

KENYON • WANAMINGO Messenger

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MAY 7, 2025

Volume 18 • Issue 9

INTRODUCING THE Class of 2025

(pages 12-16)

Announcements

- **2025 Syttende Mai Celebration**
May 16-28 (see ad on page 4)
- **4th Annual RSI Craft & Vendor Fair** Saturday, May 17 from 9am-3pm at 750 3rd Ave, Wanamingo.
- **All are welcome to breakfast, fellowship, bible study, and prayer time every Saturday morning at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon.** Breakfast and fellowship start at 8:00 am. Followed by a verse by verse bible study. Finishing with prayer time at 10:00 am. All are welcome (men, women, and children) each Saturday morning!! Any questions, please contact Loren Bauer: 507-450-6623.
- **Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Zumbrota, Mazzeppa, Goodhue, Pine Island, Kenyon and Wanamingo.** Receive a hot meal delivered to your home by a volunteer at lunch time up to 5 days per week. To qualify you must be 60 or older, live within city limits, have limited mobility and/or are unable to prepare nutritious meals. The suggested donation is \$5-\$10 per meal. For more information on how to sign up for meals or to be a volunteer driver, please contact Dana Bergner at 507-421-6067 or dbergner@threeriverscap.org (continued on page 2)

Fall In Love With Fitness

By Cheri Roshon

How many times have you wished you had a bit more time to take care of yourself? You know, like going for a walk in town, or on the Nature Trail, just to be outside enjoying yourself? Or maybe starting or getting back into a workout routine? I think many of us fill our days with taking care of others, or even taking care of "stuff". So how do we begin to get back to taking care of our Self? Well, Tina Leininger is a prime example of how to do just that. In her 20's, her life was filled with what a lot of us did as a priority...

having and raising her kids. As she got a little older, she realized that she needed to care for herself as well, and began a fitness routine, just for herself. Not sure exactly how to begin, she started with DVD's like The Biggest Loser, which then led her to other programs. "I started by changing what I was eating, and making it more nutritious," she said.

"Then I began moving my body more. Knowing that there are right and wrong ways to work out, I started my journey of learning HOW to move and eventually became a personal trainer." From there, she started walking, then progressed to a walk/jog interval pace, and eventually fell in love with running. With the idea of seeing if she could actually run a marathon, she set her sites on training, and after 4 months of determined training, she ran and completed her first marathon!

After that, her confidence soared, and she knew she could handle the hard stuff, with a plan and training. This made her realize that being a personal trainer was what she wanted to do as her career. (continued on page 5)



Rice County Steam & Gas Annual Flea Market & Swap Meet May 24 & 25

The Rice County Steam & Gas Show has announced their annual Swap Meet and Flea Market for May 24th & 25th.



(continued on page 10)

The Town of Bombay



By Cheri Roshon

I hope you all are enjoying this step back into the past of Goodhue County's beginnings. It has been a pleasure to unearth some of the names of our area's forefathers who are now passed. Many of the residents of this area will find their grand and great grandparents in these brief capsules of a time review. I hope the memories bring you joy!

(continued on page 6)



2025 Goodhue County Dairy Princesses

Chloe Sjoquist,
Jenna O'Reilly,
Natalie Clemenson

(2025 Goodhue County Dairy Ambassadors page 21)

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 11th • Serving 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

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The Future Is Bright!

By Pastor Larry Grove,
Hauge Lutheran Church, Kenyon

At the end of this month, young men and women will be graduating from high school all around this country. They will be leaving friends that they have spent years with and entering a new phase of life that, regardless of the path that they choose, will be exciting and often filled with wonder and apprehension.

My graduation day happened to land on my 18th birthday. The emotions that I felt that evening were all over the map. Excitement over what the future would bring my way coupled with the memories of teachers that had invested their time and efforts to pour knowledge and wisdom into my life flooded me with gratitude. The camaraderie with teammates that was fostered through all the sporting events over the years would prove to last a lifetime. The time to turn the page in my book of life had come. When I finally turned it over I found a clean, unmarked leaf that was waiting for me to fill it with the words in the next chapter.

Announcements

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

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

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

KENYON • WANAMINGO Messenger

Mainstreet Publishing Minnesota, Inc.

P.O. Box 125 Dennison, MN 55018

Phone/Text 507-649-3327

Fax 507-645-9878

www.kenyonmn.net

www.wanamingomn.com

E-mail:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Published in cooperation with
Mainstreet Publishing Minnesota, Inc.
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For advertising information call
Terry Campbell at 507-951-7417

We are blessed as a community to have a class of young people graduating this year that are special and unique in so many ways. Having watched this group over the years it is obvious that wherever they might land, that locality will be enriched.

As we look across the landscape of our country and see all the turmoil and division happening before us, I find great hope in the words of scripture. Isaiah 59:19b says, "When the enemy comes in like a flood, The

Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him."

It is my belief that the standard God is raising up is Godly young men and women. All around the world you can see young people taking a stand for Christ. My hope for this group is that they would join the ranks of those that are speaking out for morality and Biblical truth in the public square. Our country is in desperate need of warriors that are willing to be a part of that standard that God

is raising up against the enemy of truth and righteousness.

Please pray for these graduates and encourage them in their walk. Their future is bright and they are the hope we are passing the torch to.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Thomas

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

— John 20:24

I can understand Thomas's doubt. For whatever reason, he wasn't with the other disciples when Jesus first visited them after his resurrection, so he hadn't seen Jesus firsthand. Maybe he should have taken the disciples' word for it when they told him they had seen Jesus. Maybe he should have had more faith. Or maybe he was just an untrusting sort of person. Whatever the case, Thomas said he just couldn't believe Jesus was alive until he saw Jesus for himself.

When Jesus came again and Thomas could see him, Jesus was patient with Thomas. Jesus even showed Thomas what he said he needed to see in order to believe. But Jesus also noted that all who believe without seeing him will be blessed.

Today that includes you and me. Belief without seeing is the nature of our faith most of the time. We probably won't see Christ in person until we join him in eternity. Until then, though, we believe even though we have not seen.

We are called to have faith in Jesus for who he is, all he has done, and all he has promised. We believe because others have seen, because others have witnessed, and because their testimony is in God's Word to us, along with all of God's promises. We believe because the Spirit of God guides us into the truth of God's Word and gives us faith (see John 16:7-15; Ephesians 2:6-10). And in believing we are blessed.

Lord, help us to believe even though we have not seen. By your Spirit, lead us to know the truth that brings life in you. Amen.

DENNISON/VANG
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Pastor Paul A. Graham
(C) 507-269-5997 • Office: 507-645-6042
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You can join us for Worship online at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/167136242800>

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824-2155

WANAMINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH,
ELCA
130 West 3rd St., Wanamingo
824-2457

www.TrinityWanamingo.org
May 11: 9a.m. Sacred Space
10a.m. Worship
Happy Mother's Day

May 14: Baccalaureate Service at Gol 7p.m.
May 17: Syttende Mai
May 18: 9a.m. Sacred Space
10a.m. Worship with Holy Communion,
High School Senior Recognition
& WLC Congregational Vote
May 25: 9a.m. Sacred Space
10a.m. Worship

ASPELUND EMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
Rob Edwards, Pastor
429 County 1 Blvd, Kenyon
507-824-2307
www.emmanuelafic.org
9:00a.m. Sunday School;
10:00a.m. Coffee Time
10:30a.m. Worship Service

FIRST EV. LUTHERAN
D.J. Chatelaine, Pastor
309 Forest Street, Kenyon
507-789-5261
website: fickenyon.org
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.;
Noon-1:00p.m. Open Prayer Time,
1st Tuesday each month

GOL LUTHERAN
Joe Jorgensen, Pastor
507-838-2100
Sunday Worship 10:30a.m.



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

GOSPEL OF LIFE FAMILY CHURCH
Pastor Steven G. Roberts
www.gospeloflifechurch.org
2010 Jefferson Rd, Northfield - Sunday 10:30a.m.
507-259-2644
Wanamingo - Wednesday 7:00p.m.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Wheeling Twp) 19086 Jacob Avenue, Faribault
Gary Liker, Pastor • 507-330-0025
www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info
Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

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Mike Ahrens S.A.M.
Service 9am. Coffee hour follows @ 10 am
Sunday School 10:15 am

HAUGE LUTHERAN
Larry Grove, Pastor • 507-271-9761
302 Bullis Street, Kenyon
Sunday Worship 10:00a.m. with lunch following

LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
David Krinke, Pastor
16640 Hwy. 60 Blvd. • www.landslutheran.com
Wednesday 6:15 p.m.
Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. at Everson Park

STORDAHL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
ELCA
Pastor Kathleen Lowery
15049 Cty. 12 Blvd., Zumbrota • 732-5711
Sundays 10:30 a.m. Worship

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

MOLAND CHURCH
507-456-4242
Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.

NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
Gary Liker, Pastor
12 Maple Street • 507-330-0025
Worship 9:00 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Reverend Daren Flinck
429 4th Street, Kenyon • 507-951-1271
Worship 9:30 a.m.

KENYON UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
651-283-5754
Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck
Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.
Live stream on Yahoo

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Cory Rohlfing
Deacon Newell McGee
108 Bullis St., Kenyon
Sunday Mass 8:00a.m.; Wednesday Mass 5:00p.m.

NEW LIFE CHURCH
525 Beverly St., Wanamingo • 507-824-3019
10am Worship Service
office@nlcwanamingo.org
Website with online services which are live
at 10:00a.m. or can be viewed at anytime:
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37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN
Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 AM-8:30 PM
Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM-9:30 PM; Sunday 9:00 AM-8:00 PM
Bar Open Later
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Lloyd Norval Kunde

Lloyd Norval Kunde, 92, of Kenyon, MN, died on Friday, April 18, 2025, at United Hospital in St. Paul after a brief illness.



Lloyd was born in Goodhue, MN, on January 1, 1933, to Edward E. Kunde and Hilda A. (Berg) Kunde.



He graduated from Wanamingo

High School in 1950, but his school path took him to many locations including District 69 School, Goodhue Town School, Washington School in Red Wing, Dennison Grade School, Nerstrand High School, and finally Wanamingo High School.

While living in Dennison, he was active in the Boy Scouts and in later years, in FFA. He played football, basketball, and baseball all through his school years, including with the famous Dennison baseball team in the early 1950's. After his discharge from the Army, he was the catcher for the Kenyon baseball town team for a few years before switching to fast-pitch softball. After his playing career ended, he kept his hand in the game as a high school baseball umpire. He had a life-long love for all Minnesota sports teams.

He was drafted into the Army in 1955, and stationed at Andrews AFB Headquarters, 75th AFB Missile Battalion until his discharge in 1957. While in the Army, he had a close encounter with President Eisenhower when they ended up shopping in the same store on base. He was always proud that he was able to salute him in person. Lloyd also had the opportunity to play basketball with future Hall of Fame player, Cliff Hagan.

After high school, he helped on the family farm. On May 2, 1959, he married Evelyn A. Nelson at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon. They made their home in rural Kenyon and dairy farmed for 14 years before the farm was sold. At that time, he attended Dunwoody Institute and then opened K&M Plumbing, Heating, & Appliance Repair in Kenyon. He eventually went solo in the plumbing and heating business, later working with his son, David, until this retirement. Lloyd also sold monuments for over 40 years.

Lloyd is survived by his sons, David (Darcy) and Mark; daughter, Kathy, all of Kenyon; grandchildren: Brian Bartel of Zumbrota, Jennifer Kunde and her partner, Mike Wagner of Rochester, and Sage Kunde of Euclid, OH; great-grandchildren: Shontell, Joe, and Jaxson; great-great-granddaughter Juliet, all of Rochester; sisters: Elrene (Vince) Hamann, Adele Kunde, and Ilice Kunde, all of Minneapolis; sister-in-law, Peggy Nelson of Wanamingo; along with numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 64 years, Evelyn (Nelson) Kunde; son, Steven Kunde; brothers, Harlan and Donald; sister, Ilene; brothers-in-law: Alvin Berg, Robert Ullevig, Harris Nelson, and Roger Nelson; sisters-in-law: Carolyn Kunde, Stella Berg, Gladys Ullevig, and Henrietta Nelson; nephew, Gary Berg; and niece, Susan Berg.

A funeral service was held at 11 AM on Friday, April 25, 2025, at Holden Lutheran Church, rural Kenyon. Pastor Dustin Haider officiated. A visitation was held from 10 AM until the time of service. Lloyd was laid to rest at the church cemetery with full military honors.

Glen Eldo Albright

Glen Eldo Albright, 96, of Kenyon, MN, died Sunday, December 22, 2024 at Circle Drive Manor in West Concord, MN. Glen was born on the family farm, Cherry Grove township, Kenyon, MN on March 4, 1928, to Roger and Agnes (Lips) Albright. He was baptized and



confirmed at the Methodist church in Kenyon, MN. He attended country school through the 8th grade, Kenyon High School his 9th grade year but he had to quit school to help on the farm. At 17 he was hospitalized at Sister Kinney Institute in Minneapolis for polio. He met his wife to be, Connie Rud, through his sister, Fern, while in the hospital. On May 1948, they were married at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon. They made their home on the Lips family farm, just down the road from the Albright family farmstead, where they farmed for 10 years. Four children; Jeff, Jim, Carm, and Jon, were born to them during that time.

In the spring of 1958 Glen moved his family into Kenyon and started working for Clark Hardware. He also worked for a time at Jorstad Hardware while attending vocational school at nights to get his plumbing and heating license. He started his own business in 1962. Over the years each of his children had the opportunity to work with their dad. Glen retired from the Plumbing & Heating business in 1991. Glen and Connie had many home projects over the years; constructing a Santa, his sleigh and reindeer, a playhouse and backyard basketball court where many a youth spent time in a quick basketball pickup game or game of horse. Lights and benches insured that there were plenty of kids around, even after dark.

In 1952 Glen and Connie purchased a cabin on Roberds Lake, Faribault, MN. For 59 years the family spent their summers there. As the family grew with the births of Candy, Carrie and Jason, so did the size of the cabin; from 2 rooms to 7 rooms, garage with 1 bedroom apartment, carport with outdoor bathroom and laundry room. Glen's love for fishing started at a young age going fishing with his dad, then at their lake home, in Alaska and with son Jeff in Florida. His last fishing trip was this past October, fishing with son-in-law Dave, sons, Jason and Jon, on Roberds Lake.

Glen and Connie wintered in Arizona for 20 years. They traveled through the lower 48 and to Alaska many times to spend time with family. They also were able to travel to Hawaii, Spain, Morocco, England, Germany, Austria, and Yugoslavia.

Glen is survived by five children; Jeff (Debbie) Albright of Avon Park, Florida, Jon (Cher) Albright of Wasilla, Alaska, Carm

(Brad) Nesseth, Randy Braaten, Carrie (Dave) Stevenson, Jason (Leora) Albright all of Kenyon; 12 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and 2 great, great grandchildren, sister Betty (Stan) Johnson of Rochester, MN; nieces and nephews and first cousins on both the Albright and Lips side of the family.

Glen was preceded in death by his wife Connie in 2017, son Jim, daughter Candy, sister Fern Rud, brother Curtis Albright, brothers-in-law Glenn Rud, Hobe Lucas and sister-in-law Jean Lucas.

Glen donated his body to further the medical education and research mission of Mayo Clinic. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, July 12, 2025 at 11:00, visitation 10:00 at Hauge Lutheran Church, Kenyon, MN. Memorials are preferred to the Old Stone Church, Kenyon, MN.

Mariana Jo McDonald

Mariana Jo McDonald, 73, of Kenyon died peacefully at home surrounded by her family, on April 27, 2025. She was born on March 30, 1952 in Red Wing, the daughter of LeRoy and Shirley (Holmes) Foss. Mariana graduated from Kenyon High School in 1970.



She married Mike "Big Mac" McDonald on December 15th, 1973 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenyon.

Mariana could be found all around Kenyon working various jobs. She worked at Foldcraft, Johnson's Grocery Store, Great Lakes Hybrid and Motor Mart. She worked for Helds and drove school bus #2, lovingly known as Matilda, for many years and spent summer days with her hands in the dirt working at outdoor flower shops and raising her two children. Mariana began subbing for the Kenyon Post Office as a rural mail carrier for a number of years before she eventually was rewarded with a full time position. Her postal patrons loved her, leaving gifts regularly in mailboxes. She equally loved them, leaving cards, notes and gifts in their mailboxes, and always traveling with a bag of dog treats for her fur friends. Mariana was known to all as the "lefse lady" and spent many late nights and early mornings fulfilling requests for her Christmas bakings of lefse, rosettes and krumkake! Mariana enjoyed golfing, bowling, fishing, playing cribbage and euchre, and reading in her free time. When her first grandchild was born, all attention and spare time transitioned to being the best Granny Mac to her and the three more that would follow.

She is survived by her loving husband of 51 years, Mike, children Mandi (Sheldon) Lunde of Kenyon, Sam (JeanAnne) McDonald of Cannon Falls; four grandchildren, Arin Kylo and Adlee Lunde, Amanda and Coram McDonald; sisters Christine Foss, Julie (Bob) Miller, Theron Foss, and Ramona (Ken) Djernes; brothers and sisters in law Irene McDonald, Dan McDonald, David McDonald, John (Sherry) McDonald, Billy (Marsha) McDonald, Anne (Kelly) Mulford and Charlie Beatty. She is also survived by aunts and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Mariana is preceded in death by her parents, LeRoy and Shirley Foss, brothers Bill, Paul, Ted and Eric Foss; in laws Francis and Margaret McDonald, brother in law Paul Losen and sister in law Mary Beatty.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon. A celebration of Mariana's life followed the service at the Kenyon VFW, 601 2nd Street A, Kenyon, MN, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that considerations be given to various Kenyon community organizations of choice.

Mark Henry Kunde

Mark Henry Kunde, 63, of Kenyon, died on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at the Mala Strana Rehabilitation Center in New Prague, MN, after a lengthy illness.



Mark was born on August 8, 1961, in Zumbrota, MN. He was baptized and confirmed at Holden Lutheran Church.

Mark graduated from Kenyon High School in 1979, where he was active in FFA and as a member of the baseball team. After high school, he attended the University of Minnesota-Waseca.

Mark worked as a 911 dispatcher for Goodhue County and then moved to the Minnesota State Patrol Dispatch Office in Rochester in 1997, where he worked until his retirement in 2020.

He was united in marriage to Tammy Peterson in 1998, but they later divorced.

Mark was an animal lover from an early age and participated in 4-H and FFA. He loved showing sheep at the Goodhue County and Minnesota State Fairs. He was a member of the Kenyon Volunteer Fire Department for 10 years and enjoyed assisting with the annual smelt feeds. He also enjoyed golfing and watching the Twins and Vikings.

Mark is survived by his daughter, Sage Kunde of Euclid, Ohio; brother, David (Darcy) and sister, Kathy, all of Kenyon; nephew, Brian Bartel of Zumbrota; niece, Jennifer Kunde, great-niece, Shontell, great-nephews, Joe and Jaxson, and great-great niece, Juliet, all of Rochester; aunts, Elrene (Vince) Hamann, Adele Kunde, and Ilice Kunde all of Minneapolis; and Peggy Nelson of Wanamingo; along with many cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Evelyn Kunde; brother, Steven Kunde; as well as many beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 11:00 am. Interment will be at the Holden Lutheran Cemetery.

(obituaries continued on page 4)

Do You Have an Announcement?

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Obituary & Neighbors

Perry G. Weeks July 9, 1940 — April 18, 2025 Mantorville



Perry Gene Weeks, Former Zumbrota Mayor and Businessman, Dies at 84 Zumbrota, MN – Perry Gene Weeks, lifelong Zumbrota resident, former mayor, and retired owner of Bob Seely Ford, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 18, 2025 at Seasons Hospice in Rochester. He was 84.

Born on July 9, 1940, in Red Wing, Minnesota, Perry was the eldest of two children born to Clara and Philip Weeks. Raised on East Fourth Street in Zumbrota, he attended Zumbrota Public Schools and spent much of his life in Zumbrota.

As a boy, Perry delivered newspapers and worked at the Zumbrota Creamery. Perry also worked at the State Theatre operating the film projector and running the concession stand, where he developed a lifelong passion for popcorn—always made the proper way. He also loved making ice cream with his parents and bottling root beer with his Aunt Irene. These small joys, often shared with others, became part of his lifelong love for gathering friends and family together.

After graduating from high school in 1958, Perry met Diane Swee of Wanamingo. The couple married on July 9, 1960 and shared 64 happy years together. They raised four children, and Perry was a devoted father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather to a large and loving family.

Perry began working at Bob Seely Ford in 1960 doing bookkeeping and working in the parts department, but he found his true calling in sales where he quickly developed a reputation for honesty and integrity. He rose through the ranks to ultimately purchase the business in 1980. His leadership and personal touch helped grow the business while maintaining lasting connections with both his customers, and his employees, whom he deeply valued.

In addition to his business work, he served on the Zumbrota City Council and was later elected mayor. He was a charter member of the Zumbrota Volunteer Ambulance and was an active member of the local Lion's Club too. His commitment to the community through his public service and lasting involvement with both Lands Lutheran Church in Zumbrota and Zion of Amor Lutheran in Battle Lake earned him wide respect from the many people he knew.

Perry loved to travel—whether it was a honeymoon in Steamboat Springs, winter trips to Hawaii, or adventures in Europe and China, he was game to see the world and

learn about other cultures. But his greatest joy was time spent “Up North” on his beloved Ottertail Lake. The family’s annual summer trips to a rental cabin on Ottertail evolved into buying a cabin on the lake. When Perry sold the dealership, he and Diane built their dream home on Eldorado Beach Road, where they welcomed countless guests with smiles, stories, and always a delicious spread.

Perry is survived by his wife of sixty-four years, Diane; four children: Susan (husband Nick Briones) of Faribault, Tom (wife Peggy) of Kasson, Mark (husband Lee Curry) in London, Heather (partner Kenny Lorenz) of Cannon Falls, his sister-in-law Marilyn Kalass and brother-in-law Paul Kalass of Zumbrota, nine grandchildren; and a growing number of great and great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by

his parents Philip and Clara Weeks, his sister Joan Larson, his grandson Brandon Karsten and his brothers-in-law David Swee and Ronnie Larson.

Perry will be remembered for his warmth, humour, generosity, and an unwavering love for his family and community.

An evening of friendship will be held on Friday, May 9th at Mahn Funeral Home in Zumbrota from 5:00-7:00pm and a memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 10th at Lands Lutheran Church in Zumbrota. Service begins at 11:00am with visitation starting an hour before.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial donations be made to Lands Lutheran Church or Seasons Hospice in Rochester or simply by sharing a scoop of ice cream or a bowl of popcorn with someone you love.

Riverside Rendezvous & History Festival

Date/Times: Saturday, May 10 and Sunday May 11, 2025 – 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Location: North Alexander Park, 1816 2nd Ave NW, Faribault, MN 55021

Join the Rice County Historical Society for our first Riverside Rendezvous & History Festival on May 10 and 11, 2025 from 9-5 at North Alexander Park! This living history event is a chance to see the trades, tradition, and history of the 18th and 19th Century come alive before your eyes. Demonstrations include blacksmithing, leatherworking, candlemaking, and more. Musical acts include Hannah Flower, Curtis and Loretta, Skally Line, and the Roe Family Singers. Compete in special events like our Tomahawk Throwing Contest and Cane Pole Fishing Tournament, and see MN Jack Sparrow.



There will be food, fun, and games for the whole family! Get your tickets online at rhistory.org/rendezvous, at the RCHS History Museum, or at the gates. Adults entry is \$10, Children 6+ are \$5, and a Family Pass is \$30. Moms get in free on Mother's Day!



Syttende Mai Celebration

May 16th - 18th

Friday, May 16th

4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Lutefisk Dinner – Lands Lutheran Church**
(\$25.00 at the door - offering dine in seating and take out)

Saturday, May 18th

7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Wanamingo Community Center**
Pancake Breakfast - Lions Club

Wanamingo Community Foundation
appreciation booth at the Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast.

City Wide Garage Sales

Pick up flyers & maps at Area 57 or Security State Bank
beginning on Thursday, May 16th

Sign up for City-wide garage sale by Tuesday May 13th at City of Wanamingo, or Wanamingo Mutual Insurance Company. Or call/email Beth Smith at 507-824-2912 – b.smith@wgomutual.com



Saturday, May 24th

Katie Peterson Memorial 5K Walk/Jog/Run
Registration at 8:30 a.m. (\$25.00 entry fee)
Wanamingo Community Center
Race Starts at 9:00 a.m.



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Fall In Love With Fitness

(continued from page 1)

She wanted to help others gain the confidence and healthy living that she had found such joy in!

"Katie Peterson had started the 24/7 Workout Center, and hired me in 2014 as a trainer, and a few months later, a Fitness Manager. She showed me how to do the basic things to manage a gym, and it has been my passion ever since. I now know I can help others achieve their goals, and do it right!"

What some people don't know is that there is a right way and a wrong way to accomplish fitness goals. For myself, I also began working out after my kids were in school, and I had my lunch breaks to do something for myself. Since I owned and operated a health food store in my town, I thought joining the gym would be a good example to promote health and at the same time check out the trainer there. I learned first hand that a trainer, a good trainer, is necessary to do things right. My daughter wanted to join the gym, too, so I checked into it, and found that there were a lot of complaints about the current trainer. He was pushing the kids too hard, and many just quit, thinking they weren't good enough. So, I

joined his program to get experience with his methods. Well, let's just say that I found out some things that weren't kosher, and he was fired soon after. A new trainer was hired, and all was well at the gym again.

"When Katie passes away in 2019, I stayed and continued to manage the gyms, and coach personal training. I did this because she was not just my boss, but also my friend. Katie was an amazing businesswoman, and taught me how to do everything. I managed the gyms for another 5 years before Brent and I bought the gym from Corey. Brent was always on board. He was a huge supporter of this idea, especially after watching me run the business successfully for the past 5 years. When Corey approached me about this idea, I had put so much work into keeping the gym running, I just felt like this was something Katie would have wanted, so here we are!"

"My vision for the gym is to continue to grow my gym membership numbers. To help reach this goal, the Kenyon gym is getting a renovation in April. We'll be expanding the space and adding new equipment and classes. I also have big plans for the Wanamingo Gym. We have reduced the minimum age of membership to 14, with an adult supervising until age 15 so that the kids can learn how to stay fit and have fun. The Kenyon Gym will be about 400 square feet bigger. We will be moving the cardio area to the new part of the gym, and adding rubber flooring, turf, new paint, updating the bathroom, and adding more strength equipment."

The facade in Kenyon was updated last year, and Wanamingo will get a facelift this spring/summer. Tina is also working with ac-



quiring a yoga teacher to add classes to both gyms. She currently has Silver Sneakers classes at both locations. Wanamingo classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 9:45 am, and Kenyon classes are at the same time, but on Wednesdays and Fridays.

If you know Tina and Brent, you know that they are very involved in our community. Brent has been a member of the Lion's Club for almost 20 years, and Tina a member for over 10 years. Tina has been a member of the Commercial Club for the past decade, and is the Secretary for the Kenyon Commercial Club.

"Community involvement has been very important to both of us since moving to Wanamingo almost 20 years ago," Tina adds. "Every year around Katie's birthday I host a 5K walk-jog. The money raised helps support a scholarship for a K/W student who will go to college for Nutrition or Exercise Science. This year it will be May 24th at 9 am. We start at the Community Center. The cost is \$20.00. This is a special time for Katie's family and friends to get together and share their memories, and all are welcome to join us."

"I'm really excited to offer an amazing space for local residents to become healthier versions of themselves," Tina said. So, come in and check out the gyms and envision the



remake about to happen, and think about how improving your health can feel!

We will continue our journey with Tina and Brent as the changes occur and we'll have some great before and after pictures in our next article, when the renovations are done! There will be a few Open Houses for you to check it out this spring/summer. Be well, and by all means, stay healthy!!



Class of 2025

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and good luck in
every future endeavor.



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The Town of Bombay

(continued from page 1)

Third on our list of "ghost Towns" is the only entirely new village founded in Goodhue County in the 20th century. Named Bombay by the railroad company that erected a depot there in 1903, the last major railroad construction in this county was by Milwaukee Railroad. This was an extension of the railway from Wabasha to Zumbrota in 1878 by Minnesota Midland's narrow-gauge line. The new line went from Zumbrota to Faribault and took 25 years after the completion of the Wabasha/Zumbrota line to bring to fruition. The grading for the line began in 1901 after extensive discussions about the most desirable route and the surveying of the land in question. Track was laid in 1903, and the trains were able to carry both freight and passengers from town to town. Another depot was built in Kenyon, and two more in Rice County in the towns of Ruskin and Epsom. Now, there was plenty of growth in this area of development. Hader area had built a small

community with general stores, a cheese factory, a mill and a few other businesses, and was prospering. An interesting side note is that because of the location of this line, both Wanamingo and Bellechester moved to new locations to be on the route.

When the Bombay Depot was built, the L. M. Loomis Company from Minneapolis decided to build a grain elevator near the depot. Not long after, the Milwaukee Elevator Company also built an elevator in the vicinity. Both companies began taking in grain in 1903. About the same time, the railway went into business.

The next spring, John Otterness along with Marcus and Jonas Charlson who had conducted business in Sogn, opened a general store just north of the Loomis Elevator. Established farmers in the area wanted a cheese factory in the area as well, but it took many years for that dream to come true.

By the way, nobody I spoke to and in no records of the past is there a solid explanation as to why Bombay was the name given to a small town in a mostly Norwegian area. Speculation was that possibly one of the railroad's managers came from Bombay, New York, or it was chosen randomly as a tribute to a town in India. The owner of the land the railroad passed through was John Davidson, and some of the people in the area petitioned

to name the town Johnson, or Davidson, but that never happened. The people finally gave up trying to change the name, and to this day it remains.

A small freight shed was constructed as the first "depot" in Bombay, but in August of 1904, the new town was booming, and the railroad company announced they would replace it with a larger shed. The new depot was 16' by 36', and 14 feet high. There was an office and a waiting room on the west side and express and freight rooms on the east side. The Charlson brothers and John Otterness handled the freight business there for a while.

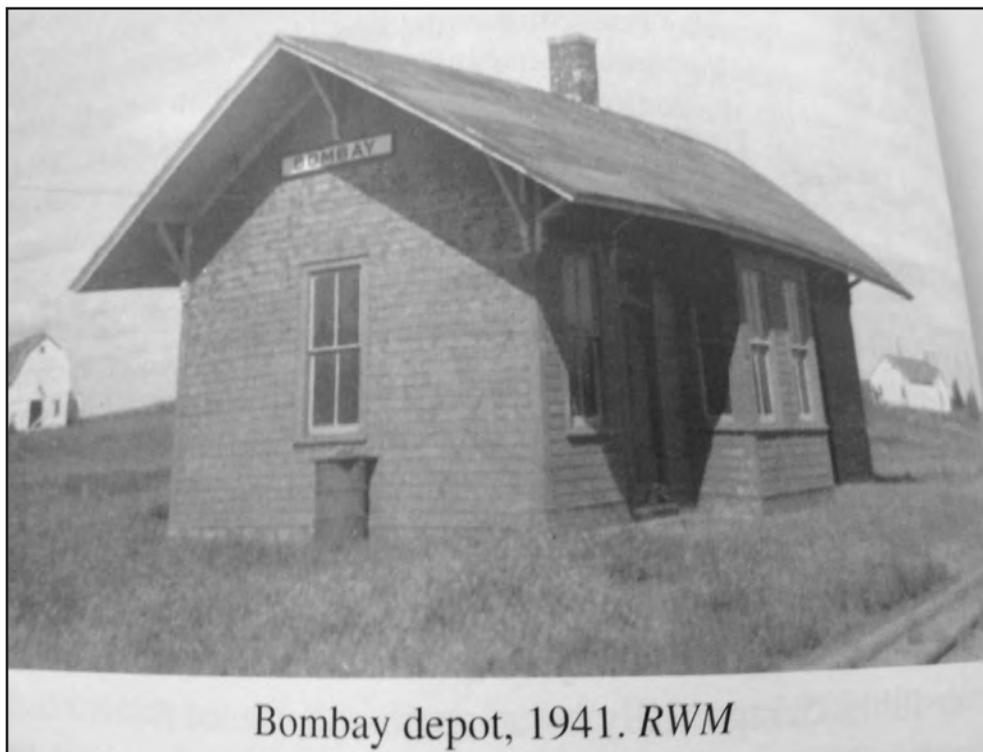
The elevators enjoyed a thriving business, and local farmers wanted to form a cooperative and purchase one or both elevators. Negotiations began in 1906, but it wasn't until 1909 that they finally formed a cooperative and purchased the Loomis Elevator. The new Bombay Farmers Mercantile and Elevator Company organized in April of 1909 was able to purchase the Loomis Elevator with \$10,000.00 in capital. They made O.J. Wing its first President, R.H. Wickum was the Vice President, Helmer Voxland the Secretary, and John Davidson the Treasurer. By the end of 1909, the co-op had also purchased the Milwaukee Elevator, as well as a lumberyard. In 1916, the elevators were moved closer together for convenience and remain there to this day.

1909 was also the year the Bombay Cheese Factory started operations with Dave Kunz, a cheesemaker from Pine Island, who opened and ran the factory until 1913. Later it was run by the firm of Sherz & Heigle. The farm-

ers and organizers of the elevator co-op purchased the factory and organized the Bombay Dairy Company for \$3,000.00. The Cheese Factory was never very profitable and closed in 1920. The Bombay Dairy Farm is now a 2 generation family business run by Wayne Lexvold.

Other changes were also happening. In 1908, John Otterness bought out his partners the Charlson brothers and ran the Bombay store by himself for the next 4 years.

(continued on page 7)



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- A mother is the link to a higher power.
- She is the possessor of faith.
- A mother is a watchdog.
- She is a sanctuary open twenty-four-seven.
- A mother is every holiday.
- She is the mistress of magic.
- A mother is gentle.
- She is the caress of tenderness.
- A mother is and will always be so.

Happy Mother's Day,
Moms everywhere.



May 11, 2025

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The Town of Bombay

(continued from page 6)

In April of 1912, he sold it to Michael Davidson, son of John Davidson, and also one of the incorporators of the Bombay Dairy Company. Although many people ran the store, it remained in the Davidson family until it closed. In 1913, the Wanamingo firm of Swanson & Roe bought the lumberyard, and Charles O. Roe came to manage it and the elevators.

Bombay reached its peak during World War I, between 1914 and 1918. In 1919, William Shepard of Kenyon was able to buy enough stock in the elevators to be the major shareholder, and appointed his son Frank the manager. Frank remained as long as the corporation existed. In 1924, the elevators could no longer support its operations and were sold to Fleischmann Malting Company of Red Wing, who kept the management local. When the company was moved to Skyberg, Martin J. Ruud succeeded Frank as manager, and with his son Arnold, also ran the store. His daughter Mabel was the store clerk.

The Cheese Factory closed down in 1923 and the building was sold to Ole Yngsdal who opened a garage and ran it until 1939 when his brother Elmer took over until it was no longer profitable. The building was torn down in 1997.

In 1927, Carl Langness took over management of the Bombay store and his wife Signora and her sister ran it for the next 3 years. In 1930, due to a decrease in business because of the Great Depression, the store closed, selling its inventory at a 10% discount. That same year, the Bombay depot was suspended as railroads everywhere were retrenched. D.D. Day remained on as custodian for the next 15 years.

Despite blows to the economy, Bombay remained. In 1932, a road was constructed between Zumbrota and Faribault and passed by the Bombay Store. As traffic increased, Michael Davidson restocked and opened the store. From that time until its closing in 1992, the Davidsons kept the store open. It was managed by Claremont and Esther Skillestad for the last few years. I remember my grandpa Clarence Carlson going to Bombay to sit with the local farmers who would gather to have coffee and pass the time playing cards and talking about the events of the day. The Bombay Store is now a residence owned by Obert and Kathy Flikke.

In 1944, Fleishmann sold the elevators to Commander Elevator company in Minneapolis, a division of what is today Archer Daniels Midland. The Farmers Union Grain Terminal Ass'n acquired the elevators in 1960, operated it until 1990. It was sold, and has had several owners since then. The depot stood until 1941. In 1979, the Milwaukee abandoned the Zumbrota line, and Bombay lost the railroad that brought it to be.

Currently Bombay still has the elevators, the dairy, and 5 homes, including the former store, so it is not officially a ghost town. Sur-



prisingly enough, it never had a post office because it was founded about the time of the RFD (Rural Free Delivery). A sign along the highway shows motorists where a town once stood.

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Empowering Small Minnesota Cities (ESMC) Program Kenyon Selected as a 2025 Participant

We're excited to announce that the City of Kenyon has been selected to participate in the Empowering Small Minnesota Cities (ESMC) program in 2025!

Established by the State of Minnesota during the 2023 legislative session, the ESMC program is designed to support small communities—defined as those with fewer than 15,000 residents—by increasing their capacity to develop resilient, sustainable, and adaptable infrastructure projects.

The program is collaboratively led by several partners at the University of Minnesota, including:

- Center for Transportation Studies
- U of M Extension Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships
- Minnesota Design Center
- Humphrey School of Public Affairs
- Center for Urban and Regional Affairs

Additional researchers will be engaged based on each community's needs.

While the ESMC program does not provide direct funding, it offers participating communities access to University of Minnesota

teams who help develop and strengthen project ideas, laying the groundwork for future competitive funding opportunities.

Depot Park Revitalization

Based on input from the Urban and Regional Studies Institute at Minnesota State University, Mankato, the revitalization of Depot Park was identified as a high-priority initiative by Kenyon residents.

Key community goals for Depot Park include:

- Bringing the park into ADA compliance
- Increasing shaded areas for comfort and usability
- Introducing a walking path to enhance accessibility
- Upgrading existing amenities and adding new features to serve people of all ages and abilities

Depot Park is a historic and central space in Kenyon, and these improvements are intended to make it a more welcoming and inclusive gathering place for the entire community.

Citywide Trails Initiative

In addition to park improvements, the Kenyon Park Board conducted an online community survey in 2024. Results showed that 71% of respondents believe developing trails throughout Kenyon should be a major focus.

This initiative aims to:

- Create safe, accessible pathways that connect neighborhoods and key locations
- Promote active living and recreation
- Unite all areas of the city through a thoughtful, connected trail system

Enhancing the trail network will support the

health, safety, and connectivity of our residents—now and for generations to come.

What's Next?

We'll continue to keep you updated about the ESMC process and its benefits to Kenyon. As opportunities arise for community involvement, we encourage residents to take part and help shape these exciting projects.

Stay tuned, Kenyon—your voice matters and your involvement in this process starting in June will help build a stronger future for all.

For more detailed information check out the link below.

<https://www.cts.umn.edu/programs/empoweringcommunities>

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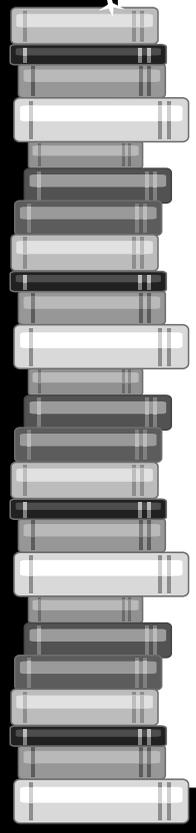
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NOBLE KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK FOR APRIL 25, 2025

Front Row: Ulises Quintero Murillo, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Renata Serna Aguilar, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Ruby Caron Ross, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Milo Feist, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Harper Little, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Jaxon Johnson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Kiley Hedeon, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Lily Cordes, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Tarynn Houglum, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



NOBLE KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK FOR MAY 2, 2025

Front Row: Jackson Falenschek, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Winslow Kruse, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Mabel Eggert, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Raelynne Westlund, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Scott Hogy, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Fabian Smith, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Luka Noney, Gr. 3, Mr. Joel Olson; Hudson Kruger, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Gretta Haugen, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

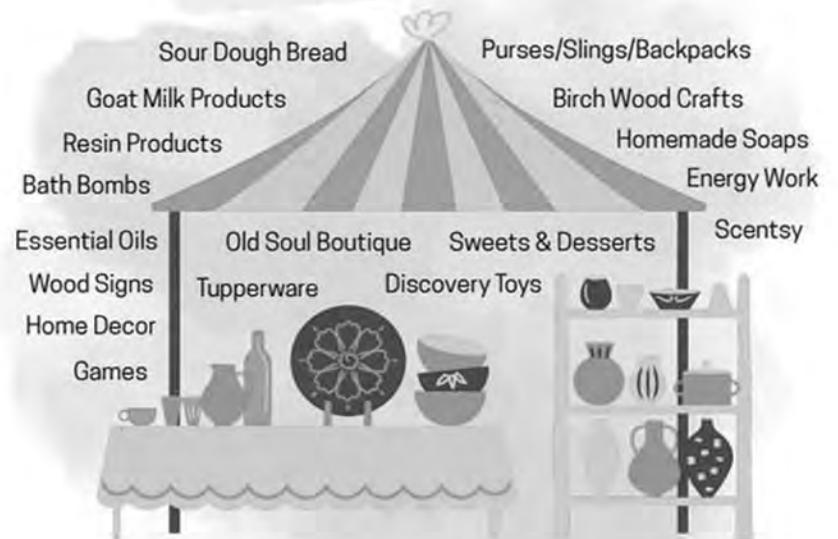
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- Striped German
- Big Beef
- Cherokee purple
- Early Girl
- Brandywine

- Basil
- Parsley
- Patio Baby Egg Plant
- Bush Cucumbers
- Marigolds
- Zinnias
- Hanging Baskets and more



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Rice County Steam & Gas Annual Flea Market & Swap Meet May 24th & 25th

(continued from page 1)

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Russ Franek & The Biscuits

7:00PM-Midnight

Saturday Schedule of Events

- 8-11a.m. **All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast** Under Mainstreet tent. Hosted by Nerstrand-Dennison Fire Dept., and Dennison Community Church. \$12 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 & under, 3 & under FREE. Includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, juice, milk
- 8a.m. **Farmers Market Downtown**
Citywide Garage Sales
Classic Car Show on Mainstreet Presented by Clutchmen Car Club. Registration \$10. Trophies at 1p.m. Contact Jason Aldorfer 612-203-4172
- 8:30a.m. **Euchre at Fireside Lounge** For information, contact Jen Eggum 507-649-0602
- 9:00a.m. **Scavenger Hunt - \$100 Cash Prize!** Meet and sign up at the tent. Hunt will begin at 9am.
- 10a.m. **Antique Tractor Pull Begins on the Hill** Sign up begins at 8:30a.m.
Cow Milking Contest Main Street, hosted by David Flom Dairy
- 11a.m. **Food Stands Open**
Kids Pedal Tractor Pull on Mainstreet (At Mainstreet intersection) Sign up begins at 10:30a.m.
- Noon **Kids Bingo** Under the tent. Presented by Dennison Lions. Ages 3-11
Kickball Tournament Hosted by 625 Bar & Grill. Sign up at 625 Bar & Grill
- 1:00p.m. **Car Show Trophies Awarded**
- 1-3p.m. **Kids Carnival**
- 1:30p.m. **Parade Downtown - A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade** (Ages 12 & Under)
\$100.00 Prize for Best Parade Entry! Sign up at Noon. South Mainstreet. Call 507-645-9992
- 2:30p.m. **625 Bar & Grill Bags Tournament - Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place!** Sign up at 625 or call 507-782-9061
- 4:00p.m. **Purse & Gift Card Bingo** Presented by Dennison Lions & Fireside Lounge
- 6:00p.m. **Pie Eating Contest - \$250 Cash Prize!** Under the tent. Sign up at 625 Bar & Grill
- 6:30p.m. **Key Toss - \$150 Cash Prize!** Across from Fireside Lounge
- 7:00p.m.-12a.m. **Live Music - Russ Franek & The Biscuits** 18+ event. No Cover Charge. 21 to drink. Presented by ProBuilt Construction and Fireside Lounge & Supper Club

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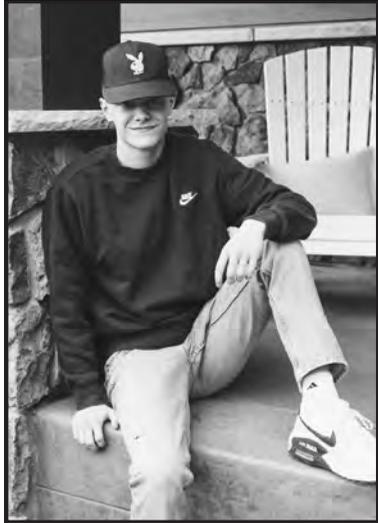
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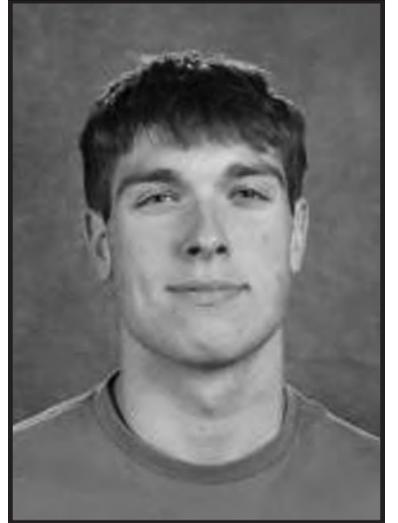
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Graduation**
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point for the next leap forward."
Harvey Mackay

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CLASS COLORS: Purple
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The Life-Changing Benefits of Working at a Christian Summer Camp



By Emmarie Moon
Director of Discipleship
and Recruiting at Camp Victory

Every summer, my job is to convince young adults to trade traditional internships or seasonal jobs for something more meaningful: working at a Christian summer camp. While camps are known for offering children and teens a place to grow in faith, friendships, and

fun, the staff behind the scenes often experience just as much—if not more—personal and spiritual transformation. Whether you're considering it for the first time or returning for another summer, there are many reasons why working at a Christian camp might be one of the best decisions you ever make.

1. Spiritual Growth

At a Christian camp, faith is woven into the daily routine—through morning devotionals, chapels, small group discussions, and prayer. As a staff member, you're not just facilitating these activities for campers; you're also participating and growing spiritually alongside them. This experience deepens your relationship with God and strengthens your ability to lead others in faith.

Being responsible for the spiritual guidance of young campers is a humbling and formative role. You'll learn how to lead Bible studies, pray publicly, and share your testimony. These are valuable skills that will serve you in church, school, and future leadership positions.

2. Building Lifelong Friendships

The bonds formed at camp are often among the strongest you'll ever make. Living and working in close quarters with like-minded peers—often through late nights, challenging days, and incredible highs—creates a unique environment for authentic connection. Many staff members leave camp with friends who feel like family and a support system that lasts long after the summer ends. This is the most common reason why staff come back to work at Camp. They love the community.

Even after moving states and into my young adult years, I am still friends with people I worked at camp with eight summers ago. From different states, weddings, kids and jobs, the bonds formed at camp are strong.

3. Making an Eternal Impact

Few jobs give you the opportunity to make such a direct and lasting impact on someone's life. As a counselor or staff member, you're a role model, mentor, and spiritual guide to the campers in your care. Whether it's through a late-night conversation by the campfire, a moment of prayer, or simply being a consistent source of kindness and encouragement, your influence could help shape a young person's faith for life. This is the reason many campers return to camp to work on staff, their life was impacted by a summer staff member and they want to give that experience to campers too.

4. Developing Real-World Skills

Christian camps provide hands-on training in areas like communication, conflict resolution, teamwork, time management, and adaptability—the top 5 most sought-after skills in the workplace. From organizing events and leading activities to handling unexpected situations, the job pushes you to grow in confidence and competence. A camp alumni and area school principal says this of camp staff: "When you see camp experience on an applicant's resume you pay attention. Camp staff are energetic problem-solvers, and the ultimate team players. They have an attitude of joy that comes from serving a higher purpose. That skill set raises their ap-

plication to the top of the list."

Plus, many camps offer certifications in areas like first aid, lifeguarding, or ropes course instruction, which can be valuable resume additions for jobs beyond the summer.

5. A Break from the Digital World

Unlike many jobs that revolve around screens and office spaces, working at a camp immerses you in nature and face-to-face interaction. The simplicity of camp life—free from technology and distractions—gives you space to reflect, connect with others, and be fully present.

Final Thoughts

Working at a Christian summer camp is more than just a job—it's a calling and a journey of transformation. It challenges you, grows you, and blesses you in ways few other experiences can. Whether you're drawn by the opportunity to lead, grow in your faith, or serve others, one summer at camp could leave an eternal mark on your life—and the lives of others.

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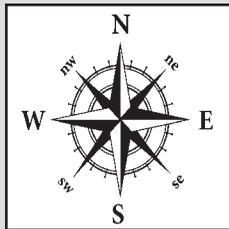
SUMMER CAMP 2025





Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

My First Mini Bike



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.

Growing up a farm boy, I was intrigued by anything with an engine. Tractors, combines, swathers, skid loaders, etc. Grease and gasoline smelled wonderful to me. And diesel fuel smoke was the best. So, anything that was not foot powered had my attention. My dad had a Harley-Davidson Type 74 before he had a family, so maybe the idea of a two-wheeler was in my blood.

In the 1960's many companies made mini-bikes. Basically, made of a leftover lawnmower engine and wheels. But they were fun to zoom around on. I already had horse, but

a mini-bike didn't require any feed when not in use. One day I looked at the hardware flyer from Beaver's Hardware in Kasson, and there was a new in box minibike for sale that week. My father took me in and we ordered it. I was so excited and couldn't wait for it to come. I had heard that some people go to the factory to see their vehicle assembled and I got to do the next best thing. I convinced him to let me ride along in the truck to bring it back.

My dad would drive a large cattle truck to the twin cities to haul freight back to the local retailers when he wasn't busy farming. I loved to ride along with him whenever I could. He would load livestock at local farms and deliver the cattle or hogs to the South Saint Paul Stockyards. Next the truck box was blasted clean with a high-volume water hose at a truck wash. Then he would drive all over the twin cities loading on freight for Kasson and Rochester retailers. It was so much fun to ride from warehouse to warehouse getting the truck filled with huge boxes. Every week there was a shipment hauled back to the hardware stores in Kasson. There was the Gambles Store, Erickson's Our Own Hardware and Beavers Hardware.

The shipment was rather anti-climactic. Except for a small picture on the side, one wouldn't know what was inside the large brown cardboard box. It was partially disassembled and completely in a box. And we still had to bring it home from the store and unpack it. Once the handle bars were installed, oil added to the crankcase and fuel tank filled, it was ready. A couple pulls on the recoil start and it roared to life.

I drove that mini bike all over the farm. In the woods, through the creek and out to the



field. It crossed the river and went up every hill just to prove it could be done. My dad was quite the stickler for obeying the law and explained that I must get off and push the mini-bike across the highway. It wasn't street legal and I was expected to abide by man-made rules. At least when he was watching, anyway. But that smooth asphalt road was so much better to ride on. If I looked both ways and there was nothing approaching, I would head right down Highway 57 to the field drive, instead to riding down the road ditch.

Soon I learned a few things about that little gas engine. I still have a scar on my wrist from where I touched the exhaust pipe as I checked the oil on a hot engine. I also discovered that touching the spark plug while the

engine was running was a shocking experience. I could override the governor and that little 3 1/2 horse power engine would double the top end speed. I would just put my foot up and push governor over and that thing would fly. I never thought about the little Tecumseh engine flying apart from the high rpm's. Coming back down the field drive I felt like I was flyin'.

One day I was heading back from the hog barn and I realized too late that the electric fence gate was closed at the driveway. I locked up the brake and laid the mini-bike down, sliding right under the wire. To my amazement I came back up on two wheels and continued on. That little blue mini-bike gave me hours of fun as a kid.

A Minnesotan: Mother's Day



By RosaLin Alcoser

May is here which means Mother's Day is once again upon us. I for one am looking forward to spending time with my own mother this Mother's Day.

Now that we're adults my mom generally spends one year with me and the other with my sister. Partly to be fair, but mainly because we live in two different states with Iowa in the middle. So unless one of us travels to the other she only gets to see one of us at a time. And she always insists on coming to us. I think it is mainly a ploy to get us to take her out to different ice cream places then she has where she lives. Which is besides the point.

These days mother's day typically means I take my mother out to brunch if she's visiting me or sending her something I know she'll enjoy if she's with my sister. But when I was little it meant making cards, little tinkety things that we picked out for mom and homemade gifts. My mom even

has a couple of the tissue paper flowers I made for her one year.

However, every once in a while when I was a child we would get her a nice gift. Which often meant doing something with my older sister or our dad getting involved. I was probably about eight the year I decided to get her a really nice gift all on my own.

After months of saving up to buy her something really nice. I managed to talk my dad into taking me into town to buy mom's Mother's Day gift at the JC Penny in Rochester. Where I picked out a pair of tiny opal earrings for her; which she still wears every Mother's Day.

I picked those earrings out from the jewelry counter at JC Penny's. Not from one of the display tables, from the counter. I looked into the case and told the lady working the counter which ones I wanted to buy. Then I paid for them all by myself.

Those earrings cost eight year old me about \$30; which is a lot of money if you're an eight year-old circa 2005. But I was so excited to give them to her, because I bought them myself without any help from my dad or older sister.

While taking my mom out to brunch doesn't have the same thrill of giving her my first big deal gift I had bought her myself. I am still looking forward to getting to spend this Mother's Day with her.

Happy  MOTHER'S DAY!



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Garden Tractor Pull Returns Friday Night and Russ Franek & The Biscuits to Perform Saturday



The annual Dennison Days Festival takes place Friday and Saturday, June 20 & 21, 2025.

The Gopher State Garden Tractor Pullers will return to Main Street Friday evening in Dennison, hosted by 625 Bar & Grill. More information

is available at www.gsgtp.com. Following the Pull, 625 will host live music.

The Kids Pedal Pull returns Saturday morning this year and will take place on Main Street at 11 AM Saturday morning as part of a full day of events during the festival.

Live Music Saturday evening from local

The Power of Poetry

By Tyler Weeks



Poetry has a peculiar effect on everyday life. Whether it's one of Shakespeare's convoluted sonnets or a heartfelt message to a loved one, it's hard to argue against poetry's use as a means of expression.

Anne Haynes Few individuals in the southern Minnesotan area have used this art form as effectively as Anne Haynes, who recently compiled several poems into a book for charity. Since her early beginnings on a Nerstrand farm, Anne used writing to extinguish the fear and worry she felt as a kid. As her knack for writing continued to develop, she proceeded to write poetry and plays as early as the 4th grade, though not without difficulties.

Because of the many health problems surrounding her and her family, she found it difficult to continue writing amidst diabetes and multiple kidney transplants.

However, these setbacks would not thwart her dream of publishing her book, *Bees in the Lavender: Reflections of a Life*, to raise money for charity. Below is just one of its many poems, followed by the incredible details behind Anne's story.

Swirling, twirling, windswept leaves.

Dancing, floating on the breeze.

Browns and golds blanket the grass.

Earth's insulation against winter's mass.

Before writing this and many other poems, Anne grew up on a farm near the Valley Grove Church in Nerstrand, Minnesota. Fueled by her childhood fears and worries, she began writing snippets of poetry wherever she could. Whether it be her father's old milk slips, paper towels, or chalkboard, nothing was out of the question. Her first poem was written in the 4th grade when she stopped to admire her family's creek. As if the beginning of a grand domino chain, this small step led to further poems and eventually a play for her town's elementary school. It soon attracted the attention of Nerstrand's elementary school principal, Mr. Nelson, who allowed her to gather student actors and practice after class. To her 9-year-old self, the situation was quite ordinary, but a college professor later told her how unusual it was for a 4th grader to have written a short play. It would later go live for Minnesota's Parent-Teacher Association. Realizing her skill, her parents supported her every step of the way, buying supplies and allowing her to enter a local writing contest.

Anne Haynes: "My dad promised me, 'If you win this contest, I'll buy you a typewriter.' And so, at the table of our big family Christmas party, I wrote about how friends often seem more important than our parents as a teenager. At the end of the story, however, I realize the truth after seeing my mom and her 'soft aging cheeks' prepare for Christmas from outside. She loved the story, and I ended up winning the contest and getting that typewriter from it!"

(continued on page 22)

BEES IN THE LAVENDER

REFLECTIONS OF A LIFE

BY ANNE HAYNES

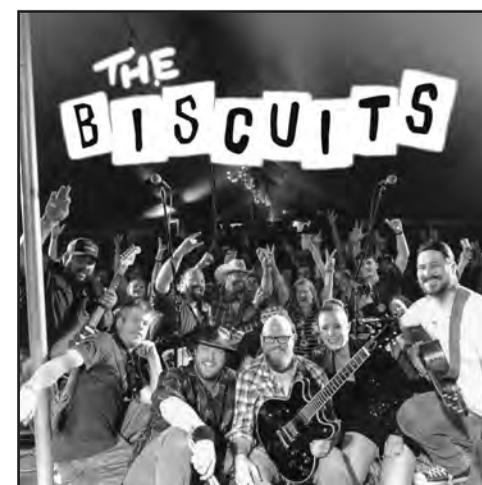


Andy Tackett

band RUSS FRANEK & THE BISCUITS taking the stage with his full band Saturday evening.

A full schedule of events will be available soon at www.dennisondays.org.

Other events making a return this year are the Clutchmen Classic Car & Bike Show, An-



tique Tractor Pull, Bingo, Pancake Breakfast, Bags Tournament, Kids Bingo, Purse & Gift Card Bingo and more.

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

2025 Goodhue County Dairy Ambassadors



Leetta O'Reilly, Eleanor O'Reilly, Liesl Veiseth, Garrett Pearson, Hanna Gudknecht, Troy Clemenson

The Power of Poetry

(continued from page 21)

Unfortunately, her dreams of writing were not without their challenges. In later years, Anne faced ongoing diabetes, brain lymphoma, and issues with her kidneys. To remedy this, she underwent two kidney transplants and cases of sepsis, causing her to go on dialysis and put a hold on her dreams of poetry and theater. After a successful transplant left her without diabetes for two years, she used her newfound energy and health to write the play "Life in Motion." It aimed to connect organ donors and their families to those needing a transplant. Through the help of the volunteers they worked with, Life in Motion ran for six shows and attracted the attention of the late director of U of M's pancreas transplant program, Dr. Sutherland. With his help, she was allowed to perform a short version of the play at the U of M's Medical Center. Other playwrights have since performed and used it to create their own stories surrounding organ donation.

Although she bears responsibility for much

of their success, plays like The Newspaper wouldn't have been possible without the help of Anne's colleague Bob. When he flew by helicopter to receive a critical heart transplant, he recalled seeing "five Bobs" riding up to the hospital with him. Inspired by the story, Anne asked him for permission to use the story for the future "5Bobs" play that would eventually air at the Waseca High School. Since Bob's crucial transplant, Anne helped connect him with the EMT helicopter support that bore a part in his surgery. Even if it's just with a single sentence, being able to create moments like these is the only motivation she needs to continue writing. To her, the obvious next step from here was to achieve her lifelong dream of creating a book, but ongoing health issues continued to hinder the idea. With help from Libby Barth, however, she managed to self-publish a curated collection of some of her poems titled Bees in the Lavender: Reflections of a Life. Many of its pages take inspiration from Anne's family memories and hardships.

"During this time, I faced many unfortunate events. My brother Steven died on our farm; my parents left us; my dad had diabetes, and my mom suffered from Alzheimer's. But I realized what was necessary to enjoy life and haven't looked back! It's easy to let fear and worry can cripple you, but you must never give up. Ask God to show you the way, and

he will help you to try, try, and try again."

Only two years ago, Anne became completely deaf, but a recent cochlear implant has allowed her to hear once again. Despite her multiple health problems, Anne managed to do what many people don't. From a desire to learn and grow, she fulfilled her dreams and showed that limitations are simply perceptions. Beyond their entertainment, plays like Life in Motion act as a bridge to connect those needing critical transplants with the people kind enough to make it happen. Meanwhile, her poems directly support those

in need while reminding us of the beauty of nature and life. If Anne's incredible story has a silver lining, it's never to let anything stand between ourselves and our ambitions. Ultimately, poetry and plays can do much more than entertain; they have the power to change lives.

Anne is selling Bees in the Lavender: Reflections of a Life for \$10.00 each, excluding shipping, to help others. You can get a copy by contacting her at ahay2@outlook.com or 14750 Kendall Ct., Nerstrand, MN, 55053.



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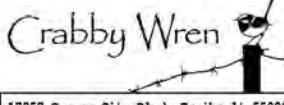
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The Savvy Senior How to Make Gardening Easier as You Age



By Jim Miller

*Dear Savvy Senior,
What gardening tips can you offer to older seniors? I love to putter around and work in the garden, but my back and knees have caused me to curtail my gardening activities, which I miss greatly.*

—Older Gardner

Dear Older,

There's no doubt that gardening can be hard on an aging body. Joints stiffen up, kneeling for prolonged periods hurts, and bending and reaching can strain muscles. But that doesn't

mean you have to give up your hobby. You just need to garden differently, add some special tools and know your limits. Here are some tips that may help you.

LIMBER UP

With gardening, good form is very important as well as not overdoing any one activity. A common problem is that gardeners often kneel or squat, putting extra pressure on their knees. Then, to spare their knees, they might stand and bend over for long stretches to weed, dig and plant, straining their back and spine.

To help protect your body, you need to warm up before beginning. Start by stretching, focusing on the legs and lower back. And keep changing positions and activities. Don't spend hours weeding a flowerbed. After 15 minutes of weeding, you should stand up, stretch, and switch to another activity like pruning the bushes or just take a break.

It's also important that you recognize your physical limitations and don't try to do too much all at once. And, when lifting heavier objects, remember to use your legs to preserve your back. You can do this by keeping the item close to your body and squatting to keep your back as vertical as possible.

LABORSAVING TOOLS

The right gardening equipment can help too. Kneeling pads can protect knees, and garden seats or stools are both back and knee savers. Lightweight garden carts can make hauling bags of mulch, dirt, plants or other heavy objects much easier.



And long-handled gardening tools can help ease the strain on the back by keeping you in a standing upright position versus bent over. There are also ergonomic gardening tools with fatter handles and other design features that can make lawn and garden activities a little easier.

EASIER WATERING

The chore of carrying water or handling a heavy, awkward hose can also be difficult for older gardeners. Some helpful options include lightweight fabric hoses instead of heavy rubber hoses; soaker or drip hoses that can be snaked throughout the garden; thin coil hoses that can be used on the patio or small areas; a hose caddy and reel for easier hose transport around the yard; and a self-winding hose chest that puts the hose up automatically. There are also a variety of ergonomic watering wands that are lightweight, easy to grip, and reach those hard-to-get-to plants.

To find ergonomic gardening tools and the recommended watering aids, check with local retail stores that sell lawn and garden supplies or try online retailers like Gardeners.com or RadiusGarden.com.

CONTAINER GARDENING

If your backyard garden has become too much to handle, you should consider elevated garden beds or container gardening – using big pots, window



boxes, hanging baskets, barrels or tub planters. This is a much easier way to garden because it eliminates much of the bend and strain of gardening but still provides the pleasure of making things grow. Trellises are another nice option that would allow you to garden vertically instead of horizontally.

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Dangers of Chewing Gum



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Sun Exposure: Natural sunlight plays a vital role in supporting overall health. Sunlight-derived vitamin D remains in the bloodstream two to three times longer than supplements, making it a more effective and sustainable way of maintaining optimal levels. When the sun's rays touch your skin, a cascade of benefits begins. Your body produces beta-endorphins, which are natural pain relievers and mood enhancers, helping to reduce stress and boost mental well-being. At the same time, sun exposure triggers the release of nitric oxide, a compound that lowers blood pressure and improves circulation, ultimately reducing the risk of heart disease. It's amazing how something as simple as a few minutes of sunlight can make such an impact on both your mood and your body.

However, the benefits of sunlight do come with a caveat—strategic and safe exposure is key. Overuse of sunscreen, for example, can block up to 97.5% of UVB rays, limiting your body's ability to synthesize sufficient vitamin D. While all natural sunscreen is essential for preventing sunburn and reducing the risk of skin cancer, it's important to balance its use with safe, unprotected exposure during low-UV hours, such as early morning or late afternoon. Experts recommend spending around 10–20 minutes in the sun a few times a week—just enough for your skin to kick-start the production of vitamin D without causing damage. Simple practices like this allow you to reap the benefits of the sun while staying safe.

The importance of sunlight becomes even clearer when considering longevity. Research shows that people who actively avoid sunlight often have a shorter lifespan compared to those who incorporate sensible sun exposure into their routine. Sun avoidance has been equated with the health risks of heavy smoking, serving as a stark reminder of how critical natural sunlight is for our bodies. Beyond physical health, the psychological impact cannot be overstated—whether it's the calming warmth of sunlit mornings or the sense of renewal that comes from a sunny afternoon, the sun has a way of nurturing both body and mind.

While soaking up the sunshine does wonders, remember that balance is crucial.

If you're fair-skinned or live in an area with intense sunlight, consider wearing hats or lightweight, protective clothing to prevent overexposure during peak UV hours. For deeper skin tones, slightly longer exposure may be necessary to achieve the same vitamin D benefits. The sun isn't just a source of light—it's a natural healer. Learning how to use it wisely not only enhances your health but also strengthens your connection to something that's been a part of life since the beginning.

Chew Gum? Recent research has revealed that chewing gum could be far more concerning than we previously thought, acting as a significant source of microplastic exposure. A study soon to be published in the *Journal of Hazardous Materials Letters* found that each piece of gum may release hundreds to thousands of microplastic particles into our mouths during chewing, placing it among the top contributors to microplastic exposure in everyday life. Microplastics, defined as tiny fragments of plastic smaller than a sesame seed, are all around us—in the water we drink, the air we breathe, and now, potentially, in something as routine as chewing gum.

The study, conducted by researchers at UCLA, observed that both synthetic and natural gum bases can release microplastics, especially in the first eight minutes of chewing. While the exact health implications of ingesting these tiny plastic particles remain unknown, the findings highlight another unsettling way microplastics infiltrate our bodies. It leaves us questioning whether this seemingly harmless habit could carry unforeseen consequences and sparks concern over what else we might unknowingly ingest as part of our everyday routines.

These findings underscore the urgent need

for closer regulation of materials used in consumer products like chewing gum, as well as a broader discussion about microplastic pollution and its pervasive role in our lives. While the full health impact is still unclear, studies like this remind us of the ongoing challenge of living in a world where plastic has become so deeply embedded in our daily experience. It's not just about chewing gum; it's about taking a step back and looking at how intertwined plastic is with the choices we make every day.

Chiropractic and Knee trouble: Chiropractic care for knee problems is often overlooked yet can be incredibly effective in addressing not just the symptoms but the underlying causes of discomfort. When the knee functions improperly, it isn't always just the knee that's to blame—it can stem from areas like the hips, lower back, or even foot alignment. Chiropractors focus on realigning the body to promote proper joint mechanics and reduce stress on the knee. I've talked to countless patients who initially thought their pain was "all in the knee," only to discover that subtle imbalances elsewhere in their bodies were the culprits.

One of my favorite aspects of chiropractic care is its ability to provide relief without invasive procedures. Techniques like gentle manual adjustments, soft tissue therapy, and targeted exercises work together to restore mobility and alleviate inflammation in the knee. I've seen patients walk out with smiles after realizing they could move more freely after months of being hindered by stiffness or pain. What's more, many report improved overall posture and balance, which further reduces strain on the knees in their daily



lives. It's amazing how a few adjustments can make such a difference.

Of course, every knee problem is unique, and that's what makes chiropractic care so personal and effective. I've worked with athletes recovering from ACL injuries as well as people in their golden years simply looking to stay mobile and active. Each plan is carefully tailored to the individual's needs, ensuring long-term support for their lifestyle. For me, it's about helping patients feel heard and cared for while guiding them toward a better quality of life—something that keeps me passionate about this field every single day.

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

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Dependent



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

There is a strong drive within many of us to be able to do an activity without the assistance of another. Perhaps this started when you discovered how much more of the world you could explore when you learned to walk, or maybe when you learned to ride a bike without someone holding on to you. As we move into May, many young people will graduate from school and take on new responsibilities and new adventures. We use phrases like “spreading their wings” and “gaining independence.” While it cannot be denied that knowledge and practice lead to new abilities, some reflection will note there are things we are dependent on that should not be forgotten.

Being dependent on something is not a sign of weakness. Recognizing what we are dependent on can give us greater clarity and wisdom on the essentials of life. For example, you are dependent on oxygen. We take this for granted until we get “the wind knocked out” of us, or when we find ourselves in a hospital bed with an oxygen mask. You are dependent on pure water. When you were born, your body was 70% water. How important that you keep pure water flowing through so that you do not become a “stagnant pond” growing all kinds of unhealthy things. The general guideline is half your body weight in fluid ounces, so a 200 pound individual should be drinking around 100 ounces of water a day, which is about 12 cups.

You are also dependent on vitamins and minerals. Most of the vitamins were discovered in science observations during the first part of the 1900s. They were first described

as “vital amines” noting the vital role these nutrients played in providing health and vitality. With each vitamin there is a list of deficiencies noted when the vitamin is absent in a person’s regular diet. Deficiencies point to our dependence on these essential nutrients. When Vitamin A is absent, you may notice night-blindness, or some kinds of skin disorders like eczema or psoriasis. When B vitamins are absent, you will notice mood swings, fatigue, or mental health challenges. When Vitamin C is absent, illness increases and sores develop in the mouth and on the skin. When Vitamin D is absent, illness increases, weight can increase, and insomnia can increase. These are just the beginning of the ABCs and Ds of vitamins.

Minerals are essential for a healthy immune response, promoting energy, and helping the body muscles to function properly. Most Americans do not consume enough magnesium each day. Magnesium is essential for helping you to relax as well as helping the body to produce energy. Zinc is used in more than 300 different reactions in the body, aiding the proper activation of the immune system and helping the digestive process. Iodine is the key mineral for the hormone produced by the thyroid that keeps your metabolism in balance. This mineral tends to be deficient in many clients living in the Midwest region. Minerals and vitamins work as a team to complete the perfectly designed function of your body.

Knowing you are dependent on vitamins and minerals for healthy living should help you to consider the best way to acquire these nutrients each day so that you can be more

independent on other activities. Will taking a multi-vitamin or mineral tablet work best for you? Can you identify those foods that are the best source for these nutrients and make sure to eat them regularly? You will note our great grandparents were strong and lived active lives without supplements, so getting your nutrients from food is possible. In today’s world of convenience foods and fast eating, the nutrient value has significantly declined requiring us to take a closer look at the sources of our food.

If you choose to take vitamin supplements to help maintain a healthy life, make sure to identify a quality supplement that obtains its vitamins from fruits and vegetables. There should be ingredients listed that mention fruits and vegetables on the nutrition label. A simple test on the quality of the supplement is to place a tablet in a glass of water and return one hour later. If the tablet has fallen apart in the water then it is a tablet your body can easily absorb. If the tablet has not fallen apart and remains whole there is a chance you are not getting any nutrients from that vitamin.

I am available to review your questions about supplements, testing, and food plans. Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. I can help you realize greater health freedom in 2025. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

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

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Thanks Mom

I had a mom but didn't really appreciate the importance of having one in the house. Google was foggy with its answer. I surveyed several strangers to forward the results to the Merriam people. To be certain of my data, I surveyed only people who had had one. Seven refused to answer question number six. Can you believe that?

Moms are, by default, curators of the art museum on the refrigerator door. Messing with it automatically triggers her "You're Dead Meat" rule.

Moms can sequentially and correctly push, pull and rotate all of the knobs on the washing machine...blindfolded. If needed, she can land a 747 and save a whole bunch of people.

Moms, by default, act as nurse, psychiatrist, and guide to better health using placebos. Her "There, there everything 's going to be okay", are generously sprinkled with love.

Mom never forgets to remind the kids to remind Dad of the upcoming wedding anniversary.

Secretly, moms make sure the lid on the cookie jar isn't screwed on too tight.

Since moms go through nine months love and pain, she claims 51% of the kids' ownership thus give her sway.

Moms do have eyes in the back of their heads. You can't see them 'cause they're hidden behind her gray hair.

Moms will spend days in the kitchen baking cookies for the school's bake sale sacrificing the money she was saving for a new kidney.



By Bob Duncan scribed@aol.com

GOODHUE VOLKSFEST

JUNE 11-15, 2025

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Medallion Hunt | First clue drops
5pm | **Pickle Ball Tourn.** | Heritage Park
7pm | **Pool Games** | Goodhue Pool

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

7pm | **Line Dancing** | 2nd St Pub
7pm | **Volunteer Kickoff Party** | Corner Bar

7:00pm GATE | 8:00pm MUSIC
GA \$30 PRE-SALE & AT GATE
VIP \$80 PRE-SALE & AT GATE



FRIDAY, JUNE 13

4-7pm | **Kids Bounce Party, 12yr ↓** | GHS Gym 3
5:30pm | **Tony Cuchetti DUO Live** | 2nd St Pub
7pm | **Shawn Ogden Live** | Corner Bar
7pm | **Miss Goodhue** | GHS Gym 1 | \$5/Person
7pm | **Street Dance** | N 2nd St.

HAIRBALL

Fire at the Falls

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

8am-1pm | **Car & Tractor Show** | St. Peters Church
8:30-11:30am | **Burrito Breakfast & Quilt Show** | St. Peters Church
8:45-10am reg. | **Road Rally** | Goodhue C-Store | \$5/person
9am | **Udder Run** | Front of GHS | \$16/ea adv or \$20/ea day of
9am | **Volleyball Tourn., Co-ed** | Rosie Park | \$30/team
9:30am-2:30pm | **Craft and Vendor Show** | Lion's Community Center
10am | **3-on-3 Basketball** | GHS Gym 1 & 2 | \$100/Team
10am-2pm | **Touch A Truck** | GHS Parking Lot
10am-12pm | **Kids Bounce Party, Toddler ONLY** | GHS Gym 3
12pm-2pm | **Kids Bounce Party, 12yr ↓** | GHS Gym 3

11am | **Bean Bag Tourn.** | Rosie Park | \$40/team
1pm | **Bingo** | Fire Hall
1pm | **Hayden Ashworth Live on Patio** | 2nd St Pub
1-4pm | **Gopher State Garden Tractor Pull** | 3rd Ave
2pm | **8th Street Bend Live on Patio** | Corner Bar
2-6pm | **360 Photo Booth** | Food Court
2pm | **Pedal Tractor Pull** | Broadway/2nd Ave
4pm | **Brent & Sheena Live** | 2nd St Pub
6pm | **Logan Hofschulte Live** | Corner Bar
6pm | **Street Dance** | N 2nd St.
7pm | **Ledfoot Larry Live** | 2nd St Pub
10pm | **Fireworks** | Rosie Park

6:00pm GATE | 6:30pm MUSIC
GA \$40 UNTIL 5/18 | \$50 5/18+ & AT GATE
VIP \$105 UNTIL 5/18 | \$120 5/18+

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SUNDAY, JUNE 15

9am-11:45pm | **Dads Belgian Waffle Feed** | Lion's Community Center
5yr ↓ Free | Kids \$7 | Adults \$13
9am | **Community Worship Lutheran Service** | GHS Gym 1
11:30am | **Memorial Dedication** | Historical Society

1pm | **Parade**
1pm | **Ron Bublitz & Hayden Ashworth Live on Patio** | Corner Bar
2pm | **Emma Marie Live** | 2nd St Pub
2pm | **Fire Dept. Water Fight** | Fire Dept.
3:30pm | **National Eagle Center** | Fire Dept.

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

**To the Editor:
In Need Of A New Perspective
The Kenyon City Council**

Every once in awhile something comes down the pike that needs a response. Such is the case of the most recent April edition of the Kenyon Messenger. It saddens me to think that we would have to talk about this in Kenyon.

I first became a resident of Kenyon in 1944. Due to the fact that my father was flying with the Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater during WWII, my mother and I lived with my paternal grandparents on Slee Street. After the war, Kenyon would become my hometown

for the next 18 years. It was a time when churches were evangelical, the school district ran as an extension of the home, and no one questioned what it meant to grow up in a Christian household.

After graduating from high school, I went to college, served my country in the United States Air Force, got my commercial pilot's license, bought an airplane, and settled down as a 4th grade teacher for seven years and as an elementary school principal for six more years. I would end my 24 years away from Kenyon when I accepted a principal's position at Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools. This offered me the opportunity to move to a place called Trondheim, buy a house on a piece of property that my great-grandfather once owned and where my beloved grand-

mother was born in 1894, and where Linda and I would raise our family.

As I look back on my school days, I remember people like Gaylord Brobeck, a pharmacist who took me to Twin's baseball games and never sold drugs to young people, L.G. Picha, a beloved teacher and businessman who was always available for students who were in need of help, a mayor who played Santa Claus every Christmas, and city council members that would never consider the kind of decision our current council just made. Why? Because they were looking out for the well-being of the community...and its young people.

In referring back to the April edition of the Messenger, page 2 begins with an article by Pastor Larry Grove of Hauge Lutheran Church (AFLC). As a pastor of an evangelical Christian Congregation (we believe in the infallible Word of God), he is concerned about the family and its relationship with Jesus Christ. Beginning with love, the article ends with 'determining ways that we could more effectively minister to our people and the community by praying for each other and joining together to be most fruitful in our efforts.' It seems to me that making cannabis available to our young people, in one form or another, has nothing to do with Christian love or fruitful efforts. As a matter of fact, it is a grave contradiction.

As we move from page 2 to page 24 the narrative changes. Rather than talking about 'blood of the covenant which God has commanded you to keep,' it talks about cannabis sales and one of the worst possible things we could do to our school aged children and the

well-being of the community. While I appreciate the value of cannabis under strictly controlled medical uses, this is not what we are talking about when someone pulls up to the Muni or some misguided business looking to make a profit. Moreover, if you think for a moment that you are sending the right kind of message to our school aged students, you are not being honest with yourselves. And to think that our city council voted 4-0 to approve the sale of cannabis. It is not something a Christian would do.

Finally, if you look at what has happened in places like Colorado and other states and towns that jumped on the cannabis band wagon early on, do you honestly think for a moment that a vote for cannabis sales in Kenyon will produce different outcomes? Not only will it promote dangerous behaviors for our young people, but it is not something I would expect from people who are parents themselves. Ladies and gentlemen, it is not too late to call our mayor (I once thought he was going to bring a positive change to the community) and our city council members to voice your concerns. And when you do; when you have put our young people first in both heart and spirit, come join us at Hauge Lutheran Church where Jesus says, "To open your eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God" (Acts 26:18a). In the meantime, it is my prayer that our young people know what it means to grow up in a Christian household. God be praised!

Dr. James Russell Lehman
Kenyon MN

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Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol



Question: Are trailer hitch load extenders legal? Occasionally I haul some lumber that sticks out beyond my tailgate and would like to know if I can use this.

Answer: Yes you can. Note that when the load upon any vehicle extends to the rear four feet or more beyond the bed or body of such vehicle there are some requirements. At the extreme rear end of such load a red, yellow or orange flag or cloth not less than 16 inches square shall be displayed.

At the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required, a red light or lantern plainly visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the sides and rear shall be in addition to the rear light required upon every vehicle.

Another good reminder is to always make sure any and all items you are transporting are properly secured.

Question: The other day I came across a railroad crossing sign with the word "EX-EMPT" placed on it. What is that all about?

Answer: An X-shaped sign identifies a rail-

road crossing. If there is more than one track, a sign below the crossbuck indicates the number of tracks.

Warning signs, pavement markings, gates and flashing red lights are positioned at most railroad crossings. Pavement markings include a stop line, an "X," and the letters "RR" painted on the pavement in front of the crossing.

An "exempt" sign means that bus and truck drivers, who are usually required to stop at railroad crossings, may proceed without stopping. However, drivers still need to look in both directions for trains.

Question: In one day, Monday I had three incidents where cars did not yield right of way when they had a flashing left turn arrow. I have observed several other incidents involving other drives as well. It seems of late people seem to think the flashing arrow gives them the right of way.

Answer: A flashing yellow light or arrow means "caution." Proceed through the intersection with caution. Yield the right of way to vehicles and pedestrians already in the intersection. If you are turning left or making a U-turn, you must yield to oncoming vehicles that are close enough to be an immediate hazard.

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

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

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JULY 6th: BLYND EYE 8:30 PM
BRYAN ANDERSON 8:30 PM

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CITY OF WANAMINGO

City Council Regular Meeting

Monday, April 14, 2025 7:00 P.M.

Wanamingo City Council Chambers – 401 Main Street

Wanamingo, MN

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.

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

City Administrator: Michael Boulton

Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters and Laurie Musselman

ABSENT:None

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Kennedy, Kali Lenz – Smith Schafer, & Associates, Beth Haas – Zumbrot News-Record, Lizzie Cooper – Kenyon Leader, Breanna Bohn, and Goodhue County Deputy Joshua Phillips.

ADOPT AGENDA: Dierks motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Ohr. Passed 4-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Haugen motioned, seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

A) Brad Kennedy reported on:

1) Riverside Park – water turned back on, volleyball courts raked, garbage dumpster back out, and shelter opened back up for use.

2) Riverside Park playground equipment check completed for the year with a couple of minor repairs needed.

3) Sewer jetting - the entire community sanitary sewer main system is nearly completed for 2025.

4) Filled pot holes with cold asphalt mix around town.

5) Street sweeper air conditioning compressor is currently being worked on. The streets

have not been swept this spring.

6) Water line repaired at Railroad and 2nd Street. The bell end of the water line had deteriorated and has been repaired by Schumacher Excavating.

7) Alley have been graded. The alleys have very little gravel/rock left to grade.

8) Test camera from Verkada installed for trial

9) Sewer service line cleanout covers replaced that were discovered during smoke testing.

B) Kali Lenz of Smith Schafer & Associates reported on:

1) Conducted a presentation of the 2024 Wanamingo City Audit

2) No large (State or Federal) single audit required for 2024

3) There is limited segregation of duties in the small office – yearly recommendation for small staff communities. This is not possible with a small office staff.

4) The audit completion letter showed no disagreements with management

5) Paid down \$510,000 of debt in 2024

6) The general fund showed a \$2,557 surplus in 2024 and has a \$588,114 balance. This will decrease the reserve balance from 61% to 58%. There was planned capital spending on street trucks. There was also unplanned flood damage that will be paid back through FEMA and State grants. There were revenues of roughly \$120,000 from investments that were spread out among the general, capital, bond, and enterprise funds. Water fund showed a decrease in cash from \$701,322 to \$60,670 at the end of 2024. The funds were spent down as part of 2022 Utility Improvements project. Sewer fund

showed an increase of cash of \$50,005 while having \$694,364 in cash at the end of 2024.

7) Recommend keeping an eye on water and sewer billing rates so that they are keeping up with operational costs and future capital needs.

Holmes stated that the City finances are in good shape and is happy with the continued improvement while moving the City forward.

C) Breanna Kohn – Keller Williams Premier Realty reported on:

1) Kenyon-Wanamingo School District hired her as the commercial realtor for the Wanamingo school site sale

2) Wanted to introduce herself to the City Council

3) Will be attending the May City Council meeting with the intention of the Council helping to express their thoughts on the next ideal tenant of the site. Would like to talk through any planning/zoning questions and concerns.

Boulton had previously advised Kohn that the April City Council meeting has a full agenda. The May City Council meeting would be a better opportunity to have the Council's full attention. Boulton and Kohn will work to put information together for the May Wanamingo City Council agenda packet for this discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION:

25-023 = Approving Pay Request #9 to the Joseph Company, Inc. for the Well House Portion of the 2022 Utility Improvements: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that the pay request is for general conditions, painting, plumbing, and electrical general provisions, and change order #2. The total pay estimate is \$28,044.59. Passed 5-0-0.

25-024 = Approving Change Order #2 for the Joseph Company, Inc. on the Well House Portion of the 2022 Utility Improvements: Flotterud moved to approve, seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

25-025 = Accepting the 2024 Wanamingo Audit: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

25-026 = Approving the Hiring of Laurie Musselman for the Deputy Clerk Position: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Holmes welcomed Musselman to the City as Deputy Clerk. Holmes thanked Musselman for the taking the position. Passed 5-0-0.

25-027 = Approving the Appointment of Amy McDonald to the Wanamingo EDA: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated the McDonald would be replacing Laurie Musselman on the Wanamingo EDA. Passed 5-0-0.

25-028 = Approving Development Agreement with Prairie Land Development LLC on Prairie Ridge 5th Addition: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Boulton stated that the City has hired WHKS to work on behalf of the City, but also conduct work for the developer. Flotterud asked how the City would recoup the engineering cost from the developer. Boulton stated that the developer will reimburse the City all costs for the engineering and attorney fees for drafting the development agreement on a pay as you go basis. The total engineering cost is \$65,200 (\$40,200 for survey, platting, and preliminary/final design work while \$25,000 for construction administration and observa-

tion). Passed 5-0-0.

25-029 = Approving a Construction Management Contract with Mitch Jackson of Tri-Valley Construction for the 2025 Street Shop Rehab Project: Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Boulton stated that Tri-Valley would be overseeing the 2025 Street Shop Rehab Project. Tri-Valley Construction, Inc. will be compensated 4.5% of the contracted roofing, insulation, siding, gutters, downspouts, exterior windows, service doors work, overhead doors, h-vac, and electrical costs. Flotterud asked what the total project cost would be for all portions of the project. Boulton stated that the four portions of the 2025 Street Shop Rehab Project roughly total \$185,000. Tri-Valley would be paid \$8,325 based off the total quotes. Passed 5-0-0.

25-030 = Approving Lambert Commercial Construction as Low Quote for Roofing, Insulation, Siding, Gutters and Downspouts, Exteriors Windows, and Service Doors work on the 2025 Street Shop Rehab Project: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Boulton stated that the low quote was \$142,359. Kennedy stated that the roof would be galvalume. Kennedy stated that the siding and trim would roughly match the salt/sand shed colors. Passed 5-0-0.

25-031 = Approving Romans Overhead Door, LLC as Low Quote for Overhead Door work on the 2025 Street Shop Rehab Project: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that the low quote was \$13,450. Passed 5-0-0.

25-032 = Approving Sylvander Heating, Inc. as Low Quote for H-Vac and Ventilation work on the 2025 Street Shop Rehab Project: Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Boulton stated that the low quote was \$21,200. Passed 5-0-0.

25-033 = Approving Quality Overhead Door as Low Quote for the salt/sand shed overhead door on the 2025 Street Shop Rehab Project: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that the low quote was \$7,565. Kennedy stated that the quote would end up less since the down will not have an electronic opener. The salt/sand shed does not have electricity and would not need an electronic opener. Kennedy stated that the salt/sand shed has standing water after a rain. The door will keep water out from mixing with the salt and sand. Flotterud asked how much material is on hand. Kennedy stated that the City has purchased 25 ton each of the last two years as part of the State contract. Kennedy stated that the City has roughly 40 ton on hand along with 10 ton of salt/sand. Kennedy stated that the City contracted for 25 more ton of salt/sand for next winter. Flotterud asked if there was enough room if there was another mild winter. Kennedy stated that the salt sand shed could hold five times more than what is currently on hand. Passed 5-0-0.

25-034 = Approving Wanamingo Fire Relief Association Charitable Gambling Location at Jake's Hometown Liquor: Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

(continued on page 32)



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WANAMINGO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(continued from page 31)

25-035 = Approving City On-Sale, Sunday On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor, and Tobacco Licenses for JB's Taven and Owner Barney Nesseth: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Administrator Boulton provided an investments of funds memo. The City of Wanamingo has a CD (Certificate of Deposit), created in 2024 with \$104,112, that yielded a 5.09% interest for 13 months. Rates have decreased from 2024 to 2025. The City was able to shop around for interest rates to push Security State Bank to match a 12-month 4.5% CD.

The matured CD is now worth \$109,884.76. The new CD, through Security State Bank, is a 12-month special rate CD for 4.5%. This will net \$4,944.81 in interest in the next 12 months.

The interest earned will be accounted for under most fund accounts, including the general fund. These investments should leave plenty of funds for cash flow in checking account. The checking account, new CD's, the current CD, and money market funds diversify the City investments.

Administrator Boulton provided a memo on the skid loader lease purchase options. The current skid loader is a John Deer 331P compact track loader. The current lease allows for up to 200 hours during the year-long lease. The price is for \$6,500. The Council instructed staff check into other lease options along with purchase options at the March City Council meeting. The best lease option is still from John Deere is 5 years, 200 hours, for \$12,800/year. City staff have looked into numerous lease and purchase options. A tabulation table of the lease and purchase options for both compact track loaders (skid loaders) and compact loaders (wheel smaller loaders) was provided to the Council.

The best purchase options are the same John Deere track (skid) compact loader for \$90,000 and Lodermeier Bobcat T770 compact tractor for \$75,752.35. These two purchase options do not include attachments. The City has a regular bucket, snow removal bucket, rotating blade, pallet forks, and broom attachments. There are drawbacks to leasing or purchasing the options listed. The increased leasing price means that after five years of spending \$64,000 the City will not have anything to show. There would be very little concerns with service and repair while leasing. Purchasing one of the options has a significant upfront capital cost to the City. However, if the City purchased one of the options and sold/traded after 5-7 years, there would be significant remaining equity in the machine because of the limited use. There are additional concerns on service and repairs with purchasing. There are concerns with wear/tear on a track machine for owning for both service/repairs and long-term value. There are concerns with ability and overall use of a wheel machine in activities such as alley grading and brush hog work on ponds.

The City maintenance staff utilize the current track (skid) compact loader for snow removal in cul-de-sacs and dead-end streets along with intersection clean up. Use of the skid loader for snow removal has increased as

the City has grown out in Emerald Valley and Prairie Ridge subdivisions.

The maintenance staff would prefer to load the sander with the track (skid) compact loader /compact loader rather than dropping snow plow off pay loader and loading with bucket. The maintenance staff regularly utilizes the current track (skid) compact loader to push up the brush pile and grade alleys. The track (skid) compact loader is able to utilize a rotary (brush hog) attachment to clear willows and cattails around the City's six storm water ponds where a compact loader could not. The maintenance run 100-150 hours/year on the current track (skid) compact loader. The current attachments can be utilized on either a track (skid) compact loader or a wheel compact loader.

The City has ability to absorb the additional lease or purchase options into the current budget/long-term budget planning. Purchasing could put the City back to the current year with levy/spending rather than having funds available at the end the previous year before spending them. Boulton asked that the Council provide direction for the staff so that the paperwork with formal approval of a lease or purchase agreement for consideration of resolution at the May City Council meeting.

Kennedy stated that the preferable lease options are no longer available. The pricing options all utilize Sourcewell purchasing or state bid pricing. These prices are no better than what the average person can buy off the street for discounts from MSRP. Kennedy stated that the best purchase price was for Bobcat T770. However, the John Deere 331P for \$90,000 would hold its value better for resale. It will all depend on how long the City would own a machine and expectations for resale price. Flotterud agreed that John Deere would hold value better than other options. Flotterud stated that if purchased, the skid loader should be sold once warranty is up. Flotterud stated that leasing was no longer feasible with the new lease pricing. Kennedy stated that if the City purchased a track machine that it should be sold within five years because it would be run and asphalt and concrete. Kennedy stated that the track compact loader and wheel loader options were compared. A track machine would be better for mowing retention ponds, grading alleys, have better traction, and be able to pile snow. Kennedy stated that a wheel compact loader could drive faster speeds. Kennedy stated that the Bobcat L95 compact wheel loader was \$86,000. Holmes asked if the City's current attachments would fit all of the track and wheel options. Kennedy stated that there are quick plates on the options that could utilize the City's attachments. Kennedy stated that there are high and low flow options for attachments. All of the City's attachments are low flow driven. Kennedy stated that high flow would be more expensive. Ohr stated that high flow would only be necessary for large grinding attachments and some snow blower attachments. Kennedy thought that a compact wheel loader could be kept around longer due to less wear and tear. Kennedy stated that staff has to have a machine, either track or wheel. Kennedy stated that renting would create logistical issues that would end up costing the City more than leasing or pur-

chasing. Holmes agreed that renting on a whim could be trouble if the machines are not available. Dierks asked when is the highest need for the machine. Kennedy stated that snow removal, loading salt/sand for spreading, pushing up compost/brush pile, grading alleys, and other small projects. Kennedy stated that the machine gets used pretty regularly for small projects. Flotterud said that you don't have to buy new but it could be hard to find a machine in good shape. Flotterud stated that you could buy new and sell after a short duration (after warrant period up). Flotterud stated that you could hire out snow removal with skid loader at \$150/hour. Flotterud stated that there would be savings on capital cost and staff time. Ohr stated that the City would not come out financially ahead hiring out snow removal. Ohr said that this would send a message to staff that they can't handle the work. Ohr stated that the staff are here regardless and there is no saving on staff cost. Kennedy stated that the City pays between \$3,000-\$5,000/year for snow removal at the Medical Center building. Kennedy stated that hiring out skid loader snow removal work based off what we see at the Medical Center would be expensive. Kennedy stated that hiring out skid loader snow removal would make staff look horrible to the public. Kennedy state that it would create logistical issues with City snow removal and would make days later detail clean up impossible. Kennedy stated that purchasing a used skid loader would be difficult finding one in good shape at a reasonable price. The City would not want to purchase a skid loader that came from a farm or on construction job sites due to poor shape and/or condition. Ohr stated that a used machine would not have a warrant and that the City may have to pay for significant repairs. Holmes said that he would not be for a lease with the proposed price compared to depreciation on purchasing a new machine. Kennedy stated that taking the first hit on purchasing and getting back to depreciation and selling off on a regular basis would be similar to the old lease price. Flotterud asked Boulton on how it would be paid. Boulton stated that the Street Capital has \$85,000 in it at the end of 2024. Boulton stated that the City is levying \$45,000 for street capital in 2025. Boulton stated that a portion of the \$150,000 in the fund could be utilized for purchase of a skid loader. Boulton stated that it would set the

fund back a year in the planning. Flotterud expressed concerns with not increasing the levy to cover capital. Boulton stated that he has put together a preliminary 2026 levy with a 5% levy increase. Boulton stated that any loader purchase would not affect the levy. Ohr is concerned with the condition of other capital equipment such as the older pay loader, leaf sucking machine, and sweeper. Ohr is concerned that if one of them requires immediate replacement that there won't be funds available. Boulton stated that the street capital did not exist three years ago. Flotterud stated that there are other funds that could be utilized if an emergency came up with other equipment. Kennedy stated that additional warranty could be purchased with a new machine. Flotterud stated that a five-year-old machine with less than 1,000 hours with under warranty would be worth good money. Kennedy will check on five-year warranties from Midwest Machinery (John Deere) and Lodermeier Equipment (Bobcat). Flotterud moved to form a committee of Flotterud, Ohr, and Kennedy with the intention of putting together a purchase agreement for a compact loader (wheel or track) with a five-year warranty for the May City Council meeting, seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

*Next City Council meeting on 5/9/2025 at 7:00pm.

Adjourn: At 8:59PM a motion to adjourn was made by Dierks and seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator

**City of Wanamingo
Regular EDA Meeting
Monday April 14, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

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

PRESENT: Brian Gudknecht, Rebecca Haugen, Ryan Holmes, Jim Kittelson, Annette Fritz, and Amy McDonald

ABSENT: Josh Schaefer

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Boulton, Laurie Musselman, and Karen Masters

Brian Gudknecht called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance followed.

(continued on page 33)

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WAAMINGO EDA MEETING

(continued from page 32)

OATH OF OFFICE: EDA Director Boulton administered the oath of office to Amy McDonald.

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

CONSENT AGENDA: Haugen motioned, seconded by Kittelson to approve. Approved 6-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 25-04 - Approving the 2024 EDA Portion of the Wanamingo City Audit. Holmes moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. Administrator Boulton went over the EDA accounts of importance, including 251 EDA, 306 (Cenex Industrial Park), 331 (Cenex 4th Bond Fund), and 604 (Medical Center). Boulton provided a memo on the audit. Funds ending 12/31/2024 balances and plans going forward for each fund. Administrator Boulton presented Smith Schafer & Associates PowerPoint presentation for the EDA centered funds as well. Boulton shared concerns regarding the Medical Center as it owes the general fund \$43,372 at the end of 2024. Boulton stated that the Medical Center should cash flow with all four suites being occupied and collecting rent. Passed 6-0-0.

Resolution 25-05 - Recommending the Appointment of Amy McDonald to the Wanamingo EDA Board. Kittelson moved to approve, seconded by Holmes. Passed 6-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Boulton stated that Reckitt exercised their option to extend the Medical Center lease by two additional years, starting September 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027.

Boulton stated that Breanna Kohn of Keller Williams Premier Realty requested to ask the City Council questions about the Wanamingo school building. Specifically, Kohn wants to ask what the City Council and other decision makers would like to see in the next tenant. Kohn would like to also ask in what direction the Council and other decision makers would like to see the site go after the sale. Boulton stated that the April City Council meeting has a full agenda. Boulton advised Kohn that the May City Council meeting would be a better opportunity to have the Council's full attention. Boulton asked the EDA board if they wished to participate in discussion with Kohn on the Wanamingo school building in May. Holmes stated that there was an active push among community members for future use. Haugen stated that there are several potential uses for the building and that cost would be a factor. The EDA agreed to take part in discussion with Kohn at either a May EDA meeting or attend the May City Council meeting.

There being no further business Kittelson made a motion seconded by Fritz to adjourn the EDA meeting at 6:28PM. Approved 6-0-0.

Brian Gudknecht, President
Michael Boulton, Director

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council Meeting was duly held in the City Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. on the 8th day of April 2025. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Donald Kirchmann.

The following members were present: Mayor Donald Kirchmann, Council Members Kim Helgeson, Mary Bailey (arrived at 7:17 p.m.), and Elana Brunner

Absent: Lee Sjolander

Also, present: City Administrator Scott Lehner, Administrative Assistant Holli Gudknecht, Engineer Derek Olinger, City Attorney Joe Sathe, Public Works Supervisor Wayne Ehrlich, Officer Brian Homeier, Lizzie Cooper-Kenyon Leader, Doug Ims-Icon LLC, John Lee, Josh Johnson, Todd Greseth, Bailey Ament, Bonnie Rapp, Brenda Tellez, Caleb Langer, Lorry and Jennifer Kispert, Shannon & Pat Shea,

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Pat Shea provided information on a proposed wind farm that is trying to move into the Kenyon area. She stated that this is a huge 300-megawatt farm project that would have 60-85 turbines. She wanted to get awareness out there since this would probably affect the city in some way.

Bailey Ament questioned what the process was for allowing chickens in the residential area for educational purposes. She presented possible options of allowing chickens in Kenyon and reviewed what some surrounding cities allow. She is interested in raising chickens as part of her homeschool instruction and her children's 4-H project. She requested to be added to the May council agenda to allow educational chickens.

Todd Greseth, Goodhue County Commissioner, stated that the May meeting will be held at Kenyon City Hall. He stated that their budget is up in the air right now, waiting to see where government cuts will be. If you have any questions for the commission, please come to the May meeting in Kenyon.

ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Brunner to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Bailey second by Helgeson to approve the amended Consent Agenda, which includes:

Payment of check numbers, 77014 through 77071; 5383E through 5499E

Budget Transfers:

Kenyon Area Historical Society - \$2,500
Gunderson House Management Fees

Rose Fest - \$2,000

Kenyon Fire Relief - \$10,000 Budget Donation, \$3,000 2025 Audit Portion, \$250 Fire and Rescue Admin. Fee

Minutes of March 11, 2025

On-Sale Liquor License Renewal- VFW

Kenyon Fire Relief Association Request for Liquor Permits

1. April 26, 2025 Fundraiser

2. June 21, 2025 Firemen's Dance
Motion carried 4-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS/ PUBLIC HEARINGS/ RECOGNITIONS/PROLAMATIONS ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

KMU Process Update: Administrator Lehner stated that there is a meeting scheduled with KMU and the personnel committee on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Hiring of Police Officer:

Administrator Lehner stated that four qualified candidates applied for the police officer position. The four candidates are scheduled to be interviewed on April 15.

Congrats and Thank You to Josey Homeier:

Administrator Lehner thanked Officer Josey Homeier for her contributions and service time with the City of Kenyon. She will be moving on to a DNR job. Best Wishes.

Administrator Calendar

Administrator Lehner stated that he will be out of the office on Friday, April 11, 2025. He is closing on a house in the area.

ENGINEERING

2025 Street and Utility Improvements

Engineer Olinger stated that six bids were received by the April 2, 2025 deadline. The pricing was competitive. The bids are still being evaluated for conformance with project requirements. The bid will be awarded following the assessment hearing during the May council meeting. The assessment hearing process and the assessment criteria that the council will need to set were discussed.

Resolution 2025-12: Declaring Cost to be Assessed and Calling for Assessment Hearing 2025 Street & Utility Improvements

Motion by Bailey seconded by Kirchmann to adopt Resolution 2025-12. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Doug Ims of Icon, LLC stated that his company was the low bidder on the street project, but he was told by the city engineer that his bid would not be recommended because of the way he bid the job. He felt that the city engineer was out of place to make this recommendation. He would like to be informed of the meeting where the bid would be awarded.

2025 Chip Seal Project

Engineer Olinger stated that four quotes were received for the chip seal project. \$90,000 was budgeted for the project. The low bid was approximately \$60,000. Olinger would like to expand the contract by \$20,000 to cover what was planned for 2026. This would still come in \$10,000 under budget.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to award the chip seal contract to Pearson Bros. as written, with additional approval to exceed the total quoted by up to \$20,000 as directed by the City Engineer. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Capital Finance Planning Workshop

Engineer Olinger stated that the city's financial advisor is invited to review the plans for current and future capital investments every few years. A capital finance planning workshop meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried 4-0-0.

LEGAL FINANCIAL

Explanation of Recently Received

IRS Statements

Finance Director Kylo explained two letters that she received, one from the IRS and the other from MN Department of Revenue claiming money was owed to them from quarter three of 2023. Both claims are legitimate, and the city needs to pay these bills plus penalties.

OLD BUSINESS

2025 Agreement with Luis Tellez – Taco Express

Administrator Lehner stated that at the March council meeting, the council decided not to renew the city's agreement with Taco Express for 2025. Bonnie Rapp and Brenda Tellez, who is the daughter of the Taco Express owners, were present and stated that they were shocked to learn that the contract was not being renewed. They learned about the non-renewal from a newspaper article. Administrator Lehner apologized for not informing them of the decision before it came out in the newspaper. He stated that they were requesting that the city allow them to remain on city property for one more year because of the short notice. This would allow them to find an alternative place for business in 2026.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to authorize Administrator Lehner to negotiate and execute a limited agreement with Taco Express for 2025. Motion carried 4-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

LMCIT Liability Coverage Waiver

stated that the City Council is required to choose either to waive or not to waive the monetary insurance liability limits. State statutes limit a city's tort liability to a maximum of \$500,000 per claimant and \$1,500,000 per occurrence. These limits apply whether the claim is against the city, against the individual officer or employee, or against both. Cities can choose to waive the state liability limits. Cities can purchase additional insurance coverage up to \$2,000,000 annually.

Motion by Helgeson, seconded by Kirchmann to follow past City precedence to not waive LMCIT State Liability limits. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Schedule for Upcoming Meetings

KMU/Personnel Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 9th @4:00 p.m.

KMU Meeting: Tuesday, April 15th @ 4:00 p.m.

EDA Meeting: Tuesday, April 22nd @ 8 a.m.

City Council Workshop Meeting: Tuesday, April 29 @ 6:00 p.m.

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 13th @ 7 p.m.

COUNCIL AND STAFF GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Kirchmann thanked Officer Josey Homeier and wished her well.

Council Member Helgeson congratulated Officer Josey Homeier. She thanked her for her service to the city and wished her the best. She also reminded everyone of the Easter egg hunt on April 19 at the Depot Park.

Council Member Bailey thanked the city staff for their work.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Holli Gudknecht, Deputy City Clerk
Donald Kirchmann, Mayor

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BURGERS • SALADS • WRAPS • DESSERTS

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15% OFF Wednesday, Thursday with ad
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- ACROSS
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 6. Pro football org.
 9. Tea servings
 13. Relating to axis
 14. Gershwin or Levin
 15. Break of day
 16. Repeat, in music
 17. Red Cross bed
 18. Arm bones
 19. *Mother ____, personification of physical world
 21. *Mother ____, fictional dog owner
 23. Opposite of hence
 24. Sleeveless garment
 25. Money source
 28. Golfer's destination
 30. Pass, as time
 35. "Metamorphoses" poet
 37. *The Beatles: "Mother ____ comes to me"
 39. "The Goldbergs" sibling
 40. Unacceptable, to a baby
 41. Alpine singing
 43. Resembling wings
 44. Fill with optimism
 46. Fill to satisfaction
 47. Orion's ____
 48. Like funereal atmosphere
 50. Lice eggs
 52. Morse code dash
 53. Remainder of a cigarette
 55. Before skip and a jump
 57. *Mother of ____, a.k.a. Daenerys Targaryen
 61. *Mother ____, Missionaries of Charity founder
 64. PassÉ
 65. Stir or fuss
 67. Add together
 69. Anomie, alt. sp.
 70. Decompose
 71. Very angry
 72. Puppy sounds
 73. "____ no evil, hear no evil"
 74. Tennis-affected joint
- DOWN
1. Took place
 2. Yoked team
 3. Capital of Latvia
 4. Kind of ray
 5. Cast-off skin
 6. French Riviera city
 7. "To" follower
 8. Wood turning device
 9. Tulip starter
 10. Leo's Karenina
 11. ____ gum, food additive
 12. Put metal to the pedal, p.t.
 15. Difficult to detect
 20. With ample space
 22. Employ
 24. Green and lush, as in trees
 25. *Mother ____, investigative journalism nonprofit
 26. Convex molding
 27. Twofold
 29. Cambodia's neighbor
 31. A in UAE
 32. Heaped
 33. Famous Teatro alla ____
 34. *Mother ____, personification of planet
 36. Shower with affection
 38. Abominable snowman
 42. River in Hades
 45. Personify
 49. *Mother Superior is the head one at the convent
 51. Foray
 54. Former Russian leaders
 56. *Mother of ____, a.k.a. nacre
 57. June 6, 1944
 58. Raja's wife
 59. On the surface
 60. Emeralds and rubies
 61. Carrying bag
 62. Hunk of something
 63. Lowest female singing voice
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