



Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger™

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OCTOBER 16, 2024

Volume 21 • Issue 10

Announcements

• **Early Childhood Screening will be held on Tuesday, October 29, 2024.**

Screening will take place from 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Families with children age 3-5 that have not been screened should contact the Community Education office at 507-645-4773, ext. 209 to schedule an appointment. It is required that children be screened before entering preschool and kindergarten at Randolph.



• **Randolph School Schedule of Events:**

October 17 & 18 - NO SCHOOL MEA

October 22-26 - FFA National Convention

October 23 - PSAT Test - Grade 11
October 23 - Preschool & Make Up Picture Day 8:00-11:00 a.m.

October 27 - Band Fundraiser Spooktacular 1:00-4:00 p.m.

October 29 - Early Childhood Screening 3:30-6:30 p.m.

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

Do you have an announcement?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Missing Nicole Anderson \$45,000 Reward

By Sheriff Joe Leko

The Dakota County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate the disappearance of 56-year-old Nicole Anderson who left on foot from her Randolph Township home the morning of July 6th and did not return. The

previous reward of \$5,000 for information leading to Nicole Anderson's whereabouts or the prosecution of those involved in her disappearance is now \$45,000. Private parties have graciously pledged an additional \$40,000 reward to be distributed independ-

ently of the Sheriff's Office.

Only tips received through the Dakota County Sheriff's Office or Crime Stoppers that help lead to the location of Nicole Anderson or prosecution of those involved in her disappearance are eligible for the reward.

We continue our exhaustive efforts to locate Ms. Anderson. This remains an active investigation and no further information will be released at this time.

Tip information can be shared via phone by calling 651-438-TIPS, via email at crimeand-warranttips@co.dakota.mn.us or online in the link ReportATip



St. Mary's Church Annual Sausage Supper



Mark your calendars! St. Mary's Church, New Trier will hold their annual Sausage Supper on Sunday, November 24, 2024. Dine in and drive through available from Noon-6:00p.m. Menu includes: Pork

sausage, German potato salad, sauerkraut, cold potato salad, glazed carrots, buns and dessert.

Pre-order pork sausage for pick up on November 24th. 5lbs. for \$30 (limit 5 lbs. per person). Call to order Kitty 651-428-6446 or Bev 651-214-0286.

(see ad on pg. 3 for more info)

"Spooktacular"

Courtesy of Randolph School

You are invited to attend a "Spooktacular" Family Fun Day for kids in grades 6 and below on Sunday, October 27 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at Randolph Elementary School. The event will feature a bounce house or two, carnival games, prizes, food, and music. Concessions, Halloween themed treats and other goodies will also be for sale.

Kids (and adults) are encouraged to dress up in their costumes! Admission is \$6.00 for students in grades 6 and below and includes unlimited access to the fun! Adults and kids 2 and under are free. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. The event is being sponsored by the Randolph High School Band and Choir.

****New this year****

If you are a business owner or a parent and would like to host a game station at the Spooktacular contact band director, Jackie Sczepanski. You will get a 10x10 space, but you would need to provide your own game, helpers, candy, set up, and clean up, we'll provide the trick or treaters!

Contact Jackie Sczepanski for more information at sczepanskij@district195.org.



NHS to Trick-or-Treat for Families in Need

Courtesy of Randolph School

Students from the National Honor Society will be trick-or-treating around the town of Randolph for food shelf items on Thurs October 31st, 2024.

100% of the donations will go to local families in need.

If you have any questions contact Lisa Ehleringer at 507-263-2151 ext. 258 or email Ehleringerl@district195.org



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

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



Ann Weckop, Agent
Email: aweckop@millerhartwig.com



Ashley Kimmes, Agent
Email: akimmes@millerhartwig.com



Jennifer Endres, Agent
Email: jendres@millerhartwig.com

23250 Main Street | PO Box 12 | Hampton, MN 55031

Phone: 651-437-9200 | Fax: 651-437-9212

Your Local and Experienced Insurance Experts

HALLOWEEN PARTY
Friday, November 1st
The Fun Starts at 9:00PM

Prizes for Best Costume!

651-437-5618
23910 Hogan Avenue
New Trier, MN

TROPHY HOUSE CATERING

A Word from the Lord about Harvesting

By Pastor Marty Weigand

October is not only for football games and fall color; it's a month of combines, gravity boxes, and bright lights in the middle of a field as farmers work late into the night to get the harvest in. Listen to what the Bible tells us about a harvest time many years ago with God's Old Testament people Israel, and the lessons God has for us in this.

It was around 500 B.C.—the people of Israel had recently come back from 70 years of captivity in Babylon (present day Iraq) and were in their own land again. They were living in their own houses, which they had rebuilt, and planting and harvesting in their own fields again. But the harvest was not what they hoped. "You planted much, but harvested little," God told them through the prophet Haggai (Haggai 1:6 NIV).

Why was that? God explained it to them. "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why? declares the LORD Almighty. Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil,

and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands." (Haggai 1:9-11 NIV)

The people didn't want to be bothered with rebuilding the Lord's temple, which had been torn down when the Israelites went into captivity. They wanted to have their own houses and stuff all the way they wanted first. Only after that—maybe—would they find time to rebuild the temple. Logically, this should have resulted in greater harvests and more prosperity for them, since by not spending time or wealth on the Lord's house, they had more time and wealth to put into building their own houses and planting and tending their own fields.

But God didn't let it work out that way. He made it so that when they put God last in order to have more for themselves, they ended up with less for themselves than if they would have put God first.

God is still in charge today of how successful our work is on this earth—whether it's farming, factory work, construction, retail, or fixing up our own house or vacation home. He's also in charge of how our day goes—whether we have time to spare; or unexpected complications eat away all the extra time we thought we had set aside for our-

selves.

When we put God last, in order to have more money for ourselves, or more time for ourselves, he may do like he did with the Israelites, and we end up with less money to spare to buy things we wanted to, or less time to enjoy them, then if we would have put the Lord first with our time, wealth, or energy.

The reverse is also true. God inspired the Apostle Paul to write these words to Christians in Corinth around 55 A.D., who were willingly taking part in an offering to help needy fellow Christians around Jerusalem. "Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion." (2 Corinthians 9:10-11

NIV) Instead of the Christians making themselves poorer by giving away what they had, God would bless them and make them richer than if they hadn't given, so they could bless yet more people with their gifts. God can do that with our time as well, blessing us so that when we take time to worship him, and to serve him by serving others, he lets our day go in such a way that we get more done and still have more time left than if we hadn't taken that time out to serve him.

Dear Christians in our community, let these things encourage you to do what your new Christian heart already wants to do. Put your Lord Jesus first, with your time and your wealth, in thanks to Him who put serving and saving you ahead of his own time, health and life; but then rose from the dead to live forever as your Savior!

Countering the Critics of Christianity Conference November 1 & 2 2024

Where: Lake Phalen Community Church-Maplewood Minnesota
Free On-Site and/or On-line
Learn from the Bible and Deepen your faith.
See full Conference program schedule at RAS.ORG

Robert Bowman Jr of the Institute for Religious Research:

- Understanding and Defending the Deity of Christ
- What Christians need to know about Unitarianism
- Has the Bible been corrupted: Bart Ehrman & Religious Critics of the Bible.

Joseph Tal Davis of Market-Faith Ministries:

- What's the Latest with the Latter-day Saints?
- New Light on the Jehovah's Witnesses' Bible

Pastor Robert Highley

- Apologetics: A World View Conflict

Steve Lagoon of Religion Analysis Service:

- How the Watchtower's Michael-Jesus Doctrine Destroys the Resurrection

Adam Dommeyer of River Revival Network:

- Mormonism's Forever Families Versus Being a Child of God

Doug Steiner of Religion Analysis Service

- Living Like Daniel in Babylon

Worship with Rev. Don Anderson

Register at RAS.ORG or Eventbrite.com (write "apologetics" in search bar).
Need help: Contact Steve Lagoon: 651-315-0781 / sslagoon@juno.com

Keeping your name in front of your potential customers is an essential part of marketing your business in today's competitive market.

Place your ad in the next issue of the
Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger.
Call Terry at 507-951-7417 or email:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com



Business & Subscription Office:

P.O. Box 125, Dennison, MN 55018

Phone or Text: 507-649-3327

Fax: 507-645-9878

Website:

www.randolphmn.com

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or call 507-649-3327

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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Wake Up

"Young man, I say to you, 'Get up!'" — Luke 7:14

I am not a morning person. I wish I were. I have learned to get up early out of necessity, but it takes some time and coffee to get me going.

In our reading from Luke 7 today, we see a remarkable awakening. A young man has died. Jesus sees the funeral procession, and his heart goes out to the young man's mother, who is also a widow. He walks up to the funeral stretcher and says, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" Jesus uses a Greek word here that literally means "wake up." Jesus treats the young man as if he is not dead but asleep. And when he wakes up, the young man starts to talk, which seems like a funny detail to include. Maybe he is a morning person!

Later in the passage, the same word is used again. The crowd that had seen this miracle declared with awe, "A great prophet has appeared among us." More literally, this can be translated: "A great prophet has awoken among us!" — meaning that the people could see they were in the presence of someone specially sent by God. They didn't know much about Jesus yet, but they would soon learn.

I don't know if you are a morning person or not, but here is a helpful prayer we can offer anytime: "Jesus, please awaken me!" Ask the Lord to wake you up to see and care about the people around you.

Dear Jesus, as you worked your resurrection power in that young man, will you work the same power in my life and spirit today? Help me to serve you faithfully. Amen.

The Church Directory is Sponsored by:



23280 Main Street, Hampton
(651) 437-9535



300 West Main Street
Cannon Falls



RANDOLPH BAPTIST CHURCH

29020 Dawson Avenue in the heart of Randolph (adjacent to Randolph Public School grounds).

Sunday School 9:00a.m.

(children, teen, and adult classes)

Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.

Jesus and Me (JAM) Kids Club 3:00-5:00p.m. first and second Wednesday of the school month.

Pastor Dennis Ingolfsland

Questions? Call church office 507-663-1437

CHRIST UMC

Rev. Thomas Countryman
29470 Gaylord Ave., Cannon Falls
507-757-8043

www.christunitedmethodist.org

Sunday Worship 8:30a.m.

Sunday School 8:30a.m.

STANTON UMC

Reverend Thomas Countryman
1020 Hwy. 19 Blvd., Stanton • 507-321-3598
www.stantonunitedmethodist.org
Sunday Worship at 10:15a.m.

Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

28595 Randolph Blvd.
www.stmarksrandolph.com

Pastor Lue Moua

Sunday Worship 10:00a.m. & on Facebook

Bible Study Tuesdays at 9:00a.m.

& 1st Wednesday at 11:00a.m.

WELCA 1st Wednesday at 10:00a.m.

Questions? Call 507-263-9182

ST. MATHIAS CATHOLIC CHURCH, HAMPTON

stmathias-hampton.com
5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass
7:30a.m. Monday Mass

Questions? Call Mon.-Friday 651-437-9030

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NEW TRIER

stmarys-newtrier.com
8:00a.m. Sunday Mass
7:30a.m. Friday Mass

Questions? Call Mon.-Friday 651-437-9030

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CASTLE ROCK

9:00 a.m. Worship Service, Coffee After
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Questions? Call 507-645-0042

Ellen Wilma Amy

Ellen Wilma Amy died unexpectedly at her home on Thursday September 26, 2024



Ellen Wilma Edelbach was born at home on the farm near Alma (Buffalo County) Wisconsin on September 13, 1935 to parents Melvin and Wilma (Fink) Edelbach. She attended school in

Buffalo County Wisconsin and began working out of the home for various farm families in her teenage years, and met her future husband, Loren Amy in 1951. Ellen and Loren married in Fountain City, Wisconsin on September 19th, 1953. They farmed on shares for several years near Kellogg, MN before purchasing their dairy farm in Dennison, MN in 1961. Ellen was a life long farmer and homemaker. Although they discontinued dairy farming in the early 1970's, Ellen and Loren continued raising beef cattle and working the farm. She provided daycare to several area farm families as well as many of her Grandchildren as the family grew. In later years, after Lorens retirement from McQuay, they were able to travel to see family, including Texas, Oregon, California, Arizona as well as many trips to Wisconsin Dells with the family, and continued to enjoy the farm. After Lorens death in 2009, Ellen continued to live and take care of the cattle on the family farm in Dennison, ac-

tively gardening, cooking, canning and continuing the traditions she loved so much. Ellen held a strong Christian faith and supported her children and family to the fullest.

Ellen is survived by her children, David (Mary) Amy of Dundas, Bonnie (Favorite Son-In-Law, Randy) Ascheman of Faribault, Dallas (Rebecca) Amy of Dennison, Darwin (Lori) Amy of Dennison, Daniel (Sarah) Amy of Dundas, Jeff (Paula) Amy of Wells, and Joe (Michelle) Amy of Dennison, along with 21 Grandchildren, 31 ½ Great Grand Children*, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation was at the Bierman Funeral Home Monday, September 30, 2024 from 4-7 PM, and one hour prior to funeral services at Dennison Lutheran Church Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 11 AM with her final resting at Prairie Creek Cemetery, rural Dennison.

Lunch followed at The Fireside Lounge & Supper Club in Dennison.

Virginia Leigh Wille

Virginia Leigh Wille died peacefully on September 21, 2024, at home surrounded by her family. Ginny was born in Luverne, MN on October 1, 1925, to Al and Leona Remme. She graduated from Cannon Falls High School, followed by Minneapolis Business College, to be-



come a legal secretary. She worked in Faribault, MN, and then for two years in Salt Lake City, UT. After moving back to Cannon Falls in 1947, she married James Wille on March 5, 1948.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years Jim; sister Dorothy (Russ) Knoblauch; brother Pete (Bonnie) Remme; daughter-in-law Karen Bongard; and son-in-law Mike Casserly. She is survived by children, Ellen (Chuck) Morrow, Karin Wille, Nan (Dick Cecchettini) Wille, and Doug Wille; ten grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren; and beloved nieces, nephews and friends.

Ginny was dedicated to her family, neighbors, and the many organizations to which she donated time and leadership, including Christ United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women, 4-H, Cannon Valley and Dakota County Fairs, Project Group, and Cannon Falls Nursing Home. She collected donations for Simpson Housing and Ruth's House, two of her favorite charities.

Ginny lived out her values of hospitality, generosity, kindness, and creativity by warmly welcoming people into her home, sharing conversation and food around her table. She enjoyed quilting and did beautiful counted cross stitch pieces. Ginny loved the written word and was famous for sending inspiring notes. She was an avid reader, and after losing her vision, read hundreds of talking books. As a final gift, she donated her body to Mayo Clinic. Ginny truly lived her favorite word, JOY, and she will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

A visitation will be held on Friday, November 1 from 4 PM-6 PM at Lundberg Funeral Home, Cannon Falls. A memorial service will be held at Christ United Methodist Church on Saturday, November 2 at 11 AM followed by lunch, with visitation from 10-11 AM.

A special thanks to Ginny's wonderful caregivers and Mayo Home Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Ginny's memory to Christ United Methodist Church, Simpson Housing Services, or donor's choice.

Marilyn Jean (Stapf) Hoffman

Marilyn Jean (Stapf) Hoffman of Hampton, Minnesota went to meet her Savior peacefully in her home on Sunday, October 13, 2024. She was surrounded by family. Marilyn was born on April 24, 1928 in Red Wing, MN to Seybert and Vera (Kadel) Stapf and grew up on their farm in Farmington. She went to school in District 55 (one room school house), then Farmington High School where she played the tuba in the marching band. She also played the Hawaiian guitar. Marilyn held an Associate Degree in Education from St. Cloud State Teachers College. She taught school two years in District 39 (one room school) in Farmington, then 3rd & 4th Grade in Jackson, MN and 4th Grade at Ramsey School in Albert Lea, MN.

Emmanuel Church laid the foundation for Marilyn's lifelong commitment and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is there that she met Allen Hoffman as a child. In April of 1956, Allen asked for her hand in marriage.

They were wed on November 8, 1956 at Allen's family farm. November 8th would have marked 68 years of faithful commitment to each other.

Marilyn had a very full life, teaching Sunday School, VBS and Release Time Classes. She was a leader of Homemakers Club, 4-H Club, Women's ministry at church, was the Church Kitchen Coordinator and sang in the choir. Enriching the lives of her children, Marilyn passed down her skills of gardening, canning, cooking, baking, scrapbooking, sewing and singing. Marilyn was a lover of animals, especially cats. She also loved to travel, seeing most of the continental US in her twenties and then in her later life with Allen, traveled the world with her daughter, Cindy and Bob.

A consummate historian, Marilyn extensively documented both sides of the family history, including genealogy, photos and impactful stories. She contributed to the book, Malice Toward None - Heartening Survival of the Kochendorfers, by Daniel C. Munson. Marilyn's ancestors, the Kochendorfer-Stapf family were devout Christians. They lived their lives, clinging to their faith in Jesus even when they faced death and great hardship. This heritage made a lasting impression on her life. "It is my prayer that our descendants may so live, taking Jesus as their Savior and guide, and that we may all meet in that heavenly home, praising God for His wonderful love shown us here."

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents, Seybert and Vera (Kadel) Stapf; brother Lester (Edna) Stapf; sister Evelyn (Don) Lorenz; infant son, David Allen Hoffman; infant grand-daughter Ariana Hoffman; and grandson Mark Hoffman. She is survived by her loving husband of nearly 68 years, Allen Dietrich Hoffman; children Mary (Jeff) Filling, Paul Hoffman, Cindy (Bob) Cross and Judy (Richard) Vanman; beloved niece Bette Stapf and nephews Joe (Eileen) Stapf and Ron (Jan) Lorenz.

She is also survived by her grandchildren, Jeffrey (Mallory) Poe, Jamie (Joe) Blank, Andrew (Caryn Christenson) Hoffman, Heather (Joel) Gnat, Heidi Hoffman, Troy Hoffman, Tracy Hoffman, Leah Hoffman (Kevin Mellette), Justin (Jessica) Vanman, Jessica (Nick) Thompson, Jason Vanman (Tania Beatriz Bayon), Jenea (Alex) Cheski, and Jarren Vanman and step-grandchildren Heidi (Brian) Vassak, Dan (Christine) Filling, Jerell (Emily) Juve and Jerreise Poepping (Jacob Anvik). Marilyn and Allen were blessed with 25 great-grandchildren.

The family would like to express our gratitude to the amazing, faithful and loving caregivers, Bette, Joann, Faye, Lisa, Karen, Caryn, Joan, Deanna, Melodee and Rick (hospice nurse) who made it possible for Marilyn to remain at home throughout her last years.

A Celebration of Marilyn's Life will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at Bethel's Rock Church, 6300 212th St West, Farmington, MN. The visitation will begin at 9:30 AM with the service at 11 AM. Immediately following the service, a lunch will be served. Interment will be at Emmanuel Cemetery, Farmington, MN on the morning of Monday, October 28th.

White Funeral Home 651-463-7374
Condolences:
www.whitefuneralhomes.com



grew up on their farm in Farmington. She went to school in District 55 (one room school house), then Farmington High School where she played the tuba in the marching band. She also played the Hawaiian guitar. Marilyn held an Associate Degree in Education from St. Cloud State Teachers College. She taught school two years in District 39 (one room school) in Farmington, then 3rd & 4th Grade in Jackson, MN and 4th Grade at Ramsey School in Albert Lea, MN.

Emmanuel Church laid the foundation for Marilyn's lifelong commitment and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is there that she met Allen Hoffman as a child. In April of 1956, Allen asked for her hand in marriage.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH

New Trier, MN

Annual Sausage Supper

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2024

****DINE IN & DRIVE THRU****

12:00pm-6:00pm

<div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3>Sausage Supper</h3> </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">PORK SAUSAGE GERMAN POTATO SALAD SAUERKRAUT COLD POTATO SALAD GLAZED CARROTS BUNS DESSERT</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3>Meal Prices</h3> </div> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; margin: 0;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">CHILDREN:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$5.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ADULTS 10+:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$16.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ADULTS 90+:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">FREE</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small; margin: 0;"><i>Cash or Check only</i></p>	CHILDREN:	\$5.00	ADULTS 10+:	\$16.00	ADULTS 90+:	FREE	<div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3>Activities</h3> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAFFLE TICKETS WITH \$9395 IN CASH AND PRIZES • MEAT RAFFLES • SILENT AUCTION • CRAFTS • REFRESHMENTS <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3>Pre-Order Pork Sausage</h3> </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">FOR PICKUP ON 11/24/24</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">5 LBS. FOR \$30.00 <i>(limit 5 lbs. per person)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">CALL TO ORDER</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">KITTY - (651) 428-6446 BEV - (651) 214-0286</p>
CHILDREN:	\$5.00						
ADULTS 10+:	\$16.00						
ADULTS 90+:	FREE						

National School Bus Safety Week is October 21-25

Urge Drivers to Stop Illegal School Bus Passing

National School Bus Safety Week is October 21-25, 2024. The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is urging drivers to slow down and be aware of school buses in their communities. Although school buses are one of the safest modes of transportation, injuries and fatalities do occur outside of or near the buses. Most often, these tragedies occur because a motorist has failed to slow down and obey the bus's stop sign, or to follow local traffic laws. Nationally, school bus passing is illegal and it is a deadly risk to bus riders and their caretakers. Drivers should always come to a complete stop when a school bus stop-arm is extended and the red lights are flashing.

From 2013 to 2022, there were 1.5 times more fatalities among pedestrians (169) than occupants of school buses (111) in school-bus-related crashes. A total of 111 school-age children (18 and younger) died in school-bus-related crashes during that period, either as occupants of school buses or other vehicles,

or on foot or bike. Of the 111 deaths, 25 were children who were walking. From 2000-2022, there were 55 fatalities in crashes that involved a driver illegally passing a stopped school bus. Almost half of those fatalities (25) were pedestrians who were 18 years old or younger.

"When a school bus's red lights are flashing and the stop-arm is extended, drivers must slow down and come to a complete stop," said Lorin Pohlman of Held Bus Service. "This is not a suggestion — it's the law." In fact, yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. This is when motorists should begin to slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles. "Motorists may begin moving only when the red flashing lights are turned off, the stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins to move. School bus riders and their caretakers are relying on drivers to follow the law to keep them safe," said Pohlman.

Respect the "Danger Zone"

The school bus loading and unloading area is called the "Danger Zone." Specifically, this is any side of the bus where the bus driver can't see the child and, therefore, the child is in the most danger. These areas include:

- 10 feet in front of the bus, where the driver may be sitting too high to see a child
- 10 feet on either side of the bus, where a child may be in the driver's blind spots
- Behind the school bus

For more information about school bus stop safety, please visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-bus-safety#the-topic-bus-stop-safety>.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Join the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) safety initiative to educate the public about the importance of school bus safety. While the school bus is one of the safest modes of transportation, illegal school bus passing is a significant threat to children and their caretakers. NHTSA is sharing the following information about illegal school bus passing to help raise awareness about this very real danger.



Illegal School Bus Passing

- In every state, it is illegal for vehicle drivers to pass a school bus while the school bus stop-arm is extended and the red lights are flashing. Failing to stop could result in injury or death to child pedestrians or their caretakers. Vehicle drivers must always come to a complete stop when a school bus stop-arm is extended and the red lights are flashing.

- Obey all traffic signs and signals. More injuries and fatalities occur outside of or near a school bus because a motorist has failed to obey the stop-arm warning or has failed to follow local traffic laws.

- Although school buses are statistically the safest way to transport school children, fatalities still happen. This is why it is critical that drivers follow all driving laws.

- A driver in a school-bus-related crash could be charged with one of the following:
 - A violation for passing a stopped school bus
 - A related factor of passing a school bus when prohibited by posted signs, pavement markings, or school bus displaying warning not to pass, and the crash was school-bus-related.

- The most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off the school bus.
- The school bus loading and unloading area is called the "Danger Zone." Specifically, this is any side of the bus where a child may not be seen by the bus driver and, therefore, is in the most danger. These areas include:

- 10 feet in front of the bus, where the driver may be sitting too high to see a child
- 10 feet on either side of the bus, where a child may be in the driver's blind spots

Young children are most likely to be struck because they:

- Hurry to get on and off the bus
- Act before they think and have little experience with traffic
- Assume motorists will see them and wait for them to cross the street

Safety Reminders for Parents and Caregivers

- Arrive at the bus stop five minutes early.
- Stand at least 5 giant steps (10 feet) away from the edge of the road.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before stepping onto the bus.

- Be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with straps or dangling objects do not get caught in the handrail or door when exiting the bus.

- Walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus.
- Be sure the bus driver can always see you, and you can see the bus driver.
- Before crossing the street, stop and look left-right-left before crossing.

Safety Reminders for Motorists

- The overall best practice is to "always stop if there's a school bus."
- Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.

- Motorists may begin moving only when the red flashing lights are turned off, the stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins to move.

- Never pass on the right side of the bus, where children enter or exit. This is illegal and can have tragic results.

- The greatest risk to a child isn't riding a school bus, but approaching or leaving one. That's why, as a vehicle driver, it is especially important to pay attention. Students' lives are on the line.

- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops.

- Don't drive distracted. Be alert. Children arriving for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

- Watch out for young people who may be distracted and not paying attention to the traffic around them.



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Come, spend a "Night in the Nutt House"! Bwa-ha-ha-ha, tee-hee!

Mantorville Theatre Company's dinner theatre began October 11. Advance reservations required.

A cast member once quipped, "If Neil Simon had written a melodrama for the Adams Family, it might look like this!" It was a dark and stormy night as a young innocent

couple approaches a creepy mansion, uh, oh... but instead of screaming, don't be surprised to find yourself laughing at The Wedding Will Out or Night in the Nutt House written by Greg Miller and directed by Becca Messick!

Mantorville Theatre Company presents its October dinner theatre event October 11-27; Friday and Saturday nights at 6:30 and Sundays at 12:30. Doors will open 30 minutes before showtime.

What's it about?

Baxter and Barbra want to get married by the Justice of Peace but find themselves taking shelter on a stormy night at his home while he is out. Mrs. Nutt is mysterious, as is the butler... and the house! Her three daughters, each eccentric in different ways, try to get Baxter's attention to marry one of them instead. Lots of thrilling things start to happen with hilarity, hijinks and surprises in this fun, haunted house-esque, slapstick, melodrama!

Who's in it?

KCIN SIEGELE plays Baxter Devonwich, our hardworking, diligent, loyal and honest hero. His fiancé Barbra Doyle, our educated socialite heroine, born with optimism and sweetness to spare is played by ANNIE BURESH. The mysterious matriarch of the Nutt family, Mrs. Phobia Nutt, with her sinister schemes is portrayed by STEPHANIE NEHER. Her henchman, the demented butler Mord, is played by BOB SOLAND. The Nutt sisters, Chollera, Rubella and Influenza, played by BROOKLYN REDING, BRE NEHER and ELIZABETH OSBORN are quirky, macabre and maybe a little crazy. DAVID KLICKMAN has multiple roles such as a villager and the-thing-that-goes-bump(giggle)-in-the-night.

What's for supper?

Catered by Powers Ventures, owners of the Hubbell House, the food will be served buffet style throughout the evening during breaks in the show. First, salad with garlic toast, next Chicken Kiev with potatoes and green beans, and Bunnie's coconut cake for dessert. Water will be provided. There will also be a cash bar of pop, beer and wine.

Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free meals are available only if arrangements are made 72 hours prior to your show date. Contact the box office by email mantorvilletheatre@gmail.com or call 507-



The "Nutt House" cast. Front: Kcin Siegele (Baxter), Annie Buresh (Barbra), Elizabeth Osborn (Influenza), David Klickman (Villager). Back: Stephanie Neher (Mrs. Nutt), Bob Soland (Mord), Brooklyn Reding (Chollera), Bre Neher (Rubella). "Night in the Nutt House" runs October 11-27 (Fri, Sat, Sun). Reservations must be made 72 hours in advance at mantorvilletheatre-company.com.

635-5420 (leave a message).

Reservations – a must.

All seats are reserved and must be purchased at least 72 hours prior to all show dates. Go to www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com to reserve your seat. Cost for dinner and the show is \$50.

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Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin The Second Winter

By
Monica & Claudia Vanderborcht

One year after Monica settled into her Wanamingo farm, Claudia and her husband joined her there. (Claudia's husband passed about one year later.) Monica would be in charge of the livestock (Claudia would help); Claudia would be in charge of the gardens and firewood (Monica would help). Both continued teaching: Monica in Apple Valley, Claudia as a substitute teacher in several neighboring school districts.

The previous winter had been long and cold (as winters in Minnesota are), but Monica had become comfortable running the downstairs fireplace 24/7. On warm days, Monica and the grandkids used the ATV and trailer to bring in load after load of firewood, filling the basement floor around the fireplace, hoping not to run out before the next nice day. Monica regularly checked the electric baseboard registers – seldom did they feel warm. That first winter, Monica's highest electric bill was \$280 – a fabulous improvement of the feared \$700 the previous owner had mentioned!

But Claudia was the expert on heating with wood. She could identify the different tree species (summer or winter) and knew their BTU capacities. Claudia was very particular about the firewood's dryness (both interior and surface moisture), and began stacking wood in a two-year rotation. She refused to run the chainsaw (which was fine with Monica, because she thought it was a lot of fun!), but Claudia was an ace at finding deadfall, hauling it to the house, using the hydraulic splitter, and stacking it. (Claudia loves stacking wood! She claims it's a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle.) Current year firewood was stacked in the pole barn – one area for kindling, another area for autumn / spring fires, and another for "rocket fuel" which would be saved for the coldest January and February nights. All the stacks were easily accessible and very stable (many years ago Claudia had learned to keep the firewood stacks from collapsing onto the cats while they inevitably climbed to the top).

They say that heating with wood heats you more than once. Monica's overgrown woods

had a lot of deadfall; felling trees was unnecessary in the first few years unless the ATV trail needed to go through. But (in the warm days of August and September – before the temperature dropped and the house needed to be heated) the deadfall had to be cut into fireplace-sized logs, carried to and lifted into the trailer, lifted out of the trailer (back at the pole barn), lifted onto the hydraulic splitter, tossed into ever-growing piles on the ground, then lifted one more time to be stacked. (Handling count: seven times).

To keep the homefires burning, the firewood had to be loaded back into the trailer, driven to and then carried into the house, placed in stacks, and – eventually – loaded into the fireplace. (Handling count: four more times). So firewood heats you a minimum of 11 times, not counting burning it in the fireplace.

Occasionally, over the 20+ years that Claudia and Monica had been heating their homes with firewood, someone would claim burning firewood pollutes the environment. Not true. Anything that rots (meat, autumn leaves, dead trees) creates gasses, including carbon dioxide gas. Leaving a log to rot on the ground creates just as much carbon dioxide as burning that same log in the fireplace.

Actually, burning a log releases just as much carbon dioxide into the air as the photosynthesis and carbon dioxide it took in to grow that log in the first place. If a forest is sustainably managed, burning firewood to heat one's home is carbon neutral. (And the newer wood stoves practically eliminate any soot that might escape into the atmosphere.) According to Jim Bowyer, professor emeritus from the University of Minnesota, there is no environmental reason not to use the wood on your property as a source of energy. (Source: Climate Curious: Is burning wood for heat carbon neutral, Elizabeth Dunbar, MPSNews November 9, 2019)

Claudia does not like garages. Yes, silly. She hadn't had one for years and learned to cover her windshield with a tarp for no hassle snow removal before driving. But she still did need a shelter for the car and we needed a better spot for wood. This time getting the building permit for a farm structure was easy. No big hoops to jump through with the county. The building would hold whatever machines it needed, including cars, and we had a specific area set aside for five cords of wood.

Before we knew it, fall had arrived and so did the school year. Monica was off every day to Apple Valley to teach fifth grade;



Claudia was substitute teaching at the various high schools in the area. The chickens were happily laying eggs in the insulated coop, the cattle and goats got along great across their shared fences. A few big square bales were in the barn for the goats when it snowed (goats hate precipitation; who knew?). The dog was still enjoying the farm (and after killing only 2 chickens learned to leave them alone). The only drama was between the cats: Claudia's cats did not like the upstairs neighbors at all (human, canine or feline), and the feeling was mutual. Everyone had settled into a comfortable routine.

But the days were getting shorter and colder. Caring for the goats was getting more difficult. The goats were mature, and had been purchased for meat. When Christmas break came Monica decided it was time to take the goats to freezer camp before the new year. Monica didn't have a livestock trailer, but did have an older, somewhat decrepit minivan. It had worked to bring the kids home, now it would suffice to bring them to the butcher. Ten or so days later we picked up the boxes of meat. Those goats were loved TWICE!





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MDA Unveils State's First Farm to Kids Strategic Plan

Plan will advance Farm to School and Early Care efforts in Minnesota

October is Farm to School and Early Care Month, a time to celebrate food education, school gardens, and lunch trays filled with healthy, locally sourced foods from Minnesota's producers.

In recognition of this month, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) unveiled the state's first-ever Farm to Kids Strategic Plan. Developed collaboratively by Farm to School and Early Care partners across Minnesota, this plan is a 5-year roadmap for advancing local procurement and agricultural education in K-12 schools and early care settings.

Using insights collected from robust stakeholder engagement with producers, school food service professionals, educators, early care providers, youth, and other members of the public, the Farm to Kids Strategic Plan outlines specific goals, strategies, and actions for future Farm to School and Early Care efforts. The high-level priorities of the plan include:

Increase purchases of Minnesota-grown and -raised foods by schools and early care settings.

Improve integration of food and agricultural education in classrooms, cafeterias, and other educational environments.

Build and activate a strong Farm to Kids network to foster shared, collaborative leadership among Farm to School and Early Care partners.

"For over a decade, state agencies, institutions, and organizations have been working together to support and expand participation in Farm to School and Early Care programs within Minnesota," said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. "We thank all partners — including producers, school staff, and early care providers — for successfully bringing more local foods to students, and we look forward to further progress thanks to the steps outlined in the new Farm to Kids Strategic Plan."

"Kids who receive nutritious foods at school are kids who are ready learn and grow," said Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner Willie Jett. "By connecting our youngest learners with fresh, locally grown foods, we're not only fueling their bodies but also planting the seeds for a lifetime of healthy choices. This program is about more than what's on the plate — it's about building stronger communities and ensuring that Minnesota's children thrive both in and out of the classroom."

The MDA will host two free webinars via Microsoft Teams to provide an in-depth overview of the strategic plan for interested members of the public, scheduled



for:

Thursday, October 24, 3-4 p.m.

Tuesday, October 29, 6-7 p.m.

To review the full Farm to Kids Strategic Plan and learn more about Farm to School and Early Care in Minnesota, visit the MDA website.

Partners in developing and implementing the plan include the Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Health, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Land Stewardship Project, Minnesota

Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, Renewing the Countryside, University of Minnesota Extension, and additional members of the Minnesota Farm to School Leadership Team and Minnesota Farm to Early Care Advisory Group.

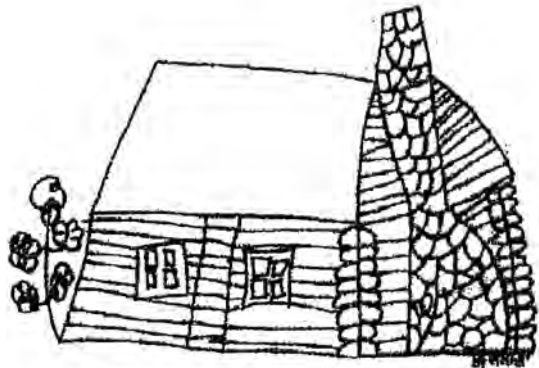
The development of the Farm to Kids Strategic Plan was funded by a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant received by the MDA.

Harvest & Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26

Sundays: September 29, October 6, 13, 20, 27

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Two-Time Winner Crowned in Wild Rice Competition

Winners Announced in
"Get Wild with Wild Rice"
Recipe Contest



The votes have been counted and Natalie Yarbrough of Minnetonka, MN, has won the Grand Prize in the Minnesota Cultivated Wild Rice Council's "Get Wild with Wild Rice" recipe contest with her Wild Banana Blueberry Pecan Pancakes, a perfect blend of flavors and textures featuring the nutty richness of wild rice, the natural sweetness of ripe bananas, and the tartness of fresh blueberries, all enhanced by crunchy pecans. Together, these ingredients not only make for a delicious breakfast but are also packed with nutrients, making each pancake a wholesome treat. Whether drizzled with maple syrup or enjoyed plain, these pancakes are a delightful way to start the day!

This is the second Grand Prize win for Yarbrough in the "Get Wild with Wild Rice" recipe contest following her 2018 prize winning recipe - Asian-inspired Chicken Thai Wild Rice with Peanut Sauce, a harmonious blend of textures and tastes that tantalizes the palate and celebrates Thai cooking.

"I am so honored to win this contest," Yarbrough said. "Wild rice has always been a staple in my kitchen, and I love finding new ways to incorporate it into my cooking. I hope my pancakes inspire others to experiment with this amazing ingredient!"

In addition to Yarbrough's Grand Prize win, Laura Kurella of Wellston, MI, won the Council's coveted People's Choice award for an astonishing third year in a row with her Argentine Wild Cherry Chicken Platter, a delicious, slightly savory, slightly sweet creation which pairs perfectly with the smoky flavor of wild rice. Last year, Laura won the award with her Wild Rice Beer Bread with Maple

Spread, a scrumptious bread with a hint of sweetness along with a distinctive nutty flavor. The year before that, she won with another unique offering - 'Popped' Espresso Mocha Pillow Crisps - which featured soft, sweet marshmallows coated in chocolate, espresso powder, cinnamon, and 'popped' wild rice. This is a remarkable achievement that underscores Laura's culinary creativity and passion for wild rice.

Ken Goff, considered one of the primary developers of the modern Upper Midwestern cuisine, led a panel of judges charged with the difficult task of selecting which recipe would take home the Grand Prize. Relying on his more than four decades-worth of culinary experience and training, Goff and the judges ultimately chose Wild Banana Blueberry Pecan Pancakes as the winner in an extremely close race noting the sweet, ripe bananas harmonizing with juicy, plump blueberries creates a burst of fruity goodness in every bite.

Grand Prize Winner – Wild Banana Blueberry Pecan Pancakes (Natalie Yarbrough, Minnetonka, MN)

Our Grand Prize-winning recipe puts a new twist on a familiar breakfast favorite. Wild Banana Blueberry Pecan Pancakes combines wild rice with fresh fruit, pecans, and wild rice for a rustic, hearty breakfast classic. This is a 'wildly' delicious and healthy breakfast your family is sure to love.

People's Choice Winner – Argentine Wild Cherry Chicken Platter (Laura Kurella, Wellston, MI)

Seasoned chicken thighs on a bed of wild rice covered in a flavorful chimichurri sauce. Commonly used in South American cuisine, the chimichurri sauce in Argentine Wild Cherry Chicken Platter has an unmistakably fresh and tangy flavor that pairs well with savory wild rice.

The Council's latest recipe brochure, Min-

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WILD BANANA BLUEBERRY PECAN PANCAKES

Natalie Yarbrough, Minnetonka, MN

- 2¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp each: baking soda and baking powder
- 2 large eggs
- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 2 cups buttermilk
- ¼ cup melted butter
- 1 banana, mashed
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup blueberries
- ¾ cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup cooked wild rice
- 4 tbsp canola oil
- maple syrup

In large bowl, mix first 6 ingredients. In separate large bowl, whisk eggs and brown sugar. Stir in buttermilk, butter, banana, and vanilla until combined; add to dry mixture. Do not overmix. Fold in berries, pecans, and wild rice. In large skillet, heat 1 tbsp oil. Ladle in 3 pancakes using ¼ cup of batter for each; cook 3 minutes. Flip; cook 1 minute. Repeat. Serve with syrup. 4 servings.

ARGENTINE WILD CHERRY CHICKEN PLATTER

Laura Kurella, Wellston, MI

- 1 lb Just Bare® Boneless Skinless Chicken Thighs, cubed
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 tbsp canola oil
- 2 cups cooked wild rice
- fresh lime wedges and cilantro, garnish

Chimichurri (blend in food processor; chill at least one hour):

- 2 cloves garlic, peeled
- 1 small shallot, peeled
- 2 tbsp each: dry red wine (or red wine vinegar) and fresh lime juice
- ¼ cup pitted fresh cherries (tart or dark)
- 8 sprigs fresh cilantro
- 4 sprigs fresh parsley
- 4 fresh mint leaves
- ¼ tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 tsp pink sea salt
- ½ cup canola oil

In medium skillet, brown chicken with salt and pepper in oil. Stir in wild rice; heat through. Drizzle with chimichurri; garnish. 4 servings.

nesota Cultivated Wild Rice Recipes & Answers to Frequently Asked Questions, features contest winning recipes including soups, salads, sides, and entrées. To receive

your free copy, send a self-addressed-stamped-envelope to: Minnesota Cultivated Wild Rice Council, Newest Recipes, 4630 Churchill St #1, St. Paul, MN 55126.

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Supporting the Local Foods Economy



By Tim Penny
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

This time of year, the farmers' markets in southern Minnesota are rich with vegetables, bread, meat, jam, honey and apples. It's a visual testament to the abundance of our region and the ever-growing local foods economy that is sustained by consumers who want to buy directly from area farmers. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we support the local foods economy through a variety of initiatives.

Since 2014, SMIF has supported the FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace, an event where over 1,500 people gather to shop for gifts from regional food vendors. This event is the region's largest local food festival, and

the premier place to find outstanding food and beverage companies from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. The local foods scene has grown so much that last year Mayor Kim Norton of Rochester declared the first Saturday in November "Local Foods Day." The Marketplace will be held on this day, November 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.

The FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace will also feature cooking demos, music, kids' activities, craft alcohol tastings, prize drawings and more. FEAST! is presented by SMIF, Renewing the Countryside, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and Compeer Financial and participating members of the FEAST! Local Foods Network. Tickets for the event can be purchased online at www.local-feast.org/buytickets or at the door.

SMIF also champions local entrepreneurs, many of whom are deeply invested in the local foods movement, directly through our business financing services. From the farm-fresh slices at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm in Waseca to the handcrafted spirits at Black Frost Distilling in New Ulm, our loan clients are helping to transform the regional food scene. But it doesn't stop there—SMIF also fosters collaboration through its Local Foods Peer Network, a vibrant community where entrepreneurs regularly gather to exchange ideas, tackle challenges, and celebrate their successes together.

What I truly appreciate about our region is the abundance of organizations dedicated to



uplifting local food producers. Alongside our support for FEAST!, SMIF is proud to have provided grants to numerous other organizations throughout the region over the years. Cannon Valley Grown and Driftless Grown are both networks of farmers, makers and producers that are located in either the Cannon River Valley or in the Driftless Region which covers parts of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. Sharing Our Roots (Northfield) and The Village Agricultural Cooperative (Rochester) both provide land access and resources to farmers and gardeners, many of whom are immigrants and refugees.

As we enter this season of abundance, it's clear that supporting local food producers not only strengthens our communities but also sustains the heart of our regional economy. By attending events like the FEAST! Local

Foods Marketplace and choosing to buy from local farmers, makers, and artisans, we help preserve the vibrant, sustainable food system that makes southern Minnesota so unique. Together, we can ensure that these hardworking producers continue to thrive, contributing to the health and vitality of our region for years to come. Let's celebrate and support the incredible diversity and richness of local foods this season and beyond.

You can learn more about the regional food scene by picking up the most recent copy of the Local FEAST! Magazine in different locations around the region, or by viewing it online.

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

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Wild Wood Comes to Nerstrand

Tricia and Nick Streitz recently completed renovations on the former Nerstrand Woodcraft Building on Main Street in Nerstrand. After the wood shop closed, it was used for storage for many years by the neighboring implement. The Streitzes purchased it and began remodeling it some years ago. The building, called WILD WOOD, will house Tricia's pho-



photos by Doug Jones

tography business, Sweet Shibui, as well as be available for rental for small events.

Further information can be found on their website www.wildwoodofnerstrand.com.



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Joe Leko, Sheriff


Bulletin #24-4
10/01/2024

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ENDANGERED MISSING PERSON

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- 5' 10"
- 135 lbs
- Last seen wearing a long grey sweater and camouflage pants.



Nicole Anderson was last seen in Randolph Township in Dakota County the morning of Saturday, July 6, 2024.

She was on foot and does not have her cell phone, wallet, or medications.

Last known image of Anderson ^ on 7/6/2024 at 08:54 hours.

The Dakota County Sheriff's Office is offering a reward of \$5,000 for information regarding Nicole Anderson's whereabouts or the prosecution of those involved in her disappearance. Private parties have pledged an additional \$40,000 reward to be distributed independently of the Sheriff's Office. Only tips received through the Dakota County Sheriff's Office or Crime Stoppers that lead to the location of Nicole Anderson or the prosecution of those involved in her disappearance are eligible for the reward.

CRIME STOPPERS of Minnesota
Anyone wishing to provide a completely anonymous tip may contact Crime Stoppers at, 1-800-222-TIPS, or www.CrimeStoppersMN.org
1-800-222-8477 Reference DCSO Case # 24-000819

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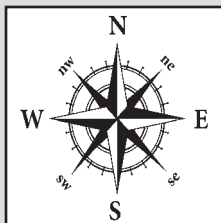
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes **Tennessee Hurricane**



By Terry Campbell

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

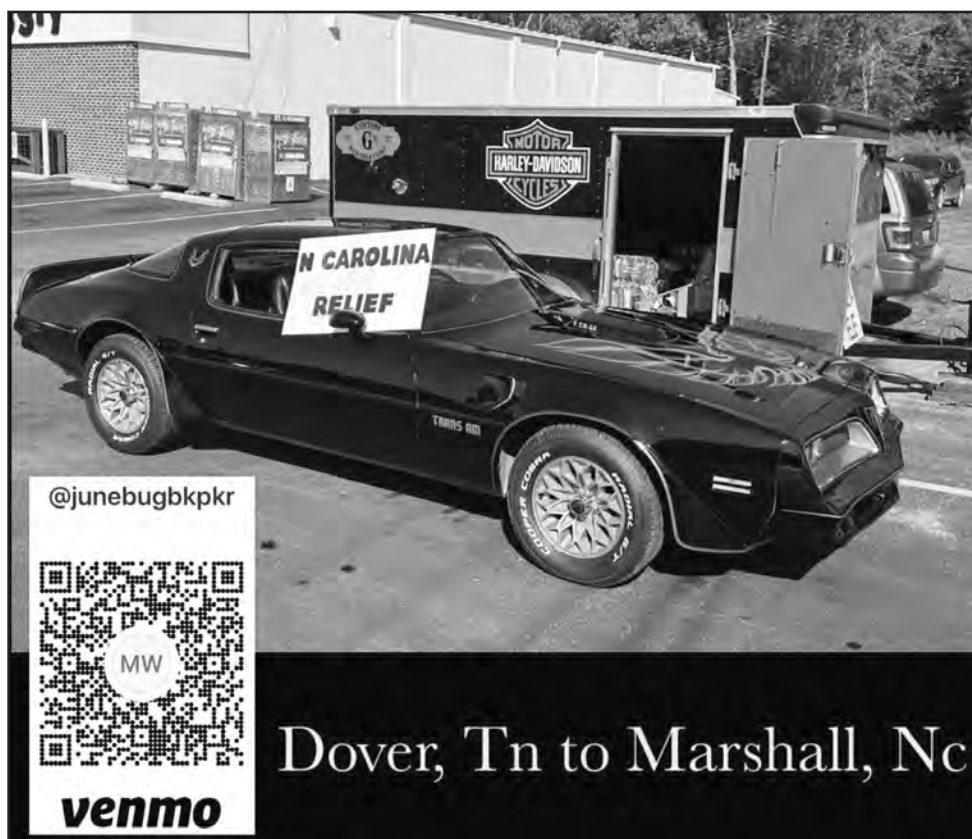
On Friday September 27th the storm surge from Hurricane Helene struck the east side of Tennessee. Hurricanes don't usually affect Tennessee. But Hurricane Helene is one of the strongest to come ashore in many years. There is a town 30 miles south of us named Hurricane Mills, but it is only known as the home of Loretta Lynn.

There had been a couple days of warning about the impending storm as the weather forecast predicted where it would be heading, but the storm stalled out and dumped over twenty inches of rain in one day at the end of a week that had already seen almost a foot of rain. The mountainous terrain created a deluge of water through the valleys. This was the worst flooding the area had experienced since 1916.

Local efforts to rescue families cut off by the destruction began with private helicopter pilots flying stranded people to safety aided by independent drone operators scouring the hills for signs of life. One man signaled with a large bathroom mirror to flag down help. Tempers flared when FEMA showed up and told the helicopter pilots they would be arrested if they refused to cease the flights. The airlift issue was resolved a day or so into the disaster but the fiercely independent locals had already had their fill of the feds. Private donations were brought in and dispensed from a school building until FEMA arrived and confiscated the inventory. Then the donations were redirected to churches, which were allowed to distribute freely to the needy. Church group t-shirts were handed out to all volunteers as workers wearing the garments of a religious organization were not hassled. Reports of trailers full of water, food, sanitation items and clothing being told to turn around a leave by FEMA officials fueled the public distrust. Some started using four-wheel drive trucks to take the supplies to four wheelers which could reach farther into the hills where the natives resided. From there horses and hikers with backpacks pushed on even further. For some reason many Gen 5 smart phones went into SOS mode and wouldn't communicate when the power grid failed. A few of the residents already owned Starlink Internet systems and were able to communicate with the outside.

Mules were used to haul whiskey into the affected areas for those who were suffering from DT's which was reminiscent of hundreds of years prior when mules were hauling moonshine out of the Tennessee hills.

In our hometown of Dover, Tennessee three large trailers were filled with donations in a couple days during a friendly competition between out friend Madison Campbell



Dover, Tn to Marshall, Nc

and Sheriff Frankie Gray. Madison has a 1977 black Trans Am and the Smokey and the Bandit challenge was underway. They were East bound and down, loaded up and truckin' supplies to Marshall, North Carolina loaded with bottled water, baby formula, diapers, blankets, non-perishable food items, can openers, garbage bags and work gloves. The Cumberland Power Cooperative sent some local linemen and trucks to help restore power to east Tennessee and the western Carolinas. One thing the linemen were requesting was Benadryl because the wasps

had been displaced as well and were very aggressive and stinging workers trying to do their jobs.

My wife ordered some 10-gallon handheld sprayers from Harbor Freight to be sent to a guy near the flood area who was painting them black and distributing them with bottled water to be used as portable shower units for those with no running water. The sun would heat up the water for a primitive hot shower. Based on the scale of the destruction it may be months before power is restored in the mountain communities.

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A Minnesotan: Water Show



By RosaLin Alcoser

Over the course of my life I have attended and taken part in a number of festivals. From county fairs to street festivals and town festivals I've been to just about little of everything. The most recent one I've had the pleasure to attend was Mantorville's Marigold Days.

The main reason I went to Marigold Days this year is because one of my friends asked me to come down to the firefighter show. Which I readily agreed to do. Now I had never been to a firefighter show before, however, my brian immediately went to the lumberjack show. Which I have seen before. Even though I knew that

was probably not quite the same thing.

I did go in with the assumption that it would be somewhat similar. Instead of watching lumberjacks do their thing we would get to watch firefighter's run their drills. Which sounded like a great time to me.

Well first off I was wrong, that's not what we were going to see. Secondly it was so much better than that. It turned out that it was a firefighter water battle.

If you are like me and have never seen or heard of a firefighter water battle before then you are missing out. Teams of two to three firefighters faced off against each other in the middle of the street with the fire hose. Over their heads was a long rope pulled between two poles.

The rope had a marker in the center and a knot on either end with a big black ball hanging from it. They would pull the ball into the middle and then spray it with the water trying to push it to the other team's side.

Each round lasted one minute or until one of them made the ball hit the other side's knot.

As white jets of water shot out of the fire hoses. Crossing with one another while fighting for control of the ball. It was one of the most existing things ever to watch and something that I now feel should be at more town festivals.

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Talking Healthy Aging with University of MN



Teresa McCarthy, MD, MS, University of Minnesota Medical School and M Health Fairview

Q: What are some of the key factors that contribute to healthy aging?

Dr. McCarthy: Genetics play a role in healthy aging, but this is not something we can change. However, there are several factors that you can address to promote healthy aging, including exercise, healthy eating, adequate sleep and proper management of acute and chronic disease. This also includes prevention with appropriate interventions like vaccinations, sunscreen, dental care, and screening for early identification of treatable diseases. The sooner these lifestyle changes and habits are implemented, the better.

Q: What role does physical activity play in maintaining health as we age?

Dr. McCarthy: Research shows that consistent, moderate exercise (150 minutes per week for those over 65) can improve stamina, strength, cognitive performance and mood. Exercise helps to maintain flexibility and stability, decreases the risk of falls and promotes social connections. All of these benefits help people continue to function at the highest possible levels.

Any physical activity is beneficial — this could be brief walks, seated leg exercises, stretching — anything you can do consistently and easily will be of benefit.

Q: What are the most common health issues associated with aging, and how can they be managed or prevented?

Dr. McCarthy: Common issues that lead to decline in healthy older adults include falls and strength loss due to immobility, which is why exercise is critical. Fall-associated spinal and hip fractures cause dramatic changes in the aging trajectory of previously

active older people. Doing a home safety assessment to minimize fall risks is another easy and inexpensive investment in your health.

Taking multiple medications — known as polypharmacy — is a common and potentially dangerous problem for older people. As chronic conditions accumulate, medications prescribed for individual issues can interact adversely. Providers may not always consider the combined impact of all medications, which makes it crucial to have a primary care provider who oversees all diagnoses and prescriptions.

A pharmacist can conduct a medication therapy management review under Medicare to identify potential problems and collaborate with your primary care provider to adjust the medication regimen. I recommend this for anyone taking more than 5-7 medications.

Q: How does aging affect memory?

Dr. McCarthy: Memory changes with age are a significant concern for many older adults. While some slowing of brain processes is a typical part of aging, memory or cognitive problems that disrupt daily activities are not considered normal and should be assessed by a clinician. Many causes of memory issues are treatable and should be identified promptly to achieve the best outcome. Primary care clinics are a good resource for starting this evaluation process.

Q: What are you doing to advance knowledge around aging and health?

Dr. McCarthy: The University of Minnesota is increasing its investment in aging-related care and research. We have an internationally recognized team of researchers working to



identify the biological contributors to unhealthy aging, which will help us develop better strategies for promoting healthy aging. We are also involved in national efforts to create care models that support healthy aging, both in our own clinics and among underserved populations throughout Minnesota. We also continue our mission to educate students and trainees across health disciplines on how to work together to support patients and caregivers with aging-related care needs.

Teresa McCarthy, MD, MS, is an associate professor with the U of M Medical School and a geriatrician with M Health Fairview. She is also faculty at the Center for Healthy Aging and Innovation and the Minnesota Northstar Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program. Dr. McCarthy's research experience includes falls, urinary incontinence, osteoporosis, care transitions/rehospitalization, and interprofessional teams. Dr. McCarthy also leads educational efforts about dementia, and also convenes shared learning in assisted living and skilled care settings through the Minnesota Geriatrics ECHO.

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Chiropractic Care for Colds and Flu



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.



During cold and flu season, many people look for ways to stay healthy and ward off sickness. One option is chiropractic care, which can be a great ally for keeping your body in fighting shape. Chiropractors focus on adjusting the spine to improve how the nervous system functions. This is important because the nervous system is closely linked to the immune system. When your spine is aligned correctly, it can help boost your body's ability to produce more white blood cells and resistance enzymes, both crucial for fighting off colds and the flu. Another benefit of chiropractic care during this time is that it can help your body recover faster if you do get sick. Regular chiropractic adjustments can help reduce stress and improve circulation, which are key factors in maintaining a healthy immune system. When your body is less stressed and your blood flows better, your immune system doesn't have to work as hard to keep up with viruses and bacteria. This means

you might experience milder symptoms and get back on your feet more quickly. Plus, chiropractic care often includes lifestyle advice, which can guide you in making healthier choices all season long.

Monkeypox is a rare viral zoonotic disease similar to smallpox, characterized by fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes, typically transmitted to humans from animals. As of the most recent data available, monkeypox has been associated with a low mortality rate, with deaths being relatively rare. Most cases reported have been mild, with fatalities occurring in less than 1% of those infected. Most individuals infected with monkeypox recover completely. Recovery typically occurs within two to four weeks after the onset of symptoms, although some complications can extend the recovery period. A vaccine approved in August by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for people deemed to be at "high risk" for mpox infection may cause more harm than good, according to the FDA's own medication guide for the product. The FDA medication guide comes with a list of "serious complications," including myocarditis, death and fetal death. The FDA's medication guide also warns that people who receive the vaccine may spread it to unvaccinated people, who also risk developing vaccine side effects, including death.

According to the opinion of respiratory therapist Mark Bishaskey, thousands of patients hospitalized for COVID-19 died because of a rush to put people on ventilators — while denying them medications like ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine and vitamin D. A respiratory therapist is a healthcare provider who helps diagnose, treat and manage conditions that affect the lungs, according to the Cleveland Clinic. They are the clinicians who perform intubation — inserting a tube through a person's mouth or nose, then down into their airway — so the patient can receive oxygen from a ventilator machine. As published in an interview with the Children's Health Defense, Bishofsky tried to convince doctors that "this wasn't the right thing to do." He explained:

"When I started my career in 1999 I went to ... a huge symposium talking about the risks of intubation — the risks of using a ventilator — and even back then it was known that intubation should be a last resort. "At that time, they were reporting a 25% increase in mortality of patients that were getting intubated and put on a ventilator. And now we know during COVID it was upwards of 80 to 85% of people that were on ventilators passed away." Ventilators are "one of the most important life-saving tools we have," Bishofsky said, but they are also "extremely dangerous" because they typically cause bacterial pneumonia. In the first week of the pandemic, the doctors at Bishofsky's hospital used hydroxychloroquine. "We had extremely good outcomes," he said. But then an "absolutely bogus" study came out in the British medical journal Lancet on hydroxychloroquine. "The doctors would cite that." At the end of his tenure at the hospital, Bishofsky told its medical director, "You know, this whole early intubation thing was completely hideous." The medical director admitted it was hideous but said, "We were doing the best we could." Patients were

being intubated "when they were needing as little as three liters of oxygen," according to Bishofsky, who said he'd never seen that before in his 25 years of practice. "That's so little oxygen to the point where if you took the patient off of it, they're gonna be fine,"

he said. "But there was this rush to intubate these patients."

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

Constipation Checklist



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

Almost everyone has experienced difficulty passing a bowel movement at least once in their life. For some, the challenge is a regular occurrence. Dr. Alan Gaby defines constipation as having less than 3 bowel movements in a week. Dr. Bernard Jensen raised concern if an individual was not having 3 bowel movements a day. There are numerous reasons why constipation may be happening, but let's consider the basics.

The digestive system starts at your mouth and ends with the anal opening. This amazing system allows food to pass through the middle of your body with only the nutrients your body wants getting absorbed. All the rest of the remains of food will provide some support for the trillions of bacteria in your intestines and then will move out with the next bowel movement. The colon is the last section of the digestive system, and a primary role of the colon is to absorb water so that you do not constantly have diarrhea. When this system is working well, your intestines should be regularly moving food remains through with ease.

In order to see regular bowel movements occur with ease, consider the following checklist:

Water — since a primary role of the colon is to absorb water make sure you are consuming enough water that the colon cannot absorb it all. Other beverages like coffee, tea, and carbonated beverages do not count. These beverages will stimulate the kidneys to pull more water out of the body, so additional pure water needs to be consumed to compensate.

Fiber — fiber is that portion of fruits and vegetables that is indigestible. It serves a purpose in absorbing water and toxins from the digestive track and removing them from the body. Consider fiber to be the broom which sweeps through the intestines and keeps them clean. Beans of all kinds, oatmeal, fruits and vegetables are quality sources of fiber. An adult should consume around 30 grams of fiber per day,

but the average American only consume half that amount.

Probiotics — Probiotics are the beneficial bacteria you need in your intestines to maintain quality health. These probiotics can be obtained by supplement or through fermented foods like yogurt, sauerkraut, or kimchi. These beneficial bacteria feed on the fiber and produce helpful chemicals that stimulate healing and bowel activity. I recommend a probiotic supplement that has at least 10 different bacteria listed in the ingredient list and to take between 50 billion CFU and 100 billion CFU in the evening before bed.

Food Allergies — make a journal of the foods you eat from day to day and note if constipation is experienced after eating a certain food. Any food can produce an allergic reaction. Some common foods associated with constipation include Cow's milk, cheese, wheat, and beef.

Flaxseed — Flaxseed oil and flaxseed meal consumed regularly can improve bowel movements and regularity. Recommended intake is 1 – 2 tablespoons of flaxseed oil, or 2 – 3 tablespoons of flaxseed meal per day. Flaxseed provides multiple benefits to the human body from the essential fatty acids, fiber, and additional nutrients packed into this tiny seed.

Magnesium — The intestines only absorb the quantity of magnesium the body needs. However, most Americans are deficient in magnesium as mentioned in a previous article. When you consume more magnesium than your body needs, a laxative effect will be produced to increase bowel activity. Magnesium citrate is an easy supplement to take and 400 mg in the evening before bed will be appropriate to increase bowel activity for most people.

Vitamin C — The intestines only absorb the quantity of Vitamin C the body can use at that time, so excess Vitamin C will also increase bowel movement. If you notice bowel movements are loose or too frequent, check your Vitamin C intake.

As mentioned earlier, there are numerous reasons for constipation to develop. These causes can include hormone levels, medications, stress, sedentary lifestyle and diet.

This checklist helps to identify some of the ways constipation may be relieved. Review this checklist and apply what seems best to you. I am happy to discuss individual cases and help you experience a more positive life.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for 2024. I can help you realize greater health freedom in 2024. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

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

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kelleym@district195.org
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Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of The Messenger.

To the Editor,

In an Aesop Fable, an ass is loaded with the fullness of a journeyman's items. Upon requesting of his travel mate, a horse, that he help bear the burden on his back lest it kill him, the ass found the horse imperturbable; the horse refused. As per his fear, the mule was killed by his burdens, and to the horse's regret, all the items and the mule's body were placed atop himself.

To every citizen of Minnesota, especially those who hold to the Bible's teachings, I would warn that under the current DFL Trifecta, we are at the point of decision like the horse. In 2023, the Trifecta revised the Minnesota Humans Rights Act to exclude wording providing for religious exemption of non-discrimination based upon gender orientation. On Feb 29th, 2024, when an amendment (HF4021/SF4292) was proposed to fix this, thinking it was an oversight, Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn stated, "It was not an oversight" (see video below, 16:50). Rep. Brion Curran even called proposal of the amendment "disturbing," (26:38) and Rep. Peggy Scott was accurate to say that the faith community is being "marginalized" and the DFL is trying to "erase religious liberties" (33:36).

Fast forward to May 7th, 2024, the legislature unanimously approved the amendment restoring religious exemption; May 15th it was signed. What? Did the DFL change their stance? May 19th, 2024, the Equal Rights Amendment (HF17/SF37) passed in the house, and was in position to pass the senate when the session ran out of time. This would have put on the ballot an amendment to the Minnesota constitution accomplishing the same attack on religious freedom that the MHRA did. Only, a change to the Minnesota constitution is much more permanent.

I think we would be as ignorant as the horse to say they are not attacking religion or that they will not pass the ERA in the 2025 session if no leadership change occurs. I entreat you, vote and pick up the burden of political involvement now before there is a burden we never wished to carry.

House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee 2/29/24 - Part 1 (youtube.com)

Colton Muehring
coltonmuehring@gmail.com
952-491-3711
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

To the Editor,

The City of Hampton is looking at options for how it would like to grow in the coming years. Brought before the citizens of the surrounding area are two current proposals, both seeming to involve annexation of Hampton Township land. Scenario 1 is to zone out an industrial and commercial area South of Little Oscars towards Co.Rd 50, with annexation of township land to the East, towards Lewiston Blvd for Agriculture. Scenario 2 is to create a technology park within this roughly 140-acre area.

As of this writing, all that seems to be known is that a Twin Cities based, national property development firm named Oppidan desires to build, presumably a data center, in this proposed area. Is Oppidan a front company that is possibly representing another

builder? That has still not been made clear to the citizenry. All we can hope is that Oppidan upholds the company values listed on their website that of "respect" and "above all, community".

Though we are on the rural edge of Dakota county, in time this rural land will become more built up and land prices and usages will certainly change along with this growth. For the city to re-zone and offer building up of a commercial zoned space within current city limits is one matter all on its own. To want to annex land from the township to put in a technology park and potential data center, (similar to the one Meta and Facebook are building by DCTC in Rosemount, and which Farmington is looking at building as well), warrants us, residents of the City of Hampton and Township of Hampton, to ask, "Is this the growth we desire? And what genuine benefits will such growth provide our community?" Then we need to give that feedback to our elected officials as the direction we the people want them to pursue on our elected behalf.

My concern, and seemingly a concern of many who were at the recent AUAR (Alternative Urban Areawide Review) meeting that the City of Hampton held on October 1, is a desire to know what resources, especially water pumping resources, that this potential data center might utilize on a daily and yearly basis. We don't know if this potential technology park might be aimed at being a hyperscale data center or something smaller like a wholesale/retail sized data center. The average amount of water usage between these different types of centers is significant, ranging between 15,000- 500,000 gallons per day. One resource I utilized in my research for writing this was: <https://dgtlinfra.com/data-center-water-usage/>. Before being able to make a reasonable and informed decision on which we as a community can hold a discussion on, we need to know the specifics of what is being proposed. To this point, why, if a company desired to move into our community and provide genuine benefit to the surrounding area, would they desire to remain a secret and not talk openly with the community?

Talking with and expecting open and honest discourse with our elected officials doesn't seem unreasonable, so why aren't they able to answer these questions? Maybe they themselves haven't asked these questions, maybe they genuinely don't know what this potential builder desires to build in our community, I personally find this hard to believe, but I leave the possibility open. If disclosure of who our potential neighbor might be, what their intent and impact might be, and what genuine benefit might be brought to us as a community, then there is a need for everyone who is interested in this matter to push the issue and request more information from the City and Township. If our elected officials won't or don't answer forthrightly the questions and concerns of the community, then we the citizens need to seek out that information and make it known. Chapter 13 of the Minnesota statutes provide us citizens the way to do this, through the Government Data Practices Act. Anyone can submit a data request and there is no cost for inspecting such data that a government entity has. Find out more at: <https://mn.gov/admin/data-practices/data/>

A sample request that a person might write out looks something like this:

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To the Responsible Authority of the City of Hampton, Mayor John Knetter
Government Entity: City of Hampton
Address: 5265 238th Street East, P.O. Box 128, Hampton, MN 55031

To the Responsible Authority:
I am writing to you as the responsible authority of the City of Hampton. This is a formal request for access to government data under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13.

I am requesting to inspect data... (stating a request for "inspection" of data allows a person to come in a review the data you request without having to pay for it up front. I highly recommend reading through the state's website about what data a person can request and how to word a request. Answer-

ing questions, in not something the government needs to do by law.)

I look forward to arranging a time to review the data.


If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact me. I can be reached at... (email or phone)

Name
There are many stages of this AUAR review and study spanning the next few months. I am not saying that I am taking a position for or against development of this potential data center in our community, I would simply like all the information possible in making up my decision for or against its support. And I think that government transparency is a necessity for the citizens to make a knowledgeable and informed decision on how we want to be governed.

Erik Porten

Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol





Question: Hello, we read your column every week. I've noticed more often lately on numerous occasions that when a school bus is stopped and dropping-off or picking-up kids, they do NOT have their red lights flashing or their STOP arm extended. The bus will only have the yellow lights flashing. When searching the internet for school bus rules/regulations I can only find information related to how other drivers are required to respond, rather I'm interested in what the bus driver is required to do. I was unaware that there are potential scenarios where the bus driver is not required to force traffic to stop.

My question: What are the rules/regulations with respect to a school bus that is stopping to drop-off or pick-up kids, when are they required to activate the red flashing lights and extend the STOP arm, rather than just activating the yellow flashing lights?

Answer: Thank you for the question and I am glad to hear that you read the articles. When transporting children to and from school in most scenarios they are to use the red lights and stops arms. Here is a list according to state law, when school bus drivers shall not activate the prewarning flashing amber signals or flashing red signals and shall not use the stop arm signal:

- in special school bus loading areas where the bus is entirely off the traveled portion of the roadway and where no other motor vehicle traffic is moving or is likely to be moving within 20 feet of the bus;

- when directed not to do so, in writing, by the local school board;

- when a school bus is being used on a street or highway for purposes other than the actual transportation of school children to or from school or a school-approved activity, except for regularly scheduled recreational or educational activity;

- at railroad grade crossings;
- when operating the bus under a "special event;" and

- when loading and unloading people at designated school bus stops where people are not required to cross the street or highway, while the bus is completely off the traveled portion of a roadway that has adequate shoulders. The driver shall drive the bus completely off the traveled portion of this roadway before loading or unloading people. A school bus stop is designated under this clause if the transportation director of the school district in which the bus stop is located, in consultation with the road authority, certifies the integrity of the shoulder and the safety of the location for loading and unloading people. Each designated school bus stop must be documented and approved by the school board.

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

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

Hampton City Council Meeting September 10, 2024

The Hampton City Council met on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at the Hampton City Hall for the regular scheduled meeting. Present were Mayor John Knetter; Council Members Jerry Huddleston, David Luhring, and Nick Russell. Council member Anthony Verch was absent. Also present was Brad Fisher and Angie Smith with Bolton & Menk as well as Luke Nicolai and a few Residents.

Regular Meeting called to Order - Mayor Knetter called the Regular Scheduled Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Disclosure of Interest – None

Approval of August 20, 2024 Special and Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes – Motion by Luhring seconded by Russell to approve the August 20, 2024 Special and Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Approval of Disbursements - Motion by Russell seconded by Luhring to approve the September disbursements. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Public Comments – Luke Nicolai addresses the council with some questions he had about city council meeting protocol. He was wondering if the audience were allowed to interact, question, and comment during the meeting. Mayor Knetter told him, no that the council follows Robert's Rules of Order, which outlined under the public comment section on the agenda, is up to 15 minutes long. Every person can speak for 3 minutes until 15 minutes has passed. The Mayor continued to explain that if what was in question was on the agenda, it would already be talked about and if not, it would take a unanimous vote of the council to add it to the agenda for further discussion. Nicolai then went on to ask additional question asking what we are doing an AUAR for? It was explained to him by council and Angie Smith of Bolton & Menk that it was for an environmental study of the site. Smith went on to state that she would explain more in her presentation later on.

Mayor Knetter recognized a Deputy at the meeting. He thanked him for bringing the

speed trailer to Belmont Street and that it helped immensely. If speeds do pick back up some stop signs will be put up at the corner of Belmont Park. Mayor Knetter then addressed the rest of the council and ask if they had seen any improvements to the speeding on Belmont and for the most they agreed that it has been better, it comes and goes, and weekends can be very busy. The Sherriff stated that they have their speed trailers at various other locations and concluded that he had nothing else to report beyond road construction and speeders.

Petitions, Requests, and Communications:

Special Meeting for Final Approval of Levy – The Levy will be addressed later on in the meeting.

Review AUAR Order and Scoping Document – Bolten & Menk (Cory Beinfang, City Engineer; Jenni Faulkner, Senior Planner; Angie Smith, Environmental Planning Practice Area Leader) – Angie Smith of Bolten & Menk to walk through where they currently are in the AUAR process and requesting of the council to approve of the draft AUAR Order and the Scoping document for a 30-day public review period. They are still at step one, the scoping stage of a large AUAR process. The basic premise is that the draft document outlines what the study area is going to entail, the 140 acres to the east side of HWY 52. It also includes the two development scenarios that are currently proposed for the review process, and additionally what the public comment period will entail. Basic premise is that it will get released to the Environmental Quality Board next Tuesday (17th) and then one week from then the 30-day public comment will begin from September 24th thru October 24th. During that time comments will be accepted on the scenarios to review as well as any additional factors that should get incorporated into the draft AUAR. Comments will be specifically about just the two scenarios ensuring that the study area is correct and any additional factors in the draft AUAR for additional assessment. Comments will be submitted to the City Clerk via email and then forward to Bolten & Menk. Additionally, Bolten & Menk is recommending a public open house, an information session – not a public hearing, where they can do two brief 15-minute presentation overviews at the top of the hour followed by individual opportunities for people to submit comment or talk with them individually on the project as it entails now.

Moving forward Smith continues to walk through her presentation. She states that there will be numerous Planning Commission public hearings, City Council approval processes, etc. So, there will be numerous opportunities for the public to continue staying involved throughout the process. Next there are three major steps of the AUAR process. Step one being the Scoping document itself, the step that we are currently in, step two the draft AUAR, step three the final AUAR. Step two the draft AUAR will have a deeper dive into the two scenarios that are being studied and it will be looking at everything from water resources to land use to cultural history to threatened species, etc. The draft AUAR will also have a 30-day public comment period, where the public can comment specifically on some of those factors that are addressed, identify any missing information,

identify additional resources that might need to be referenced and that information will be brought into the final AUAR. The two scenarios are listed with topics that are going to be introduced, land use like compatibility with adjacent land uses, water resources will touch everything from surface water to storm water to wastewater to ground water, water utilities. Additionally, threatened native species, significant water systems, visual and noise impacts, there is also a requirement for the greenhouse gas and climate resilience section of the current Minnesota documentation as well. There will be a traffic impact study that's conducted to identify any transportation or traffic concerns in the area. To remain very transparent, it is recommended to have a public open house, which was decided to be October 1st 5:30pm – 7:30pm at City Hall. Motion made by Luhring seconded by Russell to approve the Scoping Document and Draft AUAR and release for public comment. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

Resolution 2024 – (12) Approving the 2024 Tax Levy – The clerk read out a loud a memo that the City Treasurer had sent stating that the budget will add \$1,000 to the Consulting/Tech Support in the General Fund and reducing \$1,000 from Insurance in the General Fund to reflect that the 2025 budget will remain the same as 2024, \$14,500. Motion made by Luhring seconded by Russell to approve the 2024 Tax Levy. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees:

Engineer Report – Brad Fisher of Bolten & Menk had one verbal updated he need to share and that was that the water tower project is currently in the bidding process. There has been a lot of interest, a lot of plan holders, so he is hoping that will drive some good prices. Bid opening for that project will be coming later next week and returning next month with results and potentially consideration of awarding that project. Fisher also stated that things are going very well. Fisher then touched based on the existing water tower from recommendation from the Planning Commission. He stated that one thing that will happen when the project bids is that they are going to get a base bid, which is everything they have to do bare bones for the project and then there is going to be two alternates. One is to demolish the existing water tower and two is to salvage the water tower tank and just have the contractor place it on city property. What the city wants to do with from there will be up for the city to decide. Once the city gets the prices and awards the contract, then the city will have to pick either alternate one or alternate two and the prices will help to determine if the existing water tower tank gets demolished or salvaged. The Council and Fisher went on to talk about paint for the new water tower. After discussing what colors and what combinations to paint the new water tower it was agreed upon, painting the top red, the body silver, and the bottom either a darker gray or black and having a graphic of the old water tower painted on the body of the new water tower.

Water / Sewer Report – Maintenance has been done on some lift stations and samples

have been taken for fall discharge, have not heard what they are yet, but does not anticipate that there will be any issues with the samples.

Park Report – Wasp removals, graffiti on both the playgrounds is in the process of being removed. The company hired to clean it just needs more detailed pictures of the graffiti and what material the playground equipment is made of so they can ensure they have the right cleaning products to clean it up. It was also noted a complaint about weeds that need to be cleaned up.

Street Report – Nothing to report on streets. Just a note about a complaint about parking on public streets.

Unfinished Business:

Re-use of existing water tower tank by the city (Recommendation by Planning Commission to keep the tank intact and place in playground area of park south of the ballfield) – There is communication about what to do with the existing water tower tank, there just isn't enough information to decide as of now. Huddleston made a comment of maybe taking the old water tower to a place like Rice County Steam and Gas Engine Show or Little Log House where is could still be like it is today, he stated that he wasn't a fan of the idea of taking off the legs and setting the tank down in a city park and putting a fence around it. Some concerns mentioned by other councilmembers where the maintenance of the old water tower and the fence and grass around it, children climbing and playing on it and whether the old water tower can handle it being so old, possible graffiti, and so on. Mayor Knetter mentioned that he would like to understand the cost difference dropping it to the ground, it would need a very big crane to do that and then probably the removal of residents to the south. Fisher stated that he'll have the numbers next month which will aid in making a better decision.

Engine break ordinance – Update the noise ordinance to not allow engine braking within town at all. Fisher mentioned that he and Corey have reached out to MnDot to determine what the process is and what they allow and don't allow, no answers yet but Fisher wanted to assure the council that he and Corey were already in the process of figuring it out. The council did agree that they liked Sauk Centre's Engine Retarding Brake ordinance, but as of right now it will be tabled until next city council meeting.

New Business: The tenant at old city hall sent a letter saying that his insurance will drop him if he doesn't get the shortcomings on the electrical panels fixed. Mayor Knetter addressed a resident in the audience, Marlin Reinardy, if Brett could please give them a price on what it would cost to fix it, Reinardy said that he would talk to Brett to get a price. Other members of council stated that he has been a very good renter, keeping the building and property clean and they were all in agreement to get his issues fixed.

Adjournment - Motion by Huddleston seconded by Luhring to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4:0. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Roan

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Fall Harvest Safety



It's a busy time of year with more farm equipment in the field and on the road.

Motorists:

- Slow down and use caution when approaching farm equipment.
- Don't assume the equipment operator can see you.
- Watch for debris dropped by farm equipment.
- Wait for a safe place to pass.
- Drive with headlights on.

Farm equipment operators:

- Use lights and flashers to make equipment more visible.
- Use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 mph.
- Avoid encouraging or signaling motorists to pass. Pull over when safe and let traffic pass.
- Consider using a follow vehicle when moving equipment, especially at night.
- Pick up any debris left on the highway by the equipment.

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