary and verses slow. Look them up in your own Bible. As you look up these verses, also read before and after these Scriptures. This will take time. Ask Jesus to help expound these holy words and to give you revelation. Be gentle with yourself as you unpack these Scriptures. YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS. YOU ARE SMART!

Seven-Year Tribulation: I see the seven-year tribulation as the final seven years of the end times. Daniel uses the term week to describe the seven-year tribulation. Part of the Hebrew definition of week can mean seven years (see Daniel 9:27).

The Antichrist: An evil man that will rule, have fierce features, understand sinister schemes, be very powerful (but not by his own power), cause destruction, prosper, and be cunning, deceptive, and prideful (Daniel 8:23–25). He will have a deadly wound (Revelation 13). He will say that he is God in the temple of God (2 Thessalonians 2:4). He will do signs and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9). He will change time and law (Daniel 7:25). He will persecute the saints—Christians—(Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:7). Although he is evil at his core, I believe he will come off as grand, mighty, and even appear like a savior (see 2 Corinthians 11:14). He will rise against Jesus and be killed by Jesus (2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 19:20).

The False Prophet: This is the antichrist's "sidekick." He will push the mark of the beast and the image of the beast. He will do signs and wonders in the presence of the antichrist (Revelation 13:11–18, 19:20).

Covenant: The antichrist will make a covenant (peace treaty) with Israel and other nations (Daniel 9:27).

Harlot of Babylon: An evil religious and economic system (Revelation 17–18).

Ten-Nation Confederation: I see this as ten nations that will work together with the antichrist (see Daniel 7:7–8, 23–24; Revelation 13:1; Revelation 17).

Abomination of Desolation: At the halfway mark of the seven-year tribulation, the antichrist will break the covenant (peace treaty). He will bring an end to sacrifice and offerings (this means there will be a temple in Jerusalem). The antichrist will say he is God in the temple of God. An image of the beast (antichrist) will be set up.

The mandate to get the mark of the beast, worship the image of the beast, and follow the beast will be a part of the abomination of desolation, with strong emphasis on the image of the beast being set up (Matthew 24:15; Daniel 8:13, 9:27, 11:31, 12:11; Revelation 13). (From my perspective, the beast is the antichrist.)

Mark of the Beast: To be able to buy or sell, a mark—the name of the beast or the number of the beast's name—will be placed on the right hand or forehead of people. The false prophet will enforce the mark (Revelation 13:16–18). DO NOT GET THE MARK OF THE BEAST! If we are here, I believe the Lord will provide for us! (Revelation 14:9–13).

Image of the Beast: An image will be made of the beast. It appears that the image will breathe, speak, and cause as many as would not worship it to be killed. The false prophet will really enforce the image of the beast (Revelation 13:14–15). DO NOT WORSHIP THIS IMAGE! (Revelation 14:9–13).

To incorporate the knowledge we just gained and the five suggestions on what a spiritual battle plan can consist of, here is a proposed end-times battle plan.

End-Times Battle Plan

1. Praise and worship. If we are here when the end times are in full swing, praising the Lord will be of utmost importance. "Jesus, even though the world is chaotic, I trust your leadership. YOU are the King of kings and Lord of lords."

2. Specific verses for what you are facing. If we are present during the seven-year tribulation, we must read the verses mentioned earlier in the article and obey those words, not the world's ways and the antichrist's words. Get to know the above verses. Scriptures that bring comfort would include Joshua 1:9; Philippians 4:19; and Psalms 23 and 91.

3. Truth statements and God statements. If we are here during the end times, here are a couple of statements we can tell ourselves. "I will not get the mark of the beast. If the Lord provided manna for the Israelites, I believe He will provide for me and my family." "If I end up dying for my faith in Jesus, I will instantly be in heaven. Perhaps I will have an experience like Stephen" (see Acts 7:54–60).

4. Put on the armor of God. Please see Ephesians 6:10–17. If you live with other people during the end times, it would not hurt to declare and put this armor on together as a family (or with friends).

5. Thanksgiving. Even if we are here during the end of the age, a person can still find things to be appreciative for. "Jesus, thank you that I have you." "Lord, thank you that I can talk to you at any time of the day in my heart and no one can take that from me." "Thank you that you are coming back and before too long, this all will be done and over."

I know the end times can be a hefty subject to learn and hear about, but it is so very important to know about the things that will take place. Go grab a cup of joe, some tea, or a cold Mountain Dew and talk to Jesus about these things. He will guide, reassure, and teach you about the end times and how to get prepared.

—No fear, Ashley

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Pioneer and Perfecter of Faith

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. — Hebrews 12:1-2

Our reading today invites us to reflect on the life of faith as a race marked out for us.

And who has gone before us to mark it out? Jesus, the pioneer (or trailblazer) of faith.

He did it all, providing this great gift for us. He paved the way when we were so lost in our sin that we were like dead people walking in darkness (Isaiah 9:2; Ephesians 2:1-5). He made us alive to faith. He justified us, he sanctified us, and he sustains us through every trial. Jesus lights the way for us, and he will bring us safely through to where he is. As the apostle Paul describes it in Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

Some Bible translations describe Jesus' role here as the "author and finisher" of faith, and that reminds me of some treasured gifts that grace our family's home. My mother-inlaw and late sister-in-law gifted us with beautiful, handmade quilts. They "authored" these treasures, designing them on graph paper, choosing colors, cutting pieces of fabric, and quilting them together. They also "finished" these artworks beautifully, down to the last binding stitch. I benefit from these gifts of grace, resting under someone else's finished work.

In our life of faith, we depend on Jesus' accomplished work. From start to finish, we can fix our eyes on him, following his lead and relying on his guidance and finished work every step of the way.

Pioneer and Perfecter of faith, where would we be without you? Lead and guide us, Lord, and may we rest in you. Amen.

RANDOLPH BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dennis Ingolfsland
29020 Dawson Avenue in the heart of Randolph
(adjacent to Randolph Public School grounds).
Sunday School 9:00a.m.
(children, teen, and adult classes)
Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.
Adult Bible Study Every Wednesday at 6:00p.m.
Questions? Call church office 507-663-1437

CHRIST UMC

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29470 Gaylord Ave., Cannon Falls
507-757-8043
www.christunitedmethodist.org
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Sunday School 8:30a.m.

STANTON UMC

Reverend Thomas Countryman
1020 Hwy. 19 Blvd., Stanton • 507-321-3598
www.stantonunitedmethodist.org
Sunday Worship at 10:15a.m.

E-mail your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interim Pastor Lloyd Menka
28595 Randolph Blvd.
stmarksrandolph@gmail.com
Services: 10am Sunday Worship Service,
in person and on Facebook.
Coffee Fellowship: 1st Sunday of the Month.
Bible Study: Tuesdays 9:30am & Wednesdays 6:30pm-7:30pm.
-Quilting: Tuesdays 10:30am.
WELCA: Meets 2nd Wednesdays of every other month10:30am. Email for schedule.
Food Shelf: First Tuesday of each month 8:00am-9:30am, each following Tuesday 4:30pm -6:00pm.
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Louella "Lou" Stein



Louella "Lou" Stein, age 86, of Randolph, Minnesota, passed away on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at Zumbrota Health Service in Zumbrota, Minnesota.

Louella was born on February 12, 1940, in Hastings, Minnesota, to Nicholas and Frances (Bauer) Langenfeld. Following her graduation from Villa Maria in Frontenac, Minnesota, she married Joseph "Joe" Stein on November 15, 1958, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Hastings. Together, they made their home in Randolph, where they raised their five children and built a life centered around faith, family, farming, and the simple joys of being together.

Lou was a devoted wife, mother, and homemaker whose days were filled with the countless responsibilities of raising a family and keeping a farm household running smoothly. Much of what she did happened quietly behind the scenes, but her love and dedication could be seen in the home she kept and the family she cared for. She enjoyed tending to her garden and preserving its harvest through canning, another way she put her time and hard work into caring for those around her.

When she found a little time for herself, Lou loved to crochet. Over the years, she created countless beautiful doilies, baby blankets, and afghans, sharing her handiwork with family and friends and generously donating her creations to hospitals and charities. She also had a special talent for making beautiful hand-beaded Christmas ornaments, keepsakes that will continue to bring memories of her to those who received them. And when she wasn't busy with a project, there was a good chance she was enjoying her favorite game shows on television.

Life on the farm was never really something that came with retirement. Joe never officially retired from farming, and together they continued to enjoy the life they had built over so many years.

As the years went by, Sunday dinners became one of the family's most cherished traditions. On any given Sunday, a combination of children and grandchildren could be found gathered at the house, visiting, watching whatever sport happened to be in season, and enjoying time together. And no matter what was happening on television, everyone knew one thing for certain: supper was at 5:00 p.m. sharp, with a much-anticipated, delicious dessert to follow.

It was those simple moments-family gathered around, familiar routines, and time spent together-that made a lifetime of memories.

Lou will be remembered for her quiet strength, her hardworking nature, the love she put into everything she made, and the home where her family always had a place at the table. Though she may no longer be sitting among them on Sunday evenings, the traditions she helped create and the memories shared around that table will live on for generations.

Louella is survived by her five children: Jerome (Joanie) Stein of Kellogg, Minnesota; Lorna (Mark) Grieger of Clifton, Colorado; Larry Stein of Randolph, Minnesota; Mike (Brandie) Stein of Grand Junction, Colorado; and Michelle (Kurt) Emery of Northfield, Minnesota.

She is also survived by her 10 grandchildren and their spouses and families, including Andy Stein, Brittany and Brandon Stein, Jennifer Kleckley, Jeremy and Jessica Thomas, Brooke Covert, Briana Stein, and Kendra and Collin Emery.

Louella is further survived by her siblings, Louie (Judy) Langenfeld, Phyllis Blaeser, Frances Sitko, and Danny (Jan) Langenfeld; her sisters-in-law, Kathleen Stein and Elizabeth Otto; her brother-in-law, Larry Gerlach; along with many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Louella was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Joseph Stein; her parents, Nicholas and Frances Langenfeld; her sisters, Mary Ellen Gerlach and Annette Stein; her brothers-in-law, Norbert Stein, Nick Stein, George Otto, and Bud Blaeser; her nieces, Nancy Langenfeld and Sandy Gerlach; and her nephews, Billy Sitko and Nick Stein Jr.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, November 6 at 11:00 am, with a visitation two hours prior (9:00-11:00 am) at St. Mathias Catholic Church in Hampton, MN. Burial at St. Mathias Catholic Cemetery followed Mass, and then there was a luncheon and more fellowship at the church after.

Active casket bearers were grandchildren, Brandon Stein, Jennifer Kleckley, Jeremy Thomas, Jessica Thomas, Kendra Emery, and Collin Emery.

Memorials in Lou's name may be sent to St. Mathias Catholic Church (mail to: 23315 Northfield Blvd, Hampton, MN 55031 or donation link: https://secure.myvanco.com/YQ32/home), or to St. Croix Hospice (mail to: 2518 Superior Drive NW, Suite 103, Rochester MN 55901) in gratitude for the wonderful care she received.

Louella will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who were fortunate enough to know her.

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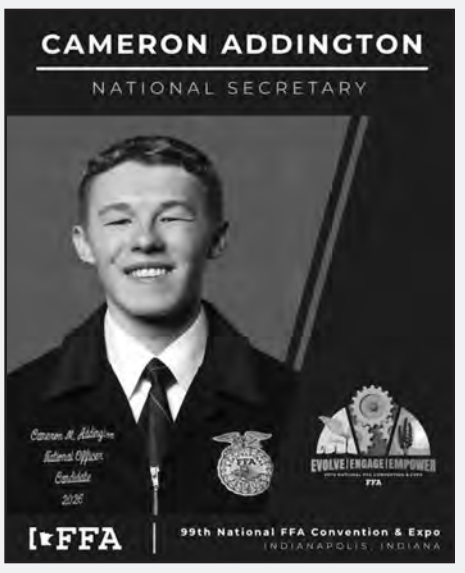
Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger

Minnesota's Cameron Addington elected the National FFA Organization Secretary!

Cameron is from the Cannon Falls FFA Chapter and served as the 2025-2026 Minnesota FFA State President.

We're incredibly proud of his accomplishment and look forward to seeing him and his team now serve over a million members nationwide.

Wishing you an incredible year, Cameron!





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— Cinnamon Rolls, Caramel Rolls —
— Chips, Cookies, Beverages —
FELLOWSHIP

The proceeds of this event goes directly to St. Mark's WELCA for mission work locally and abroad.

Join us in becoming a Randolph FFA Alumni and Supporter

Adult membership is open to anyone who is interested in supporting and promoting agriculture, agricultural education, and the FFA at the local level.

If you are proud of FFA and want to help local FFA members acquire knowledge and experience from agricultural education and FFA activities –becoming an adult member is for you! The Randolph FFA Alumni Booster and active members depend on volunteers to help support our chapter through the gifts of time, talent, and resources in order to gain community support. Join us and give back your skills, starting at the local level. Contact Bret Otte at otte.bret@gmail.com to sign-up.

Horse CDE Heading to State



Congratulations to our Horse Evaluation Team that will be heading to state in April -- Jocelyn, Hunter, Sam, Jackson and Thomas. *Courtesy of Randolph FFA*

99th National FFA Convention



10 members attended the 99th National FFA Convention. Randolph FFA received a 2-star National Chapter Award. Jack Feldman received his American Degree.

Courtesy of Randolph FFA

General Livestock Evaluation Team heading to State



Congratulation to our General Livestock Evaluation Team, they will be heading to state in April -- Brantley Larson, Maddie Beissel, Jonathan Tate. *Courtesy of Randolph FFA*

Dairy Evaluation CDE team heading to State



Congratulations to our Dairy Evaluation Team they will be heading to state in April - Violet Ackerman, Hannah Zweber, Regan Nordling, Tenley Otte. *Courtesy of Randolph FFA*

Snowmobile Safety Course

Randolph Trailblazers will be offering classroom review & the driving portion of the snowmobile safety course on December 5, 2026 at 8:30 am at Dubbels Trucking. Pickup will also be at Dubbels Trucking.

The Address is 5224 284 th St. E., Randolph, MN.

Must be 11 years of age before class start date and have completed the online course in order to be eligible to take this class.

Cost: $10.00 for the Driving Portion to be paid at the driving class. Cash or checks payable to Randolph Trailblazers.

**Please email randolphtrailblazers@gmail.com with the name, address, email & phone to register for the class. **

Online Course to be completed on your own before this Driving Class



Share Your Good News!

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School Closings/Delays Information

Please note that we will no longer be posting school closings on the TV.
Please encourage everyone who cares for your child to sign up for Quick Hits so they can stay informed.
Email otted@district195.org to get signed up.

School Closings/Delays Information



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 Randolph Schools Quick Hits, and Randolph School Web Site, Randolph Public Schools Facebook.

* **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 in the morning, preschool will be delayed. 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: E-Learning Day may coincide with a Snow Day.

Farm Girl Chatter

Fall Harvest: The Season of Thankfulness

By McKell Lemmerman



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The month of gratitude, the beauty of the changing seasons, and the reminder to appreciate the little things in life.

The time when slowing down doesn't mean just sitting back and relaxing but recognizing the equipment on the roads. To take your time when you get "stuck" behind them and can't hurry around. Remember that is someone's loved one driving that machinery.

There is something special about being in a combine when it works its way through a field at sunset. The corn stands tall before it, and behind it lies a clean path of harvested rows. Dust hangs in the air, catching the last golden rays of sunlight. The tractor pulling the grain cart follows close behind, ready to catch every bushel before the combine tank fills. It is like a coordinated dance with perfect timing, trust, and with every person knowing their part.

Harvest does not always follow a convenient schedule. Sometimes supper is brought to the field, sometimes sleep gets pushed back, and sometimes the only time to rest is when the machinery needs fixing or Mother Nature starts the sprinkler system.

I find myself looking toward the fields. The bright lights of tractors and combines shine across the dark countryside like a football stadium in the middle of nowhere.

Maybe this is what thankfulness looks like in the farming world. It is not always sitting quietly with a list of things to be grateful for. It is standing along a gravel road, watching the lights move through a field long after dark. It is bringing a meal or a nice cold beverage to someone who has been working since sunrise. It is appreciating a good crop, a dependable machine, a helping hand, or another beautiful sunset at the end of a long day.

It is simply remembering the people behind it all.

Thank you, farmers!

First Winter Market of the Season

Saturday, November 21, 9am-1pm, Northfield Middle School
36 vendors!



It's our first winter market of the season! With plenty of easy parking, it's the perfect, stress-free stop to pick up unique handcrafted gifts and delicious local foods just in time for the holidays.

The Cattadoris Sandberg Duo will be playing live music from 9-11am and KAVE will play from 11am-1pm.

Shoppers can still use their SNAP benefits at the winter markets, which can be doubled up to $10 with Market Bucks.

Happy Thanksgiving
We'd like to send our warmest wishes
for a Happy Thanksgiving to our valued customers.
FARMERS MILL & ELEVATOR, INC.
651-463-8041 Metro 1-800-645-5648 507-645-5648
www.farmersmill.com
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Breakfast with Santa December 6

(continued from page 1)

Santa is coming to town… and rumor has it, THE GRINCH will be making an appearance too!

Bring the whole family for a fun-filled morning of delicious food, holiday cheer, and activities for the kids!

Sunday, December 6, 2026
8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Randolph-Hampton Fire Department – Hampton Fire Station

What's on the Menu? Fresh pancakes & sausage, coffee, milk & juice.

Fun for the Kids! Visit with Santa, meet the Grinch and fun holiday activities.

Plenty of Christmas cheer!

FREE WILL OFFERING. All donations are greatly appreciated and help support your local volunteer fire department!

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We can't wait to see everyone again this year!

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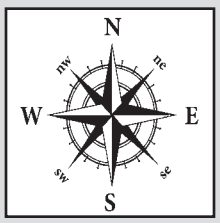


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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Caterpillars, Cables and Days Gone By



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Here he relates his adventures and recollections including relocating to the state of Tennessee after he turned sixty years old.

As I was digging a plot of land this spring for planting, I turned up a large heavy-duty cable looped and both ends. It was about six feet long, made from ½" steel wire rope and had two clamps on each end with a metal thimble protecting the loop. It was quite rusty but I had no doubt what it was for. I remembered it even thought it had been buried for over sixty years. That is one of the advantages of still living on the farm one was born on. The mere sight of an item can rekindle a memory long thought forgotten. And this cable was a connecting link to times in the early 1960's.

It was a cable that my dad made for pulling things with his Caterpillar. I still have the heavy duty vise my dad used to secure the clamps to the cable when it was made in his shop. It probably slipped off the dozer when he was operating it. And laid in the soil until I unearthed it sixty years later.

As a kid I lived and breathed anything that took place on the farm. Equipment held a sacred place in my mind. It was the backbone of the farm. Enabled a mere man to perform tasks impossible to a human on their own. That was the D2 Caterpillar. A marvel of machinery in my mind. My young mind absorbed all the information my dad related to me about the attributes of this wonderful crawler. I can still feel what that black seat felt like and see the steering levers and hear the pony motor fire to life when he pulled the rope which had to be wound around the engine pully.

The Caterpillar D2 was built from 1938 until 1957. It was the smallest tracked tractor the company built. A 33 horsepower, four-cylinder diesel engine, with five forward speeds and one reverse gear. It had a gasoline pony motor to start it. Weighing in at 8,000 pounds with 12" wide tracks it could outpull a tractor. Many of these were sold for farming applications and my dad used it to pull a three bottom molboard plow.

He also had a blade mounted on the dozer and used it to move lots of dirt around the farm. There is still an earthen dam he built to



catch runoff from the barnyard. It has long since filled in with silt but I recall who built it every time I see the square plateau that did what the designer built it for many years ago. He widened out the cartway which gave us access down the limestone bluff at the backside of the farm.

My neighbor told me one time that he was helping his dad take down a silo by their barn on a Sunday morning. A common way of removing a concrete stave silo is to break out the staves at the bottom of the silo on the side you want it to fall. When enough staves are gone it should fall in that direction. In their case it fell in the wrong way and blocked the entrance of the barn so the dairy cows couldn't get back in. He was only fifteen years old but he had worked for my dad and grandfather, and knew how to run the dozer. My dad was gone that day, and over the protestation of his father, he started the Caterpillar and brought it over to move the concrete debris away from the barn and save the day.

Christmas in the Village

(continued from page 1)



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.

Apple cider donuts and popcorn will be available in the Fire Barn with warm up fire barrels and benches set up nearby.

The Dakota Garage will be open and hosted by the IMCA car club members.

Visitors will find a photo booth, kid's activities and a baked potato bar and beverages in this new building. Parents are encouraged to bring their children's letter to St. Nicholas in a self-addressed envelope (not sealed) to this building where the special post office box is located. 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. The free "Making Minnesota", a children's activity book from the Minnesota Historical Society will be available in the School House where children will be invited to add a paper ring to the paper ring chain decorating the tree and to write their name on the chalkboard.

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 (cash) $5.50 (credit card) with children under 5 free.

Tickets are available at the gate, or online at www.dakotacity.org

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please have your confirmation receipt viewable on your cell phone or printed on paper to show the gate attendant as you approach the admission gate. Thank you!

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Please call our office at (651) 460-8050. Please leave a message if you get our voicemail. You can email us also at info@dakotacity.org. Check them out on Facebook!

A Minnesotan:

Deer Season



By RosaLin Alcoser

Growing up in rural Minnesota fall always brought around many a man's favorite time of the year. Hunting season.

November usually brought around my lest favorite time of the year as a child. Firearm season. Which was my least favorite because my mother would keep us inside for nearly an entire month because of it. As an adult who's handled a firearm I get it, as a child I understood the why of it all but I didn't like it.

Now I have never actually hunted. However, as a teenager and young adult I did participate in part of hunting season. Mainly because grandpa used me as a spare deer and turkey scout at times or on occasion took me to follow a blood trail during bow season. Outside of that and the rare occurrence of helping of cleaning a



deer I've never hunted.

Although I did get an eight point buck back in the Fall of 2019 when it ran in front of my Subaru.

I was driving home in rural Minnesota late at night when I had just turned onto the road from the main county highway when I saw the car in the other lane flash their headlights at me. Which made me wonder if my high beams were on, they were not. What they were trying to warn me about was that they had seen the doe run across the road and a buck was likely behind it.

Thankfully I was going under 40 miles per hour — so I came out of this fine— because all of a sudden a 300 lbs monster of a buck was smashing in the front end of my car. It was the end of both the buck and of my Subaru.

That deer was made into jerked afterwards and I was told he was not delicious.

So while I have never and probably will never actually hunt I have gotten a deer. And quite an impressive one at that.

Why Our Forefathers Were Much Healthier



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

For most of human history, people didn't have to think much about staying healthy. Good health was simply a byproduct of how they lived. Our ancestors ate nutrient-dense whole foods, moved their bodies all day long, and lived in step with the natural world around them. There were no calorie counters, step trackers, or shelves of supplements, because their surroundings gave their bodies what they needed. Today, many of us struggle with low energy, sluggish metabolism, and chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, even with more health information at our fingertips than ever before. Looking back at how past generations lived can give us a practical roadmap for feeling better now.

Traditional diets looked very different from what fills most grocery carts today. Families valued the whole animal, not just lean cuts like chicken breasts or tenderloins. Organ meats were common in cookbooks from the 1700s through the early 1900s, and bones were simmered into broths rich in collagen and amino acids that support the gut, joints, and skin. Saturated fats from butter and animal sources were welcomed rather than feared, and some researchers now question the mid-century push to replace them with seed oils. Carbohydrates were part of the picture too, but they came from root vegetables, seasonal fruits, and whole grains that were soaked or fermented for easier digestion. Vegetables were usually roasted, steamed, or stewed, and meals followed a simple rhythm of three nourishing plates a day, all made from scratch. Industrialization changed that, bringing refined sugars, seed oils, and packaged convenience foods that are high in calories but low in real nutrition.

Movement was also built into everyday life. Farming, construction, and manufacturing demanded hours of physical effort, and that steady activity helped keep metabolism humming. Research shows that Americans' resting metabolic rate has dropped about 6% since 1820, and the energy demands of the average job have fallen by roughly 25% since 1870. Desk jobs and labor-saving devices have shifted us toward long hours of sitting, which takes a toll on metabolic health, posture, and mobility. We've also lost much of our time outdoors, which once helped people make plenty of vitamin D and gave the immune system a boost. Studies link time in green spaces to lower inflammation and stronger immune activity.

Our ancestors also lived without the steady stream of synthetic chemicals we face today. Their food wasn't sprayed with modern pesticides, their water didn't carry microplastics or pharmaceutical residues, and their homes weren't filled with plastics and chemical-laden products. Today, compounds like BPA, phthalates, and PFAS are nearly impossible to avoid, and they have been linked to metabolic, reproductive, and developmental concerns. Some researchers also raise questions about certain food additives, noting that excess iron from fortified processed foods may contribute to iron overload and that high fluoride exposure has been studied for possible effects on the thyroid and nervous system. Cutting back on unnecessary toxins where you can is a simple, meaningful step toward lightening your body's load.

Finally, sleep once followed the sun. Morning daylight helped people wake up naturally, and as evening fell, warm firelight and candlelight let melatonin rise so the body could rest and repair. Full-spectrum sunlight, including near-infrared light, also supported healthy mitochondria, the tiny energy producers inside your cells. Now, blue light from screens and bright indoor lighting keeps us wired late into the night, throwing off our internal clocks and hormone balance. Some research suggests that constant exposure to electromagnetic fields from phones and Wi-Fi may also interfere with deep sleep. The goal isn't to live in the past. It's to borrow these time-tested habits, like getting morning sunlight, eating real food, moving more, and winding down when it gets dark, so you and your family can rebuild the energy and resilience that used to be normal.

Microplastics showing up in birds lungs! Microplastics are tiny bits of plastic smaller than 5 millimeters, and they really are everywhere. They're in the water we drink, the food we eat and the air we breathe. Because they're so small, they can slip past the body's natural defenses and settle into our tissues, including our lungs. A 2025 study made this crystal clear. Researchers examined the lungs of 56 birds from 51 different species and found plastic particles in every single sample, averaging about 221 particles per species. Birds are often an early warning sign for problems in our environment, so these findings strongly suggest that we're breathing in the same contamination. In fact, earlier research has already found microplastics in human lung tissue, including particles from common plastics like polypropylene and PET, the material used in many drink bottles.

What concerns me most is what happens once these particles get inside us. Microplastics and the chemicals they carry have been linked to hormone disruption, which can affect metabolism, fertility, mood and thyroid function. Your immune system also treats these particles as invaders, which can lead to chronic inflammation. They've been tied to oxidative stress, which damages cells and drains energy, and to gut damage that weakens digestion and immune balance.

(continued on page 11)



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GOBIN SEED COMPANY Channel.

Stretching Your Grocery Budget



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

As we move into the winter months here in Minnesota, we prepare for colder days and winter storms by stocking our shelves and cupboards. But food costs are rising and budgets are getting tighter, so we need to give priority to the foods that are essential for sustaining health. Higher gasoline prices also affect the budget and may mean fewer trips to the grocery store. Many rural food pantries across southern Minnesota have reduced access or closed entirely as their resources have been restricted.

Beginning in November, colds and flu increase steadily across the country. This yearly cycle has become so routine that many people expect to get sick and treat it as unavoidable. But each of us also has a remarkable immune system, the built-in defense process that keeps us alive by constantly guarding against germs and invaders. We should understand how it works and how to support it.

White blood cells are the "troops" on the front line of your immune system. Just as the military has different branches, there are many types of white blood cells, and each has a specific job. And like our service members, these cells need food to keep doing their jobs well. When key nutrients run short, the cells can't perform at their best. To keep your front line"troops" in top condition this winter, make sure they are getting what they need.

Three nutrients to prioritize

Vitamin C helps white blood cells eliminate bacteria and germs, and it is one of the least expensive vitamins on the market. Good food sources include bell peppers, broccoli, kiwi, whole oranges, and strawberries. I recommend whole oranges over orange juice because of the juice's high sugar content.

Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin essential for balanced cell activity. It can enter the nucleus of a cell and help turn important processes on and off. Food sources include cod liver oil, goose liver, salmon, sardines, and whole eggs. I prefer these whole foods to fortified products. Vitamin D is especially important for Minnesotans during the winter months with limited sunshine. You can find more resources at www.grassrootshealth.net.

Zinc is an essential mineral for a strong immune system, and it is also needed to build the proteins that fight bacteria. The best food sources are beef, lamb, lentils, pepitas (pumpkin seeds), and cashews. If you don't eat these foods regularly, a 15 mg zinc tablet per day is another option.

Go easy on the sweets

Sugar is known as an energy source, but it doesn't help immune cells get more work done. A 1973 study observed that white blood cells exposed to glucose slowed down and stayed sluggish for up to five hours. As you move into the holiday season, pay attention to how often you are having treats and how your body responds. A glass of water will do more for your immune system than another candy.

You only get one body in this lifetime. Make sure you take good care of it and do not wear it out sooner than necessary.

As a nutrition specialist, I can help you learn how to strengthen your immune system using the whole foods and vitamins your body needs. Finding the resources for true health can be located right in your local grocery store.



Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. A free Strategy Call is available for you to ask your questions and begin to get some answers. Nutrition is designed for healing. Contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

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

Why Our Forefathers Were Much Healthier

(continued from page 10)

Even more troubling, the smallest particles, called nanoplastics, have been shown to cross the placenta and the blood-brain barrier. That means they can reach a developing baby and the brain itself. If you're pregnant, trying to conceive or raising little ones, this is worth paying close attention to. The good news is that a few simple changes at home can make a real difference over time. Start by switching to reusable cloth or canvas bags instead of plastic ones. Store your food in glass or stainless steel containers, especially anything you plan to heat. Cut back on single-use plastics like straws, plastic cutlery and disposable water bottles. When it's time to replace things around the house, choose natural materials like wood, bamboo, cotton, wool or ceramic. Finally, improve your indoor air by opening windows, dusting and vacuuming often, and running an air purifier with a HEPA filter. You don't have to do it all at once. Every small step helps lower your plastic load and supports a healthier body for you and your family.

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Sapphire Event Room to Present A King, Cash & Diamond Christmas Shows December 18th

(continued from page 1)

Several years ago, they began performing a special Holiday Show at Breezy Point Resort in December each year, and this year are going to bring the festive show to Dennison December 18th, 2026. The show will include a blend of your favorite everyday tunes from the iconic artists, along with a wide variety of your favorite Christmas holiday tunes.

The show will take place in the all new Sapphire Event Room and Cocktail Lounge in Dennison. Tickets are available by calling Fireside Lounge during normal business hours at 507-645-9992.

For fans young and old, if you have ever been to the popular Breezy Point Resort up north in Minnesota, you may have caught The Memories of Elvis Show (www.espking.com).with Chris Olson on the dockside bar at Breezy Point. Chris Olson performs this entertaining tribute of The King, and will be bringing his talents and show back to DENNISON, along with Doug Allen Nash Friday December 18th, for two shows. A 1:30 matinee show and 7 PM evening show, next door to the Fireside Lounge & Supper Club at the all new Sapphire Event Room and Cocktail Lounge, the areas newest event space and cocktail lounge located on main street in Dennison..

Doug Allen Nash will again join the show this year with is tribute to Neil Diamond and also his "Johnny Cash Tribute - American Icon". (www.dougallennash.com)

Advance tickets are just $30.00. Call Fireside at 507-645-9992 during normal business hours, or e-mail them at firesidelounge-dennison@gmail.com to order tickets. (In the event of inclement weather, causing the show to cancel Friday. Saturday December 19th will be the make up day for the shows)

You can also make lunch dinner reservations at The Fireside Lounge & Supper Club for that day or evening ahead or after the show. Space is limited, so guests will want to make their reservations early, as Fireside Lounge celebrates 25 years of Amy Family Hospitality.



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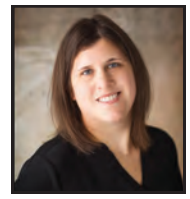
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How to Avoid Deer Crashes & What to Do If You Hit One

As fall transitions into winter, deer activity across Minnesota peaks – and so does the risk of unexpected roadside encounters. Whether you're commuting to work or traveling across the region, a split-second encounter with a deer can turn dangerous in an instant. Protect yourself and fellow drivers this season using these simple tips to avoid deer crashes, along with steps to take if you hit one.

What to Do If You Hit a Deer

Call 911: Report the crash immediately if there are occupant injuries, your vehicle is disabled, your vehicle or the animal is blocking a lane of traffic, or the animal is injured and unable to run away. Law enforcement will be dispatched to assist.

Stay in your vehicle: Remain inside your vehicle with your seat belt fastened so you do not put yourself at risk of being struck by passing traffic.

Road-kill permits: Any Minnesota resident may claim a road-killed animal by contacting a law enforcement officer for a lawful possession permit.

Keep your distance: If a deer is struck but not killed, stay back. An injured or frightened animal could panic and cause serious injury.

Tips to Avoid Deer Crashes

Drive at safe speeds: Always maintain a safe speed, especially in high-risk zones.

Be extra alert during peak hours: Use extreme caution from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., when deer are most active.

Use high beams: Utilize high beams when possible at night to watch for eye reflections and silhouettes along the ditches and shoulders.

Do not swerve: Swerving to avoid a deer can cause drivers to lose control, run off the road or drift into oncoming traffic.

Adjust for high-population areas: Reduce speeds in areas known for large deer populations, such as where roads divide agricultural fields from forests, and when driving through forested areas between dusk and dawn.



Expect unpredictability: Deer are unpredictable. They may stop in the middle of the road, change direction or move toward an approaching vehicle. Blow your horn to urge them to leave the road.

Eliminate distractions: Put away all distractions while driving to remain fully aware of your surroundings.

Preventing a crash starts with simple habits: buckle up, stay focused – and always expect the unexpected. Together, we can drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.

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Prepare now: Winter Hazard Awareness Week is Nov. 16-20

As Winter Weather Awareness Week arrives, now is the perfect time to get ready for the season ahead. The National Weather Service is calling for a warmer-than-normal winter this year, but even a mild winter can still bring periods of snow, ice, dangerous wind chills, and travel disruptions. Storms can strike quickly, last for hours or days, and may interrupt heat, electricity, and communication.

Despite a warmer outlook, winter still brings serious hazards such as slippery roads, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, home heating fires, and overexertion while shoveling. A little preparation now goes a long way.

Build or Update Your Emergency Kit

Make sure you have supplies ready in your home, vehicle, and workplace. Stock food and water, warm layers, blankets, a phone charger, flashlights, and sand or cat litter for traction. Keeping these items handy ensures you're better prepared if you get stranded or lose power.

Practice Fire Safety

Maintain a safe distance between anything flammable and your heating sources. Have chimneys, fireplaces, and wood stoves inspected before firing them up for the season. Never leave candles burning unattended, and stay near the stove while cooking.

Watch for Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, and impossible to detect without an alarm. Install CO detectors on every level of your home and inside each sleeping area. If you spend time ice fishing, consider adding an alarm to your shelter as well. Early symptoms of CO exposure include headaches, nausea, fatigue, vomiting, and confusion. If your CO alarm sounds, get outside immediately and call 911.

Share the Road with Snowplows

Before traveling, check conditions at 511mn.org. Give plows plenty of room—stay at least five car lengths behind—and adjust your driving speed to match the weather. Buckle up, secure children in age-appropriate seats, and avoid driving when road conditions are hazardous.

Stay Safe Outdoors

Ice is never completely safe. Carry ice picks, know how to self-rescue, and check ice conditions before heading out. Dress in layers, wear a hat and mittens, and watch closely for signs of frostbite or hypothermia. When shoveling, take your time and listen to your body. If you start feeling tired, dizzy, or uncomfortable, stop immediately and rest before continuing.

Prepare early to ensure your family' comfort and safety.

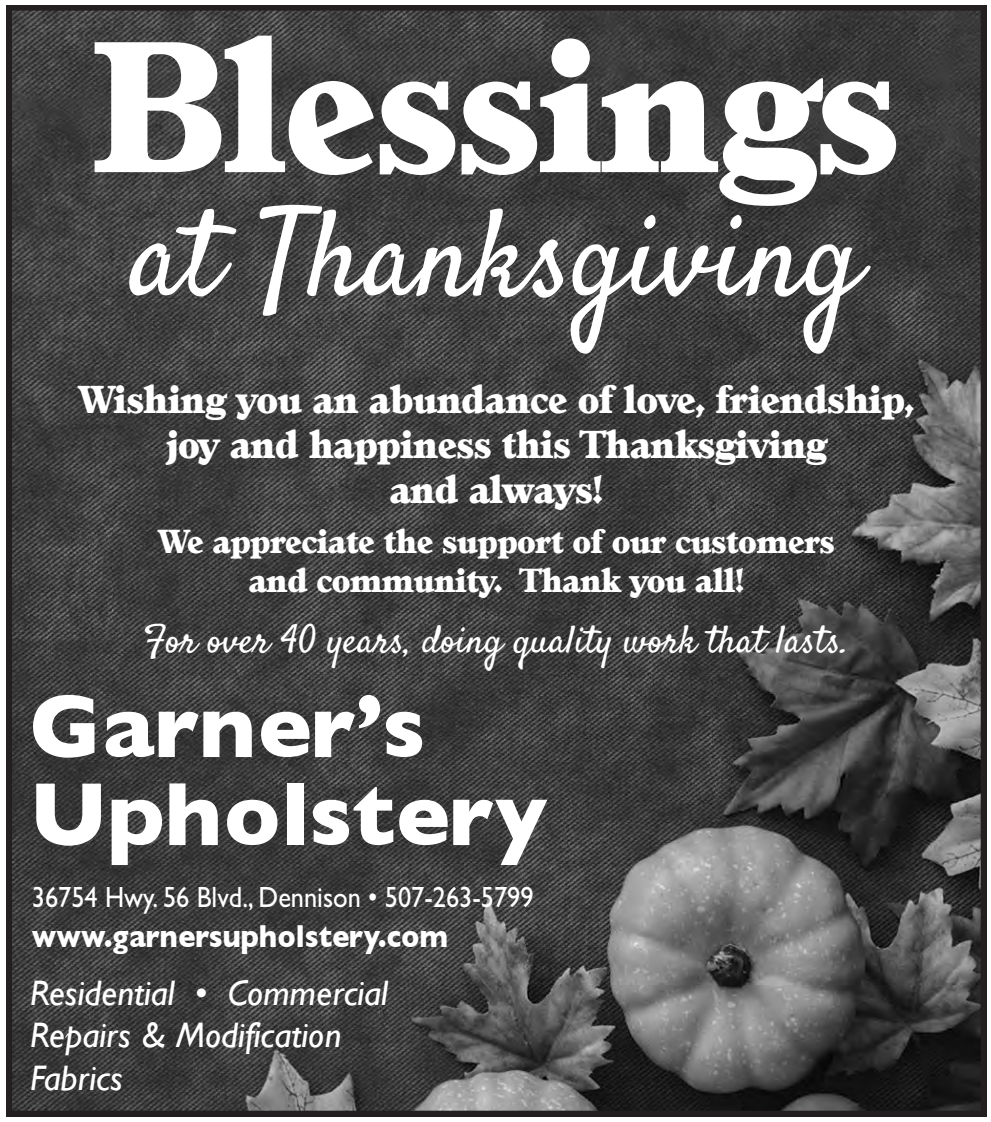
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HAMPTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026

The Hampton City Council met on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at Hampton City Hall for the Regularly Scheduled Meeting. Present were Mayor John Knetter and Council Members Jerry Huddleston, David Luhring, Erica O'Connor, and Nick Russell. Also present were Brad Fisher, Madison Richard and Greenlee Dahle of Bolton & Menk, Anna Yunker, Attorney, and Marlin Reinardy.

Regular Meeting Called to Order – Mayor Knetter called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Disclosure of Interest – None

Approval of September 8, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes – Motion by Luhring, seconded by O'Connor, to approve the September 8, 2026 regular meeting minutes. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Disbursements - Motion by Russell, seconded by Luhring, to approve the disbursements. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5-0.

The Deputy provided a routine update, reminding residents to obey traffic signals, particularly red lights at bus stops, and warning the public about ongoing scams involving individuals falsely claiming that an arrested family member needs money. Residents were reminded that the Sheriff's Office does not request money in this manner and should not send funds in response to such calls.

The Deputy reported that two new officers are currently in their second or third week of field training. No significant incidents or updates were reported.

Councilman Luhring relayed a resident's concern regarding recurring suspected drug activity behind Lucky's near the corner of Main Street and 47th Street. The Deputy acknowledged prior reports and stated that law enforcement is aware of the activity and may have involved the task force. Residents were encouraged to contact law enforcement when suspicious activity is occurring so officers can respond.

No further questions or comments were brought forward.

Public Comments: Marlin Reinardy, a Hampton resident and Planning Commission member, addressed concerns regarding comments made to him by an attorney following a recent public hearing on cannabis regulations. He asked whether Planning Commission members should attend City Council meetings and participate in public discussion after the Commission has made a recommendation.

Mayor Knetter and Council members Luhring and Huddleston expressed support for Planning Commission members attending Council meetings and participating as members of the community. Mayor Knetter stated that he would consult with the City Attorney for clarification.

Madison Richard noted that if a quorum of Planning Commission members attends a City Council meeting, additional public notice may be required to comply with open meeting laws. The City will confirm the requirements with the City Attorney.

Mayor Knetter suggested including notice of potential Planning Commission attendance on the City Council meeting agendas each month to ensure proper notification.

Petitions, Requests, and Communications: Fire Department Relief Association: Mayor Knetter reported that Keith Sande, Secretary/Treasurer of the Randolph-Hampton Fire Department Relief Association, was unable to attend. The item was postponed.

Accessory Structures – Zoning Ordinance Review:

Greenlee Dahle, City Planner with Bolton & Menk, presented a discussion regarding potential amendments to the City's accessory structure regulations. The discussion followed a September 24 Planning Commission meeting concerning a conditional use permit request for an accessory structure that did not meet several existing zoning requirements. The Planning Commission recommended exploring ordinance amendments rather than addressing the request solely through the conditional use permit process.

Staff reviewed accessory structure regulations from five neighboring communities and discussed potential changes related to building materials, design, setbacks, height, number of structures, and allowable square footage.

Council members provided the following general direction:

• Building Materials: Council favored greater flexibility in permitted building materials, including metal products, provided materials are suitable for residential structures. Council did not feel accessory buildings should be required to match the principal structure in color, siding, or design.

• Building Design: Council supported allowing flexibility in accessory building designs rather than requiring buildings to match the appearance, roof pitch, or architectural style of the primary residence.

• Setbacks: Council generally supported maintaining the 10-foot setback requirement, while considering an option to reduce the setback to 5 feet with neighboring property owner approval, provided there are no drainage, utility, or easement conflicts.

• Building Height: Council discussed allowing accessory structures to be no taller than the principal residence, while recognizing that additional flexibility may be necessary for single-story homes with lower rooflines. A maximum height option, potentially 25 feet, was also discussed for further consideration.

• Attached Garages: Council supported excluding attached garages from the maximum accessory structure square footage calculation.

• Allowable Square Footage: Council discussed moving away from the current 1,000-square-foot maximum and considering a tiered or percentage-based approach tied to lot size. Members emphasized the importance of providing greater flexibility for larger residential and rural lots without creating additional nonconforming properties.

• Smaller Structures: The existing exemption for accessory structures under 160 square feet was discussed as something to consider retaining.

Staff indicated that additional review would be completed to develop proposed square footage tiers and evaluate how the changes would affect existing parcels. Staff will also prepare parcel maps illustrating how potential regulations would apply throughout the City.

Council requested that the proposed ordinance amendments be provided in a redline format, showing deleted and proposed language, for easier review.

No formal action was taken. Staff will prepare a draft ordinance amendment for City Council review before proceeding to the Planning Commission for consideration and a public hearing.

Ordinances and Resolutions: None

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees:

Engineer Report – Brad Fisher provided four project updates:

1. Water Tower Project: The project is nearing completion, with the final punch-list item recently addressed. The remaining item is verification of seed growth following reseeding at the water tower site. Any outstanding issues will be covered under the project's two-year warranty. The engineer will provide closeout documents identifying the warranty start and expiration dates. No additional monthly updates or pay applications are anticipated until the project closeout.

2. Highway 50 Project: Fisher reported that the highway hard closure has been reopened, with local access remaining available throughout most of the project area. Assuming construction remains on schedule, additional roadways are expected to begin reopening around the end of October.

3. Dakota County CSAH 47 Reconstruction Project: The County has provided 90% draft plans for the reconstruction project, which is anticipated to begin next year. Fisher attended a utility coordination meeting on behalf of the City. The primary utility involved is the City's sanitary sewer system. Staff is working with the County to verify the length of two existing sanitary sewer stubs to ensure future connections can be made without disturbing the newly constructed roadway. The County may extend the stubs as part of the project if necessary; however, cost responsibility has not yet been determined. Most of the City's previous comments on the 60% plans have been addressed, with remaining comments involving residential drainage, grading, and sanitary manhole standards still under review.

4. Metropolitan Council Infrastructure Survey: Fisher reported that the City participated in the Metropolitan Council's regional assessment of aging infrastructure, which included a survey of Hampton's public drinking water infrastructure. The information will assist with regional infrastructure planning, identifying needs and risks, and establishing potential investment priorities. Participation may also help position the City for future grant and funding opportunities for water system improvements.

No additional questions or concerns were raised.

Water / Sewer Report – Mayor Knetter reported no updates regarding the City's water system.

Regarding the sewer system, improved wastewater sample results were obtained after birds were cleared from the treatment pond. The samples met requirements, and the City is currently discharging. Discharging is expected to continue through the end of October.

Park Report – Russell reported no major park updates. Discussion focused on options for addressing the existing water tower structure in the park and determining whether to restore portions of the original structure or construct a new replica.

Russell reported receiving a quote of approximately $28,000 for a replacement roof structure, including new sheet metal and repainting the existing legs. Additional costs for site preparation, concrete work, and coatings may be necessary. A separate proposal to refurbish the existing roof was also discussed, estimated at approximately $25,000, but concerns were raised regarding the extensive deterioration and numerous holes in the structure.

Council members discussed the importance of preserving the historical significance of the water tower while providing a gathering space for the community. Members expressed interest in retaining portions of the original structure rather than constructing an entirely new replica but emphasized the need for a clearer scope of work and a more detailed cost estimate before making a decision.

Russell agreed to contact the metal fabricator and request a more formal proposal, including project details, pictures or renderings, and available options with associated costs. The item will be brought back to Council for further discussion and direction. No formal action was taken.

Street Report – Councilman Luhring reported that street spray patching has been completed and noted that the work appears to have been done well. Replacement street signs are being ordered for signs that are faded and no longer legible. The City is also scheduled for fall street sweeping.

Russell requested that the hockey rink be included in the street sweeping. The Clerk agreed to contact the contractor to make the request.

Social Media/Website – Huddleston had nothing to report.

Unfinished Business – 1. City Email Use Policy

Anna Yunker presented two versions of the City's proposed email use policy. The only significant difference was whether the wastewater operator would be provided a City email address. Yunker noted that providing email accounts to all employees is a more conservative approach from a records retention and public information standpoint, although either option is acceptable.

Council discussed the need for the wastewater operator to have a City email address due to monthly reporting requirements and regular communication with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Council agreed that providing an additional email license would be appropriate.

A motion was made by Councilman Luhring, seconded by Councilwoman O'Connor, to approve City of Hampton Email Use Policy Version One as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Fence Encroachment – 23480 Main Street

Mayor Knetter provided an update regarding the fence encroachment at 23480 Main Street. The City has made multiple attempts to resolve the issue through correspondence and attorney notifications. A survey was completed to verify property boundaries and locate the applicable property pins, confirm-

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HAMPTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(continued from page 17)

ing that a portion of the fence is located on City-owned property. The neighboring property owner's fence to the east was confirmed to be properly located.

Due to the property owner's lack of cooperation and the length of time the issue has remained unresolved since December of the previous year, Council discussed proceeding with removal of the fence. Concerns were also raised regarding the fence interfering with alley maintenance and snowplowing, creating a potential safety issue.

Mayor Knetter stated that the City would hire a contractor to remove the encroaching fence and that the property owner should be responsible for the associated costs.

A motion was made by Councilman Luhring, seconded by Councilwoman O'Connor, to authorize removal of the fence at 23480 Main Street due to its encroachment onto City property. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business – None.

Adjournment - Motion by Luhring, seconded by O'Connor, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kelly Roan

Randolph Schools Referendum fails

(continued from page 1)

The district was asking for approval of a $450.00 per pupil increase in student funding through the operational levy, which would come to about $390,000.00 each year in additional revenue for a period of ten years. The operational levy request was for operations, which is for day-to-day expenses like utilities, payroll, technology, etc. It was not for additional building. The school board held multiple informational meetings, however attendance was light at those meetings, according to Superintendent Mike Kelley. According to school records, it was the first time the school ever had an operational levy on the ballot. Kelly also commented that with Dakota County taxes anticipating a 18-20% increase (the final county levy amount was not available at press time), the school knew it was a tough ask. State funding for schools has not kept up with the unfunded mandates by the state, which are requirements the school has to meet, but do not receive additional funding from the state funding pool. Randolph has been able to put off any request for additional funding as student numbers had increased after covid due to additional enrollment and funding that allowed the district to keep up. However, in the past few years, enrollment is down some as the classes coming in are not as large as those graduating. Several factors in that trend are students using alternate learning options such as online and homeschooling.

State law allows school districts to levy up to $724 per student without a referendum. Randolph has not met that threshold and is at about $625.00 per student. That amount remains one of the lowest in the area. The school board and Kelley will continue to discuss next steps for the district operations, working to maintain a top notch education for the students while working through the financial challenges.







City of Randolph
Special Council Meeting
September 14, 2026

The special Randolph City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Marie Jacob.

Roll Call

Present were Mayor Marie Jacob, Council Members Tony Price, Randy Ferguson and Keith Sande, Treasurer Sandy Nicolai and Clerk Mary Haro.

Also, in attendance was Kyle Sawyer from Ehlers.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ferguson and seconded by Jacob. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

2027 Budget and Levy

We went through the budget for both the general and water fund. After discussion, Jacob made a motion to approve the 2027 Preliminary Levy at 242,876 (Resolution 26-08), seconded by Haro. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the special meeting was made by Price, seconded by Ferguson. All voting in favor, none opposed, meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Haro

***

City of Randolph
Regular Council Meeting
October 14, 2026

The regular Randolph City Council meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Marie Jacob.

Roll Call

Present were Mayor Marie Jacob, Council Members Tony Price, Randy Ferguson and Keith Sande, Treasurer Sandy Nicolai and Clerk Mary Haro.

Also, in attendance was Bolton & Menk engineer, Matt Blazer and Brian Helgarden.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda with moving the R Bar liquor license up to the first item was made by Sande and seconded by Price. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Public Comments

None.

Minutes

A motion to approve the September 9, 2026 regular council minutes was made by Price and seconded by Sande. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

A motion to approve the September 14, 2026 special council minutes was made by Jacob and seconded by Ferguson. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Approval of Treasurer Report and Payment of Bills

Motion to approve the payment of bills with the deletion of the Braun Intertec invoice of $2,512 and the League of Minnesota Cities in the amount of $440 was made by Jacob, seconded by Price. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

We need to check with our insurance company with the power outage and if we can get reimbursed for the work down at the water tower.

Dakota County Deputy

It was noted about the new school bus law – any flashing lights you must stop. It was asked about scooters and he indicated under 16 they are required to wear a helmet and they must be on the sidewalk unless it is motorized then they must be on the right side of the road.

Old Business

Bolton & Menk Proposal for Services

This is a request to make Bolton & Menk whole with the fees. They have done the project for 12% of the fees and the additional amount is still under 15%. The projected amount is approximately $183,000 which is money that has been incurred but not paid. Mayor Jacob would like to discuss a few items with our legal counsel so we will table this until next month. Brian indicated that he wants us to feel comfortable with our decision so if we need to delay it then that is fine with them. Matt indicated that the original construction contract assumed 61 weeks for a duration of construction that the project was going to take but in reality, it took them 74 weeks.

Locates for Water Lines

Tony asked Matt if we GIS maps for the water lines. A GIS locator could be used. From the valve to the home is most likely plastic and the only way to locate the line from the valve to the home is to send a wire through the tube and that is not commonly done. We could take the GIS location to the meter. We have to be within 2 feet of where it is supposed to be dug. Matt indicated that they have some used units that they might be able to sell or rent to us. It was asked if someone on the council could do the marking or we could hire it out but it was expensive. It was suggested that we do it ourselves. We usually get a couple of days to do the locate. We can purchase a reasonably priced GIS locator and it would locate the sewer and the water. It's better to put paint on the ground than no paint. We need to purchase blue spray paint to have on hand to do the markings. We should also pay at least $25 per locate.

Ordinance Regarding Dead Trees

Greta prepared an ordinance regarding 50% cost share of removing dead trees if it is in the boulevard which is between the sidewalk and the curb, otherwise it is the homeowner's responsibility. This is for any diseases dead tree in the city. Mayor Jacob made a motion to approve Ordinance 26-01 Amending Randolph City Code Section 92.24 Relating to Recovering Costs for Removal or Treatment of Boulevard Diseased Shade Trees, seconded by Ferguson. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Water Tower Funding

Matt noted that they heard from the PFA that we do qualify for PFA funding for the water tower repairs at a cost of $1.575 million.

(continued on page 20)

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- Comply with health and safety codes, including OSHA standards.
- Set up furniture and equipment (tables, chairs, bleachers, risers, etc.) for community use and school events.
- Safely lock up the school building at night.
- Must be able to do physical activity.

Benefits include

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- 12 paid holidays per year.
- PERA – Minnesota Public Employees' Pension Plan.

Application Procedure

Applications are on the School District Website at www.randolph.k12.mn.us OR available in the School District Office.

Send application or resume to:
Michael Kelley, Superintendent
Randolph Public Schools
P.O. Box 38
29101 Dawson Avenue
Randolph, MN 55065

OR send via email to:
kelleym@district195.org
Phone 507-645-4773, ext. 204

RANDOLPH CITY COUNCIL

(continued from page 19)

It is going to be a low interest loan which could be 1 – 2%. It would include redoing the well house – everything inside, the piping, a generator, and also putting in a second well which would be on the same property. This also includes the engineering work and contingencies. By putting in the second well that is what made us meet the threshold for the funding. We need to do the entire project to get this funding. This project would bring everything up to code. If we do a smaller project we would need to do a bond. The term would be for 20 years. He will come with a proposal at our next meeting with all of the different steps. The plans need to be submitted by March of 2027. It will get certified by June and we will bid it and the well house work would be done in 2027 and the new well being drilled by 2028. We need to get that submissible pump installed as soon as possible. We will check with Ehlers regarding a bond in the event we go that route. With this PFA funding, we would need to do an annual audit. We need to take this to the next step and we need to make a decision at the November meeting.

New Business

R Bar Liquor License

Clerk Haro indicated she received the completed application together with a copy of their insurance. Mayor Jacob made a motion to approve the R Bar liquor license, seconded by Price. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Restrooms in City Hall

Sande submitted a proposal for the restoration of the restrooms. The plan is to install two unisex restrooms with everything being replaced and they will be ADA compliant. This includes new locks, new flooring, new paint and one will include a changing table. The faucets will be automatic. The floor will be laid over the current floor. Sellner will do the plumbing and Sande Construction will do the rest. They would also like to install a water softener in the hall as the current water is very hard on the trucks when washing them. The cost will be approximately $1,000 – $2,000. It will be installed in the bay area or in the corner by the door with an enclosure. They would like to start within the next month. They will do one at a time if they can't get it done in a day. Haro made a motion to approve the remodel of the restrooms with the cost of $11,000 plus the water softener, seconded by Ferguson. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Tower Rental Fees

We currently get $250 a month. We should check what other companies get for tower rental. We need to check if we have a contract with them and our legal counsel should review it.

Water Rates for 2027

Table until next month. Let's look at the numbers next month to see if we should increase it. Sandy will run a 5% increase to see what the numbers come to.

Sewer Project

We are 95% done with the earth work. Then they have to lay the pipe and install the liner and that has to be tested. We received a letter regarding stopping work and we responded and then they rescinded their letter. They did hit some rock so they stopped working but wanted some direction of where to get more dirt from. They wanted direction in writing. They should be back to work soon. They are still accountable to the contract. They are questioning the amount of dirt they are moving. We can't move the dirt from where we plan to spray from the ponds. We have to be careful of where we are taking the dirt from. They need to provide the support of why they think there is a difference in price.

It was asked if the lines will be painted on the cement slab in front of the doors at the fire hall before winter or they will have to do it themselves. It will most likely not get done so they will do it but keep track of their time and the expenses to do it.

We can pull back on the Bolton & Menk person watching their work.

Also, Matt noted he discussed with the snowmobile club the strip of land that they use for the trail.

Council Member Reports

Ferguson noted that they are doing repair work on the East West rail line which consists of 137 miles of rails to repair and they are starting in Randolph.

Sande also noted that Otte Excavating will put down more gravel on Divers Path.

Randy and Mary attended the Small Communities Planning Program meeting and plan to reach out to a few citizens to assist with the 2050 Comprehensive Plan. We will pay $25 per meeting.

Clerk Haro asked if she can get paid $75 per trip to obtain and return the election equipment for a total of $150 since she is not an election judge.

Bryce indicated he will be flushing hydrants sometime in the last week of October.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Price, seconded by Ferguson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Haro

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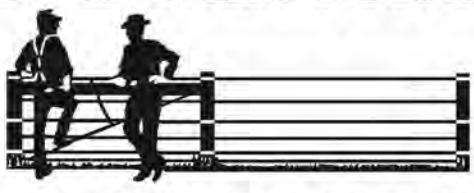
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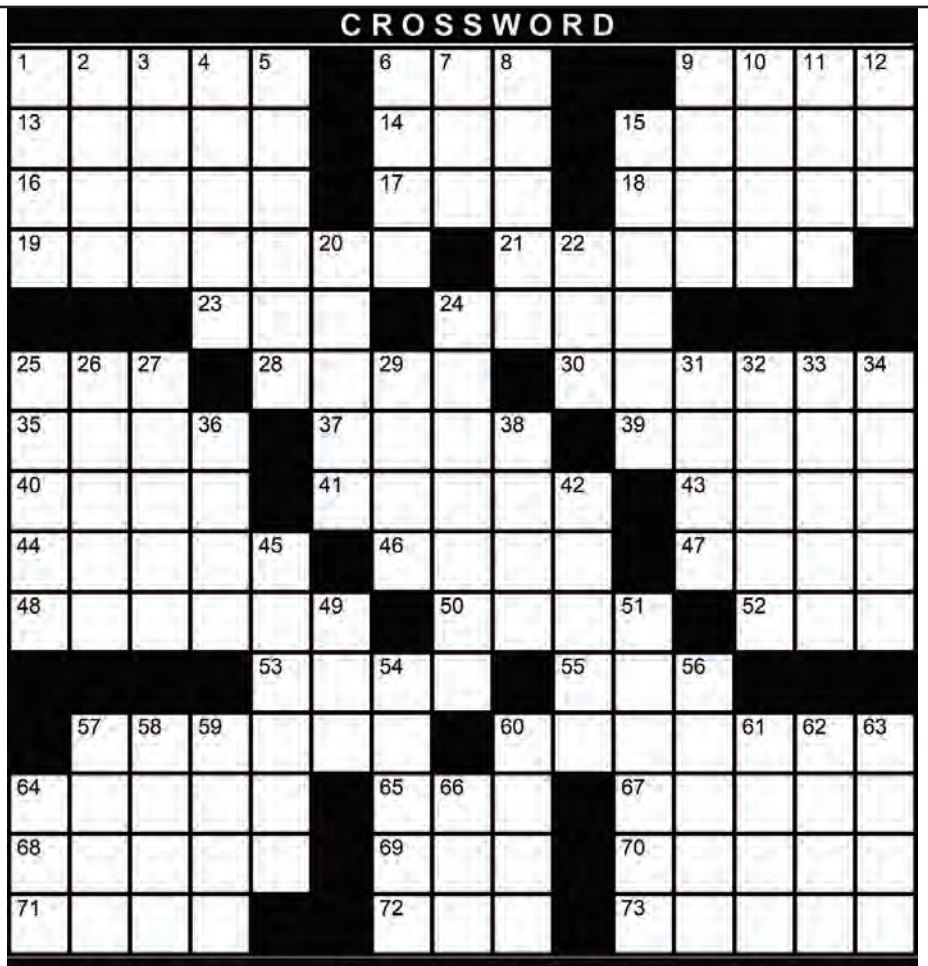
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THEME: HOLIDAY MOVIES

ACROSS
1. "As the World Turns" and such
6. Hundredweight, acr.
9. Notable achievement
13. Keep a threat ____ ____, or away
14. Across, in verse
15. Jiggly dessert
16. Opposite of bow
17. Sch. grp.
18. Kidman's ex
19. *HomeExchange story, with The
21. *Rudolph's father
23. *Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
24. "Dickens!"
25. Quantity, acr.
28. *"Candy ____ Lane" starring Eddie Murphy
30. Opposite of anaerobe
35. Russian mountain range
37. Coxae, sing.
39. Tori, sing.
40. Goals
41. Famous Mac & Cheese manufacturer
43. One of auto pioneers
44. Letter-shaped girder
46. Home to Taj Mahal
47. A la _____, with ice cream
48. Relating to teeth
50. "My bad"
52. Eucharist vessel
53. Multicolored horse
55. NHL court
57. *Bailey of Bedford Falls
60. *Mount ____, Grinch's home
64. Supercharger
65. Ewe's mate
67. Alice Halsey on "Little House on the Prairie"
68. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
69. Knot-tying vow (2 words)
70. Sensory threshold, in psychology
71. Artist's inspiration
72. Bajillion years
73. Guns N' Roses lead guitarist

DOWN
1. "Away to the window I flew like a flash, ... and threw up the ____"
2. "Beetle Bailey" pooch
3. Cain's brother
4. *The McCallisters' travel destination
5. Trustee
6. Printer button
7. *Harry and Marv, a.k.a. the ____ Bandits
8. Pro move
9. Shade-loving plant
10. Hamburg river
11. Winglike
12. Freight weight
15. Official work trip
20. Taken where?
22. South American tuber
24. Six-sided polygon
25. *Cousin Eddie actor
26. Human social group
27. Mandarin's headquarters
29. *Luther Krank's wife
31. Living space
32. Lowest deck
33. *Will Ferrell's famous holiday role
34. English county
36. Future J.D.'s hurdle
38. Like Bob Ross' do
42. Short-trunked ungulate
45. Bone filler
49. Yule treat
51. Type of racing boat, pl.
54. Nest for an eagle
56. Not your grandmother's mail?
57. Spiritual leader
58. Makes a mistake
59. Double reed woodwind
60. Slangy "Follow me!"
61. Cat on a shoe
62. Wraths
63. Hyperbolic tangent
64. _____ o' shanter
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare

SUDOKU ANSWERS

4	3	8	6	7	2	1	5	9
5	7	6	9	4	1	2	3	8
9	1	2	8	5	3	7	4	6
7	4	9	5	2	1	8	6	3
1	2	3	4	6	8	5	9	7
6	8	5	3	9	7	4	2	1
2	6	7	9	1	5	3	8	4
8	5	4	7	3	6	9	1	2
3	9	1	2	8	4	6	7	5



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SUDOKU



4			6					9
			1	4		2		
	1	2		5				
					1		6	3
	2		4		8		9	
6	8		3					
				3		9	1	
		7		1	5			
3					4			5

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