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NERSTRAND

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JUNE, 2023

Volume 20 • Issue 9

Share a pic with Your Town

We are starting a contest of the best picture to encapsulate or represent your community and each issue we will be selecting the best submissions for publication in the Messenger and on-line. All you have to do is send us a picture that you take and you could be a winner. First prize each month will receive a \$25.00 gift card to a local restaurant. E-mail the picture to hometownmessenger@gmail.com.



(see ad on page 6)

Announcements

• **Wednesday Wear, Nerstrand United Methodist Church** hours are **Wednesdays 1 - 5 and Saturdays 9 - 12**. Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys and books. All things are free with donations accepted. Come and see what we have!

• **Dennison Lions Club** meets monthly. During COVID-19, meeting times may vary.

• **Dennison City Council** meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

• **The Nerstrand City Council** meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at the Nerstrand City Hall. Office hours are: Monday 8:30-11:00; Tuesday by appointment; Wednesday 8:30-11:00; Thursday 5:00-7:00; Friday by appointment. 507-332-8000.

• **Warsaw Township Meeting** is held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Warsaw Township Hall. Meeting time is 6:00p.m.

• **The Wheeling Township meeting** will be held on the second Monday of each month at 8:00p.m. at the Wheeling Township Hall. Contact Rebecca Vergin, Township Clerk.

Dennison Farmers Market is Back Up and Running

By Heidi Cooke

The Dennison Farmer's Market is back up and running for 2023! We have a variety of vendors and goods available for purchase. Donna Vesledahl is back with her fresh eggs and will have vegetables later in the season. Patty Casper has joined us with tomato and pepper plants and potted flowers along with

wind chimes and assorted crafts. All Thumbs Woodturning brings us an assortment of different shapes and styles of artistic wood bowls from Roger Schroeder. His partner at the table had some beautiful wooden cutting boards and charcuterie boards for sale. Of course, we can't forget the baked goods! Jacque Meyer of Jac's Home Baked Goods, with help from her husband, shows up with a table full of tasty baked items and treats, including breads, scones, coffee cakes, sweet breads, rice crispie bars and more. Next in the treat department, we have Pamela Davis of P/J Creations. She brings mini bundt cakes, macarons, cake pops, cookies decorated with icing, and chocolate cookies.

(continued on page 6)



108th Cannon Valley Fair July 1 - 4



The 108th annual Cannon Valley Fair in Cannon Falls returns this year with their full schedule including the annual parade and fireworks, live music and more!

Kuball Makes State Dairy Finalist

By Terry Campbell

Emma Kuball grew up outside of Waterville and is the sixth generation to live and work on their dairy farm. Their family purchased the farm in 1903 and built the barn still used for milking in 1920. The Kuball family farms 1,200 acres and milks 240 Holsteins in a double six parlor.

Growing up on the farm Emma was involved in many ways in the family business. She started feeding calves before she was old enough to go to school. 4-H started her in cattle showing where she found out how fun dairy judging could be. Emma worked with her sister and brother on the farm each summer but also had time for fun activities like climbing in the cottonseed pile and making an obstacle course out of hay bales. She served as a Rice County Dairy Maid during her fifth through eighth grade years. After joining FFA she raised calves as her supervised ag experience. Emma also served as the Minnesota State FFA president this past year.

Emma had always looked up to the Princess Kay candidates and wanted to participate when she was able. Her aunt was a finalist in 2002 and her sister Kelsey became a butthead in 2021.

(continued on page 3)



Emma Kuball

America's Favorite Old-Fashioned Big Top Circus is Coming to Dennison August 2nd

Thanks to the sponsorship of The Dennison Lions Club & Fireside Lounge, The Culpeper & Merriweather Circus, America's Favorite Big Top Circus is returning to Dennison, Minnesota on Wednesday August 2nd, with two scheduled performances.

(continued on page 5)

Two Council Seats Open in Nerstrand

The city of Nerstrand has two council seats open due to resignations submitted.

If you would like to become a Nerstrand council member you must live in the city, have lived in the city for at least 30 days, and be 21 years or older.

The term would be until the end of 2024 (with a special election for the remaining 2 years of term in office until end of 2026 if you choose).

(continued on page 21)

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and every month - we thank
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Valuable?

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the principal leader of the Church of England, said, "The Coronation will be a service of Christian worship, deeply rooted in the wisdom we find in Scripture."

When presenting the Bible to the king, the moderator said: "We present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; This is the royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God."

During the coronation, King Charles held the gold scepter with the mammoth Cullinan I diamond, which weighs 530.2 carats. The world's largest cut white diamond is priceless. The king's crown is made of solid gold and is adorned with 444 gemstones, including rubies, garnets, sapphires, and tourmalines. The coronation crown weighs five pounds. The royal orb, a symbol of the king's power, is a golden globe surrounded by a cross set with emeralds, diamonds, rubies, pearls and sapphires, and a large amethyst on top. Yet, the statement was: The Bible is "the most valuable thing that this world affords." Surrounded by priceless but temporary earthly riches, God's Word alone provides eternal value. Instead of eternal value we often think of value as short-term.

People determine how valuable an item is. When you go to a garage sale, or a flea market, or an antique shop- you may see the same exact item- but have 3 very different price tags. If something is old and unique or rare- it can be quite valuable- even then it is only valuable to someone collecting said item. If

no one wants it- and you've run out of storage- and it doesn't sell in the garage sale- then it isn't very valuable anymore. In our society of stuff and collections it is easy to gather things that we think are valuable; sadly though, many of those very nice things have little financial worth.

If we want to understand the true worth of a person- the value of a person- we must see them as Jesus sees them. We must change our mindset on what makes something or someone valuable.

In the latter part of Luke 16 Jesus tells a story of a rich man and a beggar. The rich man is nameless- no doubt to be better applied to the crowd of pharisees standing near and not to take away from the illustration if there were trying to figure out who He was talking about. We are a blessed nation and people. On the average every American makes more than billions of people in the world. Much of the world lives on less than \$50.00 a week. The money we have, the clothes we wear, the car we drive have nothing to do to our 'value' to God and to people.

In our parable we read about the rich man. He wasn't only rich, but he lived it up each day- it was just one party after another. He had an amazing wardrobe and ate and drank his day away each day. He was 'grossly rich' and everyone was aware of it. He flaunted it! He is there to demonstrate opulence and selfishness.

The 2nd person introduced in this parable is Lazarus, not to be confused with Mary and Martha's brother that gets raised from

the dead, "Lazarus, a diseased beggar, was laid at his door. 21 As he lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores." What a contrast. Opulence- and desperate poverty- just a door to separate them. The people listening to this story could identify- they saw the rich each day and there were always beggars around the towns looking for anything to help them stay alive. Lazarus was willing to eat the scraps that were thrown to the dogs- he was desperate and starving. He was to the point of having little hope for his future- even letting the dogs lick his sores! We see these two men- and see the contrast immediately. We all know people on each end of the spectrum- most of us fall near the rich end of the financial line- (even though we don't think of ourselves as rich)

Next, we read that they both die- we all end the same- no one gets out of this world alive! Death is a great equalizer. Lazarus the beggar is taken to heaven, and the rich man is taken to hell. Another great contrast in this story. There is no middle ground- the decision we make here in this life is the one we will live with forever in eternity! And the rich man in our parable discovered this the hard way.

There in torment the rich man saw Lazarus in heaven with Abraham. This man who probably never even noticed Lazarus on earth finally sees this person that he treated lower than his dogs. This poor unhealthy man that made an unsightly presence at the

rich man's gate- is in paradise. On earth the beggar had very little value in the eyes of the rich and famous. Without an income and without his health he really wasn't valuable to this world. Yet, in Jesus eyes- this one man was worthy enough for Jesus to go to the cross for him. This one man was/is invaluable to Jesus. Invaluable: "valuable beyond estimation"; the word describes something so precious that one cannot assign a price to it.

You and I are invaluable- Jesus said in Matthew 10:29-31, "Aren't two sparrows sold for only a penny? But your Father knows when any one of them falls to the ground. 30 Even the hairs on your head are counted. 31 So don't be afraid! You are worth much more than many sparrows."

You are valuable to God. He said in Isaiah 43:4, "You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you" (ESV).

- You are valuable because God is your Father, and you are his child. The Bible says, "Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?" (Matthew 6:26 NLT).

- You are valuable because Jesus gave his life for you. The Bible says, "You have been bought and paid for by Christ, so you belong to him" (1 Corinthians 7:23 TLB).

The fact that you belong to God adds incredible value to your life. If you want to know how valued you are, just look at the cross.



Mainstreet Messenger

Mainstreet Publishing
P.O. Box 125, Dennison, MN 55018
Phone 507-645-9877
Fax 507-645-9878

www.dennisonmn.com
www.nerstrandmn.com

Published in cooperation with
Mainstreet Publishing Minnesota, Inc.
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LUTHERAN

Dennison/Vang Lutheran Parish
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN • 507-645-6042
Website: www.dennisonvang.org
Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com
Pastor Paul A. Graham
Summer Worship Schedule
During the summer months, there will be one combined service on Sundays. In June, worship will be at Vang at 9:00 AM. In July, worship will be at Dennison at 9:00 AM.

Gol Lutheran Marv Kormann, Pastor
Marv Kormann, Pastor • 507-789-6311
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Grace Lutheran, Nerstrand
Mike Ahrens S.A.M.
Service 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran
9:00a.m. Sunday School
10:00a.m. Coffee Time 10:30a.m. Worship Service

Hegre Lutheran
Pastor Chris Brekke
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

Moland Lutheran
Nancy Edvardson, Pastor • 10:30 a.m. worship

First Ev. Lutheran
Luther Mathsen, Pastor
Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC
Shannon Bauer, Pastor
24289 Cty. 24 Blvd., Cannon Falls
Sunday Worship at 9:00a.m. followed by fellowship.
Thursday Bible Study at 9:00a.m.

Email your church announcements, schedule, etc.
to the Mainstreet Messenger
at:
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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Almighty, Gentle God

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. — Isaiah 40:11

Isaiah 40 speaks of the power and might of God with amazing clarity. Estimates hold that the observable universe is 45 billion light years across, and yet, according to Isaiah, that is only like the breadth of God's hand. Ultimately, though, comparing the infinite God to the finiteness of this universe—as expansive as it is—would be futile.

Even so, when we consider that the almighty God scoops up his people in his arms and carries them like lambs, close to his heart, we are moved to marvel at his gentle love. Knowing that God has written our names on the palms of his hands (Isaiah 49:16) and that he sings over us (Zephaniah 3:17) as he carries us along is comforting beyond words.

Today some of us need to experience the comfort of our gentle God. Reading of his gentle loving care is a good start. However, God's gentleness is experienced in an incarnational way (in the flesh) when we treat others with the gentleness that God has shown us.

In what ways can you show gentleness to everyone around you today?
Father, you are infinite and almighty. We are small and weak. You pick us up in your arms, and you love us and bless us. May we find shelter in your love today, and may we be shelter for people who are hurting. In Jesus, Amen.

METHODIST

Nerstrand United Methodist
Gary Liker, Pastor
507-330-0025
Worship 9:00a.m.

Stanton United Methodist
Rev. Tom Countryman
Worship 10:15a.m.
Church Phone 507-263-4063

ST. JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Wheeling Township) 19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault
Gary Liker, Pastor • 507-330-0025
www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info
Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

NEW LIFE CHURCH

Colin Reuter, Pastor
525 Beverly St., Wanamingo
9:00a.m. Sunday School for all ages;
10:00a.m. Worship Service
7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

HOLDEN-DALE PARISH

Pastor Dustin Haider • 507-789-6677
Email: holdensecretary@gmail.com
Worship schedule found at:
www.holdenlutheranchurch.org
Holden/Dale Facebook





Pastor Paul A. Graham

Dennison-Vang Lutheran Parish seeks to be a loving presence in the community in Christ's name. We are a community of faith that makes a difference through worship and serving outside our walls. If you are looking for something more in your life, come check us out!

37514 3rd Avenue, Dennison, MN 55018
Website: www.dennisonvang.org

E-MAIL ADDRESS: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com

Benefit Auction

Please keep Oliver and family in your prayers

WHAT: Benefit Auction for Oliver Quamme-Sapp

WHEN: Wednesday, July 26 WHERE: Vang Lutheran Church

In December 2022, Oliver, just 3 years old, began his journey when a renal mass was found near his right kidney. Between now and then, he received numerous rounds of chemotherapy to shrink the tumor and surgery. He has encountered some setbacks along the way. His parents, Cassie & Ben, and sister, Scarlett, have been navigating this challenging time and have been traveling back and forth between appointments and ER visits. To support and offset medical expenses, gas, food, etc., this benefit will support Cassie, Ben, Scarlett, and Oliver as they continue to travel this road. Thank you for your prayers and ongoing support! There have been many quality items donated for this auction, which will be run by Matt Maring.

All are welcome to come support Oliver and family.

Centering Prayer Group

Centering Prayer is a form of contemplative prayer, to center awareness on the presence of God. Centering prayer is a powerful way to connect with God and with one another.

The Centering Prayer group meets weekly on Sunday evenings at 6:00 PM via Zoom. The zoom link can be found on the church website. No experience necessary. All are welcome.

Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity

There will be a new Habitat for Humanity build site starting in Wannamingo. We are working with Habitat on organizing volunteers to help. There will be a church volunteer day on Monday, July 17 from 8:00 - 4:00. Volunteers can come for all or some of that time. No experience or expertise necessary. Sign up at church, or contact the church office at dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com

Kuball Makes State Dairy Finalist

(continued from page 1)

Those who are not familiar with the Princess Kay of the Milky Way pageant, each finalist gets to have her head and shoulders carved in a life size block of butter during the Minnesota State Fair. There were four young women who are Rice County dairy princess in 2023 and Emma was selected as one of the ten finalists in the state selection process in May. She was surprised to make the final cut but her name was the second one chosen so the suspense was over soon.

Emma graduated high school in 2022 and is currently attending the University of Wisconsin at River Falls where she is pursuing her license to teach as an agricultural educator. She is looking forward to coming back to teach and hopes to find a position in the area where she can be involved in the farming operation somehow. Her brother Keegan is a junior in high school and very active in the family farm. Keegan also won the state heavyweight wrestling title this year.

Dennison and Vang Graduates



Congratulations to the graduating seniors from Dennison and Vang. It is a joy to celebrate this milestone together.

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Jaron K. Johnson

Jaron K. Johnson, age 15, of Northfield, died Monday, May 22, 2023, in Northfield.



Jaron was born to Jason and Patricia (Appelgren) Johnson (Alexandria Swan) on January 2, 2008, in Northfield. Jaron was an A honor roll student and active in band and theatre. She received her letter in

band and was just completing the ninth grade at Randolph High School at the time of her death.

Jaron was the most kind, sweetest, and loving sibling to Saycia and Teyten. Jaron enjoyed playing Mario, Zelda and other video games in her spare time.

Anyone who knew her knew the kind and loving soul that blessed everyone around her. She was so beautiful and brave and kind to everyone.

Jaron is survived by her parents Jason of Northfield; Alex Swan of Cottage Grove; siblings Saycia and Teyten of Northfield; her grandparents George Johnson of Northfield, Robert and Wendy Appelgren of Randolph; and aunt and uncles Tony Morris of Willmar, Jeff Johnson of Northfield, Lillian of Brookings, SD, and Geoffrey of Hastings. Jaron was preceded in death by her grandmother, Jackie Johnson.

Visitation was at Bierman Funeral Home on Saturday, June 3, 2023, from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM. There was a short prayer service beginning at 3:30 PM in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the family. Arrangements by Bierman Funeral Home and Crematory. biermanfuneralhome.com.

Mike Fox

Mike Fox, 63, of Northfield, Minnesota, died on June 10, 2023, at his home, surrounded by loved ones.



Michael Gerard Fox was born June 30, 1959, to Eugene and Claire (Liesch) Fox in New Ulm, MN. Mike is a 1977 graduate of Northfield High School and

many classmates remained lifelong friends. Mike earned his degree in Horticulture from the University of Minnesota and began Fox Landscaping in 1981. Over 40 years of his landscaping expertise can be seen in and around Northfield. He loved his work and was sharing his knowledge and consultation until his last breath. Mike was caring, generous, hard-working, simple, and funny. Anyone who had the great fortune to be his friend, knew his loyalty and kindness. Mike always made us feel better with his presence. He was loved dearly and will be greatly missed.

Mike married Barbara Spurrier on August 24, 1990, at the Carleton College Chapel, and enjoyed an awesome life, raising three sons, Charlie, Sam, and Jack on their Northfield hobby farm. Time with family was always Mike's priority. Mike was instrumental in helping his boys' 4H experiences, raising

sheep and pigs and showing them at the Dakota County and MN State Fairs and instilling a strong work ethic. He was an avid hockey fan and longtime MN Wild season ticket holder, but nothing gave him more joy than watching his sons play hockey – any of their activities were always the priority.

Mike loved growing tomatoes, watching old movies, woodworking, Saturday morning coffee with the Northfield boys (Les, Brian, Carl, Darwin, Brent, Mike, Chris), volunteering and most recently with the Northfield Fire Department, and spending time with Barb on his boat on the Mississippi River and with friends at the Red Wing Marina. He loved to travel – with his family to Mexico for winter/spring breaks (and his parents, Claire and Gene joining eight of those times), to the east and west coasts to visit extended family, with Barb to New Zealand and many other locations throughout the world, and winter ski trips with Barry.

Mike is survived by his wife Barbara Fox Spurrier; sons, Charlie Fox (Salt Lake City, UT), Sam Fox (Columbus, OH), Jack Fox (Minneapolis, MN), and girlfriends, Brandi (fiancé), Maddie, and Teddi, respectively; brother and sister-in-law Patrick and Michelle (Stanton) Fox (Lakeville, MN); brother-in-law Brian O'Boyle (Denver, CO); sister- and brother-in-law Lauren Spurrier and Tom Edwards (Arlington, VA); and brother- and sister-in-law Greg and Pat Spurrier (Morrison, CO). Mike so enjoyed the company of his nieces and nephews; John O'Boyle, David O'Boyle and Lisa Oberstetter, Bryn Spurrier Edwards, Zoe Spurrier Edwards, Lindsay Spurrier and Ryan Glouner, Jessica Spurrier and Brandon Fife, Ryan and Emily Spurrier, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Eugene & Claire Fox, brothers John and Steven in infancy, and sister Mary Fox O'Boyle.

Special thanks to so many caregivers, especially from the Northfield Hospital Cancer Care and Infusion Center, Mayo Clinic, and St. Croix Hospice and so many family members and friends who have been of tremendous support and comfort to Mike and his family. Mike's last selfless act on earth was donating his body to Mayo Clinic for education and research for future generations.

Memorials preferred to the Community Action Center of Northfield, communityaction-center.org or University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, arb.umn.edu/support/experience-joy-giving.

A celebration of life service will be held at 2 PM, Friday, July 7, 2023, at Boe Memorial Chapel on the St. Olaf campus in Northfield. Visitation will be from 4-7 PM, Thursday, July 6, 2023, at Bierman Funeral Home, Northfield and one hour prior to the service at Boe Memorial Chapel. An open house will be held following the service until 8 PM, at the Fox Family Farm, 32055 Northfield Boulevard, Northfield.

Arrangements are with Bierman Funeral Home & Crematory. www.biermanfuneral-home.com

Michael Beyer

Michael Beyer, age 59 of Northfield, passed away at home, surrounded by his family, on Sunday morning, June 11, 2023.



Michael Scott Beyer was born June 14, 1963, in Cannon Falls, Minnesota, to Dwain and Mary Ann



(Beissel) Beyer. He was raised in Cannon Falls and attended Cannon Falls Schools. Following his education he joined the US Army Reserve and worked in concrete construction and then later wood cutting service. In 2009, Mike formed a partnership with Roger Maring and together they operated The Woodchuck Tree Service until Roger's death in August, 2021.

When Mike was a boy, he found his lifetime passions. He enjoyed his bike and never stopped pulling "wheelies". His summers were full of fishing and swimming and his BB guns. He raced snowmobiles for many trophies. Mike's general fondness of horsing around and having fun followed him through his life. You knew Mike was enjoying every moment by the smile he sported. It's a smile we will never forget.

As a young man and through his life, Mike enjoyed muscle cars, motorcycles, and playing cards. He proudly remodeled 2 older Camaros and you could see him smiling as he drove them. He was a camping and hunting enthusiast and spent many fun filled days in the woods with his friends. He was a passionate hunter and gun collector. He spent time at shooting ranges teaching his kids the rules of gun safety as well as shooting. He also enjoyed the water and frequently could be seen enjoying a canoe trip down the Cannon river with friends and family. Gardening was a passion that he and Dawn shared. Mike like to bring tomatoes to the assisted living in Northfield.

Besides his passion for adventure, Mike loved animals. Along with the many dogs and cats he loved, he loved the creatures that made their way into his yard and often named and fed them. He was a bit of an animal whisperer!

On August 2, 1986, Mike married Dawn Rene Larson at Christ the King Church in Medford, Minnesota. Dawn and Mike met at the Cannon Falls fair and Mike realized he met the love of his life that would forever be his rock. After marriage, they made their home in the Northfield area. Mike and Dawn's family grew and they have two children, Josh Twaddle and Jorie Beyer-Hanson. He worships them and they share the same spirit of independence and fierce love and loyalty. The family continued to grow when Jorie married Skyer Hansen. Skyer and Mike share the bond of banter and enjoy each other's company.

Mike enjoyed time with his grandsons, Charlie (2) and Jace (9), sons of Jorie and Skyer. They brought that smile to his face while they played and told their stories.

Mike was a member of the Church of St. Dominic and a life member of the NRA. He was the funny, witty, charismatic, kind and an

independent thinker. He was loved and will be greatly missed.

Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Dawn; his children, Josh Twaddle of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, Jorie (Skyler) Beyer-Hansen of Faribault, Minnesota; 2 grandsons Jace and Charlie; his mother, Mary Ann of Cannon Falls, Minnesota; his brother, Paul Beyer of Rutledge, Minnesota; his sister, Kimberly Wolter of Wabasha, Minnesota; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Dwain (Buddy) Beyer.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 10:00AM, Saturday, June 17, 2023, at the Church of St. Dominic in Northfield. Visitation began at 9:00AM. Military Honors and a reception followed the Mass.

Russell Lewis Qualle

Russell Lewis Qualle, age 90, a lifelong resident of Cannon Falls, died on Monday morning, June 12, 2023, at Mayo Clinic Hospitals – Methodist Campus in Rochester.



Russell was born on February 3, 1933 in Dennison, MN, one of

12 children to Lewis and Amanda (Strombeck) Qualle. He served with the US Army during Korea and was stationed in Hawaii. He was honorably discharged in 1956.

Russell married Arlene Jensen on May 15, 1958, at First English Lutheran Church in Cannon Falls. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Hawaii.

He built silos in his younger years, and later worked for the Pacific Railroad until retirement. As he was one to not sit idle, following his retirement, he worked at Molitor Farms and was a garden helper for Sue Vance. Russell enjoyed walking every day, and he could be seen walking 2-3 miles at the Cannon Community Center, the field house, or the Cannon Valley Trail. He enjoyed tractor pulls and parades and could often be found on a Saturday at the farmer's market.

Russell proudly served with the Cannon Falls Veterans Honor Guard, and they will be providing his final farewell.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Arlene; son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Amanda Qualle of Cannon Falls; grandchildren, Jamie Huppert, Kayla Haberman, and Jacquelyn Qualle; sister, Cindy (Marland) Husaby of Cannon Falls; sisters-in-law, Lee Qualle of Red Wing and Darlene Qualle of Cannon Falls; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, James; daughter, Judy Haberman; brothers, Joe, Clifford, Henry, Walter, Edward, Virgil, and Leslie; and sisters, Agnes Lawson, Lillian Wohfiel, and Gertrude McKinley.

A memorial gathering will be held on Saturday, June 24 from 10am – 12pm at Lundberg Funeral Home, 5839 Hwy 19 Blvd, Cannon Falls. Interment with military honors will follow at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Cemetery. Please join the family for lunch and fellowship at the VFW basement following the interment.

America's Favorite Old-Fashioned Big Top Circus is Coming to Dennison August 2nd

(continued from page 1)

Now in its 32nd edition, C&M Circus has become internationally known for quality family entertainment. This authentic One-Ring, Big Top Circus has been featured on National Geographic's Explorer TV series, Entertainment Tonight, The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune, Arizona Highways Magazine. It has also been featured on the A&E Special: Under the Big Top and On the Road with Circus Kids, a Nickelodeon special featured on the Nick News Program. Enjoy the magic and tradition of the American Circus with your family and create mem-



ories that will last a lifetime.

For more information visit their Facebook page. For a direct link you can go to www.cmcircus.com and click on the fb link. Tickets will be available for purchase in early July and you can SAVE MONEY by purchasing your tickets in advance at these locations:

Heritage Bank in Dennison and Northfield, Dennison Depot, and The Fireside Lounge & Supper Club, and Parkside General Store in Nerstrand.

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Wednesday, August 2

Dennison, MN

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Watch for Full schedule at
dennisondays.org



Dennison Farmers Market is Back Up and Running

(continued from page 1)

We may be a small market right now but we hope to grow in size as the season progresses and the vegetables and fruits begin to ripen. We welcome everyone to come down and join us. Come to shop, come to chat, or bring a table and sell your creations! There is no charge to sell. We meet every Wednesday from 6pm to 8pm, although you may find vendors arrive a bit early. Currently we are at the city park behind City Hall and the 625 Bar & Grill, although we will be moving to Main Street in the near future so watch for signs or follow our Facebook page for regular updates: Dennison Farmer's Market in MN. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at DennisonFarmersMarket@gmail.com.

We invite you to come to Dennison for a meal at the Fireside Lounge & Supper Club or the 625 Bar & Grill and then pop in to the Farmer's Market for a visit! You never know what treasures you may find.

Don't forget to visit us at Dennison Days



this year, Saturday morning, August 5th. Come check out the classic car show, the 5k run, garage sales and the Farmer's Market all starting at 8am."

Nancy Shannon, Tim Murry and Ceil Rasmussen started the Farmers Market some years back in Dennison.

After many years of heading up the weekly event, 2022 was their last year. The City of Dennison is very grateful for the time, hard work and dedication they put into establishing the market, and hope with the help of some new volunteers, we can continue to keep this Wednesday event going and growing in Dennison.



Shoppers visit the vendors at the Dennison Farmers Market. The market has been in the park in past years and started there this year, but plans to move to Mainstreet in Dennison soon for better exposure for the market. They are also planning a special market for Saturday August 5th during Dennison Days. The Dennison Farmers Market was started by Nancy Shannon, Ceil Rasmussen and Tim Murry and continues this year with new volunteers hosting the Wednesday Market.

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SAT. JULY 8



Best Shot PHOTO CONTEST

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We are starting a contest of the best picture to encapsulate or represent your community and each issue will be selecting the best submissions for publication in the Messenger and online.

All you have to do is send us a picture that you take and you could be a winner!

E-mail the picture and photo description to: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Mainstreet Messenger

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DAILY SPECIALS

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FINALLY FRIDAY All You Can Eat Fish Dinner

SATURDAY Hand Battered Jumbo Shrimp or Slow Roasted Prime Rib

SUNDAY Enjoy Our Sunday Breakfast Beginning at 9a.m.

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JUNE DAIRY MONTH

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United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha, & Pierce Counties Announces New Executive Director

RED WING, MN - The United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha, & Pierce (UWGWP) Counties is pleased to announce that Nicolle Mechelke has been selected as Executive Director. Her first day will be June 5th, 2023.

Most recently, Nicolle was with Hennepin County as a Program Manager, leading a new

program aimed at increasing homeownership.

She holds a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from St. Catherine University and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Nicolle also serves as an At-large Board Member for Leaders of Today and Tomorrow in Saint Paul and as an Advisory Committee Member for the Capital Improvement Program Advisory Committee in Ramsey County. In her spare time, Nicolle likes to be active in the outdoors and spend time with family and friends.

We are excited to welcome Nicolle as the


Executive Director. She will be leading our small but mighty team into the future of United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha, Pierce Counties (UWGWP). The search committee found Nicolle to be "articulate, engaged and thorough." We are confident that she will bring both enthusiasm and experience to her new role. Nicolle says, "I am thrilled to join the United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha, & Pierce Counties. Staff, the board and multiple stakeholders have done a wonderful job expanding our reach. We have made great deposits in financial stability, health, and education, but now our communities are con-

tending with housing disparities and hunger as well. We have a bright future ahead of us and we will continue to be an agent of change."


Please help us to welcome Nicolle.



Nicolle Mechelke



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Seasonal Allergies and Exercise for Longevity



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Exercise is widely considered to be the answer for weight loss, heart disease and diabetes prevention and overall health. When the topic of cancer comes up, exercise is not usually mentioned as a treatment or preventative tool. According to recent research, exercise can help lower your risk of cancer, help cancer patients recuperate at a faster rate and diminish your risk of cancer recurrence. Exercise can also help lower your risk of dementia. If you are a man in your middle age, exercising on a regular basis cut men's risk of lung cancer by 55 percent, and bowel cancer by 44 percent. It also reduced their risk of dying from lung, bowel, and prostate cancer by nearly one-third. As we age, health concerns start to include the health of our brain. Diseases like Alzheimer's and senile demen-

tia are extremely prevalent in our society. In seniors who are at high risk of dementia, studies have shown that cognitive decline can be reduced with a comprehensive program addressing diet, exercise, brain training, and managing metabolic and vascular risk factors.

Thought for the Week: Lack of activity destroys the good condition of every human being, while movement and methodical physical exercise save it and preserve it. ~Plato

Chiropractic and Seasonal Allergies: Although chiropractic care is not normally thought of by the lay public for allergy relief or chronic sinus trouble, it offers a profound


and medically sound method for improving well-being and fending against common, everyday afflictions. This is achieved through the release of stress on the nervous system, which then permits the immune system to function more effectively — a requirement for all allergy sufferers. In fact, recent research has demonstrated a distinct relationship between the two that entails the nervous system “tipping off” white blood cells about the presence of all forms of bodily invaders. Chiropractic performs this task by correcting body malfunctions produced by vertebral subluxations, a common spinal distortion that puts stress on the nervous system. Freed of nervous system stress, the body can then work more effectively to neutralize allergy-causing chemicals, build healthy immune systems and energize malfunctioning defense mechanisms. In addition to the immune system facts, here it is in simpler terms. The nerves that control sinus function are located in the upper neck. If neck vertebra (the bones) are not in proper alignment, there is a resulting decrease in nerve flow to the sinuses which can then cause the sinuses not to function at 100%. This can lead to someone being more susceptible to their allergy symptoms. Correcting the spinal alignment, frees up the nerve flow and will help the sinuses do their job the way they are supposed to. In addition, chiropractors work directly, externally on the sinuses helping them to drain. Sinus massage and repetitive tapping on the sinuses with a technique called acupressure will help the sinuses drain.

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New Restaurant in Kenyon

By Cheri Roshon

The wait is over! Barney Nesseth and Angie Anderson have partnered up to bring a new

restaurant to Kenyon Located beside Tatge's Jewelers at 635 2nd Street in Kenyon, Angie's features home cooked meals to tantalize your taste buds, and baked goods to top it all off.

As many of you will know, Barney and Angie have been very successful in Wanamingo at JB's Tavern. Awhile back, they conspired to bring the flavors of JB's west to Kenyon, and expand the menu choices. The menu will include breakfast, lunch and dinner, with hamburgers, hot dishes, pizza, ice cream, craft coffees, espresso and smoothies. When I chatted with Angie after the decision

was made for the new venue, she confided that her favorite meal to cook up is breakfast, so be looking for some innovation to start your day off right! Yes, Bozie the Clown, the menu includes pancakes!

Some of the foods you will find on the menu are appetizers like everyone's favorite.... cheese curds, as well as chicken fingers, batter fried mushrooms, and fries. There will be a variety of sandwiches, and a children's menu, too. Daily Specials will be posted each day, so come on in and check them out.

Hours will be Tuesday through Saturday from 7 am to 8 pm, and Sunday from 8 am to 1 pm. If you have a larger group or are look-



ing for a place to host a small event, please call ahead for reservations at (507) 789-1100. You can also follow Angie on Facebook at Angie's Restaurant.

It has taken a lot of planning, hard work and creative solutions to get this up and running, so please come on down and congratulate Angie on what promises to be a successful venture into culinary delights!



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Sugar Shack Closed



The Sugar Shack closed this week. The business opened in March of this year retailing chocolates, sweets and collectibles. The owner Esther Ammon made the decision to cease business and is moving back to Colorado.



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Chris Olson is ELVIS
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Reel Haul Trailer, Job Boxes, Cement
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Tools, Safety Equipment, Job Site Tool
and More.

June 21, 2023
Bidding Begins: .. June 13, 2023
Starts Closing:..... June 21, 2023
Welch, MN
ONLINE ONLY ESTATE AUCTION
FOR THE STEVE SHOWERS ESTATE
John Deere Z245 Zero Turn Mower,
John Deere GT262 Garden Tractor,
John Deere 4x2 Gator, 1988 Bayliner
Boat, Lawn & Garden Tools, Power
& Hand Tools, Pallet Racking, Farm
Primitives, Red Wing Stoneware,
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Lawn Art Items, Primitive Outside
Items, Steel Wheels, and Much More.

June 28, 2023
Bidding Begins: .. June 21, 2023
Starts Closing:..... June 28, 2023
New Richland, MN
ONLINE ONLY INVENTORY REDUCTION
AND HOG FACILITY AUCTION
Hog Facility Equipment, Holding Bins,
Feed Lines, Feeders, Fans, Gates, New
Loadin Chute, 3500 Bushel Per Hour
Grain Leg, New Feed Conveyor, New
Semi Tires, Electric Motors, 12"80'
Swing Hopper Auger, Bin Sweeps,
Farm Support Equipment Ends.

July 16, 2023
Bidding Begins: July 7, 2023
Starts Closing:..... July 16, 2023
Mazeppa, MN
ONLINE ONLY
HOBBY FARM AUCTION
FOR DENNIS HEIMER ESTATE
2006 Chevy 1500 Pickup, IH 666
w/Allied Loader, IH 504 Tractor, IH
284 Tractor w/Mower, (2) Craftsman
Garden Tractors, Power & Hand
Tools, Hobby Machinery, Livestock
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and Memorabilia, Lawn & Garden
Items

July 19, 2023
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2001 • Cat Challenger 55, 260 H.P., 3126 engine, 2617 Hrs w/ oil samples, 3pt., 1000 PTO, 18" like new Camoplast Tracks, S.N. 3AEN00674

2014 • John Deere S670 Combine, 4WD, 2971 Engine Hrs. 1887 Sep. Hrs., LSW 900/50 R46 Front tires, Power tail board, Hyd. fold Grain tank, stalk chopper, 3 speed electric shift trans, Premium radio package w/ XM, Heavy DTY, Hi Torque VSD, GS3 Touch SCR N 7" color display, Engine oil samples, S.N. 1H0S670STE0765776

2013 • John Deere 635 F Grain Platform 35' with Cray air reel S.N. 1H00635FLD0755964

2010 • Geringhoff RD 822b Corn Head, chopping head, Hyd. deckplates, knife roll, field contour, Auto pilot/Rowsense, Stalk Stompers

John Deere 40 series, 8R22" Corn Head, GVL Poly 2018 • EZ Trailer Head Mover 880, 36', EZ crank brackets, 9.00-10 tires, 10 ply

2007 • Peterbuilt Grain Truck, 330 Pete, C.7 engine, Allison 6 speed automatic, Air Ride, 20' Aluminum Box, Electric Tarp, Engine Powerchip, 209,668 miles, Double Frame 21' Bridge, 11R22.5 tires, Aluminum Polished Rims, Built by S+H Diesel in Wells, MN, oil samples

1978 • IH 1800 Grain Truck, 466 diesel, 221,764 miles, 20' Crysteel box and Hoist w/ SRT- 2 Roll Tarp, Twin Screw, 5x4 Trans, 11R22.5 tires, oil samples

1974 • IH 1800 Grain Truck, 549 Gas Engine, 118,438 miles, 20' Crysteel box, Roll Tarp, 5x4 Trans, 11R22.5 Tires

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Brent 678 Grain Cart, 17" Corner Auger, 120" Ridged axle, 30.5x32" lug tires, Weatherguard Roll Tarp, 1000 PTO, Hyd. controlled multi- directional downspout

DMI530B Ecolo-Tiger Chisel Plow, Lead shanks, Hyd. Disc leveler, 10 ply tires

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Saturday, August 26, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.
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Viewing & Inspection: Monday, June 26, 2023 • 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pickup and Payment: Thursday, June 29, 2023 • 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Directions from Owatonna, MN take 218 south to Sixty, MN, west on Steele County #4, 1 1/4 mile to 54th Avenue S.E., north 1/2 mile, watch for auction signs.

Auctioneer's Comment: Cancer took Gary far too early in life. His family has now decided to sell - at auction - his well-maintained equipment and many tools. Sale items are numerous. This auction will be on-of-a-kind. Don't miss it! - Col. Mark Ditlevson



LUNCH ON GROUNDS

- | | | | |
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| <p>BACKHOE/SKIDLOADER/AUTOMOBILES/TRAILERS
Caterpillar 426C Backhoe
-4x4 extended hoe
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1988 IHC S2600 Twin-Screw Gravel Truck
- NYC56 Cummins
Caterpillar 246 Skidloader
- Ser 6S202584
- 73" Bucket with Back-up Camera
Loggering Steel Tracks (set)
2011 Load Trail 22' Tandem Axle Trailer
- Bumper Trail and Ramps
2008 QuipNet 20' Tri-Axle Trailer with Ramps (Needs Work)
2006 Buick LeSabre
- New Nickel Copper Brake Lines
- 3.6 V-6, Auto Transmission
- 161,886 miles showing</p> <p>COLLECTOR TRUCKS AND TRACTOR
International MT-15-C Truck
- 4 Cylinder Flat Head
- 10 SPX2746 (Partially Restored)
1906 Ford Truck
- VIN #183522541
Massey Ferguson #66 Tractor*</p> | <p>SURVEYING TOOLS
Spectra-Physics Stabilis Laser, Laserplane 650
Spectra-Physics Grade Display System
Spectra-Physics, Spectra Precision Accuguard Laser Plane
DVR Sewer Inspection Camera
Misc. Laser Tools and Tripods</p> <p>SHOP TOOLS
Toolboxes (Snap-On, OTC, Craftsman, Milwaukee)
Hand Tools (Snap-On, OTC, Craftsman, Milwaukee)
Dewalt
ALLOYA 2102A Power Washer
PowerCraft Arc Welder
Curtis 2-Stage Air Compressor
Lincoln 1500 Power Mig Welder
Onan Gas Generator w/ Lincoln 225 Arc Welder
WAF Machine Work Grinder
Flour Sand Blast Cabinet
Craftsman Lathe
Acetylene Torch
Floor Jacks
Chains and Stands
Dewalt Portable Bandsaw
Dewalt Rotary Hammer
Delco Storage Cabinet</p> | <p>WOODWORKING TOOLS
Dewalt
- 12" Compound Miter Saw
- Disc Sander
- Orbital Jig Saw
- Radio
Porter-Cable
- 12 Speed Drill Press
- Belt Sander
- Plunge Router
Craftsman
- Table Saw
- Variable Scroll Saw
- Planer
- Plunge Rimmer
Rockwell
- Blade Runner
Stanley
- Rustich Bidge Runner</p> <p>MISCELLANEOUS
King Kutter 3-PT 7' Blade
Morro 7' Disc Mower
John Deere 7' Digger
65 Gallon Fuel Tank w/ Electric Pump
Haseguma 350 Chainsaw w/ Case
Turn 152Z, 18" Power Clear Kniveshaver</p> | <p>HOUSEHOLD
Antique Vanity*
Bedroom Sets
Bookshelves
TV Trays
Dining Table w/ Chairs
Couch and Love Seat
School Desk
Cedar Trunk
Director Chairs
Coffee Table
Patio Furniture
Crockets
Gum Cases
Dishes</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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Precipitation Observing Throughout Rice County



By Jarett Spitzack, Resource Specialist, Rice SWCD

As I look outside on this early June morning, I can tell it's going to be another dry, hot, and humid day. A few weeks earlier, I observed 1.38 inches of rainfall in a short time

frame at my home a few miles south of Faribault, while our office located on the north side of Faribault received a measly .03 inches. As a result, it had been too wet to plant in my portion of the county, but I delivered our Great Plains No-Till drill to a landowner northwest of Faribault who planted soybeans with it that day. It appears the weather has been more sporadic than usual this year, with most events not being county-wide soakers.

The MN DNR State Climatology office records precipitation events throughout the counties in Minnesota in order to track weather trends, provide present and past climate data and conditions, and provide information for wetland delineations. The MN DNR State Climatology office relies on precipitation observers throughout each county to record and track precipitation and weather events from April through October.

Precipitation observers are required to document rain and snow totals on a daily basis. They record 24-hour rain, melted snow amounts, unmelted snow amounts, and snow on-ground amounts. They also have the opportunity to write down comments regarding each precipitation event.

Observers are provided with a cylinder/test

tube rain gauge in order to make sure all rain gauges measure the same. The rain gauge comes with useful instructions on where to place the gauge for the most accurate measurements.

There are currently 1439 precipitation observers statewide, with fifteen of them measuring precipitation in Rice County. There is one observer in Richland TWP, two in Walcott TWP, one in Morristown TWP, zero in Wheeling TWP, two in Cannon City TWP, one in Wells TWP, one in Shieldsville TWP, two in Northfield TWP, zero in Bridgewater TWP, two in Forest TWP, one in Erin TWP, one in Webster TWP, and one in Wheatland TWP. These fifteen precipitation observers are critical in providing data through precipitation measurements and documentation that help the MN DNR State Climatology Office track Minnesota's sporadic weather patterns and are greatly appreciated.

Monitoring precipitation and other weather factors such as wind are important as you farm in the field or work on conservation projects. Checking the wind direction, speed, and forecasted precipitation can help reduce herbicide drift when spraying and ensure optimal success. If you have planted trees this past spring, your seedlings should be watered during the first year, especially if we experience weeks without precipitation. Be sure to check wind conditions, burn restrictions, and fire danger as you plan out controlled burns on prairies or pastures.

Here at the Rice SWCD, we have developed a new webpage that highlights information about precipitation, wind, drought conditions, and burn restrictions for Rice County. Check



Precipitation observers are provided with a cylinder/test tube rain gauge, like this one located at the Rice SWCD office, in order to make sure all rain gauge measurements are the same.

it out at <https://www.riceswcd.org/climate-resources>.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about Minnesota's weather patterns, precipitation, temperatures, or significant weather events can visit <https://climateapps.dnr.state.mn.us/index.htm>. If you are interested in becoming a precipitation observer in Rice County, contact Rice SWCD at 507-332-5408. The more observers we have throughout the county, the more accurately we can measure precipitation events and weather patterns.

Do You Have a Story Idea?

E-mail:

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<p>AWD, 12,653 miles, red metallic, ecoboost 2.0L turbocharged #23046U</p>	<p>Sale \$34,195</p>	<p>4WD, 4 door super crew cab, 6' box, 168,963 miles, white, 6.2L V8 #22149U</p>	<p>Sale \$23,750</p>	<p>Star white, ecoboost 2.0L turbocharged #22152U</p>	<p>Sale \$28,999</p>	<p>4WD, 30,035 miles, agate black metallic, 2.3L ecoboost #23039U</p>	<p>Sale \$36,499</p>	
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<p>4WD, super crew cab, 5' box, ecoboost 2.3L turbocharged, shadow black, 37,842 miles #22134U</p>	<p>Sale \$35,999</p>	<p>4WD, 4 door super crew cab, 5' box, white metallic, 3.5L V-6, 21,843 miles #22077U</p>	<p>Sale \$48,999</p>					

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Tree of Heaven and Spotted Lanternfly Spreading Towards Southeast Minnesota

The public can minimize the effects of two invasive species by detecting and reporting potential sightings

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is enlisting the public's help in the early detection efforts of tree of heaven and spotted lanternfly. Tree of heaven is an invasive weed and preferred host for the spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect. These two pests have not been established in the state but are spreading towards Minnesota's southeast border. The public in Goodhue, Houston, Fillmore, Wabasha, and Winona counties can help minimize the potential effects caused by these two pests by detecting and reporting their presence to the MDA.

If tree of heaven is present in these counties, residents will most likely spot it along roadsides and near railways. The trees look similar to staghorn sumac, ash, and walnut trees. It can reach heights of 80 feet and has compound leaves that can be 1-4 feet in length



Adult spotted lanternfly (left), nymph spotted lanternfly (right).

with 11-41 leaflets. The flowers are small, yellowish-green, and arranged in large clusters at the ends of the leaves. It produces winged fruit like maple trees that hang in long clusters. Tree of heaven also emits a strong, offensive odor that distinguishes it from other plants.

Residents in these five counties should be on the lookout for spotted lanternfly starting in mid to late July. The insect larvae are black with white spots, but closer to adulthood are red with spots. In the nymph stage, the pest does not fly; it is black or red with white spots. The adults are large at 1 to 1.5 inches long and are a combination of black, white, and red with spots.

"These two invasives could both be a threat to Minnesota, causing environmental and economic damage if established," said Angie Ambourn, MDA Pest Detection Unit Supervisor. "The public's help in early detection and reporting these invasives is key to suc-



Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org

Tree of heaven has smooth leaf edges and winged fruit.

cessful early management efforts."

If you suspect you have seen tree of heaven or spotted lanternfly, report it to the MDA utilizing their Report a Pest service, by emailing reportapest@state.mn.us or calling 1-888-545-6684. More information is available on this early detection effort on the MDA website. You can also help by taking part of a participatory science survey put on through UMN Extension and the MDA.

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CANNON VALLEY FAIR JULY 1-4, 2023

Cannon Falls, Minnesota

- **GOLD STAR AMUSEMENTS** — Will be on the midway during the fair starting July 1st, 2023 at 1:00 pm. Ride sessions will be from 1-5 pm OR 5-10 pm each day of the fair. Advance wristbands for \$20.00 each are available at Cannon Specialties and Cannon Belles Coffee and Ice Cream Shoppe through June 30th. Unlimited ride wristbands for \$25.00 each will be sold each day of the fair. One wristband is good for one session of rides.
- **FFA KIDDIE BARNYARD** — Open Daily
- **CHALK THE WALL**
- **POWER-UP VIDEO GAMING TRAILER** — Open Daily Noon – 8:00 PM
- **ALFY'S WORLD OF ROBOTIC PUPPETS** — JULY 1 & JULY 2 – Roaming the Fairgrounds

2023 Schedule

July 1st

9 am – 5 pm – Livestock Entry
 11:30 am – Kids Pedal Pull Registration – Near Grandstand
 Noon – Kids Pedal Pull – Near Grandstand
 Noon – Truck Pull Pit Gate Opens
 1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – Wristband Special 1-5 pm OR 5-10 pm
 3 pm – Just 4 Kix Performance – FREE STAGE
 3 pm – 6pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Beef Check-In & Weigh-In – ARENA
 4 pm – Truck Pull Starts – Ticket gates open at 3:00 pm
 5 pm – 4H and FFA Beef Show followed by Open Class Beef Show – ARENA
 5 pm – Just 4 Kix Performance – FREE STAGE
 6:30 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Beef Show – ARENA
 8:30 – Midnight – THE SHEETROCKERS – FREE STAGE

July 2nd

7-9 am – Ladies Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast – LEGION PAVILION – Free Will Donation
 9:30 am – True North Church Service – FREE STAGE
 10 am – 4H & FFA Rabbit Show followed by 4H & FFA Poultry Show – ARENA
 11 am – Auto Cross Pit Gate Opens
 Noon – Cory & Friends – The Power of Friendship – FREE STAGE
 Noon – 4H & FFA Sheep Show followed by Open Class Sheep Show – SHEEP & GOAT ARENA
 1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – Wristband Special 1-5 pm OR 5-10 pm
 2 pm – Cory and Friends – The Power of Friendship – FREE STAGE
 2 pm – Dog Demonstration – ARENA
 3 pm – Auto Cross Starts – Ticket gates open at 1:30 pm
 3-5 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Market Lamb Check-in & Weigh-in – SHEEP & GOAT ARENA
 4-7 pm – 4H Demonstrations – 4H BUILDING
 6 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Market Lamb Show – SHEEP & GOAT ARENA
 8:30 – Midnight – CHICKEN RANCH DUO – FREE STAGE

July 3 – KIDS DAY

9:30 am – 4H & FFA Dairy Show – ARENA
 11 am – 4H & FFA Goat Show – SHEEP & GOAT ARENA
 Noon – District VI Holstein Show – ARENA
 Noon – 3 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Meat Goat Check-in & Weigh-in – SHEEP & GOAT ARENA
 1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – Wristband Special 1-5 pm OR 5-10 pm
 1 pm – Demo Pit Gate Opens
 1 pm – Dazzling Dave Yo-Yo Master – FREE STAGE
 2 pm – Karl Achilles Escape into Magic – FREE STAGE
 3 pm – Dazzling Dave Yo-Yo Master – FREE STAGE
 3:30 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Meat Goat Show – SHEEP & GOAT ARENA
 4 pm – Karl Achilles Escape into Magic – FREE STAGE
 5 pm – Demo Derby Starts – GRANDSTAND – Ticket gates open at 3:00 pm
 8:30 – Midnight – THE CHUBS – FREE STAGE

July 4th – VETERAN & SENIOR CITIZEN DAY – FREE GROUNDS ADMISSION DAY!

11 am – Grande Day Parade Starts
 1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – Wristband Special 1-5 pm OR 5-10 pm
 2 pm – Harness Horse Racing – GRANDSTAND – FREE Admission
 2 pm – 4 pm – FLIPSIDE BAND – FREE STAGE
 5 pm – Livestock Released.
 7-9 pm – Building Exhibits Released.
 7:00 – 11:00 pm BRYAN ANDERSON – FREE STAGE
 Dusk – Fireworks Show

Admission to the fairgrounds is \$5.00 per person daily (5 and under Free) or Season Pass available for \$12.00.

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Demo Derby & Truck Pull grandstand admission per event is \$15.00 per person or \$5.00 for those under 12 years and under. Pit Pass is available for \$25.00.

Harness Racing GRANDSTAND Admission is FREE.

TRUCK PULL
SATURDAY, JULY 1 - 4 PM
 Trucks: Western Wisconsin Truck Pulling 6200 PWD 1800 6200 SUPER STOCK 2800 PRO STOCK 6200 PRO STOCK 5800 IMPROVED STOCK 6200 IMPROVED STOCK 8000 OPEN DIESEL 8500 KING OF STREET 2800 OUTLAW STOCK 6200 OUTLAW STOCK STREET STOCK DIESEL
 The Sheetrockers 8:30 PM - Midnight FREE STAGE
 Pit gate opens at Noon
 Grandstand Ticket Gates Open 3:00 P.M.
 Any local drivers can run in Outlaw Stock Classes
 ADULTS: \$15 - CHILDREN 12 & UNDER, \$5 - PIT PASS: \$25

AUTO CROSS
SUNDAY, JULY 2 - 3 PM
 Pit gate open at 11:00
 Grandstand Ticket Gates Open 1:20 P.M.
 • Compact Car 4 cyl
 • Mid Size Car 6 cyl
 • Mid Size Car 6 cyl Powder Puff
 • Mini Vans
 • Full Size Car
 • Full Size Car Front Wheel Drive
 • Full Size Car Rear Wheel Drive
 • Compact Truck/SUV No V8
 • Compact Truck/SUV V8
 • Full Size Truck 2x4
 • Full Size Truck 4x4
 CHICKEN RANCH
 8:30 Midnight FREE STAGE
 ADULTS: \$15 - CHILDREN 12 & UNDER, \$5 - PIT PASS: \$25
 For rules and regulations go to: www.cannonvalleyfair.org

DEMOLITION DERBY
MONDAY, JULY 3 - 5 PM
 Pit gate open at 2:00 P.M.
 Grandstand Ticket Gates Open 3:00 P.M.
 • Mega Stock Mid Size Car (Youth)
 • Mega Stock Mid Size Car (Adult)
 • Mega Stock Mini's
 • Mega Stock 80's & Newer
 • Mega Stock Full Size Truck
 • Limited Weld Mid Size Car
 • Limited Weld Mini's
 • Limited Weld Full Size Car
 • Limited Weld Full Size Truck
 Pre-Registration Online
 ADULTS: \$15 - CHILDREN 12 & UNDER, \$5 - PIT PASS: \$25
 For rules and regulations go to: www.cannonvalleyfair.org

HARNES HORSE RACING
TUESDAY, JULY 4 - 2 PM
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 Fireworks July 4 - Dusk
 Bryan Anderson 7 PM - 11 PM
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Top MN Dairy Farms Honored for Superior Cow Care

MDA recognizes 93 herds with lowest somatic cell count

Minnesota dairy herds with low somatic cell counts (SCC). Somatic cell count is a key indicator of milk quality – a lower SCC count is better for cheese production and a longer shelf life for bottled milk.

In honor of National Dairy Month, 93 Minnesota dairy farms are being recognized for their superior herd management skills by achieving an average SCC of under 100,000.

“I’m honored to recognize these dairies for their dedication to quality and excellence,” Petersen said. “Minnesota’s dairy farmers provide the state and the world with high quality, wholesome dairy products for us all to enjoy.”

Although somatic cells occur naturally and are not a food safety concern, dairy farmers monitor them because they can be used as a

measure of the health of their cows. Processors also pay a premium for milk with low counts. A farmer whose herd has a very low count can receive a higher price per hundredweight compared to a farmer whose herd average is high.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture and University of Minnesota dairy experts have worked with the state’s dairy farmers for 20 years to lower somatic cell counts. When the initiative began in 2003, the herds honored that year included those with SCC averages

as high as 144,000, compared to the current goal of obtaining a SCC under 100,000.

Visit our website to see the low SCC list of Minnesota dairy farms. Producers on the list were nominated by their dairy plants.

Rice County

Randy H. and Kathleen J. Bauer
Randal and LouAnn Wagner
Tatge Dairy LLC

Goodhue County

Robert and Melanie Hinsch
Jeff Beckman

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen today released the annual list of top

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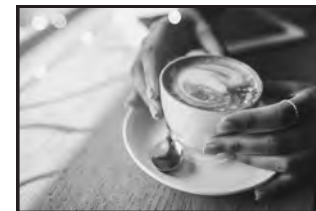
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New Program Helps Farmers Diversify Crop Rotations, Protect Soil and Water

Growers will be eligible for conservation payments and dedicated technical assistance

Eligible Minnesota growers can now receive financial and technical assistance when they add one of the following crops to their rotations: Kernza® perennial grain, winter camelina, winter barley or hybrid winter rye. All of these crops grow over the winter, providing the soil health and water quality benefits of cover crops while also producing grain and/or forage that can be harvested and sold.

Growers who take part in the Forever Green EECO Implementation Program are eligible for conservation (or “ecosystem service”) payments ranging from \$20-50 per acre, as well as a risk management payment that will cover up to half the cost of production in the event of crop or market failure. In addition, enrolled growers are eligible for technical assistance from a dedicated field agronomist and knowledgeable community partners.

The Forever Green EECO Implementation

Program recently expanded to include these four crops, after initially focusing on Kernza. To date, 16 growers have enrolled 683 acres of cropland in the pilot program. The EECO program is a partnership between the University of Minnesota Forever Green Initiative and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, with funding from the State of Minnesota’s Clean Water Fund.

Protecting water quality is a major goal of this program. Growers who are located in Drinking Water Supply Management Areas are eligible for a 25% premium on their ecosystem service payment.

The program is focused on four regions of the state, which have been dubbed Economic and Environmental Clusters of Opportunity, or EECOs. The counties included in these regions are listed below. In addition, all Tribal Nations in the state are included.

For online: Learn more and enroll in the Forever Green EECO Implementation Program here.

For print: Learn more and enroll at: z.umn.edu/EnrollEECO

Eligible locations

The pilot program targets four areas of Minnesota, plus all Tribal Nations, for expanded production of these “continuous living cover” crops.

Southeast EECO: Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona, Houston, Fillmore, Olmsted, Mower, Freeborn, Waseca, Steele, Dodge, Rice, Le Sueur, or Nicollet Counties

Funding Pool Doubles for Second Round of MDA Down Payment Assistance Grants

Grant offers up to \$15,000 for qualified farmers to purchase their first farm

Emerging farmers looking to purchase their first farm will soon have another opportunity to apply for grant funding to support their efforts. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s (MDA) Rural Finance Authority (RFA) has announced that a second round of funding for the Down Payment Assistance Grant Program will open for applications on July 1, 2023.

The Minnesota Down Payment Assistance Grant offers up to \$15,000 for qualified farmers to purchase farmland. To qualify, farmers must earn less than \$250,000 per year in gross agricultural sales, and each award must be matched with at least \$8,000 of other funding. Applications will remain valid for purchases closing within six months after award approval or until June 30, 2024, whichever is sooner.

The grant opened for its first round of funding this past January, almost instantly accumulating enough applications to meet the waitlist cap. Several changes have been adopted for the second round to ensure more equitable access, including:

A doubling in grant funding as approved by the state Legislature, from \$500,000 to \$1 million. The RFA expects to award approximately 66 grants in this funding cycle, dependent on the size of grant requests.

A guaranteed 30-day application window. Whereas the first round stopped accepting applications once a waitlist of 100 applications was formed, the second round will allow farmers to apply anytime from 9 a.m. on July 1, 2023, through 11:59 p.m. on July 31, 2023. All applications received within this window will be eligible for consideration.

After the application window closes, all eligible applications will be placed in a randomized lottery to determine the order in which grants are awarded. The lottery drawing will be held in early August, and the RFA will announce award winners in early to mid-August.

Preference for this round of awards will be given to emerging farmers. A full definition of who qualifies as an emerging farmer can be found in the grant’s request for proposals (RFP).

If funding remains after the RFA has awarded grants to all eligible emerging farmer applicants, the RFA will award as many grants as funding allows for to applicants who are not emerging farmers, based on the order of their lottery placement.

The MDA will host an informational session over Zoom on June 14 to review the grant program, explain changes for the second round of funding, and hear questions and comments from the public. Information for joining this session can be found on the program webpage.

Another round of grant funding of \$1 million will be available starting July 2024.

To view the full eligibility requirements and access the RFP, visit the program webpage. Questions may be directed to Jenny Heck at Jenny.Heck@state.mn.us or 651-201-6316.

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City of Dennison Regular Council Meeting May 4th, 2023

The May Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Flaten on Thursday, May 4th 2023 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Nichole Schloesser, Kaylyn Nygaard, Heidi Cooke, and Diane Ruddle, and clerk Jessica Page.

Councilor Cooke move to approve the regular meeting minutes for April. Councilor Schlessor second. Motion passed 5:0. Councilor Schloesser move to approve the Treasurer's report. Councilor Nygaard second. Motion passed 5:0.

Old Business/Committee Reports/Building Permits:

Mike Rowan applying to build a storage shed (45'x30') behind his house. Councilor Ruddle move to approve. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 5:0.

Administrative Issues:

1. Todd Greseth, Goodhue County Commissioner: Staffing is getting better, 12 vacancies instead of 28, Greg Isaacson retired, Jess Greenwood taking over. Pictures of 9 and Main Street where it dips in the street. Jeff asked Todd if they could paint curbs on 9. Broadband is a tough sell in Dennison, since it's already available. Wireless broadband is a possibility, new company coming out that says they can do it.

2. Todd Hagen from Ehlers. Talking about financing future street and sewer projects. The bonds City sold many years ago to finance street and sewer projects are maturing in February of 2024. \$ 42,000 levy will go off

in 2024. Need to keep this on the levy rolls, either in a bond or in a general levy. Sewer can be levied for, but water cannot. There are "3 buckets" for money: levy, assessments, bonds. Special assessments are when something is a special benefit to someone. Ie, is there an increase in appraisal values? Should probably establish an assessment policy for the City. Special assessments have to have public hearings, there is a 3% levy limit on taxable property values. 20% special assessments let's you go higher on bonding. (Looking at trying to reduce to 10-15% as those are getting really big). Cities usually charge 1.5% over the bond interest rate. Todd can prepare a tax impact sheet for Council to review. County can help? Piggy back on county projects for cheaper cost? Feasibility study needed.

3. Dan Storlie and Mayor Flaten have talked to several contractors in the last month to get ballpark estimates for the future street work that needs to take place. We are proposing a two year plan. Year one would be to fix the cracks, repair holes and broken asphalt, replace sunken curbing next to several catch basins on 2nd and 3rd Avenues and fix the areas around a couple of manholes that are raised above the roads. Year two would be to put down a chip rock layer on all City streets. Back in 2019, City had received an estimate from Ellingson Companies to fix our I and I issues. The projected total then was \$89,343.00. We anticipate the cost will be 20 to 30 percent higher now. We would like to see the City work with Ellingson Companies to resolve our I and I issues. More televising

would be required because some of the areas need to be examined again (due to length of time since last televising). Empire Pipe could come in June. Clean and televise. Not sure on price, thinking it was 9-10 foot. Total might be around \$15,000 to clean and televise. 1600 to 1900 feet of sewer line is the estimate from Dan. Can do a resolution to spend the money and then pay the city back with bond money when we get it.

Take care of sewer jetting and camera-ing. This year. Do streets next year? Street stuff needs to be done this year as the water is running into the road, the asphalt is breaking up next to the cement curbing.

4. Continue discussions regarding assessments placed on Marlea's. Review the bills, come up with a number to possibly give financial relief to the owners. Councilors Cooke and Ruddle will work on.

5. Bolstrom Property/Compliant. Letter has been sent to Joe Stanke. Joe received it on May 1. 10 days to get back to City/clean up. Who does the City hire to clean the place up. Met Con ? Take pictures to see exactly what the City is dealing with. And what needs to be cleaned up. Councilor Cooke will go. Mayor Flaten will call Joe Stanke. Go through Britt Olson's yard to see what's there and take pictures.

6. 6 complaints filed with the City last month. 4 Letters were sent to the property owners. Paul N. is working on it. Did Neal move his stuff? Paul maybe going to help him get the stuff moved.

7. Revised complaint forms were sent out to Council for review. Add the clerk email

address. Councilor Ruddle has a 3 ring binder that she will donate. Councilor Schloesser move to approve the updated form. Councilor Nygaard second. Motion passed 5:0 Councilor Ruddle will send out the final one.

8. Discussion about ways to help Jessica send out utility bills and update/change the software system. Is there a way for people to pay their bills on-line? Heidi has ideas and ways to improve our billing system. Heidi has looked at a couple options. Meet with a company in the Cities who does everything with billing.

9. Pete Lee property. Pete will present a written plan to address his collapsed roof. Has been communicating with Goodhue County on the matter. He didn't think he would have it by the meeting. More likely in two weeks. He is looking for a contractor to fix the roof.

10. Mayor Flaten talked to the lawyer about condemning the building. She is looking at who would be responsible for this. Walls are ok, still intact. If the roof can be replaced, the building should be ok. Jeff needs to contact the county inspector to see how long the roof can be not replaced before it is condemned.

11. Two estimates presented to the council to clean and inspect our water tower. Travis recommended the two companies and has used both in the past. KLM Engineering was at \$3,000 and Central Tank Coating came in at \$3,500.

(continued on page 21)

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DUNDAS DUKES



2023 SCHEDULE

Wed, June 21	Hastings Hawks	Home	7:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Family Fun Night
Fri, June 23	Hampton Cardinals	Home	7:30 p.m.	Community Service Night // Food Drive
Sat, June 24	Waconia Lakers	Home	5 p.m.	Block Party Night
Sun, June 25	St. Patrick Irish	Home	2 p.m.	Frandsen Bank and Trust Farm Animal and Tractor Day
Wed, June 28	Red Wing Aces	Home	7:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Family Fun Night
Fri, June 30	at Rochester Royals	Rochester, Minn.	7:30 p.m.	
Tue, July 4	Northfield Knights	Home	2 p.m.	Armed Services Appreciation Day
Fri, July 7	Minnetonka Millers	Home	7:30 p.m.	Breakfast for Dinner Night
Sun, July 9	at New Market Muskies	New Market, Minn.	7:30 p.m.	
Wed, July 12	Rochester Royals	Home	7:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Family Fun Night
Fri, July 14	MacStrength Grizzlies	Home	7:30 p.m.	Classic Car Night
Sun, July 16	Metro Knights	Home	2 p.m.	Ice Cream and Beach Day, presented by Frandsen Bank and Trust
Fri, July 21	at St. Patrick	St. Patrick, Minn.	7:30 p.m.	
Sat, July 22	at Minnetonka	Minnetonka, Minn.	2 p.m.	
Sun, July 23	at Elko Express	Elko, Minn.	2 p.m.	
Wed, July 26	Faribault Lakers	Home	7:30 p.m.	PJ and Cereal Night
Fri, July 28	at Miesville Mudhens	Miesville, Minn.	7:30 p.m.	
Sun, July 30	New Market Muskies	Home	2 p.m.	Volunteer Appreciation Day
Fri, Aug 4	Section 1B Playoffs - Gm 1	TBD	8 p.m.	Best of Three - Game One
Sun, Aug 6	Section 1B Playoffs - Gm 2	TBD	2 p.m.	Best of Three - Game Two
Tue, Aug 8	Section 1B Playoffs - Gm 3	TBD	8 p.m.	Best of Three - Game Three (If Necessary)
Fri, Aug 11	Sect. 1B Playoffs - Play back	TBD	8 p.m.	Play back semifinal
Sun, Aug 13	Sect. 1B Playoffs - Play back	TBD	2 p.m.	Play back final

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**City of Dennison
Regular Council Meeting**
(continued from page 20)

Projected time frame for the work would be after Dennison Days and before we start discharging in mid-September. City has 10 days to dispute the bill, someone involved with the cleaning needs to look at the bill asap so we know if it's ok or not. Councilor Ruddle move to hire KLM to do cleaning and inspection, Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 5:0.

12. Street sweeping, mowing quote from Charlie Terpstra. \$925 street sweeping, 5th Ave way ditch cut \$100, storm sewer waterway \$175 (per time) Councilor Schloesser move to accept the street sweeping (\$925) and the mowing for 5th Ave ditch cut (\$100) and storm sewer waterway (\$175 per time). Councilor Nygaard second. Motion passed 5:0.

13. Portable toilets Dennison Days. Will the City help pay for a portion? In the past City has done \$400. Councilor Schloesser move to pay \$400 for toilets for Dennison Days. Councilor Cooke second. Councilor Ruddle abstaining. Motion passed 4:0.

14. Email sent out to the council from the Fire Chief about potentially moving a bigger/newer fire truck to the fire station in town. Mayor Flaten will send follow up question to Joe, and will send out there response. It's possible, but there's electrical and plumbing that would need to be moved. Outlets, thermostat, etc. Lions are donating heavily to the Nerstrand Fire Department for the Dennison

Fire Department, specifically. Would need to be lots of conversations. City needs to keep it at least half for the City Maintenance.

15. Email sent out to the council regarding the Small Cities Assistance Program with the DOT. We don't need to do anything from the City's perspective to receive these funds. If the Legislature decides to fund the program, then we will get our share (based on population). For example: 2015 the City received \$10,770, 2017 \$6,850, 2018 \$6,763, 2021 \$15,073. The funds are dispersed twice a year. This is on top of what we normally get from Local Government Aid. I haven't been told yet if the Legislature has funded the Small Cities Assistance Program this year. Contact is going to send more information on when it would be coming.

16. Clean-Up Day is going to be May 13th. Councilor Schloesser has handed out the flyers. Anything else we need to do before then? Councilors Ruddle and Schloesser are available to help.

17. I talked with the Planning Program Supervisor last month in regards to applying for Source Water Protection grants. If we want to replace the fluoride pump and gauges, applying for either a competitive or implementation grant wouldn't be eligible for that purpose. When it comes to fixing the bent post at the water tower, the Source Water Protection grants couldn't be used for that either. She said the well house needs to be close to the water tower in order to receive a

grant.

18. Clerk review for next month. Jess to forward the job description. Jess need to look at and update before it goes out.

Citizens Issues: Farmers Market will not be going on this year. Can the City buy new bases for the ball field. Mayor Flaten will look at prices/options. There is a tree that is becoming a hazard. Councilor Ruddle move to purchase new bases as long as it's not over \$300 and Lions will pay for it. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0. City will look at pricing for the bases.

Mayors Issues:
Utilities:

1. Update from Nate and Travis: Need to buy a new fluoride pump. Councilor Nygaard move to buy new pump for \$1300 to replace the borrowed pump. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0.

Will start second discharge. Nate pumped 100 gallons in for this discharge. It has been working well. It is very pH dependent and doesn't work well at lower pH. Usually works well at 7-9.

2. Nate passed his C sewer license test! How does the council want to proceed with Travis? Keep on through the end of the month? Hourly consultation fee as needed? Discuss on June 1.

3. First discharge at the ponds. We used approximately 160 gallons of aluminum sulfate. System is fully functional and no leaks reported. Another 600 gallons delivered on April 28th.

4. Date for flushing hydrants? After the middle of the month. Give a 7 day notice?

5. Date for changing out meters? Kaderliks, Jenos both old meters. Nate needs to pick a day. Jeff will help. Or Nichole will help. Koesters isn't working again. After the middle of the month.

Councilor Schloesser move to pay the bills. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0.

Mayor Flaten move to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Schloesser second. Meeting adjourned at 9:26.

Next meeting: Regular meeting is Thursday June 1st, 2023 at 7:00.

**Two Council Seats Open
in Nerstrand**

(continued from page 1)

Please mail your letter of interest to:

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cityclerknerstrand@gmail.com

or drop your letter in the drop box outside the City Hall building.

Submit your letter of interest by July 11, 2023 before the July council meeting.

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Thank you for your kind consideration.

Todd Evavold

Mayor of Nerstrand

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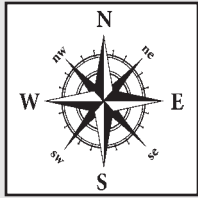
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Spring is in the Air



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.

The other night I walked outside and smelled spring in the air. It was actually the odor of a cow manure lagoon being pumped out, but on the farm that can be synonymous. It brought back memories of pumping the pit each spring. I was so happy to get liquid manure storage on the farm in the 1980's. It was so much better than hauling manure in the cold every day. Frozen manure spreaders, fighting snow drifts in the fields with chains on tractors and trying to get the barn cleaner to work on a sub-zero morning in January. But there were some unforgettable experiences with pumping pits as well.

One just got used to the smell on the farm. It was part of livestock farmer's life. Our hog barn had a pit underneath it. Convenient but stinky. One day I was getting ready to pump the pit and that required removing the exhaust fan in the pump out port. A little while later I realized I was missing my cell phone. After retracing my steps all over the farm I thought I would look down the opening where the agitator was going to go. There on a thin crust of hog poop sat my Nokia. I found a piece of flashing and bent the end to retrieve my phone. It was dry and perfectly functional.

Another time I became aware that the water line coming up from the floor of the pit was leaking. When the pit was pumped as empty as I could get it I inspected and found the plastic nipple on the top side of the valve was spraying water. Wearing a pair of cutoff shorts and disposable tennis shoes I climbed down and installed a new brass fitting. When I climbed out, I discarded the shoes and shorts in the garbage and commenced a deodorizing regimen. Hog manure is just about as bad as a skunk.

We had hauled liquid manure with a 3,300 gallon tank for years before purchasing a pump and traveling gun. This was cutting edge. Except for the labor of laying out 4,000 feet of 6" aluminum pipe to reach the field. There was a 660 foot hose attached to a unit that would spray a perfect arc over 100 feet,

as it slowly rotated 360 degrees. You would sit out there and watch it operate and then move the assembly ahead with a cable hooked to a tractor. Nothing but the sound of shh, shh, shh as the liquid fertilizer sprayed in endless circles.

Take down would mean rolling the hose up on a hose reel behind the tractor before moving across the field. One day when I was pumping the neighbors pit, I was rolling up the hose while an open station tractor powered the pto driven hose reel and pulled itself along squeezing the liquid out of the hose and through the nozzle on the traveling gun. I didn't pay attention that the nozzle was pointed directly at me and that the hose became twisted. The reel squeezed the contents of the hose into a state of high pressure and suddenly the force untwisted the hose. I could only watch the manure make it's escape out the nozzle and arc towards me. I turned my back to it and was blasted with the full force of the flying poop.

My last memorable experience with the manure lagoon happened while I was agitating my neighbor's pit. There was a large propeller at the end of a 20' boom mounted on the three-point hitch of the tractor. I was backed down over the edge of the pit with the prop running at full rpm to break up the crust on top of the lagoon. When I determined it was completed, I climbed on the tractor and throttled the engine down. What I hadn't factored into the equation was that even though the rear ties were on a slippery slope, the force of the propeller, just like a ship, was holding the tractor on the bank. According to my science teacher the force of the propeller was equal to the weight of the tractor and it stayed put until I cut the power. I suddenly found myself sliding down into a full manure lagoon on what was soon to become a John Deere submarine. I cut the power and climbed on the hood of the tractor hoping the lagoon was not deeper than the tractor hood. To my relief the tractor came to a rest before it was submerged and after assessing the situation I climbed back into the seat, started the diesel back to life and brought the propeller up to full speed. Then drove the tractor right up the bank and onto level ground.

My neighbor Phil was a witness to the last two incidents and we laughed quite hard afterwards about the whole thing. It is much funnier in retrospect.

A Minnesotan: Construction Season



By RosaLin Alcoser

First off, a special thanks to Bill and Marla Adams from Dodge Center, who sent me some lovely stories about geese in response to my last column. It is always nice to hear about braver souls than I, who were able to stand up to the gaggle of geese that reside in Silver Lake Park in Rochester—a place I ran from many times as a child.

Secondly, it has come around to that time of year again, now that we've soldiered through winter, first winter, second winter, and wondered why it is still winter. When the weather gets warmer and the days get longer, that's right—it is once again construction season in Minnesota.

As we all know, construction season means they start doing the serious road work again, not just patching up the potholes created by nearly six months of win-

ter. Even though up in the Twin Cities where I currently reside, the filling of some of said potholes probably could count as major road work.

Quite recently, I was driving through the construction they are doing on Highway 52 between the cities and Rochester. If you have recently driven that route, you know it means going through two different construction sites that merge down to two lanes. However, these two lanes are placed extremely differently than they were last year or the year before when they worked on a different part of the highway.

Which brings me to the question: Am I the only one who feels like the Highway 52 project has been going on for over a decade now? I know that there were two different projects, with about a six-year gap between the current 52 project and the one that finished in 2015 (not to be confused with the one they did in the mid-2000s), bringing us to a grand total of three Highway 52 projects in this century.

While the many Highway 52 projects, like many highway projects in existence, seem like an ongoing never-ending story, they are not. At least we will always have something reliable to look forward to every construction season, as once this project is over, they will probably start another one in just a few years.



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