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Merry Christmas

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# PhotoPress

Only good news

Wednesday  
December 23, 2020

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SERVING MARTIN COUNTY PLUS ADJACENT MINNESOTA & IOWA COUNTIES

2020 Martin County & City of Fairmont Legal Newspaper



## Gone but Not Forgotten A true hero

By JUDY BRYAN  
For the Photo Press

The holiday season traditionally is a time to celebrate, to gather with family and friends and share the joy of the season.

Sadly, this also is a time that brings the death of a loved one to the forefront of your thoughts as you

learn to navigate through those first birthdays and holidays after a loss. That empty chair at the table. That phone call you no longer can make when you want to share something that happened. That special Christmas gift or card you will never buy again.

The emptiness is painful, but fortunately the caring can be plentiful.

When Eugene Borchardt of Fairmont died on March 27 at the age of 88, he was one of the first COVID deaths in Minnesota.

"That was before anybody really knew that much about COVID," said Doug Borchardt, one of Gene's five sons. "We didn't really have a grasp on it."

Gene hadn't been feeling well for a few days, and his family finally convinced him to go to the doctor. Doug and Gene's wife, Marilyn, waited in the emergency room for a few hours before an ambulance came to take Gene to the Mankato hospital.

"When he went to the ambulance, that was the last time I ever saw him. He'd been intubated so he couldn't talk. I didn't know it would be the last time I would ever see him, but it was," Doug said.

Gene was in the hospital for nine days before his death. Because of COVID restrictions, Marilyn was unable to visit and neither could Doug and his brothers, Mike, Rick, Mark and

Dan. Updates on his condition were given twice daily via phone call.

"The hospice people there were so good, so sympathetic. We had to have a conference call with the brothers and the hospice team. We had to decide to let him go," Doug said.

Because of their exposure to Gene, Doug and Marilyn were under quarantine at the time of his death. Unable to leave his home, Doug was grateful when one night active and retired members of the Fairmont Fire Department showed up to offer their support. Doug had retired in 2017 after 20 years of service in the department, a department he calls his second family.

"You can't replace the friends you grew up with, but some of the best friends I've got in the world, I met at the fire department," he said.

At the time the firefighters paid their socially-distanced visit, Doug was experiencing COVID symptoms.

"It hit me bad. I was in the hospital on Friday, April 3, until April 7, five days," Doug said.

He would talk to his doctor on video and had to turn away when medical staff entered his room.

"They were learning (about COVID) too, but it was amazing what those health care workers, the doctors, the nurses, even the volunteers, did for me. Everyone was so great," Doug said. "All the employees, they are the real heroes in all of this, if you ask me."

Under quarantine, Doug was unable to attend his father's private family funeral service so he watched in on his computer at home. A larger celebration of Gene's life is still in the future, after restrictions on gathering size are lifted.

"I was actually in quarantine for five weeks, from the time I took dad in until the time I was cleared," Doug said. "You can't go anywhere. the only place I could go was my yard. The only time you can leave

your house is to go to the doctor. I adhered to that.

"The first thing I did when I got out of quarantine is go to the cemetery, but I still don't have closure. That's why we want to have a good sendoff for Dad, where we can get together and hug each other."

Gene's death left a tremendous void in his family, a hollowness much like that faced by other families who have lost a loved one.

"Family was so important to him. It was the most important thing in his life," Doug said.

When Gene's first wife, Ardis, died in 1984, he helped his children cope with the loss. When he married Marilyn Sweet in 1985, he welcomed her son, Bryan and Mary, into the family.

"A long time ago, he started doing 'Sunday Afternoons With Gene.' Every Sunday, afternoon, he'd send out an email to

Continued on page 3





## Students of the Month

Early Risers Kiwanis, Hy-Vee and Fairmont Jr./ Sr. High School recognize the following Fairmont Jr./ Sr. High School students as November Students of the Month.

Student and families recently participated in a Zoom recognition and will receive a certificate

and gift card.

The 7th through 12th grade students include Isaac Stone, Sylvia Oberbeck, Caleb Stibbe, Ha-leigh Grotzinger, Isaac Sheard, Alexa Bush, Prince Lebby, Chantel Moeller, Jacob Crissinger, Justine Eisenmenger, Kainen Craig and Aeryn Martius.

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**CHOPPER** is a long haired black adult cat with personality plus. Super friendly, super loving, playful and cuddly.

**CHRISTMAS WISH LIST:** Purina dry pet food, bleach, laundry detergent, small Milkbone dog treats, soft dog treats, durable dog and cat toys, Dawn dishwashing soap, copy paper, tall kitchen garbage bags.

To see pictures and descriptions of the animals we have available for adoption, visit: [www.pawprints.petfinder.com](http://www.pawprints.petfinder.com)

**\*\* Volunteers wanted and needed! Stop by the shelter during our open hours to find out how YOU can help the animals! For a complete listing of animals available for adoption, visit: [www.pawprints.petfinder.com](http://www.pawprints.petfinder.com).**



**THE FAIRMONT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Ambassadors Committee recently held two ribbon cutting ceremonies ribbon cuttings: at Fairmont Roofing LLC, 77 Downtown Plaza and Exit Realty, recently moving to 400 S. State St., Suite 330 in the Five Lakes Centre mall.**

**Fairmont Roofing recently announced several awards: Ben Janike was named Rookie of the Year as a first year salesman for our Folie Roofing branch out of Waseca. Zach Johnston was named MVP. Zach is the operations manager for all four branches of Fairmont Roofing: Fairmont Roofing, Folie Roofing, Becker Roofing, and Hayward Roofing, Wisconsin. Zach is based out of our main office in Fairmont. Dylan Herman is the company's Million Dollar Producer. He finished this season with over \$1,000,000 in sales out of our Fairmont location. Jason Folie of Folie Roofing was named a Million Dollar Producer. Jason finished this season with over \$1,000,000 in sales out of the Waseca location.**

## Lighting Contest winners

The Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of its Christmas Lighting Contest. Winners are:

- #1 - 609 Washington - Jeremy Scheff
- #2 - 504 Canyon Dr. -

- Mark Fenlon #3 - 979 S. Prairie Ave.
  - Ashley Scheevel #4 - 1610 Knollwood
  - Betty Jones
- Winners received Chamber Gift Certificates. The grand prize winner received \$150, 2nd place \$75, 3rd place \$50 and 4th place, \$25.



**35 YEARS - Richard's Auto Repair & Towing of Fairmont recently received an award from AAA for 35 years as a AAA service provider. Richard and Betty Wiederhoeft are owners of the business. The plaque reads "In appreciation of 35 Year Anniversary of Dedicated Service to AAA Members From July 1995 to July 2020." (Submitted photo)**



**SANTA and his helpers made an appearance at the Fairmont Bomgaars store to get your Christmas lists and he also passed out candy canes.**



When I get sad, I STOP being sad and

# BE AWESOME INSTEAD

- Barney Stinson (Character on How I Met Your Mother)

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Subscription: \$42/1 year; \$24/6 months

First Congregational UCC in downtown Fairmont is hosting another **free community meal drive-through** on Wednesday, December 30th, starting at 5:30 p.m. The menu includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and bars. Come to the alley behind the church. All are welcome and invited. The meal is sponsored by the church council.

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## Continued from page 1

the family and let us know what was going on with him. Then we'd all respond back with what was going on in our lives. He loved that," Doug said.

The family plans to continue "Sunday Afternoons With Gene" as well as "Boys Night Out," a monthly event where Gene, his sons, his stepson and a nephew would gather.

"It's kind of hard right now, with everything closed, but we're going to keep that going too," Doug said.

Gene was well known throughout the area through his 40 years of employment and eventual ownership of Glenn Reed Tire in Fairmont, but he was also a familiar face at funerals of local veterans. A Korean War vet, he became a life member of Lee C. Prentice American Legion Post 36 in Fairmont where he proudly served as chaplain.

"He did over 500 funerals for the Legion," Doug said. "He would present the flag to the families. He kept track of all the funerals he did, and he loved doing that."

"That's why we're waiting to have another funeral for him. We want him to have the full military funeral that he deserves. Hopefully some time next year, we can give him the send off that we want to give him."

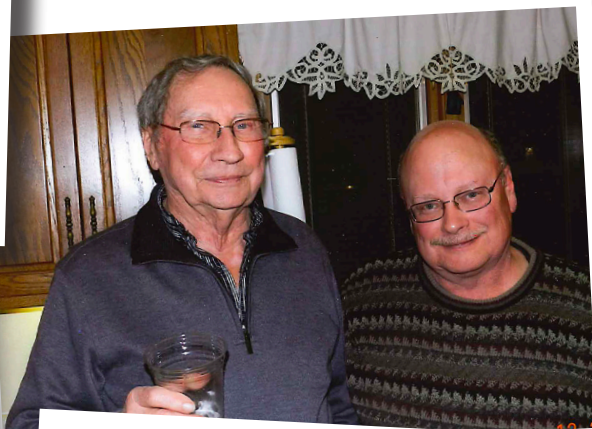
The Borchardt family is not alone. Gathering restrictions have resulted in many other families having to postpone customary large funeral services.

These safety limitations also translate into a different type of holiday season, one without extensive gatherings of family and friends.

"Being together and hugging helps with the closure, and we haven't been able to do that," Doug said.

As he looks through numerous family photographs showing love and laughter in happier times, Doug reflects on the positive aspects embedded in the sadness.

"We're so lucky to live in a town like Fairmont," he said. "We've had so much support, it was unbelievable. That's the silver lining in all this. The support you have. The friends you have when you live in a small town like this."



# Merry Christmas

May the songs of joy fill your home with warmth and your heart with happiness this holiday season!



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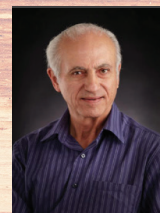
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Nick



Jody



Mike



Kris



Allison



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**NAMES AND TITLES OF JESUS - WORD SEARCH!**

Last weeks puzzle winners Sun Cha Borchardt and Laraine & Harlan Gorath will receive \$25 Chamber Bucks from Gethmann Family Dentistry, and \$125 sitting Fee from Seifried Portrait Design goes to Connie Pygman.

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Indescribable Gift

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King of Kings  
Lamb of God  
Light of the World  
Lord of All  
Mediator  
Messiah  
Mighty One

Our Hope  
Peace  
Profet  
Redeemer  
Risen Lord  
Rock  
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The Door  
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Truth  
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# Christmas Services



## **EAST CHAIN EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**

507 280th Avenue, Granada, MN  
2 1/2 miles east of East Chain  
Lead Pastor - Eric Hoehn  
Youth Pastor - Alex Andrews  
Children's Ministry Director - Linda Gorackowski  
**Christmas Eve:** 4:30 pm Candlelight Service

## **FAIRMONT EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH**

901 Woodland Ave. Fairmont, MN  
507-235-6407  
**Christmas Eve:** 5:00 pm Candle Light Service  
Also can be seen live on our Facebook page: Fairmont Evangelical Covenant Church  
YouTube: Fairmont Evangelical Covenant Church

## **GOOD SHEPHERD**

311 N Sverdrup Ave, Jackson, MN  
**Christmas Eve:** 6:00 pm  
**Christmas Day:** 8:30 am at St. Joseph in Lakefield.

## **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH/ELCA**

Grace Lutheran Church website at [gracelutheran-church.org](http://gracelutheran-church.org) or call the church office at 507-238-4418 for December worship times including Christmas services. December worship information and worship videos can be found on Facebook at Fairmont Grace Lutheran Church and YouTube at Fairmont Grace Lutheran Church 300 S Grant.

## **HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH**

2481 50th Street, Fairmont (located in East Chain)  
Father Andrew Beerman Father Gregory Parrott  
**Christmas Eve:** 7:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass  
**Christmas Day:** 8:00 am Mass at Solemnity of Mary: Mother of God  
**December 31:** 5:30 pm Vigil Mass  
Due to Covid-19 guidelines, those wishing to attend Mass must make a reservation by calling the parish office 235-5535. Masks are required.

## **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**

1200 N. North Avenue, Fairmont  
507-238-1387  
**Must call or go to our website & register to attend!**  
[www.immanuel-fairmont.org](http://www.immanuel-fairmont.org)  
Covid-19 protocols will be in place.  
**Christmas Eve:** Contemporary Service 3:00 pm  
Candlelight Service 7:00 pm  
**Christmas Day:** Festival Service 9:00 am  
**Dec 27:** Christmas Matins 8:00 am & 10:30 am  
**New Year's Eve:** 5:00pm (with Communion)



## **REGIONAL WORSHIP CENTER**

2 Crossroads, Sherburn, MN  
507-764-7491  
**December 20:** 10:00 am Christmas Service  
**Christmas Eve:** 5:00 pm Communion

## **ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**

108 James St, Northrop & Zion Frasier  
1623 170th St., Fairmont Pastor John Henry III  
**December 16:** 9:00 am and 7:00 pm St. James Lutheran School Children's Christmas Program  
**Christmas Eve:** 4PM Zion Children's Sunday School Program, 7:00 pm St James Lutheran Children's Sunday School Program, 10:00 pm Zion Candlelight Divine Service  
**Christmas Day:** 10:00 am St James Lutheran Divine Service  
**New Year's Eve:** 7:00 pm St James Lutheran Divine Service  
**New Year's Day:** NO SERVICES

## **ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

301 N Main St, Fairmont MN  
507-235-3500 Richard W. Abel, Pastor  
Check our Facebook page: St. John's UCC Fairmont MN for notices regarding our December services.

## **ST. JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH**

901 S Prairie Ave, Fairmont  
Father Andrew Beerman Father Gregory Parrott  
**Christmas Eve:** 4:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass, 10:00 pm Mass  
**Christmas Day:** 10:00 am Mass Solemnity of Mary: Mother of God  
**New Year's Day:** 9:00 am  
Due to Covid-19 guidelines, those wishing to attend Mass must make a reservation by calling the parish office (235-5535) or by going to our website [www.sjvhf.org](http://www.sjvhf.org). Masks are required.

## **ST. LUKE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

307 S. Lake St. Sherburn, MN  
**Christmas Eve:** 4:00 pm

## **ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

211 Budd Street, Fairmont, MN  
Rev. Thomas E. Fast Rev. Anthony T. Bertram  
**Christmas Eve:** 4:30 & 6:30 pm  
**Christmas Day:** 9:00 am  
**New Year's Eve:** 6:30 pm  
\*CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY NOTE: \*Limited seating; advance in-person sign-up required. Deadline: December 20th or when capacity is reached

## **BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**

1125 S. State St. Fairmont, MN  
**Christmas Eve:** Services 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm  
3:00 pm Service will be live streamed and can be accessed at [www.bethelfc.org](http://www.bethelfc.org)  
**Christmas Day:** NO SERVICES



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**PhotoPress**  
Only good news

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year!  
From all of us at the Photo Press





**Richard K. Larson, 89**

Private family services for Richard K. Larson, 89, of Fairmont, MN, formerly of Welcome, MN, will be held at the Lakeview Funeral Home in Fairmont. Burial with full military honors by the Welcome American Legion Post #553 will be

held in Welcome City Cemetery in Welcome, MN. Richard passed away Tuesday evening, December 15, 2020, at Goldfinch Memory Care in Fairmont, MN. The Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Fairmont is assisting the family with arrangements. Memorials are preferred to the American Heart Association or to Alzheimer's Association.

Richard Keith Larson was born on August 8, 1931, in Welcome, MN. He was the son of Orval Sr. and Esther (Ekstrand) Larson. Richard attended Trimont public schools and graduated from Trimont High School in 1949.

On December 27, 1952, Richard was united in marriage to Flo-

rene Minick in Fairmont, MN. The couple resided in Welcome where they raised eight children, Pamela, Keith, Brian, John, Laurie, Thomas, Curtis, and Richelle.

Richard enlisted in the Navy and served in Lakehurst, NJ, and San Diego, CA where he taught the Naval aviator pilots how to roll out of their Grumman F9F Panther cockpits if there was an emergency while on the ground. He also did survival training with the pilots in the mountains of Warner Springs, CA, before earning his honorable discharge after four years of service. After returning from the service, Richard farmed north of Welcome as well as owning and operating Larson Custom Cabinets until his retirement in 1996.

Richard and Florene shared nearly sixty-eight years together.

Richard was a member of the Welcome American Legion Post #553. During his free time, he enjoyed riding his motorcycle, woodworking, working on crafts and attending numerous craft shows where he would sell his creations. Richard managed to stay busy after retirement with his craft work as well as helping his son-in-law on the farm. When dad was on the farm and out in the field cultivating corn (June 1963) he remembered a verse that his mother had hanging on the wall in her sewing room. It was, I Timothy 1:15. He realized that it was telling him that the fact that Christ Jesus came into the world to

save sinners was a faithful saying that was worthy of his acceptance. With that he also took in Romans 5:6 that he was without God and thus unGodly for whom Christ died. At that moment he accepted the Lord as his personal Saviour.

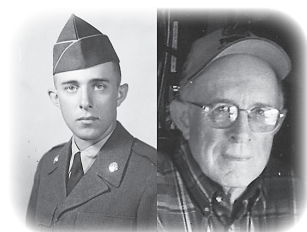
Left to cherish his memory include his wife, Florene Larson of Fairmont, MN; children, Pamela (Garett) Jagodzinske of Welcome, MN, Keith (Jolene) Larson of Glenwood, MN, Brian Larson of Monticello, MN, John (Mary) Larson of Welcome, MN, Laurie (Tony) Truesdell of Sherburn, MN, Thomas (Joey) Larson of Greenfield, MN, Curtis (Terie Ann) Larson of Fairmont, MN, and Richelle (Darin) Moore of Phoenix, AZ; 18 grandchildren; 22 great

grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild; brother, Orval (Joyce) Larson Jr. of St. James, MN; sister-in-law, Truma (Merlin) Rasmussen of Sauk Centre, MN; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Along with his parents Orval Sr. and Esther Larson, Richard was preceded in death by his parents-in-law, Ralph and Laura Minick; brothers, Glenn (Italina) Larson, and Dale (Audrey) Larson; and brother-in-law, Donald (Peggy) Minick.

The family of Richard would like to thank everyone at Goldfinch Estates Memory Care for their exceptional professional and loving care during his time in their care.

[lakeviewfuneralhome.net](http://lakeviewfuneralhome.net)



**Gene W. Wright, 86**

Services for Gene W. Wright, age 86, of Fairmont, MN, will be held at a later date. Gene passed away on Friday afternoon, December 18,

2020, at Goldfinch Memory Care in Fairmont. The Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Fairmont is assisting the family with arrangements.

Gene Wesley Wright was born on July 26, 1934, in St. James, MN. He was the son of Rupert L. and Helen (Hahn) Wright. He attended Fairmont public schools and graduated from Fairmont High School in 1954. Af-

ter graduating from high school, Gene enlisted in the Army in 1955. He earned his honorable discharge in 1957.

On August 30, 1957, Gene was united in marriage to Audrey Zimmerman in Cambridge, MN. Within a few months, the couple moved to Fairmont where they spent their lives farming. Gene and Audrey were blessed with three children, Lori, David, and Ken and

shared over sixty-three years together.

Gene was a member of the Schwieger-Kahler American Legion Post #422 in Northrop, MN, the Interlaken Golf Club in Fairmont, and longtime member of the Truman Gun Club. During his free time, Gene enjoyed golfing and wintering in Florida and Arizona. He most loved going for a drive with Audrey as well as the time he was

able to spend with his family.

Left to cherish his memory include his wife, Audrey Wright of Fairmont, MN; daughter, Lori (Rick) Flatgard of Rushmore, MN; sons, David (Shannon) Wright of Blaine, MN, and Ken (Kari) Wright of Prior Lake, MN; six grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; brothers, Rupert Wright, and Gary (Lana) Wright; sisters,

Ardis Nutt, Joyce Jerome, and Bonnie Johnson; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Along with his parents Rupert and Helen Wright, Gene was preceded in death by his brothers-in-law, Don Nutt, Don Jerome, and Mark Johnson; and sister-in-law, Mary (Gaworski) Wright.

[lakeviewfuneralhome.net](http://lakeviewfuneralhome.net)

## Speaking of Health

# WHY I WORK HERE

A friendly voice on the phone or a smiling face when you arrive to an appointment makes a difference. Fortunately, we have exceptional staff, like Jodi, who are focused on providing positive experiences every day.



“My calling is to assist others. There are many ways of assistance, from answering phones to scheduling appointments and connecting video visits. Assistance also is saying hello to others in the hall to brighten their day and make everyone feel welcome. The feeling of helping others and offering my assistance makes my day and makes me feel useful! A simple, genuine smile goes a long way.”

-Jodi Graplar, Scheduling Operations



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[mayoclinichealthsystem.org](http://mayoclinichealthsystem.org)  
800 Medical Center Drive, Fairmont, MN 56031

## CER, CREST join forces on Project “Keep In Touch”

How are you doing with staying home and staying safe from the virus? If we truly do that, we are safer, but end up being isolated from family and friends. It

can be pretty boring, rattling around your home by yourself all day, for many days. You can only straighten the cupboards and polish the silverware so many times, right? Fairmont Community Education and Recreation (CER) and CREST have seen this boredom hap-

pening in Martin County and have worked together to create a plan to help.

CER and CREST will coordinate production of a free monthly Senior Citizen activity newsletter called “Keep In Touch.” The content may vary each month but will include such topics as mind teasers, healthy living tips, recipes to cook for one or two, suggestions & instructions to view virtual tours on the internet, how to find videos of do-it-yourself (DIY) projects and information on other resources you may need. The first issue of “Keep In Touch” will be out near the end of December or early January and distributed through channels such as church newsletters and other networking groups in Martin County.

Watch for “Keep In Touch.” Enjoy the activities. Share a copy with a friend or neighbor. If you have suggestions, ideas, or subjects you would like to have included in this monthly news, please feel free to share your ideas with CER or CREST, two organizations working together to make life better for individuals in our county. For more information, contact Fairmont CER at 507-235-3141 or CREST at 507-235-3833.

## DEATH notices



December 15 - Richard K. Larson, 89, Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral and Cremation Service  
December 16 - Janice M. Newville, 73, Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral and Cremation Service  
December 18 - Grace W. Wright, 86, Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral and Cremation Service  
December 18 - Marilyn P. Hager, 79, Ormsby (formerly of Sherburn). Kramer Funeral Service  
December 18 - Brian D. Orr, 53, Alpha. Kramer Funeral Service

### IN MEMORIAM - ONE YEAR AGO

December 19 - Catherine M. Kasper, 98, Fairmont.



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Jeff and his sisters Larissa Hillmer, left, and Angie Leiding

## Christmas Greetings

Jeff Hagen article for Photo Press

December 23, 2020

Greetings to all the Photo Press readers! It has been quite a while since I have written down anything in an article form, so when Sandy asked if I would like to write a column for Christmas, I jumped at the chance!

What a year 2020 has been! I started my new path in life the beginning of March and immediately after I began, our state got shut down because of the "pandemic". It was an interesting way for me to begin the learning process of serving St. John's Lutheran Church in Sherburne - especially since we were unable to worship in-person for many weeks back then. Pastor Wilson and I quickly began the learning process of how to record a short message to our members, then moved to doing bible devotions and even Sunday school lessons in recorded messages that were put on our website and on Facebook. A few weeks into the lockdown, we decided to try and record an entire worship service that could be played on YouTube, so we could bring some sense of "normal" to our members. That was definitely an interesting experience for myself, Pastor Wilson and our church secretary Kathy! Finally in June we were able to open up to in-person worship, with limited capacity and observing many regulations for safety reasons. Seeing that COVID was going to last longer than we expected, our church leaders accelerated a move to installing equipment and training people so that we could incorpo-

rate graphics on big-screen televisions in our sanctuary and eventually we began live-streaming our worship services online so that those who were unable to come to church or those who chose to remain home out of concern for their own health. Now here

we are at Christmas 2020 and things really haven't changed a whole lot. Needless to say, your church leaders are experiencing as much concern, stress and frustration as many of you are!!

Christmas is different for many of us this year, when it comes to family get-togethers and activities, but one part of Christmas remains the same for all of us. The birth of Christ Jesus, our Savior, is not affected by COVID, and is the reason we put aside our worries, our frustrations and our differences at Christmas so we can focus on the true meaning of this time of year. In my seminary studies at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, my class is studying the book of Luke this quarter and the last two weeks we have been studying the Infancy Narrative of the birth of Jesus and the significance this event has on all our lives, past - present - and future. The best gift anyone could ever receive was given to us by God.

This time of year it is so easy to get wrapped up in all the commercials and promotions saying that "you just have to

buy this" or "there is no better gift for your wife (or husband) than ..." We spend more time trying to figure out what to get as gifts rather than realizing that we have the gift of each other to spend our days with and we have God to thank for giving us what we have. If nothing better has come from the past 9 months, hopefully it has given us a greater appreciation of the importance of the ones we love and how enjoyable it can be if we spend less time caught up in hustle and bustle of our daily lives (pre-COVID) and spend more time enjoying the company of our own family.

If you are ever in Sherburne, stop by and say "Hi" at St. John's Lutheran - my office is always open! May you and your loved ones find the true spirit of Christmas in your hearts - and in your

daily life this year. Here's to a much happier - and healthier new year!!

Jeff

### We're All Geared Up to

*Wish You a Merry Christmas*

As we approach the finish line of 2020, we also want to thank the many kind folks who have helped us stay on track this year.



Your support means the world to us, and we look forward to seeing more of you in 2021.

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*Merry Christmas*  
to all our loyal customers & friends

~ Sara, Kelsey, Velma, Katie, Amber & Faith ~  
We look forward to serving you in 2021

**OPEN WED., DEC. 23 TIL 5:30PM**  
**OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE TIL NOON**  
**CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY**

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## Schmeeckle Foundation awards \$65,514

The Schmeeckle Foundation recently approved grants totaling \$65,514 for community enhancement projects in Martin County, Minnesota.

These grants support the Schmeeckle Foundation's three core focus areas: early childhood care and education, serving the disabled and elderly, and promoting the arts. The Schmeeckle Foundation

is a private family foundation serving Martin County, Minnesota. Its mission is to carry on the legacy of long-time Martin County resident, Juanita Ellen (Teubner) Schmeeckle, to provide grants for the betterment of Martin County.

"The Schmeeckle Foundation Grants are designed to support projects which are innovative, involve collaboration, and achieve sustainable, measurable results," say the Schmeeckle Foundation Trustees. Grants are reviewed by the

four trustees with assistance from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. Grants are awarded based on their likelihood to create measurable change within the Foundation's three core focus areas. This round of grantees includes:

• \$26,200 to the Fairmont Opera House for Livestreaming Equipment.

• \$15,000 to Goldfinch Estates Senior Living Community LLC for their project "Heroic Caregivers Need Our Help."

• \$1,500 to Parent to Parent.

• \$5,000 to The Arc Minnesota, Inc. for Online Job Board and Employment Services.

• \$5,000 to The Shepherd's In for Don't Give Up, Suicide Prevention and Awareness Campaign.

Applications for the next grant period are due April 30, 2021.

For details on applying for a Schmeeckle Foundation Grant, or to learn about our trustees, please visit our website at [schmeecklefoundation.org](http://schmeecklefoundation.org).

## Ruby's Pantry coming to East Chain

Ruby's Pantry will have a food distribution in East Chain, Minnesota on Saturday, December 26th from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the East Chain Evangelical Free Church, located at 507 280th Avenue. This will be conducted in a drive thru procedure and you will not have to get out of your car. You are also asked to clean out the trunk of your vehicle before you come.

There are no income or residency guidelines. Ruby's Pantry is funded by the \$20 cash donation per participant for operational

costs. Please bring two large boxes or laundry baskets for food. They receive an abundance of food.

Ruby's Pantry continues to serve rural communities with donated surplus food and goods to fight hunger and disease. It provides large quantities of food for distributions directly to families in 77 rural communities covering Minnesota and Wisconsin and distributes food to over 500,000 people per year. For more information please see their website at [www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org), email [goodnews@rubyspantry.org](mailto:goodnews@rubyspantry.org) or call 507-236-4653.

## Rosen receives CGMC Rural Leadership Award

State Sen. Julie Rosen has been honored with the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities' Rural Leadership Award for her efforts to help advance CGMC priorities and other issues that are important to Greater Minnesota communities during the preceding legislative sessions.

This spring, Sen. Rosen, a Republican from Fairmont who currently is serving her fifth term in the Minnesota Senate, led

the fight to ensure that all cities received a fair share of the funds that the state received through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

As chair of the Senate Finance Committee, she worked closely with city leaders and her colleagues in the Legislature to develop a plan to distribute CARES Act funding equitably across the state. Throughout negotiations, she continued to advocate for Greater Minnesota cities and made sure that rural voices were a key part of the discussion.

CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing more than 100 cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Coalition educates legislators about issues important to Greater Minnesota.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS Save Now Through New Year's Eve!

<p><b>\$37<sup>99</sup></b> 1.75 Ltr</p> <p><b>PENDLETON</b> WHISKY</p> <p>Regularly \$46.99</p> 	<p>Gallo All Varieties</p> <p><b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 1.5 Ltr</p> 	<p>Pinnacle Vodka</p> <p><b>\$17<sup>99</sup></b> 1.75 Ltr</p> 	<p>Luccio Moscato D'Asti, Berry, Luscious Red &amp; Prosecco</p> <p><b>\$8<sup>99</sup></b> 750 mL</p> 
<p>André Cold Duck, Spumanté Extra Dry and Brut</p> <p><b>\$5<sup>99</sup></b></p> 	<p>Mothers Holiday Nog &amp; Christian Bros Holiday Nog</p> <p><b>\$9<sup>99</sup></b> 750 mL</p> 	<p>Many Gift Packs to Choose From!</p> 	<p>Coors Lite, Miller Lite, Mich Golden &amp; Bud Family</p> <p><b>\$20<sup>99</sup></b> 24pk can 12 oz.</p> 

Many other specials throughout the store to celebrate the holidays!

*Thank You* for your patronage throughout the year. We look forward to serving you in 2021!

Holiday Hours: Christmas Eve 9am - 4:30pm New Year's Eve 9am - 9pm  
CLOSED Christmas Day & New Year's Day

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**Merry Christmas**  
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**Merry Christmas!**

Thanks to all our loyal customers and friends for your continued patronage.

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## Welding classes begin January 9th in Fairmont

Interested in preparing for a skilled job in welding? The Fairmont Area Schools Welding Academy is offering a quality learning experience with a 60-hour welding course to teach

essential welding skills beginning Saturday, January 9th, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Under the direction of instructor Bob Bonin, participants will develop skills in the flat position, horizontal position, vertical position and some overhead positions as well as perform groove weld joints and some pipe joints.

Following district and

state health safety protocols, face masks will be required with a maximum enrollment of 15 participants. The class is open to both youth in Grades 9-12 and adults. Waiting lists and other options will be made available as class fills. A specially developed curriculum with ZOOM will be used in case of inclement weather concerns.

High school students should contact Bob Bonin at [bbonin@fairmont.k12.mn.us](mailto:bbonin@fairmont.k12.mn.us) for enrollment information.

Adults may register through Fairmont Community Education and Recreation at [www.fairmontareaschools.com](http://www.fairmontareaschools.com) (under CER) or call 507-235-3141 for information. Fee for adults is \$300. Payment with MC/Visa accepted.

*Happy Holidays to all our customers & friends. We look forward to serving you in the new year!*



330 South Central Avenue  
Truman, MN  
**507.776.5221**

## MSU Mankato graduates

Minnesota State University, Mankato awarded 1,796 degrees to 1,753 students at the end of the fall 2020 semester, with this fall's graduates celebrated through a special website with commencement videos. Saturday, December 12th, was the day on which the University's three traditional graduation ceremonies were scheduled

but cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each graduate will receive "commencement-in-a-box" packages shipped to their homes. Included in each box are printed commencement programs, a diploma holder and a few gifts to honor each graduate.

Those graduating from our area include:

### Dunnell

Jennifer Clow, MS, Spec Ed: Emotional Be-

### Fairmont

Leah Jorgenson, MS, Spec Ed: Learning Disabilities

Sarah Kluver, BS, Accounting

Tod Parks, BS, Management, Cum Laude

Megan Schwab, BS, Psychology

### Trimont, MN

Corrin Ballard, AA, Liberal Studies

### Welcome

Jamee LaRow, BS, Applied Organizational Studies



**Sending a flurry of well wishes your way at Christmastime and always!**

*To all of our valued customers,  
we look forward to working with you in the new year.*

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**CONSUELO (CONNIE) PYGMAN** of Fairmont was winner of the December 2nd Photo Press Christmas Songs Word Search. Connie won a \$125 gift certificate from Seifried Portrait Design in downtown Fairmont.

*Season's Greetings*

TO ALL OUR LOYAL CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS.  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!

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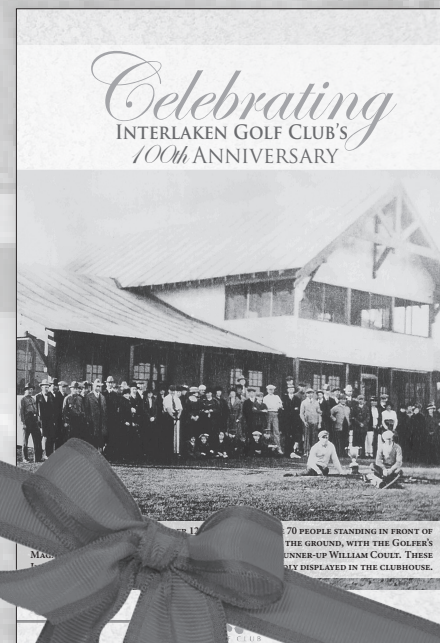
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fill your Hearts & Homes with  
Love, Happiness & Peace!



Thanks to out Many Valued Customers & Friends. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

Thank you to all our customers & friends.



We look forward to serving you in the New Year.

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



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*Wishing You All the Blessings*  
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1950 Center Creek Drive, Suite 200, Fairmont, MN

Mon-Wed: 8:00am -5:00pm, Thursday: 1:00p.m.-8:00pm, Fri: 8:00 am-12:00pm



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

May the happiness and prosperity of this Holiday Season reign in each of your homes. Thanks to all my customers and loyal friends!



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**REALTOR**  
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## TASTE, SIGHT, OR SMELL

**Guest Columnist**

**Darwin Anthony, Business Owner, Artist, Writer**



Anyone who is Scandinavian or married into a Scandinavian family has faced it. The first TASTE, SIGHT OR SMELL of lutefisk is a remembered event. Sometimes the first taste is enough to ward off any future tries. Even the smell in the kitchen sometimes does the trick. However, there are those who seem to enjoy what others despise. Man were brought up with lutefisk being "a special Christ-

mas meal". Others, like me, have learned to eat it. This has been done by gaining an appreciation for the TASTE, SIGHT, OR SMELL of something so many others enjoy.

My last experience with lutefisk will always be a memorable one. We have attended the St. Olaf College Christmas Concert for thirty-five years. The college has a true Norwegian background that goes back to its very beginning. It is for this reason that they continue to serve a true Norwegian buffet each year. It is served from two places, the student cafeteria or

a separate dining area called the "King's Room". We usually eat in the student dining area. However, the large room is usually very crowded so it is hard to find seating for our rather large group. It is also noisy and hard for some to hear the sometimes soft conversation.

It is only in the last few years that we have eaten in the "King's Room." The room contains many large round tables that are covered with white tablecloths with a beautiful seasonal arrangement at the center. Each is set up with high-stem glasses, polished silverware, and

white cloth napkins. Being seated at a round table allows for quiet conversation. The buffet is always set up in a serving line which offers an attractive and systematic manner of serving. You just help yourself! It is interesting to listen to those who are serving themselves and trying lutefisk for the first time.

Our group went through the buffet with the hope of once again enjoying the taste of the Scandinavian delicacies. We returned to the table and started eating. Then it happened! Those who took both lutefisk and red cabbage were shocked by what they saw happening. The lutefisk on their plates started to change color. We decided that the chemicals in two of the foods were in conflict. The vinegar of the red cabbage and the lye of the lutefisk had a chemical reaction. The lutefisk on each plate turned from white to mint green. Looking down and seeing this change was something unbelievable. Gone was the worry of TASTE OR SMELL. It was now the SIGHT that was in question.

Written by  
Darwin Anthony

You could give your people  
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From Our Culligan Family to Yours

**We will be open on Christmas Eve until noon and closed Christmas Day & New Year's Day** so our employees can enjoy the holidays with family.

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*Merry Christmas!*

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Peace on Earth

Best wishes for a  
wonderful holiday season and a  
new year filled with peace and happiness.

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from Doolittle's

Wishing you all the best during the Holiday Season. Thank you to all our loyal customers and friends. We look forward to serving you in the New Year! Closed Christmas Eve Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> so we may spend time with our families.

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## 25 YEARS AGO IN THE PHOTO PRESS

December 20, 1995

Luther College freshman Trynda Obert of Fairmont was selected as a member of Collegium Musicum, the college's madrigal choir. The choir performs music of the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Baroque periods. The performers wore 16th century costumes. Obert is the daughter of Donald and Janice Obert of Fairmont.

Vikings cheerleaders Carrie and Faithe were at the NAPA Auto Parts store signing autographs and selling Vikings calendars and meeting and greeting the public.

The Fairmont School District in conjunction with the Fairmont Youth Hockey Association, was to host the first Girls' High School hockey tournament in southern Minnesota. It would include teams from Eagan, Minnetonka, Totino-Grace and Fairmont and would be held at the Martin County Area at the fairgrounds.

## 50 YEARS AGO IN THE PHOTO PRESS

December 20, 1970

It was announced that a Trimont area group was collaborating to move the last of the county's country schools to the fairgrounds for permanent exposition. The building was to be moved intact because of its good condition.

C. A. (Al) Engquist founder of Reco Motors, died suddenly. He was 67.

The Martin County Fair Board announced re-election of directors whose terms expired this year. They were Neil Saxton, Harvey Thate, Earl Meschke, Leonard Wendt and Ted Nowicki. Also re-elected were Harry Jorgensen, president; Harland Austin, vice president and Ted Nowicki, secretary.

Tom Cavers was elected chief of the fire department, replacing Don Simmons.

Fairmont Kiwanis were sponsoring the Boy Scout Circus, to be held in Fairmont.



**FAIRMONT FORD** made a check donation to the Salvation Army's Kamp for Kids program. Pictured on right is Teresa Haycraft, Fairmont Ford COO and Salvation Army's Krystal Stover. This year, Kamp for Kids raised over \$5,425 and over 5,000 pounds of non-perishable food items.

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# holiday greetings

We would like to take a moment to thank you, our valued customers, for your business and patronage.

**Although our lobby doors are locked at this time, please know that we are here to serve you.**

**Call if you would like to set an appointment to come inside to discuss a loan or need to get into your safe deposit box.** Unfortunately we will not be having our Holiday Open House this year.

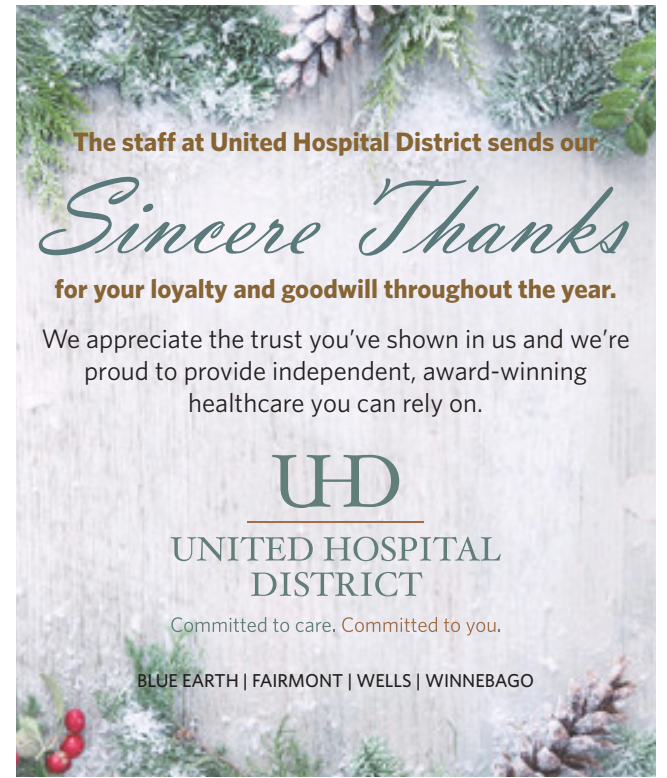
2021 Calendars are Available at the Drive-Up.



*Merry Christmas*  
It's the time of the year to say thank you to our loyal customers & friends!!



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Open New Year's Eve to 6pm

Open New Year's Day 9am-6pm

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# SEASON'S GREETINGS

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<b>SJL Northrop honor roll</b> St. James Lutheran School-Northrop, 2020-2021 Quarter One Honor Roll <b>High Honors (GPA of 3.5 or better--all A's and B's):</b>	Lili Wiens (Grade 5)	lower than a "C"):
	Hailey Simpson (Grade 5)	John Henry IV (Grade 6)
	Caleb Meyer (Grade 6)	Jackson Luhmann (Grade 7)
	Cedar Bohlsen (Grade 6)	Chase Hillmer (Grade 8)
	<b>Honors (GPA of 3.00 or better--no grade</b>	Harley Geistfeld (Grade 8)

“Just the other day”

Guest Columnist



Tom Palen, broadcaster, pilot, writer

Opening Day

I have a friend whose idea of a nice business suit is a camouflage shirt, pants, jacket, and a matching hat. On the best business days, his outfit will include enough orange to be safe. His ideal office has a view, preferably from a deer or turkey stand or looking out from a duck blind. He writes a weekly column: Water Scott's Outdoors. As the title implies, he writes about the great outdoors. Whether it's a recent adventure he was on or just sitting and observing nature; his column is always fun to read. This week he wrote about the challenges that come with running a local newspaper during a pandemic. Walter closed the offices of his newspaper. He and his staff all work from home now. He dedicated a down-

stairs room in his house for his office. The office window looks out over his countryside property, including the lake, the rolling hillsides, and into the woods. He wrote, after some adjustments, the transition has been pretty smooth. I wondered how a guy like Walter would get any work done with that view! He wrote in his column that the biggest problem working from home had been the scenery. When something outside is more interesting, like two bucks sparring on the dam, it distracts him, taking his attention away from his work. It is a blessing to have such a problem. Walter wrote of more significant issues in the home office setting. The other day, through his window, he spotted the largest buck he had seen in years. It was well within bow range, and he had his

deer tags in his pocket. The problem was his bow. It was in the garage. While planning how to sneak to the garage without disturbing the buck, Walter's mind got ahead of him. He had visions of his new deer mount proudly hung on the office wall. He envisioned a freezer full of venison and probably a steak on the table, a baked potato with melting butter and sour cream, a side of buttered carrots, a dinner roll, and a slice of warm apple pie - ala mode. But Walter had more problems than bow separation anxiety... ...the guard dog on duty...vandalized my woodpile...just eat your mac-n-cheese... For the rest of this story, visit our website at [www.fairmontphoto-press.com](http://www.fairmontphoto-press.com)

Happy Holidays from all of us at  
Central Farm Service

Happy Holidays

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Seasons Greetings

Laura & Tom Kramer

Greg Wohlhuter

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**AAA AWARD WINNERS**  
- Congratulations to Fairmont High School's AAA Award winners Ameya Komaragiri and Bryn Miller. The Academics, Arts, and Athletics Award, commonly known as the

Triple 'A' Award, honors high school seniors throughout the state who have a 3.0 or higher-grade point average and who participate in League-sponsored athletic and fine arts activities. This award is sponsored by M Health Fairview and the Institute for Athletic Medicine. Nomination Criteria: To be eligible for the Academics, Arts, and Athletics Award a student must: •Be a high school senior at the time of nomination. Schools may nominate one senior boy and one senior girl for this award. •Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher at the time of nomination. •Participate in at least one League-sponsored athletic program and one arts/activity program. •Comply with the MSHSL's Student Code of Conduct. •Complete the application form and submit it to the administrative region secretary by the deadline date specified by the region committee. Selection Process - Triple A Award recipients are selected through a multi-level process involving member schools of the League, the League's administrative regions, and a special committee of educators, business leaders, and members from the fine arts and athletic communities.

Winner of the Photo Press Christmas Stocking Full of Gift Cards/Certificates was Kyle Steffan of Sherburn. He registered at Napa Auto Parts. Gift Cards/Certificates were from these participating businesses: Boeckett Building Supply, Bomgaars, City of Fairmont Liquor Store, D&S Trophies, Dee's Floral, Fairmont Butcher Block, Fareway Food Stores, Fleet & Farm, Good News Book Store, Graham Tire, Hy-Vee, NAPA Auto & Truck Parts, Poppe's Car Wash, Richard's Auto Repair, Sovell Jewelry, Welcome Meats.



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Chris Kruse

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and to wish you a  
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**Jay**

Times may have changed but one thing is still the same - sending holiday greetings to friends old and new. It's a pleasure to wish you happy holidays.

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December 24  
8am-1pm

December 31  
8am-3pm

**CLOSED:**  
December 25

**CLOSED:**  
January 1

Wishing you a **Joyous Holiday Season** and a peaceful New Year.

**Cavers Realty Inc.**

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The Minnesota Senate on Monday announced committee assignments for the upcoming 2021-2022 legislative session. In addition to once again serving as chairwoman of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Julie Rosen (R-Fairmont) will continue to serve on the committees for Health and Human Services. She will also become a member of the Senate's new Housing Committee.

"It is an honor my colleagues

have once again trusted me to serve as chair of the Finance Committee," said Sen. Rosen. "The role is going to be more important next year than it has been in a decade. The coronavirus pandemic has upended our economy and blown a substantial hole in our state budget, and it is going to require both creativity and tough decision making to close the shortfall. I am confident that by working together we will deliver a budget

that protects Minnesotans and delivers the important services that people depend on."

"I am also eager to continue working on health and human service issues, as well as the new housing committee," added Sen. Rosen. "These are two subjects that are incredibly important, particularly to low- and middle-income families. I look forward to continuing our progress on making both more affordable."

## COLLEGE NEWS

**Joshua Carl Baldus** of Fairmont was among 1,382 graduates who received degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln during a virtual graduation celebration Dec. 19. Baldus earned a Bachelor of Science in PGA Golf Management from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Go Big Grad: A Husker Graduation Celebration featured a recorded phone conversation between Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway

and a Husker alumnus, and Chancellor Ronnie Green. Diplomas will be mailed to graduates. New this year, 2020 graduates are able to download and share their digital diplomas. Details are available at <https://go.unl.edu/digitaldiploma>.

**Hanna Reischl** of Fairmont was recently named to the Dean's List of Mount Marty University (MMU) in Yankton, South Dakota, for the fall 2020 semester. The MMU Dean's List com-

prises undergraduate students completing a full-time load of graded coursework with a minimum term GPA of 3.5.

**Abigail Zuehlke** of Fairmont was named to the University of Sioux Falls' Fall 2020 Dean's List. Zuehlke is majoring in Elementary Education. Zuehlke was among more than 600 students named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List. To qualify, students must earn a term GPA of 3.5 or greater on a 4.0 scale.

## Merry Christmas!



Wishing you all the best during the Holiday Season! We look forward to serving you in the New Year!

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## Good Tidings!



Bountiful good wishes to all our wonderful customers and friends! We look forward to serving you in the New Year!

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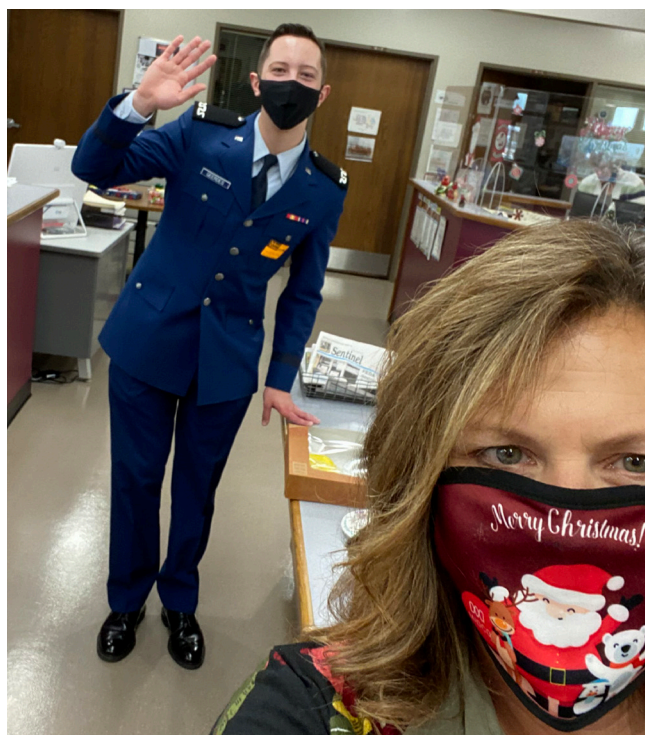
**Happy Holidays**

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## Upcoming MCSAPC webinars

Below are some training opportunities, some articles on what's going on nationwide regarding substances, a poll you can take, and a local activity to give the family something positive to do and get out of the house.

**Pictured with Steph Johnson, Project Coordinator for Martin County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition & YOCO (YOUTH COalition) is Cadet Tyson Geerdes, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO. Cadet Tyson was visiting Fairmont High School. (Submitted photo)**

### UPCOMING WEBINARS

Just Added!  
January 26, 2021 - Youth & Young Adult Drug Trends.  
Register Now! <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5511075945698015503>

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

To all my loyal customers & friends!!

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## Wishing you a blessed Christmas.

At this time of year, we're reminded of what's truly important. Sending warm thoughts to you and those you care about.



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## St. John School Endowment Fund

### NOVEMBER, 2020 MEMORIALS

The St. John Vianney School Endowment Fund gratefully acknowledges the receipt of \$1,087 in memorials given during the month of November, 2020. These were given in memory of:

TIM ABBAS: By Carol Carlson, Darlene Eisenmenger, Gary and Grace Haeckel, Sue Homan, Bob and Connie Katzenberger, Bob and Mary Millette, Ellen Washa

EDNA AHRENS: By Dan and Ann Harris

TOM ALLEVEN: By Jay and Sarah Striemer

ROGER COCHRAN: By Knights of Columbus #1575

EDDY CYPHERS: By

Tom and Jean Maday

MELVIN EVANS: By Jim and Carol Bulfer, Bruce and Ann Gemmill

DWAIN HARTWIG: By Dave and Dana Nawrocki

CHARLOTTE JACOBSEN: By Bart Stadtherr

LEONARD JOHNSON: By Dave and Dana Nawrocki

CONNIE LENZ: By Sue Homan, Dan and Ann Harris

IRENE McNEA: By Paul and Mary Betts, Darlene Eisenmenger, Burdean and Dororhy Hartwig, Trudy Klein, Dave and Dana Nawrocki, Chris and Amy Pierce, Jay and Sarah Striemer, Dave and Shelley Vogel

LOUIS M. and MARVIS MADAY: By Archie and Marsha Farnham

TOM MAHONEY, JR.: By Knights of Columbus #1575

CHRIS MIELKE: By Bernie and Julie Petrowiak

BARBARA MOSLOSKI: By Loren and Irene Kleven

CHARLES "CHUCK"

NEUSCH: By David and Mary Jo Abel, Diane Anderson, Mike and Kay Kimmet, Dave and Dana Nawrocki, Mary Jo Neusch, Tom and Londa Wickam, Myrna Schlichtenberg

RUTH PETERSON: By Vivian Denton

ANNA MAE REUTZEL: By Betty Behrends, Gloria Brownlee, Karen Lester, Becky Musser, Ele Sherry, Helen Schroeder, Bart Stadtherr

DUANE ROLOFF: By Vivian Denton, Loren and Irene Kleven

LEO SALZ: By Bob and Melissa Garry, Dave and Dana Nawrocki, Jack and Joyce Schulz

GARY SILVERTHORN: By Ron and Karen Sandhurst

DAVID SUKALSKI: By Dolores Bursaw, Burdean and Dorothy Hartwig, Bernie and Julie Petrowiak

KEN WASHA: By Patricia Kasper, Kathy Langer, Joe and Joan Schaffer, Jay and Sarah Striemer and Family,

DOUG WEGNER: By

Jim and Carol Bulfer, Bruce and Ann Gemmill

### OCTOBER, 2020, CONTRIBUTIONS

The St. John Vianney School Endowment Fund also gratefully acknowledges the receipt of \$339.71 in general and special contributions given during the month of October, 2020 by the following:

GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS: By Amazon, Mike Carr, Carroll Collins, Margie Dahlstrom, Red and Meda Holland, Leon and Rose Marie Lammers, Kathy Langer, Dennis and Mitzi Lockwood, Kathy McGowan, Bob and Mary Millette, Carol Pierce, Clayton and Mary Ann Pytleski, Ron and Karen Sandhurst, and Barbara Seewald.

St. John Vianney School And St. John Vianney School Endowment Fund also gratefully acknowledges the receipt of \$775 in contributions given during the month of November, 2020 through the A+ Campaign For Excellence by the following donors:

By Jerry and Donna Determan, Jerry Jorgenson, Pat Murphy, and Jim Simser

In memory of Harold "Butch" Trembley, by Stan and Betty Felber

In memory of Kenneth and Ramona Nelson, by Teresa Lenort

Please note: It has been brought to our attention that the bank where we have the Endowment Acct. (and in time, most likely, all banks) will no longer accept third party checks. So in the future if you get a memorial check(s) made out to you, would you please cash them and either give us the cash or a check from yourself payable to the SJVS Endowment Fund, along with the name and address of the person who gave the memorial.

Also names and addresses for any cash memorials would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to call Ann Harris @ 238-1177.

THANK YOU!



**Thanks for your patronage this year!**  
**We look forward to serving you in the new year!**

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# Merry Christmas

to all our loyal Customers & Friends!



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## Double D Dispatch

*Happy Holidays*  
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## Seasons Greetings

to all our loyal customers & friends



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## Greetings of the Season

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Deadline: December 16th



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# Merry Christmas

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## MLHS memorial donations

It is with sincere appreciation that we recognize these Memorial donations given to Martin Luther High School from October 1 to November 15, 2020. These gifts are instrumental in the success of our Christian educational ministry to teenagers.

ESTHER SMITH MOH-WINKEL STAEF

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### IN MEMORY OF:

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# DON'T GIVE UP

BY CHRISTOPHER GERHARDT

*The Don't Give Up campaign is: a story of using the trials and tragedies of our lives to improve the lives of others; a story of applying a specific credible process of collaboration to solve a community problem; a story of communication and courage to know you are enough, your failures do not define you, we are all in this together, and to never give up; but mostly, a story of compassionate and competent people throughout our area with a deep-heart connection for helping others.*

*Let us begin with: A story of using the trials and tragedies of our lives to improve the lives of others.*

Our family has not been together in the past 15 years except for a surprise Christmas, a wedding of my middle brother, and a family reunion at the ocean. What brought us together the fourth time was not the joy of a holiday, the pure love of a wedding, or the relaxation of an ocean – it was the refusal to give up on family, the simple reaching out of my father who said what he wanted most in life was to spend time with his children. Several months later, in March of 2020 to coincide with my brother's birthday, we came together in Rapid City, South Dakota to spend time with our father, Brad Gerhardt, who was diagnosed with Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD) two years prior, because when someone suffers from a steady degeneration of the brain, every next day could be

the best day he will ever have again.

Once we all arrived, the weather changed from warmth and sunshine to bitter cold followed by a blizzard. One could say the weather change outside matched our father's change inside, who was slowly losing his ability to be the 'commander in chief' his family and his County knew him as when he served as the Sheriff for eight years. We came together because deep down inside, in places people rarely talk about, we did not want to give up on our dad. We did not want to give up on the hope that the best memories of our parents we had as children would also get to be the best memories our children would have of their grandparents. For those brief moments inside the hotel, we as a family spoke of how to keep moving forward, one day at a time, despite our trials and tragedies. During those moments our father was refusing to leave his hotel room, then refusing to leave his bed. He was isolated and detached, not just from family around him, but also from his own mind and heart. And, it destroyed us all to experience.

What happened next was the extension of this experience. On our return from South Dakota to Minnesota we found our experience inside the hotel was becoming the experience inside our community. We were told to isolate and detach. We were told to not leave the state inside our country,

then not leave our city, and later to not leave our own house in order to preserve life due to the possible high contagion and fatality rates of the Covid-19 virus. Our community was beginning to experience what my father experiences in his own mind; confusion, fear, isolation, detachment, and hesitation. We hoped for the best, but expected the worse. We hoped for people to stay physically healthy, but expected people to become mentally unhealthy. We hoped for people to still feel connected, but feared people would feel alone. *The crisis inside our own family now existed inside the crisis in our own communities when the need for connection, belonging, and security was as important as the need for food, water, and shelter.*

With the opportunity to prioritize what matters most in my life, the family, and our community during the following four months, I was continually convicted to share my Blandin Foundation community leadership development training, my FBI Crisis Hostage Negotiation training and experience of crisis with others, and my Master's in Business Administration education to help others feel safe, throughout southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. In May of 2020, I created a limited liability company called Gerhardt Safety Solutions whose mission is to improve life experiences through completing environmental assessments, connecting or creating safety content, and providing interper-

sonal training with a vision of including all reasonable and necessary perspectives to define then understand problems, connect and/or create solutions, and implement then evaluate the opportunities guided by my values of compassion, competence, and credibility leading to communication, courage, and collaboration. With this process in mind, I began completing an environmental assessment regarding mental health needs and services as it relates to development of the Covid-19 virus in our area.

*A story of applying a specific credible process of collaboration to solve a community problem.*

During the early 1990s, I was told my second oldest cousin committed suicide, the first time I ever heard of the word. During the early 2000s, I was told my role model as a child committed suicide a few years after he graduated. During the 2010s, I was working in Las Vegas valley as a police officer during the economic recession, caused by the housing market. When local properties dropped 75% in value houses were lost to foreclosure and suicide rates skyrocketed. It was common for a single police officer to have to investigate multiple suicides in a single day, most often on Sunday. Behind closed doors, police officers would dread working, and often used vacation time on what they called Suicide Sundays, to avoid the trauma associated with that. I was a new officer at the time and as such, I had to work more Sundays than I care to remember. After our family moved back home to Fairmont in 2014, I learned my classmate and locker partner for almost 12 years committed suicide in a nearby town in Iowa. I then heard my friend and coworker (who was a crisis counselor for police officers), who was at the birth of all three of our children, also committed suicide. *I accepted my life's purpose was no longer just to serve and protect one person one day at a time at the individual level, but rather to devote my life to working with experts from all professions and organizations at the community level, to help all people feel safe throughout the area.*

## DEFINE (SITUATION)

Albert Einstein was credited with saying if he was to solve one of the world's problems in one hour, he would spend the first 55 minutes defining and understanding the problem. This paradigm allows most problems to be solved simply by creat-

ing a shared understanding of the problem, if all reasonable and necessary perspectives are present. This prevents in most cases the need of any change, connection, or creation of a solution at all. However, because I feared limited mental health resources would be stretched even thinner to focus on slowing the spread of Covid19, and the demand on those limited resources would only increase, I began researching data on suicidal ideation, attempts, and fatalities.

1. Suicide is second leading cause of death of 10-34 year olds in the United States. More than 132 Americans commit suicide every day. This is the highest rates of suicide since World War II (Center for Disease Control, 2018).

2. According to national suicide statistics from 1999 to 2016, Minnesota is in the highest category defined by a 38% to 58% increase (Center for Disease Control, 2018).

3. Suicide "had a devastating impact or caused a major life disruption", for up to 115 people that knew the person who died from suicide, changing an entire community (National Alliance for Mental Illness, 2016).

4. Faribault County is 66th and Martin County is 32nd out of 87 counties in Minnesota for mental health provider ratios (2,200:1 and 400:1) and our area is agriculturally based with farm related deaths rising due to suicide (marketplace.org).

5. Locally, 14%-19% (up to 1 in 5) of Martin and Faribault County 11th graders in 2019 reported 'seriously considering suicide in the past year' with 5%-9% (up to 1 in 10) reported attempting suicide (MN Department of Education, 2020).

The statistics are undeniable and required immediate action. I reached out to local experts who had access to funding that would be required to move forward with a solution. Those two people were Anna Garbers, our Adult and Children's Mental Health Manager for Faribault Martin County Human Services (FMCHS) and Caroline McCourt, our Statewide Health Improvement Program Coordinator through the Minnesota Department of Health with our FMCHS, and later reached out to Dr Ramie Vetter, Owner and Psychologist of Eunoia Family Resource Center to continue to develop the campaign. Together we defined and later created a shared understanding of the mental health crisis problem in our specific counties. Mental health suicidal ideation, attempts, and fa-

talities have been rising for more than 20 years. The government-encouraged isolation and detachment to slow the spread of Covid-19 will cause mental health needs to increase while limited services will become even more sparse. *There must be a way to not only continue to provide mental health resources on a monthly basis for those currently receiving them, but there must be a way to connect mental health resources on a daily basis to all people, regardless if they are currently receiving services, in such a manner as to weave it into the very fabric of who they are; to best engage, educate, and empower themselves and each other.*

## UNDERSTAND

Despite one's level of awareness and management of mental health, it can be difficult of not impossible to completely understand the experience of depression or suicidal ideation unless you have experienced it. Because of the power of metaphors the following list of metaphors may help better understand what the experience of depression or suicidal ideation may be like. The value of reaching a comprehensive shared understanding of the problem, from all reasonable and necessary perspectives, is we then can best understand what services are needed to best help.

Depression may be like: an eclipse that never seems to move from in front of the sun; being trapped in a nightmare and never waking up; reliving the worst day of your life over and over; breaking your arm but the pain never eases; sinking into your mind with a rock tied to your feet; watching a show that is supposed to be funny but you get no joy from it; cleaning a stain but it doesn't seem to get cleaner no matter how much you try; a friend you can no longer stand who is always by your side; feeling guilty for something you can't remember doing; a feeling of all hope lost, like when the bomb goes live in the film 'Armageddon'; hearing an annoying song on repeat in your head and you can't switch it off; getting a menu where all that is being served is guilt, sadness, and self-loathing; the eternal emptiness of the ever expanding galaxy; being in The 'Truman Show' where everyone is in on the joke but you; and/or being stuck on a desert island isolated and confused (Sean Clarke, 2020).

Suicidal ideation may be like: feeling the weight of the world on your

Continued on page 22



**GOLDFINCH ESTATES SENIOR ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS WERE  
ASKED TO SHARE THEIR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MEMORY**  
*- HERE ARE A FEW OF THEIR RESPONSES*

When my 3 children were real young Every Christmas was special. Brian & Karen + I would go to Smith's Greenhouse for our Christmas tree - gifted in my Volkswagon Beetle car = go home & with Kevin they would make decorations & ~~then~~ we would put up the tree & they'd help me decorate = using some I saved of their decoration = all was fun = wonderful memories = being with my children.

Betty Keel

I love getting snowed in with my large family, All my Aunts, Uncles, cousins and my parents. We roasted hotdogs in the giant fireplace. I loved all the wonderful holiday food.

I loved the days of getting to go pull cars out of the snow with Dasher.

Barb.

I had everyone at my house for a Christmas party! Everyone got a gift! Mom and I made a big meal, Mom made lots of pie! Pheasant and Turkey was delicious! We made just a ton of cookies!

Janet. L.

It was the night before Christmas  
with a light snow.  
We were all at Butch & Diane old  
farm house.

All the kids were excited to see what they would get!

All of a sudden there was a knock on the door.

We went to answer & there stood a jolly old man dressed in red with black boots & a white beard and a hat.

He was carrying a bag that looked pretty full!!!

There was one little boy who believed in him so! He was surprised when Sabita called out his name. Santa gave him a gift and all the kids too.

His bag was empty so now he had to go.

The little boy ran up the stairs  
and heard the rooks on the roof.

He was waiting to see the sleigh  
and 8 reindeer!

We all had a good night!!

Presents were going to here & there with wrapping paper flying everywhere!

By Deane Olson for Norma Olson

When we were little we always went to Grandpa & Grandma Warden for gift exchange for kids and gift exchange for adults. What fun we had. Then we ate dinner first, got decks done, set in a circle and opened our gift. Loved it. Then would sing Christmas songs. Then eat again before we went home. A great Merry Christmas was had by all! Haven Cousin Rosenberg

Mom made a big goose for Christmas!  
Every meal on Christmas was good!  
Mom stuffed the goose with the best  
dressing. And then 10 of us kids with  
my folks would go to church.  
I was 2<sup>nd</sup> to the baby.

David L.

*O HOLY NIGHT*  
(of anticipation)

*By Sharon Johnson*

*It was another Christmas Eve in my childhood in the 1940's. My older sister and I were unusually eager to get supper cleared away and the dishes done.*

The door between the kitchen and dining room had been closed about 4:00 PM because "Santa Claus would be coming". And as soon as our Dad and the boys would come in from milking the cows and doing the other chores on the farm, we were going to open that door. Our hearts would be filled with about as much excitement as we could handle.

*Our first taste of the Christmas season had been 3 weeks earlier, on December 6, St. Nicholas Day. On that evening, as always, anticipation ran high. Our other kitchen door, the door that opened to the outside of the house, would open swiftly, a brown bag of hard candy and peanuts would fly through the opened door, landing on the floor, and the door would shut, just as quickly as it was opened, and with a bang! It would happen in an instant. We were sure St. Nicholas did it. My parents did an excellent job keeping this a harmless, but mysterious and exciting occasion.*

*But now, just the night before, while we were all sleeping, Santa had snuck in and brought a freshly cut Christmas tree, and trimmed it with the bubbly lights we loved to watch, and the ornaments we had carefully packed away the year before! The smell of pine had permeated our thinking all day. We had set the Christmas Crib with the Christ Child under it during the day, and that passed some of the time, but it was a long day of anticipation. And Santa was mysteriously back in that room with more surprises, NOW! And we couldn't wait to open that door.*

*Expensive gifts were out of the question. Most likely my three brothers and two sisters and myself would each get an item of clothing, or something we could use for school. And most likely Santa would bring the new game that we all wanted. And we would be able to taste the cookies Mom had baked, and the rice krispy bars, and a few chocolates, all of which had been stored in the unheated spare room.*

*For us, Christmas began with Christmas, (except for St. Nicholas Day). And the tree? –we tried to keep it up a long time—until January 14, or even the 21<sup>st</sup>, because those were two of my brother's birthdays; but at least until January 6<sup>th</sup>, the feast of the Epiphany.*

Wishing you a Merry Christmas





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Jeffrey P. Marquart, Sheri L. Marquart to Joshua Jeffrey Markquart, S.700'E900' SE¼SE¼, 1-101-33

Kay Sauck, Mark Sauck to Tyler Sauck, Pt. NW¼, Pt. SW¼, 27-104-31

Jonathan Dorow, Lisa R. Dorow, Bonnie J. Tow to Kolton Daryl Dobie, W.150' Ex. W.8.5', Lot 12, Block 2, Shoreacres Addn.

Joseph Edwon Wegner to James Robert Sawatzky, Rachel Elizabeth Ann Sawatzky, Lot 3, Block 2, Larsens Subdivision

Jeffrey Lueth, Jodi Lueth to Jennifer Kuehl, Shane Kuehl, Pt. NW¼, 16-104-31

Joshua Hoppe, Lindsey Maloney-Hoppe to Nikki A. Henricksen Lot 2, Block 5, North Branch Addn., Truman Alice Wilk, Ronald Wilk to Brent Jeffrey Putney, Lot 2, Block 3, Taylor & Johnson Addn.

Guenter Wolfgang Fieg, Deborah Jo Fjelstrom, Cynthia Sue Jacobsen, Vicki Anne Jacobsen, Sandy Marie Lawrence to Jerry Gaalswyk, Paul Gaalswyk, S½NE¼, Pt. E½SE¼, 11-103-32

Kevin Henningsen, Molly Henningsen to Madhan Prabhakaran, Lot 4, Block 1, Blomstroms 3rd Addn.

### QUIT CLAIM DEEDS

PRS Property LLC to Kurt Nelson, Lots 14, 15, W.4' Lot 16, Block 10, Original Plat of Dunnell

Fairmont Township of Martin County to A L & C E Ward, Inc., NW¼ and SW¼, 14, 102-30

David Lieser, Karen M. Lieser to Keith D. Winkelman, Linda Winkelman, Lot 1, Lot 2, Ex. N.75', Block 1, Stroschein Subd. #2, Ormsby

City of Fairmont to Andrew J. Lucas, Mary E. Lucas, Lot 9, Block 4, Taylor & Johnsons 3rd Addn.

Christina Diane Hillquist Dahl, Christina Diane Hillquist to Andrew J. Dahl, N.750' W.450' W½SW¼, 11-103-29, Pt. NW¼NW¼, 3-101-29

Christina Diane Hillquist Dahl, Christina Diane Hillquist to Andrew J. Dahl, Pt. E½NE¼, 32-103-29, SW¼SE¼, 33-103-29, Pt. Und. 1/4 Int. Govt. Lot 3, NW¼, Pt. 1/4 Int. Govt. 4, SW¼, Pt. 1/4 Int. Govt. Lot 2, NW¼, 18-101-29, Pt. SW¼NE¼, 18-101-29, Pt. SE¼NW¼, 27-104-29, S½SW¼, 33-103-29, Pt. NW¼SE¼, 18-101-29, S½NE¼, 27-104-29

### CONTRACTS FOR DEEDS

H&J Holdings LLC to Mid American Properties LLC, Lots 1, 2, 3, Block 1, Cooper 2nd Subd., Sherburn

### DEEDS OF DISTRIBUTION

Estate of Keith A. Gieseke, Penny Gieseke, Personal Rep. to Penny Gieseke, Pt. NW¼, 12-103-30, S½SW¼, 26-103-30

### TRUSTEE DEEDS

Bennet A. Odegaard, Sally F. Odegaard, Bennet and Sally Odegaard Trust to Dick A. Gerhardt, N½NW¼, 31-101-32

Dick Gerhardt, Sarah Gerhardt to Elizabeth Peters Viesselman, Elizabeth Peters Viesselman, N½NW¼, 31-101-32

## MARTIN COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE

### Martin County Adopted 2021 Budget PUBLIC NOTICE

The following is a summary of the operating budget for the CY2021 fiscal year for Martin County. This summary is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. 375.169. The detail of the County budget is on file in the County Coordinator's Office at the Martin County Courthouse, 201 Lake Avenue, Room #100, Fairmont MN, and may be reviewed during normal business hours.

Budgeted Governmental Funds	2020 Current Budget	2021 Adopted Budget
<b>Revenues</b>		
County portion of Tax Levy	\$ 17,112,879	\$ 17,593,548
Licenses and Permits	62,800	66,350
Intergovernmental Revenues		
Federal	1,875,632	75,632
State	11,935,548	7,776,780
Charges for Services	657,400	661,540
Fines & Forfeits	31,800	30,800
Interest on Investments	400,000	300,000
Miscellaneous	1,457,300	1,485,781
Special Assessments	708,681	693,229
<b>Other Sources</b>		
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	20,000	20,000
Budgeted use (source) of available fund balances	(663,041)	(75,825)
<b>Total Revenues and Other Sources</b>	<b>\$ 33,598,999</b>	<b>\$ 28,627,835</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
General Government	\$ 7,044,333	\$ 7,444,881
Public Safety	5,823,184	6,028,169
Forfeited Land	8,000	8,000
Highway & Streets	14,715,791	8,927,932
Human Services	3,621,246	3,651,496
Culture and Recreation	975,109	1,034,424
Conservation of Natural Resources	315,649	333,339
Debt Service	258,275	397,783
Sanitation	752,910	698,439
Economic Development	84,502	103,372
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 33,598,999</b>	<b>\$ 28,627,835</b>

Published in the Fairmont Photo Press on December 23, 2020

## UPCOMING AUCTIONS

**NEW PRIVATE LISTING: SALE PENDING** 60 Acres +/- of Bare Farmland (subject to survey) located in Section 2 of Fairmont Twp., Martin Co., MN, 2 miles East of Fairmont, MN. For Sale By Private Treaty! Please contact Dustyn 507-236-7629 or Kevin 507-920-8060 for price, terms, etc.

**NEW PRIVATE LISTING-Approx.** 2 Acre Buildable Lake Lot for Sale on East side of Temperance Lake located at 21 Schafer Shore Drive, Sherburn, MN. Please contact Dustyn Hartung 507-236-7629 for price, terms, etc

**NEW PRIVATE LISTING!- PRICE REDUCED** 3.71 acre building site located at 725 110th Street, Sherburn, MN including a nice 1 1/2-story house w/3 beds & 1 1/2 baths. This acreage is currently set up with a large 36' x 144' building with 16 horse stalls for boarding (known as Dream Catchers Stables & Horse Boarding). For more pictures and info, please check out [www.landservicesunlimited.com](http://www.landservicesunlimited.com) or call Dustyn 507-236-7629 or Leah 507-236-8786 for a showing!

**PRIVATE LISTING- SALE PENDING** 97.74 acres located in Sec 35 of Cedar Twp., Martin Co., MN T104N, R33W 2 miles W of Trimont, MN and very nice 6.5 acre building site located at 2247 90TH Ave, Trimont, MN. Contact Kevin Kahler 507-920-8060 or Dustyn Hartung 507-236-7629 for price, terms, etc.



• Allen Kahler, 841-3466  
• Ryan Kahler, 764-4440  
• Kevin Kahler, 235-5014  
• Doug Wedel, 236-4255



For upcoming auction flyers:  
[auctioneeralley.com](http://auctioneeralley.com)

• Dustyn Hartung 236-7629  
• Leah Hartung 236-8786  
• Chris Kahler, 230-6006  
• Dar Hall, 327-0535

**105 South State Street, Fairmont, MN  
(507) 238-4318**

## NOTICE To The Voters Of NASHVILLE TOWNSHIP

Filing for the following offices to be elected at the 2021 Annual Election will open Tuesday, December 29, 2020.

**Supervisor - 3 Year Term  
Clerk - 2 Year Term**

Affidavits of Candidacy may be filed with the clerk at:  
**110 E. Ciro Street  
Truman, MN 56088**

Filing will close on Tuesday, January 12, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Published by Order of The

**NASHVILLE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
Mary Tomlinson, Clerk

**PhotoPress**  
Only good news

Deadline Monday at Noon for Wednesday's publication

# Picture Peddler

Sell your piano, sofa, vehicle, camper,  
house, etc. with a Picture Peddler  
in the Photo Press.

112 E. First Street, Fairmont  
(507) 238-9456  
[graphics@fairmontphotopress.com](mailto:graphics@fairmontphotopress.com)

Deadline Monday at Noon for  
Wednesday's publication



### 2002 FORD F150

Clean Local Trade, 4WD, Option Loaded,  
Sale Price \$3,995  
Welcome Motor Co., 1310 N. State St.,  
Fairmont, MN, 235-3447, [welcomemotorcompany.com](http://welcomemotorcompany.com)



### RETIRED SERVICE LOANER 2020 FORD FUSION SE

Price \$17,999, price reflects \$3000 rebate & \$2000 trade-in-rebate. Must trade in qualifying vehicle OR Trade-in-rebate must be added back to price.  
Fairmont Ford, 700 E. Blue Earth Ave.,  
Fairmont, MN • [fairmontford.com](http://fairmontford.com)  
507-235-6681 • 800-726-6912



### 2014 CHEVY SUBURBAN LTZ

4x4, loaded, Quads, DVD, sunroof,  
one owner. Sale Price \$20,995  
Welcome Motor Co., 1310 N. State St.,  
Fairmont, MN, 235-3447, [welcomemotorcompany.com](http://welcomemotorcompany.com)

**1 week, your picture and 20 words for \$17;  
Run 2 weeks, your picture and 20 words  
for \$27. We'll take the picture at the  
Photo Press for an additional \$3.50**



# PhotoPress Classifieds

## 1 Cards of Thanks

**Sanders: Thank you so much to those who sent messages, cards and called on my birthday. Mary Louise Sanders. 33-1tp-1**

## 4 Lost & Found

**Recently Lost: Brown leather wallet with buffalo coin. Last seen on north end of Hall Lake on or close to the ice. High school ID of Nate Meist. Please call 507-236-0373. 33-1tp-4.**

## 7 Help Wanted

**PHOTO PRESS- Part time Graphic Designer position open. Indesign program knowledge is a must. Flexible hours, multi tasking skills, customer service and team skills. Send resume to PO Box 973, 112 E. 1st St. Fairmont MN 56031 or call 507-238-9456 to set up an interview appointment with Sandy. 33-tfn-7.**

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE  
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME  
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.  
**ASSUMED NAME:** DeWar Electric  
**PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:** 724 Blue Earth Avenue, Fairmont, MN 56031  
**NAMEHOLDER(S):** Master Electric Co, Inc. By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.  
**DATE FILED:** November 03, 2020  
**SIGNED BY:** Daniel J. Schmitz

PUBLISHED IN THE  
FAIRMONT PHOTO PRESS  
December 23, 2020

## 9 Wanted to Buy

BUYING AND SELLING any gold and silver items, collector coins, diamonds, gold jewelry, silver dollars, rare currency. No collection too big. Kuehl's Coins, Fairmont, Minnesota, 507-235-3886, 507-399-9982, open 10:30a.m. - 5:30p.m. 33-3tp-9

## 10 Apartments For Rent

KRUEGER REALTY: one or two bedrooms, some with heat provided. Garbage, water, on-site laundry. EHO. Call Krueger Realty at 507-235-9060. 33-tfn-10

**Duplex- 1410 Webster, Fairmont. 2nd floor, one bedroom, quiet nice area. No pets. \$425 per month plus utilities. 507-236-9187 ask for Amber. If you dont have references, don't call. 33-3tp-10.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Fairmont's Yard Waste Recycling Site located on 100th Street has been closed for the season. Pursuant to policy approved by the City Council, the yard waste site is now closed to the public until April 1, 2021. Contractors looking to utilize the site during this closure can contact City Hall or visit the City's website for a permit application to allow commercial usage during the closure. The City's Yard Waste Recycling Site policy along with the commercial permit application form are available at [www.fairmont.org](http://www.fairmont.org).

*Published in the Fairmont Photo Press on December 23, 2020*

MARTIN COUNTY  
LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020  
@ 11:00 A.M.

The Martin County Board of Commissioners Special Emergency Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Flohrs via WebEx (videoconferencing due to the COVID-19 Virus pandemic). Commissioners present were Smith, Koons, Belgard, and Flohrs. Commissioner District #2 is vacant. Also present were Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, Terry Viesselman, County Attorney, Rod Halvorsen, City of Lakes Media, Julie Walters, Administrative Assistant, and members of staff (via WebEx).

On Motions duly made and adopted the following actions were taken:

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, to approve and authorize Board Chair to sign resolution that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby order restrictions for public access to the Martin County Courthouse and all other County Facilities/Offices until further notice as follows, that the public will not be able to access County Administrative Services on a walk in basis for County Offices; and that County Administrative Services and Operations will be continued to be provided as deemed necessary by telephone, email or special appointments; and that the Martin County Courthouse will be open for Courts as well as County meetings and appointments; and that the aforementioned restrictions will become effective on November 23, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.; and that the Board directs staff to provide public notifications and signage on the entrance of the courthouse and other County facilities of these restrictions. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Belgard, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Resolution duly passed and adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, to receive and file Martin County's COVID Response and Staffing Plan with modifications to Veterans Services medical transports; and authorize the County Personnel Committee to make needed changes and/or modifications to Martin County's COVID Response and Staffing Plan. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Belgard, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

With no further business to wit, Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Belgard, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

THE COMPLETE MINUTES OF THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE ON FILE IN THE COUNTY COORDINATOR'S OFFICE, 201 LAKE AVENUE, ROOM 100, FAIRMONT, MN AND MAY ALSO BE VIEWED ON THE MARTIN COUNTY WEBSITE AT: [www.co.martin.mn.us](http://www.co.martin.mn.us)

SCOTT HIGGINS  
MARTIN COUNTY COORDINATOR

*Published in the Fairmont Photo Press on December 23, 2020*

PUBLIC ACCESS RESTRICTIONS  
MARTIN COUNTY OFFICES

Beginning Monday, November 23, 2020 public access to Martin County Offices and all other county facilities/offices will be restricted until further notice. Courts will remain open for scheduled hearings.

Members of the public are encouraged to conduct business with county staff by telephone, email, outside drop box, or special appointment. The public is requested to follow health and safety guidelines and keep a safe distance from employees and other visitors. Wearing face masks is required while visiting county buildings.

*A listing of main office telephone numbers can be found at <http://www.co.martin.mn.us/index.php/contact>*

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on the 14th day of December 2020, after a public hearing, the City Council of the City of Fairmont approved Ordinance 2020-13, an ordinance granting permission to sell 35 acres of city owned property to Dick Gerhardt for the Dutch Creek habitat and water quality project.

A complete copy of the ordinance may be viewed on the City of Fairmont's website or at the City Clerk's Office.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY OF FAIRMONT

/s/ Patricia J. Monsen  
*Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk*

*Published in the Fairmont Photo Press on Decemer 23, 2020*

MARTIN COUNTY  
LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020  
@ 9:00 A.M.

The regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Steve Flohrs via WebEx (videoconferencing due to the COVID-19 Virus pandemic). Commissioners present were Belgard, Smith, Koons, and Flohrs. Commissioner District #2 is vacant. Also present were Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, Terry Viesselman, County Attorney, Rod Halvorsen, City of Lakes Media, Jason Sorensen, Sentinel Newspaper, Julie Walters, Administrative Assistant, and members of staff and public (via WebEx).

On Motions duly made and adopted the following actions were taken:

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, to approve the agenda for the November 17, 2020 regular Board of Commissioners meeting with the following addition: 9:10 Consider Change Order No. 5 received for Sanitary Pipe Replacement Plumbing Plan Review at the new Garage Storage Facility. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Belgard, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2020 regular Board of Commissioners meeting. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Koons, Smith, Belgard, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Koons, to approve the hire of Skylar Meyer, part time Corrections Officer, to a temporary full time Corrections Officer position for the Martin County Sheriff's Office, effective November 17, 2020. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Koons, Belgard, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, to approve and authorize the hire of Cory Lyons, as part time Patrol Deputy on an as needed basis for the Martin County Sheriff's Office, effective November 20, 2020. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Belgard, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve and authorize Board Chair to sign resolution for approval of a Martin County Sheriff's Deputy to be included as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Belgard, Smith, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Resolution duly passed and adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Koons, to approve Change Order #5 received from Robert W. Carlstrom Co. Inc. in the amount of \$3,034.50 for Sanitary Pipe Replacement Plumbing Plan Review associated with the new Garage Storage Facility Project. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Belgard, Koons, Smith, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, to approve the (re)appointments to the Martin County Economic Development Authority Board for Tim Terfchr and Wes Anderson with terms ending December 31, 2023. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Belgard, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve and authorize the second round of grant awards to various eligible small businesses; and that any grant agreements required must be signed by business owner before receiving their grant award. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Belgard, Smith, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve and authorize the Martin County Auditor/Treasurer's Office to run one to two special billing cycles as needed prior to November 30, 2020; and to approve expenditures of the County CARES dollars. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Belgard, Smith, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, to approve Warrants, auditor Warrants, and EFT Transactions to be paid on November 17, 2020, and includes the Martin County Highway Department and Drainage bills as presented. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Belgard, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, to approve changing the regularly scheduled commissioner meeting time on December 1, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Belgard, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

With no further business to wit, Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Koons, to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Koons, Belgard, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

THE COMPLETE MINUTES OF THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE ON FILE IN THE COUNTY COORDINATOR'S OFFICE, 201 LAKE AVENUE, ROOM 100, FAIRMONT, MN AND MAY ALSO BE VIEWED ON THE MARTIN COUNTY WEBSITE AT: [www.co.martin.mn.us](http://www.co.martin.mn.us)

SCOTT HIGGINS  
MARTIN COUNTY COORDINATOR

*Published in the Fairmont Photo Press on December 23, 2020*

MARTIN COUNTY  
LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020  
@ 4:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Steve Flohrs via WebEx (videoconferencing due to the COVID-19 Virus pandemic). Commissioners present were Smith, Koons, Belgard, and Flohrs. Commissioner District #2 is vacant. Also present were Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, Jason Sorensen, Sentinel Newspaper, Doug Borchardt, Building Maintenance Supervisor, Julie Walters, Administrative Assistant, and members of staff and public (via WebEx).

On Motions duly made and adopted the following actions were taken:

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Koons, to approve the agenda for the December 1, 2020 regular Board of Commissioners meeting with the following deletions: 4.1 Consider Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting for November 17, 2020; and 4.2 Consider Minutes from the Special Board Meeting for November 19, 2020. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Koons, Belgard, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the updated Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) Joint Powers Agreement. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Belgard, Smith, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Koons, to approve the hire/reclassification of Jason Harris to the Mechanic Position with the Martin County Highway Department, effective December 6, 2020. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Koons, Belgard, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve and authorize recruitment to fill a Highway Maintenance Specialist vacancy in the Martin County Highway Department. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Koons, Smith, Belgard, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Koons, to approve and certify the Individual Septic Treatment Systems (ISTS) loans in the amount of \$178,271.69 for 2020 as presented; and that the appropriate portion of the principle and interest for each loan be certified to the County Auditor/Treasurer to be applied to the 2020 tax statements and special assessments per the ISTS Loan Agreement. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Koons, Smith, Belgard, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Koons, to approve the change order with added installation of a 6" wide x 30' floor drain with heavy duty ductile iron grate and frame in the amount of \$5,996.28 for the floor drainage system in the new Garage Storage Facility on the portion of the building occupied by the Martin County Highway Department. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Belgard, Koons, Smith, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the revisions to the Martin County Interim Policy 2020-07 Workplace Preparedness Plan due to the COVID-19 pandemic, effective December 1, 2020. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Koons, Smith, Belgard, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

No action taken on Consider Appointments to the County 4H/Extension Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, to approve and authorize Board Chair to sign resolution Establishing the CY2021 County Commissioner Compensation, Per Diems, and Expenses. There was no increase in Commissioner Salaries for the year 2021.

R-#77/'20

RESOLUTION

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COMPENSATION, PER DIEM & EXPENSES

WHEREAS, Chapter 301 of the Session Laws 1975 provides a method for determining County Commissioners' compensation, per diem pay, and expense allowances, and

WHEREAS, resolution of the County Board establishing the salary, schedule of per diem payments, and expense allowance must be made before January first of each year so as to become effective January first of the next year, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County after due deliberation and discussion, have determined the annual salary, schedule of per diem payments, and expense allowances that will be effective January 1, 2021, and thereafter, until changed by resolution of the Board in a manner provided by law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County as follows:

1. That the annual salary of each County Commissioner of Martin County shall be the sum of \$25,819.75 plus an additional \$1,000 per year for the Chairman; and \$500 per year for Vice Chair and/or Commissioners appointed to the Personnel Committee with the exception of the Board Chair, payable bi-weekly, less such deductions as are authorized or required by law, and shall be paid to such Commissioner during such interval as he or she is qualified by law to hold such office.

2. That each individual County Commissioner is eligible to receive one per diem of \$75.00 each day spent in performing the official duties connected with the office. The per diem pay may be paid to any individual County Commissioner making application therefore, who, by proper designation or authorization, has served or is an alternate on any board, committee, or commission of County government, including committees of the Board or for the performance of service for any of the following work, service or activity.

Des Moines River Watershed IWIP  
Watwanan River Watershed IWIP  
Delegate to M.V.A.C.  
Building Committee  
Personnel Committee  
MN Extension Service Committee  
South Central E.M.S.  
County Highway Liaison  
South Central HRA Board  
County Insurance Committee  
Transit Advisory Comm. (TAC)  
Jail/Justice Center Committee  
Planning and Zoning Commission Liaison

South Central Workforce Council  
County Water Plan Committee  
GBERBA Board  
AMC Delegate  
County Park/Trails Board  
Community Corrections  
Law Library Board  
Safety Committee  
State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)  
Economic Development Board  
County GASB Committee  
Soil & Water Conservation Dist. Liaison  
Library Board

Activities relating to Ditches under the Jurisdiction of the County Board, or under Jurisdiction of a Joint County Ditch Authority.

For such committee, board, or commissioner work or meetings which may be required by law or which is authorized by the Board of County Commissioners, providing that such work, service or activity is authorized by Board action prior to the performance of such work, service or activity.

3. No Commissioner may receive an amount greater than one full per diem payment on any one day. A Commissioner may accept or claim less than the full per diem. If a per diem is paid by another entity or authority for work, service, or activity permitted by this resolution, Martin County shall not pay a per diem for the same work, service or activity.

4. That in addition to the salary and per diems set forth herein, each individual County Commissioner may be paid his or her actual and necessary expenses and the County mileage allowance, according to County Policy when traveling on official business authorized by Board action.

Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Belgard, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Resolution duly passed and adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Koons, to approve and authorize County Small Business CARES Act Grant awards to eligible Small Business CARES Grant Program applicants in the total amount of \$14,398.11. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Koons, Belgard, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to receive and file the Year to Date County CARES Act Funding Expenditures Report. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Belgard, Smith, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, to approve Warrants, Auditor Warrants, and EFT Transactions to be paid on December 1, 2020, and includes the Highway Department bills and Drainage bills as presented. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Smith, Belgard, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries.

With no further business to wit, Motion by Commissioner Koons, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Belgard, Smith, Koons, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

THE COMPLETE MINUTES OF THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE ON FILE IN THE COUNTY COORDINATOR'S OFFICE, 201 LAKE AVENUE, ROOM 100, FAIRMONT, MN AND MAY ALSO BE VIEWED ON THE MARTIN COUNTY WEBSITE AT: [www.co.martin.mn.us](http://www.co.martin.mn.us)

SCOTT HIGGINS  
MARTIN COUNTY COORDINATOR

*Published in the Fairmont Photo Press on December 23, 2020*



## Continued from page 18

shoulders...any hope of a better future can't be seen... everything becomes dull and meaningless...life becomes a chore that you don't want to participate in; a feeling of emptiness in the middle of an amazing moment... it's cuddling your dog and thinking she would be better off without you, then realizing how silly that was to think; breathing with a plastic bag over your head as you try to make sense of what you're feeling; drowning, except you know how to swim... but the current is just too strong to stay afloat anymore... the current is your emotions and what strength you have left is your ability to swim; the whispering of a cold, calculating voice that suggests how to turn everything into a suicide attempt... when I've been at my darkest lows, that voice is always there, haunting even moments of levity with the suggestion that this laughter won't last; having two people in your head... one of them is so depressed they want to end it all while the other one knows it's going to be okay, but can't get through to the first one, so they sit there and go back and forth, back and forth, until an outside force intervenes and breaks the cycle; a soda bottle being shook up by the thoughts... if I don't have someone I trust to help get my feelings out slowly, the cap eventually blows off the top leaving a huge mess behind for me (or others) to clean up; a freight train full of all your thoughts, conflicts, anger and fear blasting through your head and you can't get away from it, but you just need to make it stop (Matt Sloan, 2018).

If you connect with those metaphors, please understand it is okay to not be okay, but you do not have to stay that way. Reach out and seek out help. If you know someone experiencing mental health concerns, please question, persuade, and refer (QPR) to help them. It could sound like, "You seem to be deep in thought or emotion. Are you considering suicide? Will you please let me help you? I will stay with you until we get to a professional for help". To access QPR training, please visit the Minnesota's National Alliance on Mental Illness. The national suicide prevention hotline is 1-800-273-8255 (TALK). Safe Call Now is a confidential and comprehensive 24-hour crisis line and support service for first responders, emergency

services personnel, medical professionals and their family members worldwide with a hotline of 206-459-3020.

*I believe everyone goes through trials and tragedies which make us more complete, force us to accept humility, and demand us to reach out for wisdom and assistance from our God and/or our support systems. It is this process of refinement that creates opportunities to improve ourselves and the lives of others around us.*

### CREATE AND/OR CONNECT SOLUTIONS

After defining and creating shared understanding of the problem we were able to draft a clear mission statement to help meet the need. *There is an urgent and unrelenting mental health need in Faribault as well as Martin County; the Don't Give Up campaign, based in Faribault and Martin County, during the Fall seasons for the next three years whose goal is to inspire conversation about mental health to lower conversational stigma and raise mental health resiliency through engagement, education, and empowerment to each resident and visitor of the community.*

### An urgent and unrelenting mental health need in Martin County

Based on the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey, focused on Faribault and Martin County 11th grade, data supports almost 1 out of 5 students reported 'seriously considered suicide' in the past 12 months with almost 1 out of 10 students reported 'attempted suicide' in the past 12 months (MN Department of Education, 2020). Also, Faribault and Martin County are 66th and 32nd out of 87 counties for mental health provider ratios (2,200:1 and 400:1) and our area is agriculturally based with farm related deaths due to suicide rising to almost 50% higher than the national average (marketplace.org, 2020), with almost 25% of Martin County's 20,000 residents living in unincorporated farm areas.

### The Don't Give Up campaign

I recently was dispatched to investigate yet another death by unknown cause. Due to my relationship with this person, it forced me to ask: what am I doing to prevent these deaths; what is our community doing to help; and, whose job is it to prevent

these deaths? This desire fueled my first 100 hours of volunteer community organizing required to move the campaign from an idealistic development to realistic implementation, which was later re-fueled with the full support, trust, and help from Faribault Martin County Human Service Director Chera Sevcik when invited to present about the campaign during a Community Resiliency Team meeting.

*The Don't Give Up project came from almost three decades of being impacted by suicide while not being able to answer what I am doing to help, what the community is doing to help, and whose job is it to help. It forced me to ask if not me then who, if not now then when?*

From childhood through high school continuing with college to my career, from my family through coworkers continuing with classmates to neighbors, from rich to poor, male to female, young to old, almost all of us suffer from some degree of mental health wellness concerns, with almost all having been impacted by suicide. Having assisted in more than 100 death investigations in my brief 15-year career within the criminal justice system, without question suicide has significantly impacted my life and I needed to use these trials and tragedies to help others.

### A collaborative Suicide Prevention and Awareness Campaign

I am a Christian, a husband, a father as well as an employee, a neighbor, and a community member. I have many roles and therefore many perspectives throughout the community, but one role and perspective I do not have is of a licensed practicing mental health professional. I reached out to several compassionate, competent, and credible people who understand the value of communication, courage, and collaboration in the mental health field to ensure we had a shared understanding of mental health and suicide in our community.

### Based in Faribault and Martin County

The people who partnered with me on this project were Anna Garbers, Adult and Children's Mental Health Manager of Faribault Martin County Human Services (FMCHS), Caroline McCourt, Coordinator with Statewide Health Improvement Program of the Minnesota Department of Health with the FMCHS, Dr. Ramie Vetter, Owner and Psychologist of Eunoia Fam-

ily Resource Center, and Curtis Moeckel, Director of The Shepherd's In, a faith based non-profit organization in Fairmont, MN who also provides wrap-around services for people predominately living and visiting throughout Faribault and Martin County areas. Additionally, the funds received from the state and county, in less than one month from communicating our defined and understood problem, would be used far beyond just Fairmont and Blue Earth, to focus services to those living and working throughout the agricultural community, in the other 30 smaller communities throughout Faribault and Martin County.

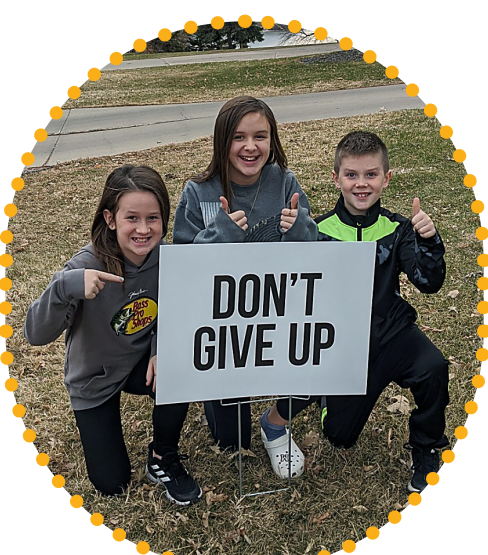
### During the Fall season

Research supports the perception of the highest rates of suicide and mental health crises across the United States occurs in the Fall season. Despite data supporting the highest rates occur in the late Spring to early Summer (NAMI, 2020), September is nationally recognized as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month (CDC, 2020). The Fall season is also a time where families come together during the holidays and have countless opportunities to better understand each other's thoughts and feelings as the year has passed and to notice any changes to the overall wellness of one another.

### For the next three years

In order to determine the impact of this suicide prevention and awareness campaign on Faribault and Martin County residents, we need to harvest data from the Minnesota Student Survey, Center for Disease Control, and Uniform Crime Reports of suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, and suicide fatalities over a long period of time to determine the change in ideation, attempts, and fatalities before, during, and after the three-year campaign.

The best possible outcome of this campaign is to create an affordable, sustainable, and comprehensive model for addressing mental health issues in rural areas throughout the Midwest. This model must be developed on standardized, reliable data which can be continuously evaluated to best redirect and realign the variables of mental health in each specific area. A three-year period is the minimum amount of time to capture longitudinal data to compare to the previous three years and future three years, to be able to best account for fluctuations in other variables





that may have a positive, negative, or null effect on the outcomes as well as determine shelf life or duration of impact observed or reported.

*A story of communication and courage to know you are enough, your failures do not define you, we are all in this together, and to never give up.*

**Goal is to inspire conversation about mental health**

There is a current stigma surrounding conversations about mental health and suicide. Many people have a perception that even mentioning the topic or saying the word suicide out loud may plant a seed, may trigger an action, or may eventually lead to the early death by suicide of another person. The scientific research does not support this myth. We aimed at partnering with all 21 city councils and both County Boards who pledged to proclaim September as Suicide Prevention and Awareness month.

Through engagement, education, and empowerment

To create a sustainable, comprehensive solution to the pending mental health spike the community must be: engaged where they currently are of the defined problem; educated with simple concepts and skills creating a shared understanding of what to do; and, empowered through permission and expectation that it takes a community approach, by each person every day, to see say something and say something, to make people feel felt, know they are valued, and believe they are understood.

*We chose to engage, educate, and empower the community through overlapping ways. Those include simple yard signs, brief radio advertisements, and occasional social media content. We also challenged all 21 city councils and both county boards (those elected officials that are influential in their community and know the needs and resources of their communities the best) to lead the conversation of suicide prevention and awareness with a public proclamation to define the problem, create a shared understanding, and provide a comprehensive solution through training. These proclamations included: recognizing September as the national suicide prevention and awareness month; providing access to free, online 90-minute training model of Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) to prepare people on what to do to if they encounter someone who is in a mental health crisis or suicidal,*

and to challenge each citizen to see something and say something.

**Each resident and visitor of the community.**

Suicide is the second leading cause of death of 10-34-year old's, with 132 total suicides occurring every day (Center for Disease Control, 2019). Suicide "had a devastating impact or cased a major life disruption", for up to 115 people that knew the person who died from suicide (National Alliance for Mental Illness, 2016). Suicide occurs across all demographics with a high likelihood of every suicide changing the entire community. Because suicide does not typically occur inside a vacuum, everyone has an opportunity to look out, reach out, and help out. *It is critical we connect each resident and/or visitor with the proper training to know what to do when they observe someone possibly experiencing mental health concerns to help save a life.*

**IMPLEMENT**

Within two months of beginning the process of defining and understanding the problem, we created, connected, and implemented the comprehensive cost effective plan.

Our goal was to provide up to 10 million views within Faribault and Martin County, between September to December, for each of the following three years, of positive messages through displaying white yard signs with the following black lettered messages, which have been proven to positively influence mental health behaviors (National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2019). The messages we chose on those signs included: We Are All In This Together; Your Mistakes Do Not Define You; You Are Worthy of Love; You Are Enough; Tu Values; You Are Not Alone; One Day At A Time; and, It's Not Too Late on one side with Don't Give Up or No Te Rindas on the other side.

To most equitably and fairly distribute the limited signs (1 sign per 100 residents), we designed a model of providing four signs for each of the 14 townships (up to 400 residents with no city council), and 8 signs for each of the 21 cities with a city council (up to 1,500 residents) throughout our two counties. For cities with more than 1,500 residents we distributed another 8 signs per up to 1,500 additional residents. For example, a city with 2,900 residents would get 16 total signs while a city with 3,100 residents would get 24 total signs. Each sign has been intentionally placed at high traffic road-

ways and intersections throughout both counties, as determined by the Minnesota Department of Transportations (MN DOT) annual average daily traffic (AADT), which Martin County Engineer Kevin Peyman directed me to and Martin County Highway Maintenance Superintendent Dustin Splinter helped me understand.

Through the local KFMC radio station, we were providing up to 366 thirty second messages, focused on premium listening times (6am-10am, 10am-2pm, 2pm-6pm) with a 90-mile radius capturing up to 200,000 residents through the first four month period if funds were available. There were five different messages, playing on a three message per day rotation, with the fifth message being a donor recognition and thank you message. Each of the other four messages contained suicide prevention and awareness campaign identification, with at least three positive messages of hope, the national suicide hotline, and an example of a question, persuade, and refer message. An example is as follows:

"On behalf of the Don't Give Up, Suicide Prevention and Awareness Campaign, I am Chris Gerhardt of Gerhardt Safety Solutions. Remember: One day at a time; Your mistakes do not define you; and, You are worthy of love. For the National Suicide Hotline, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Remember QPR: question, persuade, and refer anyone showing signs of crisis; This could sound like: Are you considering suicide? Will you please let me help you? I will go with you, to a professional for help. On behalf of the Don't Give Up Campaign, I am Chris Gerhardt. Thank you!"

Through social media we focused on Facebook and Instagram platforms, as the most cost-effective means of providing a comprehensive information release to the public. The first three posts garnered more than 200 shares. The September 10th post, to recognize World Suicide Prevention day, with a \$100 Facebook/Instagram advertisement 'boost' reached 7,220 people with 642 engagements to include 57 shares. This specific post also included suicide prevention and awareness campaign information, at least three positive messages of hope, the national suicide hotline, and an example of question, persuade, and refer.

**EVALUATE OPPORTUNITIES**

*Let us end with: A story of compassionate*

*and competent people throughout our County with a deep-heart connection for helping others.*

*We met the goal of inspiring conversation about mental health through engagement, education, and empowerment with yard signs, radio messaging, and online content based on multiple requested partnerships, community development, and survey data. We look forward to continuously improving the campaign's impact to further lower conversational stigma and raise mental health resiliency during the Fall 2021, and 2022 seasons.*

- Met the goal; more than one volunteer, from the more than 30 communities, volunteering countless hours to collect yard signs, identify highly trafficked roadway properties, receive permission to display signs, collect contact information and communicate back for data harvesting and further volunteer management all within the first two weeks of the campaign. This campaign's effectiveness and efficiency would not have been possible had it not been for the trust and support with the Don't Give Up team from more than the first 30 volunteers, as well as the dozens of private businesses, who reached out to support the cause, who know the people, the properties, and the needs of their communities the best.

- Met the goal; weekly phone calls, emails, and text messages about the impact of our Don't Give Up suicide prevention and awareness campaign. Those communications come from all over the state of Minnesota as well as Iowa, including: asking for yard signs; sharing stories of suicidal ideation, attempts, and fatalities; asking how they can help with their time, money, and perspective; or, inquiring about how other counties can implement similar campaigns. As a result, suicide and mental health training has been provided to people in local church youth groups, foster parent cooperatives, hair salons, substance abuse prevention coalitions, and more. It should be noted our Martin and Faribault County Human Services are also now providing Mental Health First Aid Training every first Tuesday of the month, starting this January of 2021 thanks to Social Services Manager Lynn Smithwick. For more information, please visit [www.fmchs.com](http://www.fmchs.com) or email Lynn at [lynn.smithwick@fmchs.com](mailto:lynn.smithwick@fmchs.com).

- Met the goal; every day 480,690 vehicles drive by the 320 displayed yard signs throughout all of Faribault and Martin County, not just Fairmont or Blue Earth. From September 14 to December 28 alone, that creates a potential of 50,472,450 views (potential mental health behavior redirections). In the four month period for the 33,000 residents, this creates an opportunity for almost 14 sign views per day per resident, or more than 1,500 views over the four month period. During an October online Survey (large and diverse enough to be a representative sample of Martin and Faribault County residents), it revealed that 100% of respondents who observed a yard sign stated the yard sign improved their mental health. 60% of those respondents who had experienced suicidal ideation within the prior 30 days reported the yard signs had significantly improved their mental health, which lasted more than one month! The results of the analysis of survey data will help better align limited time and money for the following two years of Fall campaign periods.

- Met the goal; requested for an interview on a national level with 'Faces Behind the Badge' as part of their Desert Training LLC outreach. The two interviewers have countless decades of experience with almost 1,000 crisis and hostage negotiations under their belts. They are using the trials and tragedies they've experienced to provide one-week and two-week courses in crisis de-escalation and hostage negotiation to local and federal agencies to include the ATF, NCIS, and more. Inspired conversation also occurred on a local level with "The Martin County Sentinel" requesting and completing an interview with me, following the presentation of the campaign at the Martin County Board per Martin County Coordinator Higgins request.

- Met the goal; Dr Ramie Vetter, Owner and Psychologist of Eunoia Family Resource Center hired additional staff, to include Psychiatrist Dr. Erin Haytaian to meet the increasing demand for mental health services during and beyond this difficult time. To better meet the unique needs of the area and to overcome barriers which prevent consistent services, their office is focusing on delivering services virtually (telemedicine) to all persons four years old plus. If this interests you or feel this may better meet your needs, simply visit [www.mentalhealthmn.com](http://www.mentalhealthmn.com) or

call Fairmont's Eunoia Family Resource Center at 507-235-6070.

- Met the goal; Luke and Sara Cyphers, local business owners with D&S Trophies, partnered with the campaign to print, deliver, and donate to all eight junior high and high schools (public and private) in both counties an eight foot by two foot Don't Give Up banner. It was encouraged each school provide active or passive content to staff and/or students followed by having everyone sign the banner. This signature was to symbolize a pledge to not give up - helping lower the stigma around mental health conversations and also helps raise mental health resilience. The banner could be displayed in a common space (cafeteria, gym, etc.) throughout the Fall season or school year(s). Additionally, many school districts were connected with Minnesota Department of Health supported mental health training for educators of mental health and suicide prevention, intervention, and restoration following an observed ideation, an attempt, or fatality.

*The Don't Give Up campaign is more than just a campaign to lower conversational stigma and raise mental health resiliency. Don't Give Up is about the honest, hard-working, caring people of Martin and Faribault County coming together to help each other in every way possible. Because, if not us then who, if not now then when.*

To make a donation towards the Don't Give Up campaign please access the Paypal option available at [www.gerhardtsafesolutions.com](http://www.gerhardtsafesolutions.com). For a tax deductible donation, mail a check to The Shepherd's In at 1243 Lake Avenue, Suite #1000 in Fairmont MN with 'Don't Give Up' in the memo section. For all other questions, comments, or concerns email us at [gerhardtsafesolutions@gmail.com](mailto:gerhardtsafesolutions@gmail.com), leave a message on our Facebook page, or call 507-848-0225.

*Stay safe, don't give up, and look out for each other! On behalf of the Don't Give Up campaign team of Anna Garbers with Faribault Martin County Human Services, Caroline McCourt with the Statewide Health Improvement Program, Dr. Ramie Vetter with Eunoia Family Resource Center, and Curtis Moeckel with The Shepherd's In, we thank you for your trust and support!*

- Founder and Coordinator Christopher Gerhardt



Oh Come Let  
Us ADORE HIM



RESTORER OF HOPE Lord of Lords  
*Jesus* THE WORD Holy One  
Bread of Life Master BRANCH  
ALPHA & OMEGA Teacher  
Dayspring Prince of Peace  
Son of Man COMFORTER  
everlasting SHILOH Anchor  
FATHER The Almighty Light

Wishing a blessed Christmas from everyone at

**THATE'S  
TREE SERVICE**

*Grateful to serve You, until HE returns.*