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FEBRUARY, 2023

Volume 16 • Issue 10

What-Kins, a Quaint Little Shop in Wanamingo

By Cheri Roshon

Watkins products have been around for a long time, and are known for their quality and consistency. Started in 1868 by J.R. Watkins, their reputation has grown and the products continue to improve.

(continued on page 4)

Sparkly Treasures at Tatge Jewelry

By Cheri Roshon

Larry Tatge started his first jewelry store in Kenyon in 1975. The previous owner was ready to retire, and asked Larry if he would be interested in purchasing it, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Over the years, Larry's business grew to include not only jewelry sales, but also ring siz-

ing and solder repair, engraving, trophies and awards.

In 1994, he decided to branch out to a new location in Zumbrota. He gave himself a goal of 10 years of doing business there, and again found success. After the 10 year mark passed, he made the decision to cut back a little on the travel between the 2 businesses, close the



Zumbrota store and focus on the original Kenyon store. "I keep busy with all the customers I've served since 1975, no matter where they live", says Tatge.

Larry is grateful for all his customers over the years, and says he wouldn't be here without them. He enjoys the work he does, and doesn't see any reason to stop. His customers are not only loyal, but most of them have become friends. Not only a business man, he has also served in many positions in the community, even serving as Grand Marshall in the 2021 Rose Fest. He loves Kenyon, and can't imagine living anywhere else.

Tatge Jewelry has jewelry for all occasions at very reasonable prices, watches, and one of the only engraving businesses in the area. He makes plaques and awards for all occasions, for sports teams and schools, and for businesses all over the area.

(continued on page 7)

Notes from the Kenyon-Wanamingo FFA chapter



It has been a busy year so far, from state fair to fruit sale. The year got started with 15 of our members finding great success at the Minnesota State Fair, including Premier Exhibitor Livestock, Premier Chapter Swine Breeding Stock, and more.

(continued on page 5)

Announcements

• **Meals on Wheels** is available to anyone 60 and over who are wanting a prepared and nutritious hot meal on a regular basis. Meals are available Monday through Friday, including holidays. The meals are prepared at SEMCAC in Faribault and volunteers deliver them right to your home. Delivery is available to anyone living in Kenyon city limits. The cost per meal is \$4.50 and is billed monthly. Delivery is between 10:30 and 11:30am and you can pick and choose your days. For more information about the program contact Barb St. John at 507-789-5553.

• **Hiawathaland Transit:** Service hours are 7:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. Call dispatch at 866-623-7505 Monday through Friday 6am-9pm and Saturday 7:00am-5:00pm. Visit threeriverscap.org for more information.

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KENYON VFW POST 141

HAPPY HOUR: Monday-Saturday from 4-7 PM

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Job: "Sovereign Over Suffering"



By Pastor Colin Rueter,
New Life Church
(colin@nlcwanamingo.org)

Job: [/jɒb/] noun --- In Hebrew the name means 'persecuted.'

The Book of Job does not list the author. Several suggestions have been put forth for authors: Job himself, who could have best recalled his own words; Elihu, the fourth friend who spoke toward the end of the story; various biblical writers and leaders; or many editors who compiled the material over the years. While there is no definitive answer, it was most likely an eyewitness who recorded the detailed and lengthy conversations found in the book. In Old Testament times, authors sometimes referred to themselves in the third

person, so Job's authorship is a strong possibility.

Since the author is unknown, the date of the text is also unknown.

OVERVIEW:

The book of Job falls within wisdom literature. The book includes language from ancient legal proceedings, laments, and unique terms not found elsewhere in the Bible. In addition, most of Job is written in parallel lines like that of poetry.

The book probes into issues near to the heart of every human who experiences suffering. The prologue provides a fascinating peek into the back story—why God allowed Satan to afflict Job with such pain and turmoil. At the beginning of the book of Job is a scene in heaven where Satan stands before God. God asks Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?" (Job 1:8), and Satan immediately accuses Job, a righteous man, of fearing God only because God had prospered him. "Strike everything he has," Satan says, "and he will surely curse you to your face" (Job 1:11). God grants Satan limited permission to put Job to the test. Why do the righteous suffer? This is the question raised after Job loses his family, his wealth, and his health. Then, through a series of dialogues and monologues arranged in a pattern of threes, human wisdom attempts to explain the unexplainable. Job's three friends Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, come to "comfort" him and to discuss his crushing series of tragedies. They insist his suffering is punishment for sin

in his life. Job, though, remains devoted to God through all of this and contends that his life has not been one of sin. A fourth man, Elihu, tells Job he needs to humble himself and submit to God's use of trials to purify his life. Finally, Job questions God Himself and learns valuable lessons about the sovereignty of God and his need to totally trust in the Lord. These final chapters record God's masterful defense of His majesty and unique "otherness"—of God's eternal transcendence above creation—in contrast with Job's humble and ignorant mortality. "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? / Tell Me, if you have understanding" (Job 38:4). Job is then restored to health, happiness, and prosperity beyond his earlier state.

SO WHAT?

The Book of Job helps us to understand that Satan cannot bring financial and physical destruction upon us unless it is by God's permission. The text reminds us that God has power over what Satan can and cannot do. It is beyond our human ability to understand the "why's" behind all the suffering in the world. The wicked will receive justice. We cannot always blame suffering and sin on our lifestyles. Suffering may sometimes be allowed in our lives to purify, test, teach, or strengthen the soul. God remains enough, and He deserves and requests our love and praise in all circumstances of life. Pain inevitably afflicts each one of us. Suffering is unavoidable in this life. Will your relationship with God be enough when trials come?

Will you trust Him through your suffering? Read Job 38–42. Spend time with the Almighty. Pray for a stronger faith in the powerful Creator described in those chapters. Pray for a right perspective of Him so that you might see your situation through His eyes. As C.H. Spurgeon said, "God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart."

I would love to hear from you, pray for you, and encourage you. Reach out to me via email: Colin@nlcwanamingo.org or by phone: 507-824-3019.

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THINK LOCAL
This Valentine's Day

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Sunday, February 12th : Dennison - 9:00; Vang - 11:00
Wednesday, February 15th -Songs of My Life
Dennison - 6:30 PM
Sunday, February 19th: Dennison - 9:00; Vang - 11:00
Sunday, February 26th: Dennison - 9:00; Vang - 11:00

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Sunday Worship 10:00a.m. with lunch following

WANAMINGO LUTHERAN

507-824-2457
130 West 3rd Street, Wanamingo
Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Kenyon Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY "Mini Me"

You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. — 1 Thessalonians 1:6

My three-year-old granddaughter is full of life and joy. Every time she runs into our house or I walk into theirs, she shouts, "Grandma, my 'mini me'!" She is thrilled as she shouts the good news. No one can miss it. I have often suggested that she might be my "mini me" (since she is a lot like me), but she insists that I am her "mini me." We share mannerisms and a flare for shopping, and we both tend to be optimistic. We have serious discussions about life, giggle about nothing, and enjoy afternoon naps.

Paul commends the church at Thessalonica that they have stayed strong in faith by following his example and that of other leaders—and ultimately by following Jesus, despite the hardship and suffering in their life. They have set an example of how to serve and live by the Spirit with joy. They have learned to access all the empowerment and energy they need in order to live through the Spirit.

Whoever we are, on any given day we are following someone or leading someone. Our challenge is to follow those who imitate Jesus and to lead those who need to know him.

Prayer: Lord and God, help us to imitate you. May we live by the joy you have given us. May we be empowered by your Spirit. May someone see you in us today. Amen.



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LuVerne E. Johnson

LuVerne E. Johnson, age 98, of Richland Township, rural Kenyon, died Sunday, January 15, 2023, at the Three Links Care Center, Northfield.

Funeral services were held at First English Lutheran Church, Faribault on Saturday, January 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

with the Reverend Carrie Chatelaine officiating. Interment will be at Meadow Ridge Memorial Park, Faribault at a later date.



Visitation was at the Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault on Friday, January 20, 2023, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and for one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

LuVerne E., the son of Fred L. and Selma J. (Larson) Johnson was born on December 10, 1924, in Madison, Minnesota. On September 8, 1951, LuVerne was united in marriage to Jeanne Jurgenson at the Clarkfield Lutheran Church. LuVerne was a dairy farmer his entire life in the Madison, Kasson and Richland Township area. He enjoyed traveling and going on bus trips. Most of all, LuVerne loved his grandchildren and attending their activities and events.

Survivors include his children, Laurie (and Tim) Thorp of New Prague, Stevan (and

Theresa) Johnson of Kenyon, David (and Peggy) Johnson of Faribault, Jeffrey (and Judith) Johnson of Kenyon and Jim (and Kimberly) Johnson of Colorado Springs, CO; 11 grandchildren; 30 great grandchildren; brother, Robert Johnson; other relatives and friends.

LuVerne was preceded in death by his par-

ents, Fred and Selma Johnson; wife, Jeanne in 2006; sisters, Myrtress (and Eugene) Anderson, Lillian (and Emerson) Bleyhl and Arla (and Merlyn) Matthies and sisters in law, Sharon Johnson and Isabell Johnson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Ecumen Hospice.

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National FFA Week
February 18-25, 2023



What-Kins, a Quaint Little Shop in Wanamingo

(continued from page 1)

Did you know all the products they carry are certified organic? I didn't!

J.R. Watkins started his company in Plainview, MN with one product. It was a liniment made with camphor from pine trees and capsicum from red peppers. It is still sold today for the relief of minor muscle aches, soreness and stiffness. Eventually the product line expanded into baking ingredients & spices, as well as bath soaks, cough rubs, menthol drops, vitamins, supplements, cleaning supplies and organic flavorings.

In 1978 the Watkins line was sold to Minnesota businessman Irwin L. Jacobs after being in the Watkins family for over 110 years. Even though it changed hands, 80 to 85% of the products are still made in Winona, Mn.



Lois Bjorngaard

Today Pervin and Lois Bjorngaard own and operate a store on Main Street in Wanamingo called "What-Kins". They opened the store 32 years ago, and carry the full line of original Watkins products, plus a lot of fun Norwegian inspired art and nic-nacs, cards and other unique gifts for that someone special in your life. The store is pretty amazing! Stop in and check it out.

(continued on page 5)



CABIN FEVER "FUN" DRAISING Taco Feed & Silent Auction for the KENYON SWIMMING POOL & KENYON DEPOT BUILDING

SATURDAY MARCH 11, 2023.
KENYON VFW, 601 2ND STREET

TACO FEED SERVING FROM 5PM -7PM

YOUR CHOICE OF: TACO IN A BAG OR TACO IN A BOWL
With dessert bar or cookie, lemonade, coffee or water
DINE IN OR TAKE TO GO

Cost: \$7.00 per Adult \$5.00 per Child (12 and under)

Proceeds will go to the pool fund to help with the purchase of:
New Rescue Backboard; Updated Lifeguard Supplies; Regulation sized Volleyball Net; Picnic table; Additional Seating; Storage Cubes; Sun Umbrellas; and Point of Sale System.

SILENT AUCTION BIDDING FROM 5-6:30

Proceeds will go to the Park n Rec Fund to help offset the cost of repairs needed to the Depot Building

To inquire how you can make a basket donation please call or text Kim @507-210-1595



SILENT AUCTION

Kenyon Park and Recreation's Depot Park Building Fundraiser

March 11, 2023

Held at Kenyon VFW- 601 2nd Street

Bidding STARTS at 5:00 pm and ENDS at 6:30 pm

Winners will be notified via phone number provided on bid sheet

Any donations containing alcohol will be marked "Must Be 21" on the Bid sheet and a Photo ID will be required

We will continue to collect donation items as well as monetary donations starting January 25th through March 4th. For more information and to arrange for donation drop off or pick up, call/message or text

Kim Helgeson @ 507-210-1595

Donation Ideas:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Art/Crafts | Themed Gift Baskets | Sports Tickets |
| Dinner for Two | Gift Cards | Auto Detailing |
| Movie Tickets | New Toys/Games | Jewelry |
| New Electronics | Hotel Accommodations | Small Appliances |

Anything else you can think of!

All basket donations should be assembled with items clearly visible and wrapped and sealed in cellophane. Include on a separate slip, the approx. basket value, list of all contents and the name of donators.

Notes from the Kenyon-Wanamingo FFA chapter

(continued from page 1)



In September four of our six officers attended Fall Leadership Day to start off the year learning leadership skills to bring back to the chapter.

In October, we brought 3 teams to the River Falls Falcon Ag Challenge for the region qualifier for

Livestock and Dairy, and invitational for Poultry. Livestock placed 5th out of 26 and are going to State, this team consists of Julia Patterson, Sophia Poquette, Cody Ostertag, and Anna Ostertag. Dairy placed 8th out of 24 and will also be going to state, this team consists of Evelyn Scheffler, Hanna Gudknecht, Matthew Scheffler, and Jay Jacobson. The poultry team got first place at this event however it was not the state qualifier for poultry, this team consisted of Jett Smith, Jay Smith, Knute Ronningen, Lukas Gullickson, and Ryan LaCanne.

At the end of October we filled a school van with 8 members and Ms. Van Lanen headed over to Indianapolis for National FFA Convention. After our 10 hour drive we spent our 3 night 4 day stay attending sessions, visiting booths at expo, attending tours, and bonding at the Airbnb. National Convention gave members inspiration to be active in FFA and realize the scope that FFA reaches.

The annual FFA Fruit Sale Fundraiser ended on November 4th, our members sold over \$15,000 worth of fruit! The fruit arrived at the beginning of December and distributed from there. Our top seller were Evie and Matthew Scheffler, Cody Ostertag, and Jay and Jett Smith.

On December 12th we had two region FFA officers visit to teach our members about opportunities in FFA and leadership skills. If your member attended these workshops make sure to ask them how to make a peanut

butter and jelly sandwich.

After a lot of rescheduling due to snow and cold, our poultry team finally got to compete again on December 19th this time to qualify for state. We once again loaded up a school van with our poultry team and head to Riverland Community College in Austin. There

our poultry team placed 4th and qualified for state. The poultry team headed to state includes Lukas Gullickson, Knute Ronningen, Jett Smith, and Jay Smith.

This year has been both busy and rewarding, hopefully the rest of the year will be the same.

What-Kins, a Quaint Little Shop in Wanamingo

(continued from page 4)

Another idea the Bjorngaards are promoting in Wanamingo is Granny Basketball! What a fun way to get in some much needed winter excersize and have fun doing so! They practice at the Wanamingo Elementary School, and they are hoping to grow their team. If you have some lady friends over 50 who would like to join the fun, please call Lois for more information. Sounds like a lot of fun to me!

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KW Noble Knights of the Week



KW Noble Knights of the Week for January 13, 2023

Front Row: Jaxon Johnson, KG, Ms. Madison Andrist; Mae Bakken, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Jade Wrolson, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Will Amundson, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Tucker Westlund, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Karter Drum, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Nathan Flom, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Haddie Breyer, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Frederick Johnson, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Lidia Jandro, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



KW Noble Knights of the Week for January 27, 2023

Front Row: Cole Ducklow, KG, Ms. Madison Andrist; Fatima Estevez Lima, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Brayden Peterson, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Fabian Smith, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Sam Keller, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Charlee Berg, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Lyra Blakstad, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Ariel Ordalen, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Emmett Peterson, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Blake Feidt, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Trinity Nelson, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



KW Noble Knights of the Week for February 3, 2023

Front Row: Aiden Dressel, KG, Ms. Madison Andrist; Johnny Gomez Hernandez, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Liza VanDeWalker, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Warner Hendrickson, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Korra Vodovnik, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Makenzie Lee, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Maverick Moechnig, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Lilian Piper, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Madeline Engen, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Leon Dressel, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing; Stellen Kyylo, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman

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*Treat Your Sweetheart
to The Fireside
this Valentine's Day*

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*Special Valentine's
Dinner Features!*

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Sunday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
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Sparkly Treasures at Tatge Jewelry

(continued from page 1)

"Since Covid started, I sell more plaques than the traditional trophies, since many teams have disbanded for the time being." Larry commented as I was looking through his vast collection of all things engravable. To see his inventory of different designs, log onto his website at Tatgejewelry.com.

And the clocks! This article wouldn't be complete without mentioning the clocks! What a collection he has! Big clocks, small clocks, Grandfather clocks and Cuckoo clocks. Beautiful in design, and possibly the perfect gift for that hard to please person on your shopping list.

Be sure to stop by and see this amazing store and if you haven't already met Larry, you are in for a treat!



Take Her Breath Away
This Valentine's Day
with a Gift
from
Tatge Jewelry



Large Inventory | Great Selection | Friendly Small Town Service | Honest Pricing



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J.B.'s New Faces, New Menu, Great Food

By Cheri Roshon

Since moving back to Wanamingo last year, I have had the pleasure of meeting many people who call this town home. I have to say, Barney Nesselth is one of the busiest ones I've met! Barney grew up and went to school here, and then left home and got married, and moved around for awhile before returning to Wanamingo in 2002 to raise his kids. "This is a great place to raise kids", he said, and I agree.

After working remotely for a computer company, he decided to try his hand at retail, and broke ground for a liquor store coupled with a Dollar store in 2004. The Dollar store wasn't as successful as he would have liked, so he turned it into a grocery store and ran that until 2018. Then he chose to expand the liquor store and add an office rental space. In 2014 he and his cousin Justin Nesselth bought what was then Ringo's Bar, and in 2 weeks had torn it apart and put it back together, renaming it JB's Tavern. They added a bar menu with burgers and fries, and it continues to be a place to stop in and chat with friends, or join the Dart League on Wednesdays, a Pool League on Tuesdays, and in the summer a Volleyball League, which the outdoor space turns into a parking lot for snowmobiles during the winter. Always thinking, that Barney!

Now that the New Year is here, there have been some big changes to JB's menu. Barney hired Executive Chef Matt Hinman from Dennison to run the kitchen, and the new menu is delightful. You can see it on the JB's Tavern Facebook page. I can't even begin to tell you about all the culinary delights I look forward to experiencing, but I can tell you that Chef Matt brought new spices and flavors to town. The burgers and sandwiches are still on the menu, with upgraded appetizers and dinners to delight any palette. Along with serving breakfast on Saturdays and Sundays,



Barney Nesselth

they have also added "Showing Off Our Chef Night" once a month on a Sunday of their choosing. To see the menu for each month go to the Facebook page and RSVP, because these nights sell out fast. Seating is limited to 32 people. To book your reservation, call (507) 990-7578 with your name and number of guests.

I was able to get in a quick chat with Chef Matt, and asked him about his previous endeavors. He has been an Executive Chef for about 30 years, working mostly in the Minneapolis area. He took a short break to pursue a barnwood furniture business in Dennison, but the call of the grill pulled him back to his culinary background, and Barney was lucky enough to convince him to come to JB's. "I'm just a guy who loves to cook!" he said. Well, I say Welcome Chef Matt, and I look forward to trying all the goodies on the new menu!

Now remember I said Barney is the busiest person I have met? Well, the news is out that there will be a new venue in Kenyon called Angie's, which is a partnership between Barney and Angie Anderson. We will be printing another article about Angie Anderson and her new restaurant in another issue of the Messenger. I have to say, it is going to be something special! Along with the restaurant, there will be a coffee bar featuring Espresso, Mocha Lattes and other specialty drinks like



smoothies, an ice cream shop, pizza take-out and delivery, and I think I heard a gift shop, too. Stay tuned for more information when it opens, Hopefully soon!

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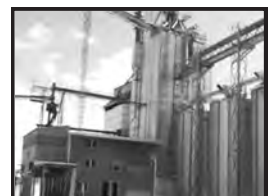
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Job Title: Executive Director
Location: 1700 Austin Rd, Owatonna, MN 55060

Organization Overview

The Steele County Historical Society is a dynamic organization serving our audiences through public programs, research, exhibits, stewardship, and through our consistent visibility. We strive to be a credible educational resource, a welcoming gathering place, an active partner, and a forward-looking institution. The mission of the Steele County Historical Society is to preserve and share history today for tomorrow.

Position Summary

The Executive Director oversees the operations and development of the Steele County Historical Society and takes appropriate steps to fulfill the mission and vision of the Society. The Executive Director provides leadership and has overall operational responsibility for strategic planning, outreach, and fund development. The Executive Director has day-to-day responsibility for administration, staff management, budget, and communications.

Primary Responsibilities

- Lead the Society in a manner that supports and guides its mission and vision.
- Recruit, train, and supervise staff.
- Actively promote and represent the Society throughout Steele County and the state of Minnesota, serving as the Society's primary representative and spokesperson for public, professional, and social occasions.
- Develop opportunities to increase the Society's membership. Promote the Society's programs, events, educational opportunities, exhibits, and outreach efforts to grow the organization and enhance its impact.
- Develop the annual budget for approval by the Board and manage finances within the approved budget to ensure maximum resource utilization and maintenance of the Society's assets.
- Diversify and increase revenue streams to secure resources necessary to support the annual operations and long-term goals of the Society. Seek additional opportunities for financial support through fund-raising campaigns, grants, and sponsorships, working in concert with appropriate staff.
- Oversee multiple locations and buildings including the History Center, Village of Yesteryear campus, Orphanage Museum, Cottage 11, and the Children's Cemetery.
- Communicate effectively with the Board, providing timely and accurate information to support their proper functioning and informed decision making.

Position Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in Nonprofit Management, Business Administration, History, or equivalent degree program.
- Experience in leading and evaluating organization operations, staffing, and communications; experience in a nonprofit setting preferred.
- Demonstrated success in fundraising, donor stewardship, and grant writing is strongly preferred.
- Strong motivational leadership skills, communication skills, and organizational skills, including strategic planning and task facilitation.
- Hands-on budget management skills, including budget preparation, analysis, and reporting.
- Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office including Word, Excel, and Outlook.
- Experience with InDesign and Past Perfect preferred.
- Core hours are Monday through Friday, with a flexible work schedule as needed cover programs and events held during evening and weekend hours.

This is a full-time, exempt position with a starting salary range of \$50,000-\$60,000. Benefits include paid holidays, vacation time, and sick/safe leave. Health and retirement plan benefits are not included.

To Apply

Please send a cover letter, your resume, and a list of three work-related references to SCHSBoard@steelehistorymuseum.org. The application deadline is February 18, 2023.
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Minnesota-specific Dicamba Herbicide Restriction to Remain in Place for 2023 State Restrictions Add Date and Temperature Restrictions

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) announced that state-specific use restrictions for three dicamba herbicide products will remain the same for the 2023 growing season in Minnesota. The restrictions are aimed at curbing off-site movement of the products.

The affected dicamba formulations are Engenia by BASF, Tavium by Syngenta, and

XtendiMax by Bayer. These are the only dicamba products labeled for use on dicamba-tolerant soybeans.

The three products are registered for use in Minnesota in 2023 with the following restrictions:

DATE CUTOFF: No application shall be made south of Interstate 94 after June 12, 2023. North of Interstate 94, use is prohibited after June 30, 2023.

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

Users can download these restrictions from the product manufacturer's website, and they must be in the user's possession during application.

"These restrictions mirror what we did in 2022 when we saw a major decrease in complaints of off-target movement from the previous year," said Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen. "These products must be used without impacts on neighboring homes,

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

During the 2022 growing season, the MDA received 25 formal complaints and eight responses to an informal survey, all alleging off-target movement. This was a major decrease from 2021 which saw a total of 304 formal complaints and survey responses.

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

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

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

Additional recordkeeping items

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

Since dicamba was first registered for use

on dicamba-tolerant soybeans in the 2017 growing season, the MDA has fielded complaints each year of alleged off-site movement onto neighboring property. The chemical is highly volatile and can damage non-target plant species through spray drift and/or volatilization. Volatility is influenced by several factors including temperature, relative humidity, rate of application, and crop stage. The annual totals of complaints were:

2022: 32 reports
2021: 304
2020: 128
2019: 20
2018: 51
2017: 249

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

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

MDA Now Accepting Applications for Noxious Weed/Invasive Plant Grants

Counties, municipalities, tribal governments, and weed management entities apply for grants by March 31

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the 2023 Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant. Counties, municipalities, tribal governments, and weed management entities (including weed management areas) may apply for grants to mitigate noxious weeds around the state. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must spend grant funds by June 30, 2023.

Since 2018, the MDA's Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant has awarded over \$1.3 million to fund a variety of activities such as purchasing equipment and supplies, conducting mapping and outreach activities, and hir-

ing private applicators to manage noxious weeds. The MDA has awarded 119 grants, averaging \$9,000.

Review the application requirements and find the application on the MDA website. Applications are due no later than 3 p.m. on March 31, 2023. Questions can be directed to Emilie Justen, MDA Noxious Weed Law Coordinator, at Emilie.Justen@state.mn.us.

The grant program is funded by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Grants Available to Provide Access to Healthy Food

Good Food Access Program Grant applications due by March 16, 2023

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the 2023 Good Food Access Program (GFAP) grants to increase availability and access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods to underserved communities.

The GFAP Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant helps grocery stores and small food retailers purchase equipment or make physical improvements that will allow them to stock more fresh foods. Potential projects may include the purchase and installation costs of shelving, coolers, and freezers, as well as mobile food trucks, permanent infrastructure at farmers' markets, or architectural work.

A total of \$320,750 is available for this year's round of GFAP Equipment and Physical Improvement Grants, and the MDA anticipates awarding between 10 and 18 grants of up to \$50,000 each. A cash match is not required, and up to 50% of the award may be requested in advance. Multi-site proposals are encouraged.

The GFAP Technical Assistance Grant is available to help nonprofit organizations and

public agencies provide appropriate technical assistance — including guidance and resources on topics such as business planning, financing, marketing, food procurement and distribution, handling and merchandising fresh foods, and more — to eligible food retailers, such as grocery stores, corner stores, and farmers' markets.

The MDA will award up to \$100,000 in this round of GFAP Technical Assistance Grants. Applicants may request between \$5,000 and \$50,000, and the grants can cover up to 75% of project costs.

Awards for both grants must be used to support projects that are located in or serve census-designated food deserts or low- to moderate-income communities with limited access to supermarkets.

All grant applications are due by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2023.

For more information, including a list of eligibility requirements, visit the GFAP Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant and the GFAP Technical Assistance Grant webpages.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT Finance Director

The City of Kenyon & Kenyon Municipal Utilities, MN, is seeking a Finance Director. Kenyon is located 40 miles south of the Twin Cities and 40 miles north of Rochester, MN. Conducts financial and accounting functions. Pay rate up to \$37.41+ per hour (non-exempt) but negotiable depending on experience plus excellent benefits.

Qualifications: A.A Degree in accounting, finance, business, or related field and at least three years of experience in a position with similar responsibilities. Desired: B.S. degree in accounting, finance, public administration, business or related field.

Application materials are available at Kenyon City Hall, and at <http://www.city-ofkenyon.com> or by calling 507-789-6415. Review of applications will begin on March 3, 2023, **Application materials will be accepted until the position is filled.** Submit application materials to info@cityofkenyon.com, by mail, or at City Hall 709 2nd St. Kenyon, MN 55946. EOE

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That's the Latest Quilting Party



By Emery Kleven

Emery is now a retired farm broadcaster after starting at KDHL in Faribault in 1987. He's a 1971 graduate of West Concord High School. You can view past columns at his website RoadFarming.com. You can email him at emery@roadfarming.com.

I was recently at a quilting party. The old Dover, Minnesota school building is now Dover city hall. I stopped by to visit with the city clerk Gary Pedersen who gave 3 of us WC Historical Society board members a tour of the building back in November. I had a thank you gift of a WCHS coffee mug I wanted to drop off for him. There were only about two parking spots left in the front of the building which I thought was unusual for the city of 795 residents on a Wednesday afternoon. I asked Gary if he was having a sale on building permits or something but he said no, there's a quilting party in one of the old classrooms, one of the rooms that Gary attended for one of his grade school years back in the day.

I had a souvenir coffee mug for Dover city employee Marvin Ihrke who was there for the tour in November too. He said Marvin was over in the other room quilting. I thought to myself, I have to see that. Well I misunderstood; it was Mrs. Marvin who was one of 15 ladies who were quilting and not Marvin himself. So I visited with the ladies a little, talked about the old school in West Concord and they told me a little more about the 1925 building in Dover. As I left the quilting party after taking a picture, I told the ladies I noticed there was no wine or wine glasses on the tables. They told me that started at 4 o'clock. Darn the luck, I was there at 2:30.

As I drove away I got thinking back to the quilting parties my mom would have in our basement on the farm. There would be from 8-10 ladies who would put long 1x4" boards precariously on top of old wooden chairs to use as their frames and then begin to stretch out pieces of fabric that would eventually end up being a beautiful quilt. While I did not partake of the actual quilting, I did get to enjoy lunch which always included Thelma's cinnamon rolls. That was the best part of the quilting, the cinnamon rolls.

Thelma Hilling, yes Reenie's mom, would make thee best cinnamon rolls and I would always try to find them before the quilters took a break. My mom got wise to this so she would hide them. Well much to my delight, in the Hegre Lutheran Church cookbook which was produced in 1968, right there on page 9 is the recipe for Thelma's cinnamon rolls. I made them a number of years ago and



Quilting party of 15 at the old Dover, MN school building on January 11, 2023.

then this year over the holidays in Omaha, my kids and I decided we'd have a Hegre dinner where we would make things from the cookbook. I made the Tator Tot hotdish and Thelma's cinnamon rolls. And they turned out pretty darn good. Reenie, your mom would have been proud of how good they turned out!

It's fun to go through these old cookbooks and find a number of recipes that bring back great memories. But I have found that sometimes all these great cooks of yesteryear would leave out certain instructions that apparently a person is just supposed to know. For instance, I found out when making a hot dish with rice, you should probably boil up the rice first. Sometimes you just have to figure out which ingredient they left out of the recipe whether intentional or not. I think back to the TV show 'Everybody Loves Raymond' where the mom Marie left out an ingredient or two before giving the recipe to Ray's wife Debra. Marie did not want her to be a better cook than she was. Now I don't think the Hegre ladies did that but sometimes I wonder why a recipe just doesn't taste right. I did what the book said but it's the instructions left out that leave room for a conspiracy theory.

The recipes can sometimes be very precise and sometimes they say just add flour until its thick enough. Well what does that mean?

The precision was in a lasagne recipe that my aunt Marion put in the book. In the book it's spelled with a 'z'. It says after you get all the ingredients prepared and then get the lasagne layered correctly with the noodles you bake it for about 20 minutes at 359°. Of course that's probably a typo. She meant to say bake it at 358°. And what's with ABOUT 20 minutes? Do I have to start checking at 10 minutes and then every two minutes after that until I see black showing up on the cheese or noodles or both?

You are a master chef if you get a recipe to turn out on the first try from these old cookbooks. However I did get the cinnamon rolls on a first time and they've turned out good

every time since. I think next I'll try the 5 can hot dish. Everything is pre-measured by the can. Can't mess that one up right? Well at least by the third time it should turn out.

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Community Health Needs Assessment Names Top 10 Issues

Mental Health, Housing, and Drug & Alcohol Use Top the List

By Goodhue County Health and Human Services

Goodhue County, MN (January, 2023) - The health of all people in Goodhue County is the subject of a newly released report. The 2022 Goodhue County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) identifies top health issues and offers a starting point to identify health inequities.

The report is an effort to take stock of the health of all people in Goodhue County. In the past local public health conducted the community health assessment every five years, and Mayo Clinic Health System every three years. The 2022 CHNA is a joint effort and will continue on a three-year cycle. As part of the process, members of the Community Health Assessment committee reviewed responses and comments from a 2021 random sample survey, a 2021 convenience sample survey, key informant interviews, an online prioritization survey, a community partner assessment, and community engagement events. Additionally, data from state and national sources were reviewed.

“Both health departments and hospitals are required to assess the needs of our communities and identify priorities,” said Ruth Greenslade, Public Health Supervisor for Goodhue County Health and Human Services.

“We looked at health conditions, like diabetes. We looked at the factors that contribute to health conditions, like our behaviors and access to health care and income. When we took a list of all these health issues to community leaders from different towns in the county a year ago and asked them to identify the top issues, more than 80% of them said mental health. Then our intern went out to community events in the summer and the again the issue the most people were concerned about was mental health.”

The impact of COVID-19 had a major influence on the top health issues in this assessment. While mental health was also a top 10 issue in the 2017 Community Health Assessment, it rose to the number one spot, and for the first time, social connection and inclusion, and education access and quality were identified as top 10 issues, with many key informants and community members identifying the pandemic as a contributing factor.

“So many of our top issues are interrelated and the data shows how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of these issues,” said Maggie Cichosz, Community Engagement Specialist at Goodhue County Health and Human Services. “In 2021 we saw a spike in opioid overdose deaths and the 2022 student survey showed an increase in students who reported seriously considering suicide.”

“We are so thankful for all the community members and partners that have taken the time to work on this important report,” said Nina Arneson, Goodhue County Health and Human Services Director. “A special thank you goes to our core group for their strong leadership, partnership and commitment to improving health for all.” The core group includes Greenslade, Cichosz, Stephanie Olson, Mayo Clinic Health System Commu-



Health Conditions Health Behaviors Systems and Settings Social Determinants of Health

nity Engagement Specialist, Michelle Leise, City of Red Wing Community Engagement Facilitator and Maureen Nelson, Goodhue, Wabasha and Pierce Counties United Way Executive Director.

Olson said, “Moving to doing an assessment report together every three years will allow Goodhue County and Mayo Clinic Health System to advance our partnership. In the past we have shared data and now we are working together throughout the assessment process and the process of writing the implementation plan.”

The CHNA report sets the stage for the Goodhue County Community Health Improvement Plan 2023- 2025, which will describe long-term, collective efforts to improve the health of everyone in the county.

The 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment, as well as many of the data sources used, are available on the Goodhue County website at www.co.goodhue.mn.us/chna.

Top 10 Health Issues:

- Mental Health & Mental Disorders
- Housing & Homes
- Drug & Alcohol Use
- Social Connection & Inclusion
- Education Access & Quality
- Health Care Access & Quality

- Economic Stability
- Physical Activity
- Health Communication
- Violence Prevention

This assessment was made possible in part by a grant from the National Association of City and County Health Officials to pilot test Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) 2.0 assessment guidance as well as by a Minnesota Department of Health Rural Health Assessment grant using federal funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The mission of the Goodhue County Community Health Assessment Committee is to identify health disparities and top health issues for Goodhue County and implement and evaluate strategies, policies, and programs.

About Goodhue County Health and Human Services:

The mission of Goodhue County Health and Human Services is to “Promote, Protect and Strengthen the Health of Individuals, Families, and Communities.” The department has four service divisions: Economic Assistance, Public Health, Social Services, and HHS Finance/IT. For more information on Goodhue County Health & Human Services, please visit www.co.goodhue.mn.us.

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Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) our motto is collaborating for regional vitality, and we do our best to live up to that commitment. In each area of our work – early childhood, entrepreneurship, and community vitality – we are mindful of partners in the state and region with whom we can collaborate to make a difference. Especially at this time of year as we look back at our accomplishments in 2022, we want to express our gratitude to these partners.

In partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, SMIF issued COVID business recovery grants to over 2,000 businesses in

our region, totaling over \$20 million since the onset of the pandemic. For SMIF this was over and above our regular workload, and I am also extremely grateful to our staff who stepped up to make this happen!

In partnership with Renewing the Countryside, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and other organizations, we co-sponsored the ninth annual Feast Local Foods Marketplace on November 5 at the Mayo Civic Center. It was our most successful event ever, with over 90 local food booths (exhibiting products like syrups and sauces, meats and cheeses, wines, brews and more) and roughly 1300 attendees. This event is a great way to highlight and celebrate the growing local foods sector in our region.

In partnership with, and often a referral from, local banks and economic development agencies, SMIF issued a total of 30 loans in fiscal year 2022 amounting to \$1.7 million dollars. In the first few months of fiscal year 2023, we have already added another seven loan clients to that number. We are proud to play a role in supporting new and early-stage businesses in our region.

SMIF also engages in numerous business training activities each year. These include our Prosperity Initiative offering coaching and mentoring to minority and new immigrant entrepreneurs, our Rural Entrepreneur Venture program which assists communities in creating an entrepreneurial culture, our Entrepreneur Bridge event which draws upwards of 75 small businesses each year for informational sessions important to business success, and our Young Entrepreneur competitions focused on encouraging a new generation to start and build a business in our



region. Various partners make these efforts possible – including Community Economic Development Associates (CEDA), the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Red Wing Ignites, Collider in Rochester, Region Nine Development Commission, and the South-Central Minnesota Business Development Center in Mankato – as well as several of our region’s colleges and universities.

For many years, SMIF has supported early education through grant-making and literacy efforts in our twenty-county region. This past year our reading programs distributed books to over 40 organizations, totaling over 21,000 books. Our book program includes a partnership with many Kiwanis Clubs in the area. All of this great work is made possible due to the generosity of two local publishing companies, Abdo and Capstone, who donate books for this purpose.

Throughout each year, SMIF offers trainings for early childhood providers to help them secure the continuing education credits they need to stay in business and be the best they can be. In the past year we provided 29 trainings reaching 711 providers! We want to

express appreciations to our key partners in this work: Families First, Le Sueur County, Lake Crystal Little Lakers, Mankato Public Schools, Help Me Grow, United Way of Steele County, as well as various trainers.

As of 2022, SMIF is partnering with 31 communities in southern Minnesota by helping them create and maintain community funds. These funds are designed to assist smaller towns in securing tax-deductible donations to build endowments and to invest in local needs. The book “Boomtown USA” cites community funds as one of the keys to small town vitality, and we are pleased to partner with community leaders in this regard.

As you can see, at SMIF we have much to celebrate and many partners to thank.

We look forward to working with our regional partners again in 2023 to continue investing in the vitality of our southern Minnesota region.

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



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- FIRE-FIGHTERS CHILI COOK-OFF 3PM - 4PM**
- BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT @ 4:30PM**
- REGISTRATION @ 4PM
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Kenyon City Council Meeting December 13, 2022

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council Meeting was duly held in the City Council chambers at 5:30 p.m. on the 13th day of December 2022. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Henke.

The following members were present: Mayor Doug Henke, Council Members Mary Bailey, Molly Ryan, and Dan Rechtzigel

Absent: Kim Helgeson

Also, present: Administrator Mark Vahlsing, Engineer Derek Olinger, Attorney Scott Riggs, Administrative Assistant Holli Gudknecht, Police Officer Brian Homeier, Finance Clerk Kathy Flikke, Public Works Supervisor Wayne Ehrich, KMU Supervisor Randy Eggert, Linda Bean, Jerry and Diane Barrett

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENT ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Rechtzigel second by Ryan to approve the agenda.

Motion carried 4-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Rechtzigel, second by Bailey to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes payment of check numbers 74311 through 74404; 4308E through 4354E.

Motion carried 4-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS/ PUBLIC HEARINGS/ RECOGNITIONS/PROLAMATIONS ENGINEERING

Pearl Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements

City Engineer Olinger stated that the survey work for the Pearl Creek Sanitary Sewer improvements has been completed. Construction limits will be finalized in the next month, easement limits will be determined, and affected property owners notified.

2023 Street Improvements Final Design Proposal

City Engineer Olinger presented a proposal containing the engineering scope and fee for the final design and preparation of bid documents for the 2023 street improvements. The estimated fees are \$54,236 for this work which will be completed this winter to allow for a spring bid and summer 2023 construction.

Motion by Bailey second by Ryan to approve Bolton & Menk's final design proposal for the 2023 street improvement project in the amount of \$54,236. Motion carried 4-0-0.

LEGAL

Nuisance Property Violation – 1 Langford Avenue Update

Attorney Riggs updated the Council on the 1 Langford Avenue cleanup. Riggs stated that he has had conversations with their attorneys, but the owner is still resisting with little progress happening. The police department was instructed to write tickets for expired vehicles.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 2022-24: Adopting the 2023 Budget and Establishing the Tax Levy for Payable 2023

Administrator Vahlsing stated that the Truth in Taxation meeting was held on December 6. No public comments were received at the meeting. The final budget shows a maximum proposed levy increase of 6.8% for 2023.

Motion by Rechtzigel second by Bailey to adopt Resolution 2022-24 adopting the 2023 budget and establishing the tax levy of \$1,183,301 payable in 2023. Motion carried 4-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2022-25: A Resolution Committing Capital Fund Balances

Administrator Vahlsing stated that the general accounting standard (GASB 54) requires all public entities to set year end Capital fund balances before the end of the current year contingent on audited final numbers. The final year-end capital fund amounts will not be known until the 2022 audit is completed.

Motion by Ryan seconded by Bailey to adopt Resolution 2022-25 committing capital fund balances.

Motion carried 4-0-0.

Approve Transfer of Fire Department Year End Remaining Funds to Capital Fund

Administrator Vahlsing stated that council approval is needed to move the year end Fire Department budget balance to the capital fund. The actual transfer amount will be determined by the auditors as part of the 2022 audit.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Henke to

approve the transfer of fire department year end remaining funds to capital funds. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Approve Transfer of Street Maintenance Year End Remaining Funds to Capital Fund

Administrator Vahlsing stated that council approval is needed to move the year end Street Maintenance Department budget balance to the capital fund. The actual transfer amount will be determined by the auditors as part of the 2022 audit.

Motion by Ryan seconded by Bailey to approve the transfer of public works year end remaining funds, including street maintenance, pool, and parks, to capital funds. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Approve Transfer of Excess Funds from the Library Book Budget to Capital Fund

Administrator Vahlsing stated that council approval is needed to move excess funds from the library book budget to the capital fund. The actual transfer amount will be determined by the auditors as part of the 2022 audit.

Motion by Henke seconded by Rechtzigel to approve the transfer of excess library book funds to capital funds. Motion carried 4-0-0.

2023 Tobacco License Renewals

Kenyon Market
River Country Co-Op (Speedway)
Kenyon Municipal Liquor Store
Motion by Rechtzigel seconded by Ryan to approve to approve the 2023 tobacco license renewals.

Motion carried 4-0-0.

KMU Commission Wage Increase

Mayor Henke stated that the KMU Commission asked about the possibility of a raise in their yearly wage. It has been many years since the KMU Commissioners have had a raise. They are currently paid \$1,200 per year.

Motion by Rechtzigel seconded by Bailey to adopt a wage increase of \$200 per year starting in 2023 for the KMU Commissioners. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Police Department – Approval to lease a New Printer/Scanner/Fax Machine

Administrator Vahlsing stated that the Police Department requested approval to lease a Cannon printer/copier/fax machine. The lowest of three quotes was received from

Loffler with a lease price of \$43.63 a month. The term of the lease would be 60 months.

Motion by Ryan second by Henke to approve the lease from Loffler for a Cannon printer/copier/fax machine at a price of \$43.63 per month. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Holiday Office Closings

Administrator Vahlsing requested approval for City Offices/Library to close on Friday, December 23 at noon and the library to be closed on Saturday, December 24.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Ryan to close the City Office and Library at noon on Friday, December 23 and close the library on Saturday, December 24.

Motion carried 4-0-0.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

KMU Meeting: Tuesday, December 20 @ 4:00 p.m.

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 10 @ 7 p.m.

COUNCIL AND STAFF GENERAL COMMENTS

Administrator Vahlsing thanked everyone involved with Christmas in Kenyon and thanked Dan Rechtzigel for his time on the Council.

Engineer Olinger thanked Dan Rechtzigel for serving on the council and stated he had great respect for his approach to projects.

Attorney Riggs enjoyed working with Dan and all the council members. He wished everyone happy holidays.

Council members Bailey and Ryan thanked Dan for his time on the council and his help in answering all their questions.

Mayor Henke wished everyone a merry Christmas and happy new year. He thought Christmas in Kenyon and Rose Fest both went well this year. He thanked Dan for the input and expertise that he brought to the council.

Councilman Rechtzigel stated that he had enjoyed working with everyone.

Randy Eggert stated he is looking at grants and a spot in town, possibly in the parking lot by the generating plant, for a future EB charging station.

Motion by Ryan second by Bailey to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Motion carried 4-0-0.

Holli Gudknecht, Administrative Assistant
Douglas Henke, Mayor

Commissioner Corner

By Todd Greseth, County Commissioner for District 3

I am starting my 3rd year as your county commissioner, the time is going fast. I have already experienced change from my first year in office. Our world is moving even faster than before and Goodhue county will try to keep up. We now have a Outreach and Communication specialist who is doing a great job with our social media and bringing the county business to the people of Goodhue county. Please check out our website and face book, there will be more changes coming soon too. We recently had a goal setting meeting with the commissioners. Finding a solution to our staffing of the county and keeping our cost in control and all of our programs running is a real struggle. I think we all have heard that it is hard to find staff and keep staff and we are no different, but we are looking at options and ways to improve. Byllesby park pavilion is going to be a real nice addition to our park system so please plan a time to go and see it this summer, we really do have a nice park there. Please let me know what you are thinking about Goodhue County, both good and bad but I hope there is not too much bad.



Todd Greseth
Goodhue County
Commissioner
District 3

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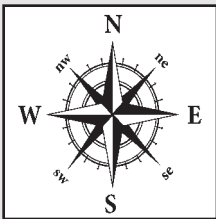
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Old License Plates and Memories



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

Living on a family farm means you have a collection of items that can be much older than yourself. Last summer my wife had one of her interior decorator friends do her magic on our newly remodeled house. One of the things was a display board of some of the tin signs and license plates that have been around the farmstead all my life. These are not only interesting but also convey a wealth of memories from the past, which predates me by quite a time.

The oldest item on this board is a set of license plates off a pre-1920 Model T Ford owned by my grandfather Otis Campbell. From what I can determine this was his first horse less carriage. I can ascertain that the vehicle was a 1919 or older Model T because it had a crank start. He would have bought it used since the plate is dated 1928 and the story, I will relate took place that year when my grandparents first child was just an infant.

Cooperatives were a common type of organization for farm service businesses. Otis was going to go to a meeting in West Concord for what I believe was a creamery association. It was a warm spring day and my grandmother and their very young daughter accompanied him in the open-air vehicle. The young farm couple were in their twenties and I can only imagine what a wonderful world it seemed like a century ago.

While my grandfather participated in the

meeting, his wife Eva went for a drive down the dirt road we now know as Highway 56. A few miles to the south of town she decided to turn around. In the course of maneuvering the old Ford to return to town the engine quit. With a little baby wrapped in a blanket on the front seat, my grandmother had to dismount and hand crank the engine to start it again. She got it running and they chugged back to town.

The next set of license plates are motorcycle plates from 1948 and 1952. My father had a Harley Davidson 74 when he was a young man. Most of the stories I heard about the motorcycle were relayed to me by those who knew my dad. One of my dad's friends was our neighbor, Bub Wichser. Bud told me that my dad said he could take the Harley for a ride if he could get it started. By my calculations Bub would have been about 12 years old at the time. Never think a farm boy, no matter how young, can't get an engine started. Bub fired the Harley up and headed down the road on a ride. My dad sold the Harley before I was born, but he did tell me one story. Most roads were gravel back then and while on a trip back from Cannon Falls one evening, he laid the cycle over on a gravel curve. When he got home, he cleaned himself up and had to explain to my grandma about the bloody towels. He had gravel still embedded in the skin around his elbows thirty years later. He may have told me that story just to keep me from riding.

The next set of plates are for my grandfather's old pickup. It was a late 1940's Ford truck. Ford pickups have always played a vital role on our family farm. The last plate was from 1955 and is a "T" plate. As a kid I recall truck license plates designated with a T. I think it indicated a farm truck but am not certain if that was so.

In the granary on the old farm my grandfather had written many bits of information on the board walls. Most where about crops and feed and livestock, but one of them dated in the early 50's stated that he almost ran over Elvis with the pickup. That one got my attention. My dad explained that they named the dog Elvis, because he was "nothin' but a hound dog". One day my grandpa was backing up to the granary to unload feed from the pickup. Elvis was standing behind the pickup looking away and when the pickup bumper hit him, he yelped. Otis in his dry sense of humor noted that on that day he almost ran over Elvis.

A Minnesotan: More on Snow



By RosaLin Alcoser

Recently the Twin Cities got slammed by a ton of powder snow fall; while I was at work in the office. It was not snowing when I left home but started after I got there.

Because of the snow a lot of people left during lunch to finish the day from home. Except for me, the forecast said it was going to stop at 1pm. So I figured I might as well stay all day; after all, if I leave after it's not been snowing for a while then the roads will be plowed. Right?

Wrong! I was wrong in my assumption that the roads would all be plowed.

Now some of the side roads in town I did not expect to be completely snow free by the time I left for work. There were places where one side was plowed and the other was not. Which is to be expected since the plow has to come back in the other direction to do that side.

The issue was when I got to the highway; which I normally do not take home. Normally I take a backway home to avoid traffic. However, due to the large amounts of powdery snow I thought that I should play it safe and take the highway.

Clearly my assumption was that the highway would have been plowed. After all, it's a highway. The highway had not been plowed.

Instead it was a slushy snow filled mess.

I did end up taking it all the way back to my neighborhood though by doing something that I had not done since I was a teenager driving to school.

I followed a 4x4 that was following a Semitruck and got into their tire tracks just like I used to do on snowy Minnesota mornings when I would follow the milk truck out of the valley to the main road.

The process was a little bit terrifying and extremely slow, however, I did live to tell the tale.

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