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Shaking of Our Faith and Prevailing



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

This article was birthed by an experience I am currently going through that has caused heartache, shock, and confusion. This circumstance is about my mom, who is so dear to me and who I love so much.

About five years ago, our family got the news that my mother was diagnosed with dementia. All I could think of is What? How is this possible? You always hear about people having it, but you never think it will hit you so close to home. As my heart sank when I got the news, I had questions in my mind like: How are things going to change in our family since my mom used to be so independent? How is this going to affect my dad, brother, sisters, and even me?

What do we do if we face bad news? How do we cope with it? Do we use Scripture to renew our mind with truth and comfort, or fall into fear, panic, and anxiety? As followers of Christ, we need to understand that there will be trials (see James 1:2). When these happen, are we prepared to stand firm in our faith? Or does it shake us to the core where we start questioning the Lord or wonder if God is even around? Life can throw us many curveballs, so how do we prepare to stand firm in our faith even if we don't understand? Can we do anything to prepare for these moments? We can't predict the future, but I believe we can prepare for the future spiritually.

As we read the book of Job, we see that he went through horrific, challenging times of losing his kids and his livelihood. One hardship after another happened to Job. Even his friends were accusing him of sinning; Job called them "miserable comforters" in Job 16:2. I know we

can learn from his trials by observing how Job stood up in his faith by worshiping, glorifying, and trusting the Lord. Regardless of what he was going through and what his friends were telling him, Job kept his gaze on the Lord.

Have we ever faced similar situations when the bad news keeps on coming? When this happens are we still putting God first? If we look at Job's life, he lost it all and still he proclaimed, "Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21b). Even though everything around him was dying and he was losing it all, Job

knew God was faithful, just, and in control. What I have learned in my life is when I don't understand the storm or storms, God is still with me and I need to trust Him. In Job 2:10b it says, "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity [affliction]?"

Ephesians 6 makes it clear we don't fight against flesh or blood but against principalities, powers, and might. John 10:10 says, "The thief [Satan] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I [Jesus] have come that they may have life, and that they may

have it more abundantly." Therefore, the devil wants to do everything he can to separate us from the love of God. However, Paul wrote in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Are we persuaded by the Word of God and what Christ did for us on the cross that nothing can separate us from His love?
(continued on page 3)

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY So Much More to Come!

*"There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." . . .
"I am making everything new!"*

— Revelation 21:4-5

Jesus has removed the barrier to reconciliation with God, so we can enjoy fellowship with God and abundant life in his kingdom even now. And yet there's much more to come! When a believer in Christ dies, we grieve their loss. But we know they are in the Lord's presence in a greater way than we experience now. So while death brings sadness, it has become, through Christ, a bridge into God's presence.

And there's still more! When Jesus comes again, all believers—those who have died and those who are still alive—will be transformed physically and spiritually, with glorious, imperishable bodies (1 Corinthians 15:50-55).

God will bring his "New Jerusalem" to a renewed earth, where he will live with his people forever. There will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain, because the Lord will make everything new.

What about Judgment Day? Yes, it's coming (Revelation 20:11-15), but "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). So it's crucially important that we surrender ourselves to Christ and accept his free gift of salvation.

Then we can serve him with our whole lives, urging everyone to turn to God in repentance and faith so that they too may have eternal life. In the Lord we can live in hope and anticipation and without fear.

Lord Jesus, transform us so that we may live fully for you, sharing your love and good news everywhere. Amen.

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March 30: 9:00a.m. Sunday School
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10:00a.m. Worship at WLC

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10:30a.m. Worship Service

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Elden Wayne Ehrich

Elden Wayne Ehrich, 73, passed away on Friday, March 7th 2025 at his home in Kenyon, MN. Elden was born December 1st 1951 in Faribault, MN to Arnold and Marilyn (Kubista) Ehrich of rural Kenyon.

He graduated from West Concord High School in 1969, after graduation he went to Rochester Vo-Tech to study auto and diesel mechanics. Elden and his brother, Myron Ehrich, joined the Marine Corps under the buddy system in July 1972. Elden married Eileen Ruth McAdams in Warminster, PA on August 5th, 1978.

He was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in January of 1986. Elden moved to Skyberg, MN in January 1986, after this he joined the Army Reserves and retired from the military in April of 1997. He was a farm machinery mechanic for over 25 years. He enjoyed his hobby farm raising sheep, he was active in boy scouts as a leader of troop 232 in Kenyon and then a unit commissioner for the Goodhue County Boy Scouts. Elden was active in the Cannon Valley Marine Corps League of Faribault, the 40 & 8 in Faribault, the Kenyon Color Guard, and the American Legion in Kenyon.

He enjoyed going to his grandchildren's activities, camping, word searches, sudoku, and knitting hats for Hauge Lutheran Church of Kenyon for Mission in Alaska.

Elden is survived by his wife Eileen Ehrich; sons, Wayne (Amy) Ehrich of Kenyon; Brian (April) Ehrich of Kenyon; and grandchildren Jayden, Sydney and Wyatt; his sister, Vivian Meech; brothers, Myron (Mary) Ehrich, Harvey Ehrich, Earl Ehrich, Paul Ehrich and many extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents Arnold and Marilyn Ehrich and grandparents Fred and Veronica Ehrich.

A special thank you to Larry Grove, Loren Bauer and the congregation of Hauge Lutheran Church of Kenyon for all of their prayers and support during his illness.

Elden generously donated his body to the University of MN Anatomy Bequest Program. A celebration of life for Elden Ehrich will be from 1pm to 4pm on Saturday, March 29th, 2025 at the VFW in Kenyon, MN with military rights at 2:30pm. Inurnment will be in MN state Vetrans Cemetery in Preston at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Kenyon VFW furnace fund or donor's choice. Blessed be his memory.

Charles Edward "Chuck" Kylo

Charles Edward "Chuck" Kylo, 77, passed away on Saturday, March 8, 2025, surrounded by family in Mcallen Texas. Chuck was born in Wanamingo Township to Elmer and

Eleanor Kylo on October 5, 1947. He was the youngest of 15 children. He graduated from Wanamingo High School in 1965. He farmed with his mother until he was drafted into the service in 1967. He was stationed in Vietnam with the 34th engineering battalion until 1969.

He married Donna Andersen on January 16, 1969, in Honolulu Hawaii. From this marriage he was blessed with 2 average sons, and one beautiful and talented daughter.

He started his career with John Deere in Wanamingo, MN, followed by a move to cresco Iowa, finishing up in Owatonna, MN. He then changed to driving semi truck for American Freight Systems for many years and retired from driving from ABF Freight in 2009. He did have a brief stint with Schwan's Company in Owatonna. This career was cut short after a "small incident" involving a "bring your kids to work day" with all 3 of his children. He also enjoyed his time with the Steele County Sheriff's Posse for many years.

Upon his retirement, Donna and Chuck enjoyed countless times singing karaoke together, whether it was at a local watering hole, or on the deck of your camper. They have been seasonal campers at Shades of Sherwood Campgrounds since the early 1990's, continuing to this day. He also en-

joyed spending time with family and friends, and his daily stops at the Kernel Restaurant in Owatonna, MN. At retirement a motorhome was quickly sold after one too many "god dammit Donna's" and a permanent home at a park was taken. They spent 15 years as winter Texans and summers in Zumbrota at Shades of Sherwood.

Chuck is survived by his wife of 56 years, Donna; sons Sean (Marie) Kylo of Nerstrand, MN; Eric (Lisa) Kylo of Blooming Prairie, MN; and daughter Stephanie (Randy) Delzer of Northfield, MN. Eleven grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, with one due in May of 2025. Sister-in-law, Rhonda (Tom) Eichinger; sisters Marlene (Jim) Haller, Stella Morton, Susan Johnson and Eunice Roberts.

He is preceded in death by his parents; great grandson Soren Christofferson; brothers Maurice "Bud" Kylo; Marvin "Pete" Kylo; Palmer Kylo; Walton Kylo and Orion Kylo. Sisters Avis Erlanson, Florence Howie, Shirley Schmitz, Mary Jane Schmitz and infant sister, Marna Kylo.

Celebration of Life will take place on April 12, 2025 from 11:00am-2:00pm at The Event Center at 37612 Goodhue Avenue, Dennison, MN (Main Street) with military honors at 2:00pm.

Announcements

(continued from page 1)

- **Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard invite you to become a member.** Join us and help us make the Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard an even bigger success. WVHG meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Wanamingo Community Center. The VFW will meet from 7-7:30p.m. The Honor Guard will meet from 7:30-8:30p.m. For more information contact Eric Dierks 507-321-1967, Gary Floan at 507-732-7740, or Larry Van De Walker at 507-421-4674.
- **All are welcome to breakfast, fellowship, bible study, and prayer time every Saturday morning at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon.** Breakfast and fellowship start at 8:00 am. Followed by a verse by verse bible study. Finishing with prayer time at 10:00 am. All are welcome (men, women, and children) each Saturday morning!! Any questions, please contact Loren Bauer: 507-450-6623.

Shaking of Our Faith and Prevailing

(continued from page 1)

Are we going to have moments when we are crying out to the Lord as King David did in the book of Psalms? Of course we are! The most important thing, though, is to come back to our first love, Jesus, and continue to renew our minds with truth, which is the Word of God. Here are some other Bible verses that have helped me walk out life when trials arise.

James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

Zechariah 4:6b says, "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts."

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

In the book of Psalms and Joshua, it tells us to meditate on the Word of God day and night. We need to renew our mind daily with truth. Psalm 91 speaks about dwelling in the secret place with the Almighty God. This means we need to spend time with the Lord, talk with Him, read the Bible, and do life with Him. Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." A lot of the time, even if it doesn't make sense, we need to trust the Lord even if it may seem like an impossible task or situation. God has a plan. One final Scripture I want to share that has comforted me when things just don't make sense is, "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts'" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

I hope these Bible verses bring peace and comfort to you. The great news is, God has given us so many tools and even spiritual armor to use to deal with the lies of the enemy (see Ephesians 6:10-18). The enemy is going to do whatever he can to make us doubt God's love and purpose for our lives. So as Christians, how can we prepare for bad news? By renewing our minds with truth.

I hope this article encourages you. Please know you're not alone. I know this article has helped me to heal as I wrote it. I encourage you to write in a journal your prayers to Jesus. Share with Him your trials that you may be facing at this time, the various emotions you feel, and then write next to them the promises of God. Yes, we will have troubles in this life, but take heart, God has overcome the world (see John 16:33). The Lord has not abandoned you. He is with you!

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, # 507/227-4992)

Aspelund

(continued from page 1)

Aspelund was settled by mostly Norwegian immigrants in the 1850's. As more people migrated to the area, a group of men founded the Aspelund Society in 1859, more for religious reasons than anything else, but they made decisions and brought some organization to the growing settlement. In 1862, it was decided to lay the foundation for the Emmanuel

Lutheran Church, which to this day has a viable congregation, and is used for many occasions and events.

On February 6th, 1872 the Aspelund Post Office was born, holding the title of the 4th post office in Wanamingo Township. Christian Hveem (1835-1908) was a veterinarian who became the first postmaster. It is believed that he had the postal service in his clinic. He later practiced medicine in Hader.

In 1875, 40 farmers organized a mercantile and built the Aspelund Store. The post office moved into the mercantile, and Osmund J Wing took his place as the 2nd postmaster on

Memorial Field Fundraiser

(continued from page 1)

This is a Free Will Donation, and all proceeds will go to the Memorial Field to support the care of the fields and any monetary obligations to keep the fields in tip top shape for our attending teams. As always, it will be held at the Wanamingo Community Center from 5 to 7pm, and you can eat in or carry out to enjoy at home, or perhaps gift someone a scrumptious meal who would not be able to attend in person.

The menu features a rigatoni pasta in a red sauce with meat, Caesar salad, French bread, dessert, and a choice of water, lemonade or milk. For those who want to have take out, just come inside and tell them how many meals you'd like, and they will package them

up for you!

Remember, the Kenyon/Wanamingo Varsity baseball and softball games are always free to attend, so this fundraiser is important to keep the fields and facilities taken care of, and make sure the players have up to date equipment, and a well groomed playing field. The money raised from this event helps defray the costs and keep things running smoothly, so spread the word, and come on down to treat yourself to a great meal while helping our community have fun!

The Memorial Field Committee would like to thank you for your continuing and generous support of our K-W baseball and softball programs.



April 28th, 1875. The current Aspelund Society eventually dissolved, and in 1882, Peter A. Henning replaced Wing as postmaster on June 12th, 1882, and remained at his post until January 4th, 1894.

Martin P. Heltne, who was operating the Aspelund Store, succeeded Henning as postmaster at that time. In 1897, Heltne auctioned off the store, and moved to Hayfield.

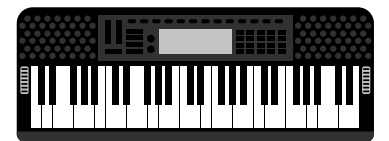
Henning again took over the store. He was reinstated as postmaster on October 19, 1897, and remained in that post until his death in 1931. In 1932, Hans Hjermstad bought the store through Henning's daughter for a tidy sum of \$500.00.

Hans and his wife and son lived above the mercantile for a number of years, during which Hans built a house next to the store for his family to reside in.

(continued on page 5)



Organist Wanted



**Holden Lutheran Church
Rural Kenyon**

Interested contact:
holdendalesecretary@gmail.com



**Come join the
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*Taste all 8 flavors and
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**Soup Cookoff
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Sunday, April 6th

Proceeds to benefit KAIC

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Additional support from Thrivent Action Team funds

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**STUDENTS
of the
WEEK**

NOBLE KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK FOR MARCH 14, 2025

Front Row: Isabelle Johnson, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Mya Hernandez, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Aubree Wood, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Aubrey Kylo, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Drew Anfinson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan. Back Row: Hugh Ellingsberg, Gr. 3, Mrs. Sandy Bohaty; Lily Cordes, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Konnor Peltier, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

Aspelund

(continued from page 4)

Unfortunately, a huge tornado in 1952 hit the mercantile, and rendered it too dangerous to occupy. It sat empty for 10 years before being completely torn down. However, the home that Hans built is still in use today, and is one of the 3 homes left in Aspelund. It was purchased from Harlan Hjermstad, Hans' son, by Bob Flikke who now resides there with his son Andre Wrolstad.

After 15 years, Hjermstad sold the store to Lyle Hogstad in 1946. Lyle had it for a short time, and sold to C.C. Mattison. Mattison was the owner when the big tornado caused its demise.

Before we move on in our historical journey, I want to share an interesting fact about the store. P.A. Henning proved to be an excellent marketer while he owned and operated the mercantile. One of his ideas that I consider brilliant is "Due Bills".

If someone came in with eggs to sell to Mr. Henning to sell at his store, and he owed her \$1 for the eggs, and she needed 80 cents worth of flour, instead of giving her the 20 cents in change back, he would give her a 20 cent Due Bill. That way, she had a store credit, because the coins could only be spent in his store! Kind of like Menards rebates!

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Farm Safety Lunch-N-Learn

Wednesday, April 2 | 10 am - 2 pm

Faribault Fire Department

122 2nd St NW, Faribault, MN 55021



Growers and Producers: You're invited to our Farm Safety Lunch-N-Learn focused on chemical safety. Participants will have the opportunity to walk away with a fire extinguisher, chemical burn kit, PPE along with valuable knowledge that may save a life!

Topics:

- Safe handling of agronomy, livestock and yard chemicals
- Proper storage and disposal / recycling
- What to do in an emergency

Guest presenters from:

- Faribault Fire Department
- University of Minnesota Extension
- Ag Partners Coop
- Rice County Solid Waste Facility



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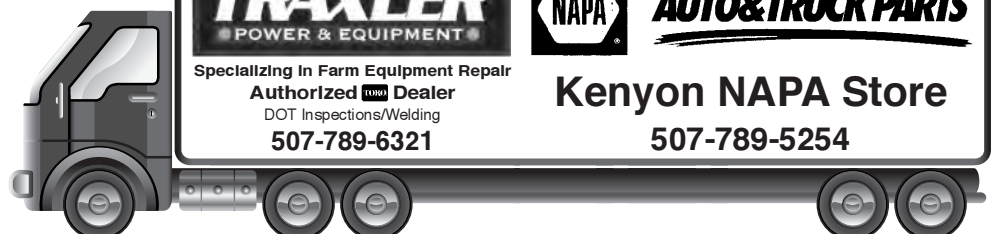


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Aspelund

(continued from page 5)

As the town grew, and more businesses were required, Henry Sands started a blacksmith shop on what is still property of the Sands family. Ray Sands, Henry's grandson, lives on the property now and told me he was born there and never moved out! Not many people can say they have lived in the home that they were born in all their life! Ray began his favorite chore of milking the family's cows by hand at age 5. He grew up there, got married, and raised his family in that home. At 93 years young, you will still find him doing the upkeep, and sharing stories of Aspelund, and also about his more than 70 years of entertaining folks with his well known band the Polka Dots. Ray played the accordion and sang in his band, but that's another story!

1882 also saw N. Norby open a flour and feed mill. Two years later, Nils Roland was operating the feed store and opened a second blacksmith shop just east of where the mercantile was located. B.O. Norby eventually bought the 1st blacksmith shop from Henry Sands.

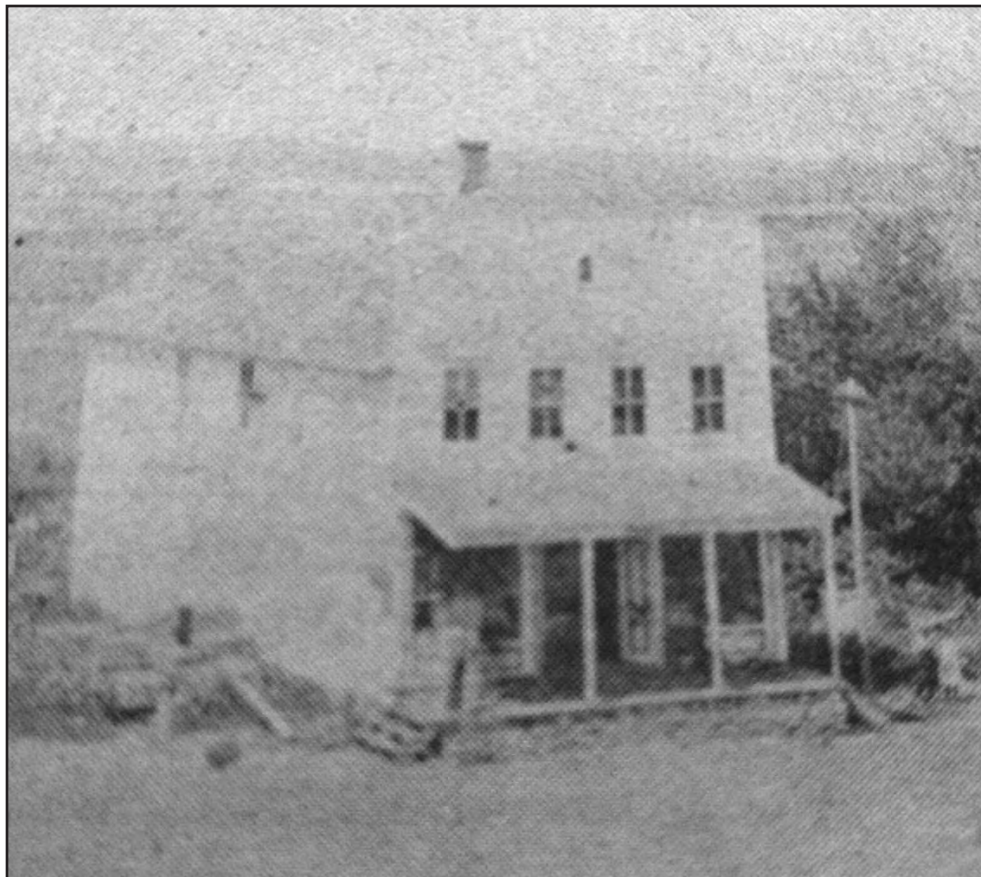
In 1888, the Crescent Creamery Company was started and had a brief operation in As-

pelund. The feed mill was in use until 1896.

As time marched on, the Rural Free Delivery, or RFD came into being, and most of the small post offices closed, including Aspelund. The post office officially closed on January 14, 1905. As will happen, many of the local businesses closed their doors, but a few remained.

Henry Sands went back to farming over 200 acres. One day, Henry was plowing his fields with a team of 4 horses. He had a colt tied to the wagon as well. He saw about 6 men riding toward him on his property. They were wearing white dusters and riding fine horses. They stopped when they came up to Henry, and one of them jokingly asked Henry why he didn't hook up the young colt and make him work for his food. Henry just looked at him, said "Shut up", and continued with his plowing. Those men were later found to be Jesse James and the Younger brothers, on their way to rob the bank in Northfield!

I learned of many remarkable stories while gathering information for this article. I want to thank my new friends Harlan and Dorothy Hjermstad and Ray Sands for giving me a lot of insight into the town of Aspelund, MN. Don't worry, there will be more stories from that neck of the woods in the future! I hope some of you recognize your relatives in the names in my story. Until the next town story, be well!



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The Grannies Are Back!!

(continued from page 1)

Last year was their winningest season yet, and this year's scrimmages have shown that that winning streak is continuing!

The ladies play a 6 on 6 players team, taken from the 1920's Iowa basketball team's rules and regulations, along with the 1920's dress

code, which is quite unique. You will have to come to the tournament to see what conspires among these seasoned players, and how the rules are different from our contemporary games, and the uniforms they play in! To participate on the team, all that is required is you must be a woman of 50 plus years to be actually playing. Other younger ladies and gentlemen interested in being a part of the team are allowed in other positions, such as coaching and keeping score. No discrimination here! It is a gentler game than what you are used to.

Entry to the games on April 12th are free will donations that go to support the K/W girls basketball camp scholarships. Lunch consisting of Sloppy Joes, chips, bars and fruit cups will be served as well, for a small fee.

The tournament schedule is as follows:

9 am LaCrosse Does vs Faribault Hot Shots

10:15 am Veroqua Driftless Dribblers vs Wanamingo Bulldogs

Noon LaCrosse Does vs Wanamingo Bulldogs

1:15 Veroqua Driftless Dribblers vs Faribault Hot Shots

Due to the up in the air decisions being made about the use of the school gym, the team wishes to let you know they may be

looking for a place to practice if the gym is out of the equation. The men's basketball team also practices there on Wednesday nights. Jack Beulke was at the last practice held in the gym, filming the Grannies as part of his documentary he is putting together on the history of the Wanamingo school gym, where the ladies have been practicing and playing for the past 18 years. So, we invite you to come on down and experience basketball as it used to be, and have some fun! Go Grannies!!!

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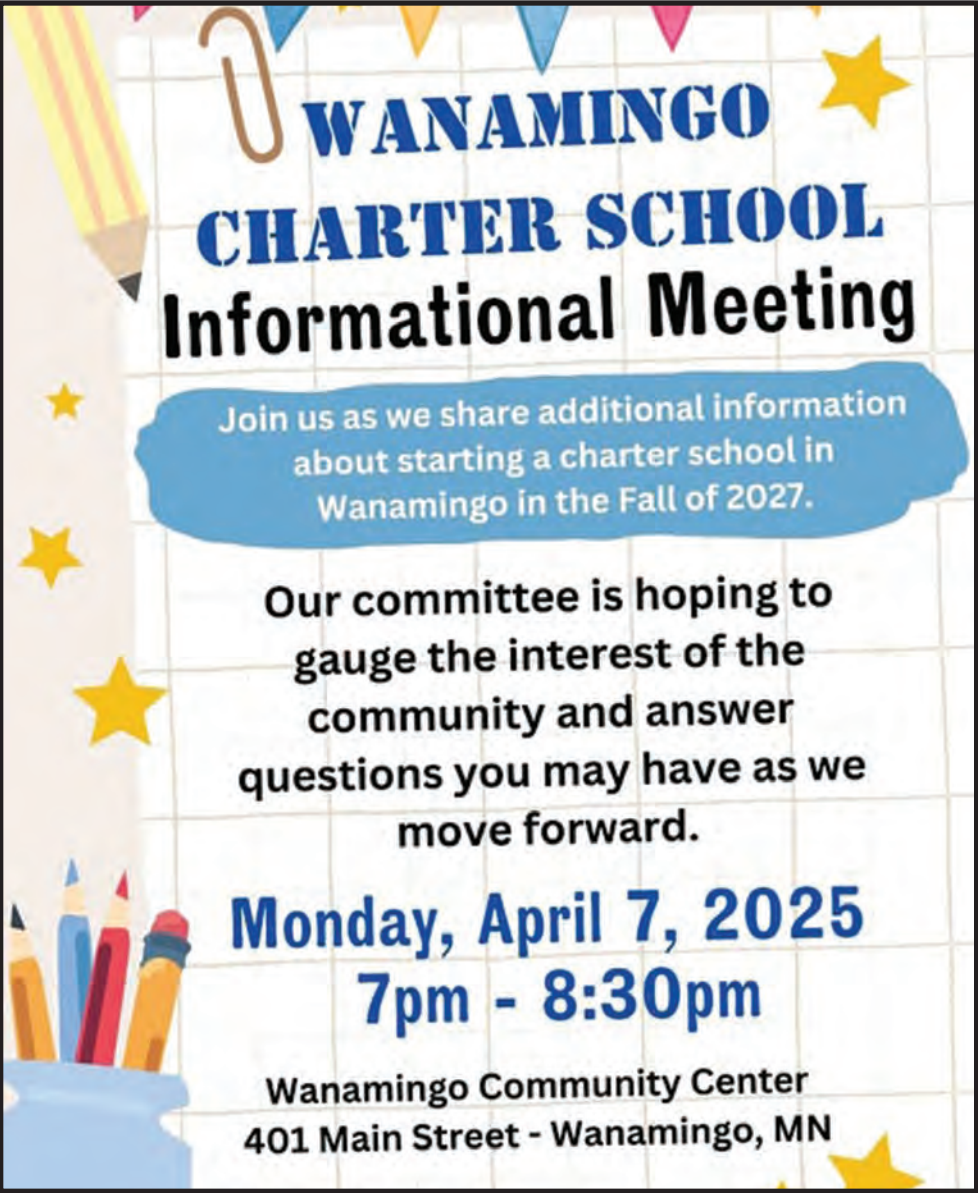
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WANAMINGO CHARTER SCHOOL Informational Meeting

Join us as we share additional information about starting a charter school in Wanamingo in the Fall of 2027.

Our committee is hoping to gauge the interest of the community and answer questions you may have as we move forward.

Monday, April 7, 2025
7pm - 8:30pm

Wanamingo Community Center
401 Main Street - Wanamingo, MN



Dennison Lions Club

ANNUAL SPRING BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 13, 2025
8:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
at Dennison Lutheran Church, Dennison



All You Care to Eat
Pancakes, French Toast,
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Adults \$10.00 Kids \$5.00 (Kids under 3 Free)

Proceeds will benefit the Dennison Lions Club and
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Dennison Lions Club is a non-profit organization.



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Easter Brunch Menu

Sunday, April 20th
Serving 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.
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In Memory of Rachel Nesseth
On her 21st Birthday



Food and Blanket Drive

3rd Annual

Saturday, April 26, 2025
10:00am – 2:00pm

Trailhead Building
(across from the Zumbrota Library)

We would like to invite you to go for a walk in the park in Zumbrota in memory of Rachel's birthday. We will be collecting new blankets and food items to be donated to local food shelves and shelters. Items can be dropped off at the Trailhead Bldg. near City Hall, across from the Zumbrota Library.

Contact: laura.RNfoundation@gmail.com



Garden Thyme Craft Show

Saturday and Sunday, April 12-13
Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

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Benefit Fundraiser for Dax Eggert

(continued from page 1)

He is also taking medication for short term side effects, and is only 1/3 of the way through his intense portion of the treatment plan. After the first leg of his treatment, he is

scheduled for 2 years of daily chemo treatment and monthly lab checks. The long term effects of this aggressive treatment are still unknown.

Many of you know this family, and it is our hope that you will be able to help them in any number of ways. Tyler graduated from K/W High School in 2008, and was very active in the wrestling community. He is currently a volunteer firefighter in Kenyon. Nicole provided in-home daycare to the community, but due to Dax's treatment schedule, she had to close her doors.

Being members of this community, you know how when a crisis strikes, we all come together to share the burdens, and celebrate the victories of each others' lives. Well, there is a caring group of people doing benefit re-

lated activities for the family, and we hope we can count on your thoughts, prayers and donations for one of the scheduled events, or just a donation to the family to help offset the medical expenses.

The fundraiser will be held on April 26th from 4 to 8 pm at the Kenyon Firehall at 620 Centennial Drive. It is a free will donation, and the meal being served is pulled pork sandwiches, cole slaw, chips and a drink. Live music will be from 5 to 8 pm, and a silent auction from 4 to 7pm. There will be bouncy houses on site for some good ol' fashioned fun! For questions about the event, or to make a donation, contact Abby Dahlgren at 507-351-1452. You may make donations via venmo to Dax, or send a check to Security State Bank in Kenyon at 601 Second Street, Kenyon Mn 55946. Also needed are

donations of items, experiences or services for the silent auction. If you are interested in donating, you may also contact Emily Amundson, and she can arrange to pick up your donation. All donors/supporters will be acknowledged at the event. You may also call Emily at 507-384-8911 for additional questions about the donations.

Thank you in advance for your generous donations, in whatever way you choose to support this family.

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www.wanamingo.com

Our New Deputy Clerk Is...

(continued from page 1)

A Deputy Clerk has varied duties to perform, and it is an interesting job with varied positions. Everything from doing the payroll for city employees, to doing monthly and quarterly taxes, to taking care of pet licenses and utility bills. A solid knowledge of computer programs for running a city, and the rules and regulations that go along with that responsibility are high up on the roster of duties, but there are other issues to deal with as well. The ability to stay positive and focused on the job at hand while dealing with issues the townspeople bring to the office is a key skill. Being open and attentive to the problems brought to the attention of the city and handling them calmly and diplomatically are skills that are learned, not taught. The person chosen is the one the Council feels most able to incorporate all these tasks, and more.

The meeting was attended by Mayor Ryan Holmes, Michael Boulton, Erick Dierks, Rebecca Haugen, Jeremiah Flotterud, and Brad Kennedy from Public Works. Three candidates were interviewed, and they all did a

great job explaining why they want the job, and what their qualifications are. Each answered a set of questions while the council took notes. The applicants were able to ask questions about the job, and I felt everyone had a pretty good feel for what the needs of each candidate were. I left the meeting after the interviews concluded, glad I didn't have to decide between the three women who applied!

Since Karen will be leaving her position by the end of April at the latest and will spend time working with the new Deputy Clerk to make a smooth transition, time is of the essence to find her a replacement so the one chosen can give notice at their current job. The council deliberated after the candidates left, and they chose Laurie Musselman to be the new Deputy Clerk. As she has accepted the offer and makes her transition in her new vocation, please give a warm Wanamingo welcome to her as she navigates all the responsibilities she has been given. We look forward to getting to know her!

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Reps. Finstad, Craig, Sens. Hoeven, Klobuchar Reintroduce Legislation Modernizing Loan Limits for Ag Producers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Representatives Brad Finstad (MN-01) and Angie Craig (MN-02) reintroduced the Producer and Agricultural Credit Enhancement (PACE) Act, bipartisan legislation that would modernize the current limits on the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Ownership and Operating loans. Senators John Hoeven (R-ND) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) have introduced companion legislation in the U.S. Senate.

"Farmers across southern Minnesota, especially those who are just starting out, rely on dependable financing options to grow and maintain their operations," said Rep. Finstad. "It is imperative that the limits on FSA loans align with the current challenges farmers and producers face today. I'm proud to reintroduce the PACE Act, which will provide farmers with certainty and make it easier to obtain the loans they need."

"Farming is volatile work, and our family farmers are often tasked with navigating uncertain conditions, whether that's periods of

low commodity prices or extreme weather events," said Rep. Craig. "That's why I'm working across the aisle with Rep. Finstad to help give Minnesota's farmers and producers the certainty they need to continue operating through challenging times. This bipartisan bill will bolster generational operations, while ensuring that new and beginning farmers have access to the resources they need to get their businesses up and running."

"It's essential that the loan limits in these programs reflect the real-world costs faced by our ag producers. Our legislation makes needed updates to these loans so they can properly meet the needs of farmers, and we will continue our efforts to pass it as part of the next farm bill," said Senator Hoeven, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee and a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

"Too many American farmers and producers operate on razor-thin margins. Having access to credit can often mean the difference between economic viability and financial hardship. By expanding credit opportunities for producers and farmers, this legislation will strengthen the rural economy across Minnesota and the country," said Senator Klobuchar, Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The PACE Act is supported by the Farm Credit Council, American Bankers Association, American Farm Bureau, American Soybean Association, American Sugarbeet Growers Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Barley Growers Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council, National Pork Producers Council, National Sorghum

Producers, National Sunflower Association, U.S. Canola Association, U.S. Beet Sugar Association, USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, U.S. Peanut Federation, USA Rice, Western Peanut Growers Association, Southwest Council of Agribusiness, National Pecan Federation, Midwest Council on Agriculture, Minnesota Farm Bureau, Minnesota Corn Growers Association, Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, and Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers.

"Ensuring farmers have access to capital that reflects today's cost of production is critical to keeping agriculture strong. The PACE Act is a commonsense update that will help producers secure the financing they need to grow and succeed. We fully support this effort and appreciate the bipartisan leadership driving it forward," said Dan Glessing, President of Minnesota Farm Bureau.

"Farm Credit extends its thanks to Representatives Finstad and Craig for reintroducing the Producer and Agricultural Credit Enhancement (PACE) Act, which would expand the Farm Service Agency's direct and guaranteed loan limits to match the rising costs of agricultural production. Agricultural producers depend on access to capital to grow and maintain their operations. For young and beginning farmers, in particular, accessible capital may be the difference between launching an operation or not. We look forward to collaborating with both representatives to include this essential legislation in the Farm Bill for the benefit of farmers and ranchers across the nation," said Farm Credit Council President and CEO Christy Seyfert.

Background:

Congressman Finstad and Congresswoman

Craig introduced the Producer and Agricultural Credit Enhancement (PACE) Act during the 118th Congress, and several of its provisions were included in the House Agriculture Committee-passed Farm Bill.

Specifically, the PACE Act would increase FSA Guaranteed Operating Loans from \$2.25 million to \$3 million, increase Guaranteed Ownership Loans from \$2.25 million to \$3.5 million, increase Direct Operating Loans from \$400,000 to \$750,000, and increase Direct Ownership Loans from \$600,000 to \$850,000. FSA's Operating and Ownership Loans are critical tools to ensure farmers have access to the financing needed to get started, expand their family's operation, or restructure with certainty.



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Annual Women's Ag Leadership Conference April 9, 2025

Network with agricultural leaders at the 27th annual Women's Agricultural Leadership Conference (WALC) on April 9, 2025, at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. This year's WALC theme, "Rooted in Agriculture: Cultivating Leadership; Growing Together", will focus on empowering participants to grow personally and professionally, ensuring a stronger and more resilient agricultural community.

"For many of our attendees this is the best one day event of the year as this unique event brings together people from all areas of agriculture to dialogue and network," said Doris Mold, conference co-founder. "Our program encourages connections and energizes and motivates participants to become leaders in their work and communities. We're also excited to offer two new pre-conference sessions, COMET and safeTALK, focused on giving participants the skills they need to support people struggling in their communities. The WALC is committed to promoting stress reduction and mental wellness in agriculture."

Attendees will be welcomed by Allison De-

plazes, a Minnesota 4-H Agriculture Ambassador, and Cora Martensen, a Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador. The general session panel, "Leading and Learning at Every Stage," features Jamie Dreher, Vice President, Business Banking Underwriting Manager, Agriculture Originations, U.S. Bank; Ashley Hagenow, 76th Alice in Dairyland, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; Barb Liebenstein, Co-Owner, Wolf Creek Cattle and Farm; and Friendly Vang-Johnson, Director of Government Affairs, Minnesota Farmers Market Association.

A highlight of the conference is the recognition of 2025's Outstanding Agriculture Mentors. This award is in its 23rd year and recognizes people who have been positive mentors and role models for people in agriculture, especially women. Nominations are open until March 19.

The day also includes two breakout sessions, mini-sessions focused on current topics, and an opportunity to learn about the Arboretum's new cafe, Rootstock, from Arboretum Culinary Lead Beth Fisher and Executive Chef Niki Heber.

Participants can choose from 10 different breakout topics:

Agritourism: Keeping Your Visitors, Your Animals, and Your Assets Safe

Forever Green Initiative: Creating Market Opportunities for Continuous Living Cover Crops

From Farm to Front Page: Personal Branding for Women in Agriculture

From Vision to Reality: Supporting Your Change Journey

Medicine Soup: Edible and Medicinal Plant for Every Day

Minnesota Demographic Trends

On-Farm Resilience: Responding to Changing and Extreme Weather Patterns

Relationship Building Across Agriculture: A Conversation Panel

Risk Busters: Uncovering the Hidden Threats to Future-Proof Your Business

The Latest on the Legislature: Agricultural Policy Updates

The conference is open to individuals with an interest in women's agricultural leadership regardless of gender, age, or affiliation. Register by March 28 for a discounted rate.

The Women's Agricultural Leadership Conference is made possible by Innovator

Sponsorship Partner – AgCountry Farm Credit Services; along with Major Sponsorship Partners – CoBank, Compeer Financial, Farm Credit Leasing, U.S. Bank; Sponsorship Partners – Minnesota Corn, Minnesota Farm Bureau, Minnesota Farmers Union, Minnesota Soybean Research Promotion Council, Minnesota State Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence; and many other conference partners and volunteers.

For the full conference brochure and more information, visit: <https://www.women-sagleadership.org/>. Please reach out to Doris Mold with any questions. She can be contacted at 612-414-7574 or doris@sunriseag.net.

To the Editor

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

To the editor,

As a rural Kenyon resident, a parent with children who attended Kenyon-Wanamingo Schools, and an educator, I am very concerned about the attempts of the Trump administration to close the Department of Education. This action will take away resources like student lunches and special education programming.

Some leaders in Washington are also pushing the proposed Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA). If enacted nationwide, ECCA would divert billions of taxpayer dollars from our public schools to subsidize private institutions. Public schools are already grappling with many budgetary and operational challenges. Voucher programs only worsen these issues, benefiting a privileged few while leaving low-income and rural students with fewer resources. In addition, Kenyon is a rural community. Travel to a private school would increase costs for families.

Public education is the foundation of a multiracial democracy. Our public schools also bind our community and allow us to forge life-long relationships. If we are serious about ensuring quality education for all students—not just the wealthiest—we must reject efforts to defund our public schools. I urge all of us in the Kenyon-Wanamingo District to tell Representative Brad Finstad to oppose private school voucher initiatives and invest in strengthening our public schools.

In honor of our excellent public school staff,
Susan B. Janicke - Kenyon, MN

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