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FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Volume 18 • Issue 3

Announcements

• **Lent at Vang and Dennison Lutheran - Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5.** Soup suppers begin at 6:00, and worship is at 7:00. All soup suppers and worships will be at Dennison Lutheran.

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

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

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

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

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

Kenyon/Wanamingo FFA Members Recognized for State Fair Awards

This year has brought a great deal of success for the Kenyon-Wanamingo FFA Chapter.

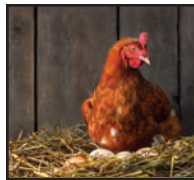
(continued on page 5)

Pictured to the right: back row left to right: State FFA Officer, Matthew Scheffler, Ryan Rechtzigel, Buck Oeltjenbruns, Derek Syverson, Cody Ostertag, Front row left to right: Brady Wetzstein, Evelyn Scheffler, Julia Patterson, Brooklyn O'Brien, Sophia Poquette

Chicken Wars

By Cheri Roshon

There have been periodic questions raised over the years about whether residents can raise chickens in residentially zoned districts.



(continued on page 8)



New Location for NAPA

By Cheri Roshon

Well, there seems to be some shuffling going on in Kenyon this month. One of the newest moves is the NAPA Auto Parts store moving to 502 Huseth Street, next to Traxler Power & Equipment, and across from the K/W school. This move marks a consolidation of NAPA Auto Parts Store, Traxler Power Equipment, and Ann Traxler Law PLLC. Soon, all will be located in one place for your convenience!

(continued on page 14)

Riverview Services

By Cheri Roshon

Listening to people who live in and near Wanamingo talk about the changes we are experiencing these days, I want to talk about something that hasn't changed since 1978.



(continued on page 11)

Towns of Our Past

By Cheri Roshon

Driving around the Wanamingo/Kenyon area, I see a lot of signs that tell the name of a town that was once there, and is no more. Like Cherry Grove.

(continued on page 6)


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







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Are You Preparing?



By Jon Dudek, co-founder of Isaiah Ministries, bringing Biblical teaching to help overcome life's everyday challenges.
www.isaiahministries.cc

Have you ever wondered what was going through the disciples' minds in Matthew 24 (v.3b) when they asked the Lord, "What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" Do we ever wonder about Christ's second coming, and are we looking forward to it?

By reading through this chapter, you will see that Jesus went into great detail with what we will see and hear, throughout the earth, before His return. How do we prepare during these challenging and exciting times? Throughout this chapter one of the first things Jesus said is to not be deceived. He repeats Himself multiple times as a warning, to all of us, to not be misled. When the Lord repeats Himself over and over we want to pay close attention, and we should not take this warning lightly.

In Matthew 24, Jesus goes on to talk to the disciples about rumors of wars, Christians being hated for His name's sake, there will be offense, people will betray and hate one another, the abomination of desolation (spoken of by Daniel), and much more. We can learn so much from this chapter, and I recommend

everyone read it a few times and even study it. The Lord is painting a picture for us, so we will know what kind of things to expect before His second coming.

After you have taken the time to soak everything in from reading Matthew 24, I want to bring you to the final book of the Bible, Revelation. Of all the 66 books of the Bible, this book says in chapter 1 verse 3, "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which

are written in it; for the time is near."

Every book in the Bible is important to read and study, but the book of Revelation highlights a blessing for all of us who are willing to read, hear, and keep the words of this prophecy and the things written in it. A lot of us might skip this book since it can appear to be very overwhelming. Do not be intimidated. Don't skip it. Some things you will understand, and some things will be confusing. Either way, the reading of it is important, and

we can learn so much about the end times and the Lord's second coming by doing so.

Remember, you were born for this specific time. How exciting of a time we live in. God has equipped you for this time in your life. Be encouraged and let's push forward; the victory is already ours because of what the Lord has done for us on Calvary. What's another way to prepare for these challenging and exciting times?

(continued on page 3)

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY Finish Well!

No one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel. — Deuteronomy 34:12

Moses remained committed to the Lord until the very end of his life. He was a child of God, a diligent leader of God's people, a prophet, and much more. Moses is described as a "man of God" and a "servant of the Lord" in the closing chapters of Deuteronomy. He knew who he was and whose he was. That makes a difference in one's life. Moses was faithful. Though he was certainly not perfect, Moses finished well.

When we think about finishing well, we realize it is not a last-minute commitment. We can stay focused even when we must take detours and alter our plans. When we fall, we get up with the Lord's help. When things do not go the way we thought they would, we cannot allow our feelings and thoughts to get in the way of doing God's will. We know we depend on the Lord in all things, and we stand firm in his strength.

When our time comes to leave our home on earth to go to our eternal home in heaven (unless Jesus returns before then), we want to say, "I have fought the good fight . . . I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). And we want to hear our Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:21).

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, help me to be fully committed to doing your will until the very end of my life. May you be glorified! Amen.

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Maynard Glen Forss

Maynard Glen Forss, age 96 of Cannon Falls, died peacefully on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at Cannon Rivers Senior Living, Cannon Falls.

Maynard was born on May 28, 1928 in Stratford, Wisconsin, the son of Lenard and Madeline (Robertson) Forss. He graduated at the age of 16 from Colby High School (WI) in 1945, and his family moved to Minnesota that same year. Maynard served with the US Army during Korea and was honorably discharged in 1952.

Maynard married Janice Luebke on April 30, 1955 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo, where he remained a member for over 60 years. Together they raised four children, and he was a dairy farmer in Hader most of his life! Together they enjoyed playing cards with neighbors and friends, and in later years, enjoyed 19 years of wintering in Arizona.

He was featured on "On the Road with Jason Davis" with his antique washing machines, which he loved collecting and repairing. He was also honored in 2013 with taking the Veterans Honor Flight to Washington, DC. Maynard was a member of the Wanamingo

Honor Guard, AMPI Board, Wanamingo Elevator Board, and Trinity Lutheran Church Board.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 70 years, Janice; his children, Pam (Linus) Fox of Hastings, Barb (Bob) King of Farmington, Ken (April) Forss of Zumbrota, and Gregg Forss of Zumbrota; grandchildren, Chad (Jessica) Fox, Alesia (Clay) Miller, Kyle (Katie) Fox, Brandon (Michelle) King, Beth (Mason) Weedman, Ashley Engen, Krissy Forss (Nick Nelson), and Nikki (Drew) Ferrier; great-grandchildren, Cody (Naomi), Katie (Logan), Brooke, Joey, Sadie, Mattie, Sam, Tyler, Elwyn, Jett, Sophie, Trent, and Graham; great-great-grandchildren, Braxton and baby boy Fox (due in April); sister-in-law, Marcia Pearson of Burnsville; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lenard and Madeline Forss; brothers, Leo (Florence), Melvin, and Donny (Nancy) Forss; sister-in-law and brothers-in-law, Gene Pearson and Nathlye (Don) Benrud; and several nieces and a nephew.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, February 1 at 11:00 am, with visitation from 10:00-11:00 am, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 2nd Ave, Wanamingo. Pastor David Sorenson officiated. Interment will be held in the spring at Trinity Cemetery, Wanamingo.

Active urn bearer will be his great-grandson, Cody Fox. Honorary urn bearers will be his great-grandchildren.

Howard Snitzer

January 20, 2025, Kenyon, MN. Beloved husband of Tammy Ryan (nee Soland) Snitzer; brother of Steven (Jan Ellis) Snitzer and the late Alan and Mark Snitzer; son of the late David and Ruth Snitzer; also survived by loving nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and



Do You Have an Announcement?

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his beloved pets: Benny, Simone, Roy and Al. A memorial gathering will be held in Buffalo NY in the spring; date to be determined.

From Steve: Ruth (Farber) and Dave Snitzer had 4 sons; Mark (1948 – 2020), Alan (1950-1974), Steve (1955 -), and Howard (1956 – 2025). Mark and Alan were a lot older. Howie and I were "the kids". We were together all the time. We have stayed close all these years, and I will miss him very much. Now I am the last one. A part of me has been torn away with each loss. I admired Howard for his guts, his energy, his upbeat attitude, and his creativity, especially in cooking. Howard graduated from Amherst High School and soon moved to Aspen and got a job washing dishes. His boss promoted him because his dishwashing was poor, and so began his career in cooking. Then he went to the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park NY, where he thrived in the atmosphere of high standards and professional restaurant management. He was a great executive chef. He worked at fine hotels all over the country: Chicago, Missouri, Santa Fe, San Antonio, Philadelphia, Florida, Maine and Colorado. Wherever he worked he made friends and pleased the hungry customers.

-Steve

From Tammy: It is both a privilege and a deeply emotional task to share my thoughts about the extraordinary man my husband was. Howie was not just my partner in life; he was my best friend, my hiking partner, and my greatest support. From the moment we met on the internet to eventually meeting in person, I knew he was someone special. His kindness, strength, and unwavering love made every day brighter and every challenge more bearable. What I will always cherish about My Howard is his unwavering kindness and generosity. He had a heart of gold and was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need, his selflessness touched many lives and left a lasting impact. As I sit here today, I am filled with gratitude for all the time we had together, and I am especially grateful for the gift of 14 extra years after Howie survived his heart attack in 2011. Although I wish we could have had much more time, I am comforted by the countless memories we created and the many lessons he taught me. I will carry your memory in my heart forever and strive to honor you in all that I do. Howie, your love and your legacy will live on in all of us. "Todah rabah" for everything, darling.

-Tammy (the "Tamster")

Are You Preparing?

(continued from page 2)

We need to start digging deeper into the Word of God. We need to start studying it more then we have ever done before. Not in a legalistic way, but in a way that will feed our personal relationship with Jesus and help us grow in our faith.

Jesus warns us more than once in Matthew 24 to not be deceived. Why would He caution us so many times if it wasn't important for us to know about this? We need to continue to grow in our faith, our personal relationship with Jesus, and reading the Bible; these things will help us not be deceived. Remember when Satan tempted Jesus three times in the desert (Matthew 4)? One of those times Satan manipulated Scripture to try to trick Jesus. As believers we too are seeing the Bible being corrupted by people in leadership, as they wear sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves (Matthew 7:15). They are not preaching the Word of God but perverting it with their own views. This is a form of deception. We need to not be misled

by them, and reading and studying the Bible will help us to know what is of God and what is not of Him.

We can prepare for the end times and the Lord's return by growing our personal walk with Jesus, studying the Word of God, and asking the Lord for an increase in discernment to not be deceived. We can also prepare by coming together as a body of Christ in unity. Let's put our differences aside and work together. We need everyone to participate, so we can battle our challenges in life together and grow closer to the Lord. As Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (NIV). Let's sharpen each other by encouraging, uplifting, and comforting one another, a great way to prepare our hearts for the Lord's return. We are not alone; we are one with Christ.

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NATIONAL FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 15-22, 2025

KENYON-WANAMINGO FFA

Pictured back row left to right; Matthew Scheffler, Brady Wetzstein, Jay Jacobson, Cody Ostertag, Ryan Rechtzigel, Noah Bauer, Lukas Gullickson, Josh Estrem, Knute Ronningen.
Front row left to right; Autumn Johnson, Talia Johnson, Aislynn Ronningen, Madison Quam, Montana Johnson, Hannah Linaman, Hanna Gudknecht, Brady O'Brien, Braiden Johnson, Ben Scheffler, Chase Cordes, Roman Landmark, Mason Allen, Derek Syverson



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Supporting Our Local FFA Chapters & Celebrating National FFA Week Feb. 15 - 22, 2025

Starting in 1948, the National FFA Board of Directors designated a weeklong tradition to recognize George Washington's example and legacy as a leader and farmer. For the past 76 years, FFA members across the country have taken part in agricultural, leadership and service-based activities during National FFA Week.

"National FFA Week is a significant event that really showcases the heart of our organization," says Christine White, chief program

officer for the National FFA Organization. "Local chapters use this as an opportunity to highlight program success, recognize community supporters and amplify the mission of the organization."

Again this year, more than 700,000 FFA members will spend the week of February 15 - 22 developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

They will do so in creative and innovative ways. Whether volunteering to clean up the local fairgrounds or throwing a citywide party to celebrate the 1732 birth of our first president, there is no limit to how this week can be recognized.

"It could be hosting a breakfast for teachers, an open house for FFA supporters or bestowing chapter-level degrees. It truly is an opportunity to celebrate all things FFA. As a former member and agricultural educator, FFA Week is something I always looked forward to since it was a way to share my passion for the organization," White says. "FFA members should embrace the planning, execution and celebration that occurs with developing activities and events for FFA Week. The skills of teamwork, communication and advocating are ones you will carry with you beyond your FFA experience."

National FFA WEEK FEBRUARY 15-22, 2025



photo courtesy of FFA.org

Keep track of all that is happening by following #FFAWeek on your social channels. Find more about all the resources available at [FFA.org/National-FFA-Week](https://www.ffa.org/National-FFA-Week).

The organization also wants to Thank Alumni and Supporters!

Whether they wore the blue jacket or simply support an organization they were never a member of, these individuals are celebrated on National FFA Alumni and Supporters Day. Since 1971, alumni and supporters have found ways to significantly contribute to their local chapters.

Jeremy Krerowicz, the past president of the Denmark FFA Alumni in Wisconsin, fondly remembers his time as a member, and he used those experiences as motivation to lead the

2020 Outstanding FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter.

"Our members love to see the students grow," Krerowicz says. "We love seeing them being recognized at state and national conventions, during their chapter banquet and throughout the community. It shows that we are doing our part. We help them with the resources they need to get that far."

In every state in the nation, alumni and supporters chapters work to create environments where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

Find out more information at www.mnffa.org, or www.ffa.org

Kenyon/Wanamingo FFA Members Recognized for State Fair Awards

(continued from page 1)

The school year was kicked off at the Minneosta State Fair, while there the chapter upheld their legacy by earing the title they are familiar with of Premier Exhibitor Livestock. The chapter had 7 animals in the championship drive and received Premier Chapter Breeding Stock for Dairy, Swine, and Sheep! In November 8 members attended National FFA Convention where they got to watch 3 members receive their American FFA Degree, these members were Sophia Poquette, Buck Oeltjenbruns, and Evelyn Scheffler. Throughout the fall and early winter various teams completed in Career Development Events, three of these teams earned themselves a trip to State Convention in April to

compete at that level. The Dairy Cattle Evaluation Team placed 1st at their contest, team consists of Hanna Gudknecht, Matt Scheffler, Cora Koss, and Jay Jacobson. The Poultry Evaluation Team also placed 1st at their contest, team consists of Jett Smith, Knute Ronningen, Lukas Gullickson, Josh Estrem. Finally, the Fish and Wildlife Team placed 5th at the contest, team consists of Wade Allen, Gavin Blakstad, Gunnar Kalvig, and Owen Siems. The chapter has also submitted 9 state degrees to be awarded at the State Convention, these recipients are Hanna Gudknecht, Matt Scheffler, Cody Ostertag, Brady Wetstein, Jay Jacobson, Ryan Rechtzigel, Lukas Gullickson, Jett Smith, and Derek Syverson

Ready? Set?

Mark your calendars for Give FFA Day 2025!

In 2025, we will celebrate the 10th Give FFA Day. We hope you'll plan to pitch in to help FFA raise \$1.5 million to support members across the country.

With overwhelming support from donors, FFA raised over \$1.44 million on Give FFA Day 2024. We're looking forward to what we can achieve together in 2025.

Plan to join us for Give FFA Day 2025 — Thursday, Feb. 20.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Give FFA Day?

Give FFA Day is the day each year during National FFA Week that we encourage members, alumni and friends of FFA to show their support through a philanthropic gift. These donations help fund the programs that make a difference in the lives of students. Donations of all sizes are magnified when they become part of this larger giving effort.

When is Give FFA Day?

In 2025, Give FFA Day will be the 24 hours of Thursday, Feb. 20. All donations made during those hours—no matter the time zone you live in—will be counted toward the Give FFA Day totals.

Where does Give FFA Day happen?

Everywhere! Give FFA Day happens online, so you can take part no matter where you live. Many chapters hold events during National FFA Week, so check locally for any planned events.

Why should I give to FFA on Feb. 20?

Thursday, Feb. 20 is your chance to make the most out of your gift to FFA and show off your FFA pride. Every donation will count toward matching gifts throughout the day and each campaign description provides more information about how your gift will be used.

Can I make a gift by phone?

Yes, you can donate at any time on Give FFA Day by calling 888-332-2668 and pressing the star (*) key.

Is there a minimum gift amount?

All donations count toward Give FFA Day, however, we recommend a minimum donation of \$5.

Are Give FFA Day contributions tax-deductible?

All funds listed on the Give FFA Day site are considered tax-deductible and an email receipt will be provided. We recommend you consult with your tax advisor for specific tax advice.

What if I already made a donation to FFA this fiscal year?

First, thank you for your support! While we certainly would encourage you to consider another gift on Give FFA Day, your support in other ways is also appreciated. You can help in promoting Give FFA Day among your friends and family through our social media toolkit.

Who can I contact with additional questions about Give FFA Day?

You can email GiveFFADay@FFA.org or call 888-332-2668 and press the star (*) key.



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Friday, February 21 at work or school, wear blue to show your FFA pride on National Wear Blue Day.

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Towns of Our Past

(continued from page 1)

There is a sign and maybe one house near the sign. Or Fair Point. Not even a home in sight. How about Ayr? A Scottish name in a predominantly Norwegian area..... What are these signs telling us? History!

I decided to do some investigating. What I found was quite interesting. Apparently many of these names were once bustling little hamlets, and some grew into real towns when the railroad was in operation in our area. So, what constitutes a real town? According to most people, in order to be a town, you must have a post office. To have a post office, you need people who get mail. In order to have people, you must have a way to make a living..... See how it works?

Why do some towns grow, and some just fade away? Again, the railroad has a lot to do with it, because of the commerce it brings. Since we are mostly an agricultural area, there are animals that we need to produce the milk, eggs and meat that we need to sustain life. In order to have animals, we need a business like a saw mill to make boards to build homes and barns. Of course then we would need a grist mill to grind the wheat into flour to bake our daily bread, and grind our dried corn into meal. How about a blacksmith to fashion our

tools and shoes for the horses that draw the plows through the fields? Ah! And a mercantile to sell us our fabric, needles and thread, salves to heal our blisters, and shoes for our own feet. And if we are really lucky, maybe a creamery to make our cheese and butter.

All these mentioned and lots more go into growing a town, and not letting it fade away.

So, being an insatiable investigator, I have set out on a short journey to bring to life some of these old and faded town signs where once a town stood, and some even flourished. I hope you will join me into a peek at the past history of towns where a lot of you started your family trees, long before you were born. Shall we?

I want to start with a town called Aspelund, not far from here. The town was named by Norwegian immigrants who heard the mid west was great farm land, and all you had to do was settle on a parcel of land, and make improvements for a set number of years (usually 5) and the government would give you a deed to the land, saying it was now yours. Well, that sounded pretty good, so the immigrants hopped into their horse drawn wagons, left the east coast where they had arrived from far away lands, and began looking for a place to stay and make their own.

Mind you, this was not an easy feat. What they had not been told was that there were already occupants on the land.....yep! The Native Americans who were already here. Fortunately, in this area of the country, the newcomers were able to get along with the natives for the most part, and they learned many things about each other, and ways of life that were previously unknown to both.

Aspelund means "grove of aspen trees", and this you will find as you travel the area. In fact, there were lots of trees of all kinds in the mid west. Trees that had to be chopped down and the roots pulled from the ground in order to clear a patch of land to say, build a home. Or, plow a field to grow the necessary crops for man and beast. This was not an easy task, as there were not yet any motorized vehicles, so it was done by hand, literally! Some were fortunate enough to have an ox or a horse to help out, but many had very little to accomplish this task, so it was grueling work, dependent on Nature for sunshine and water. But these were a hardy bunch of folks, determined to make this area their home, and so they did.

So, this is just the beginning of the journey

we are about to embark on, piece by piece, month by month. In the next article, we will go into a bit more depth about the town of Aspelund, and continue on our journey by exploring some of the other towns that were here, and some that still are..... So stay tuned for a few articles on the "towns" near us! And try to stay warm!

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By Bob Duncan
Comments to: scribed@aol.com



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Letter from the Superintendent

Elementary School Site in Wanamingo to Close



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

Dear Kenyon-Wanamingo Families, Staff, and Community Members,



It is with a heavy heart that I share an important decision regarding the future of our schools. After careful consideration and extensive discussions with stakeholders, the Kenyon-Wanamingo School Board has made the difficult decision to permanently close the elementary site in Wanamingo, effective Fall 2025. This decision was not made lightly and

reflects our responsibility to ensure the long-term sustainability and success of our district.

We understand the deep ties many of you have to this site. Generations of students, staff, and families have walked its halls, building memories and traditions that are an integral part of our district's story. The Wanamingo site has been more than just a building—it has been a place where young minds have grown, friendships have formed, and futures have been shaped.

As we move forward, we are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible for our students, families, and staff. The PK-4th grade programming and Knights Kids Daycare will be consolidated into the Kenyon site beginning in Fall 2025. We are actively working on detailed plans to ensure a seamless transition.

We recognize that this news may bring mixed emotions. While there is sadness in saying goodbye to the Wanamingo site, there is also a resolve to focus our resources on strengthening educational opportunities for all Kenyon-Wanamingo students. Our theme for this school year, Igniting Potential, Inspiring Excellence, reminds us that change, though challenging, can be a spark for growth and innovation.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our district. Your partnership is essential as we navigate this transition and continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for our students. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns, or ideas. Together, we will honor our past while embracing the future with courage and determination.



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Chicken Wars

(continued from page 1)

Since 2004, the current Wanamingo Code of Ordinances only allows for farm animals to be kept on residential lots of at least 10 acres. Chickens are allowed in Agricultural Zoned Districts within the City. The reasoning being that farm animals should be kept on agriculturally zoned areas, large residential parcels, or in the surrounding townships (out in the country). There are a handful of citizens who like the idea of raising chickens in town. However, a significant number of residents when asked, do not wish to see chickens raised within residential districts. For many of us, actually having chickens on our property is a moot point, (because of space requirements), but this discussion has come up many times since I moved here, so I thought it was time to get all the relative information, lay it out, and get the facts.

The concerns regarding the keeping of chickens in residential districts include site, sounds, smells of animals, and public nuisance complaints. Another concern includes attracting pests such as raccoons, foxes, opossums, and coyotes to residential neighborhoods. Neighbors living in urban areas have the right to enjoy their property. Chickens can be noisy, including both roosters and hens. There is an odor associated with chicken manure that can affect neighbors. There are chicken manure concerns beyond smell that include spreading diseases such as bacteria and viruses (including Salmonella, E. coli, Campylobacter, and avian influenza). Concentrations of chicken manure can turn yards brown from high nitrates. Raising chickens can sound idealistic to those interested. However, the realities of the work to reward can be daunting to those ill-equipped for the task. These ill-equipped residents tend to give up on their chicken raising project which neighbors pay for through the chicken maintenance neglect (killing or abandoning chickens).

There is a mix of communities in Minnesota that do and do not allow chickens, along with very little or very strict regulations in residentially zoned districts. Zumbrota, Pine Island, Goodhue, Kenyon, and Cannon Falls allow chickens in residential districts, but have varied regulations and defined restrictions that follow a strict permit registration process, including yearly fees. These permits require the chicken owners to consent to regular City Staff inspections to ensure regulations are followed. In each case the chickens must be kept in a clean and sanitary manner that is not a nuisance to, or detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare of the community. If the chicken owner does not follow the strict guidelines and restrictions, the permits can be revoked and not allowed to be renewed. This is great in practice, but can lead to significant staff time, and attorney fees, and negative publicity for corrective enforcement.

The problem with a permit inspection process is following through and enforcement. The City of Wanamingo's staff time is

limited due to current workload, and the Council does not have time to conduct yearly inspections. Residents with chickens who are deemed not to follow strict guidelines and restrictions would come to the Council requesting to ease guidelines and restrictions rather than giving up chickens through revoking or not renewing of the permit. If the Council eased one guideline or restriction there would be additional requests until they no longer existed (give an inch, take a mile).

The City Council has debated to either not allow chickens in residential areas, or allow them with no restrictions. The problem with no restrictions can lead to disharmony within neighborhoods. Neighboring citizens can feel that chicken raising neighbors have harmed their ability to enjoy the use of their property. All it would take is for one chicken owner to not follow the guidelines and restrictions to ruin it for the rest of the community.

City of Wanamingo's Current Code of Ordinances excerpt regarding chickens: Section 93.01 - Definitions

FARM ANIMALS. Those animals commonly associated with a farm, or performing work in agricultural settings. Unless otherwise defined, farm animals shall include members of the equine family (horses, mules), bovine family (cows, bulls), sheep, poultry (chickens, turkeys), fowl (ducks, geese) swine (including Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs), goats, bees, and other animals associated with a farm, ranch, or stable.

Section 93.04 Farm Animals.

Farm Animals shall only be kept in an agricultural district of the City, or on a residential lot of at least 10 acres in size, provided that no animal shelter shall be within 300 feet of an adjoining piece of property. An exception shall be made to this section for those animals brought into the City as part of an operating zoo, veterinarian clinic, scientific research laboratory, or a licensed show or exhibition.

I think it is important to explain that government decisions are made considering all points of view for decision making. This is the same for zoning and extension of chickens in residential areas. There are always a vocal number of people who want them, but usually a large majority that want significant restrictions to allow them, or do not want to allow them at all. Harmony in the City and the potential for neighbor disputes leading to disharmony is why the Council does not wish to have chickens. Enforcement of ordinances is difficult in a small town with no police department (small contracted hours), limited staff, and limited attorney enforcement time. Further, it is in human nature to push the rules. If reasonable rules as part of a permitting for chickens were put in place, people

could want them eased over time (i.e. number of chickens, conditions for housing them, and clean up). Zumbrota has had issues with the public pushing to increase the number of chickens and keeping more than is allowed. As this issue has come up again and again, the Council agreed that chickens would either need to be allowed with little to no restrictions or not be allowed at all. Enforcement could be difficult to impossible, and lead to disharmony among neighbors and the community.

Now that we have the laws on paper, we can begin to see that there are many reasons the city officials voted no to the chicken ordinance. I think it is important for the people on both sides to have their say. We all live together in this own, and there are valid points on each side of the issue. Personally, I love having chickens for the eggs and for their company on my farm. They have room to roam, and nobody is around to complain. But what if your neighbors had chickens? Wouldn't you expect them to give the best care, and know what raising them consists of? I have personally had renters who thought they could just get chicks, and let them run around, and that they wouldn't require any effort. In fact, a flock of 6 once came down with a disease that attacks their muscles, and each one died a slow and horrible death. It's not fair to the animals to keep them from getting and spreading disease by not having a veterinarian taking care of them when they get sick. My point is, a lot of people go into raising animals without the knowledge of how to care for them, and the costs associ-

ated with them.

On the other hand, if we don't like the laws we have, we as citizens also have the right to request ordinances that work for everyone, whether they want chickens or not. This is a democratic republic, and all points of view should be considered by our elected officials. The City Council members are elected by the citizens to pass and enforce ordinances. If a group of citizens can advocate for a better, more inclusive ordinance, their voices would be heard by the city council members. Once both sides are presented, the Council may or may not consider ordinance revisions. But at least everyone can have their say, and who knows? Maybe the ordinances will change. Of course, any new plan begins with gathering evidence, which I hope has been done in this article. Next comes a polling of the neighbors in the area where the chickens are proposed to be located. Due diligence must be done to avoid any complications down the road. There is a lot of work that goes into changing the ordinances in any small town, and reasons ordinances are in place. But as I stated, ordinances can be changed.

I hope this article has given everyone all the points to consider, and that a decision can be made that everyone feels comfortable with. And I want to say here that I don't have all the answers, nor have I ever written about controversial issues, or taken sides. I just feel I am doing my part to help the community take a good look at both sides of this issue that keeps reappearing, so everyone can feel that they have been heard. Good luck, whatever your position is!

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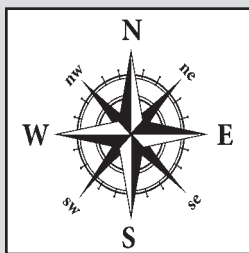
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Red Wing Pottery



By Terry Campbell

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

I have had this Red Wing crock around the farm for most of my life. I remember when my parents got it. It was in October of 1968. Our neighbors, Lester & Lillian Derby, had a farm auction since they were retiring from farming and moving into town. I got to skip school and go with my dad to the auction. It was a magical time for an eleven year-old boy, as I always enjoyed farm auctions. Most of the farmers from the neighborhood were there and the mood was quite upbeat and kind of festive. And the Concord Church of Christ

ladies had a lunch kitchen set up in the old tin shed across from the barn, serving sloppy joes, kool-aid and chocolate frosted brownie bars.

My parents bought quite a number of things at the auction that day, and this 15 gallon Red Wing crock was just one of them. But it has stuck in my mind and for some reason has remained on the farm for the last fifty-six years. I was always aware of the town of Red Wing, just 45 minutes to the north-east of the farm because of the Red Wing Pottery and the Red Wing work boots we wore. The town as named after a great Dakota Nation chief who had befriended the first settlers who moved there. The native Indians hunted the bluffs and fished along the shores of what is now Lake Pepin, long before the first French Voyageurs set foot there in 1680.

In 1861, John Paul, a German immigrant moved to Red Wing and discovered a rich pocket of clay on the land that he intended to farm. A potter by trade, he used this clay to make the first Red Wing stoneware. In the early days settlers needed stoneware crocks and jugs for safe food and beverage storage. Large crocks up to fifty gallons were used for storing vegetables and pickling foods. They had wire handles on the sides and a wooden lid with a bail to secure the top.

Every home and business had a water crock for drinking water and crocks of all sizes were used to store lard, butter, eggs, salted meats, eggs and vegetables. Stores and manufacturing businesses used the crocks to hold liquids and chemicals needed for their daily operations. The largest crock known was an eighty-gallon size.

The early stoneware was colored because they were fired by wood and coal and the

soot and ash would discolor the pottery. By 1895 the kilns were converted to oil heat so it was possible to produce white glazed stoneware.

As towns and cities grew and installed sewer systems the demand increased to include manufacturing ceramic drain pipes. The production in Red Wing grew at a rapid rate. By 1906 there were at least four companies producing stoneware and sewer pipes in Red Wing. Over time competition from established eastern kilns and the invention of the refrigerator caused the decline of the Red Wing stoneware. By 1936 there was only one company left producing stoneware in Red Wing and it took the name of Red Wing Potteries. The product line was reduced to flower pots and vases and lunch and dinner ware.

So, the Red Wing crock doesn't hold anything but memories any longer, but when I see it, I am reminded of a wealth of old



friends, family and people from days long gone by.

A Minnesotan: The Problem With Geese



By RosaLin Alcoser

There is nothing I fear more on this earth than geese... well maybe snakes, but geese are the more immediate threat. Because here in Minnesota geese are everywhere.

Geese are at the park, in the parking lot, on the sidewalks, and even standing in the middle of the freeway in some cases- like they own the place.

It started out when I was a small child and the geese would chase me around the park honking. Since I was about the same size as them I guess it made sense that they were going after me.

Thankfully in response to these attacks my sister would chase the geese away from me so that I was not mauled to death by a goose at age six.

However, it did not stop as I got older. To this day geese will still chase me if given the chance. Now I can out run the geese or

avoid them all together.

When I was in community college in Rochester the geese that would hang out on campus would chase me across the campus on an almost daily basis. Which my mother did not believe was happening until she saw me take off running at the sound of 'Honk! Honk!' and a flock of geese start charging at me.

Don't worry I made it to the car before the geese caught up to me and lived to tell the tale.

My fear is not just limited to geese either. It does extend to water brands as a whole. I have also been attacked by ducks and gulls. The only reason the loons, swans and crane have not gotten to me is because I am not fool enough to go anywhere close to them after the incident with the duck.

A couple years later when I was in University back south I was at the park with some friends. We were sitting on a bench watching the ducks, but not doing anything to the ducks. When a duck walked up to me and bit me on the leg with its serrated beak.

While ducks do not have teeth it does hurt when they bite you with their serrated beaks.

It is because of that duck and many, many geese that I now stay clear of all water birds. As I now live under the belief that if I give them space they just might not try to kill me... or at least not have the opportunity to.

P.S. as I write this two ducks have landed on my patio and taunted me with their serrated beaks.



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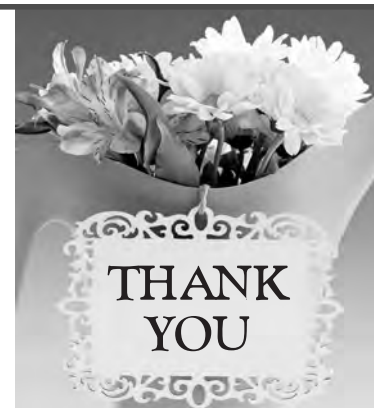
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Choosing a Camp: A Simple Guide for Parents



By Brian Kettering, Director of Day Camps at Camp Victory Zumbro Falls, MN

Living in the age of information, it can feel like options for everything are abundant, perhaps even to a paralyzing degree. There are dozens of subscription services you can sign up for, everything from to televisions shows to groceries to coffee to video games, it's all out there. There are different news media outlets all reporting the same event but presenting it in a totally different way. There are different auto parts stores all selling the same parts, often in the same strip mall. Resta-

raunts that both sell burgers but with a little unique twist, within the same driving distance from your house. Public school, private school, or homeschool? What's the difference between pasture-raised and grass-fed? Are they Baptist or Presbyterian? Do you want 1%, 2%, whole milk, or half-and-half in that drink, sir?

If reading those questions got your heart pumping a little bit thinking of all the different decisions you have to make on a daily basis, fear not. When choosing a summer camp for your children, you don't need to be paralyzed by choice. Here are three helpful things to look for in a summer camp to determine whether or not that camp is offering a quality program fit for your family.

The first one is safety. Sending your kids away, whether for a day or for a week, can be a scary thing. Something that helps alleviate some of that anxiety is having a certain level of trust in a camp's policies for hiring, training, program setup, and handling of emergency situations. One thing that can be helpful to look for is certification from accreditation boards. Organizations like the American Camping Association (ACA) have very thorough and often rigid guidelines a camp must live up to in order to maintain accreditation. These guidelines include standards for everything from the kitchen to the waterfront, ensuring that operations at a camp are consistent and safe. Some camps require very thorough background checks and lengthy interview processes for potential

counselor hires, as well as extensive training on camper safety through organizations like MinistrySafe. Camps may also choose to certify their lifeguards through a Bonafide lifeguard training program such as one through the Red Cross. Kitchens at camps may also be licensed by the state, requiring regular inspections from the state Health Department. Certifications from all of these organizations should help ease the mind of a worried parent as it becomes clear that the camp really is concerned about safety. Most camps can explain their processes for all of these things if you simply give their office a call!

The next thing to look for is value. "Is my kid going to get my money's worth out of this camp?" This question will almost always come up when considering summer camp options for your children. One of the best things you can do to get a head start on this question is to look at the prices of several different camps within a reasonable driving distance and make some comparisons. However, as with any product, cheap does not always mean good. Scan the website of a camp and see if you can find a sample of a daily schedule anywhere. This may help you determine whether or not a camp offers a reasonable number of the things you care about. If you value an educational camp experience, see how much time a day is spent on educational programming. If you value fun activities, pay attention to the number of activity rotations that are on the schedule. If you value a spiritual or religious experience, see

about chapel, memory verse, or devotional times in the schedule. Once you've determined which camps will offer you the things that matter most at a price you can appreciate, you'll be ready for number three, which is...

Fun. Is my camper going to have fun? Are they going to make friends? Are their counselors going to make them feel welcome? Will they come home singing and dancing and droning on and on about how their day or week at camp was the best time of their lives? While it's nearly impossible to predict exactly what an individual's experience somewhere new will be, there are some signs you can be looking for to determine whether or not a camp's summer programs will be fun. Take a look at a camp's social media page and ask yourself the following questions. Do the staff look excited? Are the children smiling? How much singing and dancing do you see in the videos? Does the property look vibrant, green, and alive? Sure, these things can be easy to capture and edit down to their pinnacle moment in media, but if you're still not sure, see if the camp you're considering has any open house events you can come to. Many camps offer events year-round, some in the spring and some in the fall. Stop by the camp on one of those days and ask yourself the same questions, but in the real setting.

Hopefully once you've considered all of these things, you'll be ready to send your child to camp this year with confidence and peace of mind!

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(continued from page 1)

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This company has four group homes in Wanamingo, one in Zumbrota, and two in Red Wing. These homes provide a living environment with supervised caregivers who attend to the individual needs of each resident who lives there. It is a home environment that caters to the needs of each person in a comprehensive and very personal manner.

Their mission statement says, "Our Mission is to provide a living situation in which citizens with special needs are able to achieve as great a level of independence as possible." Their Vision statement follows with "Our Vision is to continually adapt to industry changes by identifying Individual's and Community needs.....with Faith in our Plan; Hope in our Future; and Love to Power our Mis-

sion." Put in another way, Riverview provides just the right assistance while encouraging independent living situations.

In the group homes, it gives the residents not only a place to live, but also a comfortable home for their families and care givers to come and visit. Each resident has specific needs, and the staff is there to help them learn new skills, and to have someone always on hand if something comes up that needs attention. They receive three meals a day, and are able to have community involvement with activities like parades, ball games, and other fun things going on. There is a Day Center where they can go and meet up with others, and do activities like play cards, do puzzles, and have scheduled entertainment. Living skills training such as money management, daily hygiene, environmental safety, and other ac-

tivities are offered, and so much more.

There are 2 other components to what Riverview Services offers. The In-Home Program provides services for people living in the community. They can assist with appointments, outings, and financial assistance.

Their day program is called Hillcrest Center and provides day services for up to 30 clients in Wanamingo and surrounding communities.

So if you or someone you know is in need of information on all these services provided, you can go online at riverviewservicesinc.org, email your questions to rvmanor@frontier.net, or call them Monday through Thursday at 507-824-2091. You will find a helpful and knowledgeable staff waiting to answer your questions and provide opportunities for you and your family.

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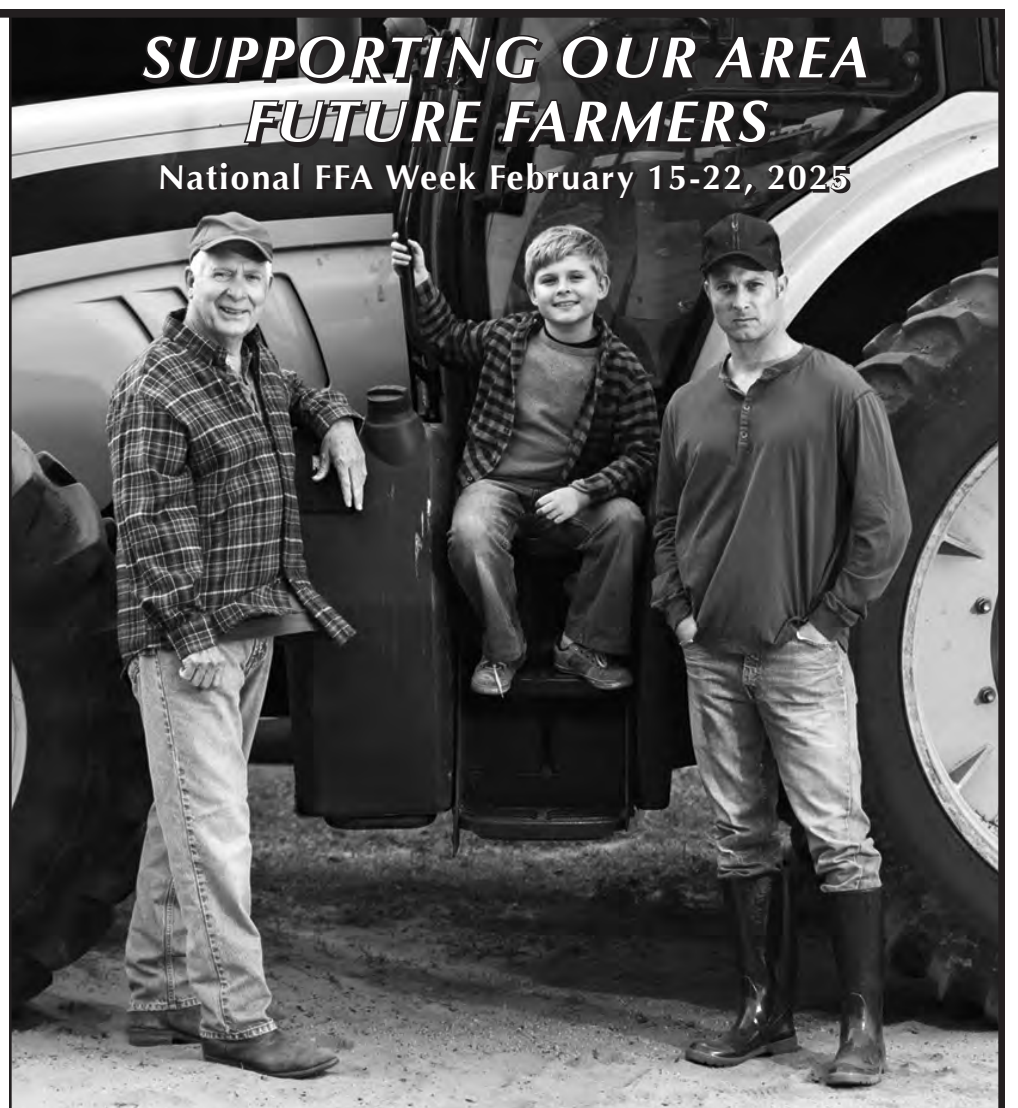
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New Location for NAPA

(continued from page 1)

The move took only about 5 days, which is pretty fast, considering all the "stuff" that was moved! Jeff and Ann would like to thank their friends for all the help with both labor and equipment that was necessary at both locations to get the job done as fast as they did! "We couldn't have done it without you!"

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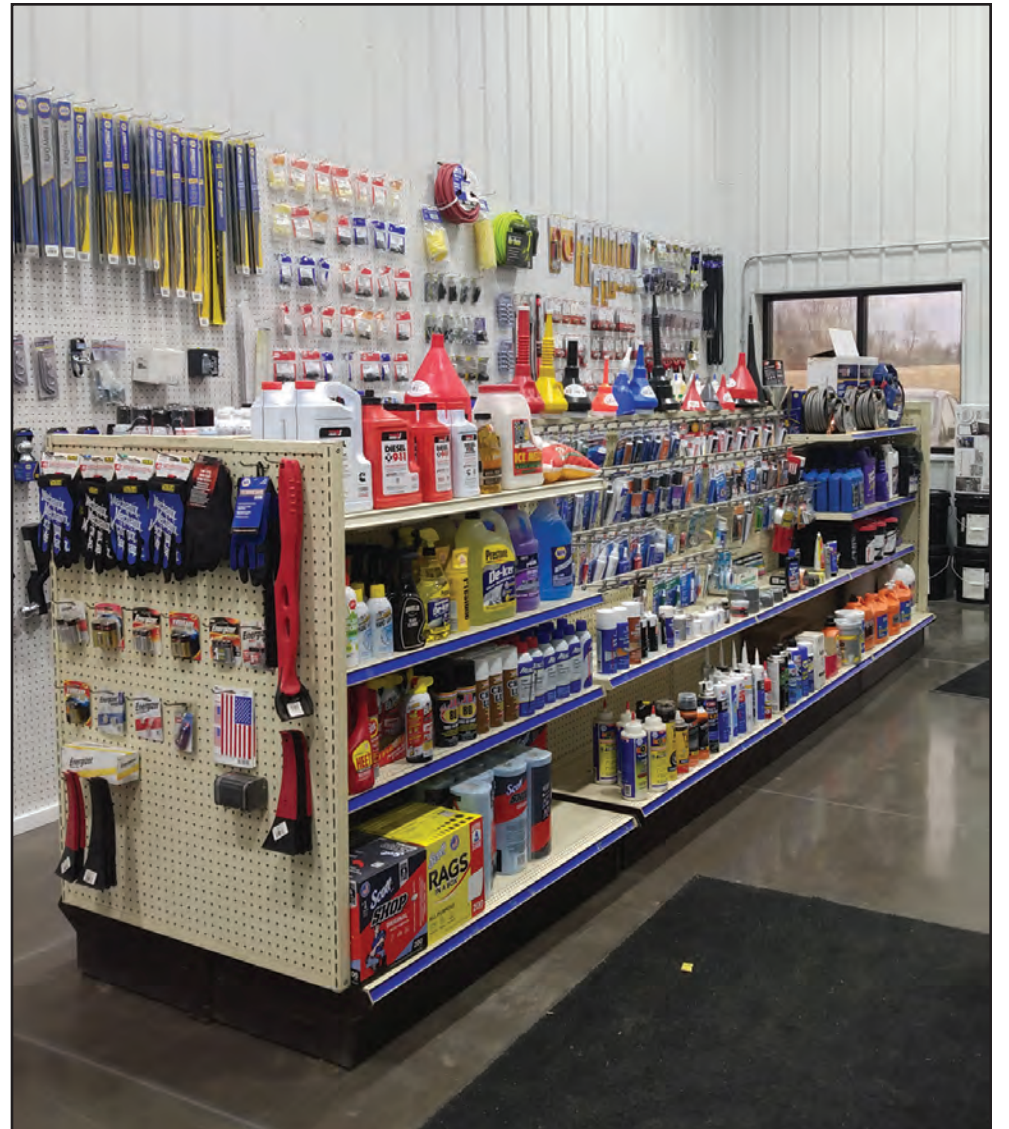
of, except tires. And Levi said, "if you need a part we don't have, we will find it for you!"

Levi took a diesel mechanics certification course right out of high school, and knows the business well. In 2002, his dad Jeff, and Jeff's wife Ann bought the business called Rixe Repair from Vern and Anita Rixe, which they had started in 1979. They renamed it Traxler Power Equipment. In 2006, they then purchased Napa Auto Parts from a partner group. The businesses go well together, and make it more convenient for you to get the parts you need for your large trucks and tractors, and get them fixed in the same place. Parts Manager Owen Aaland has also been at this for over 30 years. He has been with Traxler's for about 10 years now, and worked in a few other places in the same field, so he is a wealth of information.

(continued on page 15)

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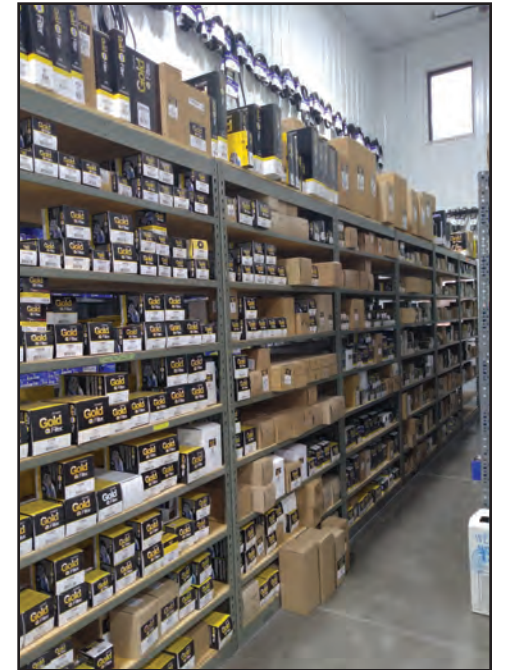
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New Location for NAPA

(continued from page 14)



You will find parts for your car at NAPA Auto Parts, but the Power Equipment side of things services agricultural equipment and larger implements. They also sell and service Toro lawnmowers, and service all kinds of outdoor power equipment. The Traxler's enjoy a long-standing customer base, and look forward to welcoming you to their business. There will be a grand Opening sometime this spring when everything is in place, so be watching for that announcement in the Messenger, too!

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Alcohol Consumption; Vitamin D Essential; Covid Vaccine News



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

It seems the way we think about alcohol consumption may be on the verge of a major shift. According to U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy and a recently released report, alcohol is now officially linked to seven types of cancer, including breast, liver, and colorectal cancers. Interestingly—and quite frankly, shockingly—around 16.4% of breast cancer cases can be attributed to alcohol consumption. To top it off, alcohol is now considered the third-leading cause of cancer in the United States, trailing just behind tobacco and obesity. Many people will wonder how could something as socially normalized and celebrated as a glass of wine at dinner or a beer at a party carry such a heavy risk, and yet so many of us remain completely unaware? Currently, alcohol labels simply warn about risks like birth defects and impairment, but they completely leave out the potential cancer connection. Surgeon General Murthy and health experts are pushing for new warning labels and updated drinking guidelines to educate the public. Think about it—what if we could save lives simply by adding a line of text on a bottle? It feels like a small change with monumental potential. Women, in particular, face greater risks even with smaller amounts of alcohol due to biological factors. The bright

side? Experts say cutting back even now could reduce future risks and, in some cases, reverse harmful effects. Personally, I enjoy having a few beers on the weekend. While experts point out that some damage from drinking can be reversible, they also stress that cutting back can significantly reduce future risks. This isn't about demonizing beer or alcohol; it's about being informed and making mindful choices. If updated labels and federal guidelines help create awareness, we all stand to benefit, ensuring that what we enjoy in moderation doesn't silently harm us in the long run. In the last couple years, I have mindfully cut back on my beer consumption, limiting myself to just a few a week. I started doing this as these research reports started to trickle out. Now, with the recent news reports, if you're like me, a little awareness might just change how you approach your next drink.

Vitamin D deficiency is an often-overlooked concern that impacts nearly 40% of Americans. Fatigue, muscle aches, frequent colds, and even feeling down can all be signs of low vitamin D, but many misinterpret these issues as something else. These seemingly minor symptoms can point to deeper health challenges if ignored for too long. Keeping vitamin D levels within the ideal range of 60-80 ng/mL is key to staying healthy and warding off chronic conditions.

Getting outside for just 10-20 minutes a day without sunscreen is one of the easiest ways to boost your vitamin D naturally. However, for those who can't spend time in the sun daily, or for individuals with darker skin tones or diets low in fatty fish, fortified dairy, or egg yolks, supplements can be a lifesaver. Adding foods rich in magnesium, like spinach and nuts, can also support how the body uses vitamin D, enhancing its impact. The ideal D3 dose in the wintertime is 35 per units per pound of bodyweight, plus 100-200 units of vitamin K2. For example, a 160lb person should take 5600 units of D3 daily in the winter.

Healthy vitamin D levels do so much more than strengthen bones—they also lower the risk of serious illnesses like heart disease, cancer, and autoimmune disorders. Regular blood tests are the best way to monitor your levels and make adjustments if needed. A combination of sunlight, a nutrient-packed diet, and supplements can make a huge difference in your health, protecting you from potential long-term problems while helping

you feel your best every day.

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS: A peer-reviewed study conducted by high school students at an FDA lab has uncovered some pretty startling details about Pfizer's mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. Yes, you heard that right—high school students. These young researchers, working under the guidance of FDA scientists, took a deep dive into the vaccine and confirmed something concerning. The study, which got published on Dec. 29, 2024, in *The Journal of High School Science*, found that Pfizer's mRNA vaccine contains levels of residual DNA contamination way higher than what's considered safe—6 to 470 times over the regulatory limits, to be precise. The students tested two separate batches of the vaccine and found “residual DNA to a level that exceeds 10 nanograms per dose.” To put it in perspective, anything beyond this limit raises eyebrows, and these results shot way past that threshold. Now, what does this mean exactly? That part is still a bit of a mystery. According to the study, the impact of these leftover DNA fragments on health isn't fully understood yet. But here's where it gets serious—the researchers noted these DNA fragments could cause something called “insertional mutagenesis,” a fancy term for DNA mutations that might lead to cancer. This revelation was first brought to light by Maryanne Demasi, Ph.D., an investigative medical journalist. To me, it's impressive and fascinating that high school students, while under the mentorship of FDA scientists, made such a critical discovery. It just goes to show, sometimes the biggest insights come from the least expected places.

Keeping our kids healthy and free from injuries while they play winter sports is an absolute must. Chiropractic care can be a valuable addition to their warmup and recovery routines, offering another layer of protection and performance enhancement for young athletes—and their proud parents. I'd love to share why I personally believe chiropractic care is a game-changer for winter sports. Whether your little ones are zooming down the slopes, gliding gracefully on ice, or powering through cross-country trails, keeping their bodies in top shape matters more than you think. Regular chiropractic care works hand in hand with things like warmups and cool-down stretches to set the stage for fewer injuries, better performance, and faster recovery times. Honestly, the benefits go beyond just the kids—families can see the difference too! Here's why I think incorporating chiropractic care into your winter sports routine is so crucial. Take balance and coordination, for instance. When your kids are on skis or snowboards, the ability to control their movements is everything. That effortless glide? It's no accident. Spinal adjustments, which enhance the body's natural ability to sense its position (proprioception), can really elevate performance in big ways. And let's not forget the importance of injury prevention. When the spine and joints are in proper alignment, the risk of sprains or strains can drop dramatically. Add in faster recovery from falls, improved flexibility, and even better strength, and this is why chiropractic care, kids and winter sports go hand in hand.

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

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Food and Mood



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

We are all familiar with the concept of “comfort food.” When you want to celebrate, or you want to introduce some happy experience into a day that has been challenging then

you may be choosing a “comfort food” to enjoy. A short list of those items we enjoy may include chocolate, cheese, coffee, alcohol, soft drinks, candy, chips, pie or cake. We each have a deep, emotional connection with food, which can be positive or negative. How does food affect mood?

In a recent blog post, “Could Diet Alter Your Personality,” Dr. Austin Perlmutter presents some of the current research identifying how the foods we eat can impact how we engage with life. This may not be too hard to understand when you consider how you express yourself when you are not feeling well. You do not have a lot of energy. You do not want to start a new project. You may isolate yourself. So, if a person consistently expresses these traits without a short-term illness, what is influencing how they feel, which results in these personality traits? Perlmutter suggests we take a look at what we eat.

All the food we consume passes through the gut, which is also called “the second

brain.” The gut is “the second brain” because many of the proteins and hormones that influence brain activity are produced in your gut. The more quality whole foods you consume, the more helpful hormones are produced. Many of the signals produced in the gut are made by the bacteria that live in the intestines. These bacteria produce chemicals that are associated with reduced anxiety, decreased depression, and less irritability. The connection between the gut and our thinking has been clearly documented by Dr. Natasha McBride in “Gut and Psychology Syndrome (GAPS).” Dr. McBride has demonstrated with the GAPS protocol how improving the quality of food going into the gut transforms how we think.

Our mind is constantly receiving input from our surroundings. The food we consume is one of those inputs. Headaches, brain fog, and irritability can be signs of inflammation caused by the food eaten. An inflamed brain is not able to process information effectively resulting in poor choices, outbursts, or isolation. A Health and Retirement study published in 2023 evaluated 4,364 participants for inflammation and their thinking abilities. Low levels of inflammation were associated with greater openness, better thinking and more agreeableness. Higher levels of inflammation have been associated with depression and dementia. Consequently, our food choices can greatly affect our thinking and the mood we express.

We can help our brain to function at optimal levels with quality nutrient sources. Wild caught salmon, extra virgin olive oil, cod liver oil, and walnuts are all great sources of omega-3 fatty acids, which the brain uses to make new connections. Decreasing sugar sources like soft drinks, fruit juice, white sugar, and corn syrup will help reduce inflammation so the brain can work more effi-

ciently. High sugar intake is a challenge for many Americans, not only affecting their mood but also increasing the risk of diabetes. The brain functions best with the right balance of proteins, fats, and sugars.

The right balance of nutrients promotes neuroplasticity, which is the description of how the brain can make new connections and improve physical abilities in the body. The brain is making new connections every time we think through a process, learn a new skill, or make a new memory. Young people make new connections very quickly, which means a quality food plan is especially important in these years. Helping a young person recognize those foods that sustain good brain activity will help them engage in a positive way with their surroundings and help them to thrive for the rest of their life.

As an aid to support your quality food plan, I will host a special series “What Mothers Want to Know” in the month of March focusing on the health questions moms ask most and providing the answers to their questions. An answer to a specific question will be delivered to the participant’s email address each day during the month of March. Thirty questions will be addressed in thirty days. You may send a question to nutritionproportion@gmail.com. You can register to receive the email series in March by sending me your email address where you want the answers sent.

You can also contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. I can help you realize greater health freedom in 2025. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

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The Savvy Senior Driving with Dementia and Knowing When to Stop



By Jim Miller

Dear Savvy Senior,

When should someone with dementia stop driving? My 83-year-old father has some dementia issues but still drives himself around town pretty well. —Concerned Daughter

Dear Concerned,

Most doctors agree that people with moderate to severe dementia should never get behind the wheel, but in the early stages of Alzheimer's or other types of dementia, driv-

ing performance should be the determining factor of when to stop driving, not the disease itself.

With that said, it's also important to realize that as your dad's driving skills deteriorate over time from the disease, he might not recognize he has a problem. So, it's very important that you work closely with his doctor to monitor his driving and help him stop when it is no longer safe for him to drive. Here are some additional tips that can help you.

WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS

The best way to keep tabs on your dad's driving abilities is to take frequent rides with him and watch out for warning signs. For example: Does he have trouble remembering routes to familiar places? Does he drive at inappropriate speeds, tailgate, drift between lanes or fail to observe traffic signs? Does he react slowly or make poor driving decisions? Also, has your dad had any fender benders or tickets lately, or have you noticed any dents or scrapes on his vehicle? All of these are red flags.

If you need some assessment help, hire a driver rehabilitation specialist who's trained to evaluate older drivers. See Myaota.aota.org/driver_search or Aded.net to locate one in your area.

TRANSITION TIPS

Through your assessments, if you believe it's still safe for your dad to drive, you should start recommending some simple adjustments to ensure his safety, like driving only

in daylight and on familiar routes, and avoiding busy roads and bad weather. Also, get him to sign a dementia "driving contract" that designates someone to tell him when it's no longer safe to drive. Go to Alz.org/driving and click on the "Download" button to print one.

You may also want to consider getting a GPS car tracking device (like Bounce.com or MotoSafety.com) to help you monitor him. These devices will let you track where he's driving and allow you to set up zones and speed limits that will send you alerts to your smartphone when he exits an area, or if he's driving too fast or braking harshly.

TIME TO QUIT

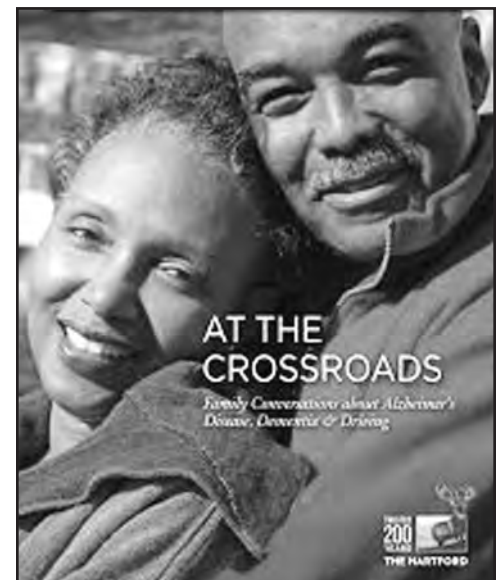
When your dad's driving gets to the point that he can no longer drive safely, you'll need to talk to him. It's best to start having these conversations in the early stages of the disease, before he needs to quit driving so he can prepare himself.

You also need to have a plan for alternative transportation (including a list of family, friends and local transportation options) that will help him get around after he stops driving.

For tips on how to talk to your dad, the Hartford Center for Mature Market Excellence offers a helpful guide called "At the Crossroads: Family Conversations About Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia and Driving" that you can download at TheHartford.com/Publications-on-Aging.

REFUSES TO QUIT

If your dad refuses to quit, you have several



options. First, suggest a visit to his doctor who can give him a medical evaluation, and prescribe that he stops driving. Older people will often listen to their doctor before they will listen to their own family.

If he still refuses, contact your local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to see if they can help. Some states will automatically revoke a license when a person is diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia, while many others require retaking a driving test.

If these fail, consider hiding his keys or you may need to take them away. You could also disable his vehicle by disconnecting the battery, park it in another location so he can't see it or have access to it, or sell it.

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Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

What does it mean to belong to a place? At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we know that having a sense of belonging is not merely a sentiment; it is a foundational element that drives economic growth, enhances social cohesion and nurtures a resilient and vibrant region. We have seen, through many examples across our region, that having access to resources can

transform lives and strengthen the bonds that unite our communities, fostering a sense of belonging that transcends cultural, economic and social differences.

In Rochester, The Village Agricultural Co-operative began as an effort to provide gardens for families, most of whom are immigrants, to grow food. As their crops overfilled their freezer, many growers sought to increase their harvest for a profit. With the support of two Inclusive and Equitable Entrepreneurial Communities (IEEC) Grants from SMIF, The Village was able to obtain two greenhouses and double the acreage of their land from five to 10 acres. With an additional grant, The Village was also able to hire a distribution manager to locate markets and sell produce on behalf of the farmers. Farmers like Mi Moua and Pha Lee have been able to earn an income and give back to their community by growing crops at the Village.

“We are so happy and filled with joy to have a plot of land to grow our own food,” shared Mi Moua and Pha Lee. “We just purchased a home for our family in 2022 because we had access to land in Rochester. We are so happy and feel more at home now than before. We will be staying here for a long time.”

In Blue Earth, a group of community members have worked hard to make the community more welcoming. A Small Town Grant

from SMIF supported welcome baskets for new homeowners. A second Small Town Grant supported a Welcoming Week bonfire, a Day of the Dead festival, an authentic Latin American band at Blue Earth’s Giant Days celebration and a program that allows businesses to translate official documents. For students like Briseyda Salazar, this has made a huge difference in helping her, and her family, feel a sense of belonging in the community.

“One of my favorite projects that I got to help with was the Day of the Dead festival,” shared Salazar. “People who don’t know about the Hispanic community got to learn about our culture, and those who do know got to remember all of our traditions so they are not getting lost.”

In Waterville, Brenda Novack, owner of Little Wonders Child Care, has taken full advantage of continuing education opportunities through SMIF to enhance her child care program. She has applied lessons from S.M.A.R.T. Steps to support body movements for healthy brain development, Conscious Discipline to address challenging behaviors with compassion and another SMIF Early Childhood training to better work with children with ADHD. At the trainings she also connects with other providers in the area and workshops challenges. These SMIF offerings have made her feel valued as a child care provider.

“Having SMIF offer these trainings to us, it shows that our profession is being valued, which is huge,” shared Novack. “It’s something that most people don’t acknowledge. So this is a positive message that says, ‘Hey,



we value you and we want you to be able to fulfill your trainings that the State is requiring you to keep your license up to date.”

We are grateful for the unwavering support of our partners, donors and community members, who share our vision of a more inclusive and thriving region. Together, we will continue to build a future where everyone in southern Minnesota feels they belong, and where our collective success is rooted in the strength of our diverse and connected communities.

I invite you to read the full versions of these stories by reading our 2024 Impact Report at smifoundation.org/impactreport2024.

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

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Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol



Question: I have seen numerous times where a bicyclist will not stop at a stop sign, if they are sharing the road with automobiles. I have seen a couple of close incidents where the bicyclist is almost hit as well. Are bicyclists under the same rules if they are sharing the road with automobiles?

Answer: There was a state law change back in August of 2023. It states, "a bicycle operator who approaches a stop sign must slow to a speed that allows for stopping before entering the intersection or the nearest crosswalk. If there is not a vehicle in the vicinity, the op-

erator may make a turn or proceed through the intersection without stopping." Nothing in this subdivision changed the right-of-way requirements. It is important to note that bicyclists must still stop at intersections controlled by a red light, a peace officer, or a person authorized to control traffic.

Essentially, the bicyclist can yield or perform a "rolling stop" at a stop sign if they don't violate anyone else's right of way. When approaching a stop sign, the bicyclist should be traveling slow enough to stop before the crosswalk if necessary. However, after yielding, if there is not a pedestrian crossing in front of them or other traffic approaching near enough to constitute an immediate hazard, they may continue without making a full stop.

Question: What allows private for-profit ambulance companies to run tax-exempt license plates on their vehicles?

Answer: Vehicles owned by ambulance services specifically intended for emergency response or providing ambulance services are exempt under the Minnesota State statutes. All services must have a valid license issued by the board. The license shall specify the base of operations, the primary service area, and the type or types of ambulance service for which the licensee is licensed. The li-

censee shall obtain a new license if they wish to expand their primary service area, or to provide a new services.

Question: Can you talk about railroad crossing safety and the laws that cover it?

Answer: I have responded to and investigated a number of train/vehicle crashes in my career. A majority of them resulted in fatal or serious injuries to the vehicle occupants. In Minnesota, failure to yield the right of way, disregard of a traffic control device, improper turn and inattention and impatience are cited as the most common factors contributing to motor vehicle/train crashes.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has worked to share the following rail safety tips:

- Yield the right-of-way to trains at high-way-rail crossings. It's the law.
- Never drive around lowering gates, it's illegal and deadly.
- Never race a train to the crossing; even if it is a tie, you lose.
- Always expect a train on the tracks; trains do not follow set schedules.
- Look for a second train when crossing multiple tracks.
- Exit your vehicle immediately if it stalls on the crossing, get clear of the tracks and call 911.
- Always stop your vehicle, behind the white line when crossing gates are down or lights are flashing. Wait for the crossing gates to rise and lights to stop flashing; look both ways, listen and proceed with caution.

The chance of death or serious injury from a motor vehicle/train crash is 11 times greater than for other highway collisions. At 50 mph, it takes a fully-loaded freight train 1.5 miles to come to a full-stop. By the time the train



engineer sees a vehicle or pedestrian on the tracks, it is often too late.

Because of their size, approaching trains may appear to be traveling at a slower speed therefore drivers often misjudge the distance of the train.

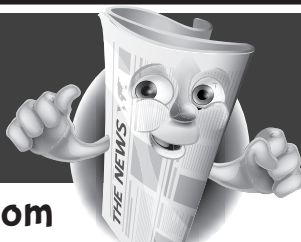
As a bicyclist or pedestrian you must always look both ways before crossing railroad tracks, cross only in designated areas and never cross when gates are down. Railroad tracks and property close to the tracks (railroad "right-of-way") belong to the railroad. People who don't have permission to be on railroad property are trespassing. Even if there is not a "No Trespassing" sign, it's still illegal and dangerous to be on the property.

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

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

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KENYON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(continued from page 22)

Appointments

Acting Mayor – Mary Bailey
Legal Newspaper – Kenyon Leader
Depository – Security State Bank, 4M, Northland Securities
City Attorney – Scott Riggs, Kennedy & Graven Chartered
Prosecuting Attorney – David Jacobsen, Jacobsen Law Firm
City Engineer – Derek Olinger, Bolton & Menk
City Auditor – Abdo Eich and Meyers
Financial Consultant – George Eilertson - Northland Securities
Investments – As Allowed Per Minnesota Statutes
Deputy Clerk – Holli Gudknecht
Weed Inspector – Donald Kirchmann
Personnel Committee – Don Kirchmann, Kim Helgeson, Scott Lehner
Kenyon Fire Relief Association – Don Kirchmann and Scott Lehner
Motion by Bailey seconded by Brunner to approve the 2025 committee appointments and designations, eliminating the audit committee. Motion carried 5-0-0.

KMU Discussion

City Administrator Lehner stated that when he came here, he wanted to understand how the reporting structure worked. He reviewed policies, ordinances, the code book, and the organizational chart. He researched the background of the relationship between the city and KMU. He dug into the relationship to determine who KMU reported to. In 2000-2001, agreements between the city and KMU were drawn up, but the signed documents could not be found. He stated that the organizational chart was complicated. He would like to see all entities of the city brought into one.
Interim City Administrator Boyles stated that he was trying to clarify and recreate this organization in a fashion that it should be with KMU being part of it. There should be one standard in the city. Something needs to change. He felt city administration and city council need to be involved in the overall supervision, management, financial and administrative authority of KMU as it is with the rest of the city. He recommended getting back to what the five agreements from 2000-2001 were.

City Attorney Riggs stated that from 1997 to 2001 there was alot of discussion about KMU/City relations and agreements were written. The idea was to bring the two entities closer together, because staff was being utilized in both entities. The city and KMU need to work together as smoothly as possible. Riggs thought these agreements were signed, but signed copies cannot be found.

Finance Director Kylo pointed out the positives and negatives of having multiple bank accounts, two sets of payrolls, etc.

Operations Superintendent Eggert addressed the council with concerns about changing the organizational chart.

Motion by Kirchmann seconded by Sjolander to start the process to correct the relationship between the city and KMU. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Resolution 2025-02: A Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of 2024 Donations

Motion by Bailey seconded by Helgeson to

approve Resolution 2025-02 authorizing the acceptance of the
2024 donations of \$45,488.23. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Ag Lease for 2.25 Acres City Owned Land

This ag lease was a renewal of a three-year lease of 2.25 acres of City-owned land located just east of the wastewater plant overflow lagoon.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to approve the lease agreement for 2.25 acres with Richard Nystuen. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Ag Lease for 10.5 Acres City Owned Land

This ag lease was a renewal of a three-year lease of 10.5 acres of City-owned land located along Hwy. 60 east of the Waste Treatment Plant.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Brunner to approve the lease agreement for 10.5 acres with Scott Wickum.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Add Signatory at Security State Bank of Kenyon

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to add Donald Kirchmann as a signer on the City of Kenyon checking account at Security State Bank of Kenyon. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

LMC Council Training

Interim City Administrator Boyles emphasized the importance of training our city council in their roles with the city. He recommended sending all the council members to the LMC Elected Leaders Institute in Mankato. He stated that the funds were in the city council budget for this training.

Motion by Sjolander seconded by Bailey to approve sending the council members and city administrator to the LMC Elected Leaders Institute in Mankato on February 7-8. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

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

EDA Annual Meeting: Tuesday, January 21st @ 8 a.m. at Cahill Bistro

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 11th @ 7 p.m.

COUNCIL AND STAFF GENERAL COMMENTS

Council Member Sjolander congratulated the new council members.

Council Member Bailey welcomed the new council members and thanked KMU for all they do.

Mayor Kirchmann thanked everyone for being patient with him and supporting him in his new role as mayor.

Council Member Helgeson welcomed the new council members.

Council Member Brunner stated that she had alot to learn and was thankful for the opportunity to serve the city.

Finance Director Kylo stated that it was Interim Administrator Boyles last day. She thanked him for helping.

City Administrator Lehner also thanked Boyles and wished him well.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Helgeson to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Scott Lehner, City Administrator
Donald Kirchmann, Mayor

CITY OF WANAMINGO

City Council Regular Meeting

Monday, January 13, 2025 7:00 P.M.

**Wanamingo City Council Chambers – 401 Main Street
Wanamingo, MN**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.

The oath of office was administered to Mayor Holmes, Council Member Jeremiah Flotterud, and Council Member Stuart Ohr by Administrator Boulton.

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

City Administrator: Michael Boulton

Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters

ABSENT: Council: None

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Kennedy, Brandon Theobald – WHKS, Beth Haas – Zumbrota News-Record, Daren Strobel – Kenyon Leader, and Goodhue County Deputy Abigail Scanlan.

ADOPT AGENDA: Ohr motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Dierks. Passed 5-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Dierks motioned, seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

A) Brad Kennedy reported on:

1) Ice rink was up and running before warm stretch. Since weather turned cold built back up ice. There seems to be more use at the rink this season than past seasons.

2) Plowed snow and salt/sanded streets after snow events

3) Replaced all worn/exposed fiberglass hydrant markers

4) Holiday banners were taken down on Main Street. Will not be installing the newer City of Wanamingo banners due to the plastic material used to make them does not bend or stretch well in cold weather. Staff will wait for warmer weather to put the new logo banners back up.

5) Removed eight Emerald Ash Borer damaged trees at Riverside Park. City staff cut down and removed five trees while the City hired Heartland Tree Service to cut down three larger trees while the City staff removed the debris.

6) The well house project in nearing completion in the next couple of weeks. The contractor is working on the piping in well #3. Automatic System is scheduled to finish up the telemetry system on Thursday and Friday this week.

B) Brandon Theobald – WHKS, City Consulting Engineer reported on:

1) Sump Pum Inspection Program

A) There are 480 properties to be inspected in the program. 461 properties have been inspected. There are 11 other properties scheduled for inspection on January 15th.

B) 421 properties have passed inspection. Two properties required follow-ups. 38 properties failed inspection with 8 beaver systems, 14 flexible hoses, 9 sump pumps tied to sanitary sewer, and 7 pits without sump pumps.

C) A number of homeowners admitted to making changes before the inspections occurred.

2) Lead Service Line/Water Main Curb Stop/City GIS

A) MN Department of Health provided grants to cities for lead service line inventory in October 2024.

B) The results of the inventory have been posted to the City website and at City Hall

C) The City has 0 lead service lines, 9 potential galvanized service lines (requires eventual replacement), 224 unknown, and 347 non-lead service lines.

D) It is not worth going after grant funding. The City has no identified lead service lines and only has 9 potential galvanized service lines. The process is time consuming for contracted staff and the State requirements push up the overall cost for service line replacements.

E) The City staff tests for lead in the water supply system yearly. There are no exceeding rates of lead in the Wanamingo distribution system.

F) MN Department of Health has a lead service line inventory website: [HYPERLINK "https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/"https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/](https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/)

G) The program allowed the City to GPS all water curb stop location in town. The information will be available to City staff through GIS in the field.

3) Smoke Testing

A) City-wide smoke testing field work was conducted September 19th

B) Results of the testing included: 18 defects with 2 broken manhole collars, 9 open manhole pick holes, 6 broken sewer service cleanout covers, and 1 open valve from equalizer basin. This basin is in the sewer treatment plant area that was designed when the creamery processed milk. This is a significant amount of ground water entering the sewer treatment plant. The issue will go away when the plant is decommissioned and the new regional wastewater plant is operational.

Flotterud asked if the basin area could be a source of leaves that the maintenance staff sees at the wastewater treatment plant after a significant rain event. Theobald and Kennedy said maybe, but more than likely not. Dierks asked if Mead Johnson had been smoke tested. Theobald stated that the City could calculate the water usage based off the sewer flows since the flow meter is at the service line entrance to the wastewater treatment plant. Theobald stated that the City will be buying capacity at the new regional wastewater treatment plant. The flow capacity has to assume for growth. Eliminated inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer system helps to eliminate costs to all users within the City in the future. Flotterud asked what the next steps to eliminate inflow in infiltration are. Theobald stated that the City could do more searching in the sanitary service line laterals for drain tiles. This would involve placing a camera down the laterals from within the homes. Theobald stated that the City could check for higher flow areas after rain events by pulling off manholes and monitoring flows. The City would then be able to narrow the area(s) of town that may need to have laterals checked. The City could also line or replace the old clay sewer lines. The City has high peaks of inflow and infiltration. There should have been a discovery of a cross connection with a storm line. Kennedy stated that the rain event in December doubled the flows at the wastewater treatment plant.

(continued on page 24)

WANAMINGO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(continued from page 23)

Flotterud asked if we can measure flows in certain parts of town to get baseline flows in the winter months. Then when rain events occur in the spring, could the flows be measured soon after. Theobald stated that flow measurements can be done, but are labor intensive. The results can be difficult to correlate. Theobald stated that this is why opening manholes to get an idea of flows in dry times compared to wet times is the most cost-effective way to check flows. Flotterud asked if cameras can be installed at certain manholes for a period of time to determine both low and high flows based off time-lapse. Theobald stated that he would look into this since cameras have come a long way in technology and reasonable cost.

NEW BUSINESS: RESOLUTION:

25-001 = Approving 2025 Appointments & Legals: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

25-002 = Setting 2025 City Council Meeting Schedule: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

25-003 = Authorizing Temporary Liquor License for the Fire Relief Association snowmobile run: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

25-004 = Approving 2025 Updated Wanamingo Emergency Management Plan: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that he and Gregg Erickson, the Wanamingo Civil Defense Director, had reviewed and made the necessary changes. The changes were mainly in the contacts and contact information. Passed 5-0-0.

25-005 = Authorizing a Temporary Gambling Permit for the Wanamingo Fire Relief Association: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

25-006 = Approving Financial Authorization: Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

25-007 = Appointing Fire Department Officers for 2025: Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

25-008 = Approving the Pay Equity Implementation Report for the City of Wanamingo: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

25-009 = Approving Pay Request No. 8 to The Joseph Company, Inc. for the Well House Portion of the 2022 Utility Improvements: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that the pay request is for the electrical general provisions and general conditions. The total pay estimate is \$23,275.00. Theobald stated that project will be completed in the coming weeks. Boulton stated that there is \$52,807.30 left to be paid out to the contractor for work that will be completed on the project. Theobald stated that the contractor has submitted a change order for subcontractor costs due to delay. Theobald stated that the controller days by supplier are through a separate City contractor, leading to delays of the project. Theobald stated that he would work with City staff and the contractor to iron out the request for additional costs. Passed 5-0-0.

25-010 = Declaring 1967 Chevrolet Truck

Surplus Property and Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property by Houghton Auction Services: Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Hearing - Mayor Holmes opened Ordinance #209 - 2025 Fee Schedule Hearing at 7:52PM. Administrator Boulton went over the proposed changes from 2024 Fee Schedule for the proposed 2025 fee schedule including increasing the park shelter rent from \$35 to \$40, increasing the copy and fax (per page rate) from \$0.25 to \$0.50, increasing the sewer hook-up from \$700 to \$750, increasing water meter cost from \$360 to \$370, increasing the per 1,000 gallons water rate from \$6.00 to \$6.25, increasing the per 1,000 gallons sewer rate from \$7.00 to \$7.25, increasing the sewer debt service/base fee from \$28.00/month to \$32.00/month, increasing the monthly garbage fee from \$16.50/month to \$19.11/month, and increasing the monthly recycling fee from \$6.85/month to \$7.35/month. The increase to the water meter fee helps to cover increases to the actual costs of the water meters and readers. Boulton stated that the proposed per 1,000-gallon water rate increase of \$0.25 would bring in roughly \$7,000/year more for water in 2025. Boulton stated that the proposed per 1,000-gallon sewer rate increase of \$0.25 would bring in roughly \$7,000/year more for water in 2025. Boulton stated that the proposed monthly sewer base rate/debt service fee increase of \$4.00/month to each hook-up would bring in roughly \$28,000 in new revenue in 2025. The garbage and recycling monthly increase reflect the yearly new contract with Highland Sanitation. Throughout the year, including the budgeting process, the Council has discussed and has recommended the above changes. The City Auditors recommend that the Council review sewer/water rates and make small adjustments regularly to capture revenue as opposed to large jumps. The wastewater treatment plant will need upgrades soon which could cost millions of dollars. No Additional Public Comments Offered. Mayor Holmes closed the public hearing at 7:57PM.

The wastewater treatment plant will need upgrades soon which could cost millions of dollars. No Additional Public Comments Offered. Mayor Holmes closed the public hearing at 7:57PM.

Ordinance #209 - 2025 Fee Schedule - 2nd Reading - Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

Public Hearing – Mayor Holmes opened Ordinance #210 – Amending Chapter 116 Business Regulation – Regulating Cannabis Business Hearing at 7:58PM. Administrator Boulton stated that a sample ordinance was made available by the State in late November. Boulton stated that the sample ordinance was modified into the Wanamingo format. Boulton stated that all cities were required to have cannabis business regulation ordinances in place by January 2025. Boulton stated that the City Attorney, David Jacobsen, reviewed the ordinance with minimal proposed changes from the December 2024 draft that was presented. No Additional Public Comments Offered. Mayor Holmes closed the public hearing at 8:03PM.

ORDINANCE #210 – Amending Chapter 116 Business Regulation – Regulating Cannabis Business – 2nd Reading – Flotterud moved to approve, seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

Administrator Boulton presented the 2024 Wanamingo Outstanding Indebtedness Re-

port. The Wanamingo EDA paid \$28,000 in principle in 2024 and owes \$270,000 at the beginning of 2025. The City paid \$482,000 in principal in 2024 and owes \$4,584,000 at the beginning of 2025. Boulton stated that the current debt service is manageable with the interest rates associated with the existing bonds. Boulton stated that the City has roughly \$130,000 of debt service capacity available for 2024/2025 (utilized in truck purchases in 2024 and Street shop rehab project in 2025) with additional capacity available in 2026 (\$90,000), 2027 (\$93,000), and 2028 (\$53,000). The next debt service capacity available would be \$108,000 in 2032. The plan would be to issue new debt in the coming years to pay for infrastructure and equipment needs. Boulton stated that the City paid \$510,000 in principle and roughly \$129,394.75 in interest in 2024. The report will be submitted to Goodhue County next week, according to the MN State Statutes.

Enforcement Process – Mead Johnson - Reckitt – 410 day written letter toward meeting goal of waste pH – Boulton stated that the City had not yet received a letter from Mead Johnson – Reckitt for the month. Mead Johnson – Reckitt pH of wastewater discharge was within range during most of the month of December. The frac tank was installed and incorporated into their process back in March. Mead Johnson – Reckitt goal is to install a new lift station with pH treatment, which will wait until 2025. The temporary, above ground tank had shell constructed around it for winter to keep it from freezing. Boulton stated that the Wanamingo staff are still monitoring the wastewater discharge from Reckitt-Mead Johnson. The pH levels of the wastewater discharge are being adjusted before being sent to the wastewater treatment plant. The pH levels should be within 5.0 and 9.5. City Staff have been working with Reckitt-Mead Johnson toward the achieved solution of pH levels within the limits. The City appreciates the open dialogue and work, to date, from Reckitt-Mead Johnson. Boulton stated the Enforcement Process would remain on the monthly agenda until Summer 2025 (or later), or when the permanent structure is completed. Boulton stated Reckitt-Mead Johnson would be required to provide written monthly updates to the City Council.

Boulton stated that the annual City Council/Staff Appreciation Dinner would be held on Saturday January 25th. Social hour starting at 6:00PM and dinner at 6:30PM. Boulton stated that formal invites would be sent out later in the week.

*Fire Department/Township/City Annual Meeting is on 2/3/2025 at 6:30pm

*Next City Council meeting on 2/10/2025 at 7:00pm.

Adjourn: At 8:11PM a motion to adjourn was made by Dierks and seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor
Attest: Michael Boulton,
City Administrator

City of Wanamingo
Regular EDA Meeting
Monday January 13, 2025

6:00 P.M.
Wanamingo City Council Chambers
401 Main Street
Wanamingo MN

PRESENT: Annette Fritz, Brian Gudknecht, Rebecca Haugen, Ryan Holmes, Laurie Musselman, and Josh Schaefer

ABSENT: Jim Kittelson

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Boulton
Brian Gudknecht called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance followed.

EDA Director Boulton administered the oath of office to Ryan Holmes and Rebecca Haugen for new two-year terms.

ADOPT AGENDA: Haugen motioned, seconded by Fritz to adopt. Approved 6-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Schaefer motioned, seconded by Musselman to approve. Approved 6-0-0.

PRESENTERS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 25-01 - Election of 2025 EDA Board Officers of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Schaefer moved to approve, seconded by Fritz. Passed 6-0-0.

Resolution 25-02 = Approving re-appointment of Ryan Holmes and Rebecca Haugen to the EDA Board: Fritz to approve, seconded by Musselman. Boulton explained that the two-year terms of Holmes and Haugen had expired at the end of 2024. Holmes recommended each of their re-appointments to the EDA Board. Passed 6-0-0

Resolution 25-03 = Setting EDA Meeting Schedule for 2025: Haugen moved to approve, seconded by Fritz. Boulton stated that the meeting dates are holding places and that meetings would only occur if an agenda packet was delivered by the Friday before the Monday meeting. Boulton stated that the EDA By-Laws requires the EDA to hold quarterly meetings, at minimum. Passed 6-0-0.

Administrator Boulton presented the 2024 Wanamingo Outstanding Indebtedness Report. The Wanamingo EDA paid \$28,000 in principal in 2024 and owes \$270,000 at the beginning of 2025. The City paid \$482,000 in principal in 2024 and owes \$4,584,000 at the beginning of 2025. Boulton stated that the current debt service is manageable with the interest rates associated with the existing bonds. Boulton stated that the City has roughly \$130,000 of debt service capacity available for 2024/2025 (utilized in truck purchases in 2024 and Street shop rehab project in 2025) with additional capacity available in 2026 (\$90,000), 2027 (\$93,000), and 2028 (\$53,000). The next debt service capacity available would be \$108,000 in 2032. The plan would be to issue new debt in the coming years to pay for infrastructure and equipment needs. Boulton stated that the City paid \$510,000 in principle and roughly \$129,394.75 in interest in 2024. The report will be submitted to Goodhue County next week, according to the MN State Statutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

There being no further business Schaefer made a motion seconded by Fritz to adjourn the EDA meeting at 6:27PM. Approved 6-0-0.

Brian Gudknecht, President
Michael Boulton, Director

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- THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY
- ACROSS
1. Past participle of spit

5. King Kong, e.g.

8. Greek portico

12. Not to be mentioned

13. Congeal

14. ____ cell carcinoma

15. Top of Kilimanjaro, e.g.

16. Periods of time

17. D-Day beach

18. *Holiday the day before Valentine's Day

20. Shade of beige

21. Quantities on doctors' prescriptions

22. Not amateur

23. *Letters to Juliet destination

26. Come to final conclusion

30. *Ultimate Valentine's vow?

31. Purchaser

34. Zelensky's capital

35. Move a plant

37. High-____, as in an image

38. Tubular pasta

39. Not Visa or MC

40. *Moving Valentine's Day date option

42. "Annie get your ____"

43. a.k.a. ladybird

45. Maximum

47. "Rub A Dub Dub" vessel

48. Suburb of Dallas

50. Skunk's defense

52. *Sweet Valentine's gesture

56. Long stories

57. Rhythmic way of talking

58. Yours and mine

59. Send, as payment

60. The E of B.P.O.E.

61. A bit of water

62. Biblical paradise

63. Elfin

64. Sign of boredom
- DOWN
1. Doe's mate

2. One of Three Bears

3. Cain's brother

4. Prom night garb

5. Bird of prey's nest

6. *Make them in advance of Valentine's Day

7. "Or ____?"

8. *"Cupid" singer (2 words)

9. Russia's Terrible one, e.g.

10. Pearl Harbor island

11. Between Fla. and Miss.

13. Ship's floating wreckage

14. Afrikaners' ancestors

19. Group of nine singers

22. For each

23. All over the internet

24. Possible allergic reaction

25. Lassoed

26. *Baby's breath's partner

27. Texting vocabulary, e.g.

28. *Cupid's mom

29. Black tie ____

32. Snob

33. Gymnast's goal

36. *a.k.a. "love hormone"

38. Deck alternative

40. Chicago baseballer

41. Defrauds

44. Explosion

46. Pleasing notes succession

48. At the same time

49. Too much egg middle

50. Newspaper piece

51. Five and ____

52. Staff leader

53. Heavenly glow

54. Think, archaically speaking

55. Sport spectator's TV acronym

56. Before, old English

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