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FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Volume 22 • Issue 2

## Announcements

### 2025 Lent at Dennison Lutheran and Vang

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.

- **Wednesday Wear, Nerstrand United Methodist Church** hours are **Wednesdays 1 - 5 and Saturdays 9 - 12.** Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys and books. All things are free with donations accepted. Come and see what we have!

- **Dennison City Council** meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

- **The Nerstrand City Council** meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at the Nerstrand City Hall. Office hours are: Monday 8:30-11:00; Tuesday by appointment; Wednesday 8:30-11:00; Thursday 5:00-7:00; Friday by appointment. 507-332-8000.

- **Warsaw Township Meeting** is held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Warsaw Township Hall. Meeting time is 6:00p.m.

- **The Wheeling Township meeting** will be held on the second Monday of each month at 8:00p.m. at the Wheeling Township Hall. Contact Rebecca Vergin, Township Clerk.

Do you have an announcement?  
Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## Planning Continues for 2025 Dennison Days June 20 & 21

The Dennison Lions Club, organizers of the annual Dennison Days town festival are putting together the final schedule for the 2025

festival on June 20 & 21, 2025.

In 2024, event organizers moved the festival date to June, sighting the fact that there are so many more events competing with the August date than there used to be.

The full line up of events and live music will be announced soon. Watch [www.dennisondays.org](http://www.dennisondays.org) for updates to the schedule.

Annual events include the Clutchmen Classic Car Show and Truck & Tractor Pull, Bingo, Pancake Breakfast, kids pedal pull, live music and more.

Anyone with questions or suggestions for events for the 2025 festival should contact Lions Club President Diane Ruddle.



2024 Dennison Days Pancake Breakfast

### Northfield Retirement Community Joins Vivie to Strengthen Mission of Service



Northfield Retirement Community is joining Vivie in its mission to enrich, empower, and elevate people throughout life's journey.  
(continued on page 9)

## 2025 Flake Out Festival a Success



The Dennison Lions hosted the Flake Out Festival Bingo at city hall during the annual event

## Goodhue County Dairy Princess Candidates Sought

The Goodhue County Dairy Association is seeking candidates to participate in this year's dairy princess program. Dairy princesses serve as goodwill ambassadors for the dairy industry through appearances that help explain dairy farmers' passion for taking care of their animals and land while providing nutritious food for people locally and throughout the world. The princess banquet is scheduled for April 5th, 2025.



(continued on page 4)

### ENJOY OUR LENT FISH FRY and DINNER SPECIALS

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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?

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. 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 discern-

ment 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.

*Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references in the book are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

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### LUTHERAN

Dennison/Vang Lutheran Parish  
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN • 507-645-6042  
Website: www.dennisonvang.org  
Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com  
Pastor Paul A. Graham

**Gol Lutheran** Joe Jorgensen, Pastor  
507-838-2100  
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. September-December

**Grace Lutheran, Nerstrand**  
Mike Ahrens S.A.M.  
Service 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

**Emmanuel Lutheran**  
9:00a.m. Sunday School  
10:00a.m. Coffee Time 10:30a.m. Worship Service

**Hegre Lutheran**  
Pastor Chris Brekke  
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

**Moland Lutheran**  
507-456-4242  
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

**First Ev. Lutheran, Kenyon**  
David J. Chatelaine, Pastor  
Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship

**Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC**  
Shannon Bauer, Pastor  
24289 Cty. 24 Blvd., Cannon Falls  
Sunday Worship at 9:00a.m. followed by fellowship.  
Thursday Bible Study at 9:00a.m.

### 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.*

### METHODIST

**Nerstrand United Methodist**

Gary Liker, Pastor  
507-330-0025  
Worship 9:00a.m.

**Stanton United Methodist**

Rev. Tom Countryman  
Worship 10:15a.m.  
Church Phone 507-321-3598

### ST. JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Wheeling Township) 19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault  
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### NEW LIFE CHURCH

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7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

### HOLDEN-DALE PARISH

Pastor Dustin Haider • 507-789-6677  
Email: holdensecretary@gmail.com  
Worship schedule found at:  
www.holdenlutheranchurch.org  
Holden/Dale Facebook

Email your church announcements, schedule, etc.  
to the Mainstreet Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com



**Joan Ruth Musgjerd**

Joan Ruth Musgjerd, 84, of Kenyon, passed away on February 14, 2025, at her home with her family by her side.



She was born August 27, 1939, in Faribault, Minnesota to Joseph and Ruth (Pierce) Finnesgard.

Joan grew up in rural Nerstrand before moving into Town. She graduated from Kenyon High School and shortly after Joan was united in marriage to Obert Musgjerd on June 21, 1958, at Gol Lutheran Church. She worked for a short time at Federated Insurance before becoming a homemaker. After raising the family, Joan worked at Owens Fairway Foods, then as a school bus driver. She found her career at Foldcraft as a welder for 25 years before retiring in 2002.

Joan loved birds, horses, dogs and cats. She enjoyed crocheting prayer shawls, rosemaking and other crafts. Joan and Obert enjoyed camping in the summer and wintering in Weslaco, Texas. Most of all Joan cherished the time she spent with her family and friends.

She is survived by her children, Catherine Whipple of Kenyon, Laurie (and David) Feltault of Minneapolis, Tom (and Leanne) Musgjerd of Elk River; grandchildren, Jacob Whipple, Johanna Whipple, Katie Fitzgerald, Peter Feltault, Nicole Feltault, Sarah Rotert, Owen Musgjerd, Cy Musgjerd, Joseph Musgjerd, Sheldon Musgjerd; 11 great-grandchildren with one more on the way; Siblings,

Joseph Finnesgard, Sharon Kucera, Mark Finnesgard, Bruce Finnesgard, Brian Finnesgard.

She was preceded in death by her husband Obert Musgjerd, parents Joseph and Ruth Finnesgard, son Jason Musgjerd, son in law John Whipple, siblings Merlin Finnesgard, Donald Finnesgard, David Finnesgard.

Funeral services were held on Friday, February 21, 2025, at 11:00 AM at Vang Lutheran Church with a visitation starting one hour prior to the service. Interment will be at a later date, at the Little Cannon Cemetery in Nerstrand. Memorials are preferred to Vang Lutheran Church or Little Cannon Cemetery.

## WE'RE ONLINE!

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## Mark Your Calendar!

# Dennison Days June 20-21, 2025

Be Part of the 2025 Celebration! Contact The Dennison Lions Club.  
Watch for updates at [www.dennisondays.org](http://www.dennisondays.org)

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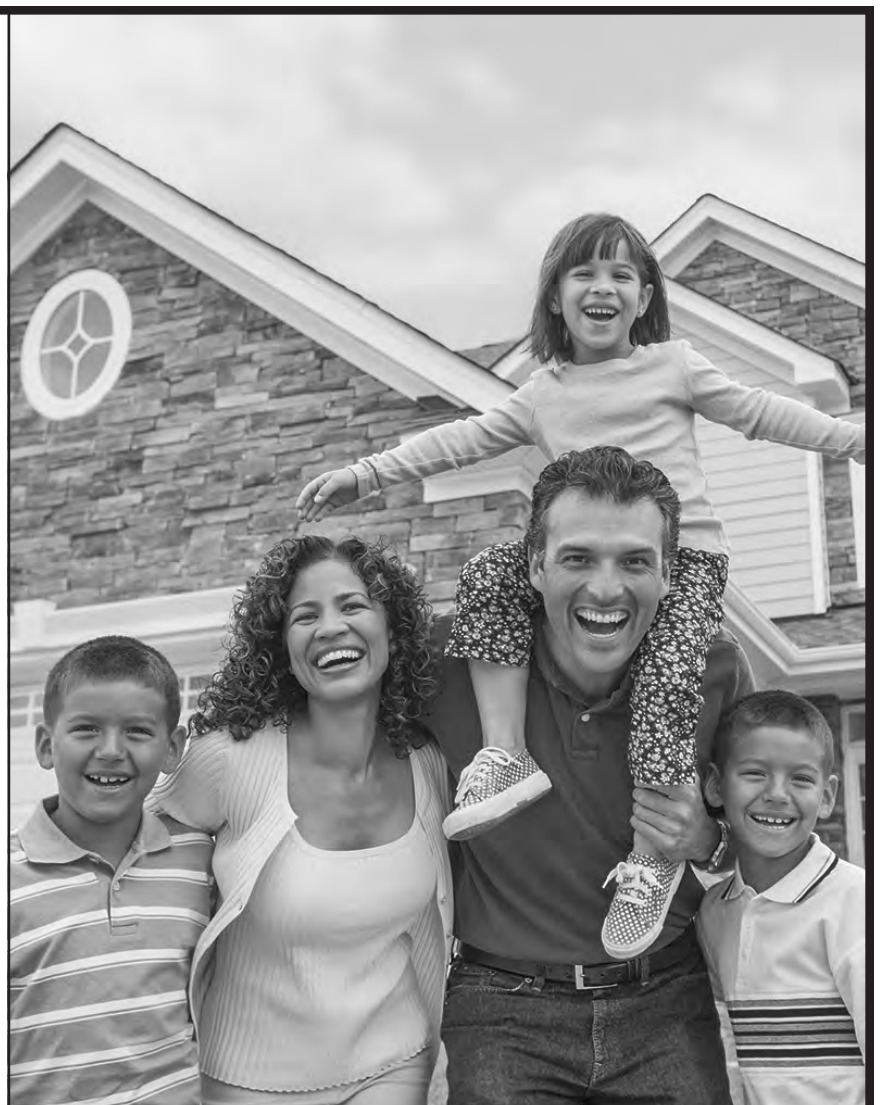
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## Goodhue County Dairy Princess Candidates Sought

(continued from page 1)

A candidate must be a high school graduate by July 1, 2025 and not yet 24 years old by July 1, 2025. A candidate must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident. She or her parents must be actively engaged in the production of milk for sale to a licensed plant during the current year. A candidate also qualifies if she or her parents are employed on a dairy farm in a dairy-related capacity, or if a sibling has taken over the home farm. Additionally, she would qualify if her or her family custom raise animals that will produce milk or lease animals in exchange for work

on that farm.

The dairy princess program is sponsored by the county's dairy farmers in conjunction with Midwest Dairy's Minnesota Division and the dairy checkoff. Serving as a county dairy princess is also the first step toward potentially becoming Princess Kay of the Milky Way. Ten finalists will be selected at the May Leadership Event to compete for the Princess Kay title in August. At all levels of competition, contestants are judged on their communication skills, personality, enthusiasm for dairy promotion and general knowledge of the dairy industry.

For a complete rules and application form, contact Tiffany Betcher at [goodhueada@gmail.com](mailto:goodhueada@gmail.com) or 651-380-8874. Applications are due March 8th, 2025.



2024 Goodhue County Dairy Princesses  
Natalie Clemenson & Evelyn Scheffler

### Bartsch named to Luther College Dean's List for Fall 2024

DECORAH, Iowa — Anna Bartsch of Nerstrand is among the 611 students recently named to Luther College's Fall 2024 Dean's List. To qualify, a student must earn a semester grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale.

#### About Luther College

At Luther College in beautiful Decorah, Iowa, students explore big questions and take action to benefit people, communities and society. Our academic programs, experiential approach to learning and welcoming community inspire students to learn actively, live purposefully and lead courageously for a lifetime of impact. Learn more at [luther.edu](http://luther.edu).

### Holden Community Park Now Accepting Reservations



The Holden Community Park is now accepting reservations. This is a gathering place for families, community groups, celebrations, family and class reunions and meetings. The park is open from June 1 – September 30 and is located just west of the Holden Lutheran Church on Co Rd 30, Kenyon.

The park building is equipped with AC, refrigerator, stove, microwave and indoor bathrooms. Folding tables and chairs which are available for use within the facility. Picnic tables, playground equipment and a fire pit are also located just outside the back entrance. A prayer path also winds through the woods.

Please contact Peggy Kroenbach if you would like to reserve the building. ([p\\_kronbach@yahoo.com](mailto:p_kronbach@yahoo.com), # 507/227-4992)

## CVEC Announces Spring Term Courses

Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching.

Cannon Valley Elder Collegium (CVEC), a vibrant learning community for people aged 50+ in Minnesota's Cannon River Valley and beyond, presents fifteen course offerings for Spring Term.

CVEC's successful formula hasn't changed in nearly 30 years:

Thought-provoking courses, engaged elder students

Wide variety of fascinating course topics  
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Affordable tuition; course books and materials are extra

CVEC's Spring Term 2025 starts March 24, and ends May 16.

Registration for Spring Term is February 10 - March 3.

Registration continues for courses with openings until April 4. Scholarships are available.

In-person Spring 2025 courses will be taught at Northfield MN locations.

Go to [www.cvec.org](http://www.cvec.org) for complete course details and to register.

What's Up with American Higher Education (Part 2)? - issues, disruptions, opportunities

Quantifying Reasoning - human thinking,

reasoning, artificial intelligence

Astronomy 101: Introduction to the Sky and the Stars - observing our solar system and beyond

Jane Austen's Persuasion - why are Austen's works so widely read and adapted?

Retirement and the Meaning of Work - why do so many retirees return to working?

Modern Scientific Cosmology - past, present, and future of the universe

Dementia: Biology, Prevention, Treatment, Response - addressing questions about dementia

Scorsese II: Circles of Hell - brilliant cinematic work of the famous film director (online course)

What is our Story? American Civil Religion and the Alternatives - implicit religious values

Minnesota's Severe & Unusual Weather - causes, hazards, and coping with wild weather

The Sins, Glories, and Music of the 1960s - multimedia look at a pivotal decade

French Short Stories - exploring (in English) many stories from France and North Africa

User's Guide to the Immune System - how our immune systems work, or don't work

Literature Inspired by the Pandemic - from plagues of the Middle Ages to today

The Art of the Theatre (and how respond) - hows and why's of play productions

## ATTN: Goodhue & Dennison Homeowners!

The Cities of Goodhue, Dennison and SEMMCHRA have partnered to provide income qualified homeowners within the city limits of Goodhue or Dennison up to \$25,000 as a forgivable loan for eligible repairs through the Small Cities Development Program.

**The deadline for applications is March 31, 2025!**

**For more information or to apply please contact:**

**Sara at 651-565-2638 ext. 221**

**or email [sara.fuher@semmchra.org](mailto:sara.fuher@semmchra.org)**

**\*\*Equal Housing Opportunity\*\***

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# Vintage Snowmobile Show

By Cheri Roshon

Saturday March 1st is the date set for the Annual Vintage Ride & Show, and it looks like there may even be snow on the ground this year! The Wanamingo Firefighters put this together every year, snow on the ground

or not. It will be at the fire department on Main Street in Wanamingo, with registration starting at 9 am. Everyone is welcome to bring their snowmobiles for others to swoon over. It doesn't matter what condition yours is in, just bring it to 95 Main Street, and get it registered! Old, new, ugly or sleek, let everybody have a peek! Also, bring your ATV's that are 1990 and older. There are several categories vying for the bragging rights in the categories, and the judging is held at 11 am. Everyone is welcome to all the chili you can eat, starting at 11 am. One \$10 ticket gets you chili for the whole day! That's a deal that can't be beat, as the chili is the famous House Chili everyone loves! There will be sides and



2024 show



2024 show

drinks, too! At noon, everyone gets to go on the 12 mile ride, weather permitting, and then the awards will be given out. There will be a raffle from many of the businesses in the area, as well as individuals who just happen to have cool stuff to give away. And don't forget the Chili Cookoff starting at 3 pm. Get your chili, and vote for the best in class! Registration for the Annual Bean Bag Tournament begins at 4

pm, and the games begin at 4:30, continuing into the evening. The event is sponsored by the Wanamingo Fire and Rescue, along with Moto Proz of Mazeppa, Cannon Power Sports, Midwest Signtech, Indy Specialty, M & M Lawn & Leisure, and Midwest Ride-In. So grab the family, and head on over for some end of winter fun! Hope to see you there!

2025

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SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST, 2025

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SNOWMOBILE JUDGING @ 11AM

12 MILE RIDE LEAVES @ NOON

AWARDS AND RAFFLE @ 3:30PM

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BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT @ 4:30PM

- REGISTRATION @ 4PM

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BINGO

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Watch Our Facebook Page for Updates!

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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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## 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

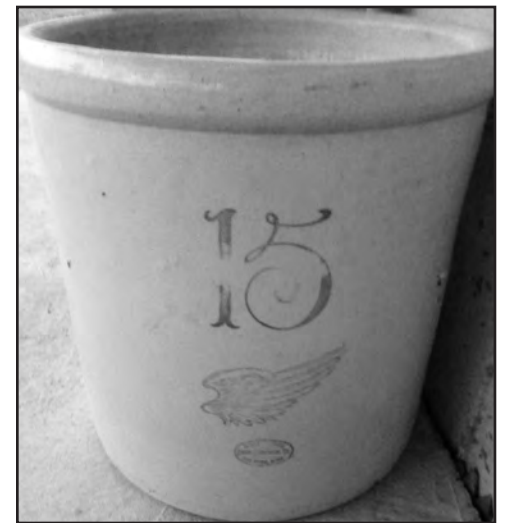
as named after a great Dakotah Nation chief who had befriended the first settlers who moved there. The native Indians hunted the bluffs and fished along the shores of what is now Lake Pepin, long before the first French Voyageurs set foot there in 1680.

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.

## GoFundMe account set up for Kenyon resident

Hannah Mickelsen of Kenyon was involved in a car crash with a snowplow on County Road 24 east of West Concord on Thursday February 6th about 7am. The roadway was icy and a light snowfall had accumulated overnight.

The Dodge County Sheriff Department reports that a feed truck had slid into the ditch and a Dodge County snowplow truck had stopped at the scene and parked with flashing lights to assist with traffic control. Shortly afterward the Mickelsen vehicle approached and tried to avoid colliding with the snowplow but slid on the icy road and the driver's side of her Buick smashed into the rear of the snowplow and spun into the ditch. The West Concord Fire Department responded to the accident. She was extricated from the vehicle and airlifted by Mayo One to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester with serious injuries. The semi-truck driver and snowplow operator were not injured.

Hannah grew up in Cambridge, Minnesota and moved to Kenyon with her family in 2012. She graduated in 2018 and attended North Central University in Minneapolis. She played college volleyball and graduated from NCU with a bachelor in Elementary Education. Hannah met her husband Luke in college and they were married in April of 2023. Hannah is a seventh-grade math teacher at Kasson-Mantorville School.

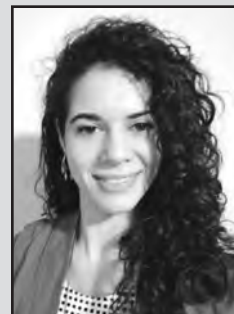
Hannah has multiple injuries including a fracture in her neck (C6), a few fractured ribs, fractured sternum, a clean break on her left arm near the elbow and small fractures throughout it. Her pelvis is fractured on both sides with the left side being the worst. She will be non-weight bearing for up to 12 weeks. She is left hand dominate and is unable to use her left arm and will be wheel chair bound requiring rigorous therapy to be able to walk again.

They do not plan to have a fund raiser but have the GoFundMe at Rally for Hannah's Healing Journey. Hannah welcomes visitors and loves the company of her friends, family and family to keep her spirits up.



Hannah Mickelsen

## 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.





## 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.*

## NH+C Leader Tammy Hayes to Retire

Longtime leader Tammy Hayes, RN, MS, CENP, LNHA plans to retire from Northfield Hospital + Clinics in June 2025.

Hayes joined NH+C in 2007 and served as Chief Nurse Executive from 2007-2024.

She stepped into the role of Chief Operating Officer in June 2024 as Jerry Ehn retired.

Incoming President & CEO Zander Abbott will take the lead to fill the role of COO.

“We have benefited greatly from Tammy's talents for many years, and the next few months will be the final chapter in an outstanding healthcare career,” says NH+C President & CEO Steve Underdahl. “Tammy has my personal thanks and admiration for her enormous contributions to NH+C and the community over the years.”

Hayes has been a key contributor to NH+C's growth over the past decade, including the expansion of the Birth Center and the clinics network; the addition of the Wound Healing Center; and the growth of Orthopedics and Women's Health.

Recent highlights:

The expanded Birth Center has become a regional magnet for birth services, with over 600 births in 2024.

Cancer Care received accreditation from the Commission on Cancer, a rigorous process that distinguishes elite cancer care in the U.S.

NH+C has strengthened its workforce by recruiting and retaining excellent staff.

Partnerships in telemedicine have expanded care for strokes, mental health, and infectious diseases.

NH+C's team of experienced and emerging leaders will continue the momentum that has made NH+C a community fixture and regional destination for 120 years.



Tammy Hayes

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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 en-

gage 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 efficiently. 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](mailto: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](mailto:nutritionproportion@gmail.com), or check out my website at [www.nutritionproportion.net](http://www.nutritionproportion.net)

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

## Northfield Retirement Community Joins Vivie to Strengthen Mission of Service

(continued from page 1)

Vivie – formerly Knute Nelson and Walker Methodist – is a leading care provider offering a comprehensive range of services, including home health, care management, senior living, rehabilitation, hospice, and more, across Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. This transition ensures that Northfield Retirement Community will continue to serve aging adults and their families with the same exceptional care and commitment it has provided since its founding in 1969.

Across the care sector, smaller independent organizations like Northfield Retirement Community are proactively seeking partnerships to ensure long-term sustainability. This partnership secures the future of care in Northfield by combining resources, creating efficiencies, and ensuring that the exceptional care and services the community ex-

pects will be here for generations to come.

“We are thrilled to welcome Northfield Retirement Community to the Vivie family,” said Mark Anderson, CEO of Vivie. “Residents and families can continue to trust that Northfield Retirement Community will provide the same high-quality care and welcoming environment they’ve come to know. Together, we’re building on a shared mission of service, providing excellent care in all the places people call home.”

For more than five decades, Northfield Retirement Community has been a cornerstone of the Northfield community, offering innovative living options and services for aging adults in a warm, welcoming environment. As part of Vivie, Northfield Retirement Community will uphold its commitment to quality care and compassionate service, while benefiting from expanded resources to enhance care and services for residents and families.

“This is an important step forward for Northfield Retirement Community,” said Tom Nielsen, CEO of Northfield Retirement Community. “Joining Vivie allows us to build on our legacy of care, strengthen our commitment to residents and families, and support our dedicated team members. The remarkable alignment with Vivie’s mission and values will ensure the future success of our community while preserving what makes us unique.”

“This is an exciting new chapter,” added Mark Anderson. “At Vivie, our mission is to elevate the lives of those we serve, and we are honored to continue the important work of Northfield Retirement Community. Together, we’re creating meaningful opportunities to serve more people in better ways, and we are excited for the future we’re building.”



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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](http://Myaota.aota.org/driver_search) or [Aded.net](http://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](http://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](http://Bounce.com) or [MotoSafety.com](http://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

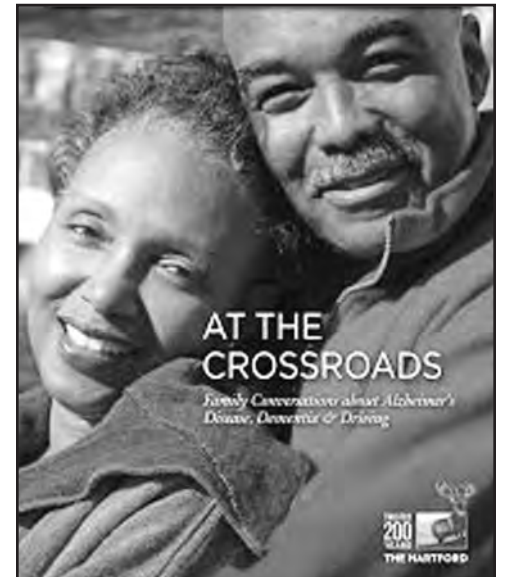
When your dad's driving gets to the point that he can no longer drive safely, you'll need to talk to him. It's best to start having these conversations in the early stages of the disease, before he needs to quit driving so he can prepare himself.

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](http://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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## Building a Future of Belonging



**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 Cooperative 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](https://smifoundation.org/impactreport2024).

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

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## Why Youth Language is More Than Just Slang

By  
University of MN Extension

For the last decade, Extension Educator Courtney Johnson has strived to stay connected with youth language. She recently listened to a teen-led conversation that made her feel—well—old! She had no idea what they were saying, and it got her thinking, "Why does youth language exist?" Here's what she found.

### Youth language research highlights

Young people engaged in conversation outside a building.

There is a range of research on youth language, much of it occurring in the latter half of the 20th century.

Some of my favorite research comes from "Research on Youth-Language from Sociolinguistics: An International Handbook of the Science of Language and Society, Volume 2."

Sociolinguists — those who study the relationship between language and society — generally agree that adolescence is the life stage in which language change is most clearly visible.

According to linguist Penelope Eckert, "Adolescents are the linguistic movers and shakers, at least in western industrialized societies, and, as such, a prime source of information about linguistic change and the role of language in social practice."

Language use in adolescence is also discussed in terms of the structure of adolescent peer-groups and the communicative demands of peer-group interactions.

Virtually all studies of youth language draw on the notion of identity in order to explain why language varies during adolescence.

Youth language potentially linked to at least two aspects of development

As identified in the research, youth language plays a role both in a youth's peer groups (belonging) and within the self (identity).

### Belonging

According to the Forum for Youth Investment, belonging means feeling like you can be your true self in a group or community. Both Gisela Konopka, a youth development pioneer, and Karen Pittman, president and CEO of the Forum for Youth Investment from 1998 to 2021, indicated that belonging is critical to healthy youth development.

### Identity

Identity refers to our sense of who we are as individuals and as members of social groups.

During adolescence, youth seek autonomy, particularly from parents, along with increased commitments to social aspects of identity and a greater need for connection with peers. However, as with all good research, there are conflicting ideas.

Research by Dr. Gordon Neufeld argues



that the breakdown of healthy attachment is to blame for youth building their identity through peers, and that it is not a natural part of development. His book, "Hold on to Your Kids," describes this argument and is worth checking out.

So, the next time you hear "no cap," "sus," "bussin'," "fire," "pressed" or "POV," you can

acknowledge that those words (or the act of creating and using them) may be supporting youth development and likely creating a generation of linguists. And if you are like me, you may also have to Google a few and feel a little old from time to time.



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## Year of the Calendula: Beyond Beauty in Your Garden

By University of MN Extension

Each year, the National Garden Bureau highlights standout crops, and for 2025, Calendula, also known as pot marigold, takes the spotlight as an Annual of the Year. Loved for its vibrant blooms and versatility, this resilient flower is perfect for seasoned and new gardeners alike.

### A bloom with history

Calendula's story is as colorful as its petals. Native to the Mediterranean, this cheerful flower has been celebrated for centuries. Ancient Egyptians admired its healing properties, while Romans introduced it across Europe, where it became a staple in gardens and kitchens. Dubbed "poor man's saffron," calendula petals can be used as a natural yellow dye or to flavor and color recipes.

### How to grow calendula

Calendula thrives in cool weather, making it ideal for early spring and fall planting. Follow these tips for success:

#### Planting basics

Direct sow seeds in early spring, even when light frosts are possible. Continue sowing

every two to three weeks until early summer for a staggered fall bloom.

Starting indoors? Sow seeds in late winter.

Sow seeds 1/4 inch deep and cover completely; they require darkness to germinate.

After germination, place them under bright lights.

Space plants 6–18 inches apart for healthy growth. Pinch back young plants to encourage branching.

Care and maintenance

Provide full sun and well-drained soil, with a pH between 5.5 and 7.

Water regularly but avoid wetting leaves to prevent mildew.

Deadhead faded blooms to promote continuous flowering.

Why gardeners love calendula

Calendula's beauty comes with added benefits, making it a garden favorite:

Natural pest control: Planted near vegetables like tomatoes and beans, calendula attracts beneficial insects while keeping pests at bay.

Edible and delicious: Its petals add a peppery flavor and vibrant color to salads and soups.

Medicinal properties: Harvest flowers to dry for teas, soothing salves, or fragrant potpourri.

### A bloom for cool seasons

Calendula thrives in cool weather but may pause blooming during hot summers. Don't worry—it bounces back with vivid blooms as temperatures drop, bringing a burst of fall color.

Whether you're brightening your garden, attracting pollinators, or exploring its edible and medicinal uses, calendula is a plant that



Calendula Kinglit from SAHIN, Year of the Calendula, 2025, National Garden Bureau

truly gives back. Its rich history, ease of care, garden. and versatility make it a must-have for any

## Shielding Woody Perennials: Protect Your Plants from Winter Woes

By University of MN Extension

Winter in Minnesota is tough—not just on us, but also on our trees and shrubs. Snow, ice, and road salt can really take a toll on woody perennials, leaving them bent, broken, or even dead by spring. But don't worry! You can help your plants make it through the cold months in good shape.

### Snow and ice

Snow and ice can pile up on branches, bending or even snapping them under the weight. Evergreens and shrubs with multiple stems are especially vulnerable. Ice can also encase branches, making them brittle and prone to breaking. Here's how to help:

Sweep snow gently: Use a broom to lightly brush the snow from underneath the branches. Don't shake them—this can cause more harm than good.

Let ice melt naturally: Avoid spraying plants with water during freezing temperatures. If ice has already formed, don't try to break it off—it could damage the branches.

For extra protection, wrap delicate plants in burlap or tie branches together with soft ties to help them stay upright through heavy snowfalls.

### Road salt

Road salt may keep sidewalks safe, but it's not so friendly to your plants. Salt can dry out roots, damage foliage, and leave toxic residues in the soil. If your woody perennials are near driveways, sidewalks, or roads, they're especially at risk. To minimize damage:

Go for salt alternatives: Use sand, sawdust, or calcium magnesium acetate instead of traditional rock salt for de-icing.

Set up barriers: Burlap screens or snow fences can block salt spray and runoff from reaching your plants.

Flush the soil in spring: After the snow melts, give the soil around your plants a deep watering to wash away any salt buildup.

### Winter burn

Evergreens can suffer from winter burn when cold winds pull moisture from their leaves or needles faster than their roots can replace it. This can leave your plants browned and dried out—especially on the windward side. To prevent winter burn:

Water well in fall: Make sure your plants are well-hydrated before the ground freezes. Moisture in the soil helps them stay healthy through winter.

Apply mulch: A 2–3-inch layer of mulch around the base of your plants insulates the soil and protects their roots.

Create windbreaks: Burlap screens or hedges can shield your plants from cold, drying winds.

### Spring recovery

Even if you've taken precautions, winter can leave its mark. In spring, inspect your plants for broken or damaged branches and prune as needed to encourage healthy regrowth. If salt has caused issues in the soil, amend it with compost to restore health and balance.

By taking these simple steps, you can protect your woody perennials from the harsh realities of winter. Not only will your plants thrive, but your landscape will also look great year-round. A little effort now goes a long way when it comes to keeping your garden healthy and beautiful!

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## Minnesota to Begin Testing Raw Cow Milk for H5N1

*MDA and partners will begin sampling herds this week*

Beginning the week of February 24, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), working with state government and industry partners, will begin sampling and testing raw cow's milk for the H5N1 flu virus to identify where the virus is present, monitor trends, and prevent its spread to unaffected dairy herds and poultry flocks around the state.

"H5N1 is an emerging disease in dairy cattle, and conducting disease surveillance supports the state's ability to effectively respond to outbreaks and limit the potential impact on the livestock and poultry industries, as well as on public health," said MDA Commissioner

Thom Petersen.

There is no concern for the safety of the public milk supply, as all milk sold in stores is pasteurized to kill bacteria and viruses, and pasteurization has been shown to effectively eliminate active H5N1 virus present in milk.

People and pets should not consume unpasteurized (raw) milk, raw milk cheeses, or raw or undercooked meat from animals with suspected or confirmed H5N1 virus infection. All raw dairy products may contain harmful bacteria, parasites, or viruses which can cause illness.

The MDA will order the testing of raw milk samples already collected from each of Minnesota's approximately 1,600 dairy farms on a monthly basis. These routinely collected bulk milk samples, which are taken before the pasteurization process, will be sub-sampled by industry labs and sent for H5N1 testing to the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (MVDL) at the University of Minnesota.

When a sample analysis shows the presence of influenza virus, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) will be notified to collect an additional verification sample to confirm the presence of the H5N1 virus on the identified farm. All non-negative samples will also be forwarded to the National Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, for further confirmation and genetic typing. The BAH will also initiate a farm quarantine and disease investigation.

Any farm where H5N1 is confirmed will be

quarantined for a minimum of 30 days, during which no livestock, poultry, cats, manure, waste milk, or carcasses can leave the farm without a movement permit from the BAH.

Milk from healthy animals can still be sold for pasteurization, as usual.

Before lifting the quarantine, a farm must have three consecutive negative bulk milk tank tests taken at least seven days apart, and complete management and biosecurity plans for preventing the spread of the virus. Case managers will help farms work through this process.

When H5N1 is confirmed in a herd, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will request a list of people on the farm who were exposed to the infected herd. MDH workers will contact these individuals to give them the option to enroll in human health monitoring.

Human cases of H5N1 are rare, and to date no human cases have been found in Minnesota.

"Although we understand that people may be concerned about getting sick with H5N1, the risk to the general public remains low at this time," said Dr. Ruth Lynfield, state epidemiologist and medical director at MDH. "People most at risk are those who have direct contact with infected or potentially infected animals and their environments."

Symptoms of H5N1 in people can include red, itchy, watery eyes and/or cough, sore throat, and a fever.

This testing plan is part of the National Milk Testing Strategy announced in December by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



(USDA-APHIS), which requires sampling and testing of all raw cow milk for H5N1.

The MDA is working with the federal agency on funding for the testing.

USDA-APHIS is providing financial support to help dairy producers enhance biosecurity on their farms and follow the necessary response protocols if H5N1 is confirmed in their herd.

Anyone with questions about the testing plan can contact the MDA at [TestingMilk.MDA@state.mn.us](mailto:TestingMilk.MDA@state.mn.us) or visit the MDA website for more information.

## Minnesota Grown Launches Expanded "Cream of the Crop" Contest

*Farm to School contest celebrates educators serving local foods*

Educators across the state are encouraged to participate in the 2025 Minnesota Grown Cream of the Crop Contest for Farm to School and Early Care. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), through its Minnesota Grown program, is proud to launch the second year of the contest, now expanded to recognize K-12 schools, early care centers, and family day cares that go above and beyond to serve and promote Minnesota-grown foods.

Those eligible can submit their application on the Minnesota Grown website. The contest opens on February 24 and educators have until April 11, 2025, to apply.

The highest-scoring entry in each of three categories will receive the Cream of the Crop Awards, with awards given for School District, Early Care Center, and Family Day Care of the Year. Alongside the top awards, participants will be acknowledged for their farm to school activities through three levels of Outstanding in the Field Honors: the Golden Drumstick, Silver Squash, and Bronze Berry.

"The Cream of the Crop contest is a great way to showcase the farm to school and early care efforts in Minnesota. It's the cherry on top for schools and early care providers who serve up fresh, local food that fuels students, and supports farmers," said Jayme Anderson, Farm to School and Early Care Consultant at the Minnesota Department of Education.

Past participants are eager to compete again. "Winning the Minnesota Grown District of the Year Contest in 2023 was a tremendous honor for the Prior Lake-Savage Area School's Child Nutrition Department, and reaffirmed our commitment to providing students with fresh, locally sourced food," said Krissy McIntyre, the district's Assistant Director of Child Nutrition Services. "We are deeply grateful to our local farmers and child nutrition team. Their hard work and partnership are the foundation of our Farm to School program."

The Minnesota Grown Cream of the Crop Awards are a partnership between Minnesota Grown and the Minnesota Farm to School Leadership Team. Educators can visit the MDA's Farm to School and Early Care Overview to find resources and ideas for exploring local food.

Minnesota Grown is a program of the MDA to promote products grown and raised in Minnesota. The program has connected consumers with local farmers, farmers' markets, and other producers of agricultural products for over 40 years.



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*'They provide hope for the future'*

## Probation Officers Honored for Work with Female Clients

By Rice County

Two Rice County Probation Officers who work with justice-involved women were honored last week by their professional organization.

Agents Kelli Cline and Willow Schafer "do an outstanding job supervising justice-involved women in Rice County," said Community Corrections Supervisor Tracy Zabel, who nominated them for the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Aid Counties President's Award.

Cline and Schafer lead Rice County Community Corrections' Gender Responsive Unit, work which they say is especially meaningful. Often their clients aren't aware of or have never tapped into their strengths, which makes sharing their journey of self-



Probation Officers Kelli Cline and Willow Schafer received the MACCAC Presidents Award for their work with justice-involved women. Their supervisor, Tracy Zabel, right, nominated them for the award. (Rice County photo)

## Tactical Armored Vehicle Now Part of Sheriff's Office's Fleet



Sheriff Jesse Thomas stands in front of the new tactical armored vehicle which will be available if called upon by the South Metro SWAT. (Rice County photo)

By Rice County

It's a piece of equipment Rice County Sheriff Jesse Thomas hopes never to use in a real-life situation, but if the need does arise, he's glad it's nearby.

This month, the Sheriff's Office officially made space in its garage for a tactical armored security vehicle commonly known as a BearCat.

Prior to its arrival, the closest BearCat was an hour away. When a situation calls for this type of machinery, an hour can be too long to wait, said Thomas.

The new BearCat will be available during any call outs of the South Metro SWAT, a unit comprised of officers from Rice and Dakota County law enforcement agencies.

In 2024, South Metro SWAT called out its existing BearCat 15 times, including the Feb. 18 incident in which two Burnsville Police officers and a firefighter/paramedic were killed by a suspect holed up inside his home. And though the BearCat took 41 rounds that day, none of the officers inside were harmed.

Thomas says the vehicle allows officers, including crisis negotiators, to get close to dangerous situations and reduce the likelihood that they're injured or killed, allowing them to more effectively de-escalate crises.

To say the vehicle is heavy duty would be an understatement. Each BearCat is custom-made by LENCO Armored Vehicles in Pittsfield, Mass. It has seating for 10 and includes emergency lights, a PA, a turret up top and graphics that thank those who've served in the nation's military.

The vehicle, which cost \$338,000, is expected to last for at least 20 years, said Thomas. At that point it could be sold, he said, or refurbished.

"The world we live in is more violent than it used to be, said Thomas. "The BearCat will give us the ability to quickly respond to high-risk situations, de-escalate whenever possible and protect any victims."

discovery, growth and success so satisfying.

"It's very rewarding that we have the opportunity to build relationships with our clientele to aid in their success outside of the justice system and beyond," said Schafer.

Relationship building is key.

Gender-responsive and trauma-informed policies, practices, and programs like the ones used by Rice County Community Corrections "recognize that women have distinct histories, pathways to offending and experiences in the criminal justice system," according to a resource guide from the Council of State Governments. "These approaches address issues that may contribute to women's involvement in the justice system, such as domestic violence, abuse, and victimization; family and relationships; trauma; and poverty, mental illnesses and substance use disorders."

Cline and Schafer lead with compassion, says Zabel, while incorporating evidence-based practices and a trauma-informed ap-

proach, empowering women to make change, including them in the case planning process and identifying their strengths.

Client risks and strengths are determined using an evidence-based assessment tool. This allows supervision, interventions and strategies to be tailored to each individual's needs. They're keenly aware of ensuring clients' basic needs – housing, finances and relationships – are met. If they're not, Cline and Schafer aim to connect clients with the resources and/or services that can help.

They also facilitate two gender-responsive, cognitive behavior-based and trauma informed programs for small groups of female clients who meet regularly, which further enhances relationship building and covers specific topics for women with similar needs.

"They provide hope and accountability with compassion. They consistently go the extra mile," Zabel said of agents Cline and Schafer. "They are committed to this work and dedicated to the women they serve. They provide hope for the future."



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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 highway-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)



**FOR COMMUNITY RELEASE**

**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.



Anyone wishing to provide a **completely anonymous** tip may contact Crime Stoppers at, **1-800-222-TIPS**, or [www.CrimeStoppersMN.org](http://www.CrimeStoppersMN.org)

Reference DCSO Case # 24-000819

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**FOR COMMUNITY RELEASE**

# RANDOLPH RAILROAD

## DAYS!

(19<sup>th</sup> annual) \*

Randolph Area Historical Society

**MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, Saturday 9-3, Sunday 10-2**

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Follow us on Facebook for show updates at <https://www.facebook.com/RandolphAreaHistoricalSociety>

\*Fundraiser for the Randolph Area Historical Society



**City of Nerstrand**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 14, 2025**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**221 Main Street, Nerstrand**  
**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Mayor Todd Evavold, Council Members John Harris, Karla Ingersoll, Betty Voge, Pam Caron  
**ABSENT:**  
**STAFF PRESENT:** Clerk Frances Boehning, Public Works Steve McDowell  
**GUESTS:** City residents –Monica Gernandt, Annette Evavold  
**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**  
Council member Betty Voge made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Council member Karla Ingersoll. All approved.  
**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
A. Payment of Claims dated January 14, 2025.  
B. Minutes from December 10, 2024  
C. Approval of City Council meeting dates for 2025  
**MOTION:**  
Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Council Member Pam Caron, second by Council Member Karla Ingersoll. All approved.  
**CLERK’S REPORT:**  
• The Clerk reviewed the status of the utility billing software conversion. The new software will be used to run the January billing. W-2s will be issued when the new PIN number from the federal government is received.  
**NEW BUSINESS:**  
• Public Hearing regarding variance for 302 3rd St. N – RESCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 11th  
• Bollig SCDP public hearing  
• Proposed infrastructure project and the submission of an application to DEED’s SCDP program and to the Rural Development program.” – RESCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 11th  
• Resolution 2025-01: Appointing the City Official Designations  
• Council Member Karla Ingersoll made a motion to approve resolution 2025-01: appointing the City official designations, Council Member Pam Caron seconded the motion, all approved.  
• Resolution 2025-02: Resolution Allowing Electronic Funds Transfer  
**Transactions**  
• Council Member Karla Ingersoll made a motion to approve resolution 2025-02: allowing electronic funds transfer transactions, Council Member Pam Caron seconded the motion, all approved.  
• Resolution 2025-03: Official Appointments  
• Council Member Betty Voge made a motion to approve resolution 2025-03: official appointments as follows:  
• Deputy Mayor – Karla Ingersoll  
• Planning Commission Representative – Betty Voge  
• Planning Commission – Don Quistorff, Luanne Kuntz, Amy Harris, Monica Gernandt, one member TBD.  
• Zoning Commissioner – City Clerk Frances Boehning  
Council Member Pam Caron seconded the motion, all approved.  
• Council Member John Harris made a motion to add the following to resolution 2025-03.  
• Ordinance Review Commission – Karla

Ingersoll, John Harris, Monica Gernandt, Luanne Kuntz, and City Clerk Frances Boehning.  
Council member Karla Ingersoll seconded, all approved.  
• Resolution 2025-04: Utility Sewer Rates  
• Council Member Karla Ingersoll made a motion to approve resolution 2025-04: utility sewer rate increase of 3%, Council Member John Harris seconded the motion, all approved.  
• Resolution 2025-05: Salary Increase for Public Works Director  
• Council Member John Harris made a motion to approve resolution 2025-05: salary increase of 6% for public works director, Council Member Betty Voge seconded the motion, all approved.  
• Discussion regarding zoning map  
• The City Council reviewed the current zoning maps and the draft zoning map. Discussion was held regarding past zoning events. A short discussion was had about the state-owned land on the north side of the city. Comment was made that this area should be zoned as parkland.  
• Council Member Karla Ingersoll asked if the Council would like the ordinance review commission to review the ordinances in any specified order. The Council indicated that the commission could choose the order independently.  
• Discussion Regarding the Dormant City Savings Accounts  
• A couple of the current savings accounts are dormant due to lack of activity. Council Member Pam Caron made a motion to approve the Clerk moving \$1 into each of the accounts to make them active, Council Member Betty Voge seconded, all approved.  
**Old Business**  
• Update regarding liquor ordinance, and cannabis ordinance – Legal Council has provided a sample cannabis ordinance from Kenyon along with draft questions for the Council to review before the February meeting. The Clerk will inquire if Kennedy & Graven have drafted a liquor ordinance for review yet.  
• Farm Street Update– Steve McDowell will obtain updated asphalt pricing for paving Farm Street. The old storm water building will be dismantled and brought down to street level.  
**Reports of Officers**  
• Public Works Director – Steve McDowell reviewed tree trimming along city streets that will take place later this winter. The non-working water meters will be replaced as time allows. Steve noted that he will need to enter all the residential building basements to check on types of water softeners for the chloride report and to look for any lead service lines.  
• Fire Department – Update provided by the Fire Chief.  
**MOTION ADJOURN:**  
**MOTION:** Motion by Council Member Karla Ingersoll second by Council Member John Harris to adjourn. All Approved.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Evavold, Mayor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frances Boehning, City Clerk  
Next City Council Meeting is scheduled for February 11th, 2025, at Nerstrand City Hall

\*\*\*

*Oaths of Office for newly elected office holders were completed.*  
**City of Dennison**  
**Meeting minutes**  
**January 2, 2025**  
The January Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Flaten on Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Nichole Schloesser, Caleb Voight, and Heidi Cooke and clerk Jessica Page. Councilor Diane Ruddle was unable to attend.  
Councilor Cooke moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from the December City Council meeting. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0. Councilor Cooke moved to approve the Board of Canvas Meeting Minutes. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.  
Councilor Schloesser moved to approve the Treasurer’s report. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.  
Deputy Whitehead dropped to check on any issues. There were no issues noted at this time.  
**Old Business/Committee Reports/Building Permits:**  
**Update regarding Dean Larsen's permit.**  
Email sent out to the council about whether he could get a building permit before purchasing the land. He is re-configuring the parcel. The permit was being submitted to the County with the changes to the parcel boundaries. Councilor Cooke move to approve the building permit when the purchase goes through. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 4:0.  
**Strese Pumper permit** No additional information.  
**Administrative Issues:** Nate requesting that utilities be moved up in the agenda for all meetings.  
**Utilities:**  
**1.Update from Nate.** Health dept water samples were comleted. 2 Discharges completed in December.  
**2. The water meter for Pohl’s has been replaced.**  
**3.Has the DO meter been calibrated yet?** Nate was working with the DO meter, and found out that we had ordered the wrong probe. He was working on trying to find the

correct one, and seeing if we could return the previously ordered one.  
**4.Pond, Maintenance shed, lift station issues:** The Solar Bee Grid Mixer in the secondary pond was shut off along with the in line heater that keeps the chemical feed line from the storage container in the pond shed out to the mixer in the pond from freezing. Now that line is frozen or blocked.  
We won’t know until later how much damage was caused when the Mayor turned them off. Nate is recommending that all keys be turned in for anything related to the sewer and water system. If someone needs access, the request should go through Nate or the clerk if Nate is not available. Councilor Schloesser move that all keys be returned , except for Nates, for the water tower, lift station, pump house, ponds, as no one should be touching anything besides Nate. Advance notice must be given to Nate in order to take out the key.  
Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 3:0 Mayor Flaten abstained.  
**Administrative:**  
**1.Re-org meeting:** (motion to accept all designations, and approve the resolution for the financial in-stitution, at the end)  
Designate a newspaper of general circulation as the official newspaper of the city. Has been the Cannon Falls Beacon.  
Posting locations for announcements. Den-nison Depot, the public bulletin board,  
Select an official depository, by resolution, for city funds. Heritage Bank Resolution 1-2025-01  
Elect an acting mayor from the councilmembers to perform the mayor’s duties if the mayor unable to fulfill his duties. Heidi Cooke  
**City Attorney:** Burkhardt and Kreisler, LLC  
**City Clerk/Treasurer:** Jessica Page  
**Hall Custodian:** Charles Helcl  
**Sewer/Water Operator:** Nate Sparrow, Consulting with Travis Reichl  
**Additional City Employees for water/sewer/general:** Dan Storlie  
**City Engineer:** Bollig Engineering  
**Fire Department:** Nerstrand

(continued on page 21)

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## City of Dennison Meeting minutes January 2, 2025

(continued from page 20)

**Meeting date/time:** First Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Councilor Schloesser Nichole move to approve all designations as noted above, Resolution 1-2025-01 designating the bank for the City, and for Councilor Heidi Cooke to be the acting mayor as needed. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

**2. Annual review of the fee schedule for 2025.** Any new fees or changes to the existing fee schedule? Land Split fee and Cannabis fee language was added/approved in November of 2024.

The overall Fuel Surcharge for the garbage pick up has been reduced from the previous year by Flom Sanitation. Discussion was held on the individual amount for the surcharge. Councilor Schloesser move to lower the fuel surcharge to \$2.00. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 4:0.

Councilor Schloesser move to approve the updated fee schedule for 2025. Mayor Flaten second. 4:0

Garbage price increase for 2025 per Flom Disposal Contract. Garbage service pricing will increase by 2.6% for 2025.

**3. Xcel Energy transmission project is slated to begin on January 13th.** They will be replacing poles and hardware. All the proposed work in the City limits is going to occur in the public utility easements. According to Xcel, any planned outage, they will notify the affected customers and schedule it accordingly. If Xcel needs an outage that feeds our well, they will schedule a time

that works for both parties. Xcel was inquiring about needing a work permit. Since all the work will be done within the existing utility easements, the mayor believes approving a permit isn't necessary.

**4. Approve Bingo at City Hall during the Flake Out Festival with the Dennison Lions Club.** Resolution 1-2025-01, to approve the LG230 Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling for the Dennison Lions Club to use the Dennison City Hall located at 37622 Goodhue Ave. in Dennison, MN, for their Designer Purse and Power Tool Bingo on February 1, 2025." Councilor Schloesser move to approve Resolution 1-2025-02. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

**5. Review proposals submitted to the City for fixing the city streets.** Deutsch Excavating proposal was \$37,270.00. This work would include re-grouting and replacing several catch basins and fixing manholes 32, 20, 14, 15, 28 and 31. Map and construction list emailed previously to the council. Dohmen Concrete Enterprises's proposal was \$35,500. This would be for curb and sidewalk fixes. Mayor also reached out to Seykora Asphalt for a bid again. Councilor Schloesser move to approve the quotes from Deutsch Excavating (\$37,270.00) and Dohmen Concrete Enterprise's (\$35,500). Mayor Flaten second. Motion passed 4:0.

**6. Update regarding City providing dental benefits for Jessica and Nate.** Mayor contacted Benefit Extras, Inc. (Third Party Administrator) about setting up a Section 125 premium only (POP) plan document that allows the City to take the dental premiums

pre-tax from employee paychecks. Information emailed to the council. Their proposal would include the Implementation (\$400) and Plan Document/SPD Amendment (\$150). If the city council desires, we can still use Gallagher to enroll Jessica and Nate for dental benefits. Councilor Schloesser move to approve setting up the Section 125 Premium Only Plan with Benefit Extra's, contingent on knowing we can add others if needed in the future through the Plan as written. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 4:0.

**7. Mayor is requesting that the city council approve raising the wage for city employees, not including either Nate or Jessica, to \$22.00 per hour for Dan and Charlie.** That wage hasn't been increased for at least 9 years now. Does the City want to include election judges? Current wages are \$12.50 per hour. Nerstrand is at \$15.00. Amount for Dennison was last set August 5, 2010. Some places designate between Election Judges and Head Judges for pay. Discussion on the subject concerning election judge pay followed. It was agreed that the Council would consider an increase for election judges in the 2026 budget. Councilor Cooke move to increase the current wages to \$22.00 per hour for employees other than Jess and Nate. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

**8. Mayor talked with several members of the Clutchman's Car Club in December about the snow fence and metal posts on the right hand side of the road as you head up the hill, (which were put up for Dennison Days in June but never taken down).** Mayor asked them to remove the orange

snow fence and posts before the last snow storm. They failed to do so. Bill Deutsch asked about removing the fence and posts, too. Mayor took down the snow fence and laid it next to their garbage can. The fence posts are in the ROW, and they could be hit/damaged when Bill plows. The Clutchmen members the mayor visited with on December 17th, were told this information.

Council felt that the posts should be removed as soon as possible, in case of a snowfall, to prevent damages to the poles, plow, or potentially vehicles. If they are not removed, the City may need to take action to remove them, and Clutchman's Car Club may be charged for the removal services.

Council is recommending the posts be kept out of the ROW in the future.

Councilor Cooke move to send a letter to Clutchman's with the above request and information. Mayor Flaten second. Motion passed 4:0.

**9. Resolution for Ehlers to do bonds.** Resolution #1-2025-03. Councilor Schloesser move to approve Resolution 1-2025-03. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 4:0.

**Citizens Issues:** None.

**Mayors Issues:** None

Councilor Cooke move to pay the bills listed as well as the mileage for the Sewer/Water Operator from December. Mayor Flaten second. Motion passed 4:0.

Mayor Flaten moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Cooke second. Meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

**Next meeting:** Regular meeting is Thursday February 6th, 2025 at 7:00.

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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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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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



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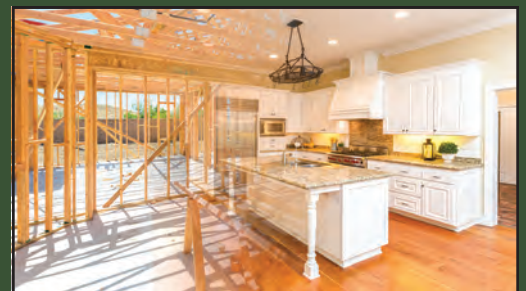
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