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FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Volume 22 • Issue 2

Randolph Preschool Open House

Preparing your child for Kindergarten

*Courtesy of
Randolph School*

Preschool Open House will be Thursday, February 20 from 5:00-7:00 PM. Bring your preschooler in to meet the staff and explore the room. Preschool is offered to children ages 3, 4, & 5. Classes are filled on a first come first serve basis.



Kindergarten Round-up

*Courtesy of
Randolph School*

Randolph Kindergarten Round-up will be Tuesday, February 25th.



(continued on page 10)

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



Fair, and exhibiting at the Minnesota State Fair.

With the start of the new school year came the start of their monthly chapter meetings and outreach.

In October, our chapter raised funds with their annual Corn Drive. A big thank you to everyone who donated for this cause.

The National FFA Convention in October was a great learning experience for members that attended.

This year for fruit sales the club sold thousands of items around the community, continuing this annual fundraising tradition.

It was a busy 2024 for the Randolph FFA, and 2025 will continue to keep the group busy learning and serving!

Some highlights from 2024 include, leadership camps, the Children's Barnyard at the Dakota County

As the Chapter continues with activities every week, we salute the Randolph and other area FFA chapters as they celebrate National FFA week.

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 suc-

cess 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."

(continued on page 7)

Announcements

- **Randolph Rockets Clay Target Team 2025 Spring Team Meeting** will be held February 19th at 6:30 p.m. at Randolph School Commons. Parents of & students grades 7-12 who are interested in or plan to shoot on the team are invited to attend.
- **Randolph Railroad Days March 22-23, 2025.** Saturday 9-3, Sunday 10-2. Randolph High School & Museum. **The NEW Randolph Museum will be OPEN!**
- **Randolph Food Shelf located at St. Mark's Church 28595 Randolph Blvd.** Monthly Open Hours: 1st Tuesday 8:00 - 9:30 am; 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays 4:30 - 6:00 pm. Questions call (507) 263-9182.



River Country Co-op Supports Randolph FFA Chapter

Dean Larson, Manager of River Country Co-op in Randolph, presents a donation supporting the Randolph FFA.

*Courtesy of
Randolph School*

The Randolph Music Department will be hosting a community garage sale event on Saturday, April 12, 2025 to raise money for the music program. For \$20 you can reserve a 10x10 space to sell your clothing, toys, books, shoes, tools, craft items, antiques, etc. Anything that you want to get rid of! You keep all the money from your sale and the music department benefits from the rental of the space!

(continued on page 10)



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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.
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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 every-

thing 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?

We need to start digging deeper into the Word of God. We need to start studying it more than 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.

(continued on page 3)

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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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Steven W. Lufi

Steven W. Lufi, age 72, of Northfield, died on Saturday, January 25, at the Northfield Hospital.

Steve was born on November 11, 1952, in Minot, North Dakota. He moved to Northfield at the age of three. Steve graduated from Randolph High School in 1971. He farmed with his dad as a young man, before buying his own dairy and crop farm. Steve was married to Cheryl Hovland on August 25, 1979, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield. He enjoyed traveling with Cheryl.

Survivors include his wife Cheryl, son Dan (Elizabeth) Lufi, daughter Lynnea Lufi (Blaize Holden), grandchildren Eivin, Addison, Lincoln, and Warren; sister Terri, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Nathan and Edna Lufi, his brothers Stan, Mike, and Dave, and his sister Darlene.



A memorial service was held on Friday, February 7, 2025, at 11:00 am at the Randolph Baptist Church, 29020 Dawson Ave, Randolph, MN 55065. There was a visitation at the church one hour prior to the service. Interment was at the Hillcrest Cemetery.

Jenny Wiederholt-Pine

Jenny Wiederholt-Pine, age 44 of Hastings, died suddenly but peacefully at Regina Medical Center on Saturday morning, February 8, 2025.

Jennifer Lee, the daughter of Charles and Cheryl (Thiel) Wiederholt, was born in Red Wing, Minnesota, on November 7, 1980.

Jenny grew up living in Miesville and graduated from Hastings High School with the class of 1999. She then continued her education at Winona State University where she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing with a Minor in Spanish. Jenny was



immediately hired by Blue Cross Blue Shield, until later working with the team at GMAC. In 2013, Jenny and Mike opened Onyx Benefit Advisors, a comprehensive employee benefit firm that was based in Bloomington. Jenny built this into a successful agency that specialized in health risk management and wellness plans. In 2016, they sold the agency to Krause-Anderson Insurance where Jenny continued to be a top-producing agent until her unexpected passing.

On February 19, 2008, Jenny was united in marriage to her husband, Michael "Mike" Pine, on the beach in Fort Myers, Florida. Together, they built their agency, became fourth-generation owners of Wiederholt's Supper Club along with her brother Jesse and wife, Becky, and raised three beautiful children, Courtney, Chase, and Colin. All throughout her life, Jenny's love for horses never ended, and for this dedication and commitment, she was to be awarded as the top rider of her class in the 2024 Saddle Circuit of the North Central Reining Horse Association at the end of this month.

Outside work and spending time with family and friends, Jenny dedicated countless hours giving back to the community. From many years as a soccer coach, to being an instrumental part of the ISD 200 School Board, and beyond, Jenny's dedication to the Hastings area left an impact that will forever be remembered.

She was preceded in death by her paternal grandfather, Sylvester Wiederholt; maternal grandparents, Ed and LaVerne Thiel; uncles, Gary, Jim, George, and Gordy; and by her niece, Kristina.

Jenny is survived by her husband, Mike; children, Courtney, Chase, and Colin; parents, Charlie and Cheryl Wiederholt; brother, Jesse (Becky) Wiederholt; paternal grandmother, Harriet Wiederholt; father-in-law, Bill Pine; mother-in-law, Barb (Ron) Allen; and by countless aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends that truly meant the world to Jenny.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Miesville, with Father Michael Tix officiating. Private family interment will be held at the parish cemetery.

Family and friends are cordially invited to a Celebration of Jenny's Life from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. Monday, February 17 at Starkson Family Life Celebration Chapel of Hastings. There will not be any public visitation Tuesday morning before the Mass.

In lieu of flowers, Jenny's family kindly requests memorials be made to the Miesville Fire Department or to the donor's choice in her memory.

Arrangements are being completed by Starkson Family Life Celebration Chapel of Hastings.

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Come See the Movies the Media Is Not Promoting

Thursday, February 27, 2025:

"UnMask the Truth"

Award winning documentarian Jenner Furst seeks answers from Dr. Fauci about the origins of Covid-19, a bio-arms race with China and what could be the largest coverup in modern history in a real-life Oppenheimer meets Outbreak.

Thursday, March 27, 2025:

"Something to Stand For"

Join America's favorite storyteller on an epic journey to the frontlines of the American Revolution, World War II, the Civil Rights movement, and more.

Movies will be shown at the the Grand Stay Hotel Conference Room, 32027 Alexander Court, Cannon Falls, MN

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

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

These movies are not suitable for children.

As Concerned Citizens, we feel as a community we need to learn and discuss the cultural issues that are headlines. Come watch these documentaries and movies.
We would love to hear your thoughts. Jack Schlichting 612-325-5528 or jackschlichting@gmail.com

Are You Preparing?

(continued from page 2)

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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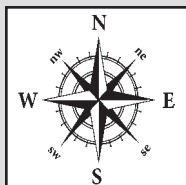
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

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.

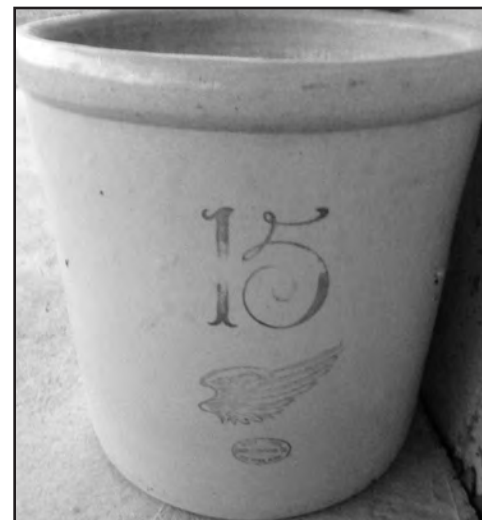
Every home and business had a water crock for drinking water and crocks of all sizes were used to store lard, butter, eggs, salted meats, eggs and vegetables. Stores and manufacturing businesses used the crocks to hold liquids and chemicals needed for their daily operations. The largest crock known was 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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Randolph Speech Team Kicks Off Season



Courtesy of Randolph School

The Randolph speech team kicked off their season at Prior Lake High School! It's going to be a great year, Rockets!

Individual Awards:

1st Place Next-In Duo: Max Kuhn & Grady Taylor

4th Place Next-In Extemp Reading: Rachel LaVan

6th Place Next-In Storytelling: Maksim Krech

Randolph Speech Team Takes 1st in Small Team Division



The team had a successful day in Jordan! These kids took home 1st Place in the Small Team division. It was tough competition, and we couldn't be more proud!

Individual Awards: 1st Place Duo: Max Kuhn and Grady Taylor 4th Place Humor: Hayden Huddleston 5th Place Storytelling 6th Place Storytelling: Maksim Krech Honorable Mention Storytelling: Kylie Emery Honorable Mention Extemp Reading: Rachel LaVan Honorable Mention Original Oratory: Rachel LaVan *Courtesy of Randolph School*



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PROUD TO SUPPORT NATIONAL FFA WEEK



NATIONAL FFA WEEK FFA

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February 15-22, 2025



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Supporting
Our Local
FFA Chapters
& Celebrating
National
FFA Week
February 15 - 22,
2025
(continued from page 1)

The skills of teamwork, communication and advocating are ones you will carry with you beyond your FFA experience.”

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



Randolph Students Raise Funds during the Fall Corn Drive

Randolph FFA Members Unload Fruit Sold
During Their Annual Fruit Sale Fundraiser



Courtesy of Randolph FFA

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





Wear Blue Day

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

Get your blue at https://shopffa.org/cat/148/forever_blue

Get your blue today!



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.



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.

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.

Jonathon Opelt Takes 1st Place at Cannon Falls Invitational



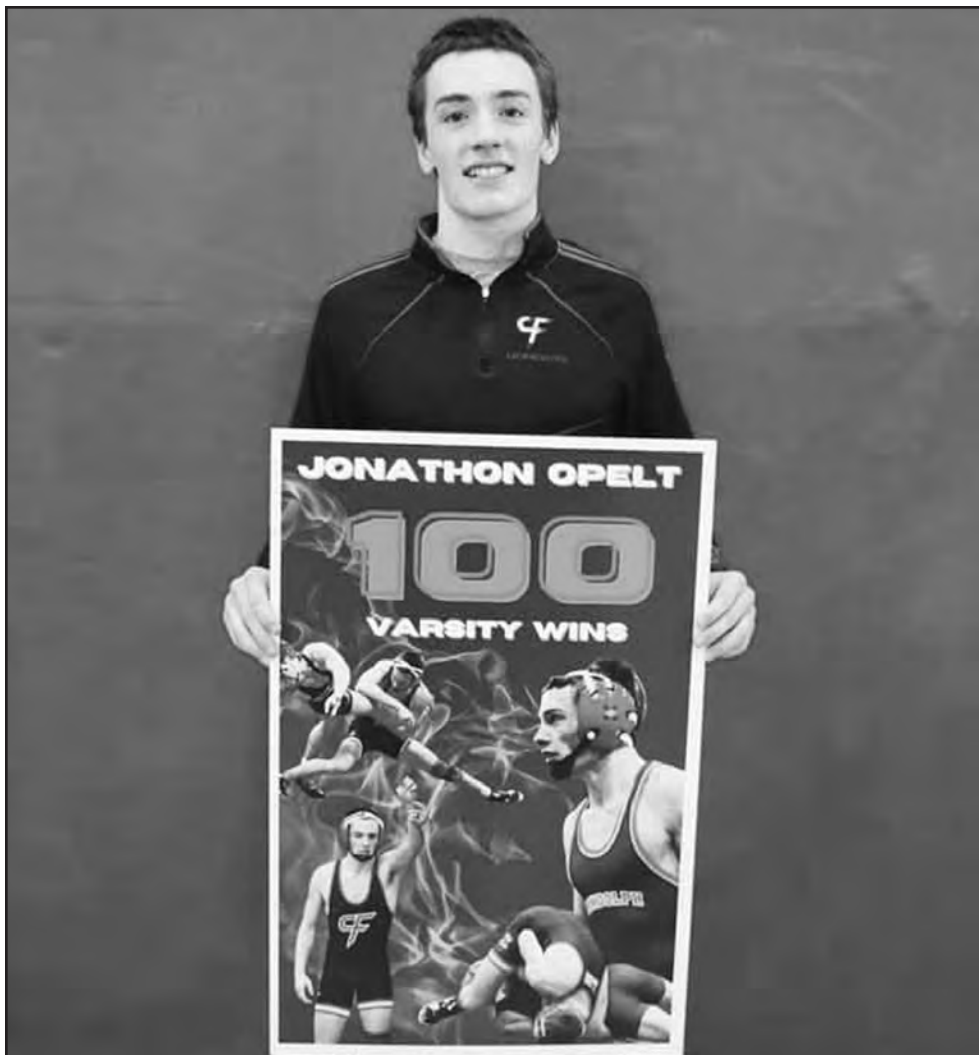
Courtesy of Randolph School

Congratulations to Allie Gillette on Reaching the 1,000 Point Milestone



Courtesy of Randolph School

Opelt Reaches 100th Career Varsity Win



Courtesy of Randolph School

Congratulations to Jonathon Opelt on his 100th career varsity win! A great accomplishment for a great young man.

Alexon Commits to Play Softball at Buena Vista



Courtesy of Randolph School
Congratulations Taryn!

Nine Students Represent Randolph in South Eastern Minnesota Band Directors Association Honor Band



Courtesy of Randolph School

It was a great day to be a Rocket! These nine talented students represented us at the South Eastern Minnesota Band Directors Association Honor Band at John Marshall High School!

This incredible event featured two ensembles: a 6th-8th Grade Band and a 9th-10th Grade Band.

These students were selected to perform alongside other outstanding musicians from the region, and their hard work and dedication are truly inspiring.

We are so proud of their achievements!



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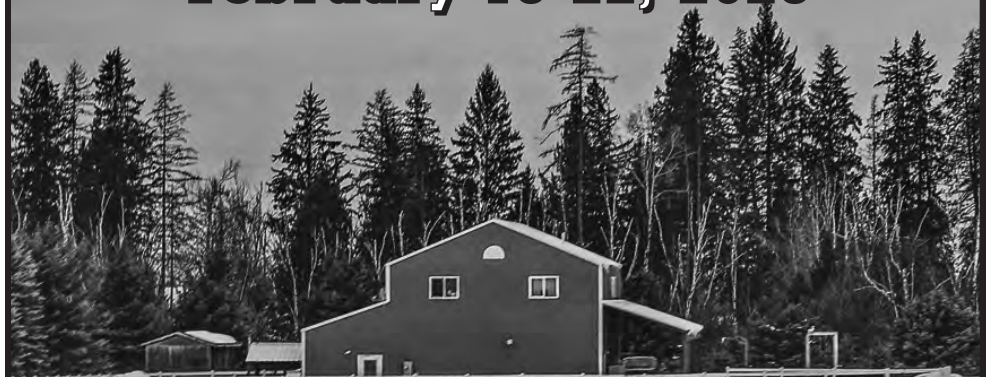
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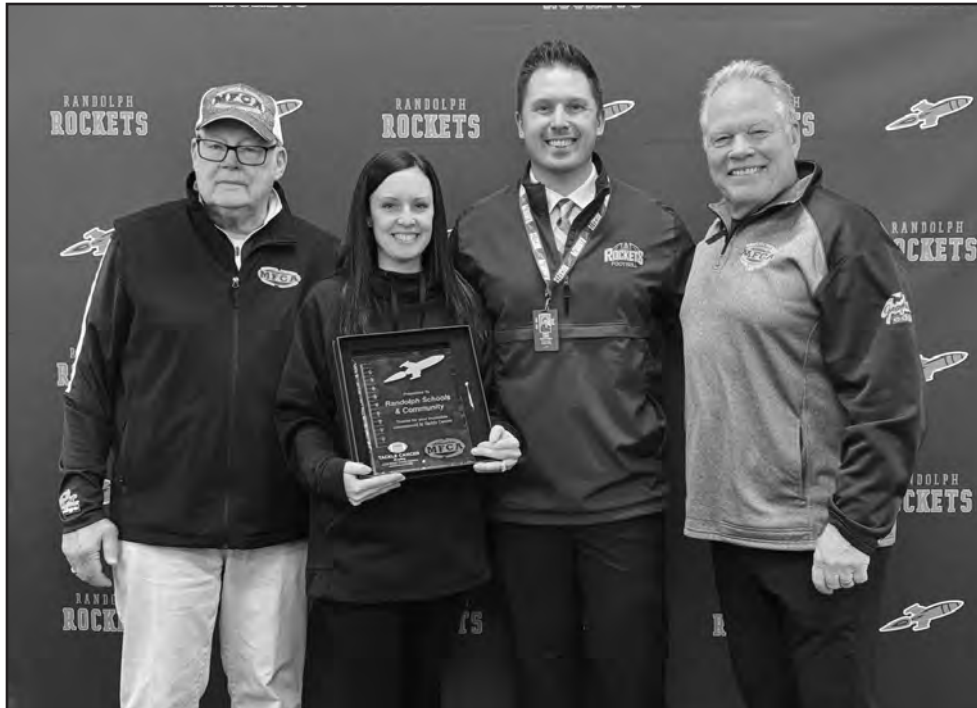
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Coaching Legends Stop by Randolph to Help Kick Off TRUE BLUE Week



We appreciate Minnesota high school football coaching legends, Ron Stolski and Dave Nelson, stopping by Randolph to help kick off our TRUE BLUE week. Dave also presented Randolph with a plaque on behalf of the MFCA (Minnesota Football Coaches Association), thanking the Randolph community for their efforts in Tackle Cancer fundraising.

Courtesy of Randolph School

Kindergarten Round-up

(continued from page 1)

Students with last names that begin with A-L: You are invited to visit from 4:30-5:00 PM.

Students with last names that begin with M-Z: You are invited to visit from 5:30-6:00 PM.

*Information packets were sent out the week of February 3rd.

Please contact Jill Wille if you did not receive one and would like to be added to our kindergarten list. 507-263-2151 ext. 201. willej@district195.org

Need to Declutter? Let Us Help!

(continued from page 1)

If you are interested in being a part of the action and renting a space to sell your items at the sale, contact band director Jackie Sczepanski at sczepanskij@district195.org, 507-263-2151.

Deadline to register is Feb 28, 2025.

RANDOLPH KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

STUDENTS WITH LAST NAMES THAT BEGIN WITH A-L:
YOU ARE INVITED TO VISIT FROM 4:30-5:00PM

STUDENTS WITH LAST NAMES THAT BEGIN WITH M-Z:
YOU ARE INVITED TO VISIT FROM 5:30-6:00PM

INFORMATION PACKETS WILL BE SENT OUT THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3RD.

PLEASE CONTACT JILL WILLE IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ONE AND WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OUR KINDERGARTEN LIST.
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Contact Info: RRRD Train Show, P.O. Box 84, Randolph, MN 55065, Admin@RAHSMN.org, Wade: (507) 841-1683
Follow us on Facebook for show updates at <https://www.facebook.com/RandolphAreaHistoricalSociety>

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Sixteen Band and Choir Students Participate in Gopher Conference Fine Arts Festival



Courtesy of Randolph School

Sixteen High School Band and Choir students participated in the Gopher Conference Fine Arts Festival in Blooming Prairie. In addition to music there was an Art Show! Students from the Randolph Art Team had some of their art work on display at the festival as well. Everyone represented our Rocket Nation well!



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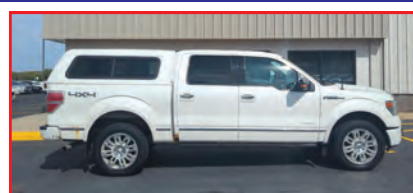


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1.6L 4 cylinder, 106,207 miles

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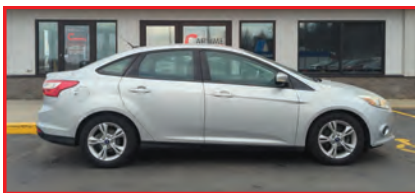


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F-150

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3.5L V6 turbo, 154,618 miles

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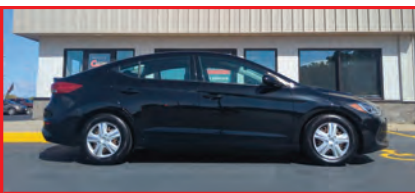


2014
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FOCUS SE

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2.0L 4 cylinder, FWD,
109,293 miles

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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. Restaurants

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 deter-

mined 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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February 15-22, 2025



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

To the Editor:

Water is a large concern mentioned by citizens when discussing potential data centers in MN. Is this concern founded or fearful? How do we know?

To start, I pose several questions that have driven my research. How much water do we have in the aquifers below us? How much water do our communities currently use? How much water do these potential data centers intend to use? In the large scheme of things, are these numbers significant or insignificant to the total water available?

The major aquifer that Dakota County and Goodhue County pull from is named the Prairie Du Chien- Jordan aquifer. As John Gleason, the DNR South District Hydrologist Supervisor to our area, explained to me in emails (reference link from above web address), “the Prairie Du Chien Group and Jordan Sandstone are distinct geologic formations, but they are hydraulically connected so together they are sometimes considered as a single aquifer” [emphasis mine]. While similar in name and proximity, it is important to denote if the source that a person is reading is referencing these aquifers separately or jointly because when speaking about numbers, while similar, they are not always identical.

In general, the Prairie Du Chien-Jordan aquifer extends beyond the St. Cloud, MN area, and far south into Iowa and east/south-east past La Crosse. Within this area the aquifer ranges in thickness, on average between 250’ – 450’ thick. The depth, or starting point below ground, varies due to topography and geography. For oversimplification and averaging, not factoring rock space and porosity, below the 1 square foot space you are standing on is an aquifer space 250’ thick, and within this 250 square foot vertical column lies roughly 1800 gallons of water. Under the average 5000 sq foot home lot size there lies roughly 9,000,000 gallons of water. Factor that out past your neighbor’s house, the road, the park, and nearby field, the space and quantity of water below us is substantial.

So, how do we ascertain if the aquifers can accommodate the potential water use that these data centers wish to use? Numbers vary between different data center proposals, but it is common to see possible water numbers range between 50,000-300,000 gallons per day, and sometimes peak numbers upwards of 1 million gallons per day on hot days between the months of April to October. To consider if these numbers are significant, we can utilize some MN DNR and US hydrology reports.

As mentioned, the aquifers range in average thickness of 250-450’ in Minnesota. We

can look at monitored wells in the Prairie Du Chien – Jordan aquifer in a DNR report found at the above link. It shows a general average of around a 10’ drop during the summer months when water usage is high. Then the aquifer typically recharges during the cooler months as precipitation from the summer starts its descent, percolating through the ground leading to the aquifers recharging. In the historical view, some seasons are drier than others and less recharging of the aquifers occur, but on average, the aquifers around Dakota County remain steady.

So, how much water does the metro already pump from the Prairie Du Chien – Jordan aquifer? A Metropolitan Council report indicates that a small section in Dakota County sustains average pumping of 500 million gallons per month, with seasonal peaks in excess of 1.5 billion gallons of water per month. The current data center proposal in Hampton indicates possible industrial water use of 12.5 million gallons per year, or about 2 gallons per month April through October. Certainly, different developments will utilize different amounts of water, and this should be considered when looking at our water availability in the Prairie Du Chien – Jordan aquifer. I am trying to ascertain the proposed water use that each of these nearby data centers desire, but as of this writing, my information is incomplete.

So, what about some other common concerns, will these data centers to affect water availability to domestic and agricultural water users? Will the data centers affect the water level of our streams and rivers? And is there potential for water contamination? I think an excerpt from an email from John Gleason, MN DNR South District Hydrologist Supervisor, summarizes the state’s position on the first question:

“[The] DNR examines the potential for increases in pumping to adversely affect water availability or water quality for other nearby well owners and may limit a permit if such a potential exists. [...] The] DNR must allocate water use in accordance with priorities listed in state statute. These priorities place domestic water usage first, followed by smaller volume use, agricultural use, power production, [then] other commercial and industrial uses, and non-essential uses such as car washes or lawn irrigation [...] In this case, the proposed data centers would constitute a commercial and industrial use, 5th on the priority list. [...] When a high-volume water appropriation causes another well to run out of water, it is referred to as a well interference. Domestic water use is the highest priority water use under Minnesota law and private domestic water uses must be protected in any permit decision. This is not, however, a “zero impact” standard. Rather, it means that adverse impacts affecting the usability of a private domestic well must be remedied by the large volume water user if their use is caus-

ing the adverse impacts.”

In short, Minnesota has a hierarchy for water usage with domestic users being the first priority and agricultural being third. Minnesota law also says, based on this hierarchy, that if a large volume water user makes your well run dry, there are legal ramifications available to those harmed by well interference.

Now, what about surface waters and streams? MN DNR John Gleason says, “[The] DNR considers how the aquifer may be connected to surface waters to make sure the additional use [such as from data centers] will not negatively affect surface waters and the ecosystems that rely upon them [...] Minnesota law outlines DNR’s authorities for managing the quantity of surface and groundwater throughout the state [...]” The DNR factors into account the surface waters when approving new water use applications.

Some people have expressed hazardous pollution concerns in the belief that the industrial water will be contaminated. The purpose of this industrial use water is for cooling, a medium for transferring heat. It seems that it will be drawn out of the ground and used as non-potable water, thus it won’t need to be treated by a city. Then it will pass through lead-free pipes, such as galvanized steel, plastic pvc, or copper, just like the pipes in your house. Then, after being used to draw away heat from the servers, the water will cool through means of some evaporation before the remaining water goes to a holding tank to be used again at another time on site. Minnesota state law does not allow “one time water use” in industries using more than 5MGY. Industries must re-use water multiple times, as stipulated in MN statute 103G.271. Depending on the data center design, this relatively clean water, straight from the ground, which has touched only internal pipes, seems to be disposed of by letting it percolate back into the ground through rapid infiltration basins, naturally cleaning the water again through rock and sediment on its way back to the aquifer, just like the water that accumulates in your ditch after a rain.

The concern over water resources is certainly a valid question, and through my ongoing research, I have found water is a replenishing resource and it seems our aquifers have a great deal of it in store. The world is going to change significantly in the coming years. AI and data storage is going to be an integral part of the world we move into and as we technologically advance, we will also unlock the ability to utilize our resources more efficiently for the betterment of society.

With these data centers, let us not be driven by a sense of fear, but rather by a pursuit of genuine knowledge, for in seeking to understand, we can have rational discussions with one another with the aim of doing what is best for our communities.

I welcome any input from those concerned or interested. I am not infallible in my research, but this is where the facts I have found are leading me this far. I can be reached at StayfreeMN@gmail.com. All of my source documents can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/view/water-energy-noise/home>

~Erik Porten



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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 operator 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 licensee 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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Dakota County Sheriff's Office

Joe Leko, Sheriff

Bulletin #24-4
10/01/2024

REWARD OFFERED


ENDANGERED MISSING PERSON

Nicole "Nikki" Anderson

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


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

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



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

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



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Reference DCSO Case # 24-000819

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The Hampton City Council met on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at Hampton City Hall for a special meeting and the regularly scheduled meeting. Present were Mayor John Knetter and Council Members Jerry Huddleston, David Luhring, Anthony Verch, and Nick Russell. Also present were Cory Biefang and Angie Smith of Bolten & Menk, as well as Chris Meyer, City Treasurer, Erik Porten, and as well a full room of Residents

Special Meeting Called to Order – The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Resolution 2025_(1) setting salaries, fees, licenses, permits, services, schedules, appointments, and annual designations. Mayor Knetter call the meeting to order at 7:00pm

In a recent meeting, the council discussed several important matters related to city operations. Councilmember Huddleston reported that the inflation rate for the first 11 months of 2024 is 2.9%, which would justify a 3% cost of living adjustment for hourly employees. This recommendation was agreed upon by the council members without opposition. Additionally, Knetter suggested raising the fee for water meter installations from \$25 to \$40, citing the costs involved in replacing meters and accessing homes for installations. This proposal was also accepted.

The council briefly touched on the building room rental fees, with members agreeing that the rate should remain affordable and accessible to citizens. They also acknowledged a change in the IRS mileage reimbursement rate, which would rise from \$0.67 to \$0.70 in 2025. Chris Meyer informed the group that he had assumed the responsibilities of the water meter reader, a position previously held by a separate city employee, and would continue

in this role as Treasurer. The council expressed their appreciation for his willingness to take on the extra duty.

Lastly, the council discussed upcoming appointments, noting that some commissioner terms were set to expire at the end of 2024. After some discussion it was noted that only a few commissioners ended this year. Members mentioned that they were open to helping with different duties as needed and agreed to review and refill these positions. Overall, the meeting focused on addressing wage adjustments, fee changes, and ensuring the smooth continuation of city operations for the upcoming year.

Adjournment - Motion by Luhring, seconded by Russell, to adjourn the special meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Regular Meeting Called to Order – Mayor Knetter called the regular meeting to order at 7:17pm. Present were Mayor Knetter and Councilmembers Jerry Huddleston, David Luhring, Anthony Verch, and Nick Russell.

Disclosure of Interest – None
Approval of December 10th, 2024, Public Hearing and Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes – Motion by Russell, seconded by Luhring, to approve the December 10, 2024, regular scheduled meeting minutes. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Disbursements - Motion by Luhring, seconded by Russell, to approve the January disbursements. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments: None
Petitions, Requests, and Communica-

tions: Eric Porten addresses the Hampton City Council to express concerns about a potential development, focusing on issues of transparency, public data, and Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) signed by city staff. He clarifies that his goal is not to be confrontational but to provide information that could help the council make informed decisions about the project. Porten emphasizes that he has documentation supporting his concerns, which he intends to share with the council.

While Porten acknowledges that development is inevitable as the city grows, and he has no issue with Ryan Finnegan's desire to sell his land for development, he questions whether the proposed data center aligns with the vision outlined in the city's 2024 Comprehensive Plan.

One of Porten's primary concerns is the handling of NDAs. He points out that Bolten & Menk, the engineering firm working with the city, is considered an extension of city staff, meaning that any documents they generate are subject to public records laws. Despite earlier statements by the council that no NDAs had been signed, Porten provides evidence that an NDA was signed by the city engineer. He believes this could potentially circumvent open meeting laws and hinder transparency.

Porten also raises concerns about the involvement of multiple developers, including Oppidan and Cogency Global, which has created confusion about who is leading the project. He urges the council to seek clarity on how these developers are connected and which one is ultimately responsible for the development.

In addition, Porten highlights concerns about the city's wastewater treatment capacity. He notes that the city's facility has a wet weather capacity of 101,000 gallons per day but a dry weather capacity of only 80,800 gallons. With the proposed development potentially increasing water usage, he questions whether the city's infrastructure can handle the added demand without exceeding capacity.

Porten concludes by suggesting that future public meetings hosted by Bolten & Menk should allow for a format where the public can ask questions and hear answers directly from the engineers. He encourages the council to thoroughly investigate these concerns before making any decisions, as many residents are uneasy about the development. He offers to answer any further questions and thanks the council for their time. The council responds by thanking him for his presentation.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

Resolution 2025 __ (01) Setting salaries, fees, licenses, and permits, changes for services, schedules, appointments, and annual designations – Motion by Huddleston, baseline being 24 and changes would be hourly wages would increase by 3%, meter reader would increase to \$28.62 to match Treasurer, meter install goes from \$25.00 to \$40.00, and the mileage fee for IRS reimbursement rate goes from \$0.67 to \$0.70 per mile. Seconded by Verch to approve Resolution 2025_(01). All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5-0.

(continued on page 20)



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Hampton City Council Meeting

(continued from page 19)

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees:

Engineer Report – Brad Fisher was not at the meeting and Cory Bienfang had nothing to report.

Water / Sewer Report – Moving along nicely, there was a repair in the pump house, the heater went out. Nothing else to report.

Park Report – Continuing to flood the ice rink and was informed about graffiti on the pavilion, will do some investigating and get that removed ASAP.

Street Report – Nothing to report

Unfinished Business:

Engine Brake Ordinance – Tabled until the next meeting.

New Business: None

Adjournment - Motion by Luhning, seconded by Verch, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Roan

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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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