

Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger™

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #2
Dennison, MN 55018

Postal Customer
ECRWSS

APRIL 24, 2024

Volume 21 • Issue 4

Randolph Rockets Theatre presents **Bright Star: The Musical**

An unforgettable tale of dreams, love, and redemption. According to Theatrical Rights Worldwide, Bright Star is "Inspired by a true story and featuring the Tony®-nominated score by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, Broadway's BRIGHT STAR tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and '40s. When literary editor Alice Murphy meets a young soldier just home from World War II, he awakens her longing for the child she once lost. Haunted by their unique connection, Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past—and what she finds has the power to transform both of their lives. With beautiful melodies and powerfully moving characters, the story unfolds as a rich tapestry of deep emotion. An uplifting theatrical journey that holds you tightly in its grasp, BRIGHT STAR is as refreshingly genuine as it is daringly hopeful."

Show Dates: Friday, April 26 @ 7:00 pm
Saturday, April 27 @ 2:00 and 7:00 pm
Admission: \$8 Adults; \$5 Seniors 65+;
\$5 Students

Announcements

• Randolph Food Shelf located at St. Mark's Church 28595 Randolph Blvd.
Monthly Open Hours: 1st Tuesday 8:00 - 9:30 am; 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays 4:30 - 6:00 pm. Questions call (507) 263-9182.

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

'Something's got to be done'

Neighbors upset over lack of cleanup from Hastings Cooperative fire

By John McLoone

Courtesy of Hastings Journal

Nine months after a fire at the closed Hastings Cooperative Creamery complex, city residents are growing impatient that little or no cleanup is being done at the site.

City Community Development Director John Hinzman was quizzed by members of the Hastings Economic Development and Re-development Authority at its meeting Thursday, April 11 on when the site will be cleared of piles of debris left behind from the blaze that broke out Sept. 13, a month after the

Hastings Cooperative Creamery ceased operations.

"The neighborhood has made it clear to me that something's got to be done," City Councilmember Dave Pemble said.

After a HEDRA member asked about the cleanup, Hinzman said, "It's not moving much, that's for sure."

I sent them a letter. I've been in weekly conversations the last couple of weeks with them."

(continued on page 8)



PHOTO BY JOHN MCLOONE

Businesses Open during Main Road Construction

**Randolph Sanitary Sewer Project Update
April 24, 2024:**

Work Completed this Week

Contractor continued to set up the dewatering system

Upcoming Construction Work

Temporary water system will be set up. The contractor will reach out directly to individual properties to be connected.

(continued on page 5)

Garden Tractor Pull Returns to Dennison Days

The annual Dennison Days Festival takes place Friday and Saturday, June 21 & 22.

(continued on page 6)

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.

(continued on page 7)

Randolph FFA Tractor Parade



Retired Ag teacher and Randolph FFA advisor Ed Terry participated in the annual 2024 tractor parade

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 12th • Serving 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Call 507-645-9992 for Reservations

- Reservations Highly Suggested -

- JOIN US FOR OUR SPECIAL BREAKFAST AND BRUNCH MENU -

Regular Menu Available 3:00-Close



37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN
Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 AM-8:30 PM
Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM-9:30 PM; Sunday 9:00 AM-8:00 PM
Bar Open Later

507-645-9992 • www.firesidelounge.net



♥ MOM ♥ MOM ♥ MOM ♥ MOM ♥ MOM ♥ MOM ♥

DAILY SPECIALS

ALL YOU CAN EAT
FISH FRY

Fridays

Starting at 4:00 pm



Friday, Saturday, Sunday Dinners start at 4:00 am

Tuesday-Thursday open at 3:00 pm

Friday & Saturday open at 11:00 pm

Sundays open at 8:30 am for Breakfast

651-437-5618



Eternal One for Your Joy



By Colin Rueter

A brief note and correction from last month's article. I wrote, "Denial of Jesus, obedience in repentance, and following the God's commandments is fruit of true faith." Instead, it should have said, "Denial of the false ideas of Jesus..." I assure you that I remain centered on orthodox Christian doctrine and have not strayed from the faith. Your salvation is from Christ alone, acknowledge Him and humble yourself before Him, and be saved.

Now, as we begin walking through this treatise of Christian doctrine, I want to explain a little of the format moving forward. We will be walking through this text the same way that faithful pastors/preachers should walk through biblical texts on Sunday mornings in sermons, verse-by-verse. Another name for this is expository preaching. While I am not preaching with my voice, there will be an explanation and application to our verses each month. In many churches today, we see topical sermons that use various scripture removed from context to examine and teach on a topic. However, the danger in this is misus-

ing verses, pulling verses out of their context, and missing the glorious connections that the Bible has to itself. We may have our favorite verses or books of the Bible, but as God's people, we love the Bible as a whole. The most faithful way to handle the Bible is to proclaim the full counsel of God's word in context and without skipping sections of scripture that are difficult, weighty, or convicting (Acts 20:27, 2 Timothy 14-15).

Our author, the Apostle John, writes with the aim to teach about the basics of faith in Christ and help the audience reflect honestly on their faith. So, John begins from the beginning, the beginning there was before there was anything, when all that existed was God Himself. See the beginning of Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." This makes the beginning of John 1:1 profound: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John takes us back to this time in eternity past, to meet this One which was from the beginning. The eternal One is Jesus, friends. The second person of the Triune God, the King of kings, Lord over all. We know this from the whole of scripture, but John continues as he explains in verse 1 and 2, "which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us..." This indicates that this eternal being came to earth, and John (among many others) personally experienced Him. The idea is that this eternal subject of John has been audibly heard, physically seen, intently studied (have looked upon), and tangibly touched (hands have handled) would have enormous implications for his readers. The implications were enormous because they said that this eternal God became accessible to man in the most basic way, a way that anyone could relate to. This eternal One can be known since He has revealed Himself to us. Enormous because they

proved that John's words have the weight of eyewitness evidence. He did not speak of a myth or of a matter of clever story-telling. He carefully studied this eternal One and he knew whom he spoke about. Enormous because it debunked dangerous teachings that were creeping into the church, such as Gnosticism. Part of the teaching of Gnosticism was that though Jesus was God, He was not actually a physical man, but instead some kind of pseudo-physical phantom. Yet John declared, "I heard Him! I saw Him! I studied Him! I touched Him!" John identifies this eternally existent being, who was physically present with John and others (note the repetition of "our" and "we"), as the Word of Life. This is the same word, Logos, spoken of in John 1:1. The idea of the Word (Logos) was important for John and for the Greek and Jewish worlds of his day. For the Jew, God was often referred to as the Word because they knew God perfectly revealed Himself in His Word. For the Greek, their philosophers had spoken for centuries about the Logos - the basis for organization and intelligence in the universe, the Ultimate Reason which controls all things. It is as if John said to everyone, "This Logos you have been talking about and writing about for centuries - well, we have heard Him, seen Him, studied Him, and touched Him. Let me now tell you about Him." This life was manifested, meaning that it was made actually and physically real. John solemnly testified as an eyewitness who has seen and now declare to you. As John calls Jesus eternal life, and adds, with the Father, John remembered the words of Jesus (John 5:26, 6:48, and 11:25). We can say that people are eternal, but we say this with the understanding that we mean they are eternal in the future sense only, not past tense like God. There was an eternal relationship of love and fellowship between the Father and the Son. Jesus referred to this in John 17:24: "For You loved Me before the foundation of the world."

So What?

John closes his first paragraph with an invitation to have fellowship with Christians

and with the Father and Son, in order that our joy (everyone who has fellowship with God and His people) would be complete. You can enjoy this fellowship even though you do not understand all the intricacies of the Trinity. You can use your eyes even though you don't know every detail of how your vision works. You can know God and believe in Him as He has revealed Himself, even though you can't understand everything about His person or nature. The idea of fellowship is one of the most important ideas in this letter of John's. It is the ancient Greek word 'koinonia', which speaks of a sharing, a communion, a common life. It speaks of a living, breathing, sharing, loving relationship with another person. This simple and bold statement means that one can have a relationship with God. This idea would surprise many of John's readers, and it should be astounding to us. The Greek mind-set highly prized the idea of fellowship, but restricted to men among men - the idea of such an intimate relationship with God was revolutionary. This fellowship is shared life and is essential. This doesn't mean that when Jesus comes into our life He helps us to do the same things better than before. We don't add Jesus to our life. We enter a relationship of a shared life with Jesus. We share our life with Him, and He shares His life with us. The result of fellowship is fullness of joy. This joy is an abiding sense of optimism and cheerfulness based on God, as opposed to happiness, which is a sense of optimism and cheerfulness based on circumstances. Charles Spurgeon wisely said, "If any of you have lost the joy of the Lord, I pray you do not think it a small loss." Come find the fellowship, joy, and life you've been looking for through Christ. Next month we will look closer at the text in Chapter 1, verses 5-10 & Chapter 2, verses 1-6. Until then - may you know JOY that only comes from Christ! 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



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

Phone or Text:
507-649-3327

Fax: 507-645-9878

Website: www.randolphmn.com

Place your ad in the next issue of the
Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger.

Email:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com
or call 507-649-3327

Published in cooperation with
Mainstreet Publishing Minnesota, Inc.
© 2023, Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger
All rights reserved.



RANDOLPH BAPTIST CHURCH

29020 Dawson Avenue in the heart of Randolph
(adjacent to Randolph Public School grounds).
Sunday School 9:00a.m.
(children, teen, and adult classes)
Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.
Jesus and Me (JAM) Kids Club 3:00-5:00p.m.
first and second Wednesday of the school month.
Pastor Dennis Ingolfisland
Questions? Call church office 507-663-1437

CHRIST UMC

Rev. Thomas Countryman
29470 Gaylord Ave., Cannon Falls
507-757-8043
www.christunitedmethodist.org
Sunday Worship 8:30a.m.
Sunday School 8:30a.m.

STANTON UMC

Reverend Thomas Countryman
1020 Hwy. 19 Blvd., Stanton • 507-321-3598
www.stantonunitedmethodist.org
Sunday Worship at 10:15a.m.
Email your church announcements, schedule, etc.
to the Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger at:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Jesus Unites Us

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. . . . — John 15:5

Are we really united to Jesus like branches to a vine? Yes, and amen! And does that mean we are also united with other people who are Christians? Yes, it does.

If we are united with Christ, we are like a branch of the holy vine of God. Yet there are other branches too, and the people represented by all those branches are loved by God just as we are—even if we might disagree with them in some ways or don't understand why they believe as they do. Sadly, there are divisions in the worldwide church of Jesus Christ, and those can often be ugly and unnecessary. Do different Christians see things differently? Yes. Do they act differently? Yes. May we separate from them, when they are living branches in the vine of Christ? No. To do so would be arrogant and hurtful.

Sometimes, however, people come up with false teachings that deny the truth of Christ (as in 1 John 2:18-27). And if they insist on following those teachings, they can mislead others and cut themselves off from the vine of Christ. That is a terrible tragedy, and we need to know how tragic it is when something like that happens. Let's do all we can to remain united with Christ and with the other branches of Christ's church. Jesus says, "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love. . . . Love each other as I have loved you." *Forgive us, Lord, if we think that we are always right and that others should conform to our way. May we seek unity in you, the true vine. Amen.*

The Church Directory is Sponsored by:



23280 Main Street, Hampton
(651) 437-9535



300 West Main Street
Cannon Falls



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

28595 Randolph Blvd.
www.stmarksrandolph.com
Pastor Lue Moua
Sunday Worship 10:00a.m. & on Facebook
Bible Study Tuesdays at 9:00a.m.
& 1st Wednesday at 11:00a.m.
WELCA 1st Wednesday at 10:00a.m.
Questions? Call 507-263-9182

ST. MATHIAS CATHOLIC CHURCH, HAMPTON

stmathias-hampton.com
5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass
7:30a.m. Monday Mass
Questions? Call Mon.-Friday 651-437-9030

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NEW TRIER

stmarys-newtrier.com
8:00a.m. Sunday Mass
7:30a.m. Friday Mass
Questions? Call Mon.-Friday 651-437-9030

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CASTLE ROCK

9:00 a.m. Worship Service, Coffee After
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
Questions? Call 507-645-0042

Harvey (Buster) Richard Ozmun

Harvey (Buster) Richard Ozmun 99, passed away peacefully on March 31, 2024 at the Northfield Retirement Center. Harvey was born on July 29th 1924 in West Union, MN to Charles and Dora Ozmun.

The youngest of 8 children, he attended school south of Northfield and finished 8th grade at Waterford school house. While living on the Dickson farm, he helped raise cattle and took care of 11 horses and a mule. He milked 40 cows by hand, which his sisters delivered to Northfield in cans.

Buster met his true love, Evelyn Corinne Hasslen in 1945. She was a city girl, and they were married on October 25, 1947 at Zion Lutheran Church in St. Paul and moved to the farm outside of Farmington in 1950.

Evelyn and Buster were loving parents to their five children. His passion was in farming, raising corn, soybeans, hogs and milking cows. Evelyn and Buster enjoyed traveling to Hawaii, Branson, and Texas with family and friends. They loved to play cards and hosted many parties for neighbors and friends.

He is survived by his children, Ron (Carol) Ozmun, Ankeny IA, Nancy (Lyle) Gunderson, Northfield, MN, Mary (Mike) Graff, Snohomish, WA, James (Candi) Ozmun, Farmington MN. Grandchildren, Chris, Lindsay, Keith, Amy, Lori, Mark, Pat, Lisa, Katie, Greg and Phil.

Great-grandchildren, Logan, Kyleigh, Kennedey, Kjerstyn, Kinsley, Allison, Rachel, Hayli, Madalynn, Riley, Sabine, Lilou, Ottilie, Eva and Hailey. He was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn on March 5, 2013, son, Thomas in 1978, parents and Siblings: Franklin Ozmun, Anne Miller, Hank Ozmun, Mae Liestman, Martha Baker, Clara Beyer, Rosie Ackerson.

Funeral Service was held 11 AM Monday, April 8, 2024 at the Farmington Lutheran Church, 20600 Akin Rd., Farmington, with a visitation from 3-6 PM on Sunday (4/7) at the White Funeral Home, 901 3rd St., Farmington and also 1 hr. prior to service at church. Interment; Castle Rock Valley Cemetery. Memorial will be donated to Farmington Lutheran Church and the Castle Rock Valley Cemetery.

Condolences at: www.whitefuneralhomes.com

Arlene Ann (Felton) Ringeisen

Arlene Ann (Felton) Ringeisen, age 89 of Cannon Falls, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 5, 2024 in Northfield.

Arlene Ann was born at home, north of Randolph, on July 9, 1934, the daughter of William and Ella (Bachman) Felton. She attended Randolph Public School and graduated in 1952, in a class of 17. Ar-

lene married Loren Ringeisen on May 9, 1953, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Randolph. To this union four children were born: Laurene, Diane, Jeffrey, and Patti. Arlene was a homemaker most of her life with jobs at Russ Douglas Insurance, Randolph School Cafeteria, Kid Duds, Nancy M. Bergeson C.P.A., Caravan Motel, Gemini, and Berquist, retiring from Berquist in 1999. She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church all of her life and involved in church work. She was a member of the Randolph Red Hot Rubies, and loved having coffee with family, relatives, and friends.

Survivors include her children Laurene (Kevin) Navara, Diane (Wayne) Trapp, and Jeffrey (Wendy) Ringeisen, all of Cannon Falls, and Patti (David) McKinley of Randolph; grandchildren Becki (Scott) Banitt, Cari (Brent) Lundell, Brandon (Marie) Navara, Joshua (Melissa) Trapp, Jeremy (Ally Kvam) Trapp, Wesley (Jessica) Ringeisen, Riki (Ryan) Podritz, Tiffany/Oaklee Ringeisen, and Jason (Alex) McKinley; great-grandchildren Michael (Samantha), Ashley (Brian), Tayler (Connor), Maddox, Mia, Holden, Gabriella, Emmitt, Abigail, Grace, Madeline, Lane, Ryan, Andi, Khloe, Olivia, and Sophia Loren; great-great-grandchildren Tessa, Hallie, Adam, Jacob, Maisy Ann, and Calvin; sister Audrey McKee of Stanton, as well as nieces and nephews.

Arlene was preceded in death by her husband Loren, parents William and Ella Felton, grandson Preston Ringeisen, sister Yvonne Montgomery, and brothers Elmer, Harold and Arnold Felton.

Pallbearers were all of her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. Honorary pallbearers were June Volkert and Leatrice Taylor.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to St. Mark's Lutheran WELCA.

Visitation was on Friday, April 12, 2024 from 4 - 7:00 pm at Lundberg Funeral Home, 5839 Hwy 19 Blvd, Cannon Falls, MN 55009. The memorial service was held at

3:00 pm on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 28595 Randolph Blvd, Randolph, MN 55065. There was a visitation one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Interment was in Lakeside Cemetery, Randolph.

Larry Lowell Paul

Larry Lowell Paul, 80, of Faribault, passed away Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis due to complications following a heart attack and stroke.

Larry was born on December 20, 1943, in Faribault, to Lowell and Ruth (Lipfert) Paul and spent his early childhood on the family farm, developing a work ethic that was a defining characteristic of his for the rest of his life. As the family grew, Lowell and Ruth moved the Pauls to town, but Larry would later discover you could take the boy off the farm but not the farm out of the boy.

He graduated from Faribault High School with the class of 1961, got married and had a daughter. He chased his lifelong dream of owning a farm, renting land in multiple locations, and ultimately operating a dairy farm near Castle Rock that he deeply loved. As often happens, business was difficult, and Larry once again left the farm, this time for a bartending job at Faribault's iconic Lavender Inn.

As it turned out, there was life after the farm for Larry. The Lavender Inn was how Larry met Allyn MacKay, and act two of his life began. He married Allyn on December 17, 1976.

It wasn't long until they weren't just partners in life, but also in business. Larry's entrepreneurial spirit led him to a role selling insurance for Prudential and then to the most substantial position of his career: owner of A&L Janitorial. Together with Allyn, Larry launched the family business that they, their kids, and a few other employees ran for 20 years. Having cleaned many local businesses at all hours of the day for two decades, Larry traded in business ownership for a stable schedule and spent the last leg of his career as a custodian at St. Olaf College, retiring in 2017.

He is survived by daughters, Jamie Jensen of Lakeville, Melynda "Mandy" Paul of Faribault, and Dani (Jon) Minnick of Eagan; son Sean (partner Christine) Howie of Cannon Falls; 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers, Ron Paul of Eagan, Denny (Karen) Paul of Eden Prairie, and Jim Paul of Woodbury; sister Patty (Al) Caron of Forest Lake; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Lisa Chappuis, in 2006; by sisters-in-law Mary Paul and Lauri Paul; and by his parents.

A private family memorial service was held.

In lieu of flowers, help us remember Larry by watching "Gunsmoke" or a Hallmark Christmas movie, Larry's not-so-guilty pleasures.

Top Notch Properties & Realty Services



Eric Ruud
Owner/Broker
612-245-4382



Jeanne Werner
Salesperson
612-328-1893



Tony VanDeSteege
Salesperson
651-336-7257



Kim Rademacher
Salesperson
651-245-1800



For The Quality & Honesty You Deserve!
Check out our website - tnprservices.com

Real Estate Sales & Leasing

300 Oak Street, Farmington, MN 55024

651-460-6674

city water & well water can be
WORRY-FREE WATER
with Kinetico

get help with
your home's water

651.427.9283
hwcwater.com

Haferman
WATER CONDITIONING, INC.
Haferman Water is an Independent, Authorized Kinetico Dealer

Kinetico
home water systems

Daniel Swanson

Daniel Swanson, age 77 of Minnetonka (formerly of Dundas), passed away at his home on Tuesday morning, April 9.

Danny was born on May 3, 1946 in Faribault, the son of Carl and Dorothy (Jones) Swanson. Danny attended

Northfield High School where he met the love of his life, Gloria Amy; the pair were united in marriage on December 30, 1965 and they shared 50 years of dedication to one another before Gloria's passing in 2016. Their journey included his time in the Navy, having two beautiful daughters, building a business in Texas, coming back home to Minnesota, building a life in Minnetonka and an amazing career with the City of Minnetonka, where he retired and his final years after retirement were spent with his girls, grandkids, dancing, fishing, friends and family on Clearwater Lake and traveling to Mississippi visiting his fiancé, Sandy, and making new friends.

Danny is survived by his daughters, Wanda (Dan) Crews and Mychelle (Ryan) Jones; grandchildren, Joshua Anderson & Jessica Crews as well as Ally & Patrick Jones; siblings, Clancy, Elaine, & Terry Swanson; his fiancé, Sandy Shaw; as well as his nieces, nephews, other extended family, and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Gloria; parents, Carl and Dorothy; and a brother, Carl.

A Celebration of Danny's Life with many stories (as he would want) was held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, April 17 at the Bierman, Benson, & Langehough Funeral Home of Northfield. Visitation was held from one hour prior to the service from 12:00 to 1:00. Interment with Military Honors was held at Prairie Creek Cemetery. Everyone was invited to join the family at Fireside Lounge & Supper Club in Dennison for a luncheon after burial. www.northfieldfuneral.com

Arrangements are with Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home & Crematory. www.northfieldfuneral.com

Craig "Craiger" Pumper

Craig "Craiger" Pumper, age 69, of Northfield, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis.

Craig Steven Pumper was born on June 25, 1954, in Northfield, to Joseph and Dorothy (Malecha) Pumper. He graduated from Northfield High School before serving his country with distinction in the Army National Guard for a decade, concluding his service in 1980. He worked for his dad at Joe's Plumbing and Heating for over 20 year, continued working in various construction roles until starting work at Wanzek Con-

struction in the early 2000s and would continue working there until retiring in 2019. He was a hard worker and knew a little bit about everything. His heart found its match in Donna Berres, whom he met at a dance at the Armory in Northfield. Their dance continued through life as they wed on October 1, 1977. Together they built a home and a family in Northfield.

Craig's joy was multiplied with the arrival of each grandchild. He took great pleasure in attending their games and sharing his passions with them, always eager to teach them how to fish or hunt. Craig's enthusiasm for life shone brightly through his interests. An avid fisherman, he treasured excursions to Lake Mille Lacs among other fishing spots. His dedication to hunting was evident in his more than three decades of trips to Montana, where he also built and maintained a cherished cabin. A sports fan at heart, he cheered vigorously for the Twins and the Wild.

Handy with his hands, Craig found relaxation in working on his Polaris Ranger, always cleaning and tinkering, ensuring everything he touched worked just a bit better. His sense of humor and undeniable knack for fixing things made him the go-to man in any situation.

As we say farewell to a man who brightened every room, we are comforted by the countless memories and the love that Craig bestowed upon the world. He will be dearly missed and forever cherished.

Survivors include his wife, Donna; four children: Matt (Deena Otto) of Northfield, Angie (Rafael) Perez of Northfield, Jon (Mandy) of Victoria, and Jake (Cate) of Victoria; and Jamie Olson of Cambridge; grandchildren Ashton, Collin, Cohen, Cash, Bella, Corbin, Evalyn, Ava, Phoebe, Noella, Addison, and Roman; mother, Dorothy of Northfield; siblings, Colleen (Tom) of Wisconsin Dells, Daniel (Nancy) of Northfield, Joel (Jeanne) Pumper of Northfield, Corrine (Fred) Beumer of Cannon Falls, Kaylene (Phillip) Little of Faribault, Keith (Nina) of Northfield, Laureen (Lance) Snedrud of Northfield and Jeffrey (Shari) of Owatonna; other family members and friends. He preceded in death by his father, Joseph Pumper and son Andrew.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 AM, Monday, April 22, 2024 at the Church of St. Dominic, Northfield. Visitation was 2-5 PM, Sunday, April 21, 2024, at the Church of St. Dominic and continued one hour prior to the service. A reception followed the service at the church.

Arrangements are with the Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home & Crematory. www.northfieldfuneral.com

Jerry Robert Hubbard

Jerry Robert Hubbard, age 76, passed away on Friday morning, April 12, at the Minnesota Veteran's Home in Minneapolis. Jerry was born on November 13, 1947 in Northfield, the son of James 'Jim' and Maxine (Marshall) Hubbard, Sr. Jerry graduated from Northfield

High School in 1966 and went on to attend two years at Mankato State College as well as two years at the Northwest Technical Drafting School where he received a degree in architectural drafting in 1970.

Jerry married the love of his life, Elizabeth 'Jane' (Errington) Hubbard, on March 14, 1969 at the First United Church of Christ in Northfield and they made their homes during their fifty-five years of marriage in Minneapolis and Bloomington, Minnesota; Manhattan and Junction City, Kansas; and Shakopee, Minnesota before making their way back home to Northfield, for good, in 1976.

Jerry was inducted into the United States Army in January of 1971 and completed his basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; he was then stationed as an MP in the 1st Infantry Division (Big Red 1) at Fort Riley, Kansas, throughout his active duty. Jerry was proud to serve his country until his honorable discharge from Army active duty in October of 1972. He continued serving as an Army Reservist until 1977.

Jerry accumulated over 35 years of dedication and hard work to College City Beverage, in various capacities over his career, before his final position as a draught technician, that dated back to his part-time work there as a teenager. Jerry was proud to be a member of the American Legion for 40 years; he was also a member of the Waterford Warriors Snowmobile Club and Ducks Unlimited.

Outside of work, Jerry was a devoted husband, dad, and grandpa as well as an avid outdoorsman. He cherished every moment spent outdoors hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, or riding his Harley Davidson. Woodworking, and tinkering with model cars, trains, or anything he could get his hands on in the garage were also favorite activities. Memorable staples in Jerry's life included family holidays, vacations, a trip through the Black Hills when the kids were young, several trips with Jane to Sturgis for the motorcycle rally, two ventures to Hawaii with Jane, and spending time on the waters of both Crane Lake and Lake Mazaska with family and friends. He also held a special place for the family pets over the years namely

Snoopy, Missy, Buff, Khan, and Nutmeg, the Siamese cats, and Pepper, the black lab.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Jane Hubbard; children, Nicole 'Nikki' (Jayson) Nelson and Trevor (Brittney) Hubbard; grandchildren, Sabrina and Jerrin Nelson and Brooklyn and Briggs Hubbard, all of Northfield; brothers, James 'Jim' Hubbard, Jr. of Tennessee, John 'Jack' (Linda) Hubbard of Wisconsin, and Jay (Susan) Hubbard of Florida; sister-in-law Mary Gale of Bloomington; as well as his nieces, nephews, other extended family, and friends. He was preceded in death by an infant son; his parents, James 'Jim' and Maxine Hubbard, Sr; and a sister-in-law, Verlie Hubbard, as well as his parents-in-law John and Laura (Gibson) Errington; brother-in-law, John 'Jack' Errington; and sister-in-law, Beverly 'Bev' Coffey; and nephew Anthony 'Tony' Gale.

A Celebration of Jerry's Life will be held at 3:30 PM on Thursday, April 25 at the Northfield United Methodist Church. Visitation will be held on Wednesday evening, April 24 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Bierman, Benson, & Langehough Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to the Minnesota Veteran's Home of Minneapolis at the following link: <https://mn.gov/mdva/donate/minneapolis-donations.jsp>

Memorials may also be made to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation in memory of Jerry at the following link: https://give.bafound.org/site/Donation2?df_id=5231&mfc_pref=T&5231.donation=form1

the one
KYMN 95.1 FM 1080 AM

For something different

**Your Home for
Twins Baseball**

Tim McNiff Weekday Mornings

www.kymnradio.net

**DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR THE MESSENGER?**

Email:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

WIA Werner Insurance Agency, LLC.
Branch of Miller Hartwig Insurance Agency of Lakeville

AUTO • HOME • FARM • COMMERCIAL • RECREATIONAL VEHICLE • LIFE

Jeanne Werner, Agent/Owner
Email: jwerner@millerhartwig.com

Ann Weckop, Agent
Email: aweckop@millerhartwig.com

Ashley Kimmes, Agent
Email: akimmes@millerhartwig.com

Jennifer Endres, Agent
Email: jendres@millerhartwig.com

23250 Main Street | PO Box 12 | Hampton, MN 55031
Phone: 651-437-9200 | Fax: 651-437-9212
Your Local and Experienced Insurance Experts

Obituary & Community

April 24, 2024

- RANDOLPH-HAMPTON-CASTLE ROCK MESSENGER -

Page 5

Elouise Quinnell

It's with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Elouise on Friday, April 5th, at her beloved farm of 68 years, surrounded by her family. Born in Northfield, Elouise spent her formative years on her family farm in Dennison and was a faithful member of St. John's Lutheran Church from a young age.

Elouise's life changed when she met and married Milo Quinnell on June 24, 1950. Their journey together included travels with Milo during his military service, eventually settling down and purchasing their farm in 1956. Together, they raised six children, nurturing a home filled with love, laughter, and the aroma of Elouise's delicious cooking. She found joy in being a homemaker, taking pride in baking and cooking for her family and any unexpected guests who crossed their threshold.

Her days were filled with tending to the garden, caring for chickens, and selling fresh eggs, demonstrating a strong work ethic and a

deep connection to the land. Remarkably, she continued to mow the lawn well into her 90s, embodying resilience and determination.

Throughout their 67 years of marriage, Elouise and Milo shared countless precious moments. They enjoyed simple pleasures like bowling, neighborhood card parties, and dancing to their favorite polkas and waltzes, creating memories that will be cherished by their family for generations to come.

The family farm was not just a place to live but the heart of their family and a gathering place for friends. It was a testament to Elouise's dedication and love for her family, providing a nurturing environment where memories were made and traditions were honored.

Elouise lived independently on her farm until her final moments, a testament to her strength, resilience, and unwavering spirit. Though she may no longer be with us in body, her legacy of love, hard work, and cherished memories will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Elouise is survived by her children, Keith (Annalise) Quinnell, Scott (Sandy) Quinnell, Marybeth (Kent) Harris, Craig (MaryAnnette) Quinnell, Randy (Terri) Quinnell, Michelle (Chad) Weed; 12 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and two sisters Bel

Quinnell and Janet (Jim) Topp. Elouise was preceded in death by her husband, Milo; parents, Elsie & Helmer Estrem; siblings, Willard Estrem, Ed Estrem, Barb Halvorson, and Lorraine Chavie; and grandson, David Quinnell.

Memorials can be directed to St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield.

A funeral service was held at 11 AM, Thursday, April 11, 2024, at St. John's

Lutheran Church in Northfield. Visitation was from 4-7 PM, Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home, and continued one hour prior to the service at the church. A reception followed the service. Interment was in Oaklawn Cemetery, Northfield.

Arrangements are with Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home & Crematory. www.northfieldfuneral.com

Businesses Open during Main Road Construction

(continued from page 1)

Due to the expected weather this week 292nd St (CSAH 88) will be hard close to traffic beginning April 22nd (Weather Permitting)

Residents within the construction area will have access to their driveways outside of work hours.

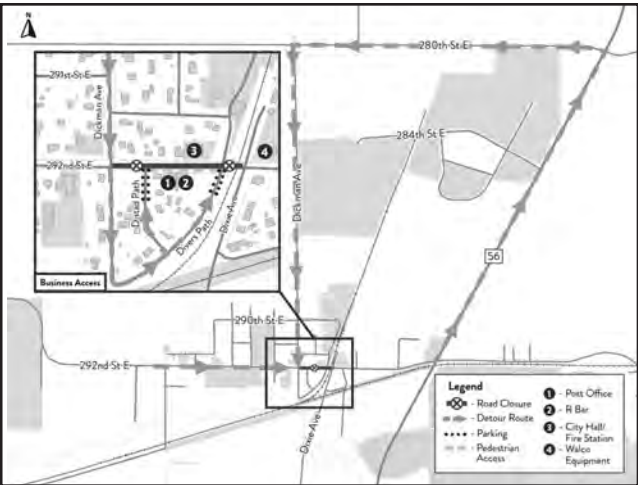
The existing gravel will be removed from the road Sanitary Sewer Pipe Installation will begin

News & Notes

The staging plan has changed from last year. The updated staging plan has been included in the newsletter and can be found at the link below.

Road Closed to Thru Traffic signs will be set up on some of the side streets to help deter cut through traffic. These are not an indicator of a stage starting sooner than previously communicated.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!



WE'RE ONLINE!
Keep Up With Your Hometown News at
www.randolphmn.com

Milo Peterson Ford Co.



DRIVE INTO SPRING WITH A FORD



**2022
FORD
ESCAPE
SE**

AWD, iced blue silver metallic, 7,899 miles, 1.5L ecoboost
#24024U

**Spring
Special!
\$24,580**



**2022
FORD
EDGE
SEL**

AWD, stone blue metallic, 14,248 miles, ecoboost 2.0L I-4, turbocharged
#23213U

**Spring
Special!
\$28,775**



**2021
FORD
BRONCO
WILDTRACK**

4 door, advanced 4x4, 18,527 miles, cactus gray, 2.7L V-6 ecoboost
#23121U

**Spring
Special!
\$51,950**



**2021
FORD
F-150
XLT**

4WD, supercrew, 5.5' box, rapid red, 27,508 miles, 2.7L V-6 ecoboost, 4 door
#23067U

**Spring
Special!
\$40,999**



**2022
FORD
EXPLORER
XLT**

4WD, 20,957 miles, 2.3L ecoboost I-4, rapid red
#24037U

**Spring
Special!
\$35,999**



**2018
FORD
FUSION
SE**

FWD, 23,204 miles, burgundy velvet, 1.5L ecoboost
#24002D

**Spring
Special!
\$18,450**



Spring Car Care



At Milo Peterson Ford Co., our highly qualified technicians are here to provide exceptional service in a timely manner.

From oil changes to transmission replacements, we are dedicated to maintaining top tier customer service, for both new and pre-owned car buyers!

Allow our staff to demonstrate our commitment to excellence.

Call our service department to schedule your maintenance needs.

Open Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 5pm.



SEE OUR COMPLETE INVENTORY AT WWW.MILOPETERSONFORD.NET

3020 457th Street Way, Kenyon • 507-789-6113 • SALES HOURS: M-T-Th 7:30a.m.-8p.m.; W-F 7:30a.m.-6p.m.; Sat. 8a.m.-4p.m.

Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin

Becoming a Farmer: First Steps

By Monica & Claudia Vanderborght

A farm dog -- for companionship and protection.

Monica's daughter had two dogs, both lab-crosses. Together, they could get into so much trouble!! If they weren't locked in their kennels each and every time the family left the home, disaster would greet them upon return: upturned garbage cans spilling their contents, pillows and sofa cushions strewn about, shoes chewed, once they even managed to open the refrigerator door and raid the contents. Mocha and Ice didn't have a bad life, but their weekdays were relegated to their kennels. Ice was a sweetie with those he knew -- but a car accident had left him with only three legs and abuse made him untrustworthy around strangers, particularly men. Mocha was an easy girl with a wonderfully loud, deep, (and often too frequent) bark. After a few lessons at PetCo, Mocha knew basic commands and actually followed them on occasion.

Mocha absolutely loved her new-found freedom. She followed Monica everywhere, although she kept a safe distance when the chainsaw was in use. The rule of "No Dogs on the Couch" was quickly forgotten -- when Monica was on the couch, Mocha was there. When Monica was in bed, Mocha was there.

The two spent many hours outside each day, and she was Monica's constant companion.

Cats -- for amusement and critter control. Monica is adventuresome and brave, but when it comes to rodents and snakes Monica reacts like a typical girl.

Never mind that Monica fearlessly drove her 4WD Jeep over / through trails (and creeks and large rocks) in Minnesota and Wisconsin with the Dakota Dirt Diggers. (An important lesson that would also serve her well on the farm: "If you aren't getting stuck, you aren't learning anything.") All by herself, Monica traveled 49 states and several Canadian provinces on a Goldwing motorcycle. In 2005 she volunteered to be deployed with the Naval Reserve: ten days later she was on a plane to CENTCOM in Tampa for paperwork and immunizations; two weeks later she was on the long flight to Qatar.

Brave, yes. But when it comes to snakes and rodents, Monica actually believes she can levitate when startled by either. Perhaps it is the scream that gives the extra lift. Cats, for critter control, were absolutely essential.

So four kittens came to the farm: two from Craigslist, two from a friend. Each grandchild was tasked with naming one kitten. Cuddles and Tippiie were siblings (who hated each other and hissed whenever the other drew near). Shelley and Oliver were lively, curious, and chased each other all over the house. Slowly, the kittens were given greater outdoor freedom as they grew.

One dog, four cats, and dozens of boots (Monica, kids, grandkids, friends of grandkids) can bring in a tremendous amount of dirt and mud from the outside. The barely-nice house with easy-to-clean floors was ap-

preciated.

Autumn turned to winter. The days got shorter and colder. Claudia, who for decades had heated her homes exclusively with wood, assured Monica that the fire could burn all day without supervision. It could burn all night too. If the grandkids wanted to find the kittens, the fireplace was the first place they looked.

Every January, the fifth grade teachers and students headed to Eagle Bluff for a three-day field trip. This was the first extended "vacation" Monica would be away from home. (Not really a vacation, having to supervise all those children -- and their parents.) But it was a wonderful learning experience for the kids, many of whom had lived their entire lives in apartments with hundreds of TV channels and piles of video games. Mocha returned to Ice's house for a three-day sleepover. Thermostats for the electric heaters were set to 55 degrees. Food and water was left for the kittens ... although one wasn't looking well. Shelly was lethargic and showed little interest in food or water. Either she would be okay, or she wouldn't. Monica left for the field-trip, hoping for the best.

The internet was slow at Eagle Bluff, but Monica looked up symptoms of feline diseases. She asked for advice from the teachers. All symptoms pointed to feline leukemia -- a death sentence for Shelley and probably the other three. It was a long three days and a dreaded return home.

Mocha was thrilled to be out of the suburbs and back on the farm where she could run free again. Three kittens seemed fine, but Shelley was seriously ill. Monica still had



Mocha

two days before the weekend to consider options. Her colleagues sympathetically suggested that Shelley be taken to the vet for a confirmed diagnosis and to be euthanized. All the suburban friends agreed.

But Monica resolved: wasn't she a farmer now? Farmers don't take their cats to the vet to be euthanized -- they do it themselves. Farmers do not let their animals suffer. It was a difficult, agonizing, painful decision. But when she got home from school that day and saw the pitiful state Shelley was in, Monica knew what she had to do. It was a rough, rough weekend -- but she knew she had done the right, the farmer thing.

Several months later, Oliver started going downhill -- the same symptoms. This time the decision was no easier, but farmers do not let their animals suffer. Oliver's suffering was shorter, and the decision was easier, though no less painful.

Monica felt she had just passed a huge milestone in becoming a legitimate farmer. The first, difficult steps had been taken.

Garden Tractor Pull Returns to Dennison Days

(continued from page 1)

The Gopher State Garden Tractor Pullers will return to main street Friday Evening on Main-street in Dennison hosted by 625 Bar & Grill. More information is available at www.gsgtp.com.

Following the pull, Russ Franek and The Biscuits will take the stage to entertain event goers Friday Night. The Kids Pedal Pull returns Saturday morning this year, and will take place on main street at 11 AM Saturday Morning as part of a full day of events during the festival. Live Music Saturday evening from Shane Martin will round out a full day of events on June 22nd. A full schedule of events will be available soon at www.dennisondays.org and will appear in The Messenger and websites soon.



Toro 77501 Timecutter Max

50" deck iron forged fabricated deck 10 g. steel
23 hp Kawasaki V-twin
5 gallon fuel tank
18" comfortable gaming style seat

\$3,899.00

Check out our full line of
60v Lithium Ion cordless tools
and accessories.

Includes: string trimmers,
edgers, chainsaws,
hedge trimmers & more



502 Huseh St., Kenyon

507-789-6321

Come See the Movies the Media Are Not Promoting

Thursday, April 25: Police State

THERE IS NOWHERE TO HIDE. THEY HAVE THEIR LISTS. ARE YOU NEXT?
Filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza examines the current state of intelligence
and law enforcement in America.

Thursday, May 9th: The Fall of Minneapolis

A multi-part documentary featuring body worn camera video of
George Floyd's arrest; interviews with officers who served during the riots;
key evidence from the autopsy and Derek Chauvin's trial;
and the aftermath that followed.

Thursday, May 23: Letter to the American Church

"A Letter to the American Church" is Eric Metaxas' clarion call for the body of
Christ to stand in God's mighty power and confront these forces of evil with
His truth and righteousness. God's church stands as the only bulwark between
the free and the enslaved. Stand we must. Silence is no longer an option.

**Movies will be shown at the Cannon Falls Sportsman's Club,
intersection of County 24 and Oxford Mill Road (32970 Oxford Mill Rd.)**

Time : Doors open at 6:00 pm. Movie starts at 6:30 pm.

Admission: Donations accepted to cover cost of promotion & venue.

These movies are not suitable for children.

As Concerned Citizens, we feel as a community we need to learn and discuss the cultural issues that are
headlines. Come watch these documentaries and movies. We would love to hear your thoughts.

Jack Schlichting 612-325-5528 or jackschlichting@gmail.com

What's Normal?



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

As we progress into the first days of Spring, we look back on a winter season that was not the typical Minnesota winter. We can also look back to the fourth anniversary of the Covid pandemic and the infamous shutdown the entire society endured. As that experience dragged on there was an increasing desire to see things “return to normal.” But how do

you define normal?

Normal is “a standard, or regular pattern” according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, and is often associated with a routine, or possibly a habit. One individual online described “normal” as that action or belief that is accepted by 62% of the population. However, what is considered normal may not be healthy, or good for you. How comfortable are you with making a healthy choice that is not be seen as ‘normal’?

The Standard American Diet is a common phrase used by nutritionist with the emphasis on the first letter of each word – S.A.D. The normal choices for food consumption among Americans has resulted in SAD consequences. Back around 1901, the normal consumption of sugar per American was around 5 pounds of sugar per year. Today, the normal consumption of sugar per American is over 100 pounds of sugar per year. Before 1930, vegetable oil, corn oil, soybean oil, and canola oil did not exist. Today, soybean oil and corn oil are the top oils consumed promoting significant inflammation. There are a multitude of foods available in our warehouse grocery depots that our great grandparents would not recognize. What we consider normal today has brought about SAD consequences.

Unfortunately, in our culture, normal is not the same as healthy. Consider some of these examples:

- More than 70% of the American population is overweight or obese leading to heart disease, diabetes, and a weakened immune system
- Premenstrual cramps, headaches, and ir-

ritability each month is considered normal

- Constipation with bowel movements less than once a day is considered normal
- Braces to straighten teeth and pulling wisdom teeth is considered normal
- More than 10 prescriptions per American is the current average

To make a healthy choice, or choose a healthy lifestyle is not considered normal. Do some of these healthy choices seem ‘abnormal’ to you:

- Have some vegetables with your breakfast
- Be sure to drink 8 cups of filtered water (or more) each day
- Eat an apple every day
- Eat only three meals a day with no snacks between meals
- Each meal should include a protein (meat, egg, dairy, or beans)

When what is normal is not a healthy choice, you and I have the opportunity to be an influence to our circle of friends and relatives to help them recognize a healthy option. To be an influencer is to be one who helps others to be interested and to recognize there is another choice available. The normal advertisements and recommendations coming across the television screen are not presenting healthy options, they are presenting normal options. Internet videos presenting extreme diets and exercise are not presenting healthy options, they are sales gimmicks. The healthy options are going to be consistent, natural-based options your great grandparents would recognize. Healthy options are lifestyle choices that promote longevity, fertility, and a healthy envi-

ronment. You can be an influencer to help move the American culture back to a healthy standard. Perhaps one day, healthy choices will be the “new normal.”

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. Purchase your ticket today for this event that includes a healthy catered meal by Café Shawn. Ticket sales close on April 30. 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.

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

Rice County Steam & Gas Annual Flea Market & Swap Meet

(continued from page 1)

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



DENNISON DAYS

JUNE 21 & 22, 2024

CLASSIC CAR SHOW • TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL • BINGO
PANCAKE BREAKFAST & MORE!

LIVE MUSIC By Russ Franek & The Biscuits! Friday, June 21st

LIVE MUSIC By Shane Martin! www.shanemartin.com

Saturday, June 22nd

Watch www.dennisondays.org for updates to the schedule



THE BISCUITS



SHANE MARTIN

Anywhere

'Something's got to be done'

(continued from page 1)

Hinzman said the delay seems to center around whether the company's insurance deems that some of the facility could be rebuilt or if the site will be completely cleared. In the meantime, debris is blowing from the property, located just across the street from the historic LeDuc Mansion.

"They had promised to put up a board fence on 17th Street, so we don't see the mess in there. They said they'd clean up the mess that's been drifting out of that site on the parking lot right by the LeDuc."

If the fence isn't put up, the city will arrange for it and assess the cost to the property.

"I have given them, I think, to the 22nd (of April) to put that up. I've also contracted with Precision Landscaping to put it up on the 23rd if that doesn't occur, so one way or another that part will be done," Hinzman said. "With their weekly conversation as far as the rest of the site goes, there's not been a determination for what the loss value would be, whether it'd be a total loss or what type of loss it would be. They're waiting on that to happen before they make any decisions. They expect that to happen sooner or later, but it seems to have been at that point for quite some time. I don't have any further informa-

tion there."

"I'm looking at it from two standpoints. One, what is some of the worst aspects of the site right now and how do we take care of those things. And to me, that is the view from 17th Street and the garbage that keeps washing out in the parking lot and taking immediate action on that one and meeting with them weekly to try to get the rest of this thing done," said Hinzman.

While the site has been cleared for cleanup, the Minnesota Department of Safety has yet to announce the close of its investigation into the fire. Hinzman told HEDRA last month that the business has been cited by the city with failing to comply with an order to clean up debris at the site.

The vacant creamery building had closed in August after 110 years of serving local farms and the community. The Hastings Co-operative 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.

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 property. Firefighters controlled the blaze by about 2 a.m. Sept. 14 and were called to

the scene days later for flare ups.

The Hastings Creamery was given an initial deadline of Feb. 9 for site clean-up.

Jeff Johnson Announces He Will Retire from KYMN Radio This Fall

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

Jeff Johnson of KYMN Radio announced that he intends to retire this fall.

Johnson, who purchased the station in 2008, has worked at KYMN for the better part of 37 years. During his tenure he has held many roles, including sports director, news director, and sales. He was the voice of Carleton College football for several years on this radio station.

When he took the reins as owner and General Manager, he also assigned himself the role of Morning Show host, where he has become a familiar voice to thousands of early-rising Northfielders.

As the owner, he said he has always sought to give the Northfield Community a voice and ensure that KYMN was always connected deeply to the community. He credited his radio mentor for instilling that philosophy in him.

"Working for Wayne Eddy for 15 years you learn – Wayne really instilled the idea that you serve the community. Anybody can play music if they want to or say something dumb on social media, but being responsible, and being responsible toward the community is certainly something I learned from Wayne."

Johnson has an agreement in place to sell the radio station to the current KYMN News Director, Rich Larson, who intends to keep that same commitment to strong, Northfield-centric programming.

"KYMN will always have a place in my heart, and I'll never be too far from it."



Jeff Johnson

RICE COUNTY STEAM & GAS ENGINES ANNUAL SWAP MEET & FLEA MARKET

Saturday, May 25th & Sunday, May 26th
8am to 5pm • FREE!

Rice County Steam & Gas Showgrounds
11988 Faribault Blvd, Dundas

Swap Meet & Flea Market Vendors Setup Friday, May 24th • 8am – 8pm

Flea Market Questions? Contact Sandy Bouillez
507-581-6223

Consignment Auction Saturday, May 26th • 9am

Bring your items to sell
Afternoon Thursday, May 23rd
All day Friday, May 24th

To consign, contact Larry Valek
612-978-6901 • valekauctions.com

Food Stands • Miniature Railroad Train Rides
SEATP Tractor Pull • Sunday, May 26th • 9am

RiceCountySteamAndGas.com



A legendary musical experience

ICONIC FEST

EST. 2015

EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Friday, July 12

Friday & Saturday JULY 12 & 13 2024

Saturday, July 13

Aaron Tippin

Neal McCoy

T. Graham Brown

Colbie Caillat

Daniel Michael

The Dads

2 DAY OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL!

Held at the Green Lantern • a venue that's always on the edge

For More Information & to Order Tickets Go To WWW.iconicfest.com

Tito's HANDMADE VODKA • **Budweiser** • **102.5 DUKE FM** • **96.1 DUKE FM** • **SGD** • **The Messenger** • **BOB** • **TOTAL COUNTRY**

Randolph 3rd Quarter Honor Rolls Announced

A HONOR ROLL 12TH GRADE

Athena Annis, Emily Coonrod, Grace Gerster, Lucas Rezac, Julia Splihl, Maya Tennessen, Kaitlyn VanDeSteege

11TH GRADE

Vienna Anderson, Lilyana Beyer, Addison Davis, Clara Dubbels, McKenna Gergen, Avery Gillen-Rexroad, Lillian Keller, Hayley Kroll, Jeffrey Kuhn, Leyton Lee, Rowan Nordling, Erin Nybakke, Blaike Ott, Carter Raymond, David Reinardy, Jon Roehl, Chloe Vought

10TH GRADE

Oren Alexander, Kyra Brochman, Hadley Cooreman, Jameson Exley, Kyle Ford, Olivia Gergen, Adelynn Haugen, Helaena Hensley, Morgan Jacobson, Milar Krech, Henry Pagel, Gavin Podritz, Rylann Sheridan, Ella Streiff, Conrad Wedel, Tristan Ziemer

9TH GRADE

Brady Beissel, Leah Bilderback, Owen Braatz, Kyle Braun, Sarah Dohmen, Sophia Gounaikis, Hayden Huddleston, Grace Jenkins, Maddox Johnson, Brekken Kimmes, Emalyn Koktavy, Maksim Krech, Sibley Krueger, Max Kuhn, Rachel LaVan, Lynnea Lee, Anthony McNamara, Danielle Nelson, Justine Ohmann, Lucas Pahl, Ellen Radman, Karlea Roehl, Emma Schiller, Gavin Sumpston, Grady Taylor, Ryleigh Wencel, Preston Wernimont

8TH GRADE

Maddyn Alexander, June Banks, Abby Beissel, Reyna Beyer, Jaylee Crouch, Kylie Emery, Marilla Emery, Harlow Esser, Julia Flemming, Hannah Gordy, John Irrthum, Preston Jacobson, Jaeda Johnson, Jackson Kuth, Mogen Leitch, Claire Lindahl, Meghan McCabe, Addison McCoy, Ella May, Logan Magiera, Alexis Novak, Avery Novak, Adeline Opelt, Georgia Otte, Stella Pagel, Grace Perry, Mia Podritz, Cameron Seelig, Courtney Siebenaler, Michael Streiff, Leo Waltman, Taylor Werner, Judd Wersal, Lily Wichser

7TH GRADE

Amelia Davis, Brynnli Fredrickson, Jackson Ford, Eliza Giles-Olson, Sophia Hansen, Piper Hill, Bella Hohenstein, Jacqueline Lee-Miranda, Anna Lindahl, Noah Meyer, William Mies, Zoe Mitricska, Annelise Murray, Tenley Otte, Adam Pahl, Julianna Ritz-Gilomen, Brekken Schock, Macy Sunquist, Jonathan Tate, Luciana Whaley

B HONOR ROLL 12TH GRADE

Elise Goodfellow, Caleb Hachfeld, Vance Heidenreich, Julia Hines, Carly Kimmes, Geoffrey Krueger, William May, Mya Neprud, Richard Olson, Coltyn Otte, Adrian Pasch, Cameron Reuvers, Gavin Ruud, Grant Seelig, James Sheldon, Cami Thompson, Gabrielle Wiik

11TH GRADE

Collin Almen, Maribeth Banks, Maddox Bracken, Kylee Carey, Donnie Coonrod, Michael Dohmen, Crisopher Flores-Miranda, Stella Gillen-Miranda, Jackson Green, Hunter Kriesel, Jaxson Leifeld, Tristan Melnychuk, Kaylee Mohn, Charles Niebur, Jonathon Opelt, Bella Pressnall, Devon Root, Jackson Reuvers, Madelyn Schultz, Frank Stehr, Jonathon Toledo, Ronald Thurbur

10TH GRADE

Jordan Bauer, Sophia Beyer, Colton Ford, Noah Girgen, Cooper Hansen, Carson Lorenzen, Alana May, Carter Olson, Gabriella Smith, Nola Thompson, Alex Van



Eps, Alexis Van Eps, Tristan Zingler
9TH GRADE

Leah Bilderback, VerenaRae Boehne, Ella Gerster, Aubree Hanson, Ruby Heiman, Cody Hill, Preston Hubers, Kaia Krie, Brody Little, Madison Loritz, Mackenzie Murray, Paige Otte, Madison Pressnall, Charity Reinardy, Nate Sheridan, Lilliana Schuman, Jacob Snyder, Amelia Stehr, Logan Tate, Lindsay Taylor, Tyler Thompson, Sadie Wagner, Julia Wiik

8TH GRADE

Parker Banks, Maclynn Exely, Adelaide Helgren, Lola Hustad, Frank Klahr, Addison Leese, Tagen McCoy, Laila Meyers, Jaxson Nelsen, Emma Rechtzigel, Mary Reinardy, Tucker Swentik, Casey Streitz, David Wagner, Torrance Ziemer

7TH GRADE

Lily Anderson, Brennan Beer, Maddison Beissel, Nolan Beissel, Samuel Bell, Ignacio Briseno, George Brochman, Elise Chavis, Zoe Emerson, Brooklyn Gappa, Ryan Goodfellow, Skylar Hassing, Abigail Hoskins, Emily Juenke, Rafe Kimmes, Ramsey Krueger, Madilynn Loftus, Albany Lyon, Evelynne Martin, Nathan Quinnell, Brendan Otto, Emma Pahl



Garden Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: May 11, 18 • Sundays: May 12, 19

Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

Take a drive in the country and shop in our log cabin filled with crafts and antiques!

Potpourri Mill Log Cabin
Lori and Darwin Amy
2290 County 49 Blvd., Dennison, MN
Email: cabincrew@frontiernet.net
or call 507-649-1009

*Full Service
Auto Repair & Tires*

Call to schedule your appointment today!

507-263-7000 bigservicecenter.com

4451 Upper 291st St. E, Randolph, MN 55065

WOW! NEW LOWER PRICES!

Oil Change Special!

\$39⁹⁹

+ tax

Full Synthetic Blend oil change
up to 6 quarts of oil and filter.
Includes: multipoint vehicle inspection.

Randolph FFA Tractor Parade



Reagan Beer is the 2024 Girls NYWA State Wrestling Champion



Randolph's 6th Grader Reagan Beer is the 2024 Girls NYWA State Wrestling Champion, winning with all Pins! Submitted by Jennifer Zingler

Congratulations to our 2024 Athena Award winner, Carly Kimmes!



Courtesy of Randolph School

True Blue Week



Courtesy of Randolph School

During the week of February 12 - 15, students, faculty, and staff came together to celebrate True Blue Week. True Blue week is about the Rocket community coming together with integrity, pride and unity. During the week staff and students participated in four challenges, earning points along the way for their grade levels. The challenges included, donating to the Randolph Food Shelf, a penny war, no Wi-Fi Wednesday, and completing ticket challenges. Staff and students also earned points for their class by participating in the dress up days. The overall winners of the week were First Place: 8th Grade, Second Place: 7th Grade and Third Place: 9th Grade.

The highlight of True Blue Week was undoubtedly the \$2,000 the students raised participating in a Penny Wars. Money raised from the Penny Wars was donated to the Cannon Falls American Legion, to support veterans in need and to aid in sending care packages to our brave troops at home and overseas. True Blue Week was organized by the Randolph Leadership Academy under the supervision of Randolph Assistant Principal/Activities Director Mike Schmidt.

Best at Site Award

Courtesy of Randolph School

The Best at Site award is chosen by the judge of each room at solo and ensemble contest. Kaitlyn VanDesteege received the Best at Site award for her flute solo at the solo and ensemble contest held at Zumbrota-Mazeppa High School. She performed Suite in A minor by G.P. Telemann.

Congratulations again, Kaitlyn!



Randolph FCCLA State Conference participants did an awesome job!



Courtesy of Randolph School

GOLD: Kaitlyn and Brandon VanDeSteege

SILVER: Jaylee Crouch, Natalee Feldman, Claire Lindahl, Brooklyn Gappa, Linnae Battles

BRONZE: DJ Stapf

Look for posters to join in October! See Ms. Burke for more information.

Making Plans for the Weekend?

STOP OUT SATURDAY!!

Music Starts @ 8pm!

STOP IN FOR A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST!

Every Saturday & Sunday
from 8:30 to 11:00 AM

MEAT RAFFLES EVERY SATURDAY AT 1:00 PM

Sponsored by the Waterford Warriors Snowmobile Club

Check Our Facebook Page for Daily Specials and Weekend Entertainment!

Don't Let The Construction Fool You!!

We're OPEN!!

Side Road Parking Available!

WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT!

4354 292nd St E, Randolph

507-646-0107

rbar.randolph@gmail.com

Monday 3:00pm-9:00pm; Tuesday-Thursday 11:00am-11:00pm

Friday & Saturday 11:00am-1:00am

Sunday 11:00am-9:00pm



Kaitlyn and Brandon Vandesteege took home the Gold and advanced to the FCCLA Nationals in Seattle!! *Courtesy of Randolph School*

Spring Allergies



Dr. Neal Godse,
University of Minnesota Medical School
and M Health Fairview

As we say goodbye to winter and welcome in spring, it also signals the start of allergy season. The sneezing, itching and watery eyes accompanying spring allergies can overshadow the joy of the season.

Neal Godse, MD, with the University of Minnesota Medical School and M Health Fairview discusses spring allergies symptoms and strategies to keep it under control.

"Allergic rhinitis, a common condition affecting the nose, results from inflammation triggered by allergens like pollen and dust. Symptoms include congestion, sneezing, runny nose and itchy/watery eyes. If untreated, it can lead to other problems like fatigue, difficulty with focus and poor sleep. Treatment options include oral and topical antihistamines, nasal saline and topical steroid nasal sprays. These medicines help control the inflammation that allergens trigger and relieve symptoms. Be careful with long term use of oral or nasal decongestants. These can lead to damage of the lining of the nose and make issues like high-blood pressure worse."

"I advise patients to start taking an antihistamine and a topical steroid spray on a daily basis a few weeks before their allergy season starts to allow the medicine to build up in the lining of the nose and prevent the allergic inflammation from even starting. When symptoms persist despite these initial medicines, it may be worthwhile to seek evaluation to see whether our more advanced allergy treatment options may be beneficial."

"My team in the University of Minnesota Medical School's Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery is focused on understanding the inflammation underlying



allergic rhinitis and how it affects patients with other chronic inflammatory diseases of the nose and sinuses. We hope to improve patients' lives by providing targeted, comprehensive treatment for inflammatory disorders of the nose and sinuses."

Dr. Neal Godse is an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School

and a rhinologist and skull base surgeon at M Health Fairview. His research focuses on better understanding and treating patients with cancer of the nasal cavity and skull base. He is also interested in the novel applications of emerging technologies to patients with these issues and chronic inflammatory sinus disease.



Business Link

- Bellechester • Castle Rock • Claremont • Dennison • Dodge Center •
- Dundas • Goodhue • Hampton • Kenyon • Mazeppa • Nerstrand •
- Randolph • Wanamingo • West Concord • Zumbro Falls •



- Machinery Storage
- Commercial
- Livestock Buildings
- Garages

38241 County 6 Blvd, Goodhue
651-923-4441
Lodermeiers.net



Flat Water Futures, LLC
Grain and Livestock Hedging

Todd Ryan
651-764-5590
tryan@flatwaterfutures.com
Goodhue, MN
Branch Office

DODGE, GOODHUE,
WABASHA, AND RICE
COUNTY AREA FARMERS



Losing soybean yield to
White Mold and
Sudden Death Syndrome?
We can help!
Call Colin at 1-306-716-4964
www.headsupST.com



Best Fertilizer for Land is of the Owner

Ron Sheridan
Since 1944
service is on the house
Zumbrota / Rochester

www.drssquarefoot.com
651-246-4146

Let's talk fence



Alpacas, Apples, Beef Cattle, Deer, Dairy Cattle, Elk, Emus,
Gardens, Goats, Grapes, Gorillas, Horses, Lions, Llamas,
Ostriches, Ponies, Raccoons, Sheep, Trout, Tigers, Yak



62411 386th Ave., Zumbro Falls, MN
Phone 507-753-2943 • www.kfence.com
Free Estimates • Free Catalogs

KAHN Tile Supply LLC



Bruce Freerksen
(507) 273-9110
brucewithschaefferoil@gmail.com
West Concord, MN



Tatge Jewelry

Awards By Tatge
Since 1975
625 2nd Street, Kenyon, MN
(507) 789-6522

BAKER'S TIRE SERVICE

507-824-2264
11361 Hwy. 60 Blvd
Wanamingo



SIFT (SAVE IT FROM TRASH)
THRIFT STORE

26 RED WING AVE Kenyon, MN



Hours: Thur & Fri 12 to 8pm,
Saturday 9am to 5pm

DOUG AND MARY KLATT
www.sift4you.com

Call us today! 507.259.2386

PLACE YOUR AD ON THIS PAGE

Call Terry at 507-951-7417

or Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

PLAZA MORENA
CAMPESTRE GRILL

DINING ROOM
Open 7 Days a Week
11:00am-10:00pm

5% OFF
MEAL PURCHASE
Expires May 31, 2024
Does not include alcohol.
Not valid with any other offer.

160 26th St NE, Owatonna
507-413-0819
www.plazamorena.com

623 BAR AND GRILL
EST. 2003

MEAT RAFFLES Sundays at 4PM
BINGO Tuesdays at 6PM

Dennison Lions Club Charitable Gambling Permit #2762

E-TABS. PULL TABS EVERYDAY!
FOOD SPECIALS!

BROASTER CHICKEN

Watch Our Facebook Page for Updates!
- ON/OFF SALE -

Closed Mondays
Tuesday-Friday: Bar 4pm-Close; Kitchen 4-8pm
BEGINNING MAY 3rd: OPEN FRIDAYS AT 11am
Saturday: Bar 11am-Close; Kitchen 11am-9pm
Sunday: Bar 1-9pm • Kitchen 1-8pm
Main Street, Dennison • Phone 507-782-9061

Take a Short Drive
to Delicious

The Fireside
Celebrating 20 Years of
Amazing Family Hospitality

SUNDAY SUPPER IS BACK!

DAILY FEATURES
WEDNESDAY Enjoy Our Jumbo Wings Specials!
BBQ Rib Dinner - 1/2 or Full Rack (begins at 4:00pm)
THURSDAY \$3.50 All Taps, Domestic Bottles, Rail Drinks!
Taco Specials! Fajita Specials! 16oz. Margarita Special
FINALLY FRIDAY All You Can Eat Fish Dinner
SATURDAY Hand Battered Jumbo Shrimp or Slow Roasted Prime Rib
SUNDAY Enjoy Our Sunday Breakfast Beginning at 9am.
and Sunday Pasta Features

37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN
Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 AM-8:30 PM
Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM-9:30 PM; Sunday 9:00 AM-6:00 PM
Bar Open Later
RESERVATIONS STRONGLY SUGGESTED. CALL 507-645-9992.
www.firesidelounge.net

Center Restaurant
30 Main Street
Dodge Center, MN 55927

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Generous portions, friendly service and
delicious homestyle cooking anytime!

10% OFF With this ad
Good Monday-Friday Expires May 31, 2024.

TRY OUR DAILY SPECIALS! BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY!

Hours: Sunday-Thursday 7am-3pm
Friday-Saturday 7am-8pm
507-633-3333

House Smoked
BBQ Food,
Cold Drinks
and
LIVE MUSIC!

Watch our Facebook Page Daily
Specials & Weekend Entertainment!

Check Out Our Website!
RBAR-RANDOLPH.BIZ
Great Way to Keep Up on All Our Live Events!

THE R BAR

4354 292nd St E, Randolph
507-646-0107
rbar.randolph@gmail.com
Monday 3:00pm-9:00pm
Tuesday-Thursday 11:00am-11:00pm
Friday & Saturday 11:00am-1:00am
Sunday 11:00am-9:00pm

AREA DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Eat, Drink,
Gather!

TAMMY'S PLACE
Restaurant & Bar
Kasson, MN

DRINKS • APPETIZERS
SANDWICHES • BURGERS
SALADS • WRAPS • DESSERTS

DAILY SPECIALS

Closed Monday; Tuesday-Thursday 11am-9pm; Friday-Saturday 11am-10pm
Sunday 11am-8pm
111 West Main Street, Kasson, MN
507-634-3133

SANDWICHES • BURGERS
BBQ

THE SMOKIN' SILVERBACK

1832 South Cedar Owatonna MN
507-214-0701
Monday-Thursday 11am-9pm
Friday-Saturday 11am-10pm
Sunday 11am-7pm

Great Food • Strong Coffee
Daily Lunch Specials • Delicious Desserts

Area 57 COFFEE & CAFE

Where Good Coffee and Good Friends Meet!

M-F 7:30am to 7:30pm
Sat. 7am to 2pm; Closed Sundays
125 Main Street, Waukegan, MN
507-824-2969

TOREY'S
Restaurant & Bar

TOREY'S IS ENHANCING YOUR DINING EXPERIENCE
Come check out our expanded menu,
extensive drink selection and new renovations.

MONDAY-TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY 11:00AM-8:00PM
FRIDAY 11:00AM-9:00PM • SATURDAY 3:00PM-9:00PM • SUNDAY CLOSED

TOREYS.NET

BOOK YOUR SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS
Banquet Hall, Seating Up to 300
Full Bar • Full Restroom Facilities • Complete Catering Services
208 North Cedar, Owatonna
507-455-9260

East Wind 東風 Buffet

15% OFF
Wednesday, Thursday
with ad

10% OFF
Friday, Saturday, Sunday
with ad

MENU OR BUFFET

Hours:
Monday: 11am-10pm
Tuesday: Closed
Wed.-Sun.: 11am-10pm

Cannot be used with other offers.
507-451-9666
1015 W. Frontage Rd., Suite 103, Owatonna • South of Lowe's
Dine In Only • Expires May 31, 2024

TAMMY'S PLACE
Restaurant & Bar
Kasson, MN

DRINKS • APPETIZERS
SANDWICHES • BURGERS
SALADS • WRAPS • DESSERTS

DAILY SPECIALS

Closed Mon.; Tues-Thur 11am-9pm; Fri-Sat 11am-10pm
Sun 11am-8pm
111 West Main Street, Kasson, MN
507-634-3133

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

BURGERS
ESPRESSO
HOTDISH
ICE CREAM

Try our daily specials!

ANGIE'S Restaurant

635 2nd Street, Kenyon
Hours:
Tues.-Sat. 7am to 8pm
Sunday 8am to 1pm
Closed Mondays
507-789-1100

Olivia's FAMILY RESTAURANT

Family Fare at Great Prices

Breakfast
Daily Specials
Weekend Breakfast
Buffet

10% OFF with this ad
Good Monday-Friday. One coupon per meal.
Expires May 31, 2024

Hours: Sunday-Wednesday 6:00am-3:00pm
Thursday-Saturday 6:00am-8:00pm
1160 Frontage Road, Owatonna • 507-444-4000

Minnesota State Park Summer Tours Now Taking Reservations

By Minnesota DNR

This summer, Minnesota state parks will offer tours introducing visitors to the Iron Ranges' mining history, prairie life, and the longest cave in the state.

Reservations are now available for tours at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine, Blue Mounds, and Forestville/Mystery Cave state parks. Schedules and reservation information are available on the state park tours webpage of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website.

Returning in 2024: Soudan Underground Mine tours at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park

Minnesota has been a powerhouse in the production of iron ore starting with the state's first iron ore mine, the Soudan Mine, which opened in 1882 and operated until 1962. Underground mine tours will return in May after being closed the last two years due to an extensive restoration project. The mine shaft restoration was completed in December 2023 and new interpretive exhibits are coming to the visitor center in April. In addition, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the installation of the mine shaft hoist in the engine house.

"The Soudan Mine is a living memorial that honors all who immigrated to the Iron Ranges

of Minnesota to seek a better life for themselves," said Sarah Guy-Levar, interpretive services supervisor at the park. "We are eager to share the major improvements with our visitors and help people fully immerse themselves in the authentic experience of an underground miner."

The Soudan Underground Mine offers historic tours where visitors travel 2,341 feet — nearly one-half mile — underground by cage on authentic, expertly maintained hoisting equipment. Once underground, participants board a train and ride nearly a mile to the last and deepest area of the mine. On the tour, visitors hear true stories of the miners and learn firsthand about the working conditions that made this underground iron mine the safest of all the Iron Range mines.

Historic tours run daily from Memorial Day weekend through the end of September. In October, tours are offered on weekends through the third weekend of the month. Mine tours are fully accessible. Reservations are highly recommended as tours frequently sell out.

Prairie and bison tours at Blue Mounds State Park

Blue Mounds State Park, in the state's far southwest corner, offers a 90-minute bus tour into a vast prairie that might include the sighting of the park's massive bison herd. These powerful wild animals can be elusive, so there's no guarantee of seeing one. However, prairie life — such as grasses, prairie flowers and other wildlife — can easily be seen on the tour.

"The bison's story of resilience shows us just how powerful the prairie can be," said Tiffany Muellner, interpretive naturalist at Blue Mounds State Park. "Taking the tour is

a great way to experience some of that story and discover how the prairie is so much more than grass."

Tour reservations are required. Prairie and bison tours run Thursday through Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and weekends from mid-September to mid-October. The tour bus is equipped with a lift and can accommodate one wheelchair per tour.

Mystery Cave tours at Mystery Cave at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park

Covering 13 miles, Mystery Cave is Minnesota's longest cave. Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park offers a variety of tours through the cave, including the one-hour lantern tour, the one-hour scenic tour, the two-hour geology tour, and the four-hour wild caving tour. Each tour takes visitors to different areas of the cave and showcases stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone, fossils, and cave pools.

"Mystery Cave is unique because of its interconnectedness to so many wonderful things," Cave Manager Dawn Ryan said. "When visitors leave the surface and go underground into Mystery Cave, they quickly discover the cave is its own environment defined by water. Everywhere you look, water is dripping, flowing or pooling. Water flowing through the cave contributes to the beautiful cave formations and provides habitat for rare cave life."

One-hour scenic tours begin May 11 and run through Oct. 20, and are offered multiple times daily. These tours are fully accessible. Reservations are recommended, but walk-ins will be accommodated based on availability. The 12:20 p.m. and 3:20 p.m. tours on weekends are not reservable and are for walk-ins only.



The lantern, geology and wild caving tours are offered on weekends only, and reservations are required. Participants in these tours should read the cave tour webpage for details about age restrictions, footwear requirements, and conditions that participants will encounter. Lantern and geology tours are available from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Wild caving tours run from June 1 to Aug. 24.

State park vehicle permits

A state parks vehicle permit is not needed for the parking area at the visitor center at Soudan Underground Mine or the Stuntz Bay parking lots; visitors will need a vehicle permit to enter other areas of the park, including the campground.

Tour participants at Blue Mounds and Forestville/Mystery Cave state parks will need a vehicle permit to drive into the park for their tour.

The permit cost is \$7 per day, or \$35 per year for unlimited visits to all state parks and recreation areas. Vehicle permits can be purchased on the state parks permit webpage or in person during open hours at state park ranger stations.

RIVER COUNTRY COOPERATIVE



"Established 1935"

Fertilizer • Seed
Soil Sampling • Chemicals
Custom Application
Field Scouting
Bulk, LP,
Gas and Diesel Fuel

Kenyon
507-789-6201

Randolph
800-657-3285

Hastings
800-349-5743

Hampton
800-225-4316

We've Got Your Family's Back

Personalized insurance solutions
to protect your family's future
and security, no matter what.



www.vsgmi.com

COMMUNITY GROWN
INSURANCE
...you're covered!



Trust in Tomorrow.

Castle Rock Agency

27925 Danville Avenue
Castle Rock, MN
Phone: 651-463-7590
Email: michelle.keisler@castlerockbank.net

Nelson Agency

119 4th Street
Cannon Falls, MN
Phone: 507-263-3812
Email: info@nelsoninsurancecf.com

Freeberg Agency

100 4th Street North
Cannon Falls, MN
Phone: 507-263-4276
Email: info@freebergs.com

Ins Brokers of Cannon Falls

106 4th Street North
Cannon Falls, MN
Phone: 507-263-5100
Email: vdungan@insurancebrokersmn.com

Northfield Agency

711 Division Street S
Northfield, MN
Phone: 507-645-8861
Email: nfldins@hotmail.com

Haggerty Agency

1206 North Frontage Road
Hastings, MN
Phone: 651-437-5410
Email: service@juliehaggerty.com

Flom Agency

118 4th Street North
Cannon Falls, MN
Phone: 507-263-2020
Email: connie@flomins.com

Free Entrance to Minnesota State Parks on April 27

Minnesotans are encouraged to explore outdoors with friends and family

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 74 state parks and recreation areas on Satur-

day, April 27.

This "Free Park Day" is one of four days each year on which the DNR waives the requirement for a vehicle permit at state parks and recreation areas. The four fee-free days are spread out over the year, giving folks an opportunity to visit a state park for free in each season of the year.

"Minnesota state parks and recreation areas are great places to make memories with loved ones," said Ann Pierce, director of the DNR Parks and Trails Division. "Spring is an ideal time to reconnect with the natural world and enjoy the beauty of Minnesota's state parks and recreation areas. I encourage visitors to look for signs of spring like early-blooming wildflowers, migrating birds, and the opening of green leaves on trees. Our



goal is for those who visit on Free Park Day to be inspired to come back again soon."

Each spring, Free Park Day is held on the Saturday after Earth Day. Earth Day is a great time to remind visitors to always recreate responsibly to protect natural resources. For example:

Spring is a time of increased wildlife activity; respect wildlife by observing from a distance.

Please stay on trails when hiking or biking to avoid erosion and damage to sensitive plants and wildlife habitat.

Love the blooming spring wildflowers? Resist the urge to pick – take a photo instead. Leave flowers, rocks and other natural objects as they were found.

Interpretive naturalists at some park locations have planned programming for the Free Park Day. There is no cost to participate in these events. Find more details about these highlighted events or see the full state park events calendar online.

The DNR recommends visitors wear clothing appropriate for the weather and bring water and snacks. Spring brings a variety of weather conditions, and trails could be muddy. Check for updates in the visitor alerts on park websites.

While a vehicle permit is not needed for park admission on Free Park Days, additional fees for things like camping reservations and equipment rentals still apply.



DENNISON MEAT LOCKER
Owned and Operated by Dori Gregory Since 2001

Dennison Meat Locker Provides Quality Custom Meat Processing Services to the Community

WE ALSO OFFER RETAIL SAUSAGE, STEAKS, HAMBURGER AND OTHER MEAT PRODUCTS

- Pork • Beef • Poultry • Lamb • Venison
- Whole Roasted Hogs • Elk • Homemade Smoked Sausage

109 Farm Road, Dennison, MN • Monday-Friday 8a.m.-5p.m.; Saturday 8a.m.-2p.m.
www.dennisonmeatlocker.com • dennisonmeats@gmail.com • 507-645-8734

From start to finish, we do the entire project.

Kitchens • Living Rooms
Fireplaces • Floors
Closets • Bathrooms
New Projects • Remodels
Barns • Roofs
Siding • Garages
Pole Sheds



Wood Doc Construction
Emery and John Maher
507-271-4200
www.wooddocconstruction.com
Dennison, MN
Lic. #BC628191

Vintage Road Trip!
Th, Fri, Sat • May 9, 10, 11
10am-5pm

GRAB YOUR GAL PALS and HIT THE ROAD!
"Road Trip" through the beautiful countryside and see the cool barns and unique shops that contain the treasures you've been looking for!

YOUR DESTINATIONS:

Hoopla JUNK
15251 Old Childrens Home Rd, Vasa 55089

Crabby Wren
17857 Cannon City Blvd, Faribault 55021

WHITE BARN Boutique
3175 122nd St W, Faribault 55021

Wool & Vintage Market
3435 Lonsdale Blvd E, Northfield 55057

Potpourri Mill
Log Cabin Crafts & Antiques
2290 County 49 Blvd, Dennison 55018

The Junk Monkey
Antiques • Home Decor • Cool Junk
sale hrs: thsf 12-5, sat. 11-3
32 4th St. NW, Faribault 55021

Weathered & Worn Vintage Market
sale hrs: th, f, sat. 9-5
13720 240th St E, Miesville 55009

MAP NOT TO SCALE



Shop unique one-of-a-kind gift ideas for Mother's Day Sunday, May 12!

Local Government

The Hampton City Council met on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at the Hampton City Hall for a public hearing and the regular scheduled meeting. Present were Mayor John Knetter; Council Members Jerry Huddleston, Anthony Verch, and Nick Russell. Also present was Brad Fisher with Bolton and Menk; Chris Meyer, City Treasurer; Ed Gergen, Dale Radman, and Jeremy Swenson with Midco.

Public Hearing Called to Order – The purpose of the public hearing was to consider an Application for a Variance for a 1,200 square-foot garage for Dale Radman of 23445 Hampton Boulevard. Mayor Knetter called the public hearing to order at 6:58 pm. There were no members of the public in attendance having an interest in this matter, other than Mr. Radman.

Adjournment – Motion by Verch seconded by Russell to close the public hearing. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0. The public hearing closed at 6:59 p.m.

Mayor Knetter acknowledged a Dakota County Deputy in attendance at the meeting and asked him if he had anything to report. The Deputy introduced himself as Josh. He stated that there continues to be a problem with thefts from vehicles and reminded everyone to lock their vehicles and to keep valuables out of sight. Additionally, there has been an increase in crisis calls.

Regular Meeting called to Order - Mayor Knetter called the Regular Scheduled Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Mayor John Knetter; Council Members Jerry Huddleston, Anthony Verch, and Nick Russell.

Disclosure of Interest – Mayor Knetter mentioned that he is a member of the Randolph/Hampton Fire Department and that Fire Department business will be discussed today.

Approval of February 13, 2024 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes – Motion by Verch seconded by Russell to approve the February 13, 2024 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Approval of Disbursements – Motion by Verch seconded by Russell to approve the March disbursements. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Public Comment – None
Petitions, Requests, and Communications:

2023 City of Hampton Financial Statements – Chris Meyer - Meyer stated that the 2023 City of Hampton Financial Statements must be prepared within 45 days after the close of the fiscal year. They also must be available for public review and provided to Council members within the 45 days, per State Auditor requirements. He mentioned that the Office of the State Auditor requires that financial statements be filed with them within 90 days of the close of the calendar year. 2023 financial highlights include:

- A year-end cash balance of \$1,142,839. The large cash balance is mainly due to:
- January bond payments
- Tax payments from Dakota County and local government aid from the State of Minnesota received in December, including a new aid payment, Public Safety Aid, in the amount of \$32,426.
- Funding needed for the 2024 Pavement Maintenance Project.

- Water Fund had an operating income of \$16,364, mainly due to:
- An increase in water rates
- Lower costs for water main breaks
- Sewer Fund had operating income of \$12,400, mainly due to bulk sewage dumping revenue.
- Total outstanding debt for 3 bond series is \$2,912,000:
- Series 2012A (Main-Lincoln) = \$205,000; matures 02/01/2028
- Series 2015A (City Hall-238th) = \$1,035,000; matures 02/01/2038
- Series 2019A (Belmont-Park-Main) = \$1,672,000; matures 02/01/2040

2023 Internal Audit – Chris Meyer – Meyer provided an overview of the internal audit process. Mayor Knetter stated that he feels this is a very worthwhile thing for Councilors to participate in, as it provides a lot of insight into what the Treasurer and Clerk do regarding City financial matters. He asked for a volunteer for the 2023 internal audit. Jerry Huddleston said he would participate in the audit this year.

Jane Kansier, AICP, City Senior Planner and Jenni Faulkner, City Senior Planner – Memorandum regarding Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Rezoning, and Preliminary/Final Plat Applications for Future Water Tower Site (Lincoln Street and Caneff Road) – Brad Fisher, of Bolton & Menk was present to summarize the information included in the memo and to answer any questions. He stated that this is regarding the property acquisition piece of the Water Tower Replacement Project, which requires an amendment to the Comp Plan re-designating the property from Agricultural to Commercial, an amendment to the City of Hampton Zoning Map rezoning the property from Agricultural to Arterial Commercial, and a preliminary and final plat to be known as the Hampton Water Tower Site, creating one lot for the future water tower.

Midco plan to provide internet service to rural areas near Hampton – Jeremy Swenson with Midco – Swenson distributed marketing information to Council Members and summarized how Midco is making improvements to its towers to increase internet speed and coverage area for rural areas.

City computer support services – Mayor Knetter – Knetter stated that he should be receiving quotes in the next 2 to 3 weeks and will bring to the April Council meeting.

Randolph-Hampton Fire Department Pension Contribution – Greg Endres, Randolph-Hampton Fire Department member was in attendance to present the request regarding the pension change. Endres stated that the request is for the pension payment for firefighters be increased from \$2,350 to \$2,800 per year of service. Mayor Knetter asked Councilors if they had any questions. Councilor Russell said he needed further clarification. Knetter stated that funding levels for volunteer fire departments are set by state statutes, whereby the Relief Associations are to set funding at levels that will pay for 100% of future spending needs. When there is a projected shortfall in funding, pension contributions need to increase. Motion by Verch seconded by Huddleston to approve the change in the allocation per year of service. All voted in favor, with Mayor Knetter abstaining from voting. None opposed. Mo-

tion passed 3:0.

Request to discuss turning rental property into units available for sale – Ed Gergen – Gergen stated that he owns the apartment building on Main St. that is called Hampton 7. He mentioned that he had purchased the building from Bryan Skillestad a few years ago, and other facts about his acquisition of the property. He had been asked by at least one of his tenants if they could purchase their apartment, rather than renting, so he decided to discuss with the City whether or not he could sell the apartments to interested parties, and what would need to be done to make that happen. Discussion. Mayor Knetter stated that he wouldn't be opposed to the idea of the apartments being sold, but that more information would be needed in order to go forward with the request.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees:

Engineer Report – Brad Fisher, of Bolton & Menk, summarized recent updates in regard to the Water Tower Replacement Project. He stated that, in March of 2023, an application was submitted to place the project on the Public Facilities Authority (PFA) Drinking Water Revolving Fund's (DWRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP). In order to keep the project eligible for PFA low-interest funding, the City Council needs to pass a resolution of application to the PFA DWRF for the estimated amount of the loan. Fisher reminded Council that this does not lock the City in to the loan at this time. It just keeps the option of the loan open. Mayor Knetter stated that Chris Meyer, City Treasurer, recently learned that, if the City does obtain a loan from the PFA DWRF, an annual external audit would be required to be done by a third-party accounting firm. After learning that, both Knetter and Meyer had requested cost information from other cities and townships that are required to have an annual external audit. It was found that the interest savings on the PFA DWRF would be exceeded by the cost of the external audits. Additionally, the external audits would require a great deal of extra work to be done by the City's Clerk and Treasurer. So, it was recommended by Knetter to deny moving forward with pursuing the PFA DWRF loan funding. Motion by Knetter seconded by Huddleston to deny moving forward with pursuing the PFA DWRF loan funding. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Jenni Faulkner, City Planner and TJ Hofer, City Planner II, memorandum regarding Variance Application for 23445 Hampton Boulevard – Brad Fisher – Fisher summarized the information contained in the Variance Application memorandum, included in meeting packets. He stated that the lot located at 23445 Hampton Blvd. is a double frontage lot—just under 18,000 square feet. Per City Ordinance, the maximum square footage allowed for accessory structures is 1,000 square feet. So, the proposed structure does not comply with standards for accessory structure size, but does meet all other Zoning Ordinance requirements. It is the recommendation of the Planner to look at amending the City Ordinance to allow square footage for accessory structures based on lot size (i.e. greater of

1,000 square feet or a percentage of lot size). Mayor Knetter stated that he is in favor of reviewing and amending the ordinance, but he would like a decision to be made on the Variance Application at this evening's meeting. He continued that this is a unique property because of its location and shape of the lot. Additionally, he stated that Council has made concessions in the past regarding the size of accessory buildings in other parts of the City. Discussion continued regarding how the Ordinance should be changed.

Water / Sewer Report – Mayor Knetter reported that the City may need to purchase a new meter for fluoride testing. He has been working on calibrations, but the meter still is off a little bit. Also, he is still working on the new Wastewater Treatment Facility permit and the Phosphorus Management Plan that is a requirement of the permit.

Park Report – Councilor Russell said he has no updates.

Street Report – Mayor Knetter stated that things are on schedule for the 2024 Pavement Maintenance Project.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

Resolution 2024-04 – Approving an amendment to the City of Hampton Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map – Motion by Huddleston seconded by Verch to approve the amendment to the City of Hampton Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Ordinance 1133 – Amending Section 152.016 of the Hampton Code of Ordinances related to the Official Zoning Map for the City of Hampton - Motion by Verch seconded by Huddleston to amend Section 152.016 of the Hampton Code of Ordinances related to the Official Zoning Map for the City of Hampton. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Resolution 2024-05 – Approving the preliminary and final plat to be known as Hampton Water Tower Site - Motion by Huddleston seconded by Russell to approve the preliminary and final plat to be known as Hampton Water Tower site. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Resolution 2024-06 – Approving application to the Public Facility Authority (PFA) Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF) – This was covered under the Engineer's Report. The resolution was denied.

Unfinished Business:

Building cleaning service – No updates. Will be on the April City Council meeting agenda.

New Business:

Application for variance to build a new garage next to an existing garage on the property – Dale Radman, 23445 Hampton Blvd. (Planning Commission recommended that Council approve this request.) – Additional discussion about the lot size and unique shape, that approving the variance will not be detrimental to the neighborhood, and that several other residents have been allowed to exceed the maximum square footage of accessory buildings in the past. No formal resolution was included in meeting packets, but a resolution is needed to approve the variance application. Jenni Faulkner, City Planner, will be preparing the formal resolution to be approved.

(continued on page 17)

Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol



Question: I know it has been extremely dry but with the anticipation of "April showers" can you talk about hydroplaning?

Answer: At speeds of 35 mph or less, most tires will

"wipe" water off the road surface to keep tires in contact with the road. At higher speeds, water can collect under tires and lift them off the surface of the road — this is called "hydroplaning."

When your tires hydroplane, they lose all contact with the road. If this occurs, you will be unable to brake, accelerate, or change direction. If your tires begin to hydroplane, take your foot off the gas pedal.

Hydroplaning is less likely to occur at normal highway speeds if your vehicle is equipped with good tires that have deep treads, which will allow water to escape. But hydroplaning can occur at any speed if the depth of the water on the road is greater than

the depth of the tire treads. In heavy rain, standard cars may begin to hydroplane at 35 mph.

To prevent hydroplaning, keep your tires in good condition and reduce speed when driving on wet roads.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and of course, 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 Trp. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us.

Hampton City Council Meeting (continued from page 16)

Motion by Verch seconded by Huddleston to approve a resolution (which will be Resolution 2024-07) approving the application for variance to build a new garage next to an existing garage on the property for Dale Radman, 23445 Hampton Blvd. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Adjournment - Motion by Verch seconded by Russell to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy O'Brien

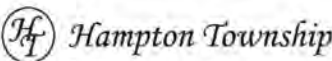
HAMPTON TOWNSHIP CHLORIDE PROGRAM

Hampton Township is once again offering residents who live on township gravel roads the opportunity to participate in a cost-sharing program for dust control. Please click here for the chloride form.

The deadline to return the form with payment:
Wednesday May 8, 2024

Please send form with payment to:
Hampton Township
P.O. Box 154
Hampton, MN 55031
Check payable to: Hampton Township

Any questions call Molly at: 651-437-4500



HAMPTON TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS
EMAIL ADDRESS: clerk@hamptontwp.com

Hampton Township is offering all residents who live on a township gravel road the opportunity to participate in a cost sharing dust control program. The township will arrange to have chloride applied to the portion of roadway in front of the resident's house in late spring/early summer, and pay for approximately half the cost of the chloride application, up to a maximum roadway length of 400 feet. The resident will be required to pay a fee of \$35 per 100 feet. Residents requesting more than 400 feet of chloride application will be responsible to pay \$140 for the first 400 feet and 100% of the cost for additional footage which is \$70 per 100 feet.

Please note that Hampton Township reserves the right to maintain the road whenever needed to accommodate the traveling public.

Please submit your check to Hampton Township no later than Wednesday May 8, 2024 if you are interested in the program.

Please make check payable to: Hampton Township

Mail your check and completed application form to:
Hampton Township
P.O. Box 154
Hampton, MN 55031

TO ENSURE CORRECT APPLICATION, THE RESIDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

1. Mark footage start & stop with highly visible stakes by Friday May 24, 2024
2. Have residence clearly marked with correct street address number

Please cut on line and send in with check.

Application for 2024 Dust Control Program

Name of Applicant _____
Street Address _____
Phone Number _____
(by providing your phone number you are giving permission to share it with the applicator in case they have questions)

I request to have liquid Chloride applied 18 feet by

____ 300 feet (\$105.00 for resident) ____ 400 feet (\$140.00 for resident) ____ Stated Amount (\$70.00 per 100 ft over 400 ft)

TOTAL DUE BY RESIDENT _____ Date Paid _____
TOTAL DUE BY TOWNSHIP _____ Check # _____

I understand that Hampton Township reserves the right to maintain the road whenever it seems necessary for the convenience/comfort of the traveling public.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Cruise Control on Wet Roads

The spring and summer seasons can have their share of heavy rains and thunderstorms. Using cruise control on wet or slippery roads could send you on a cruise – straight into the ditch or oncoming traffic!

With dry road conditions, cruise control helps you safely monitor your speed, stay within the speed limit and improve driving comfort on long, fairly straight stretches of road. It should be used only when you are able to drive at a steady speed with safe road conditions.

On wet roads, if your wheels lose traction, the cruise control will continue to accelerate, causing the vehicle to skid. By the time you realize you are skidding, it could be too late.

When deciding if you should set your cruise control:

- Ask yourself if it's safe to travel the speed limit. If not, it isn't safe to set your cruise.
- Is there limited visibility? If it's foggy or raining and your range of visibility is significantly reduced, play it safe. Don't set your cruise.
- Is traffic moving smoothly? If it's stop-and-go, or there's heavy traffic around you, it's not safe to use cruise.

Remember that using your cruise control can be an advantage when driving long distances, but you are your vehicle's best safety feature.



April 27 & May 24

RUSS FRANEK
& THE BISCUITS



May 3

MIKE SHERWOOD



May 11

BRYAN ANDERSON



Watch Our Facebook Page for Updates!

- ON/OFF SALE -

Closed Mondays; Tuesday-Friday; Bar 4pm-Close; Kitchen 4-8pm

BEGINNING MAY 3rd: OPEN FRIDAYS AT 11am

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

Kitchen 1-8pm

Main Street, Dennison • 507-782-9061

*Changes in Latitudes,
Changes in Attitudes*
**Rock and Roll
Hotel**



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.

We like going to rock concerts. One of our favorite bands is the southern rock group, Blackberry Smoke. Always a great show every time we see them and we are willing to travel see them perform. So, when my wife got tickets to see Charlie and Benji doing an acoustic two man show in Decatur, Alabama I was ready to go.

The Princess theater was a four-hour drive from our home in Tennessee, so we figured an overnight trip was in order. Driving back in the middle of the night after a show is not fun anymore. She booked a hotel overlooking the Tennessee River, the same river that our home in Tennessee is on. I am a farm boy and she is a city girl. Hence a room on the fifth floor seems like a great idea to her but not so much to me. A great view is not as important as keeping my feet on the ground.

When we checked in at the front desk a couple came in behind us. She was young, excited all and caught up in the moment. Her boyfriend was Benji Shank's brother and they were opening for the band that night. And here were fans coming to see the show and her exuberance could hardly be contained. Her boyfriend gave her the look like she was a bad dog. Maintain your composure and don't interact with the common folk. She suddenly looked a little downcast. After I saw their performance, I thought he should have let her have her 15 minutes. They were a long

way from the level of talent required for anyone to notice or remember them.

We ate at the Magic Mushroom pizza restaurant just around the corner from the theater, saw a great show and headed back to the hotel. That is where the events got a little weird. At 2am I was jolted out of a sound sleep. And nothing to do with mushrooms, either.

I woke up to a strange popping sound and then smelled smoke. I sat up and looked at the cabinet where the television was mounted and saw smoke rolling out of the door. I looked at the hotel room door and realized it was partially open. My next epiphany was that my wife wasn't there. I am sitting on the edge of a bed in a hotel room, alone on the fifth floor with windows that I already knew wouldn't open. There was a burning smell, smoke rolling out of the credenza in front of me and still an occasional popping sound. The door was propped open and my wife was nowhere to be found. My mind processed the information and analyzed that she wouldn't have fled a fire without waking me up. I hoped anyway. I opened the cabinet door to find a microwave complete with a microwave popcorn package inside way past the two minutes necessary to pop the popcorn properly. In fact, it was just about to the point where it would set a hotel room on fire.

Now I have been able to wake up out of a deep sleep to run out and chase cattle in the middle of the night. But this event was giving my brain a while to process. At the moment none of it made any sense. Fortunately, at this point my wife walked back in the door to explain the circumstances I was witness to. She wanted a snack in the middle of the night and started the popcorn, when she realized we had no drinks in the hotel room so she headed out the door to the vending machine around the corner which turned out to not be operating so she took the elevator down to the next floor to find a soda, and at that time not realizing that the microwave had been set to twenty minutes instead of two. Since hotel rooms always smell pretty funky anyway, the burned popcorn was kind of an improvement. It didn't set off the smoke alarm so we were able to resolve the incident without anymore excitement. The popcorn was beyond edible, but there was still the leftover pizza.



Benji & Charlie

**A Minnesotan:
Matters of
Turkeys and
Armadillos**



By RosaLin Alcoser

Over the years I have discussed geese, ducks and of course goats. However, what I have yet to discuss are turkeys.

My current neighborhood has a roaming gang of wild turkeys that has at least ten members. Which I go to great lengths to avoid as they are wild turkeys. With good cause too as I once watched them chase a college student down the street. As I watched from my living room window it got me thinking about two encounters that I've had with wild turkeys. Except mine were both out in rural Minnesota rather than being chased down a Twin Cities suburban street.

My first encounter was when I was about

five or six years old. I had gone with my father to the farm of one of his church members at the time. This particular member did not keep a dog but still needed something to keep wild animals out of his chickens. So he kept an attack turkey.

This attack turkey was a big old Tom that was roughly the same size that I was at the time. And this turkey did his job well and pretty much attacked anything that it saw. Including me.

Well that big old Tom came running at me and I ran as fast as my little legs could carry me until it was called off. It felt like I had been chased forever. In reality it probably only chased me for all of one to two minutes but it felt like forever.

About 10 years later I had my second encounter with a wild turkey. I was walking outside with my mother and sister when I saw something stirring in the brush out of the corner of my eye. Then suddenly it moved and like any logical person would do I screamed "Armadillo!" Well the screaming caused it to fly up into the air right in front of me. To which I screamed again "Flying armadillo!"

Of course as this is Minnesota and not the South it was in fact not an armadillo nor can armadillos of any kind fly. As you might have already guessed it was in fact a turkey. More especially it was a mother hen who thought I was after her nest and was doing her best to get me to move away from it.



Residential & Multi-Family Contractor

Roofing | Siding | Gutters | Windows



Free Inspections

952.222.4004

www.CapitalMN.com



1. "_____ the land of the free ..."
2. Cold one
3. Peruvian Empire
4. Miss America topper
5. Blood infection
6. Prepare to swallow
7. *Dublin's cultural quarter neighborhood, "Temple _____"
8. Parallelogram, e.g.
9. All excited
10. Spiritual leader
11. Network of nerves
12. Certain something in a tray
15. Rouse
20. Take puppy from a pound
22. *Hamilton: An American Musical" singing style
24. Great _____ Reef
25. *On the Seine
26. Not slouching
27. Arabian chieftain
29. Like Roman god Janus
31. *Also the most populous city in Ukraine
32. More ill
33. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful _____"
34. Annoying tiny biters
36. Arctic jaeger
38. *Located in boot-shaped country
42. Sound of artillery
45. Kind of hickory nut
49. Jack's inferior
51. Like a Grammy nominee
54. Frustration, in print
56. "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush," e.g.
57. Source of veritas
58. Wraths
59. Volcano in Sicily
60. Ground beef description
61. Fairytale giant
62. "All You _____ Is Love"
63. Variable, abbr.
65. Put to work
67. Hog heaven

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.

happy Mother's day

*Happy Mother's Day to all of the compassionate women
who give love unconditionally.*

COMMUNITY BANKING FOR INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Home Equity Loans | • Checking Accounts | • Mobile App |
| • Car Loans | • Mortgages | • Local Decision Making |
| • Construction Loans | • Savings Accounts | • Competitive Rates |
| • IRAs & CDs | • Real Time Online Banking | |

RANDOLPH
507.403.2777

CASTLE ROCK
651.463.7590

FARMINGTON
651.463.4014

You know us. We know you.



CASTLE ROCK BANK

HOURS: 7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM WEEKDAYS

www.castlerockbank.net

