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MARCH 27, 2024

Volume 21 • Issue 3

Holy Week at Dennison and Vang

Come join Jesus in his Passover from death to life, and be renewed in the Spirit.

Maundy Thursday – March 28 – 7:00 PM at Dennison

Good Friday Community service – March 29 at Holden Lutheran Church at 7:00 PM

Easter Vigil Community service – March 30 – 8:00 PM at Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College

Easter Sunday – March 31 – 8:00 AM at Vang, 10:30 AM at Dennison

Easter Breakfast – March 31 – 9:00 AM at Vang

Rice County Steam & Gas Annual Flea Market & Swap Meet

The Rice County Steam & Gas Show has announced their annual Swap Meet and Flea Market for May 25th & 26th. A full line up of events are included.

New flea market vendors are welcome. check out their website and facebook page for more information. www.rice-countysteamandgas.com



Announcements

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

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

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

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

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

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

625 Bar & Grill Celebrates Anniversary



The 625 Bar & Grill in Dennison will celebrate their 1st Birthday with a full line up of events planned for Saturday April 6th.

Sean & Marie Kylo purchased the establishment in 2023.

Check out their ad inside the Messenger and watch their facebook page for all the events happening including Live Music, Prize Giveaways, beer & drink specials and more.



Helping Hands



By Larry Grove,
Hauge Free Lutheran Church

Proverbs 11:25-“Whoever brings a blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.” *(continued on page 4)*

Easter Brunch Menu

Sunday, March 31st • Serving 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Reservations Strongly Suggested

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to Make Your Reservation (Put "Reservation Request" in the subject line)

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Saturday: Bar 11am-Close; Kitchen 11am-9pm • Sunday: Bar 1-9pm; Kitchen 1-8pm

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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). 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



Mainstreet Messenger

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Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com
Pastor Paul A. Graham

God Lutheran *Marv Kormann, Pastor*
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Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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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www.holdenlutheranchurch.org
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Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Mainstreet Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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 mar-

riage 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. Greatgrandchildren, 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.

11:00 a.m. at the church. Reception and visitation time continued immediately following the funeral service. Interment will be at Meadow Ridge Memorial Park, Faribault on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Elwood Arthur, son of Arthur George and Bertha Elizabeth (Amacher) Lips was born on April 27, 1925, in Kenyon. He graduated from Faribault High School in 1943. Elwood married Delores A. Vircks on June 7, 1947 at Zion Lutheran Church, Stetsonville, Wisconsin. He was a lifelong farmer on the family farm in Wheeling Township. Elwood was a dedicated member of the National Farmers Organization and Trinity Lutheran Church where he served as an elder.

He is survived by seven children; Mark (and Judy) Lips of Minnetonka, Marcia (and Bill) Barrett of Faribault, Barbara Hendricks of Edina, Randy (and LanLan) Lips of Apple Valley, Gary (and Marcia) Lips of Alexandria, Bruce (and Cheryl) Lips of Prior Lake and Bryan (and Tammy) Lips of Faribault; daughter in law, Bonnie Qualley of Owatonna; 15 grandchildren; 28 great grandchildren; nieces; nephews; and other relatives and friends.

Elwood was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Delores; one son, Ronald Lips; his grandson, Jason Hendricks; and his sisters, Marjory Foster, Ruth Lips, Elaine Zimmerman, and Lorraine Stanek.

The Lips family would especially like to thank the staff at Mill City Senior Living and Brighton Hospice for the care given to Elwood.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault.

Elwood Arthur Lips



Elwood Arthur Lips, age 98, of Faribault, died on Monday, March 11, 2024 at his home.

Funeral services were held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Reverend Peter Gueldner officiated. Visitation was from 9:00 –

11:00 a.m. at the church. Reception and visitation time continued immediately following the funeral service. Interment will be at Meadow Ridge Memorial Park, Faribault on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Traxler Law PLLC

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Ann Traxler
Attorney

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CELEBRATING OUR AREA FARMERS

2024 National Agriculture Week



Helping Hands

(continued from page 1)

Last year on March 31st, a tornado came through Wynne, Arkansas and tore a path through the town and left devastation that has caused hundreds of families to be without a home. We have been down to this city a number of times and have been constructing small homes at low cost to put people back into a place of shelter. There are still around 100 families that do not have a home any longer and are patiently waiting for volunteers to come and do what they can to bring about a solution to their crisis.

Many of these folks are elderly or have no skills to help themselves. Most had little or no insurance coverage for the storm that hit them. When we go down with a group of people we try to get some volunteers that have never done this before to join us. Without exception it has a transforming impact on their lives. Their intention is to come and be a blessing to those that are hurting, but just as the text for this message says, they return home feeling blessed beyond measure and enriched in their walk with Christ.

On one occasion I invited a co-worker to join our church group to go to Pearlinton, Mississippi and help after Hurricane Katrina hit. He said to me, "Let me get this straight. We are going to drive across the entire United States, from north to south, and work on homes for nothing?" I responded to him, "Oh, it gets better than that. We are going to pay for the materials as well." He looked at me in disbelief. As we invested into the lives of the people in Pearlinton, God broke his heart for those folks. He came home a different person. He got a group of men together and made a trip down to Pearlinton with them. Those men were so transformed that they came home and started a non-profit organization called 'Helping Hands' and did disaster relief in various places that had catastrophes hit them.

Early in my walk with Christ I had the opportunity to go to South Florida and help the victims of Hurricane Andrew with my oldest son. I developed a camaraderie with some

men in Homestead. As I was visiting with them early one morning I noticed a fellow standing in the distance. I asked the men who that fellow was? They said, "Oh, that's old 'Chickenfoot'." I walked over to the man and introduced myself. After some small talk I said to him, "Chickenfoot, if this hurricane had taken you with it, do you know where you would spend eternity?" He looked at me and responded, "Oh, how I wish I could know that." I told him that scripture says that we can know. I said, "I wish I could show you in a Bible but I have given them all away. Even my own Bible I have given to a man." He reached into his shirt pocket and pulled out a Gideon's New Testament and said, "My momma gave this to me years ago but I have never been able to read it." I asked Chickenfoot if he could read and he said, "Very well, it just never made sense to me." I opened it up to I John 5:11-13 and had him read it to me. Slowly and succinctly he read, "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." I said to Chickenfoot, "You can know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you have eternal life. Do you want that assurance?" He looked at me with earnest desire and said, "Absolutely." We got on our knees and he cried out to God in repentance and faith, asking Christ to change him and fill him with His Spirit. Chickenfoot walked away from that spot clinging tightly to the testament that his momma had given him years before. He had a new appreciation for God's Word and I had a renewed trust in my Lord and Savior who is in the life changing business.

We need to realize that God does not need us to transform a life. But, He has chosen to use us. Acts 17:24-25 tells us, "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed



anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else." Romans 10:13-15 Explains our role in the sharing of the Gospel. It says, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to

them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" "What a marvelous opportunity we have to be used by God to bring the good news of salvation to a world that is hurting and in despair.

(continued on page 5)



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Helping Hands

(continued from page 4)

No matter what the circumstance is we must remember that as believers in Christ we have the hope that people going through these difficult times need. In 2023 we made a number of trips to Hazard, Kentucky to help flood victims. The pastor at the church we stayed at in that city told us that after the last time we were down, 6 people came to faith in Christ and were baptized because of the love and care that was shown to them by the people that had taken time to come and invest in their lives or the lives of loved ones. Hazard was flooded on July 27th, 2022 when 16 inches of rain fell in 4 hours.

If you have never been on a short term mission trip, it would be worth your while to consider going on one. Pray about it and God will lead you to an opportunity that you can use the gifts and talents that He has given to you to encourage and bring hope to folks that find themselves locked in desperate situations. The joy that God brings to the ones that sacrifice a week or two of their busy lives to give of their time and resources is truly enriching and

fulfilling. If you feel you have no gifts or talents to offer or your strength is diminished, consider it anyway. There are always those that need someone to talk to or are in need of prayer or even an arm around their shoulder. As we start work on a home in the morning, we try to pray with the family and we ask them how we can pray specifically for them. Time and again it brings tears to their eyes to hear that we want to pray for them in strategic ways because we have a God that answers prayer specifically. If your heart is open to serving in this way but circumstances just will not allow you to take part in an endeavor like this, please pray for those that can go. Pray that God will provide the resources to make it happen and that their efforts would be rewarded, not only with the gratification it brings, but also with the treasures in heaven that can be stored up by the souls that can be won as God touches their lives through your prayers, as well as the efforts of the workers. As God opens up opportunities for you to help people, we must do them as a natural outflow of gratitude and appreciation for what Christ has done for us. God has orchestrated these occasions and will continue to do so as we yield to His calling. Ephesians 2:10 tells us, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." I want to leave you with a verse from Hebrews 6:10.

(continued on page 6)

New Building by Nerstrand Ag



Photo by Doug Jones

Nerstrand Agri Center is building a new shed on the north side of their fertilizer plant in Nerstrand. Additional construction is taking place on a 142,000 bushel grain bin.

Join Us for Our Special
Easter Brunch Menu
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Helping Hands

(continued from page 5)

Your labor will not go unnoticed. It says, "God is not unjust; he will not forget your

work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." If God is tugging at your heart right now and you might consider investing into the lives of those that are in dire need, please contact us. We have many organizations that we have worked with in the past and we could line you up to go with us or organize a group yourself. May we always be ready to share the hope that we have in Christ with a world that is hurting.

Rice SWCD Plans Open House

The Rice Soil & Water Conservation District invites the public to come for an open house at their new office location on Friday, March 29th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Citizens will be able to tour the office and talk conservation with District staff and supervisors. Light snacks and drinks will be shared. The new office is located at 302 1st Avenue NW in Faribault.



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For more information, please email Executive Director Nicole at nm1001@nerstrand.charter.k12.mn.us

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Rice Soil & Water Conservation District



Visit our new location!
OPEN HOUSE

Friday, March 29, 2024

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

**302 1st Avenue NW
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Wangen Prairie Church Food Drive

Wangen Prairie Church's food drive for the All Seasons Community Food Shelf in Kenyon is off to a gangbuster start! Over 859 pounds of food have been collected in the first three weeks, and some of it is shown piled up on the Church altar along with some of the Church volunteers. Wangen Prairie Church (34289 County Blvd, Cannon Falls) will be matching the contributions of the community, pound for pound, at the end of the month. The Church is collecting donations at the Kenyon Market grocery store on Saturday mornings, from 9 until noon, during March.

Kenyon Market employees have been pitching in, stockpiling the specific foods that the Food Bank needs, for donation by shoppers on Saturdays and during the week. Mary Frutiger, CEO of All Seasons Community Food Shelf commented "I so appreciate the community supporting this food drive, which will provide our clients with much needed food security." Mary also thanked the Church and Kenyon Market for the 1000 pounds of food targeted as the goal for the month: "It would be amazing if 1000 pounds of food could be collected, plus the same amount donated by the Church, but Kenyon and the 4 surrounding towns have consistently supported this Food Shelf for over 15 years, so I am confident this food drive will be an awesome success." Given the anticipated weight of all the donated food, to be doubled by the Church, the Church may consult with a structural engineer to make sure the altar doesn't collapse at the Easter service at the end of the month!



Dakota History Bus Tour: Hocokata Ti Cultural Center

Join RCHS for a fun day as we learn about the history and culture of the Mdewakanton Dakota. We will be visiting Hocokata Ti in Shakopee, MN where we will have a guided tour of their cultural center and museum. The bus loads at 12pm and leaves promptly at 12:15pm. We will be leaving from the Rice County Historical Society Museum. We will arrive at 1pm and return by 5pm. Tickets are \$25 per person. This bus tour is limited to 45 people, so reserve your seats soon! Please call to reserve your spot at 507-332-2121, or email rchs@rchistory.org



SEMCAC Announces Recent Individual Artist Grant Awards

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



On March 19, 2024, the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEM CAC) Board of Directors awarded 21 arts programming grants for a total of \$89,000 in funding to individual artists throughout southeastern Minnesota. This included thirteen Advancing Artist Grants and eight Emerging Artist grants.



SEM CAC, a non-profit arts agency, is designated by the State of Minnesota Arts Board as the regional arts council for eleven southeastern Minnesota counties: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona

Grants awarded for original work include the following individuals:

Rice County

Stephanie Cox, Northfield, received a \$3,000 Emerging Artist grant for Comic book about Zulu-S. MN connection.

Arlo Cristofaro, Northfield, received a \$3,000 Emerging Artist grant for Gate by the Garden: An Ecosystem of Song.

Gao Hong, Northfield, received a \$5,000 Advancing Artist grant for New Composition for Pipa and Cello

Daniel Kallman, Northfield, received a \$5,000 Advancing Artist grant for Nerstrand Community Celebration Song.

Martha Larson, Northfield, received a \$3,000 Emerging Artist grant for Explorations in Music and Movement.

Goodhue County

Dawn Zero Erickson, Red Wing, received a \$5,000 Advancing Artist grant for Threads that Bind.

Catherine Friend, Red Wing, received a \$5,000 Advancing Artist grant for A Young Adult Novel Inspired by History.

Jeff McDowell, Red Wing, received a \$3,000 Emerging Artist grant for Tower View Students Ceramic Experience.

All granted activities must begin no earlier than March 20, 2024 and be completed within 12 months, culminating in a public capstone

event. Recipients were selected through a competitive process with applications judged on artistic merit and community impact. SEM CAC congratulates the award winners and looks forward to celebrating the creativity these grants will bring to southeastern Minnesota.

For more information about SEM CAC's grant programs, visit semac.org or contact the office at 507-281-4848.

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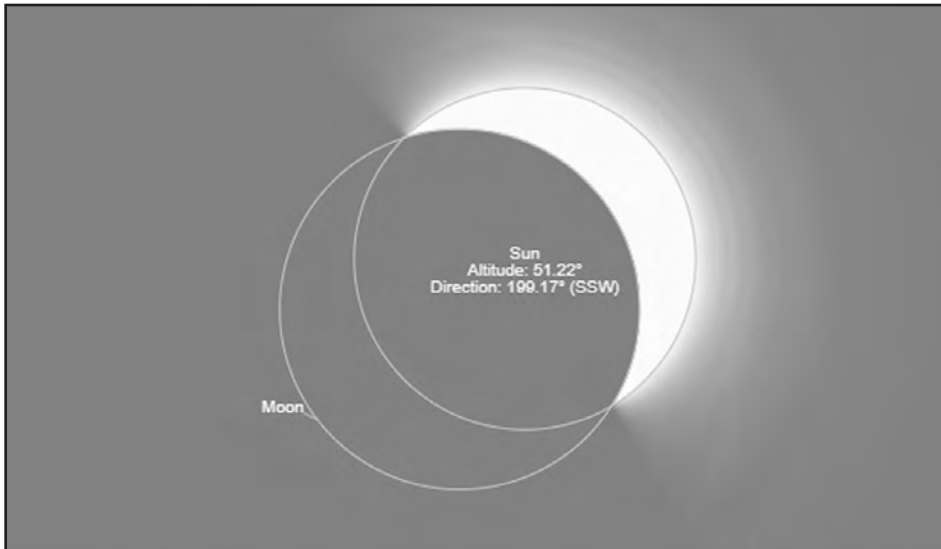
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Watch for the Solar Eclipse on April 8th



Picture shows approximate coverage of sun during eclipse

A solar eclipse will be visible in Minnesota on Monday April 8th, (weather permitting). This eclipse which crosses the continental United States will be about 75% complete in southern Minnesota and start at 12:45pm that Monday with maximum coverage at 2:02pm. The eclipse will end by 3:14 pm have taken about two and a half hours to transpire. The solar eclipse will be visible with 100% coverage in a band across the southern portion of the country. This includes San Antonio Texas, Little Rock Arkansas, Indianapolis Indiana and Cleveland Ohio.

The next full solar eclipse in this area will take place on September 2099, at 9:37am in case you miss this one. Solar eclipses take place at least twice each calendar year somewhere and repeat in the same location about every 375 years. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the earth and the sun. A lunar eclipse is more common and occur when the earth passes between the sun and the moon.

Certified eye protection is required for viewing the solar eclipse to prevent permanent vision damage.

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- Sunday:** \$1.00 OFF ICE CREAM

Fasting



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

this month, some will choose to abstain from a select food or activity in observance of Lent. Choosing to abstain from something can be a good exercise in self-control. This type of practice helps an individual to understand how much something truly influences their life. Perhaps during this season, you may consider the activity of fasting.

Fasting can take many forms from abstaining from one meal to not eating any food for a few days or up to 40 days. Various religious practices around the world have incorporated fasting as a way to focus more attention on spiritual activities and less time on physical activities. However, there are some significant benefits to the physical body when a healthy fast is practiced.

A simple, healthy fast would begin in the evening after your final meal of the day. Once dinner time is complete, the fasting clock begins. No midnight snacks, only water as needed and go to bed. The majority of the first 12 hours of fasting will be spent sleeping through the night. The next day only drink water, a small amount of herbal tea, or possibly some vegetable broth, if needed. By the time you reach the next dinner hour you have stayed away from food for 24 hours. Continue drinking water only and go to bed. By the next morning, you will have completed almost 36 hours of fasting and now is a good point to break your fast with a healthy breakfast. This 36 hour fast is a good first step to practicing what fasting on a regular schedule may look like.

Benefits of fasting include:

- Reduces high blood sugar levels
- Decreases high insulin levels and reduces insulin insensitivity
- Increases immune cell activity
- Improves clarity of thinking
- Can reduce inflammation
- Stimulates detoxification systems in the liver and kidneys

When you go into a fasting season, you force the cells of your body to do some clean up work. Activity inside the cells will remove anything that has become non-functional or is unhelpful. With this activity, cleaning helps the cell to prioritize healthy activity. This can be a helpful activity when your body is recovering from an illness. Improving healthy activity at the cellular level is what fasting stimulates.

A variation of fasting is becoming popular with many individuals called Intermittent Fasting. The general concept is reducing the window of time each day when food is consumed. Instead of eating food within a 12 hour window of the day, the time frame may be reduced to only 6 hours in the day. The remaining 18 hours of the day would only drink water or sleep. Some individuals reduce the eating more strictly to only 4 hours per day for eating, or only eating every other day. Intermittent fasting has gained popularity since 2010 when research studies on animals observed the animals living longer when their food intake was restricted.

While fasting may seem the exact opposite of living a full life, consider how the alternative has affected our society. We live in a cul-

ture where no restriction is given. You are encouraged to eat at all times of the day and to eat whatever you want. Grocery stores are filled with more choices than you know what to choose. The result has been increased obesity, increased diabetes, chronic inflammation, and a generation that does not know how to prepare healthy food. An occasional season of fasting can help bring clarity and focus to food preparation and a healthy lifestyle.

I invite you to join me this spring at the Northfield Holistic Health Summit "New Beginnings" Saturday, May 4, 2024, to learn more about healthy lifestyle choices and the resources available to you. Ten local health practitioners will be presenting information on – herbs, homeopathy, acupuncture, toxins, neurology, allergy therapy, and more. Come join us for the day and enjoy a healthy catered meal by Café Shawn. More information at <https://www.nutritionproportion.net/health-summit2024> or scan the QR code.

Make your health a priority in 2024. Change is required, but the outcome is worth the effort. Little changes can make a big difference over time. If you would like to pursue a healthy lifestyle and increase longevity, I can help you start a plan.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for 2024. I can help you reach those health goals with whole food plans customized to your specific needs. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net



SCAN ME

March is a month of new beginnings and this year the beginnings seem to be coming earlier than previous years. The official start of the spring season will come this month and the month will conclude with the celebration of Easter. During

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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 repeated 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.

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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 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!

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 Feb. 17th Farm Animal Day
 Feb. 24th String Art Workshop
 March 2nd Barn Quilt Class
 March 30th Easter Egg Hunt

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Hastings Creamery Owners Cited for Not Getting Fire Debris Cleaned Up

Courtesy of the Hastings Journal

The Minnesota Department of Safety has yet to close an investigation in the fire on Sept. 13-14 that destroyed the Hastings Cooperative cleanup, and the company has been cited by the City of Hastings with failing to comply with an order to clean up debris at the site.

A Department of Safety spokesperson said last week that the investigation is still ongoing into the fire.

“There is no update with this fire investigation. It is still listed as open and no report has been filed. It's not uncommon for fire investigations of this magnitude to take a long time to close,” said Minnesota Department of Safety Public Information Officer Amber Schindeldecker.

City officials have said that investigators have given the green light to the project being cleaned up. Some work has been done, but there's a lot left to go.

The vacant creamery building had closed in August after 110 years of serving local farms and the community. City of Hastings officials are anxious to have the site, an eyesore on busy Hwy. 61, cleaned up.

The Hastings Cooperative Creamery closed Aug. 18 and its Dairy Store across Vermillion Street days later.

In June, the creamery was disconnected from the sewer system by the Metropolitan Council after the business reportedly leaked thousands of gallons of milk into the city sewer system. The Hastings Creamery was cited with six violations over the previous seven months.

The Hastings Creamery shutdown left 45 farms that it purchased product from to find other places to sell their milk.

State Rep. Shane Hudella of Hastings brought Hastings Creamery, City of Hastings and Metropolitan Council officials together last summer in hopes of coming to a solution to get the creamery in compliance with Met Council wastewater rules. For months prior to the close, the Hastings Creamery was transporting wastewater via tanker trucks to St. Paul to be processed.

The 11-alarm fire was called in at the Hastings Creamery, 1701 Vermillion St., at 10:34 p.m. Sept. 13. By the time fire crews arrived on the scene, large plumes of black smoke could be seen from the building. Moments later, flames enveloped the entire middle of



The City of Hastings has cited the Hastings Creamery after clean-up ordered to be done by Feb. 9 hasn't been in a timely fashion. The Hastings Creamery was destroyed by fire in September after closing permanently a month prior.

PHOTO BY JOHN MCLOONE

the property. Firefighters controlled the blaze by about 2 am. Sept. 14 and were called to the scene days later for flare ups.

The Hastings Creamery was given a deadline of Feb. 9 for site clean-up. Community Development Director John Hinzman told the Hastings Economic Development and Redevelopment Authority at its meeting Thursday, March 14 that a city citation has been issued because of the lack of clean-up of the site.

“They're doing some work on-site over there. We did issue them a citation last month and are following up on that to try to get to some conclusion for the cleanup on that proj-

ect,” said Hinzman.

HEDRA and Hastings City Councilmember Dave Pemble expressed concern about debris being blown around the neighborhood by spring winds.

“Is there any way we can insist they cover over that roofing material or something with the spring storms coming in? A lot of that stuff could be blowing into the neighboring properties and creating some issues,” said Pemble.

Hinzman responded, “I'll take a look at that.”

2024 SKYWARN Training Schedule

(subject to change—please check www.Sogn.us prior to attending any session for last-minute class updates)

MARCH
26 Tuesday — Online Webinar begins at 6:30pm
Pre-registration required. Sign-up on www.Sogn.us

APRIL
4 Thursday — Online Webinar begins at 6:30pm
Pre-registration required. Sign-up on www.Sogn.us

13 Saturday — Cannon Falls (Christ UMC) beginning at 9:00am
(29470 Gaylord Ave. — church located just west of the Cannon Golf club)

17 Wednesday — Nerstrand (Fire Department) beginning at 6:30pm
(Located two blocks south of Hwy. 246 on Cherry Street)

22 Monday — Zumbrota (Fire Department) beginning at 6:30pm
(Located at 1400 Jefferson Drive — northeast of Zumbrota Ford)

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Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol



Question: I am looking at purchasing my first vehicle but I am worried about scams. Do you have any advice for me? Thank you.

Answer: Here is some information we recently shared on our Minnesota Department of Public Safety blog. Picture this: You are excited about buying a car. You

drive it home, but later find out the odometer had been rolled back thousands of miles, it was stolen, or it had previous damage the seller didn't tell you about — all devastating news.

Scams like this are happening right here in Minnesota. That's why our Minnesota State Patrol Investigative Services Section is warning people to be on the lookout for signs the deal might be fraudulent.

"If you're in the market for a new vehicle, make sure you know what you're getting and who you're getting it from," State Patrol Capt. Jason Bartell said. "Trust your instincts. If it appears too good to be true, it probably is."

Buying a new car is a big decision. Our investigators recommend doing your research before handing over any money. Look up the

value of the vehicle you're looking to buy. There are several sites online that can give you a good idea of what the price should be.

Whether you're buying from a dealership or a private seller, request a vehicle history report from a company such as Carfax or Autocheck. Look over the previous crashes that vehicle has been a part of and the previous work that's been done on the vehicle. Make sure the mileage is consistent and doesn't have any sudden huge changes.

If you're buying from a dealership:

- Look up the business online and review what customers are saying.

- Make sure you understand each part of the negotiated deal, including any warranty, and that each part is in writing.

- Read all the paperwork. Minnesota law requires the dealer to notify you of prior damage exceeding 80 percent of the value or the existence of any title brand, which is a label on a vehicle title that depicts its status, such as salvage, flood, junk, etc.

- Complete the transaction at the dealer's place of business.

If you're buying your new-to-you vehicle from a private party:

- Be suspicious of any deal requesting you put money down or transfer funds before seeing the vehicle.

- Ask if they are the owner and if they possess the title. Verify the name on the title is the person that is selling the vehicle with their state ID, driver's license or another form of

identification. Look at the title to see if it shows a lien or a security interest on the vehicle. If it states the name of a bank or credit union, then there is a lien.

- Be wary. Fraud often occurs with out-of-state titles, and sellers that are not listed on the title.

- Make sure each part of the deal is in writing. The bill of sale or receipt should be signed by all parties and include the names of all seller(s) and purchaser(s), as well as a vehicle description that includes the make, model, year and VIN. Include the date of the sale, the price of the vehicle and the vehicle's mileage. We recommend getting the document notarized.

- Complete the transaction at a safe location and transfer the title at a local deputy registrar's office together with the seller. If this is not possible, make sure to transfer the title within 10 days as required by state law.

- Take the vehicle to a trusted mechanic for an inspection.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson — Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)



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County expects Safety Center to be Ready for Possession this Summer, Operational Late Fall

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

The new Rice County Safety Center, which will house both the Rice County Sheriff's Department and the Rice County Jail, is in

the final stages of construction. Rice County Sheriff Jesse Thomas said the carpeting is about to be installed in the office spaces, furniture will be moved in starting in May, and the county will take full possession of the building sometime in July.

That, according to Sheriff Thomas, is when the real work will start.

Moving an entire law enforcement department, to say nothing of the incarcerated individuals in the jail, is not an easy or quick process. Thomas said it must be done meticulously, carefully and with great attention to detail. The moving of staff offices and basic office equipment will be helped along by the Rice County facilities department, but most of the process will have to be handled in-house.

Files have to be handled carefully, as does the department's equipment that is used for law enforcement. The handling of evidence

will require a well-placed system that Thomas said has to be thought through completely before it can begin.

"Evidence will be a big move. We'll have to log everything out of our current location and transport it. You can't just throw everything in the back of your car and transport it to the new site. [Once it arrives,] you have to log it all back in through the new system. It takes a lot of time and we've been working on what that procedure is and what that looks like in our world."

Once everything is in place, he said, then the County Detainees can be moved. Thomas said that will be the most difficult challenge

in the entire process.

"On our side, the biggest obstacle is moving our inmates, or detainees, into the new facility. The Department of Corrections has a lot of criteria, so we have to make sure we dot all our I's and cross all our T's. They will have to sign off on the building before we can start moving people."

Thomas said the careful process is necessary for obvious reasons, but the care they take will be worth it when it is finished. The Rice County Safety Center is expected to be running and fully operational, he said, by November.



To the Editor, Water/Sewer Rates in Northfield May Double

The average-priced Northfield home pays \$88/month for sewer and water service. Senator Amy Klobuchar a year ago promised the city a free Federal grant of \$35 million for a water and sewer infrastructure upgrade. But later in 2023, Congress changed course and nixed the grant. However, the city had already spent \$18 million they did not have, so they did an \$18 million bond offering last October. Now the second half of the bill is coming due.

The city just paid \$44,000 per acre for 13 acres on Hall Avenue in Northfield Township by the water tower. This was four times any other sale in recent years.

In desperation, the city is asking the state for a bail out, in the form of a "soft loan". The city web site shows the new water filtration plant, to take out trace amounts of manganese, may cost \$22 per gallon for 6 million gallons annually.

All this is caused by a state mandate due to baby formula also containing manganese, posing a possible health risk to up to half of the city's infants under age one, or 1% of the population.

The incredible element in this story is that Culligan offers to deliver ultra pure water for \$1.50 per gallon, making the city's own cost estimate of \$22/gallon a killer for all rate payers.

Doug Jones, Nerstrand
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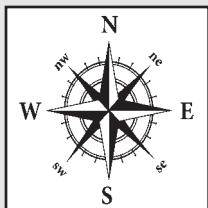


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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Self-Checkouts and the "Pig"



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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