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MARCH 13, 2024

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Announcements

• **Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Goodhue, Pine Island, Kenyon and Wanamingo.** Receive a hot meal delivered to your home by a volunteer at lunch time up to 5 days per week. To qualify you must be 60 or older, live within city limits, have limited mobility and/or are unable to prepare nutritious meals. The suggested donation is \$5-\$10 per meal. For more information on how to sign up for meals or to be a volunteer driver, please contact Dana Bergner at 507-421-6067 or dbergner@threeriverscap.org

• **Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard invite you to become a member.** Join us and help us make the Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard an even bigger success. WVHG meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Wanamingo Community Center. The VFW will meet from 7-7:30p.m. The Honor Guard will meet from 7:30-8:30p.m. For more information contact Eric Dierks 507-321-1967, Gary Floan at 507-732-7740, or Larry Van De Walker at 507-421-4674.

• **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.

Do you have an announcement?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Tiny Super Heroes

By Cheri Roshon

Sometimes a person comes into our life that changes everything for the better. This article

K-W School board Makes cuts to Budget

The K-W school board has approved cuts in spending for the fiscal 2025 school year to balance the budget. The total cuts amount to a \$409,226 reduction of the 2024-25 budget. Some of the reductions include \$37,288 to cut the community education director's time to half. \$74,711 to eliminate one kindergarten teacher.

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is about how showing someone you care can make a world of difference in their worldview perception. The person I would like to thank today is Mrs. Stephanie Wunderlich, an amazing Special Ed teacher in the K-W school district. Stephanie is one of those people who go the extra distance to make her students feel special. This in turn can change the outcome of a child's education, and indeed, the child himself.

Stephanie grew up in Mazeppa, and graduated from Zumbrota-Mazeppa school. She then went to Rochester Community Technical College to continue her education.

She began her college education in Law Enforcement, and soon discovered that that was not the life path she wanted. She changed di-



rection and received her Associate's Degree in Human Services from RCTC, and her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from St.

(continued on page 6)

Vintage Snowmobile Show



By Cheri Roshon

On Saturday, March 2nd, snowmobile enthusiasts from around this area, and some from far away, made the trip to a snowless snowmobile show! But when you are a snowmobile enthusiast, does it matter whether or not there is snow on the ground? The answer to that question is a resounding "Heck no!"

There were a whopping 101 sleds registered this year, along with a new class- 1990 and older ATV's. There were also 8 three wheelers entered this year.

Registration started at 9 am, with the judging at 11 am. Last year's Best of Show winner was on display, as well as a whole lot more! People were milling about, looking at the vintage rides, as well as the racers and custom sleds.

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Dollar General Dreams, Dead in Wanamingo

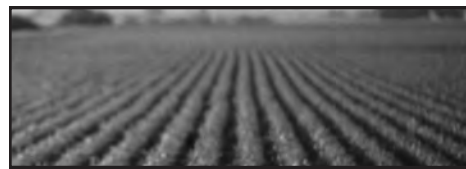
The Dollar General company quashed dreams that the store was building in Wanamingo. The company has since determined they will only locate stores in communities with a population of more than 3,000.

It looked promising last year that the Dollar General would be building on a lot on the north side of Highway 60.

(continued on page 14)

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Journey with John



By Colin Rueter

As I have had the privilege to continue to write articles, I have decided that, Lord willing and as I am able, I would like us to walk through God's word again. I have been encouraged by emails from many over the last month sharing how God has used articles for His glory and the good of His people. Though not using the previous template of an overview of each book, I will walk us through one book at a time, 1 John, in an expository way, verse by verse. This letter, doctrinal (teaching) letter, from the Apostle John presents theology that should ground the believer, convict the believer, and give the believer discernment about false doctrine which creeps into our minds so easily. He brings us back to three basics of Christian life: true doctrine, obedient living, and enthusiastic devotion to Jesus. Even in our communities, I see a rise in false teaching that can lure people away from the core doctrines of faith into myths and sooth itching ears and, therefore, I desire to point each of you back to the solid foundation of God's word (2 Timothy 4:1-5). My hope is that even if you are not believing in Jesus as Lord and Savior, that you may be enlightened to His grace. So, let's look at this letter.

Our author is John the Apostle, the same John that wrote the familiar Gospel of John. He probably wrote this letter around the same time as Revelation while he was exiled on the island of Patmos. John writes this to be a summary that assumes knowledge of the gospel as written by John and offers assurances for faith in Christ. This letter indicates that the audience of this letter were confronted with the error of Gnosticism, which became a more serious problem in the second century and still pervades our beliefs and culture today. As a philosophy of religion, Gnostics held that matter is evil and spirit is good. The solution to the tension between these two was knowledge, or gnosis, through which man rose from the common world to the spiritual. In the gospel message that was shared by those who held this belief, this led to two false theories concerning the person of Christ. Docetism, regarding the human Jesus as a ghost and Cerinthianism, making Jesus a dual personality, at times human and at times divine. This belief is heresy, false, and is to be rejected, friends. The key purpose of 1 John is to set boundaries on the content of Christian faith (core doctrine) and to give believers assurance of their salvation. As we walk through this letter, I wanted to provide a brief overview and give you a challenge at the end of this article.

John's letter is about the basics of faith in Christ, it helped the audience reflect honestly on their faith. It helped them answer the question, Are we true believers? John told them that they could tell by looking at their actions. If they loved one another, that was evidence of God's presence in their lives. But if they bickered and fought all the time or were selfish and did not look out for one another, they,

in fact, did not know God. That did not mean they had to be perfect. In fact, John also recognized that believing involved admitting our sins and seeking God's forgiveness – repenting of their sin and wrongs against God and other Christians. They must depend on God for their cleansing from guilt, along with admitting wrongs against others and making amends, as another important part of growing in relationship to God. Back then, as today, we can observe many churches and people within local gatherings that do not seem to be believers. This letter calls us to self-evaluate first, then engage others in their supposed faith to see if it is genuine (Matthew 7:1-5; 15-23).

Here is John's outline in themes: The one, eternal God became incarnate as His Son, Jesus Christ, who is true God and eternal life. All mankind (humanity) is sinful under the wrath of God, but through faith in Jesus Christ alone receive salvation and adoption in fellowship with God as Father, with Jesus, and right fellowship with one another as new creations in Christ. Jesus alone is our advocate with the Father and propitiation for our sins. Those who truly know Christ forsake sin, pursue holiness and obedience in God's commands, particularly love for God and one another in truth. Denial of Jesus, obedience in repentance, and following the God's commandments is fruit of true faith. This faith in Jesus results in forgiveness of sins by God, eternal life, confidence in prayer, protection from the evil one, and understanding and knowing the true God.

So What?

Your theology (belief about God) matters and you have a theology. It is what can bring you to Christ and fullness of joy or keep you

on the path of destruction that leads to Hell and wrath. I may not know you personally, but God has given me an opportunity to share these truths on this platform, I desire to fulfill the command to proclaim Good News to my neighbors (Matt. 28:18-20). Love compels proclamation. This is not love as the world speaks of it, but it is the same love that comes from God who is love (1 John 4:7-21).

John concludes his introduction in verse 4 that these things are written so that "our joy is complete." Joy here is lasting, unchanging happiness in Jesus. John writes these truths because they will be for the joy of others and their joy is also his own joy, therefore together, seeing others treasuring Christ, while he also treasures Christ, brings joy that is complete. Your pursuit of joy in Jesus and others pursuit of joy in Jesus is not in competition with one another, but is a labor of mutual encouragement towards bringing glory to God. So, be in the bible often, reading and studying to grow in your faith and knowledge. Gather with believers who bear fruit according to the gospel in a local church. If you must drive to find a faithful church, do so, for it is better to travel and have a faithful church that attempt to walk faithfully alone (which is unbiblical). Walk worthy in your life according to Jesus Christ and His gospel.

So, friends. This letter (in fact the whole Bible) guides in discernment of truth – what is true vs what is almost true. God's word is true, infallible, inerrant, inspired by God. Live in it. Sure, read other books, but live in the greatest Book. For it gives you all things for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

(continued on page 3)

Business & Subscription Office: P.O. Box 125
Dennison, MN 55018

E-MAIL hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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March 17: 9:00-9:40a.m. Sacred Space;
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March 20: Soup Supper 6:00p.m.; Lent Worship Service at WLC 7:00p.m.
March 24: 9:00-9:40a.m. Sacred Space; 10:00a.m. Worship at TLC; 9:00a.m. Sunday School
March 28: Maundy Thursday
7:00p.m. Worship with Holy Communion at TLC
March 29: Good Friday Worship 7:00p.m. at WLC
March 30: Easter Egg Hunt at Riverside Park 10:30a.m.
March 31: Easter Sunday 7:00a.m. Sunrise Worship Service at WLC with potluck breakfast; 10:30a.m. Worship at TLC

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March 20: Soup Supper 6:00p.m.; Lent Worship Service at WLC 7:00p.m.
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Jesus Recreates Us

If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

God loves, reasons, and creates. So do his children, made in his image and likeness. But instead of honoring the good, doing the right, and creating the lovely, we fell into sin (Genesis 3). As a result, we despise, pervert, and destroy our world and our relationships. Though we are still able to do some good (by the grace of God), it is painfully obvious that we do not live up to our created potential. We willfully do wrong, hurt others, and destroy.

It is hard to imagine the disappointment and heartbreak God must have felt when we first turned against him. God might well have destroyed humanity and started over. And in a way he did make a new start. God sent his Son, Jesus, to bear his image without falling into sin; Jesus was fully human, like us in every way (see John 1:14; 3:16-18; Hebrews 2:17; 4:15). He loves and thinks and creates as a human made in God's image should. He hit the restart button on human nature.

The miracle of salvation through Jesus is that we can become part of the new creation and the new world he creates. We can become part of God's family again. With the new life he makes possible for us, Jesus saves!

Dear Jesus, thank you for being the first responder for all of creation. You have given us a new start. Help us to live faithfully in your name. Amen.

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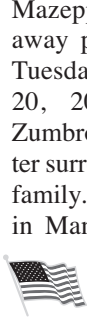
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Louis William "Skeeter" Berg

Louis William "Skeeter" Berg, 87, of Mazeppa, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at the Zumbrota Care Center surrounded by his family. He was born in Mankato on August 12, 1936, to Lyall and Marie (Marzinske) Berg. He graduated from High School in New Richland, MN in 1954. He served in the United States Army Reserve from 1954 until his honorable discharge in 1962. On June 9, 1955, he married the love of his life, Elaine Sable in New Richland. They



lived in New Richland until moving to Mazeppa in 1960. They shared 59 years of marriage before Elaine's passing on February 22, 2015. Skeeter worked for S&S Step Company while also driving school bus, retiring in 1986. He and Elaine were also part owners of the Coffee Cup Café in Mazeppa for 13 years. In the late 60's, Skeeter started the Skeeter & the Sundowners Band playing at numerous weddings and social events over the years. His favorite past times included music, dancing, bowling, attending his grandchildren's sporting events, and tinkering with broken things. He was a fan of the Minnesota Vikings and Twins. He enjoyed huggy-buggies with his grandchildren and going for rides to get the newspaper, which soon turned into family events. Skeeter was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Mazeppa and the Mazeppa American Legion Post 588.

He is survived by his six children, Denise (Bob) Poncellet of Mazeppa, Dennis (Colleen) Berg of Mazeppa, DeAnn (Mike) Horsman of Mazeppa, Debbie (Dan) Dettmer of Zumbro Falls, Delane (Jon) Liffbrig of Mazeppa, and Daryl Berg of Rochester; 24 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Kathy Berg of New Richland, Sylvia Berg of New Richland, Evelyn Berg of New Ulm, and Doris Klein of Mazeppa; brothers-in-law, Dennis Grunwald of Ellendale and Harold (Linda) Sable of Red Wing; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Elaine; son, Dean; grandson, Trevor Dettmer;

parents, Lyall and Marie; sister, Barb Grunwald; brothers, Stan, Robert, and Bill Berg; in-laws, Fred and Irene Sable; and brother-in-law, Duane Klein.

Funeral Service were at 11 a.m. on Monday, February 26, 2024, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mazeppa. Reverend Alan Horn officiated. Visitation was from 2 until 5 p.m. on Sunday, February 25, 2024, at the Mahn Family Funeral Home in Zumbrota and for one hour prior at the church on Monday. Burial was at the Mazeppa Cemetery with military honors provided by the Mazeppa Honor Guard. A celebration of Skeeter's life followed the funeral service on Monday, at the Mazeppa Community Center from 12 until 4 p.m.

Lorrie Jo Iverson

Lorrie Jo Iverson, 61, of Raleigh, NC, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2024.



Lorrie was born on March 27, 1962, in Zumbrota, Minnesota. She excelled in high school and was named Salutatorian of her 1980 graduating class in Wanamingo, MN. She played on her school's basketball and volleyball teams, and participated in band and choir.

After graduating with her MBA from the University of Minnesota, Lorrie embarked on

a successful career at IBM & Toshiba until 2019.

Lorrie enjoyed attending concerts of local bands and national artists, and cheering on the Minnesota Vikings and the Carolina Panthers. She was a skilled cook who explored new recipes and foods. Lorrie loved her neighborhood, participating in local events and advocating for causes that impacted her community.

Lorrie is survived by her son Derek, daughter Leah, their father Gerry, mother Joan, brothers Dennis and Clifford, and sister Sally. She also leaves behind beloved nieces and nephews, cousins, and extended family members. Lorrie was preceded in death by her father Charles, brother David, and grandparents.

Memorial services for Lorrie was held in North Carolina on Friday, February 23, 2024, at 1:30 pm at Brown-Wynne Funeral Home, located at 300 Saint Mary's Street, Raleigh, NC 27605, and in Minnesota, her final resting place, at a date to be determined.

Lorrie will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. She will be forever in our hearts.

(obituaries continued on page 4)

Journey with John

(continued from page 2)

My challenge to you is 3-fold: read John's gospel and may you behold Jesus as He is. Next read through 1 John as we journey through the word together. Finally, trust that God through the power of the Holy Spirit will bring you to treasure Jesus above all else. Next month we will look closer at the text in Chapter 1, verses 1-4. Until then, may God be with you in spirit and truth through His word.

As always, if you have questions, need prayer, a word of encouragement, or a cup of coffee, please contact me via my personal email: niloc1214@gmail.com



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John A. Flom

John A. Flom, age 77, of Faribault, formerly from Wanamingo, died on February 12, 2024, at the Tuscan Medical Center in Tuscan, AZ.



Memorial services were held at the Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault, March 2, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.



with interment and veteran's military rites provided by the Rice County Central Veterans Association at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Faribault.

A memorial visitation was held at the Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault for one hour prior to the service on March 2, 2024.

John Allan, the son of Johnny and Marion (Eggum) Flom was born on July 1, 1946, in Northfield. He graduated from Wanamingo High School and Dunwoody Institute. John served in the U. S. Army as an MP during the Vietnam Conflict. He married Diane Burmeister on July 25, 1970, their enduring love lasting more than 53 years. For more than 50 years John worked for GM dealerships, including Dablow Chevrolet, Haller Chevrolet, and Grover Auto. John loved farming and fixing things, especially cars and tractors. He enjoyed working with people to solve the mechanical problems they were having. He was a true giver of his time, talents, and abilities. He most loved spending time with his family. John volunteered at the Wanamingo food shelf and Rice County Historical Society and enjoyed working at the Faribault House. He was a Wanamingo School Board member and served as President of Wanamingo Lutheran Church. John enjoyed fishing, boating and the outdoors, especially fishing in Canada. John and Diane enjoyed many adventures in their RV and treasured those with their daughters and grandkids. John also loved flying and military aircraft and had the opportunity to fly in a B24 Bomber, the same WW II plane Diane's Dad flew in.

He is survived by his wife, Diane; two daughters, Amy (Aaron) Hinz of Goodhue and Anne (Kevin) O'Banion of Faribault; five grandchildren, Emma and Hayden Hinz, Trigg (Callie) Sellers, Tyler (Slade) Benda and Olivia O'Banion; four great grandchildren, Colbie and Crew Sellers, Hendrix and Hudson Benda; five siblings, Leslie (Linda) Flom, Gail Flom, Bonnie (Mark) Thompson, Dennis Flom and Darryl (Cynthia) Flom.

John was preceded in death by his parents.

Robert Duayne Noah

They say a real newspaperman has ink in his blood, and that was true for Robert Duayne Noah who left this mortal earth on February 20, 2024, to join the great newspaper in the sky after a three-year battle with cancer. He was 85 years old.



Born in Salem, Nebraska, in 1938, he

was one of six children of Thomas and Beulah Noah who enjoyed the Good Life of Nebraska, where he relished the outdoors and excelled at high school sports. It was during this time he got a job as a printer's devil at the Nemaha County Herald newspaper in Auburn, Nebraska, and began his love of the newspaper business.

After high school, Bob spent a year at Peru State College in Peru, Nebraska, before transferring to and graduating from Kearney State University (now known as the University of Nebraska at Kearney) with a degree in math. In his senior year at Kearney, he met Carol Martin. She had completed her education at Doane College and was teaching in the elementary school in Kearney.

Bob's post-graduate career began in the classroom where he taught English, journalism, and media relations at York Community High School in York, Nebraska, while Carol was still teaching in Kearney. They were engaged and then married December 28, 1960, during Christmas break. Carol resigned her position at Kearney and was able to get a teaching job in York as well. They were married for almost 55 years and raised three children, David, Nancy and Doug.

After a short teaching career, Bob became news editor at the Aurora News-Register working for publisher Gerald Bremer, a stereotypical newspaper editor with a bottle stashed in the bottom drawer of his desk. It was the glorious chaos of this newsroom where he continued to grow his passion for newspapers.

But newspaper editors earned only slightly more than teachers in those days, so in 1964, Bob took a job in public relations at Northern Natural Gas in Omaha before he and his family were transferred to the company's Minnesota office where he worked for four years.

When Bob saw a notice that the weekly newspaper in Kenyon, Minnesota, was for sale, he convinced Carol to pack up the family and resume his passion as a newspaperman. Bob published The Kenyon Leader from 1971 until 2001 when he sold the newspaper to his son, Doug. During those 30 years he worked many nights and weekends reporting on city council and school board meetings, high school sporting events, community celebrations and occasional tragedies. He also wrote his weekly column, the Ark-Ives, that often chronicled the sometimes-embarrassing moments of his children's lives.

Bob made sure the paper was published every single Wednesday during his 30-year career come hell or high water. It's no wonder that one of his favorite songs was Johnny Cash's How High's the Water, Momma!

In 1992, Bob decided to serve his community in an additional role by winning a seat as a Goodhue County Commissioner and serving a total of 12 years at the post during which time he helped oversee the improved delivery of county services and the construction of a new county jail, law enforcement center, and courts facility.

Bob loved his family and enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren. After retirement he and Carol loved to drive around the country with Carol's sister and brother-in-law, Dianne and Dave Barker, seeing new sites, playing golf, and enjoying a cocktail. After Carol's passing in 2015, he

spent time with his good friends in Kenyon and indulged his love of reading with the help of the wonderful librarians at the Kenyon Public Library who always had his next book waiting for him to read.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife Carol, parents Tom and Beulah, brothers Don and Dennis, sister Mavis, and brothers-in-law Bob Metzler, Les Martin, Lanny Martin, and Dale Benson. He is survived by his three children, David (Lisa), Nancy (Jay) Wobig, and Douglas (Jena); seven grandchildren, Josh (Kelsey), Becky, Nick (Tina) Wobig, Sara (Arik) Jacquart, Ryan (Samantha), Kelsey (Chaz) Stuve, and Shelby; three great grandchildren, Jameson Wobig, Elliot Noah, and Braylin Stuve; his sister Jean and brother Dean; sisters-in-law, Karen Noah, Pam Noah, Vera Martin, Sharon Martin, Dianne Barker, Kathy Martin, Rachel Noah and Janet Benson; and brothers-in-law, Dave Barker and Tom Martin.

The family hosted a celebration of Bob's life on Friday, March 1st, 2024 at 11AM at Kenyon United Methodist Church. Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon on Thursday, February 29, 2024 from 4PM-6PM.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association, the Kenyon Public Library, or your favorite charity.

Robert "Bob" B. Larkin

Robert "Bob" Bryan Larkin, 83, of rural Kenyon, died of natural causes, Thursday, February 29, 2024 at his home.

He was born January 12, 1941 in Faribault, Minnesota the son of Harold and Jeanne (Beaupre) Larkin. He grew up in Kenyon and graduated from Kenyon High School.

He joined the United States Navy immediately following his high school graduation and served for 20 years and various locations along the East Coast.

On October 23, 1971, he married Patricia Nelson in Kenyon. The couple lived on a farm in Cherry Gove Township.

Bob enjoyed the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing and having his dogs in AKC Hunting Retriever Tests. He owned an operated Cherry Grove Kennel for several years raising Labrador Retriever's. He was a member of the Southern Minnesota Hunting Retriever Association.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Larkin

of Kenyon; daughter, Judie Musgrave of Bonney Lake, WA; granddaughter, Sarah Musgrave of Bonney Lake, WA and grandson, Luke Musgrave of Bonney Lake, WA, and brother, Tom (Ann Dee) Larkin of Kenyon.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Jeanne Larkin.

A Memorial Service was held at 10:00 AM Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon with visitation one hour prior. Military Honors were provided by the Kenyon Color Guard.

Richard "Rick" William Walker

Richard "Rick" William Walker, 55, of Kenyon, died of natural causes Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at his home.



He was born December 9, 1968 in Faribault, Minnesota the son of William and Darlene (Klatt) Walker. He attended



school in Kenyon and graduated from Kenyon High School, Class of 1987.

Shortly after high school, Rick enlisted in the United States Army. He spent time in Germany and finished his service career as a Sergeant in Georgia.

Rick worked at Cabela's and most recently at Lowe's in Owatonna. He was a fan of SIFT and helping his Uncle Doug and Aunt Mary.

Rick enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, sight seeing and sharing his great sense of humor.

He is survived by his mother, Darlene Walker; brother, Chad; special friend, Donna Foster and many aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father William "Bill" Walker (1994) and his grandparents.

Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home, Kenyon on Sunday, March 10th from 4:00 - 7:00 PM and one hour prior to the service Monday, March 11, 2024, at 11:00 AM at Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon. Burial was in Kenyon Cemetery with military honors by the Kenyon Color Guard.

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Ann Traxler
Attorney

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The winner will host the "Golden Crock Pot"

Evelyn A. Kunde

Evelyn A. Kunde, 86, of Kenyon died Friday, March 1st, 2024 at Three Links Care Center in Northfield, MN.



Evie was born on February 9th, 1938 in Wanamingo Township on the family homestead. She attended country school through 8th grade and graduated from Wanamingo

High School in 1955. After high school, she moved to the Twin Cities where she worked for the State of Minnesota for 3 years. On May 2nd, 1959 she united in marriage to Lloyd Kunde at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon. They made their home in the rural Kenyon area, where she helped on their dairy farm for 14 years before going to work for Foldcraft Company in Kenyon in 1967 until the birth of her youngest, Steve, and then returned to the company shortly after and continued to work there until her retirement in 2006. Evie's pride and joy was her family. She so enjoyed when her grandchildren and great grandchildren came to visit. She loved getting together with extended family for birthdays, anniversaries, reunions, or really any kind of celebration. She enjoyed the many trips with Lloyd throughout the country using their timeshare weeks, especially when they traveled to Hawaii for 2 weeks. Perhaps the highlight of those travels was their trips to Florida with their grandchildren. She was a fan of the local high school sports teams and attended the state boys basketball tournament for many years. She also was a fan of all the Minnesota sports teams and especially enjoyed watching the Vikings, Twins, and Gopher teams. She was a member of the Kenyon Booster Club for many years, even being named as Booster Family of the Year once.

Evie is survived by her husband of 64 years, Lloyd, her children, David (Darcy Roy), Mark, and Kathleen, all of Kenyon, daughter-in-law, Francine of Chaska, grandchildren, Brian Bartel of Zumbrota, Jennifer Kunde of Rochester, and Sage Kunde of Kenyon. Great-grandchildren, Shontell (Kaden) Lukes, Joe Murdock, and Jaxson Smidt, all of Rochester, Maxwell Feasel of Kenyon, and Calvin Feasel of Deland, FL, sister-in-law Peggy Nelson. She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Helen Nelson, son Steven Kunde, sisters Stella Berg, Gladys Ullevig, and Grace Nelson, brothers Harris Nelson and Roger Nelson, brother-in-laws Alvin Berg and Robert Ullevig, sister-in-law Henrietta Nelson, nephew Gary Berg and niece Susan Berg. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Friday, March 8, 2024, at Holden Lutheran Church. Visitation started at 11:00 AM on Friday the 8th at the church. Burial was in the Holden Lutheran Cemetery.

Denise Ann Johnson

Denise Ann Johnson of Wanamingo died Thursday March 7, 2024 at her home in Zumbrota.



She was a tiny baby, born May 28, 1961 to Joyce and Darlene Johnson in Rochester, where she was diagnosed with Mongolism (now called Down Syndrome). She was a happy baby

and loved by all who met her. She was welcomed into the church family of Lands Lutheran Church with her baptism and was confirmed at Vasa Home near Red Wing. She spent her early childhood on the farm, enjoying the animals and her brother Steve, whom she idolized, and followed everywhere she could. She attended the DAC in Rochester until she moved to Cedar Child Care Center in Lansing so she could go to school, after her parents were informed by Representative Al Quie and local social workers that there were no available schools and no funding for such. At CCCC she learned basic skills, and how to read and write. Writing and coloring became some of her favorite pastimes as she grew older. She moved on to Vasa Childrens Home and then to Riverview Manor in Wanamingo soon after they opened. Throughout these years she continued her schooling, which she enjoyed. She participated in the Special Olympics, even earning a third place medal at the State Special Olympics. During her stay at Riverview, she was chosen as Valentine's Day Queen at the party in Vasa, which made the local papers. She enjoyed all things, especially being the good witch in The Wizard of Oz production. She attended the DAC in Wanamingo School, worked at Kids Duds in Cannon Falls until beginning at Opportunity Services in Kasson, where she worked at different jobs until she decided she was retired. She then enjoyed the Riverview Day program and being closer to home. Throughout her childhood and adulthood she always had a smile for everyone. She was loved by all and never met a stranger. She enjoyed her home in Wanamingo, Riverview - her home recently in Zumbrota. She loved her housemates in Wanamingo and Zumbrota and especially her rooms at both places, with all the bright colors. Recently, on her visits home, she always enjoyed being with her family, mom and dad, brother Steve, and her baby sister Debbie.

She is survived by her mother Darlene, brother Steven (Deanna) Johnson, sister Debra (Patrick) Miller, niece Lydia (Michael) O'Leary, nephews Eric (Victoria) Johnson, Matthew Johnson, Michael (Stacy Peterson) Johnson, Blake Miller, and Logan Miller, great-nieces and nephews Brinley, Emmalyn, Ellison Johnson, Jaxon Johnson, Harrison O'Leary, and Violet Peterson. Also surviving is her aunt Jackie Swanson.

She was preceded in death by her father Joyce in 2016, baby brother Jimmy, grandparents Jennings and Palma Auseth, and Albin and Selma Johnson, and aunts Gladys Cole and Arlene Hewlitt, and two uncles, Kraig Swanson and Keith Hewlitt.

A memorial service will be held Thursday March 14th at 2:00 PM at Lands Lutheran Church, rural Zumbrota. The Rev. David

Krinke will officiate. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Interment, at a later date, will be in the church cemetery. For those unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed on the Lands Lutheran Church Facebook page. Memorials are suggested to Riverview Services or Lands Church. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

John Edward Shelstad

John Edward Shelstad passed from his earthly life at Luther Haven Nursing Home in Montevideo, Minnesota on March 5, 2024, at the age of 98 years and 9 months. John Shelstad was born at home in Doran, Minnesota on June 3, 1925, to Edward and Myrtle (Kerch) Shelstad. He was



baptized and confirmed at Vukku Lutheran Church in Foxhome, Minnesota. At the time of his death, John was a member of First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenyon, Minnesota.

John spent one year at Morris West Central Agriculture School before graduating from Breckenridge High School in 1943. After attending Augsburg College for 2 years, he graduated from North Dakota Agricultural College (North Dakota State University), in 1951 with a degree in Agriculture. When John's long-term substitute teaching position in Mayville, North Dakota became full-time, and he stayed two more years teaching Agriculture. In 1953 John accepted a position in Kenyon, Minnesota teaching Vocational Agriculture. His storied career as a teacher and Future Farmers of America (FFA) Advisor spanned four decades and lasted until his retirement in 1990. John earned a Master of Arts from the University of Minnesota in 1962.

During his years teaching in Kenyon, John's students won many awards at the state and national level; his students won the Minnesota State Premier Exhibitors Trophy numerous times. John received many individual awards including the Minnesota Vocational Agriculture Teacher of the Year (1987); induction into the Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame (2004); and Minnesota Livestock Breeders Hall of Fame (2013). He was awarded the Minnesota State Fair 50 Year award (1989) and received National, District, and Minnesota FFA Honorary degrees; John was also recognized with the Minnesota Pork Producers Swine Honor Roll Education Award; WCCO Good Neighbor Award (1987); and Kenyon Citizen of the Year (1988).

John met the love of his life, Norma Jeanne Twait, in 1946 at a softball game, and they were married New Year's Day, 1949. John and Norma had seven busy children. In 1971, a move to their farm north of Kenyon allowed him to do a little farming and raise hogs. John loved a party, and that farm was the scene of many large gatherings over the decades as they entertained family and friends. John adored children and enjoyed having his grandchildren visit, all of whom retell stories about their adventures playing around the barn, feeding the hogs, shooting pheasants, being snowed in at the farm over Christmas 1978, and playing hide-and-go-seek in the

large house with many rooms and secret places. John and Norma were rarely apart; they were only separated by her death in 2013 after 64 years of marriage.

John never met a stranger and talked to anyone who would listen. He was as quick with a laugh as he was a story; a great storyteller, he endlessly spun yarns for children and grandchildren's entertainment. John was a voracious reader, especially of local news and sports, and had a memory like a steel trap; he could recite stories from family gatherings decades in the past with exceptional detail. John had a competitive spirit and could frequently be found winning a game of cards, cribbage, or backgammon; sometimes in the middle of the night when he and Norma couldn't sleep they could be found playing Skip-Bo at the kitchen table. They enjoyed countless games over the years. John enjoyed food, and with Norma's help made sure everyone who visited his home was well-fed. John was an avid fisherman and took annual fishing trips with the FFA as well as with various friends. He also enjoyed hunting with friends and relatives. John was a sports fan his entire life, loved watching his grandchildren's games and rarely missed a televised game when available for viewing.

After his retirement in 1991, John and Norma purchased property on Otter Tail Lake, the lake held great memories from John's youth. His dream was to make the same kind of memories for his children and grandchildren. John was very proud of his location for prevailing winds, sandy beach, and access to walleye. Like the farm, the lake became a gathering place for family and friends and fun times. His early summer birthday offered a great excuse for a party and one of his favorite annual cabin events was putting on an impressive fireworks show the Fourth of July.

John is survived by 3 daughters: Koreen (Dale) Harstad, Weimar, Texas; Kaia (Bruce) Bergeson, Montevideo, Minnesota; Karla (Jeff) Siem, Falcon Heights, Minnesota; and son-in-law Scott Hilleren, Duluth, Minnesota. John was Grandpa to thirteen grandchildren: Brian (Tammy) Harstad, Kirk (Lisa) Harstad, Kaaren (Paddy) Magliolo, Jill (Jeremie) Oliphant, Cindy (Dave) Ackley, Amy (Mike) Ratajczak, John (Taylor) Hilleren, Heidi (Mike) Dockery, Mark (Brittany) Hilleren, Bryant (Rachel) Bergeson, Darin (Keri) Bergeson, Todd (Emily) Bergeson, and Brett (Courtney) Bergeson. He is survived by 30 great-grandchildren and two great great-grandchildren. John is also survived by brothers Roger (Eunice) Shelstad, Kenneth (Roxanne) Shelstad, sisters Marlys Jackson and Carolyn Ellingson, numerous nieces and nephews.

John was preceded in death by his parents, wife Norma, daughters Kerry Hilleren and Kirsten Shelstad, sons Daniel Shelstad and Rolf Shelstad, sisters Irene Henjum, Eleanor Burgett, and brothers-in-law Reynold Ellingson, Arnold Henjum, William Burgett, and Dale Jackson.

Funeral Service will be held at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenyon, Minnesota, at 11:00 am, Wednesday, March 13, with visitation one hour preceding the service. Interment will take place at 11:00 am, Thursday, March 14 at Vukku Lutheran Church Cemetery, Foxhome, Minnesota. Memorials may be sent to First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 309 Forest Street, Kenyon, MN, 55946.

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Wanamingo
Messenger

Tiny Super Heroes

(continued from page 1)

Mary's University in Winona. While working as a paraprofessional she began a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education while working as an Early Childhood Special Education teacher in Spring Valley, Kingsland School District. She then moved to Faribault and began working at Cannon River STEM school in Faribault, and 2 years ago came to the Kenyon-Wanamingo school system, and from what I hear, that was a good decision all around! She is married to Guy, who is a Kenyon-Wanamingo graduate, they have 3 children. Mila is 7, Sloane is 3, and Harlow is 3 months old. They live in Faribault.

When you think of a SuperHero, you can see that they have capabilities beyond the normal human. They are strong, helpful, smart, and always a positive influence on others. Super Heroes wear capes that give them special powers to help others. The cape is meant to distinguish the one who wears it as a person who overcomes adversity, and this is what the program is all about. There are about 130 special needs children in the K/W school system currently, and I dare say every one of them deserves a cape!

This past February, Stephanie nominated Keshawn, a student with Down Syndrome and alopecia, to the Tiny SuperHeroes Capes and Community Program.

This program empowers extraordinary kids as they overcome illness and disability. The Tiny Super Heroes Program was started a few years ago by a mother with special needs children. The program is meant to show the kids that they can be superheroes, and that everyone has a special gift to share with the world. To read more about this program, you can visit Tinysuperheroes.com. The Tiny Super Hero Squad is over 100,000 children from 28 different countries strong, and has been featured on several popular television shows to bring awareness to the needs of children with disabilities, and those who have debilitating illnesses to overcome.

I asked Stephanie to tell me about Keshawn and the impact the Capes program had on him. "Keshawn is a vibrant 5-year-old Kindergarten student who brings joy to everyone he comes in contact with. Keshawn's family moved here last year when he was in preschool and very quickly became part of the KW family. I heard about Tiny Superheroes through a former coworker and Keshawn was the first student that came to mind. Keshawn is a student with Down Syndrome & alopecia, but first and foremost he is a little boy who lights up a room. He is so full of joy and happiness, he continues to raise the bar in all he does, and he just overwhelms me with happiness. When I first started working with Keshawn, he wasn't communicating or interacting very well. Fast forward to now, and he is doing both so wonderfully. It is a heartwarming victory to watch him learn and grow. Keshawn's Tiny Superhero Cape represents his extraordinary qualities that make him different from others, and reminds us to celebrate the differences that make him



unique. His campaign was launched on February 8th, and his cape was funded within a few hours of being live. Once his cape was funded with \$30, the money that is raised beyond that goes to personalize his cape with patches chosen unique to him & also to sponsor capes for other amazing kids like Keshawn. We recently met our next goal of \$200 which allowed other capes to be sponsored and also allowed me to order patches to add to his cape." It sounds like the Cape's program is working for Keshawn!

If you would like to sponsor a child for the Tiny Superhero cape program in the K-W school system, you can contact Stephanie at swunderlich@gced.K12.mn.us to learn more about sponsorship. If you have a desire to sponsor a child outside of K-W, there are forms on the Tiny Super Hero website for you to make your contribution.

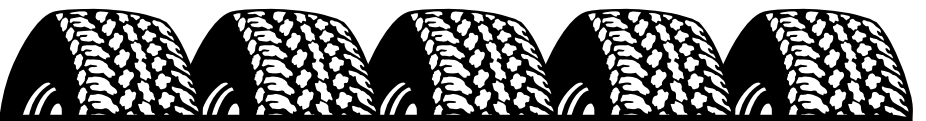
March 21st is the Down Syndrome Awareness Day. In honor of this day, all students and faculty of the K-W schools are asked to wear brightly colored socks to commemorate this day....so let's Rock Your Socks, people!

Congratulations to Keshawn on his new cape, and to Stephanie for her ongoing commitment to helping those lucky kids in her care!

KABA KASH NOTICE

The Kenyon Commercial Club is disbanding, thus discontinuing the KABA KASH program. Any outstanding KABA KASH will ONLY be redeemed for cash by bringing directly to Security State Bank of Kenyon. **DEADLINE** for cash refund of KABA KASH is **5/1/2024**.

NO KABA KASH will be honored after this date!



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A Spring Adventure

By Cheri Roshon

Spring is just around the corner, and soon we will all be out looking for fun and interesting things to do. One of my favorite places to visit is Windy Willow Farm Adventure. They are located at 9748 110th Street E, Northfield, MN, and have a large variety of outdoor play ideas, as well as classes and programs to get "hands on" experiences for kids and adults,

too!

Outdoors on the surrounding acreage are approximately 40 different activities to enjoy. There are interactive games, such as Giant Corn Hole, animals to get acquainted with, and many places to explore. Inside you will find opportunities to purchase handmade items, eggs, jellies, baked goods, and the very popular freeze dried candy! Classes in a variety of artistic and creative endeavors are open to the public, and are being added to as we speak!

For instance, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt on March 30th that has been very popular in past years, and on April 7th and 14th, you can experience Goat Yoga!!! If you have never heard of that particular type of yoga, it

Admission

General: \$15	Season Passes
Senior: \$12	Individual Pass: \$40
Under 2: Free	Family Pass: \$150

Terms & Conditions listed on website

Windy Willow

What's Outside? & More!

Farm Animals	Pedal Carts
Farm Equipment	Bubble Station
Giant Cornhole	Photo Boards
Tire Mountain	Lucky Duck
Giant Connect 4	Sensory Tires
Ball Maze Game	Playground
Spider Climber	Tether Ball
Tug-O-War	Culvert Slides
Scavenger Hunt	Rock Painting
Corn Maze	Giant Jenga
Patio & Fire Pit	Play Houses
Fairy Garden	Grain Display
Busy Boards	Train Rides
Lasso Ponies	Garden Beds
Sunflower Field	Corn Pit
Teeter Totters	Stick Ponies
Hay Ride	



is an interactive yoga class with goats who like to participate with you, and sometimes, on top of you!!! You have to see it to believe it! Next up is the Truck and Tractor Days on June 14th and 15th. Come and explore what promises to be a fun weekend!

Colleen and her crew are always coming up with new ideas for learning and for good old fashioned fun! To find out more about their upcoming classes, etc, you can call them at

(507) 581-9248. They have facilities for birthday parties, family reunions, field trips, and family fun days. You can purchase one time passes, or seasonal passes if you want to come more often. You can also see what they are up to at windywillowfarmadventure.com for a list of activities and upcoming classes. It is a truly unique venue, and you will be glad you checked it out!

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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Upcoming Events

- Feb. 9th Pour your own Epoxy
- Feb. 11th Bunny Bonanza
- Feb. 17th Farm Animal Day
- Feb. 24th String Art Workshop
- March 2nd Barn Quilt Class
- March 30th Easter Egg Hunt

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Letter from the Superintendent

The Pros and Cons of a 4-Day School Week for K-12 Students



By Beth Giese MA, Ed.S
Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools
District Superintendent

Recently we are seeing more and more conversation, and news stories about the concept of implementing a four-day school week. This has sparked discussions within superintendent and school circles, leading to debates among educators, parents, and policymakers. Advocates argue that it brings forth various advantages, while critics express reservations about potential drawbacks.

There are several obvious benefits. The first

being improved student attendance. The latest data indicate that a four-day school week basically condensing the school week can result in increased attendance. With an additional day off, schools are seeing a decrease in absenteeism and less days missed due to doctor appointments, vacations, and other excused absences.

Enhanced focus and productivity have been cited as a huge benefit from schools that use modified calendars. The compressed schedule encourages better time management, allowing for more efficient use of classroom hours. Most schools note that teachers may also benefit from a four-day school week, experiencing improved morale and job satisfaction. Although the hours are the same, the day off allows for greater work-life balance, potentially reducing teacher burnout and turnover rates which is at a critical tipping point for most districts. The need for substitutes also reduces greatly.

For Kenyon-Wanamingo it is worth reviewing for the potential cost savings. Research now suggests that a four-day school week could lead to cost savings. With one less day of operation, schools may reduce expenses related to utilities, substitutes and transportation. For our district it could be close to \$300,000 a year in these basic savings.

There are also noteworthy disadvantages including longer school days. One of the primary concerns surrounding a four-day school week is the need for longer daily sessions to meet the required instructional

hours. Extended school days can be tiring for students, potentially impacting their ability to concentrate during prolonged periods.

Under HF1242A the school calendar must include 935 hours of instruction for a student in grades 1 through 6, and 1,020 hours of instruction for a student in grades 7 through 12. The calendar for all-day kindergarten must include at least 850 hours of instruction for the school year. Even though the learning hours and requirements would remain the same in a four-day schedule, the bill would now have the calendar approved by the local school board, versus the current method of approval through the Commissioner of Education.

Another roadblock is childcare challenges. It is vital that schools provide childcare for their communities for working parents who rely on the traditional five-day schedule. Finding suitable childcare options for the extra day off can be difficult.

Critics argue that a shorter school week may result in learning loss over the long term. With fewer instructional days, students may not receive the same amount of educational content as they would in a traditional five-day week, potentially affecting academic outcomes. Although, the schools in Minnesota that are providing the alternative calendar are not seeing a decline in scores. There are so many holidays and professional development (early out days) that those become a moot point in the total days anyway.

I am not sure where I stand on this trendy

new topic, certainly many advantages and disadvantages to think about. While advocates emphasize potential benefits such as improved attendance and cost savings, critics express concerns about longer school days, childcare challenges. As the debate continues, it remains crucial to consider the unique needs and circumstances of each school community when evaluating the feasibility of such a schedule.

Thanks for the calls on this topic, I appreciate the dialog. If you have any questions or other ideas for me to research, please contact me at bgiese@kw.k12.mn.us

K-W School board Makes cuts to Budget

(continued from page 1)

Anticipated kindergarten enrollment will be 40 students and two classes can accommodate that. \$105,561 is cut by eliminating two vans. Each van was only transporting one student. Another proposal will be to cut one school board position. Currently there are seven school board members. A school board member is paid \$1,000 per year. This decision will be put up to a vote in November.

K-W superintendent Beth Giese also announced plans for a home construction class for the next school year with the project to build a Habitat for Humanity house in Kenyon. This allows students to get hands on experience in the building trades.

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Kenyon-Wanamingo Noble Knights of the Week



**KW Noble Knights of the Week
for February 16, 2024**

Front Row: Christian Ruther, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Waylon Benson, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Ella Hernandez-Washington, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Rory Hanson, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Mark Dressel, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Harper Caron, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Tarynn Houglum, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Bree Helgeson, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Leila Macho, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



**KW Noble Knights of the Week
for February 23, 2024**

Front Row: Thomas Thoreson, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Cooper Bauer, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Nola Otte, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Jaxon Johnson, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Shia Even-son, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Kendall Foss-Kennedy, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Nova Christensen, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Gretta Haugen, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Thorn Wolf, Gr. 4, Thorn Wolf



**KW Noble Knights of the Week
for March 1, 2024**

Front Row: Tobias Smith, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Eden Lexvold, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; William Cato, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Wyatt Caron, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Landon Evert, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Kiley Hedeem, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Kain Wood, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Karter Drum, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Brody Wagner, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Hannah Edwards, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Aria Amiot, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



**KW Noble Knights of the Week
for March 8, 2024**

Front Row: Layla Amundson, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Mya Hernandez, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Fatima Estevez Lima, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Caleb Beardsley, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Eleanor Johnson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Brookelynn Cato, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan. Back Row: Isabelle Hanson, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Maya Ramirez, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Emmett Peterson, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Hunter Aronson, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

Vintage Snowmobile Show

(continued from page 1)

Bets were being made on the side as to who this year's winners would be. Congratulations to James Krusback with his 1980 Artic Cat Sno Pro, Rob Schnichels with his 1980 Artic Cat El Tigre, and Emerson Burke with his 1977 Polaris RXL for being this year's Best of Show Finalists. And the Best of Show Winner was James Burke. Congratulations to all our winners, and to everyone who came out to Wana-Mingle! For a list of all the show winners, be sure to check out the Wanamingo Fire & Rescue Facebook page!

This year there were 9 entrants for the Fire-fighter Chili Cook Off. Wanamingo Fire was the FLASHOVER winner (Best tasting hot chili), Wanamingo was the IGNITION POINT (Best mild Chili), and this year's MUTUAL AID winner (Best chili over all, and over all winner) goes to Kenyon Volunteer



Fire Department. Many thanks also go to Zumbrota and Cannon Falls Fire Departments for also bringing Chili to the event.

A raffle was held after the Chili Cook Off. With generous donations from local businesses and individuals, all the proceeds from the raffle benefit the needs of the Fire De-

partment. The Firefighters wish to thank all the people who donated items for the raffle, as well as the sponsors and those who volunteer to make this event such a success. Sponsors are Indy Specialty, Cannon Motor Sports, Midwest Sign Tech, M & M Lawn & Leisure Superstore and Moto Proz of

Mazeppa.

The Bean Bag Tournament started at 4:30 and went well into the evening. The event was well attended, and I hear it was a lot of fun, even though the snow failed to appear!



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Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin

How to Make Friends in a New Community: Being Helpful

By Monica & Claudia Vanderborght

When all is said and done, it still takes time for a home purchase to close. Monica finally had a purchase agreement on a small farm: 20 acres with rolling topography and some fenced pasture, a barely nice four-bedroom home with attached garage, and a huge 40' x 90' pole barn. And still some summer remained to make local friends before her teaching job began in September.

Monica's daughter was grown with a family of her own – it's difficult to make friends when your kids are adults. But church would be a key to meeting some local folks and maybe some farmer friends. (Farming sounded like fun, but Monica realized that she knew nothing and would have a lot to learn.)

Monica settled into a local community church. Although the congregation was small, it was welcoming. With instant friends: there were two female veterans, a single middle-aged teacher, and a few families who farmed. Having time on her hands before house closing and school starting, Monica offered to help her new friends with whatever was needed. One family invited her to help trim grape vines in their vineyard; it

was hot, sweaty work, standing on a steep hillside -- but Monica liked being outdoors and loved learning new skills.

One Sunday, Monica listened to the teacher exclaiming frustration about her basement renter: the gal was behind on rent, causing problems, and refusing to leave. Monica had heard many stories from her dad about how difficult it was to evict tenants, usually costing thousands of dollars and causing months of frustration. Monica is a problem solver, had experience with renters, and loves to help others; she offered her new friend help in evicting the tenant.

"Let's make this official," Monica suggested. "Write up a lease and I will pay you \$1 in rent to make the contract legally binding."

Contract in hand, Monica packed a few clothes, her cooler and grill, the air mattress, a few miscellaneous essentials, and moved into the other basement bedroom. The difficult tenant had gone away for the weekend, so while she was gone Monica helped pack her belongings.

Anything that might be used as a weapon (knives, tools) were stored at the bottom of the box, clothes and dishes on top. Two days later, the delinquent renter returned and discovered Monica -- her new, helpful roommate.

The shouting and cursing began, including pleas like, "Where I am supposed to go? I have nowhere to live! How am I supposed to move? I have nowhere to go..."

After pointing out that this was not the homeowner's or Monica's problem, Monica ignored her. The homeowner simply re-

peated her requests for rent owed.

Knowing that possession is nine-tenths of the law, Monica was careful not to leave the apartment. When dinner time came and she wanted to use the grill, Monica simply locked the bedroom door and climbed in and out of the window!

The tenant was – of course – furious and threatened to call the police. Both the homeowner and Monica agreed that was a wonderful idea (much to the chagrin of the apartment squatter). A very nice officer came to the home, understood the dilemma, and asked to speak with each person individually.

When it was her turn, Monica presented her driver's license and military identification (knowing that many officers had served in the military).

"I have my own home," Monica explained,

"but I am just trying to help my friend, the homeowner."

"You know this isn't the normal way of doing things," the officer said.

To which Monica completely agreed. So the officer phoned the chief for advice on the legalities of the situation.

"Good news and bad news," the officer told the young lady. "No, the homeowner cannot force you to move out. You have a legal right to stay and make the homeowner go through the normal eviction process. The bad news is that Monica, having a legitimate lease, also has a legal right to stay."

Within 24 hours, still shouting and cursing, the delinquent renter packed up the rest of her belongings and moved out. Monica left a day or so later.

Holden Community Park Accepting Reservations

The Holden Community Park is now accepting reservations. This is a gathering place for families, community groups, celebrations, family and class reunions and meetings. The park is open from June 1 – September 30 and is located just west of the Holden Lutheran Church on Co Rd 30, Kenyon.



The park building is equipped with AC, refrigerator, stove, microwave and indoor bathrooms. Folding tables and chairs which are available for use within the facility. Picnic tables, playground equipment and a fire pit are also located just outside the back entrance. A prayer path also winds through the woods.

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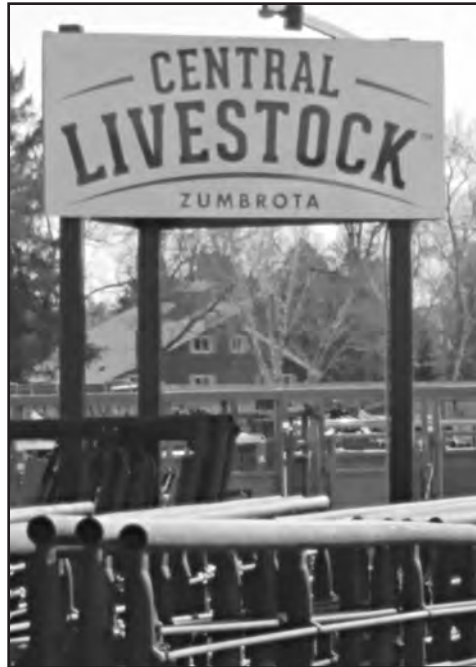
New Restaurant in Zumbrota

By Cheri Roshon

When you look at a glass, is it half full, or half empty? If you are Jacob or Megan Gochnauer, it's most likely overflowing!!! Yes, they have opened a new restaurant...in Zumbrota! Whaaaaat, you ask? Must be all that youthful energy they have a market on!

Megan used to work at the Cattleman's Corner LLC restaurant at the stockyard back in 2018 to 2020, and she always enjoyed being there. I mean, there are cows there! And she loved seeing everyone come in for food and camaraderie. When the chance came to run the place, Jacob and Megan decided to "Go For" it!

The restaurant, located in Central Live-



stock at 44326 County 6 Blvd (the livestock sale barn) will be open Mondays from 7:30



to 4, and Tuesdays from 7:30 to noon, with an occasional Thursday when there is a sale at the barn. Serving up their own beef for burgers will give the public a chance to taste test the quality of their "other business", too! The menu is full breakfasts, burgers, soup and a daily special each day. They will also offer ready made meals to pick up and take home, or grab them frozen to cook up at a later date. Very convenient, and healthy!

So far, the take out meals are flying off the counters. Starting on Wednesday, you can go to their website and see the meals being offered for the week. There will be 7 different entrees, 4 breakfast choices and some desserts, too. You have until Saturday to get your order in. You fill out the Google form, send it in, and your meals will be ready to pick up either at the restaurant, the Farm Store in West Concord, or you may choose to have them delivered. You will have locally



grown, preservative free meals, fresh or frozen, to make your meals as easy as popping it in your oven. For questions, you can email Megan at goforholsteins@gmail.com, or give her a call at (507) 696-6972. It is indeed a healthy option.

So, check out the website or stop in during business hours to see what's going on, and to wish them luck on their newest adventure! And yeah, tell them Cheri sent you!

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**CITY OF WANAMINGO
City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2024 7:00 P.M.
Wanamingo City Council Chambers –
401 Main Street
Wanamingo, MN**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.
PRESENT: Council: Ryan Holmes, Jeremiah Flotterud, Eric Dierks, and Rebecca Haugen
City Administrator: Michael Boulton
Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters

ABSENT: Council: Stuart Ohr
ALSO PRESENT: Brad Kennedy, Beth Haas – Zumbrota News-Record, Andrew Deziel – Kenyon Leader, Stephen Kingsbury, Jake Rezac – Goodhue County Assistant Engineer, Julie Steberg-Mettile, Ethan Schafer – Goodhue County Deputy Sheriff, Steve Heidmann, and Angela Heidmann.

ADOPT AGENDA: Haugen motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Dierks motioned, seconded by Haugen. Passed 4-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

- A) Brad Kennedy reported on:
1) Plowed and sanded streets twice
2) The ice rink preparation work was nearly complete when the warm weather set in and ruined the chances of opening for the season.
3) Trimming and chipping trees along the Nature Trail path.
4) Placed barricades entering into the Emerald Valley II Addition. When the ground unthaws this are turns muddy. Vehicles have gotten stuck in past years along the undeveloped road. People like to drive through the

mud and leave large ruts that are difficult to dry out.

5) Cleaned out the livery barn. Built shelving to store water valves. Purchased totes for old City records from the 1920' through the 1940's.

6) Constructed shelving for street, stop, and yield signs at City Shop

7) Organized tools in City Shop with additional wall mounts. Purchased numerous new tools including full set of metric wrenches that the shop was lacking.

8) Building shelving was snow plow cutting edges

B) Jake Rezac, Goodhue County Assistant Engineer, reported on:

1) County will be completing the second phase of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 63 project in May/June 2024

2) CSAH is 3rd Street W, starting at MN TH 57 to 3rd Avenue (by KW Elementary School) to 4th Street W and back to MN TH 57

3) The preservation project grinds off roughly two inches of asphalt, repaves the asphalt, and stripes the pedestrian crossings.

4) The State Aid process for CSAH requires municipal consent to complete the approval process. The Wanamingo City Council will have Resolution 24-020 to consider for approval later in the Council meeting.

Kennedy asked if there were any plans to fix alley entries or the ability for the City to partner with the County to make repairs. Rezac said that there would be opportunity for partnership, but that the alley approaches were not planned to be repaired. Kennedy stated that there are two alley approaches

needing repairs. The north alley entrance onto 2nd Street E. A section of concrete sidewalk was removed due to the deterioration and heaving/sinking in the alley. There were some thoughts of paving roughly a 20' ramp. This would help with sidewalk and the ero-

sion from the extreme elevation change from the alley to 2nd Street E.

C) Ethan Schafer, Goodhue County Deputy Sheriff, reported on:

1) Started patrol with the County two weeks ago

(continued on page 15)

Dollar General Dreams, Dead in Wanamingo

(continued from page 1)

A purchase agreement had been signed for the property and all assumed things were progressing.

An issue arose concerning the private access and road costs. It looked like MNDOT would only allow one access to the property and using land for private access would land lock the remaining city property. In previous communities DG has shared infrastructure costs for the construction phase. The city of Wanamingo explored possible options to resolve the problem including covering much of the expense involved but in the end the Dollar General company felt it had become too expensive to pursue the venture.




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Wanamingo City Council Meeting

(continued from page 14)

2) Completed training in December, but had been off on leave for roughly a month

3) Received City list of items of policing that wished to be addressed both daily and seasonally. This will help in the training of new deputies.

Holmes welcome Deputy Schafer to both working for Goodhue County and living in the City of Wanamingo. Boulton stated that the Wanamingo Polic Work Group Committee has and will be meeting the first even month Friday to discuss thoughts and concerns with policing. There has been discussion of a presentation on policing stats to both the committee and to the City Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION:

24-014 = Accepting 2023 Employee Reviews: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 4-0-0.

24-015 = Adopting a Proclamation for School Bus Driver Appreciation Day: Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

Public Hearing – Mayor Holmes opened the public hearing at 7:11 PM. Administrator Boulton provided a map and copy of the public hearing notice for consideration. Boulton stated Wanamingo has authority to place signs per M.S. 160.02, 169.04 and 169.06 subd. 3.

The Wanamingo City Code (74.04) says that the Council must approve, through resolution, any new placements of stop or yield signs. The list of proposed new stop signs include:

9th Street/Tall Grass Lane (East Entrance) - Install stop sign and remove yield sign on Tall Grass Lane

9th Street/Tall Grass Lane (West Entrance) – Install stop sign and remove yield sign on Tall Grass Lane

Tall Grass Court/Tall Grass Lane - Install stop sign leaving Tall Grass Court

7th Avenue/Prairie Ridge Lane – Install stop sign on 7th Avenue

9th Street/Prairie Ridge Lane – Install Stop sign on Prairie Ridge Lane

Kennedy stated that there have been traffic control concerns with Prairie Ridge Lane and 9th Street intersection entrance to Prairie Ridge Estates. Six years ago, there were only four homes in Prairie Ridge Estates and now there are thirty-nine homes. Kennedy stated that the City does not wish to see accidents because of the lack of traffic control. Kennedy stated that the proposed stop sign locations are to handle the long-term traffic control of the subdivision. The public notice, public hearing, and Council action process makes adding stop or yield signs difficult, which lead to the discussion regarding the five locations all at once. Steberg-Mett

Stille stated that the proposed stop sign at Tall Grass Court and Tall Grass Lane was stupid because Tall Grass Court was a dead end with only four sets of townhomes. Kennedy stated that the intersection has traffic leaving going downhill with several angles on Tall Grass Lane that make it hard for traffic to see. Steberg-Mettille said that there were no street lights on Tall Grass Lane and Tall Grass Court or along the walking trail. Boulton state that Xcel Energy had been contacted regarding the Tall Grass Lane and Tall Grass Court streets for recommended lighting. Steberg-Mettille stated that drivers will run stop signs, especially at 7th Avenue and Prairie Ridge Lane. The stop sign is not needed. Heidmann asked if any residents had requested the stop signs. Kennedy stated that he has been approached by residents regarding traffic control within Prairie Ridge Estates. Holmes said he was concerned with safety and does not want the City to be responsible for citizens getting hurt without proper signage. Kingsbury said that there should be a yield sign at Tall Grass Lane and Tall Grass Court due to the difficult angles. If vehicles are parked in the driveways leaving Tall Grass Court, it would make it even more difficult to see oncoming traffic. There should also be a yield sign at 7th Avenue and Prairie Ridge Lane. Flotterud stated that the proposed stop sign should be removed from consideration at Prairie Ridge Lane and 7th Avenue. Holmes stated that the stop signs should be changed to yield signs at Prairie Ridge Lane and 7th Avenue along with Tall Grass Lane and Tall Grass Court. Mayor Holmes closed the public hearing at 7:27 PM.

24-016 = Approving the proposed placement of Stop Signs located at various intersections within the City of Wanamingo: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Flotterud moved to amend the resolution to change new stop sign placements with yield signs at Prairie Ridge Lane/7th Avenue and Tall Grass Court/Tall Grass Lane, seconded by Haugen. Passed 4-0-0. Passed 4-0-0.

24-017 = Approving Hiring a Part-Time

Pool Manager and a Part-Time Assistant Pool Manager: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Steberg-Mettille thanked the Council for the proposed pay raise for all positions at the pool. Starting wage for lifeguards will be \$11.00 In 2024. Neighboring communities pay manager and assistant managers more. Roughly half of the guards will be back in 2024 from 2023. Katie Van Epps will more than likely be back for parts of the summer while Dylan Steberg could be back to help for the month of June. Van Epps would be the only licensed WSI for swim lessons with other guards assisting. Kenyon and Pine Island guard pay is similar while other communities, such as Pine Island and Zumbrota, have higher pay. Passed 4-0-0.

24-018 = Authorizing the Order and Purchase of a New Street Department Ford F-150 Super Cab Pick-Up: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Kennedy stated that the truck was a basic half-ton with bedliner, strobe lights, and a non eco engine (mechanic recommendation). Kennedy stated that it will be an extended cab with six-and-a-half-foot box. Kennedy stated that the vehicle is intended to replace the 1999 Ford Ranger. Flotterud asked if the City could purchase a truck one year and sell it one to three years later. Boulton stated that the City could purchase a new pickup on State bid every year. Flotterud stated that it may be beneficial for the City to purchase new vehicles regularly and sell the recently new vehicles. Flotterud stated that the City could keep up with newer trucks while breaking even on the new purchase/sale of old. Boulton stated that the City staff could look into the used market and compare with State bid in the future, for comparison. Passed 4-0-0.

24-019 = Approving a New Copier Lease Agreement with Metro Sales: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. Boulton stated that the City would keep the current copier for two additional years with a slight savings over the current agreement. At that point Metro Sales would no longer carry parts or service the machine. In two years, the City will be looking to lease a new copier. Passed 4-0-0.

(continued on page 16)

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a group workshop designed to help caregivers develop self-care tools and strategies to better manage the unique challenges facing them.

Who Should Attend

- Anyone acting in a caregiving role whether or not care receiver lives with you

What You'll Learn

- Managing stress, isolation, fatigue and difficult emotions
- Challenges of caregiving
- Building confidence
- Setting goals
- Problem solving
- Improving communication with family and health care team



Goodhue Class Information

Location: Goodhue Living
108 Cty 9 Blvd
Goodhue, MN 55027

Dates: Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8

Time: 9:30-11 AM

Register by: March 27, 2024

Classes are FREE of charge
Seating is limited
Registration Required

To learn more or to register contact:

Jessica Mollison Active Aging Programs 507-287-2047 ext.133 jmollison@ccsomn.org

Visit our website for more information: www.ccsomn.org

Free Caregivers Workshop

Are you acting as a caregiver for a loved one? Do you wish you knew how to take better care of yourself? Considering attending a Powerful Tools for Caregiver workshop coming soon to Goodhue.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an educational program designed to help caregivers take care of themselves while caring for a relative or friend. You will benefit from this class whether you are helping a parent, spouse, friend, someone who lives at home, in a nursing home, or across the country.

During the 6 week program you will learn

- Managing stress, isolation, fatigue and difficult emotions
- Handling challenges of caregiving
- Building Confidence
- Setting goals
- Problem solving
- Improving communication with family and care team

During the six-week sessions, participants receive support from trained leaders and other workshop participants. Participants also benefit from meeting other people with similar challenges and learning how they cope.

This FREE workshop is sponsored by Active Aging Programs, Catholic Charities of Southern MN and Goodhue Living. It will be held at Goodhue Living, 108 Cty 9 Blvd, Goodhue, MN 55027 meeting for six Wednesdays from 9:30-11AM beginning April 3, 2024. Class size is limited and registration is required by March 27. For more information or to register, contact Jessica Mollison: 507-287-2047 ext. 133 or jmollison@ccsomn.org.

Wanamingo City Council Meeting

(continued from page 15)

24-020 = Approving Municipal Consent for Proposed Work on CSAH No. 63 within the City of Wanamingo: Haugen moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

24-021 = Approving Pay Request No. 3-Final to R.A.W. Construction LLC for Water-main Looping Portion of the 2022 Utility Improvements: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Boulton noted that the contract has two outstanding punch list items, removing silt fence along Concast stormwater pond and site restoration in the MN TH 60 ditch west of Nelson Drive. Passed 4-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Administrator Boulton provided an update on the Standard & Poors bond rating review. Administrator Boulton has been working with Standard & Poors on the yearly review since December 2023. Boulton answered a lengthy survey on the City finances. Standard & Poors reviewed the 2022 financials, to date 2023 expenses, Medical Center leases, and other financial from 2023 and projections for 2024. Boulton answered a number a financial detail regarding the City of Wanamingo. Standard & Poors came back with an improved bond rating for the City of Wanamingo, going from an A to an A+ rating. Standard & Poors concluded that the City has steadily increased reserves, expected to increase reserves, supported by growing tax base, stable revenue mix and operating budget, and progress in repaying long-standing amounts owed to general fund from other debt service and tax increment financing (TIF) funds and medical center. Standard and Proos could increase or decrease rating in the future depending upon a number of factors. The City needs to keep up the general fund balance. Boulton stated that the Council will consider changes to the general fund balance policy in the coming months. The current policy is to have a 30%-65% general fund reserve balance or \$500,000, which ever is greater. Boulton stated that the general fund spending in 2024 will be over \$1,000,000. \$500,000 is now in the middle of the 30%-65%. Boulton will recommend to change the reserve dollar amount from \$500,000 to \$600,000 to reflect the increasing general fund spending since the policy was last revised in 2018. Boulton stated that the City needs to continue to monitor the expenses and keep up the levy in order to not spend into the reserve.

The City Council reviewed the 2022 & 2023 swimming pool financials for comparisons. In 2022 the swimming pool brought in \$19,076.64 in revenue compared with \$20,300.53 in 2022 revenue. In 2023 the swimming pool had \$70,208.82 in expenses compared with \$67,938.09 in 2022 expenses. The swimming pool lost \$51,132.18 in 2023 compared with \$47,637.56 in 2022. The losses are funded by the general fund. Building R & M expenses were higher in 2023 compared to 2022 (new filter system and kiddie pool chlorine injectors). Chemicals were higher from 2023 compared to 2022. Utilities were lower in 2023 than in 2022. Lesson and Passes Income was down in 2023 compared to 2022.

Administrator Boulton provided a memo on the Dollar General development withdrawal. The developers for Dollar General, First Link

LLC, did an about face on their plans for expansion in Wanamingo. The Dollar General Development plans have been withdrawn as of January 17th. The City and EDA had been working with First Link LLC, JABE Companies Commercial Real Estate Services, and Kimley-Horn (consulting engineer) to put together a plan for development of commercial land along MN TH 60. JABE Companies and First Link had a signed purchase agreement option with a local landowner in Spring 2023. City staff and WHKS (City Consulting Engineer) along with the realtor, developer, and their consulting engineer had spoken through MN TH 60 road access, stormwater management, water/sewer, construction of the remainder of Hill Avenue from Beverly Street to MN TH 60, and the EDA obtaining the remainder land for future development.

Initially the developer requested private access off MN TH 60. The City explained that MNDOT approved access and would consult the City before review procedures for access.

The City explained that Hill Avenue had been planned to be constructed from Beverly Street to MN TH 60. There were additional concerns that MNDOT would only allow one access (private or public) to the land. If the access were to be private, it would landlock the remaining land not utilized by Dollar General. There was also discussion regarding stormwater treatment. Initially, the developer's plan was to have stormwater treatment on Dollar General's parcel for their lot. It was laid out to the developer that a regional stormwater treatment pond would be mutual beneficial for the future Dollar General location (not having to utilize so much land and long-term cost savings for maintenance) and the City (by taking stormwater from both the new portion of Hill Avenue and the remainder land). The City suggested that placing all of the proposed public improvements into one City project and publicly bidding it out for economies of scale. It was mutually agreed upon for the City to put together a plan and estimates. WHKS (City consulting engineer), on behalf of the City, put together estimates for the proposed improvements.

The City consulting engineer's estimates totaled \$991,000 (\$495,500 for the City and Dollar General in costs split 50%/50%). These estimates included items that may not be included in the final project such as full MNDOT turn and bypass lane along with excess storm water piping and mitigation. It was mutually assuming that the scope of the project could be reduced and that the final bids could also be significantly lower. A draft development agreement was put together by Kennedy & Graven on behalf of the City and EDA. The draft development agreement started out with a 50%/50% cost share for the improvements. The draft development had been shared with First Link LLC for comment. First Link LLC was satisfied with the outline of the development and had no further changes requested before going in front of the Wanamingo EDA and City Council for approval at the January 8th meetings. The EDA and City Council approved the preliminary agreements. It was noted that the 50%/50% cost share on the improvements may need to amended to satisfy the Dollar General Developers. Staff laid out

a number of options to amend the cost share in Dollar General Developers' favor that could be negotiated. The EDA and Council agreed that latitude in final negotiations could be given to staff to complete the draft development agreement.

On January 17th Administrator Boulton was called by the presidents of the First Link LLC and JABE Companies. They were upset that the City was forcing them to be a party to constructing Hill Avenue from MN TH 60 to Beverly Street. They demanded that Dollar General be allowed to construct a private entrance off MN TH 60 in order to meet within budget. Small communities in SE MN have required Dollar General to pay for the highway access and road stub to the end of the property line. The full infrastructure proposal for access, turn lane and Hill Avenue to Beverly Street would cost similar to a private access, turn lane, and stub road. There are additional issues of MNDOT access, not allowing to landlock remaining land along MN TH 60, regional stormwater treatment, and access for residents from existing Nelson/Beverly Street were explained.

The president of First Link LLC had choice words for the City. It was explained that the City staff had worked with subordinates in First Link LLC and JABE Companies along with the consulting engineer from Kimley-Horn on the proposed scope of work and rough outline for draft development agreement. City staff proposed changes to the 50%/50% split that would bring the developer's cost down, suggested bringing in a commercial developer to purchase the land directly from the developer, or assigning a

price to the land as part of the development agreement to offset development costs. The developer and realtor presidents were unprofessional and counterproductive with the three phone calls between January 16th and January 17th in seeing the project move forward. The conversations culminated in the First Link President being so upset with the City not immediately allowing a private access off MN TH 60 that he hung up on the conference call.

City staff stated that the Wanamingo City Council and Wanamingo EDA had agreed to the rough outline. City staff were given the authority to negotiate the cost share portion of the agreement. City staff explained to developers that if they were set on a private road that they would have to place the request in writing for City Council and EDA consideration. The developers wanted an immediate answer and staff said that it would materially change the scope of the project and the draft development agreement which would require action from the City Council and EDA. A suggestion was made by City staff for First Link and Jabe Companies to check with their consulting engineer on the scope of work difference between and private access and City Street access. City staff asked what MNDOT would require for a scope of work for private entrance/turn lane compared to a public City Street.

The City consulting engineer stated that the scope of work required by MNDOT for a private entrance would be similar to a City Street.

(continued on page 17)

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Wanamingo City Council Meeting

(continued from page 16)

The consulting engineer stated that the savings would not be significant.

The JABE Companies President explained that Dollar General had shifted strategies for future growth in the past few months with a new CEO. Dollar General will only be expanding in communities with a population over 3,000 and will be focusing on expansion into Mexico. The Wanamingo location was still in the pipeline to proceed because a purchase agreement option was signed prior to changes in expansion had taken place. Dollar General had given the developer and realtor budget parameters for the proposed Wanamingo location. Due to higher construction costs and interest rates the MN TH 60 access and stub road costs were holding up the project.

City staff received a text message on January 17th from JABE Companies president stating "Unfortunately, Dollar General and Lou Pappan (First Link LLC President) have decided not to pursue a store in Wanamingo. The costs have gotten too expensive with the road and deceleration lane. We appreciate your efforts."

The City incurred both direct and indirect costs from the project. The City has invoices from WHKS (\$5,989.29) and Kennedy & Graven (\$440.00), to date. City staff spent numerous hours gathering information, nego-

tiating agreements, and directing consultants.

The direct costs are recommended to be written off by the general fund. Holmes said that he was disappointed that the workings of a preliminary development agreement were in place with all of the parties and that those in charge did not move forward with a deal. There seemed to be a disconnect between staff and decision makers. Flotterud stated that costs going up with development hurt projects like this because they have budget goals to meet. Boulton stated that the costs of construction, interest rates, along with the turn lane and road costs of MN TH 60 were too expensive to stay within their proposed budget.

Enforcement Process – Mead Johnson - Reckitt – 60 day written letter toward meeting goal of waste pH – Holmes stated that the City had received a letter from Mead Johnson – Reckitt which reiterated the work that had been done, to date, since April 2023 to present including conducting plant inspection, wastewater mapping validation and chemical consumption, installed 24-hour pH sampler, onsite tracking of pH levels and reporting to City, using contractor to clean out solids in sewer pipelines in June and October 2023, modification of sedimentation process, and pH adjustment of the hydration wastewater discharge. Mead Johnson – Reckitt is continuing pH monitoring and cleaning of the pipes. An interim pH adjuster

is ongoing with it being designed and installed with a target of March 2024. In the long term they are designing a pH monitor and treatment station. They are also working toward design and installation of a new lift station with pH treatment. Boulton stated that the Wanamingo staff are still monitoring the wastewater discharge from Reckitt-Mead Johnson. The results have been improved December and January. Boulton stated that the production lines have been shut down most of the months of December and January. Kennedy stated that one of the production lines will be starting back up and have initiated a CIP (clean in place process). Prior to December results have regularly shown extremely low and at times high pH levels along with the presence of high levels of QAC (Quaternary Ammonium Compounds) have been sent to Reckitt-Mead Johnson. The pH levels should be within 5.0 and 9.5. City Staff have been working with Reckitt-Mead Johnson toward a solution to bring the pH levels within the limits. The City appreciates the open dialogue and work, to date, from Reckitt-Mead Johnson. The City continues to keep the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency informed during this process. The City is required to be within the discharge limits or show significant steps toward getting back under the discharge limits. Kennedy stated that the new lift station timeline had been moved back to November 2024 from August 2024 as stated in January. Boulton stated the Enforcement Process would be

left on the monthly agenda until November 2024, or when the action items are completed. Boulton stated the Mead Johnson -Reckitt would be required to provide written monthly updates to the City Council.

Administrator Boulton said that the North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District (NZSSD) was nearing completion on the facilities plans. Each of the City Councils will have public hearing in the future on the plans followed by consideration of approval. NZSSD has a purchase agreement with land for a new wastewater treatment facility. Each of the City Councils, Goodhue, Pine Island, Wanamingo, and Zumbrota will be required to approve the land sale. Boulton stated that the purchase agreement is contingent on a number of steps, including environmental review, archeological review, soil borings, and title review. This processed is followed by State review leading to final approval. Boulton stated that there are a number of work items for NZSSD coming up in the coming months. This includes a number of visits to the State Capitol to seek construction bonding dollars for the project. Boulton stated that House and Senate bills had been drafted and will be introduced within the week.

*Next City Council meeting on 3/11/2024 at 7:00pm.

Adjourn: At 8:11PM a motion to adjourn was made by Flotterud and seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator



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Once again the net proceeds from this years Minnesota Country Salute CD will go to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation and Minnesota Wheels of Honor. Starting Veteran's Day you'll be able buy your copy at any one of these locations and make sure the service men and women and first responders of Minnesota have the support they need.

CD Available at:





About the Minnesota Country Salute CD Project:
A decade ago while sitting on his porch, Neil Freeman came up with the idea of tying together two groups that BOB FM supports. The Homegrown artists of Minnesota and the military member support organizations. By creating a compilation CD to sell across Minnesota, he nailed it. With the help of many sponsors and listeners who went out and purchased these CDs over the years, BOB FM has donated over \$235,000 to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation, Minnesota Wheels of Honor, and Tribute to the Troops. If you or your business would like to help further this mission, or help distribute the CD, please contact Neil Freeman, nel@mybobcountry.com.



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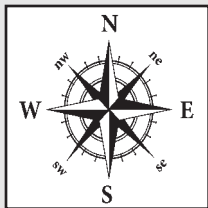


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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Self-Checkouts and the "Pig"



By Terry Campbell

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



I do not care for self-checkouts. I never wanted to be a cashier at Dollar General. When I go to a store I expect to be waited on. I stop at the Piggly Wiggly in town. The "Pig" was the first self-service grocery store in the country. It started in 1916 in Tennessee, and

no one knows why the name. But down here everyone loves them and refers to them as the "Pig". Originally no one shopped for groceries. You gave your list to the clerk, who filled your order. The Piggly Wiggly changed all that.

There are always a couple smiling faces from the clerks standing at the checkout lines. They are genuinely friendly and talkative. Southern kids seem more respectful and courteous. They check the egg carton for cracked eggs. The other night the young girl went to ring up my groceries and she noticed a rip in the brown sugar bag. I never saw it, but she ran off to get another one off the shelf before finishing up my purchase. They have carry-out kids as well. They put the bags in the cart and start for the door. You just walk behind them and point them to your vehicle. They ask about your day, talk about the weather, inquire about your plans for the weekend. It is refreshing to have a pleasant visit. I usually have my old black lab in the back seat of my pickup and they say hello to my dog and tell me about their pet, while stacking the bags in the front seat. I don't ever expect Piggly Wiggly will have self-checkouts.

One evening I had to drive to Clarkesville to get dog food. I feed NutriSource dog food.

It is a high-quality food and that was the closest store that sells it. It's a forty-five minute drive to J-M Petland. I take State Hwy 79 into Clarkesville and turn on Charlemagne which intersects Fort Campbell Boulevard. Charlemagne Blvd is where the tornado hit Clarkesville in December of 2023. Over ninety homes were destroyed along that road.

I don't go up Fort Campbell Blvd very far. It will take you right into the Army base. I tried going to Fort Campbell one time to get an item my wife bought off marketplace. I had to stop at the guard shack to get permission to enter the base. They asked for driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration. There was a very grumpy guard on duty. My insurance card had my name, address, vehicle information and VIN. He asked where my vehicle registration was and I said the info was on my insurance card. He wouldn't even look at it. He just looked at me and barked back that shouldn't even show up without the proper documentation, I was told to leave immediately and "Next". I left feeling fortunate I wasn't shot over this infraction.

On my way back from the pet store I stopped at the Dollar General outside of Woodlawn. I recall a red Mustang convertible leaving as I pulled in. I went in to get some plastic flowers for a window box on our house. We don't plant real flowers so we don't have to water them. I selected my red, blue and yellow flowers and looked for a clerk. No one was to be found. I went to the self-check out and rang up my order, paid with my card and looked around before leaving. It was after 9pm and no one in the store. I walked out to my pick-up and then noticed there wasn't another vehicle in the parking lot. I had just shopped at a non-staffed store. Maybe the girl in the red Mustang was the employee and just decided to go home early for the night.

As I drove home, I pondered this experience. There are big cities where people loot stores and shoplift merchandise at will. Some stores have to lock up items to keep them from walking out with light fingered shoppers. I am so happy to live in a place in Tennessee where people have integrity and be part of a community where the honor system works because the people there can be trusted. Nationwide the trend for self-checkout seems to be reversing. Todd Vasos, Dollar General CEO just announced that a number of stores opened in the last year with self-checkout only, will be converted back to conventional clerk checkout shortly. It seems that shrinkage at these un-manned stores is more than double the national average. I stopped by at the local DG the other day to buy an electric shaver. After I completed my task as a checkout clerk, I headed out. I hadn't been trained on how to deactivate the magnetic tab on the box. That is where the alarm went off. I had tripped the theft alarm

at the front door with my shaver purchase. I wasn't paid to be part of the loss prevention

team so I just walked to my car with the alarm bell ringing in my ear.

A Minnesotan: Easter Bunnies



By RosaLin Alcoser

There are many things to be said about Easter Sunday. From egg hunts to new Easter hats to funny Easter morning sermons that we've all heard at church. All of which I could go on and on about.

One of the things that has always been my favorite since I learned about chocolate has been Chocolate Easter Bunnies. But my love for them is nothing compared to the love my father has for chocolate bunnies. He loves them so much that I have seen him sing about them as he does a little dance. What he especially loves to do is to bite their ears off.

About two Easters ago my father, the

pastor, was given multiple chocolate Easter bunnies by members of his churches. He was probably given about four or five bunnies that year from church members plus the one that we had already gotten for him.



The fact that he had multiple bunnies excited him to no end and that afternoon he felt he needed to bite the ears off of each chocolate bunny in succession. So we stood with the camera ready to watch him do just that, because one of those church members who had given him a bunny asked to get a photo when he went to bite the one she gave him.

So, he went down the line biting into the ear of each chocolate bunny and then he got to that last one that we had been asked to take the photo of. And when he bit into it, it wasn't chocolate, but instead was hollow plastic. It looked so much like it was real chocolate he didn't even suspect that it wasn't real. After that he started to shake it and take it apart in hopes that there would be candy inside of the plastic bunny.

However, it was much like the tomb when he opened it up there was nothing there. The disappointment painted across his face when it dawned on him that he had been tricked was like no other. It was also the exact reason we were asked to photograph the moment.

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- ACROSS**
1. Window addition?
 6. Huge software company
 9. Spill the beans
 13. Watcher
 14. Acronym, abbr.
 15. Words to live by
 16. Ocean-dwelling ____ ray
 17. Polynesian necklace
 18. "Once upon a midnight dreary" bird
 19. *Fill-in-the-blanks, March Madness style
 21. *"One ____ Moment"
 23. Like jalapeño
 24. Give off
 25. Bean counter?
 28. *Dominate opponent, slangily
 30. *-elimination tournament
 35. Bricklayers' carrier
 37. Wood sorrels
 39. Jeweler's unit
 40. Alight, past tense
 41. Swings around
 43. Spice Girl
 44. Bubonic plague carriers
 46. Away from wind
 47. D'Artagnan's sword
 48. *Elite Eight, or the ____ round of tournament
 50. Bono's bandmate, with The
 52. Make a mistake
 53. Landlord's due
 55. Small lump
 57. *State Farm Stadium state
 61. *Not pro
 65. Chocolate substitute
 66. Hot temper
 68. Derived from oats
 69. Cuckoo
 70. Sir George Ivan Morrison's stage name
 71. Baby at a recital
 72. Have supper
 73. Young newt
 74. Many affirmatives
- DOWN**
1. Brush alternative
 2. Culture-growing turf
 3. Long forearm bone
 4. Satyr
 5. City in Poland
 6. *Delta Center location: ____ Lake City
 7. Hole-in-one
 8. Type of polyhedron
 9. Raisin's breakfast companion
 10. Denim innovator
 11. Port in Yemen
 12. Toker's pipe
 15. Professional reviewer
 20. Not pathos
 22. Not hers
 24. Shoulder rank display
 25. Winnowing leftovers
 26. Chicken in Mexico
 27. Farewell in Paris
 29. *School with most NCAA basketball titles
 31. Back of the neck
 32. Search blindly
 33. Lightsaber beam
 34. Olden days anesthetic
 36. * ____ player
 38. Garden starter
 42. D.S., in sheet music
 45. Dance club light
 49. Female chicken
 51. Speech at a funeral
 54. Lacking guile
 56. What speakers do
 57. LSD, e.g.
 58. Indian princess
 59. Turkmenistan's neighbor
 60. *Type of defense
 61. One tenth of a dime
 62. Airline postings, acr.
 63. Type of pool
 64. What means justify
 67. Churchill's "so few"

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

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

To the Agricultural Producers In Our Community, Thank You, and Happy Ag Week!

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