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JUNE 12, 2024

Volume 17 • Issue 6

Announcements

• **OPEN INVITATION:** All are welcome to breakfast, fellowship, bible study, and prayer time every Saturday morning at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon. Breakfast and fellowship start at 8:00 am. Followed by a verse by verse bible study. Finishing with prayer time at 10:00 am. All are welcome (men, women, and children) each Saturday morning!! Any questions, please contact Loren Bauer: 507-450-6623.

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

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

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

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

Aspelund Peony Gardens

By Cheri Roshon

One of the things I like to do is take drives around the land surrounding Wanamingo, and not only take in the beauty of the landscapes, but learn things about the people who live here. On one of my day trips, I saw a sign that said Aspelund Winery, and being a

woman who enjoys her wine, I pulled in the driveway. The land was so beautiful, with the fruit trees, and landscaping using all kinds of interesting plants, but nobody was home. I looked around for a moment, just enjoying the peaceful setting, and went on my way.

(continued on page 7)

Shane Martin Band to Perform at Dennison Days June 21 & 22



The Dennison Lions Club, organizers of the annual Dennison Days town festival announced late last year that the date for the 2024 festival will move from the first weekend of August to June 21 & 22, 2024.

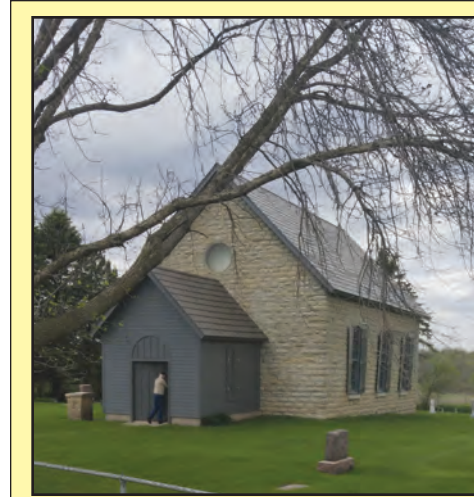
Event organizers stated the reason for the

change is the fact that there are so many more events competing with the August date than there used to be.

(continued on page 6)



Bruce and Dawn Rohl



Hauge Old Stone Church History

By Cheri Roshon

The Kenyon/Wanamingo area has such a lot of history surrounding it that I have decided to bring some of it to you, my readers. I hope you will enjoy some of the topics I choose to bring to light! One of my readers told me last week that she knows more about the people and businesses in Wanamingo than she ever knew in all her lifetime of living here since I began writing over a year ago, and that made me happy!

(continued on page 5)

Kenyon Fire Department Open House Saturday, June 22nd

The Kenyon Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a couple fundraisers this summer to raise funds for a new tender truck.

(continued on page 14)

Spring is in Full Swing

By Natalie Jacobson

Kenyon Country Club, a beautiful sixty-four acre hidden gem.

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Walk In the Light



By Colin Rueter

We continue our journey through 1 John in the section that many Bibles title: "Walking in the Light." John wants to ensure that his readers will know the connection between compete joy and walking in Christ, that is, living in His righteousness and not sin. This is the message that John is sharing, that God is light and we must, therefore, walk in the light if we say we have fellowship with Him. We begin our understanding of God here with this message. John declares this on the simple understanding that God Himself is light; and light has no darkness at all in it; for there to be darkness, there must be an absence of light. A good definition of God is: God is the only infinite, eternal, and unchangeable spirit, the Perfect Being in whom all things begin, and continue, and end (Romans 11:36). Another way of saying that God is perfect is to say that God is light. One commentator stated, "LIGHT is the purest, the most subtle, the most useful, and the most diffusive of all God's creatures; it is, therefore, a very proper emblem of the purity, perfection, and good-

ness of the Divine nature." Therefore, if there is a problem with our fellowship with God, it is our fault, our sin is darkness. It is not the fault of God because there is no sin or darkness in Him at all. Any approach to relationship with God that assumes, or even implies, that God might be wrong, and perhaps must be forgiven by us, is at its root blasphemous and directly contradicts what John clearly states here.

John first deals with a false claim to fel-

lowship. Based on this, we understand that it is possible for some to claim a relationship with God that they do not have. We can also say that it is possible for someone to think they have a relationship with God that they do not have. Many Christians are not aware of their true condition apart from God. They know they are saved, and have experienced conversion and have repented at some time in their life. Yet they do not live in true fellowship with God. Walking in the

light, or darkness, is meant to say there is a pattern of living to be seen. The issue here is fellowship, not salvation. The Christian who temporarily walks in darkness is still saved, but not in fellowship with God. John sees things much more clearly than our sophisticated age does, which doesn't want to see anything in black or white, but everything in a pale shade of gray, flexible based on the individual.

(continued on page 3)

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

— Galatians 6:9

It can be hard not to grow weary of doing good. Physically tired, emotionally and spiritually drained, we might be ready to give up.

The brokenness in our world knows no end. There is always another hungry person to be fed. No sooner is a hospital bed open, and another person fills it. Someone who is healthy today will be sick tomorrow. In a sinful and broken world, there will always be hungry, sick, lonely, imprisoned, or impoverished people. Wars and rumors of wars will always produce refugees. The world's problems will last until Jesus returns. In the meantime, though, we are encouraged, "Do not grow weary of doing good!" And only in God's strength can we continue. We may certainly resign from a committee, leave a specific ministry of mercy, and stop volunteering at a soup kitchen. But we must not grow weary of doing good! If we change ministries, we can still continue to minister in other ways. In the end, as we become people who must be fed, clothed, and visited, our ministry may be reduced to a smile, an encouraging word, or a prayer. And that may be our most effective ministry of all. By God's grace, may we all rejoice to hear the words "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Dear Jesus, sometimes we grow weary and discouraged. Help us, in the power of your Spirit, to press on. Thank you for giving us eternal life and for welcoming us into your kingdom. Amen.

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Walk In the Light

(continued from page 2)

The modern world often thinks in terms of "my truth" in an individualistic sense. John is focused on the reality of God's truth, ultimate truth, absolute truth. The Christian life is de-

scribed as walking, which implies activity. Christian life feeds upon mediation, but is displayed in action. "Walking" implies action, continuity, and progress. Since God is active and walking, if you have fellowship with Him, you will also be active and walking, washed clean by the blood of Jesus (vs 7).

Charles Spurgeon is helpful here, saying, "Does my walking in the light take away my sins? Not at all. I am as much a sinner in the light as in the darkness, if it were possible for me to be in the light without being washed in the blood. Well, but we have fellowship with God, and does not having fellowship with God take away sin? Beloved, do not misunderstand me - no man can have fellowship with God unless sin be taken away; but his

fellowship with God, and his walking in light, does not take away his sin - not at all. The whole process of the removal of sin is here, 'And the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.'" John has introduced the ideas of walking in the light and being cleansed from sin. But he did not for a moment believe that a Christian can become sinlessly perfect.

Therefore, John speaks about confession of sin because Christians will still sin and we must be reminded that since our sins have been forgiven in our repentance, therefore we have fellowship with God Almighty as we confess those sins, knowing they've been paid for and we can be set free from them. When we confess our sin, we are willing to say (and believe) the same thing about our sin that God says about it. Jesus' story about the religious man and the sinner who prayed before God illustrated this; the Pharisee bragged about how righteous he was, while the sinner just said God be merciful to me a sinner (Luke 18:10-14). The one who confessed his sin was the one who agreed with God about how bad he was. So, then confessing sin and walking in the light increases our fellowship with God and with other believers, knowing that we walk can with clarity as we keep his commandments (2:3-6).

So What?

John means to help the follower of Jesus to walk with clarity, joy, and grace which has been given through Jesus. We all go through ups and downs in our Christian faith. Whatever the struggle, whether external or internal, we often feel ourselves on changing

ground of emotion or circumstance. Yet God calls us to lives of increasing consistency, stability, with the evidence of our inner transformation becoming more and more apparent as time passes. This occurs when we place complete trust in the work and grace of God, believing that He will certainly conform us to the image of His Son, Jesus. So often, people think Jesus is off in some faraway place and that He doesn't really concern Himself with our daily struggles, issues, and concerns. But John is telling us that Jesus is right here with us in both the simple, mundane parts of our lives and in the complex, soul-wrenching parts. John testifies as a witness of his personal experiences that God became flesh and lived among men to save, redeem, and be worshipped by us. That means Christ came here to live with us and He still lives with us. As He walked the earth alongside John, so does He walk every day with us. We need to apply this truth, this reality, to our lives and live as if Jesus were standing right next to us every second of the day. If we put this truth into practice, Christ will add holiness to our lives, making us more and more like Him and bring Him the glory due His name.

Next month we will walk through Chapter 2, verses 7-14. Until then, brothers and sisters, walk in the grace of Jesus Christ as He has called you to be light to the world! As always, if you have questions, need prayer, a word of encouragement, or a cup of coffee, please contact me via my personal email: niloc1214@gmail.com



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Elaine Hope

Elaine Hope, age 94 of Northfield, passed away peacefully, at her home, on May 13, 2024.



Elaine Ovidia (Remme) Hope was born March 27, 1930, on the family farm in Holden Township, Goodhue County, Minnesota, to Ole E. and Jorgena C. (Nesseth)

Remme. She was raised on the farm, attended country school and graduated from Kenyon High School in 1947.

On June 11, 1948, Elaine married Norman W. Hope at Vang Lutheran Church in rural Kenyon. After marriage they made their home on the Hope family farm at Valley Grove. Elaine and Norman worked together on the farm; raised five children, and were active in 4-H, and Farmers Union. They enjoyed trips each summer to their cabin on the shores of Lake Superior. After their children were grown, Elaine worked for many years at Northrup King in the genetics lab, before retiring.

Elaine was a long-time member of St. John's Lutheran Church, and found great comfort in her faith. She enjoyed gardening; having both a large vegetable garden and beautiful flower gardens at the farm. She always had homemade treats on hand. She loved to travel; fishing in Canada, and camping throughout the western US with her family. After Norman died in 1988; she stayed on the farm and con-

tinued to travel with friends and family to Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, Iceland and Norway. In 2000, Elaine married Tom Hill and moved to rural Medford, Minnesota. When Tom died in 2012, Elaine moved to Northfield, where she lived until her death. Elaine was hardworking, active, funny and social. She cherished spending time with her family; she will be deeply missed.

Survivors include her children Nancy (Kevin) Shannon of Dennison, Peggy Klassen-McKinnon of Faribault, Julie Ward of Lantzville, British Columbia, Susan (Ronald) Erickson of Minneapolis, Eric Hope of Nerstrand; six grandchildren Joseph (Ann) Shannon, Elliott (Carly) Klassen, Martha (T.J.) Muhl, Hanna Ward, Bryan Erickson and Leah Erickson; three great-grandchildren Silas, Micah and Rowan; nieces and nephews; and Jody Lee of Minneapolis who was like a daughter to Elaine. She was preceded in death by her first husband Norman, her second husband Thomas, her sons-in-law Michael Klassen and Gary Ward, her sister Hazel Houglum and her parents.

The family wishes to thank the caregivers that provided Elaine with loving, compassionate care at her home in Northfield.

A celebration of Elaine's life will be held at 2:00 pm, Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield. Coffee, refreshments and an opportunity to visit with the family will be held prior to the service beginning at 12:45 pm in St. John's Hall. Private family interment will take place in Valley Grove Cemetery, rural Nerstrand.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that you consider donating to the Valley Grove Preser-

vation Society or St. John's Lutheran Church. Arrangements are with the Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home. www.northfieldfuneral.com

Marcella June Gaasedelen

Marcella June Gaasedelen, 78, of Kenyon, died Saturday, June 1, 2024 at her home.



She was born on March 12, 1946 in Faribault the daughter of Theodore and Hilda (Shelstad) Helgeson. Marcie graduated from Kenyon High School in 1964. She

married Charles Gaasedelen on November 26, 1966 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenyon. Marcie worked for Security State Bank in Kenyon before attending beauty school. After beauty school, she opened and ran a beauty shop in her home for many years. She also worked part-time at Kenyon Elementary School as an aide.

Marcie was a member of First Evangelical Lutheran Church. She taught Sunday school, made centerpieces and banners, and enjoyed helping the church with decorations. Marcie enjoyed painting, drawing, Norwegian rose-maling, nature and being outdoors. She loved time spent with her family.

She is survived by her daughters, Cheryl (and Brian) Dahl of Kenyon, Stacy (and Jason) Quam of Kenyon; granddaughters,

Siri Quam, Mara Quam, Josi Quam, Mali Quam, Corynne Dahl, Julia Dahl; brother, Steve (and Jenny) Hildebrandt of Cannon Falls; sisters, Linda Hildebrandt of Kenyon, Betty Redfield of Nerstrand; nephews, Brian Redfield, Logan Hildebrandt, Gage Hildebrandt.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Gaasedelen; parents, Theodore Helgeson and Hilda Helgeson Hildebrandt; stepfather, Marvin Hildebrandt; niece Teresa Pittman; brother-in-law, David Redfield.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 2pm at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenyon. Pastor Kris D.H. Ferkin officiated. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service at the church.

Hauge Old Stone Church History

(continued from page 1)

Today's story is the history of Hauge Old Stone Church, located just a few miles out of Kenyon on Monkey Valley Road. I bet there's a good story about how the road got that name, too!

My story begins with Hans Nielson Hauge (1771 to 1824), an itinerant Evangelist who travelled around Norway and brought about a revival in the country. He stressed a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and encouraged lay persons to be involved in the ministry of the gospel. This included giving sermons in the churches, and exhorting folks to live a Christian lifestyle. Because of the state run churches in Norway, Hauge was met with much resistance, and most of the revival meetings took place in the homes of the congregants. As the Norwegian immigrants arrived in America, many gravitated to this area, where they started churches with a Haugean influence. From different synods. If you look around this area, not only will you find Hauge in Kenyon, but other churches started around

the same time. Immigrants also established Holden, Dale, Emmanuel, St. Rose, and others that have been around for a long time. So, let's go back in time.....

On March 20th, 1871, the members of Hauge church decided to purchase land and build a church to attend, instead of meeting in people's homes. Monies began being raised through collections from the offerings during the services, donations, and knowing Norwegians, they probably held bake sales as well, but that is my own conjecture. About 1875, they were ready to begin the task of building the church. There was a nearby limestone quarry that they were able to procure the stones from, and over the years, the church building was completed, but the steeple was never built, due to lack of funding. In 1888, the structure was completed, and services were held there. The decorative painting on the ceiling of the church was signed on October 30th, 1894. Services continued to be held in the Old Stone Church until 1902, when the congregants had a new church built in Kenyon, and discontinued use of the old church.

In 1947, the old church was shingled to protect it, and in the 1950's, Pastor Knudson wanted to keep the old building from being forgotten, and organized volunteers to begin restoring the building and the cemetery. Some families of those buried in the cemetery began mowing paths to the family member's graves. The church was cleaned up and restored for the 100th anniversary of the congregation. The foundation had to be repaired so small animals could no longer live under the building. The walls were stabilized, as

well as the balcony, using cables that can still be seen today. The cemetery was restored, broken windows replaced, and once again, an annual service would be held at the church in the warmth of the summer months, since the old building had neither electricity nor a heat source. This special service was given in Norwegian.

In June of 1976 the Old Stone Church was dedicated as a historical landmark, and evergreens were planted around the cemetery. In 1978, summer services were held in English, but the Norwegian National Anthem was still sung in Norwegian!

In 1998, the roof was re-shingled. From 2004 to 2006 the entire exterior was re-grouted. In 2007, the interior was re-plastered. In 2009, the gravestones were re-set. In 2010, electricity was brought to the entrance, but not within the church. 2015 brought new shutters to all the windows, giving it a homey look. In 2022 a new roof was installed, which included rafters, sheathing and metal "cedar" shingles. 2023 brought about re-siding the entrance, and all the windows were replaced.

A lot of love and elbow grease was given to restoring the old building, and now funds for the maintenance are from the offerings during the summer services, memorials, donations, and the sales of cemetery lots. Members and friends of Hauge Lutheran Church clean it up before the summer services and perform the tasks needed to keep it in good shape. There is a 4 member committee responsible for coordinating the maintenance, managing the finances, and scheduling and approving the use of the church.

In the summer months, you will find Pastor

Larry Grove leading the services on the 4th Sunday of each month, June through September, and weather permitting, maybe one service in October. After each service, a picnic lunch including grilled hot dogs and Pastor Larry's baked beans are served. All are welcome to stay and eat while they visit. I asked Pastor Larry what brought about serving a meal after church, and he replied, "My wife Joan's mother came up with the idea, because many of the parishioners were widows and widowers, and it was sad that after the church service, they would have to go home to eat alone, so why not all eat together?" I asked what Joan's title was in the church, and he laughed and said Social Coordinator!

I then wanted to know what brought Pastor Larry to the ministry. He said Pastor Eric Westlake from Our Saviour's church in Zumbrota once said " 'God equips those He calls'. I have trusted and learned that, so I may serve the congregation". So 2 1/2 years ago, he went with his faith and took classes, and went before a board of about 12 clergy members to answer questions, and he qualified to be the pastor of Hauge Church. He now serves as Pastor with Pastor Loren Bauer as Assistant Pastor, and they write articles on faith in each issue of the Messenger. True to the work of Hans Hauge, they ask parishioners of the church to be involved in the service each Sunday by reading scripture lessons.

The Kenyon church has confirmation classes for 7th and 8th grade members on Wednesday evenings, and confirms the 8th graders upon completion of the course.

(continued on page 6)

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Spring is in Full Swing

(continued from page 1)

Founded in 1926, the grounds and clubhouse have continued to be revisited. It is alive more than ever, as the upcoming spring season started early due to the sunshine, in April of this year. Inside the clubhouse, is what feels cozy and nostalgic, having a friendly welcome/ environment where anyone is there to accommodate your needs. I

spoke with Dawn Berquam, manager of the clubhouse, who has been there for twelve years.

Dawn mentioned the thing she enjoys the most is the interactions with her customers and having a great staff by her side, including her husband James, who is in charge of the grounds.

She says, "People come from all over. Of course, Kenyon but those from Rochester and the metro area. Everywhere! It's nice to see!"

Many host events as well including weddings, baby showers and class reunions. She further explains that, depending on the event, the starting rate is only \$150.00

Not a member? Come visit for the day, you won't regret it, the green hills, old trees, and birds chirping could change your mind. Call ahead for tee times and any questions for you

or your group. Single memberships start at \$300 and family memberships at \$500, this means access to all the grounds, inside the clubhouse to enjoy a cool drink and a cart to cruise around, enjoying the captivating scenery until the season ends in October.

All seven board members, husband, wife

and team, have made sure to make anyone feel welcome, making it the place to relax and get to know others. Any other information is on their website or Facebook page. They are located on Highway 56 on the northeast side of Kenyon.

You can call at 507-789-6307.

Shane Martin Band to Perform at Dennison Days June 21 & 22

(continued from page 1)

Minnesota artist Shane Martin will perform Saturday June 22nd, including his Alabama "Songs of The South" Tribute as part of the evening performance. More information can be found here at www.shanemartin.com. Watch www.dennisondays.org for updates to the schedule.

Other events making a return this year are the Classic Car Show, Truck & Tractor Pull, Bingo, Pancake Breakfast and more.

Anyone with questions or suggestions for events for the 2024 festival should contact Lions Club President Diane Ruddle.

Hauge Old Stone Church History

(continued from page 5)

The members love the traditional services that have continued over the years, and are starting to incorporate more praise and worship into the traditional service with songs to lift the spirits of those present without compromising the word of God.

Pastor Larry wants to invite you all to join in their Sunday worship, whether it be in the

Kenyon church, or on the special Sundays at the Old Stone Church. Hauge is alive and well! If you are unable to get to the service, he wants to say that the sermon itself will be broadcast on KDHL radio at 920 AM on your dial. Tune in for a 15 minute message at 6:45 every Sunday evening.

And now you know the history of the Old Stone Church!

Share Your Good News!
Submit your engagement, wedding or birth announcement.
 Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com





SAVE THE DATE!
 Dennison Days
5K RUN WALK
Dennison, MN
Saturday, June 22, 2024
8:00a.m.

Sign Up Begins at 7:00a.m. in front of Paul's Plumbing
 (North of Dennison Depot Marathon)


Start off Dennison Days on the right foot - literally - by joining others for the Dennison Days 5K Fun Run and Walk. Continue the celebration by inviting all of your family and friends for the day filled with entertaining events and activities for everyone. You can run, walk and roll.

\$30.00
 Entry Fee
 Runners will also get a free pancake breakfast!

MALE & FEMALE WINNERS WILL HAVE NEXT YEAR'S RACE FEE WAIVED!
 For more information and to pre-register: text Ted at 507-301-4314 or e-mail: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com

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21ST ANNUAL DENNISON DAYS
TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL

SATURDAY, JUNE 22ND, 2024
9:00AM SIGN UP
10:00AM START



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CAR CLUB

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- SEATP
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TRACTOR CLASSES:

- CLASSIC: 3,500-11,000 LBS
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- KING OF THE HILL: UP TO 16,000 LBS

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- DIESEL: 8,500 STOCK TURBO & NON-TURBO 8,500 MODIFIED & 8,500 OPEN CLASS
- STREET MOD: 5,500-5,800-6,500 LBS

QUESTIONS OR FOR RULES CALL MIKE B. 651-341-2424, DAVE R. 507-649-0710, THAD S. 507-330-0180
 DENNISON, MN (LOCATED 35 MIN. SOUTH OF ST. PAUL. BETWEEN HWY 52 & I-35)

Aspelund Peony Gardens

(continued from page 1)

Come to find out, the winery was no longer operating, but the farm was still operational..... with prize winning peonies!

Located at 9204 425th street outside of Kenyon, it is a site to behold!

Bruce and Dawn Rohl moved to this idyllic farm in 1992, and literally cleared the land for what was to become their home. They bought the land in 1992, and lived in a mobile home until they built their house in 1996, all the while tearing down old buildings, and making room for flowers and trees! One interesting point I learned while visiting the farm is that their home was the last one built in Goodhue County using trees taken from their own land!

One of Bruce's interests is peonies, so the couple planned and cultivated space to start growing them. As they were getting settled into their home, in 1996 they purchased 13 root bundles of different peonies from Tischler Gardens in Faribault, and that was to be the beginning of Aspelund Peony Gardens.

With their children, Ben and Samantha, they began the process of dividing the plants and making new beds until they ended up with

over 2,000 plants with several species, including some very rare ones. As we chatted about the history of the enterprise, I learned so much about the curation of the flowers, and the specialization of hybrids, and cultivating the new varieties. It takes years to come up with new varieties, and you can learn more about this process at the talks they occasionally give, or on some of the websites dedicated to the craft. Or pop in for a visit, and ask away!

Ben worked on the farm and raised the flowers for a 4H project, and entered his flowers in the County Fair. His project was to raise them from seed, and as I learned, there is a lot to doing so. As the gardens grew, people started wanting peonies for their own enjoyment, so in 2007, they decided to sell root stock.

So, here's how it works.... The first 3 weekends in June, you will come out to the farm between 10 am and 5 pm to walk the beds and write down which varieties you are drawn to. Once you have made that difficult decision from 140 varieties currently in the beds, you purchase the root stock which will be ready in the fall. Fall is the best time to transplant, so you pick them up, take them home, and pop them in a hole. You will water well to get the air pockets out, and let them hibernate for the winter. In the spring, they will come up as one of the first perennials, and your garden has begun! About ¾ of them will bloom the first year. However, the different species bloom in a succession, so you may want to come out more than just one weekend! When you come back to pick up your plants, you will be shown how to plant,

and given an instruction sheet on what you need to know to be successful in growing your own. To schedule a group tour, or a specific time to come out, call (507) 824-2935.

The flowers will bloom from around Memorial Day until Father's Day, with slight variations due to the weather that year. I saw some blooming on May 6th! All the varieties on the farm stay standing up, not falling over during bloom time like many that you see. The one question I had to ask was "Why do the ants have to open the petals?". Bruce laughed and said that was a frequently asked question. Dawn answered that the ants do not

open the petals, but are harvesting the nectar from the buds. There you have it! Another wives tale dispelled!

So, I encourage you to make a day plan to come out to the garden and enjoy nature's beauty. Talk to Bruce and Dawn, and learn something new. Take pictures with your family, and relax in the beauty the Rohls have created. For more information on the flowers themselves, you can go to Americanpeony-society.org, or Mnpeony.org. You can also visit Facebook and go to Aspelund Peony Gardens for more info on the farm. Happy Spring to you all!

Family Fun Fest June 22, 4 to 8 PM at the Fairground

Join the fun at Goodhue County Family Fun Fest, Saturday, June 22, 4 to 8 p.m., at the Goodhue County Fairground in Zumbrota.

This fundraising event is hosted by the Friends of the Goodhue County Fair (FGCF) to raise funding for new livestock barns on the fairground.

The festivities will feature a Steak or Pork Chop meal (hot dog option for kids), Silent Auction, Beer & Wine grab, live music and lots of games and activities for the kids.

"It's so exciting to hear feedback from the people of Goodhue County about the progress of the barn raising projects!" LeeAnn Waugh, FGCF board member and event chair said.

"Everyone is thrilled to hear about the significant Red Wing Shoe donation and we continue to build awareness of the needs and this grassroots fundraiser is part of that momentum!"

There'll be a bounce house, ladder toss, giant Jenga and Connect 4, bean bag boards,

Barrel Train and a clever basketball arcade made from a gravity box for the kids. The Silent Auction is loaded with terrific items including: St. Paul Saints Super Fireworks tickets donated by Huneke Custom Spraying, Minnesota Wild tickets donated by Insignia Printing Co., Wagyu & Angus beef bundle from Cannon Valley Ranch, Half hogs for processing from Mike and Rebecca Patterson Family, Mark Behrens hand-crafted wood bowls, LTS Brewery sampling and tour, a Garden Abundance Basket from Paul and Mamie Luhmann Family, a framed print of Zumbrota's Covered Bridge donated by Sary-Yerka VFW, a one-hour fly over of a local area of choice with Ben Priebe in his Piper Cherokee 140 and finally, 4K resolution drone photography of the buyer's homestead, donated by Priebe and Cal Luebke.

"So many lives have been enriched by being involved with the Goodhue County Fair and these people want to give back and be part of raising the new barns for this and future generations," Waugh continued. "The Family Fun Fest is a way everyone can participate and enjoy great food and beverages, local music, family activities and more!"


Many local organizations and businesses are supporting this fundraiser with donations to the meal including: Three Rivers Cattlemen's Association, Goodhue County Pork Producers, Goodhue County Corn and Soybean Growers, the Goodhue County American Dairy Association (ADA) and Nilssen's Hub Food Center, Zumbrota.

The meal includes your choice of a steak or pork chop, potato bar, creamed corn, corn bread with honey butter, milk and ice-cream and water. There's a hot dog meal available for kids. Pre-sale meal tickets (\$35/adult, \$20/kid) are available from the following local businesses: CannonBelles, Cannon Falls; Country Station, Goodhue; D & S Sign & Banner, Kenyon; M & M Lawn & Leisure, Pine Island; Kevin's Service, Red Wing; Blondies Butcher Shop, Wanamingo; Bridget's Café, Zumbrota and Mazeppa BP Station, Mazeppa. At the door, meal tickets are \$10 more.

If you want to attend the fest but not eat, then just \$5 per person gets you in the gate with access to all the kids games and activities, the silent auction, wine & beer grab and live music by Tyler Stehr & 8th St. Bend!

We hope to see you there! The event will be held rain or shine.

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Full Bar - Off Sale

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BBQ Rib Dinner - 1/2 or Full Rack (begins at 4:00p.m.)

THURSDAY - \$3.50 All Taps, Domestic Bottles, Rail Drinks! 16oz. Margarita Special!
Taco Specials! Fajita Specials!

FINALLY FRIDAY - All You Can Eat Fish Dinner

SATURDAY - Hand Battered Jumbo Shrimp or Slow Roasted Prime Rib

SUNDAY - Enjoy Our Sunday Breakfast Beginning at 9a.m. and Sunday Pasta Features

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CANNON VALLEY FAIR ★ JULY 3-6, 2024

Cannon Falls, Minnesota

2024 SCHEDULE

June 29th

9 am 4H, FFA & WSCA Open Horse Show – Horse Arena

July 2nd – ENTRY DAY

2-7 pm – Open Class Exhibit Building Entry
2-7 pm – 4 H Building Exhibit Entry and Judging

July 3 – KIDS DAY

9 am – 5 pm – Livestock Entry
10 am – Goodhue County Commissioners Meeting – PAVILION
11:30 am – Mandana Balloon Artistry – FREE STAGE
12:30 pm – Kids Pedal Pull Registration – Near Grandstand
1 pm – Kids Pedal Pull – Near Grandstand
1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – Wristband Special 1-5 pm OR 5-10 pm
2 pm – 5 pm – Mandana Balloon Twisting – PAVILION
2 pm – 5 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Beef Check-In & Weigh-In – ARENA
3 pm – Just for Kix Performance – FREE STAGE
5 pm – 4H and FFA Beef Show followed by Open Class Beef Show – ARENA
6 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Beef Show – ARENA
7 pm – Rice Rodeo Company – Bull Riding, Barrel Racing & Bronc Riding – GRANDSTAND
8:30 – Midnight – CHICKEN RANCH DUO – FREE STAGE

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

11 am – Grande Day Parade Starts
1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – Wristband Special 1-5 pm OR 5-10 pm
2 pm – Harness Horse Racing – GRANDSTAND – FREE Admission
2 pm – 5 pm – DAVE CARPENTER BAND – FREE STAGE
3 pm – 4H Dog Project Demonstration – ARENA
8:30 – Midnight – LIVE MUSIC – FREE STAGE
Dusk—Fireworks Show

July 5th

9 AM – 4H & FFA Rabbit Show followed by 4H & FFA Poultry
11 am – Auto Cross Pit Gate Opens
Noon – 4H & FFA Sheep Show Followed by Open Class Sheep Show
Noon – 3 pm MN RadZoo – FREE STAGE
1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – Wristband Special 1-5 pm OR 5-10 pm
3 pm Auto Cross Starts – GRANDSTAND – Ticket gate open at 1:30 pm
3 pm – 5 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Market Lamb Check-in & Weigh-in – SHEEP & GOAT ARENA
4 pm – 7 pm – 4-H Demonstrations
6 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Market Lamb Show
8:30 – Midnight – THE CHUBS – FREE STAGE

July 6th

9:30 am – 4H & FFA Dairy Show – ARENA
10:30 am – 11:30 am – Dr. Street Magician – Strolling the Grounds
11:00 am – 4H & FFA Goat Show – GOAT ARENA
Noon – Dr. Street Magician Show – FREE STAGE
Noon – District VI Holstein Show – ARENA
1 pm Demo Derby Pit Gate Opens
1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – Wristband Special 1-5 pm OR 5-10 pm
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm – Dr. Street Magician – Strolling the Grounds
3 pm – Dr. Street Magician Show – FREE STAGE
5 pm – Demo Derby – Ticket Gates open at 3:00 pm – GRANDSTAND
6 – 8 pm – Livestock Released & Building Exhibits Released
8:30 – Midnight – BLYND EYE – FREE STAGE

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

PARKING IS FREE!

Bull Riding, Barrel Racing & Bronc Riding grandstand admission is \$20.00 per person and 5 and under are FREE. Demo Derby & Auto Cross grandstand admission per event is \$15.00 per person or \$5.00 for those under 12 years and under. Pit Pass is available for \$25.00.

Harness Racing GRANDSTAND Admission is FREE.

RODEO
WEDNESDAY, JULY 3 - 7 PM
Admission \$20 - UNDER 5 FREE

CHICKEN RANCH

8:30 - Midnight FREE STAGE

AUTO CROSS
FRIDAY, JULY 5 - 3 PM
Pit gate open at 11:00
Grandstand Ticket Gates Open 1:30 P.M.

- Compact Car 4 cyl
- Compact Car 4 cyl AWD
- Mid Size Car 6 cyl
- Mid Size Car 6 cyl Powder Puff
- Mini Vans
- Full Size Car
- Full Size Car Front Wheel Drive
- Full Size Car Rear Wheel Drive
- Compact Truck/SUV No V8
- Compact Truck/SUV V8
- Full Size Truck 2x4
- Full Size Truck 4x4

ADULTS: \$15 - CHILDREN 12 & UNDER, \$5 • PIT PASS: \$25
For rules and regulations go to: www.cannonvalleyfair.org

8:30 - Midnight FREE STAGE

DEMOLITION DERBY
SATURDAY, JULY 6 - 5 PM
Pit gate open at 2:00 P.M.
Grandstand Ticket Gates Open 3:00 P.M.

- Mega Stock Mid Size Car (Youth)
- Mega Stock Mid Size Car (Adult)
- Mega Stock Mini's
- Mega Stock 80's & Newer
- Mega Stock Full Size Truck
- Limited Weld Mid Size Car
- Limited Weld Mini's
- Limited Weld Full Size Car
- Limited Weld Full Size Truck

Pre Registration Online

ADULTS: \$15 - CHILDREN 12 & UNDER, \$5 • PIT PASS: \$25
For rules and regulations go to: www.cannonvalleyfair.org

8:30 - Midnight FREE STAGE

HARNESS HORSE RACING
THURSDAY, JULY 4 - 2 PM

FREE STAGE

Fireworks July 4 – Dusk

Bryan Anderson
8:30 PM – Midnight

FREE ADMISSION & FREE PROGRAMS

Letter from the Superintendent



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



On June 10th, I faced one of the most challenging decisions of my time as superintendent; recommending the closure of the Wanamingo school site, which serves 200 students in

grades K-4.

Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary has long been a beloved part of our community, known for its small-town charm, small class sizes and supportive environment. However, rising operational costs have forced us to reconsider its future.

During my presentation, I detailed the school's annual operating expenses, which exceed \$700,000 and significantly strain our district's budget. Notably, the shuttle services

between buildings cost \$63,000 per year, while expenses for lawn and snow removal continue to increase, along with duplicated services in staffing, SELCO fees, internet services, phone lines, and copiers all added to the expenditures the district pays for at two sites. Utilities amount to \$135,000 annually for the Wanamingo site alone.

I emphasized to the board that this recommendation was made with a heavy heart. I fully recognize the profound impact moving to one site could have on students, families, and the entire Wanamingo community. Yet, we must face the economic challenges our district is experiencing and make fiscally responsible choices.

The recommendation to move to one site, K-12 in Kenyon, (by 2027) has understandably sparked concerns among stakeholders. Many worry about the disruption this could cause to students and families, as well as the broader effects on our community.

As we continue to discuss the future of our amazing school district, the K-W school board is dedicated to maintaining transparency and engaging with the community. I encourage you to reach out to your local Board of Education representative—whether by phone, email, or in person. I am also available and willing to discuss my recommendation with anyone interested. Our next board meeting is on June 24th if you would like to speak during the public portion of the meeting.

As we navigate these deliberations, the voices of students, parents, educators, and residents will play a crucial role in shaping this important decision.

Kenyon Fire Department Scholarships Awarded



Congratulations to Bailey Leininger, Addison Flom, and Mason Torgeson on winning a \$500 scholarship from the Kenyon Fire Department! We are honored to help support your dreams after high school!

Kenyon-Wanamingo Noble Knights of the Week



KW Noble Knights of the Week
for May 10, 2024

Front Row: Wyatt Caron, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Drew Anfinson, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Eli Otteson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Harper Caron, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan. Back Row: Brayden Rapp, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Abby Lerfald, Gr. 4, Ms. Chloe Gohman, Haddie Breyer, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

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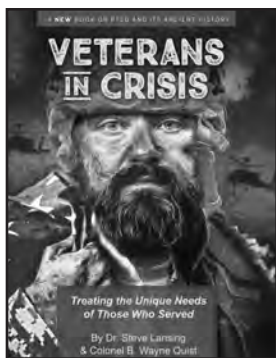
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Goodhue County
Sheriffs and
Jail Staff by
Nonprofit Veterans
Empowered Inc.**

Submitted by B. Wayne Quist
VETERANS EMPOWERED INC



book to be given away free to disabled veterans with PTSD and to first responders, law enforcement, firemen, EMTs, etc. They have formed a nonprofit, Veterans Empowered Incorporated, and are raising \$500,000 to provide free PTSD treatment in their Rochester office and publish PTSD materials for suicide prevention and treatment for veterans in crisis. At their office in Rochester disabled veterans and first responders receive free therapy as well as copies of the book. Books are also available for sale for the general public on Amazon. On June 21st Dr. Lansing and Quist will do a book presentation at the Red Wing American Legion. The event starts at 4:00 PM with free hors d'oeuvres with a talk by Dr. Lansing, followed by questions and book signing. The General Public is welcome.



A box of "Veterans in Crisis" books were recently donated to the Dakota County and Goodhue County Sheriffs and jail staff by Rochester nonprofit Veterans Empowered Inc.

The book was written by Dr. Steve Lansing and Colonel B. Wayne Quist and was released on Memorial Day this year. Volume Two will be released on November 11th, Veterans Day. The authors are printing 10,000 copies of their



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Team Work Makes the Dream Work

By Cheri Roshon

It is said that to get things done right, it takes a village. Nothing could show the truth in this saying better than what the little village of Wanamingo did 50 years ago.

The town population was 574 people. The folks had heard about a community in Iowa who had constructed a pool for their town, and decided that might be something Wanamingo should take a look into. So Norm Edwards, Arland Sundry and Dale Mikkelson drove to Thompson, Iowa to look at a pool! A druggist, a gas truck driver and a band director said, "Sure, we can do that!" This, my friends, is what you call Faith! Sundry said, "Let's get some people interested!" After they convinced the Lions Club to donate \$5,000.00, the project began!

The original quote from Custom Pools was \$29,000.00. This included the main pool, the wading pool, 6 sand filters for the main pool, an extra filter for the wading pool, installing the piping for the filtration and chlorinator and a special concrete called gunite.

On October 17th, 1973, the contract was signed, the fundraising began, and volunteers were coordinated. Before the original contract was even signed in October, the small town

had already raised \$22,500.00, plus the \$5,000.00 donation from the Lions Club!

On November 28th 1973 Custom Pools finished the cement work on the main pool tank, and the staking had been done by the volunteers. But then came spring!

In April 1973 the volunteers noticed the groundwater from the spring runoff was running into a hole. To prevent outside pressure on the pool, two check valves were installed into the deep end of the pool. This allows lots of water to seep in. The Mormons who were working on the project had pumped the water out to work on the tank. They noticed it worked well to just pump it into the hole. The hole just happened to flow into a drain tile that ended in Axelson Trailer Park, which became flooded! Ed Axelson was furious! He told the Mormons to stop, but they wouldn't. Finally Ed went to Arland Sundry and he was able to remedy the situation.

Now that that was fixed, it was time for the volunteers to get going. I would like to recognize some of them here, and give a list of all involved a bit later. Also I want to add that all the volunteer work was done after work

on weekdays, and on Saturdays. No work was done on Sunday. This is what I found in my research.....

John Tiller was the "lead engineer". I have known John all my life, and I know he is meticulous in the work he does, so I think he was the right man for the job.

Phil Floan installed the wiring of the electrical service in the building, filters, building lights, pool lights and outside wiring. That was quite a large contribution!

Ed Axelson did the bath house plumbing. He installed the pipes to easily drain them, which was required during the winter.

When it came time to lay sod around the pool, it just so happened the School District had decided to bulldoze and level the area north of the pool for a ballfield. This made

free sod available. All the volunteers had to do was get it there! So the crew rented a sod cutter, and Dewey Thompson spent all day running the vibrating machine, not a pleasant job, while the others moved and placed the sod around the pool. I bet Dewey could have used a massage after that job was completed!!

Fundraising was how the money was raised. There were dances, rummage sales, flea markets, bake sales, dinners, a pig raffle, Tupperware Party, and even \$1 was raised at a lemonade stand. Everyone did their part, and on July 17th of 1974, the pool was finished and ready to jump into!

So, July marks 50 years of fun in the sun, made possible by a town of 574 people who had a vision, and carried through to the end.

(continued on page 14)

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Lake City:	June 7, 1-4
Pine Island:	June 7, 1:30-4
Cannon Falls:	June 11, 1:30-4
Plainview:	June 13, 12-3
Goodhue:	June 18, 1:30-4
Le Center:	June 20, 1:30-4



Goodhue County Dairy Princesses
Natalie Clementson and Evelyn Scheffler

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Goodhue County District 3 Commissioner

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(left to right) Troy Clemenson, Hannah Gutknecht, Leetta O'Reilly, & Jennah O'Reilly



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Team Work Makes the Dream Work

(continued from page 12)

That's "Teamwork makes the Dream work" in action! Following is a list of the volunteers who made it happen.

Ed Axelson, Ken Axelson, Dewey Berg, Gary Bakko, Marlyn Bordson, Gary Braget, Palmer Brandt, Norm Edwards, Phil Floan, Brad Fredrickson, David Fredrickson, Herb Fredrickson, Joel Fredrickson, Garvin Friese, Gunder Froyum, Don Greseth, Curt Haller, Herb Haugen, Oswald Haugen, Dyke Jack-

son, Steve Knapp, Dale Mikkelson, Gilman Myran, John Nelson, Roger Nelson, Virgil Nodland, Everett Ohr, Chris Romness, Bernie Satren, Smoke Shelstad, Merrill Solberg, Charlie Steberg, Arlund Sundry, Ragnar Swee, Dewey Thompson, and John Tiller. If you know of any other volunteers that were a part of this endeavor, please let me know so I can recognize them as well, in the coming July Celebration issue of the Messenger! Thanks, men, for a job so well done it is still in use today!

So, there you have it! Proof that dreams do come true, with a little help from our friends!

The pool will officially open on June 3rd, weather permitting. On the Wanamingo Pool-Face Book page, you will find the list of activities, pool fees, lesson times, and open swim information. Be watching the Messenger for the 50th Year Celebration activities!

Kenyon Fire Department Open House Saturday, June 22nd

(continued from page 1)

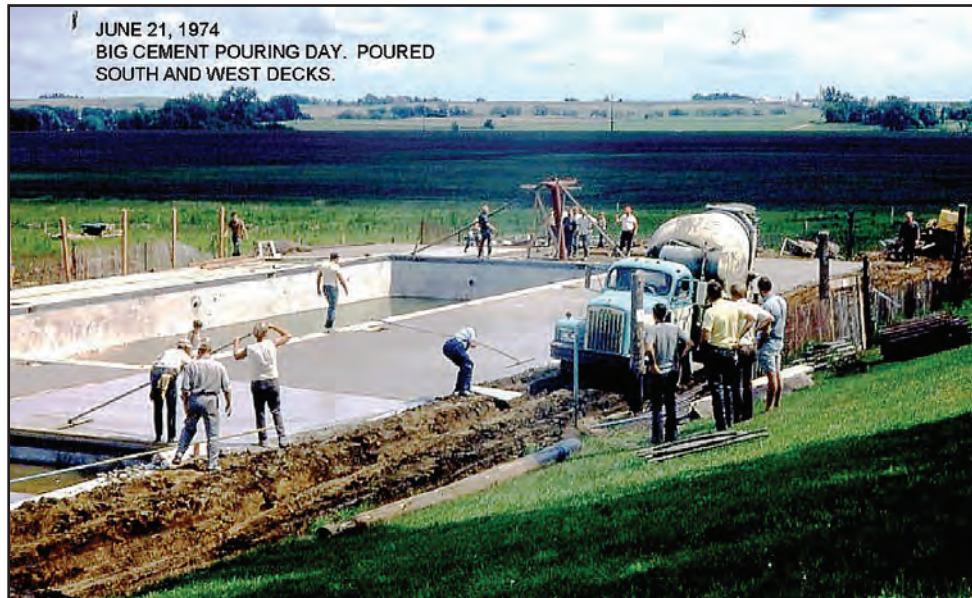


The cost for the new truck is anticipated to be just under \$300,000. Community contributions can help to defray the cost of this purchase.

On Saturday, June 22nd there will be an open house at the Kenyon Fire Hall. It starts at 11am with truck and equipment demonstrations, bounce houses, games and bean bags until 4pm. Brats and burgers will be served starting at 11:30am until the fiid runs out. A Euchre tournament will be held starting

at 1pm and is \$20 per person with a 1/2 payout. Helicopter tours are between noon and 4pm weather permitting. A dance will be held from 8pm to midnight with \$10 admission featuring "The MTV's"

Mark your calendar for the pancake breakfast during Rosefest scheduled for Saturday August 17th in the Muni parking lot from 7 to 10:30am. They will be serving pancakes, sausages, coffee and juice with a Bloody Mary bar as well.



Kenyon Farmers Market

Sponsored by the Park and Rec Dept., the Kenyon Farmer's Market returned to the First Evangelical Lutheran Church parking lot at 309 Forest street on May 23rd. It continues to be held on the first and third Thursday of each month, with October 3rd being the final market.

The market has grown over the past few years, and welcomes new vendors. Kim Helgeson is one of the coordinators, and the Park and Rec is the host, so if you have any questions, they are here to answer them! For more information, you may also look on Face Book at Kenyon Farmer's Market page.

If you or anyone you know has items for sale, they accept homegrown/home-made/hand crafted items only. There will be no multi level marketing businesses. The opportunity to sell your qualifying items is free of charge. In attending the market, you will be supporting your friends and neighbors, and you will know the source of your purchases. Shopping local is good for the economy, and good for you!

Some of the items for sale are plant starts, produce as it comes into season, home made breads, cookies, cakes, freeze dried candy, Kitchen towels, wood craft, artwork, fresh flowers, coffees from around the world, canned jams, jellies, fruits and vegetables, and other delectable items. The parking lot is getting full, and there is so much to choose from, you just have to come down and check it out for yourself!



2023 vendor

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**SATURDAY, JUNE 22
8:00 AM to 11:00 AM**



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**8:00 AM
Trophies at NOON**

**TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL
10:00 AM**

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

KIDS PEDAL TRACTOR PULL 11:00 AM

BE IN THE PARADE

SATURDAY at 1:30 PM!

A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade (Ages 12 & under)

Sign up at 12:00 p.m. South Main Street

\$100.00 Prize for Best Parade Entry!

Call 507-645-9992

Dennison Lions Club DENNISON DAYS RAFFLE

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- 2nd Prize: \$200 Cash
- 3rd Prize: \$100 Cash
- 4th Prize: \$50 Cash

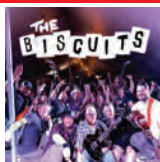
Drawing held at 9:00p.m. at the Fireside Lounge

Need not be present to win. Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees. SPONSORED BY DENNISON LIONS CLUB CHARITABLE GAMBLING PERMIT #2762

FRIDAY, JUNE 21 KICK OFF

**Gopher State Garden Tractor Pull
6:00 PM**

LIVE MUSIC
8:30 PM-Midnight



Russ Franek & The Biscuits

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

LIVE MUSIC
7:30 PM-Midnight
Main Street
Shane Martin
www.shanemartin.com



Saturday Schedule of Events

- 8-11a.m. **All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast** Hosted by Nerstrand-Dennison Fire Dept., and Dennison Community Church \$12 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 & under, 3 & under FREE. Includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, juice, milk. Under Mainstreet tent.
- 8a.m. **Farmers Market Downtown • Citywide Garage Sales**
5K Run Begins at Paul's Plumbing Building, North of Dennison Depot. For more information text Ted at 507-301-4314 or e-mail: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com
Classic Car Show on Mainstreet Presented by Clutchmen Car Club. Trophies at Noon. Contact Eric Swanson 612-282-6562.
- 8:30a.m. **Euchure at Fireside Lounge** For information, contact Jen Eggum 507-649-0602
Sign Up for Clutchmen Truck & Tractor Pull at Pull Site
Truck Pull Mike Beebe 651-341-2424 • Tractor Pull Thad Sonsdahl 507-330-0180
- 10a.m. **Truck & Tractor Pull Begins on the Hill**, sign up begins at 8:30a.m.
Cow Milking Contest Main Street, hosted by David Flom Dairy
- 11a.m. **Food Stands Open**
Joel Stenhaug & Jim Tracy Memorial Horseshoe Tournament in City Park Presented by the Dennison Lions
Kids Pedal Tractor Pull on Mainstreet (At Mainstreet intersection) Sign up begins at 10:30a.m.
- 1-3p.m. **Kids Carnival**
- 1:30p.m. **Parade Downtown - A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade** (Ages 12 & Under)
\$100.00 Prize for Best Parade Entry! Sign up at 12:00 p.m. South Mainstreet. Call 507-645-9992
- 2p.m. **625 Bar & Grill Bags Tournament** Sign up at 625 or call 507-782-9061
Live Music at 625 Bar & Grill
Kids Bingo Under the tent. Presented by Dennison Lions. Ages 3-11.
- 4:00p.m. **Purse & Gift Card Bingo** Presented by Dennison Lions & Fireside Lounge
- 5:30p.m. **Game Show TBD**
- 7:30-11:30p.m. **Live Music from "SHANE MARTIN" Alabama Tribute on Mainstreet** 18+ event. No Cover Charge. 21 to drink. Presented by Capitol Construction and Fireside Lounge & Supper Club

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For updated info. go to www.dennisondays.org

Dairy



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

June is national dairy month. So it is appropriate to consider this amazing food source, it's health benefits, and the controversies and misunderstandings surrounding this food.

Milk is a unique food source produced by the female of some species for the initial food of the newborn. This liquid food contains protein, fats, minerals and vitamins specific to the species and specific to the age of the baby. This liquid also contains active enzymes and immune support to help the newborn baby become an active participant of life.

These unique features of milk have been used by man for centuries to sustain the human population and provide a consistent food source in diverse environments. Dairy was a primary focus of farmers across the Midwest as the nation grew with many creameries located across each county collecting the daily contributions from the local

herds. Wisconsin and California lead the nation in milk production. In the United States, more than 72 million gallons of milk are produced each day. From this source, all the additional products of butter, ice cream, cheese, yogurt, Kiefer, and various treats are produced. No wonder we celebrate dairy as it is involved in so many significant food items we enjoy.

Some individuals are not able to enjoy dairy because of severe reactions caused by a lack of digestive enzymes or caused by an allergic reaction. Lactase is the specific enzyme required in your intestines to break down the lactose sugar in milk. If a person does not make this enzyme, an uncomfortable reaction typically results in diarrhea. A person who experiences this reaction can simply avoid drinking milk, or they can obtain lactase enzyme as a supplement to consume with the milk. Some products like Lactaid are available to help aid digestion of milk products. An allergic reaction to milk will not be eliminated by using lactase enzyme. An allergic reaction is an immune response to the protein in milk in whatever form of milk product may be. Typically, an allergic reaction to a milk product may be avoided by selecting a different source of milk like goat, sheep, or donkey. There are also many non-dairy sourced products that have become available in recent years.

A primary controversy regarding milk production has been the availability of raw milk to the general consumer. Raw milk contains all the active enzymes and is the most easily digested form of the food. Raw milk has been the primary way man has consumed milk for centuries, and in recent history the

Mayo hospital had a raw milk therapy that was used successfully for clients having digestive challenges. This all changed with the promotion of pasteurized milk.

The history of pasteurized milk provides an important observation on the influence of business over health. In the 1950s, most milk was delivered in glass bottles, and you could observe a layer of cream at the top of the bottle. Some competition developed as the consumer could see how much cream was available in each bottle. Creameries tried to "fix" this challenge with the process of homogenization, which forces the milk through a fine mesh to break up the fat molecules into pieces that are so small the fat stays suspended in the fluid and does not rise to the top. Unfortunately, once milk is homogenized the live enzymes in the raw milk activate a reaction that causes the milk to spoil within 24 hours. The solution to this problem was pasteurization. Pasteurization kills the enzyme activity improving the shelf life of the homogenized milk.

Pasteurization has progressed over the years to the level of ultra pasteurization (UHT). Ultra pasteurized milk has been additionally heated to the point that the milk can sit on the shelf without refrigeration for long periods of time. However, you cannot make your own yogurt or cheese from this milk. The healthy bacteria used to make yogurt, cheese, or Kiefer is not able to use UHT milk. This milk has been cooked too much and is undigestible to natural fermentation processes. This makes you wonder if the UHT milk has any health benefit to mankind as well.

More than 100 years ago, Dr. Weston Price

researched the effects of the modern food preparations that were beginning to advance through the western culture of Europe and the United States. He documented his research in the book, "Nutrition and Physical Degeneration." In cultures all around the world, he discovered the importance of quality fat to sustain a society. When the culture moved toward more processed foods, more "low fat" foods, and more convenient foods, the result was increased cavities, increased need for braces on teeth, and decreased fertility. These are all the symptoms we see in today's modern living. You can find out more about Dr. Price's work and the thriving community that is applying the principles he discovered at <https://www.westonaprice.org/>

Make your health a priority in 2024. Quality dairy options include raw milk, whole fat milk, and naturally fermented products like yogurt, fresh cheese, and Kiefer. Adding quality fat sources can be one of those little changes that can make a big difference in your health. If you would like to pursue a healthy lifestyle and increase longevity, I can help you start a plan.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for 2024. I can help you reach those health goals with whole food plans customized to your specific needs. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net Start this year with a new plan. Foundation to Thrive is a 16 week lifestyle transformation to help you reach your health goals in 2024.

**Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*

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PLEASE... Eat Your Veggies!



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Eat your veggies! I heard that a lot during childhood. As a kid, I was never a big fan. My favorite vegetable was corn. And corn isn't even a vegetable, it's a grain. Forget peas, carrots, string beans etc. Disgusting! I don't know about you, I am in my early 40's, when I was a small child, most vegetables eaten were served from cans. Gradually, as I became older, the focus on vegetables moved from canned to fresh. And I am guessing, that helped a lot with the taste. I soon starting liking vegetables and as a young adult in my 20's vegetables became a mainstay in my diet.

Vegetables are the body's main source for vitamins, minerals and fiber. The nutrients that allow us to live a healthy life. Over the years we have been told to eat a certain amount of vegetables a day for optimal health. The latest scientific research reports that eating a higher amount of fruits and veg-

etables is associated with a lower risk of dying in men and women. A recent study of over 2 million people worldwide found that the optimal amount and combination of fruits and vegetables for longevity are 2 fruits and 3 vegetables a day.

Diets rich in fruits and vegetables help reduce risk for numerous chronic health conditions that are leading causes of death, including cardiovascular disease and cancer. Yet, only about one in 10 adults eat enough fruits or vegetables, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The take away from the study revealed:

- Intake of about five servings of fruits and vegetables daily was associated with the lowest risk of death. Eating more than five servings was not associated with additional benefit.
- Eating about two servings daily of fruits and three servings daily of vegetables was associated with the greatest longevity.
- Compared to those who consumed two servings of fruit and vegetables per day, participants who consumed five servings a day of fruits and vegetable had a 13% lower risk of death from all causes; a 12% lower risk of death from cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke; a 10% lower risk of death from cancer; and a 35% lower risk of



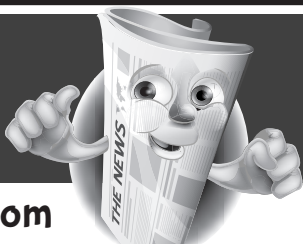
death from respiratory disease, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

- Not all foods that one might consider to be fruits and vegetables offered the same benefits. For example: Starchy vegetables, such as peas and corn, fruit juices and potatoes were not associated with reduced risk of death from all causes or specific chronic diseases.
- On the other hand, green leafy vegetables, including spinach, lettuce and kale, and fruit and vegetables rich in beta carotene and vitamin C, such as citrus fruits, berries and carrots, showed benefits.

**Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*

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That's the Latest Ag Census



By Emery Kleven

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

During my 30 plus years as a farm broadcaster, I read and interpreted many Census of Agriculture reports. The Census of Agriculture, conducted every 5 years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), includes producer responses to questions about their farming operations. It takes at least a year to get all the info tabulated and released to the public. When the numbers would start to roll out, I would get on the phone with state and national ag leaders to help decipher the information. The info is massive and very detailed. I still read some of the findings but I don't have to do the radio interviews anymore.

The latest press release from the 2022 Ag

Census showed for the first time since before the Civil War, that the number of farms in the U.S. dropped below 2 million. The number of farms in the U.S. was 1,900,487, down 7 percent from 2017.

USDA's definition of a farm is an establishment that produced and sold, or would have sold in normal conditions, at least \$1,000 in agricultural production in a year. The latest Census also reported that the total U.S. land in farms declined 2.2 percent to 880 million acres in 2022. This decline, when combined with the higher proportional decline in the number of farms, meant that the average farm size increased by 5 percent to 463 acres per farm.

Now to bring this closer to home, I researched through the many pages to see how Dodge County, Minnesota numbers looked. In Dodge County, the number of farms is now at 614 farms with an average size of 457 acres. Total cropland acres in Dodge County were put at 262,797 acres.

For comparison, I researched the 1974 Census of Agriculture numbers and found the average size farm in Dodge County was 246 acres. In 1969 it was 219 acres. Dodge County had 1015 farms in 1974 and in 1969 there were 1202 farms.

Dodge County corn growers have had some good years recently. In 2022, the county wide average yield on corn was 221.5 bushels per acre (bpa). In a much drier year, 2023, the average corn yield was 189.6 bpa. Watowan County had the highest average yield last year at 209.3bpa; Renville County was second at 208.3bpa.

Soybean fields in Dodge County in 2023 averaged 51.1bushels per acre compared to 2022 when the county average was 61.9 bpa on beans. Waseca County had the highest

state average soybean yield in 2023 with 60.7 bushels per acre. Evidently there was a little more rain to the west of Dodge County.

Some other statistics I ran across in my going through a lot of pages with very small print. Dodge County's total area is 439.4 square miles calling it the 74th largest county. In Texas, that would be impressive but in Minnesota with only 87 counties, it makes Dodge County the 14th smallest in the state.

One last statistic that had nothing to do with agriculture but I found it interesting from the

general U.S. Census take in 2022. Looking at ancestry of Dodge County residents, German heritage was the highest at 37.2 percent. Norwegian was second at 20.8 percent; Irish was third at 9.8 percent. I'm of both Norwegian and German descent so I'm in that 58 percentile.

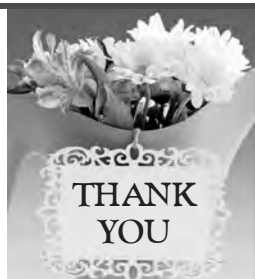
Going through a lot of numbers and statistics makes me think of comedian Steven Wright who once said that 42.3% of all statistics are made up on the spot. And I have a 62.7 percent chance that I'm correct to attribute that to Steven Wright.



In this 1960 aerial photo of the Kleven farm in Concord Township, you can see about 50 of the 200-acre farm. The Roberts Bros. farm is in the upper left.

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Wanamingo's 4th of July

Tuesday, July 2nd

Blondies Butcher Shop - Rib Feed - 4:00 p.m. till gone

Wednesday, July 3rd

Fire Department Picnic & Dance
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **Wendinger Polka Band**
"Travis Themert" starts at 9 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Sponsored by Wanamingo Firefighters Relief Association

Thursday, July 4th, 2024

*** NORTH MAIN STREET - ALL DAY ***
(Sponsored by Wanamingo Commercial Club)

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Bounce Houses
10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Yard games for ALL ages
11:00 a.m. Face Painting - The Party Lady LLC

**** **Food Vendors** ****

7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast at Community Center (Minneola Lutheran Church)
10:00 a.m. Horseshoe Tournament at Riverside Park
11:00 a.m. Walking Tacos (by the food vendors) fundraiser for Trinity Lutheran Church
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Live Music, Drink & Food Specials at The Spot Sports Pub & Grill
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Flour Child Creations Stop in for selection of ice cream sandwiches.
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Silent Auction - Community Center (Wanamingo Lutheran Church)**
** Please note ANYONE can donate items for the silent auction**

12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Hotdogs, Sundaes, Cotton Candy at 2nd Shift (Lion's Club)
1:00 p.m. Zumbrotta Band Community Center Patio or Bus Garage if raining

Grand Parade - 2:30 p.m. (participants gather at AG Partners)
4:00 p.m. Fire Department water-fight at Fire Hall
Check out the other events throughout town!

Fireworks at Dusk

Saturday, July 6th

Commercial Club Fundraiser: for community events & fireworks for 2025
Location: The Spot Sport's Pub & Grill
* 50% goes to fundraiser
50% prizes to top 3 teams
9:00 a.m. Volleyball Tournament: \$100 per team*

Saturday, July 6th **VFW Fundraiser - Location: The Spot Sport's Pub and Grill**
4:00 p.m. Bean Bag Tournament: \$30 per team*

Saturday, July 6th **5th Annual Wanamingo Putt Putt Classic**
11:00 a.m. registration & 12:00 p.m. shotgun start at the Wanamingo Fire Hall

Sunday, July 7th **9:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Riverside Park**
Trinity Lutheran, Wanamingo Lutheran, & Minneola Lutheran

Supporting Small Towns for Thriving Communities



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

I grew up in the town of Kiester which, according to the latest U.S. Census, has a population of 488. I know firsthand that small towns often face unique challenges, including limited access to financial resources and a reduced tax base. I also know that the nature of living in a small town makes it easy for people to work together and enhance the vitality of the place they call home. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) we know that supporting the small towns in our 20-county region is crucial for fostering equitable development and ensuring that all our communities have the same chance to thrive.

SMIF's Small Town Grant, which opens soon, can help bridge the gap in financial resources by providing the necessary funds for projects that ultimately enhance the quality of life for residents. I'd like to highlight some of the projects that communities have implemented recently with the support of this grant.

In Caledonia (population 2,831), the city used a Small Town Grant to organize a Holiday Pop Up Shop to allow community members with business ideas to temporarily trial their business concept in a brick and mortar setting downtown. This allowed entrepreneurs to introduce new product lines, test new markets and generate awareness of their product. This program generated huge results, as three of the home-based businesses that participated in the program have continued their businesses in a brick-and-mortar setting.

In Elkton (population 133), the grant was used, in part, for sound boards to muffle noise in the community center. More people are renting this space now that the sound is more manageable. This has enhanced the quality of the space as it can be more easily used for town hall meetings and private events without sound issues.

In Dundas, (population 1,744), the grant was used to support a new annual event: Oktoberfest. Dundas residents and businesses benefited from having a new community-wide event that they could call their own. According to one of the organizers, there was even one family who moved to the area from the Twin Cities after attending Oktoberfest. The group is already planning for this year's

event which will be held on September 21. SMIF's Small Town Grant opens on July 15, 2024. More information can be found at smifoundation.org/smalltowngrant. We are grateful to Paul Johnsons' children, Amy De Jong, Paula Rehder and Scott Johnson, for continuing their father's legacy by supporting this program.

Another way that SMIF supports small towns is through our Community Foundation program. There are 32 Community Foundations under SMIF's umbrella. These volunteer-led, place-based foundations are able to quickly meet the needs of their communities. While SMIF provides both administrative and financial support on an annual basis, these foundations recently received an extra boost thanks to an anonymous matching donor. Thanks to this donor, SMIF was able to award \$90,000 in grants to our Community Foundations over the past couple of months.

In Mapleton (population 1,675), the Mapleton Area Foundation is putting the matching funds to good use on a wide variety of projects. They are hiring a firm to provide architectural plans for a daycare, a critical investment in any small town. They are also upgrading some of their community marketing materials including a billboard and a park sign in order to market Mapleton as a place to visit, shop and live. They even received a grant to replace their apple press for a fall festival, which kids look forward to using every year to make apple juice.

In Plainview (population 3,515) the Plainview Elgin Millville Foundation will be implementing an exciting new summer



program. They will use the funds to purchase pool passes for youth in the community to make the city pool more accessible for all.

It is so empowering to see what small towns are able to accomplish with increased financial resources. By investing in small towns, we help build resilient, vibrant communities.

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

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Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of The Messenger.

**To the Editor:
Truth in Love and Justice Parenting
By Sarah Aldrich**

Sitting in the second pew on a Sunday morning brought new ponderings to the little girl of how to avoid another discipline session. A few weeks ago, she had been taken out the side aisle to the orange carpeted room to receive punishment for whatever stressed her mother out during church. The reason was never explained, and restoration between mother, daughter and God never occurred.

The chasm of misunderstanding grew in the little girl's heart. She secretly started asking thin air in her quiet play time,

"There has to be something better, or someone more helpful for my life.?"

On this particular Sunday, her prayer was to finally be answered. Normally, listening to the sermon did not phase her. The talk seemed to be long and full of words and ideas she couldn't fully comprehend anyway. Tuning out and working on a coloring page kept her mother from being disturbed again. The motto for life seemed to be "Be good or else!"

Years later the girl would be introduced to the Apostle Paul's wonderful words in Philippians 2:12

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

Today the little girl finally heard words like this, "God is full of genuine love and His love extends to you beyond anything you can imagine."

How she hungered to hear the words "I Love You" in the correct and genuine context

that only God could give. She went up to the altar and personally told God's Son Jesus that she wanted to meet him and be His child from this day forward.

Many people have mixed up views on who God is as a Heavenly Father because of the distortions received as children.

God in Heaven has multifaceted characteristics, and we know that each person's parents often only have a good understanding of a few of those pieces of His image. For the little girl, she had a good view of discipline, but she didn't know that after the punishment, love was supposed to come in and help repair and restore her heart to Jesus. She had some wonderful opportunities to learn that in later life encounters. In the first seven years of life though, God's compassionate side seemed very distant.

God hates sin. He wants each of us to repent from any of the missing puzzle pieces in our lives. Perhaps the girl did need the heavy lessons of discipline in her younger years. It possibly kept her from being pulled down when tempted by evil. Because of her strict background she was able to more thoughtfully flee from the lies that greatly hurt our world.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

This Bible verse is often tossed around in church circles, but often we need to go back and look at Proverbs 22:1-5. There are some rich characteristics that God wants to trust people with who are created for the purpose of training children. You can finish the phrases as you look them up in the Bible. "A good name... Humble... Seeking the Lord... Guarding his soul..., seeing danger and taking refuge..."

These are just a few of the amazing attributes that should be growing in the people who God wants to use to be caregivers to children. Raising children is not easy and so parents need to grow up spiritually in every way God shows them. Allow your children to see more aspects of God's character.

I have learned many things from the parents I have observed. Some are right on target with how God reveals His truth. However, some have such distorted views that I have actually prayed for the children to be able to get into more healthy environments. Their hearts need to heal, so that sinful cycles of past generations are not repeated. Yet cycles repeat sometimes and it's devastating to watch when the pain is revealed all over again in the younger generations.

When I became a parent, God graciously changed me to be even more balanced in knowing how to help my children than with the tools my parents had. Truth in love and justice do work together. Change wasn't easy and God had to remove a lot of unhelpful ideas, but He alone did it.

Many people say they don't want to be like their parents. Yet how many really pray about how to be different? What are the characteristics that need to be more like your Heavenly Father and less like your earthly father? Are people truly willing to allow God to change them?

The thing that I often thank God for is how He helped me live out the truth before my children that we are to fear God, but never be fearful of him.

Our family often sang this chorus and here is the second part of it.

"He's big enough to rule the mighty universe, yet small enough to live within my heart." --Ray Price

I'm sure a more qualified theologian could explain this concept better, but for the needs of toddlers, it made complete sense. It teaches them that He makes the universe obey his commands. And we can also ask for His kindness to sit with us and dry our tears.

Parenting tips are tricky in our world, so many are doing things "their" way. However, I can hope and pray that more people will begin to raise children with Jesus constantly in their thoughts and actions. Surrendering to His will creates a peace in each individual heart that surpasses all understanding. Philippians 4:7

Living for Jesus is not easy. In fact, it is the hardest life you will live in this earthly world. Misunderstandings and sufferings are abundant, but the reward of having God restore our lives into more of His image is worth it. The promise of Heaven is real for those who decide to listen to the words of the sermon about genuine love. It's important to get out of the church pew and meet the only one who can give eternal life.

**To the Editor:
An Economy of Scale
KW Public Schools
Dr. James Russell Lehman
Kenyon, MN**

As I reflect on what has happened in the Kenyon-Wanamingo School District since consolidation took place in the early 90s, I could not help but think that the current roof problem at the Wanamingo site is symptomatic of a greater concern. No longer meeting the expectations that we once hoped for, KW has now become a metaphor for what is not working. For one reason or another, it has lost its standing in the educational commu-

nity. Something is amiss.

According to the literature, there are reasons for not remodeling and, thus, abandoning a facility is worth consideration. While this may vary from one school district to the next, in the case of the Wanamingo site, permit me to list the following reasons for making a change. They are as follows:

- The existing roof has been ruled unsafe for insurance purposes. This is at least the third time we have had to pay for problems with this roof.

- The cost for replacing the roof will be \$1,200,000. Moreover, there will be additional considerations (See Kenyon Leader) if we are going to make this site safe for our students.

- The building under consideration is no longer needed under the current circumstances. There is room for a PreK-12 program at the Kenyon site.

- The cost to operate a single site is more cost efficient than a two site model. This is the primary reason that Hayfield, Medford, Rushford-Peterson, and Triton went to a single site. It is called an Economy of Scale and it saved the Triton School District \$750,000 in the first two years of its operation.

In looking back 30 years, one of the greatest oversights the KW voters made took place in the fall of 1995. With an opportunity to create a single site near Bombay, the respective communities were given a chance to vote on a building that would not only house their enrollment of 1089 students, but the plan was to accommodate at least 1300 students with room for growth. Sadly, that is where it all ended.

Once the votes were counted, 54% of Kenyon voters said yes and 84% of Wanamingo voters said no. As a longtime educator from Wanamingo said after the votes had been counted, "The only thing in common between Kenyon and Wanamingo is Highway 60." You see, Wanamingo's first choice was Zumbrota-Mazeppa. How do I know? Because I was the middle school principal at ZM when they came looking for our help. Now, and for the sake of our students, we need to put an end to any division that may still exist between the two communities. We need to get it right this time.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we look to the future of our school district, we need to start with a given: our current student body enrollment is the lowest in the area (656); our student achievement scores are oftentimes below standard, and our school taxes never seem to stop increasing. Based on discussions with parents from KW, I know of "honor" graduates who were not ready for higher education. As a matter of fact, it was not long ago that only 17.5% of our students were deemed to be college ready. Incidentally, the drop in student enrollment and the low achievement scores are not something new. At a time of increased challenges for our students, we "must" get better at what we are doing.

In closing, I would like to suggest that a single site model is long overdue. In addition to the Economy of Scale savings, I believe we have the opportunity to become a "draw" for families that would find it easier to bring their children to one location. If done under the right kind of commitment/leadership, I would expect numbers to increase and student achievement to improve across the board. It's time!

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Finstad Announces 2024 Congressional App Challenge

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Brad Finstad (MN-01) today invited middle and high school students from Minnesota’s First Congressional District to participate in the 2024 Congressional App Challenge.

Launched in 2015, the competition is a nationwide event intended to engage students’ creativity and encourage their participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

“Southern Minnesota is home to some of the brightest minds who have paved the way for innovation across many industries,” said Rep. Finstad. “I am proud to invite students to participate in this year’s Congressional App Challenge, which serves as a great way for young people to complete a meaningful project while inspiring them to pursue a career in STEM. I am excited to see the incredible work submitted by students from Minnesota’s First District, and I look forward to this year’s competition.”

The Congressional App Challenge is an annual competition that encourages students to create and exhibit their software application (also known as an “app”) for web, PC, tablet, mobile, or other platform of their choice. Students may compete as individuals or in teams of up to four, as long as two of the teammates attend schools within the First District.

The deadline to submit an app is October 24, 2024 at 11:00 am CST. Registration, competition rules, and student resources can be found here. Additional questions can be directed to Congressman Finstad’s Rochester office at (507) 577-6140.

Shawn Tweten Announces candidacy for U.S. House of Representatives

NORTH MANKATO, Minn. — Shawn Tweten, PhD, a licensed marriage and family therapist, has announced his candidacy for U.S. House of Representatives. Dr. Shawn will be a Republican primary challenger against the first Congressional District incumbent, Brand Findstad, in the August 13th state primary.

Dr. Shawn’s slogan is “Washington needs a therapist” and his motto is “love your neighbor.”

Dr. Shawn says he is “running because there is so much division and fear at the capital. I want to be the member that promotes conflict resolution. When a couple or family or couple are in conflict, they might see a therapist. Now the country is in conflict, it needs a therapist.”

Marriage and family therapists are professionals who trained in helping systems work through conflict and mental health issues. Sometimes that system is a couple considering divorce. Sometimes that system is a family experiencing a mental health crisis. Dr. Shawn states, “Now the system is a congress in chaos.” The U.S. congress is to the point where members are challenging others to physical fights (Sen. Markwayne Mullin) and hurling insults at each other (Reps. Jasmine Crockett and Marjorie Taylor Greene). Dr. Shawn quotes Abraham Lincoln (who was quoting Matthew 12:25), “‘A house divided against itself, cannot stand.’ People in congress are supposed to be on the same team serving for the betterment of the country, not fighting amongst themselves.”

Dr. Shawn continues, “So much political advertising is focused on fear. As a Christian, I do not believe in fear-based politics. The Bible says that ‘God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind’ (First Timothy 1:7). As a mental health therapist, I believe living in a constant state of fear is emotional unhealthy. I want to help change the political narrative. As a therapist, I believe change can start with any part of a system. Congress is a system and I want to insert myself within the system to promote healthy change.”

Dr. Shawn has lived in the greater Mankato area for 15 years. He has four children. Shawn’s full-time job is working with Minnesota jails to provide mental health care and officer wellness. He has also done work as a substitute teacher in the New Ulm and Mankato school districts.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Oak Hills Christian College in Bemidji, Minnesota; his Master of Science degree at Minnesota State University, Mankato; and his Doctor of Philosophy in marriage and family therapy at National University.

Dr. Shawn knows the importance of farming and manufacturing in Minnesota as this family members have jobs in both areas. Shawn also knows the importance of taking care of veterans and providing adequate mental health services to veterans and their families. Please vote for Dr. Shawn on the August 13th Republican primary ballot and again in the general election on November 5th. Please read more on Dr. Shawn at www.electshawn-tweten.com.



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SEMCAC Announces Recent Organizational Grant Awards

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



On May 21, 2024, the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council awarded grants to 59 organizations representing eleven counties for a total of \$387,630 in funding. This includes 35 Legacy grants for \$276,250, thirteen Programming grants for \$61,450, ten Small Towns/Rural Areas grants for \$48,930, and one \$500 Opportunity Grant.

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

Grants for were awarded to the following organizations in Goodhue County:

Goodhue County

- Anderson Center at Tower View received a \$10,000 Legacy grant for Minnesota Children's Book Festival.
- Cannon Arts Board received a \$3,270 Programming grant for Cannon Arts Board Programs.
- Minnesota State Fiddlers Association received a \$5,000 Programming grant for Fiddle Showcase.
- Pine Area People for the Arts received a \$5,000 Small Towns/Rural Areas grant for Gooseberry Jam.
- Zumbrota Area Arts Council received a \$5,000 Small Towns/Rural Areas grant for 2024 Summer Music in Zumbrota East Park.

SEMAC congratulates the award winners and looks forward to celebrating the creative programs these grants will bring to southeastern Minnesota.

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



CITY OF WANAMINGO City Council Regular Meeting Monday, May 13, 2024 7:00 P.M. Wanamingo City Council Chambers – 401 Main Street Wanamingo, MN

CALL TO ORDER: Acting Mayor Stuart Ohr.

PRESENT: Council: Stuart Ohr, Eric Dierks, Jeremiah Flotterud, and Rebecca Haugen

City Administrator: Michael Boulton
Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters

ABSENT: Council: Ryan Holmes

ALSO PRESENT: Cobus Peens, Beth Haas – Zumbrota News-Record, Andrew Deziel – Kenyon Leader, Brian Gudknecht, Josh Revland, Trevor Aase, Brandon Lunde, Julie Mettillie Steberg, and Matt Disbrow – Goodhue County Deputy Sheriff.

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

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

PRESENTERS:

A) Cobus Peens reported on:

- 1) Flushed all the hydrants throughout town
- 2) Repaired screen at Prairie Ridge Estates Park Shelter. The wood trim swelled up and pulled screws out. New, longer screws were used to re-install the trim. A new screen door has been ordered to replace the screen door that was damaged over the winter.
- 3) Swept streets; the goal is to sweep Main Street weekly, the west side of town one week and the east side of town the next week.
- 4) Riverside Park has been opened back up for Spring. The volleyball nets have been placed up, the courts have been cleaned up,

the park shelter doors have been unscrewed, and the water has been turned back on.

5) Community Garden is ready for the season. The water tanks have been filled and the tiller has been serviced for the season. There are scheduled monthly meetings with users to ensure that issues and concerns are addressed.

6) Located and painted water service lines and curb stops on the west side of town to 3rd Avenue. Will continue to locate and paint locations on the east side of town in the coming weeks. This is in conjunction with GIS locating being completed by WHKS.

7) Started working on the pool. The pool has been pressure washed and hope to start painting in the coming week.

Flotterud asked how the new pressure washer worked at the pool. Peens stated that the new pressure washer worked well, even without utilizing the hot water function at the pool.

B) Julie Mettillie Steberg – Wanamingo Pool Managers reported on:

- 1) City of Zumbrota decided not to open their pool in 2024. Since the notice Wanamingo has had 4-5 guards wish to apply for jobs at the Wanamingo pool.
- 2) Finishing staff hirings. Looking into scheduling needs for current staff to see if more are needed.
- 3) The returning staff want more hours for the 2024 season.
- 4) Lessons will be limited to five students per session. We may have another session later in the season. Only have one person with formal WSI (Water Safety Instructor) training. Will have a second staff member formally trained later in the summer.

(continued on page 24)

Minnesota Health Commissioner visits Goodhue County Health and Human Services



Pictured (left to right): Ruth Greenslade – Goodhue County Healthy Communities Supervisor, Commissioner Brad Anderson- HHS Board Chair, Wendy Underwood- Deputy Commissioner of Health, Nina Arneson- Goodhue County Health and Human Services Director, Dr. Brooke Cunningham- Minnesota Health Commissioner, Commissioner Susan Betcher, Kris Johnson- Goodhue County Health and Human Services Deputy Director, Mike Zorn- Goodhue County Health and Human Services Deputy Director, Mary Nelson- Goodhue County Family Health Supervisor, Jessica Seide- Goodhue County Community Health Specialist

Goodhue County Health and Human Services (GCHHS) had the honor of hosting, Dr. Brooke Cunningham, Minnesota Health Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Wendy Underwood on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. This was an opportunity for Commissioner Dr. Cunningham to listen, learn and connect with GCHHS staff. It also gave GCHHS the opportunity to share our work and get to know her and her team.

Wanamingo City Council

(continued from page 23)

5) Opening is scheduled for Monday June 3rd. The lifeguard in-service day is scheduled for May 31st, which will include seasonal employee safety training.

6) Seasonal pool passes are recommended to increase \$5 while aerobic passes are recommended to increase by \$10. New noodles and boards are needed for aerobics.

C) Trevor Aase, Brandon Lunde, Brian Gudknecht, and Josh Revland – Wanamingo Fire Department, reported on:

1) The fire department is conducting additional work on capital planning to meet future needs.

2) A new truck committee has been formed. The last truck purchase occurred in 2018 for a tanker.

3) Bond payments for the 2018 tanker will be completed in 2027 (roughly \$30,750/year).

4) The current fire department fleet is reliable, but aging.

5) Lead times for new truck orders are 2-3 years.

6) Truck Capital Needs – 1 truck that needs to be replaced 1-10 years, 4 trucks that need to be replaced in 11-20 years, 2 trucks that need to be replaced in 21-30 years and 2 trucks that need to be replaced in 31+ years. The total replacement cost is estimated at \$3,175,000.

7) New engine pumpers are expensive. Inflation has pushed the costs up significantly the past few years.

8) Fire trucks should be on a 30-to-50-year replacement schedule.

9) Engine 2 will be 36 years old in 2027. The pump is obsolete and hard to find replacement parts for.

10) Proposed new vehicle would combine an engine and equipment truck. It would be a side mount class A pumper, starter wheel-base – more maneuverable. The cost is estimated to be between \$800,000-\$1,200,000. The committee is still working on specifications, which will determine pricing.

11) The committee would like to invest in an engine that will be utilized for the next 30-40 years.

12) at the end of 2027 there will be new federal emission standards. The new standards could raise the cost by \$100,000.

13) Looking into Toyne, Rosenbauer, and Pierce for manufacturers.

14) Looking at placing a truck order in Fall 2024 with no money down and locking in the pricing.

Flotterud stated that the next truck purchase has been discussed since the last truck was purchased in 2018 knowing the bond payment is paid off in 2027. Gudknecht stated that the proposed engine is a lot of money but that the current engine needs to be replaced. Ohr stated that he likes the idea of replacing two trucks with one new truck (cost savings). Flotterud asked if the pull tabs were used and planned to be used to pay toward the fire trucks. Boulton stated that the charitable gambling has been contributing between \$10,000-\$20,000 per year toward the current truck. This has allowed for the truck fund savings to increase that will be utilized on the new truck. Boulton stated that the truck fund has roughly \$200,000. Lunde stated that the fire relief association has helped out with charitable gambling funds in the past and would like to continue if the revenues/profits continue each year. Aase stated that the final

truck purchase will more than likely run through Sourcewell for cooperative purchasing. This is a State approved best price purchasing process without having to conduct bidding. Ohr asked if there were any concerns from the Council if the truck committee moves forward with planning. There were no concerns by the Council, with moving forward with truck planning based upon the parameters that were presented to the Council. Aase stated that the truck committee would be back with a recommendation at the August or September City Council meeting to place a truck order.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION:

24-032 = Accepting 2024 Yearly Driver's License Checks for City Employees: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 4-0-0.

24-033 = Setting Swimming Pool Fees and Schedule for the 2024 Season: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

24-034 = Authorizing a Temporary Liquor License for the Wanamingo Fire Relief Association July 3rd Dance: Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

24-035 = Approving Software Purchase Agreement with Civic Systems LLC for Emailed Utility Billing and Citizen Portal: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 4-0-0.

24-036 = Approving the Appointment of Election Judges for the 2024 Primary and General Elections: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Boulton stated that this resolution is different from past years. Goodhue County has asked that a head judge be appointed in the resolution. The County has also recommended that the head election judge be granted authority to appoint emergency election judges if any of the approved election judges are not able to work on election day. Passed 4-0-0.

ORDINANCE #206 – Amending Approved Trees List and Amending Diseased Trees to add Emerald Ash Borer, Amending Wanamingo Code of Ordinances § 94.20 (B) (1) (a) & 94.20 (C) (1) – First Reading. Boulton stated that the Wanamingo Code of Ordinance 94 Trees needs an updated list of trees allowed to be planted within the boulevards. The list is both limited in varieties and includes ash trees, that should be removed. Boulton stated that Emerald Ash Borer should be included in the diseased tree section. Boulton stated that there are several trees around Wanamingo that have been infested by Emerald Ash Borer and will need to be removed over the next couple of years. The ordinance should list Emerald Ash Borer in the diseased tree section so that the Council has authority to order their removal.

OLD BUSINESS:

Enforcement Process – Mead Johnson – Reckitt – 150 day written letter toward meeting goal of waste pH – Boulton stated that the City had received a letter from Mead Johnson – Reckitt. Mead Johnson – Reckitt pH of wastewater discharge was within range during most of the month of April. There were two days where the pH levels exceeded 9 and three days where the pH fell below 5. The frac tank was installed and incorporated into their process back in March. Mead Johnson – Reckitt goal is to install a new lift

station with pH treatment. The project has been funded and is proceeding through the final engineering design phase. Boulton stated that the Wanamingo staff are still monitoring the wastewater discharge from Reckitt-Mead Johnson. The pH levels of the wastewater discharge are being adjusted before being sent to the wastewater treatment plant. Peens stated that staff would like to start pumping from north digester to south digester for treatment. There are still concerns with pumping that could lead to throwing off the treatment for the south digester. Prior to December results have regularly shown extremely low and at times high pH levels along with the presence of high levels of QAC (Quaternary Ammonium Compounds) have been sent to Reckitt-Mead Johnson. The pH levels should be within 5.0 and 9.5. City Staff have been working with Reckitt-Mead Johnson toward the achieved solution of pH levels within the limits. The City appreciates the open dialogue and work, to date, from Reckitt-Mead Johnson. The City continues to keep the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency informed during this process. Boulton stated the Enforcement Process would be left on the monthly agenda until November 2024, or when the action items are completed. Boulton stated the Mead Johnson –Reckitt would be required to provide written monthly updates to the City Council.

Administrator Boulton provided a memo on investments of funds update. The City of Wanamingo has four CD's (Certificate of Deposit), created in 2023 with \$1,000,000. The City invested the \$1,000,000 equally in four separate CD's in April 2023 on special 13-month rate of 4.5%. The CD's mature in early May 2024. City Staff spoke with Security State Bank on future investments of \$1,049,760.92 (\$49,760.92 interest from past 13 months) after the CD's mature. Security State Bank would like the City to continue to have the deposit and offered another special interest rate CD for what the going rate interest is in May. The current special interest rate is for a 13-month 5.09%. The City Staff and Mayor Holmes worked with Security State Bank to sign the four new CD's on May 6th regarding the new investment of funds.

The interest earned (estimated at \$53,432.83) is planned to be accounted for under multiple funds (i.e. general fund, water fund, and sewer fund). These investments should leave plenty of funds for cash flow in the checking account. The checking account, new CD's, the current CD's, and money market funds (Stifel Nicholas and 4M Fund) all help to diversify the City investments.

Administrator Boulton informed the City Council that he and Mayor Holmes have been in discussions with Waste Management as the current contract for residential solid waste, residential recycling, commercial solid waste, and commercial recycling is up December 31, 2024. Boulton stated that the contract allows for mutually agreed upon terms for a five-year extension. Boulton has requested pricing from Waste Management for a potential five-year extension. Boulton stated that the pricing would be brought to the Council for consideration of an extension. Boulton stated that there is very little competition for contracts involving solid waste and recycling for commercial and res-

idential. In April 2024 Hometown Haulers out of Dodge Center recently sold out to Waste Management. This is similar to the sales of Gibson Sanitation and Countryside sanitation over the past five years.

*Next City Council meeting on 6/10/2024 at 7:00pm.

Adjourn: At 8:04PM a motion to adjourn was made by Haugen and seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

Signed: Stuart Ohr, Acting Mayor

Attest:

Michael Boulton, City Administrator

Kenyon City Council Meeting May 14, 2024

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council Meeting was duly held in the City Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. on the 14th day of May 2024. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Henke.

The following members were present: Mayor Doug Henke, Council Members Kim Helgeson, Mary Bailey, Molly Ryan, and Lee Sjolander

Also present: Administrative Assistant Holli Gudknecht, Finance Director Whitney Kyllö, Police Chief Jeff Sjoblom, Engineer Derek Olinger, Public Works Director Wayne Ehrich, City Attorney Scott Riggs, Armani Tucker, Brian Homeier, Earl Mechlewitz, and Chad Steffen

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENT ADOPT AGENDA

Addition: / VIII / Legal / A / Kenyon Fire Relief Donations to City

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried 5-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Henke seconded by Ryan to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes payment of check numbers 75972 through 76081; 4922E through 4968E.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS/ PUBLIC HEARINGS/ RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS 2024 Kenyon Police Department Scholarship – Jeff Sjoblom

Police Chief Jeff Sjoblom stated that each year the police department offers a scholarship for Law Enforcement students. Chief Sjoblom presented this year's scholarship to Armani Tucker. Armani Tucker introduced himself and told the council about his education in law enforcement.

ENGINEERING

Pearl Creek & Gates Avenue Utility Improvements

Engineer Olinger stated that work resumed on the lift station project this past month. The lift station structure is now plumbed, and grading work continues for the driveway and pad.

Pay Application #4 to BCM Construction
Motion by Sjolander second by Helgeson to approve pay request No. 4 to BCM Construction in the amount of \$125,374.39 for work completed through May 3, 2024. Motion carried 5-0-0.

2025 Street & Utility Project Scope

Engineer Olinger reviewed the 2025 infrastructure project. City staff and the city's fi-

(continued on page 25)

Kenyon City Council

(continued from page 24)

nancial advisor have reviewed the preliminary list of projects. Projects include reconstruction of Langford Avenue and 8th Street. Fifth Street behind the school will be an alternate project.

CSAH 12 Partnership Agreement

City Engineer Olinger stated that the partnership agreement defining the responsibilities for the county and city and the process for proceeding with the design of the project was being worked on, but no agreement has been reached yet. This project is not a county priority at this time. No further action on this item.

2025 Project: Preliminary Design Proposal

Resolution 2024-12: Ordering Preparation of Report on Improvement 2025 Street and Utility Improvements

Engineer Olinger explained that the 2025 street and utility project will include special assessments to properties abutting the proposed improvements. The first step in this process is authorizing the preparation of a feasibility report to define the need for improvements, scope of work, cost and funding, and to prepare estimates of assessments.

Motion by Ryan seconded by Bailey to adopt Resolution 2024-12. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Olinger presented Bolton & Menk's scope of work to complete the feasibility report, organize multiple internal and public meetings, survey the project, and data collection through contract soil borings and sanitary sewer televising.

Motion by Ryan seconded by Helgeson to approve the preliminary engineering proposal for the 2025 street & utility improvements in the amount of \$81,600. Motion carried 5-0-0.

LEGAL

Kenyon Fire Relief Donations to City

Resolution 2024-14 Accepting Kenyon Fire Relief Association Donations to the City of Kenyon

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Ryan to adopt Resolution 2024-14 accepting donations of \$23,718.99 from the Kenyon Fire Relief Association to the City to be used for specified items. Motion carried 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Sound System

Finance Director, Whitney Kylo updated the council on the sound system repairs in the council chambers.

NEW BUSINESS

City Hall Camera Update Quote

Finance Director Kylo reviewed a quote from WH Security to replace three cameras and the panic buttons that weren't working. Council member Sjolander would like a panic button added to the library.

Motion by Sjolander seconded by Ryan to accept the quotes from WH Security to install three new cameras and panic buttons including one in the library. Motion carried 5-0-0.

City Hall Door Repair Quote

Public Works Director Ehrich stated he received a quote from Johnson Hardware out of Dodge Center to repair some issues with the City Hall doors. The front door needs new weather stripping, a new hydraulic closer, and new supports. The hydraulic closer is leaking oil and the support on the arm assembly is bent. The back door needs a new aluminum door sweep due to a gap under the door.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to approve the quote from Johnson Hardware to repair the City Hall doors. Motion carried 5-0-0.

CD Signers at Security State Bank of Kenyon

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Ryan to remove Mark Vahlsing and Mike Engel as signers and add Douglas Henke and Holli Gudknecht as signer on the CD at the Security state Bank of Kenyon. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Update Administrative Policy #5 – Snow and Ice Control

Public Works Director Ehrich stated mailboxes that are not compliant with USPS mailbox regulations are causing problems for snowplowing and street sweeping. Public works would like noncompliant residents to be notified by letter to bring their mailboxes into compliance. Administrative Policy #5 needed to be updated with more specific information before the letter could be issued.

Motion by Ryan seconded by Henke to adopt revised Administrative Policy #5 - Snow and Ice Control.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Resolution 2024-13: Establishing License Fees and Compensation

Resolution 2024-01 Establishing Fees for 2024 was adopted on January 10, 2024. The fees for On-sale Sunday Liquor and Bad Check Charge were increased in January. Per State Statute, the fee for Sunday on-sale liquor may not exceed \$200 and the fee for a bad check may not exceed \$30. Also, the wording for the Fire Dept./First Responder

Repeated Non-Fire or Non-Medical Calls needs to be revised to match the city code.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Helgeson to adopt Resolution 2024-13 leaving the bad check charge at \$45.00 but revising the wording to say, "Bad check charge and penalty". Motion carried 5-0-0.

Fire Department – Wayne Ehrich, Fire Chief

Goodhue County MOU Agreement

Fire Chief Ehrich stated that Earl Merchle-witz, Goodhue County Emergency Management Director, had requested that their mobile command center vehicle be stored at the Kenyon Fire Hall. The city currently has bay space and office space available for their use. This is at no cost to the city or fire department.

Motion by Ryan seconded by Henke to approve the Goodhue County MOU Agreement. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Tanker Truck Purchase

Fire Chief Ehrich stated that a quote for a 2025-26 tanker truck was received from Midwest Fire. The Fire Relief Association donated \$10,000 to the fire department to cover the initial down payment to reserve the build date. This payment is required to start the purchase process. The chassis payment would be due upon arrival in the spring of 2025. This money is available in the truck fund.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Henke to approve the purchase of the tanker truck.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Pay Off First Responders Loan of \$61,712

Fire Chief Ehrich stated that money is currently available in the truck fund to pay off the First Responders vehicle loan. By paying this loan off, there would be an interest savings of \$6,631.48.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to pay off the First Responder vehicle loan of \$61,712.

Purchase Built-in Desks for Fire Hall Office

Fire Chief Ehrich stated that the Fire Department would like to purchase built-in desks for their office. The Fire Relief Association would pay for this project. The cost would be approximately \$13,000.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Ryan to approve the purchase of built-in cabinets for the Fire Hall office. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Rent Inflatables for Firemen's Open House

Fire Chief Ehrich stated that the Fire Department would like to rent inflatables for their open house in June. The Fire Relief Association would pay for this project.

Motion by Ryan seconded by Bailey to approve the rental of inflatables for the Firemen's Open House on June 22, 2024. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Public Works Shop Roof Repair Quote

Public Works Director Ehrich informed the council that the roof of the Public Works Shop at 109 Gates Avenue has five leaks in the roof and water is running into the light fixtures. A repair quote was received from Heyn Brothers for \$7,650.00.

Motion by Ryan seconded by Helgeson to approve the quote from Heyn Brothers for \$7,650.00 to repair the public works shop roof. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Sewer Plant Valve Replacement

Public Works Director Ehrich stated a sewer pump valve repair is needed at the

sewer plant to fix the recirculation pump. A quote for three new 6" plug valves, pump removal, new hardware and gaskets, and labor was received.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Ryan to approve the quote to replace the sewer plant valves. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Pool Repairs

Broken Drainpipe in Main Pool

Public Works Director Ehrich stated that he discovered a broken pipe in the main drain of the main pool. H&M Underground Solutions repaired the pipe on May 8, due to time constraints of opening the pool on time. The repair funds of \$3,753.50 will come out of the capital fund.

Motion by Ryan seconded by Bailey to approve \$3,753.50 in repair costs to the pool drain. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Electrical Panel Repair

Public Works Director Ehrich reported that there was a short in the electrical panel at the pool.

Sparks flew when the lights were turned on. R&K Electric repaired the panel on May 7.

Vandalism

Public Works Director Ehrich updated the council on the vandalism at the pool on April 28. The damage included a broken window, dents in the outside door, holes in the privacy fence, and dented picnic tables. A claim was filed with our insurance company. Six juveniles were identified by the Kenyon Police Department in this incident.

On-Sale Liquor License Renewal- VFW

Motion by Ryan seconded by Bailey to renew the VFW's liquor license. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Approve Request for Liquor at Depot Park – Amanda Hollund and James Wagner, June 22, 2024

Motion by Helgeson, seconded by Henke to approve the liquor request for Amanda Hollund and James Wagner in Depot Park on June 22, 2024. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Request by Police Department to Apply Golf Cart Fee to Scholarships

Police Chief Jeff Sjoblom presented a proposal for golf cart license fees to go toward community scholarships.

Motion by Ryan seconded by Helgeson to approve the golf cart license fees to go toward community scholarships. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Approve Memorial Day Parade for May 27, 2024

Mayor Henke stated that the annual Memorial Day parade is going to go down 2nd Street ending with a ceremony at the cemetery.

Motion by Ryan, seconded by Bailey to approve the Memorial Day Parade permit for May 27, 2024.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

KMU Meeting: Tuesday, May 21st @ 4:00 p.m.

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, June 11th @ 7 pm

COUNCIL AND STAFF GENERAL COMMENTS

Council Member Helgeson thanked all the city workers on staff. She appreciates everything they do.

Motion by Ryan seconded by Bailey to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Holli Gudknecht, Administrative Assistant
Douglas Henke, Mayor

Commissioner Corner

Greetings to District 3,

I want to start with a big Thank you to all our Veterans and active military. Giving your life for your country is the ultimate sacrifice and I am so appreciative of all the soldiers that have died for our freedom. Memorial day has passed but we need to remember that our freedom is always with us and we can never forget it. Staffing is at the top of our list at the county, we have had a few retirements and now is the time to reevaluate jobs and staffing concerns. I want to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication to Goodhue County. Remember all the celebrations that our communities put on during the summer, and hopefully you can attend some of these. I want to thank all the people that work really hard to promote their communities. I hope you all enjoy the start of summer and be safe in your travels.

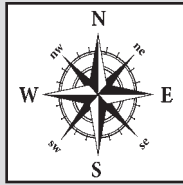
Thank you

Commissioner Greseth



Todd Greseth
Goodhue County
Commissioner
District 3

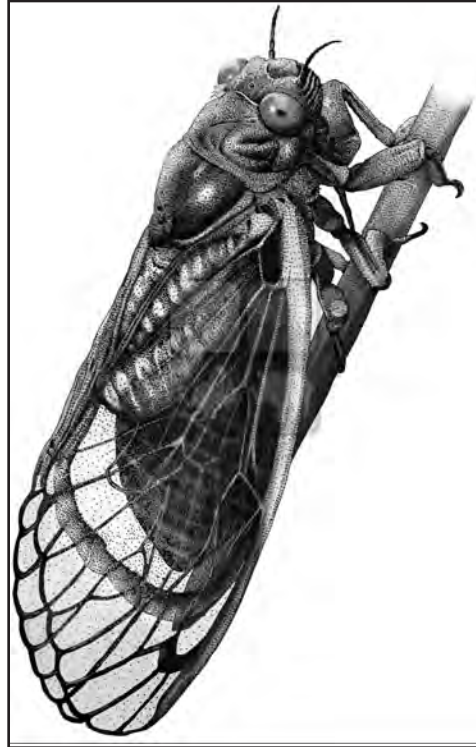
*Changes in Latitudes,
Changes in Attitudes*
**Invasion of the
Zombie Cicadas**



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell.

Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when its warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.



Cicadas come out in the summer. It happens every year in Tennessee. They are best known by the high pitched buzz created by the male vibrating their abdomen over 120 times per second. This sound can reach 100 decibels. They make a lot of noise and start flying around looking for a mate. You can see the evidence of Cicadas since they shed their exoskeleton a couple times while growing. You will see the empty shell attached to the bark of a tree. Every thirteen or seventeen years a brood of cicadas, which have lived under the soil near a tree, will emerge and finish their life process by mating and dying. This year, the first time since 1803, the broods will co-emerge in the same year and populate in the trillions. If that is not enough, a fungus has infected the cicada, turning them into zombies.

The Massospora cicadina fungus attacks the bugs and takes over their body and behavior. The Cicada emerges from the soil with the goal of procreating, but the fungus makes them unable to achieve this objective. This fungus grows as a spore in the abdomen of a Cicada and causes them to swell up and burst releasing a white chalky substance. In the process their genitals fall off. The fungus causes them to become hyper sexualized yet unable to produce.

If that hasn't got your attention yet, the fungus also has a hallucinatory effect on birds which eat them. Baby Copperheads congregate around trees and feed on the Cicadas because it is an easy and plentiful food supply. They haven't figured out what the effect is on snakes yet. On top of that the Cicada holds the title of king of the animal kingdom peeing contest. The Cicada has muscle that

pushes waste through a tiny hole, like a jet. The flow rate is triple that of humans and elephants, reaching ten feet per second. If you thought it was raining on a clear day, you were just getting soaked in Cicada urine.

So you have trillions of frustrated Cicadas flying and trying to mate with other Cicadas while peeing from trees, stoned birds zooming around under the influence of the zombie fungus, a whole brood of vipers growing up on hallucinatory fungal spores and a constant high pitched whine in your ears day and night. The greatest hatch of Cicadas seems to be located between northern Tennessee and southern Illinois. Even if the fungus doesn't affect the Copperheads, a bumper crop of the serpents is anticipated for 2024 from the plentiful food source, which will increase the number of snakes hatching young next spring.

They call it Cicada-geddon and some folks complain that it is too noisy to stay outside. A chef in New York City has offered Cicada cuisine in his restaurant featuring various types of insects. An entomologist has recommended that people skip the Cicada dish until the threat of the infected bugs has gone. For the rest of the world it just looks a little like the plagues have returned.

**Do You Have an
Announcement?**

Email:
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**A Minnesotan:
Working Dogs**



By RosaLin Alcoser

Over the course of my life my parents have always had a dog. And all of those dogs have had some sort of job that was either taught to them or they just naturally did.

The dog we had when I was little's job was to keep things out of bushes and watch children. Both of which she naturally did on her own. There was never anything in the bushes and she kept us away from anything that she deemed as a treat to human children.

The next dog my mom trained to stay by her side or if she wasn't home to stay by my side. Which he did very well and it was his job. His main occupation was making sure everyone was safe which he did rather well as he was a giant dog that strangers didn't want to tangle with and

was a coward. This dog once trapped me in a bathroom with him because the tornado sirens were going off. He was very good at his job.

This same job was then taught to the next dog as well. With the expectation, he patrolled the perimeter of the house for mice and other rodents. The house and garage were mouse and rodent free for his entire life.

It is my parents' current job that is different though. This dog is mainly a dog of leisure. That isn't to say she doesn't have a job, it's just not an overly productive job. Much like Ken's job in Barbie Land is just beach, her job is just lake. She doesn't even swim in the lake; she just stands on the edge of it.

I believe this dog has swam exactly three times in her life. Twice when she fell off of the dock. The first time of which she blames me for as she feels I pushed her. When in reality she walked off the side of the dock and started swimming; while I was prepared to jump in and grab her since she was still rather young but didn't since she was swimming.

The third time was the one and only time she ran and jumped off the dock like the other dogs and even I do. Just to see if this was something she really didn't like or if the falling was the problem. She did not care for it and has not done it since.

Instead she keeps to her strengths and keeps doing her job of just being a lake. Not swimmer or lake jumper. Just lake.



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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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- ACROSS
1. Ice cream treat, pl.
 6. Albanian money
 9. Desertlike
 13. Like Bananas Foster
 14. Paleozoic ____
 15. O. Henry's specialty
 16. Printer brand
 17. Always, to a poet
 18. Extended family member
 19. "Breaking Bad" father
 21. "The Lion King" father
 23. Unit of length of yarn
 24. "____ Me Maybe"
 25. *____ Anderson, he knew best?
 28. The Supremes, e.g.
 30. Subject matter, pl.
 35. Same as ayah
 37. Plural of #14 Across
 39. Like less processed grain
 40. Kind of shark
 41. U.S. Airline
 43. Short for "and elsewhere"
 44. Opposite of digest
 46. Flabbergast
 47. Like Gulf Stream
 48. Most achy
 50. Not much (2 words)
 52. Reggae's cousin
 53. Rapunzel's abundance
 55. Maintenance closet staple
 57. *____ Rock of "Everybody Hates Chris"
 60. "Finding Nemo" father
 63. Golfer's sun protection
 64. Aloha prop
 66. Only daughter of Michael Jackson
 68. Not active
 69. Emergency Medical Services
 70. In the cooler (2 words)
 71. "Opie's father
 72. Egyptian boy king, for short
 73. Button on electrical outlet

- DOWN
1. Nth degree
 2. Not many
 3. Turkish money
 4. Online troublemaker
 5. Mike Brady's children, e.g.
 6. Malicious look
 7. Before, in the olden days
 8. Culture Club 1983 hit "____ Chameleon"
 9. Solo at LaScala
 10. Fish eggs, pl.
 11. Cuzco valley empire
 12. Yellow #5, e.g.
 15. Stream of revenue
 20. Dog-____ pages
 22. Final, abbr.
 24. Medicated shampoo ingredient (2 words)
 25. *____ Evans Sr. of "Good Times"
 26. Idealized image
 27. "Prepare to meet your ____!"
 29. Wraths
 31. Exclamation in a stinky room
 32. Smidgins
 33. "National Lampoon" father
 34. 1965 march site
 36. Garden staple
 38. Half a ticket
 42. Carl Jung's inner self
 45. Casual top
 49. T, in Greek
 51. Lethargy
 54. Speck in the ocean
 56. Heathrow craft
 57. Same as genie
 58. Pre-owned
 59. Type of parrot
 60. Atomizer output
 61. Van Gogh's famous flower
 62. On Santa's gift list
 63. Roman road
 65. Down Under runner
 67. Group of dishes

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

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