

# KENYON • WANAMINGO Messenger

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MAY 21, 2025

Volume 18 • Issue 10

## Announcements

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

• **Hiawathaland Transit:** Service hours are 7:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. Call dispatch at 866-623-7505 Monday through Friday 6am-9pm and Saturday 7:00am-5:00pm. Visit [threeriverscap.org](http://threeriverscap.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.

• **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.

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

## School House News

By Cheri Roshon

In January 2025 the Kenyon-Wanamingo school district made a very difficult decision to close the elementary school site in Wanamingo. This decision wasn't taken lightly by anyone, and several meetings were held to discuss the fate of the building.

It has been an emotional time for the residents of Wanamingo and surrounding areas for several reasons. Losing a school in a

small town is a big thing, both for the families with children attending the school having to move, and to local business owners. Many business owners voiced fears that this may be the end of growth in our town. Yes, this has been the case in many areas, but hopes are that that will not be the case here.

### Kenyon Farmer's Market Sets Their Dates

By Cheri Roshon

Farmer's markets are gaining in popularity, and you can find a lot more than just produce when you visit them. They are popping up in a lot of smaller towns, making it so convenient to purchase fresh fruits and veggies, and also canned goods and other treats.



(continued on page 5)

### Kenyon Veterans Color Guard Memorial Day Schedule

Thursday, May 22 place flags at 16 cemeteries on veterans graves.

Memorial Day May 26 Graveside Memorial Service for fallen veterans at 10 30 Kenyon Cemetery.



## Fire On the Nature Trail

By Cheri Roshon

On Sunday, May 11th, the Wanamingo Fire Department was called to a fire located on the Wanamingo Nature Trail. The fire started under the walking bridge ramp along the Zumbro river, involving an unoccupied golf cart owned by a local family that had been parked under the bridge ramp. Their grandchildren had taken the cart to the river to go for a walk, and it was a fluke that it started on fire, causing the bridge to burn as well. The family feels awful, and we must remember that accidents happen, and The Messenger will withhold the names of the owners as things get sorted out.



(continued on page 5)



One group was formed to look into options, and another group, "Friends of Wanamingo", was formed and had some great ideas. A charter school idea was brought up, as well as other possibilities. Once the building was appraised with all the details and a price was set, two groups came forth with offers.

(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.

**Annual Swap Meet & Flea Market  
Consignment Auction 9am Saturday  
S.E.A.T.P. Tractor Pull 9am Sunday  
Miniature Railroad Train Rides**

Free admission, held rain or shine.

Check out their website and facebook page for more information. [www.ricecountysteamandgas.com](http://www.ricecountysteamandgas.com)

## HAVE A SAFE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Open Regular Hours

Friday & Saturday, May 23 & 24

Open Sunday, May 25 from 9am-2pm.

We will close at 2pm Sunday for staff maintenance.



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  
507-645-9992 • [www.firesidelounge.net](http://www.firesidelounge.net)



502 Huseth St., Kenyon  
**507-789-6321**

## 77501 Time Cutter MAX

50" iron forged deck  
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3 year warranty  
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60v Lithium Ion cordless tools  
and accessories.

Includes: string trimmers,  
edgers, chainsaws,  
hedge trimmers & more





## Warning



By Jon Dudek, co-founder of Isaiah Ministries, bringing Biblical teaching to help overcome life's everyday challenges.  
[www.isaiahministries.cc](http://www.isaiahministries.cc)

Second Timothy 4:3 (AMP) says, “For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine and accurate instruction [that challenges them with God’s truth]; but wanting to have their ears tickled [with something pleasing], they will accumulate for themselves [many] teachers [one after another, chosen] to satisfy their own desires and to support the errors they hold.”

When we read this verse, it should sadden all of us. It is stating that there will be a time when many will want to hear only what makes them feel good and not hear the truth, the Bible. These people will listen to “teachers” who will just make their ears content. They will turn away from truth by rejecting Jesus and will choose to conform to the ways of the world. Here are a few things I have seen and heard from some pastors, priests, and other religious leaders.

### False Doctrine:

- Jesus isn’t the only way to heaven.
- The Bible is too old, and it needs to catch up to the times we live in.
- It will be okay to take the mark of the beast.
- Do whatever feels good.
- Denial of the Trinity.
- There is no hell.

### True Doctrine:

- Jesus is the only way to heaven (John 14:6).
- The Bible is the inspired Word of God, is alive and active, and is profitable for teaching as well as reproof (Hebrews 4:12 and 2 Timothy 3:16). As the times change, which they will, this just proves the importance of being rooted in the Bible and following its truths

(Daniel 7:25 and John 17:17).

- It will not be okay to take the mark of the beast. If one does, they will be tormented, and that torment will be in hell (Revelation 14:9–11).

- Truth does not stand on feeling; truth stands on what the Word of God says (2 Timothy 2:22 and John 17:17).

- We have one God made of three persons. God is the Father (1 John 3:1–2 and Ephesians 4:6). God is Jesus (John 1:1, 4). God is the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3–4). Matthew 28:19, Isaiah 48:16, and 1 Peter 1:1–2 also confirm the

Trinity.

- Hell is real. Jesus warns us of hell—eternal punishment (Matthew 25:41–46).

What are some things we can do to prepare so we don’t fall into false doctrine? Here are a few steps we can take to be able to distinguish between truth (the Bible) and false doctrine. We have to be reading the Bible. The only way we can differentiate truth versus untruth is by being in the Word. We need to be studying and soaking in it. If it is difficult for you to get into the Word of God, I would recommend starting with the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and

John). Even if it is a chapter a day, it is better than nothing. Over time I believe your reading of the Bible will increase and your passion to learn the Word will grow. The enemy is trying to groom all of us to a point where evil is good and good is evil (Isaiah 5:20). This is scary, but it is happening already and will continue to happen. Preparing for this has to be now—it can’t wait. Our lives depend on it. Let’s stand up for truth (the Bible) and grow together. We are a team, and let’s help each other out. “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17 NIV).

## 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 LUTHERAN PARISH  
Pastor Paul A. Graham  
(C) 507-269-5997 • Office: 507-645-6042  
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN 55018  
Website: [www.dennisonvang.org](http://www.dennisonvang.org)  
You can join us for Worship online at  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/167136242800>

### Summer Worship Schedule

During the summer months, there will be one combined service on Sundays.

The June schedule is below.

Sunday, June 1: Vang – 9:00 AM

Sunday, June 8 (Graduation Recognition):  
Vang – 9:00 AM

Sunday, June 15 (Centuries of Music):  
Vang -10:30 AM

Sunday, June 22: Vang – 9:00 AM

Sunday, June 29: Vang – 9:00 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
301 2nd Avenue, Wanamingo  
824-2155

WANAMINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
ELCA  
130 West 3rd St., Wanamingo  
824-2457  
[www.TrinityWanamingo.org](http://www.TrinityWanamingo.org)  
May 25: 9a.m. Sacred Space  
10a.m. Worship

ASPELUND EMMANUEL LUTHERAN  
Rob Edwards, Pastor  
429 County 1 Blvd, Kenyon  
507-824-2307  
[www.emmanuelalca.org](http://www.emmanuelalca.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: [fickenyons.org](http://fickenyons.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](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
NERSTRAND  
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](http://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](mailto:holdendalesecretary@gmail.com)  
Worship schedule found at:  
[www.holdenlutheranchurch.org](http://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](mailto:office@nlcwanamingo.org)  
Website with online services which are live at 10:00a.m. or can be viewed at anytime:  
<https://nlcwanamingo.org/>

GOSPEL OF LIFE FAMILY CHURCH  
Pastor Steven G. Roberts  
[www.gospeloflifechurch.org](http://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](http://www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info)  
Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

**Security State Bank of Kenyon**  
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**The Fireside**  
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  
507-645-9992 • [www.firesidelounge.net](http://www.firesidelounge.net)

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# Obituaries

May 21, 2025

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## Stella Juanita Rosenquist

Stella Juanita Rosenquist, 83, passed away on May 8th, 2025, surrounded by family at Trouvaille Memory Care with care from Grace Hospice. We want to thank her awesome caregivers for making her last days joyful and peaceful.

A memorial service will be held at Faith Lutheran Church (800 Waconia Parkway North) in Waconia on Friday, May 30, 2025, at 11:00am with Rev. Adam White as officiant. Gathering of family and friends one hour prior to the service. Lunch and fellowship following the service. In lieu of flowers memorials are preferred.

Stella was born April 8, 1942, 13th of 15 children to Eleanor and Elmer Kylo in Wanamingo, MN. She was a farm girl turned dairy princess. Determined to go to Augsburg College, Stella worked her way through school at Fairview Hospital where she met and married Dr. Rudy Rosenquist on February 1st, 1964. They shared two children together raising them in Minneapolis.

Stella was a hard worker and had successful careers as an English teacher, theater director, debate and Declam coach and a salesperson for several telecom companies such as Onvoy, Sprint, AT&T, US West and MCI. Her secret to her professional success was to listen.

Stella was incredibly social. She created strong lasting friendships with her school-

mates, work colleagues and church community. She coordinated Augsburg alumni events, traveled with girlfriends, and founded an irreverent female bible study group called "The Rahab Sisters".

She was passionate about social justice which led her to become political active. Stella hosted fundraising events, campaigned for candidates and was a delegate to the 1968 democratic convention.

Stella was a generous and compassionate person. She felt a strong call to serve God as a volunteer for Loaves and Fishes, Habitat for Humanity and more. She was a foster parent to several children (eventually adopting one of them), a sponsor for Ethiopian refugees, and the co-founder the Adopt-A-Family program. She served others without expectation.

When she retired in Arizona, Stella soon found Lord of Life Lutheran Church where she used her excellent hosting skills to serve the congregation through food and met her second love, Stew Morton. They married May 27th, 2009. Sadly, Stella began her Alzheimer's journey too soon. They moved back to MN to be closer to family help until she moved into memory care in 2022. Cancer eventually took her to the Lord.

She loved her family and friends unconditionally and celebrated every milestone and accomplishment. We will miss this devoted, demanding, hardworking, glamorous, fierce, compassionate, dedicated, joyful, funny, intelligent, gracious, organized, practical, ethical, and generous woman.

Her amazing life of service and purpose will be remembered by her family: daughter Kjer-

sten (Will) Swanson, son Karl (Martha) Rosenquist, husband Stew Morton, her 5 grandchildren (Kate, Jack, Sam, Ollie, and Allison), her sisters Eunice Roberts, Marlene Haller and Susan Johnson, and the many nieces, nephews, and friends. She joins her parents, Rudy and siblings Palmer, Walton, Orion, Avis, Bud, Florence, Pete, Shirley, Mary Jane, Chuck, and Marna in God's embrace.

Arrangements are with the Johnson Funeral Home in Waconia. 952-442-2121 [www.johnsonsfh.com](http://www.johnsonsfh.com)

## Donald Allen Peterson

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Donald Allen Peterson, 78, of Kenyon, MN, who died on May 13, 2025 at his residence. Born to Milo and Jean (Rauk) Peterson on February 22, 1947, in Faribault, MN.

Don was a devoted father and grandfather who enjoyed cooking meals for his family, fishing trips with friends, and socializing at the local VFW.

A lifelong resident of Kenyon, Don graduated from Kenyon High School in 1965 and shortly after enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he proudly served his country for 4 years. Upon his return, Don married Adele (Bremer)

Beals, with whom he raised three children and shared six grandchildren. Though the two separated after 22 years of marriage, they remained close throughout his life. He began a lifelong career in the automotive industry working with his father, Milo, and eventually owned and operated his own dealership, Don's In-Town Auto. He later spent some time working for Held's Auto Service and ultimately finished off his career once again working alongside his family at Milo Peterson Ford until his retirement.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Milo and Jean (Rauk) Peterson and son, Matthew Peterson. He is survived by his former wife Adele Beals;; daughters Tammy (Mark) Greden and Jodi (Steve) Christensen; grandchildren, Marcus Peterson, Ashley (Zach) Quaale, Kayden Christensen, Brady Christensen, Ava Greden and Brook Greden; one great grandchild on the way, Hallie Quaale; brothers, Jerry (Barb) Peterson, Robert (Helen) Peterson, Ronald (JoAnn) Peterson, Ryan (Gail) Peterson; and sister Julie (Paul) Aaker.

Visitation to be held Thursday, May 22, 2025 from 10-11 am at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenyon with funeral services to follow at 11 am. Burial to be held at Kenyon Cemetery immediately following the service with the Kenyon Color Guard rendering Military Honors. All are welcome to join the family for a luncheon at the Kenyon VFW.

Michaelson Funeral Home, Kenyon, entrusted with arrangements.



# FIRST SALE OF THE YEAR!!



A Pickers Paradise

## - Annual -

# MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND SALE

## MAY 22, 23, 24 & 25 • 10:00 AM-6:00 PM

7 Cannon Street West, Dundas, MN 55019

Sporting Goods!

Antiques!

Binge Pete's BBQ Truck!

Electronics!

Household Items! Tools!

Camping Goods!

Holiday Decor!

Furniture!

Lawn and Garden!

Jewelry!

**And so much more! New items all day, every day!**





## 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 Illice 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 on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 11:00 am. Interment will be at the Holden Lutheran Cemetery.

## DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## Craig Johnson

Craig Johnson, age 67, of Nerstrand, died on May 16, 2025.

Funeral services will be held at the Faribault High School, Nomeland Gymnasium on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The Reverend Karen Bruins will officiate. Interment will be at the Nerstrand City Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the Faribault High School on Friday, May 23, 2025, from 4 – 7 p.m. There will be no visitation prior to the service on Saturday.

Arrangements are being completed by Boldt Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Faribault.

Craig Eugene, the son of Clyde Johnson, Sr. and Beatrice (Gallion) Smoley was born May 8, 1958, in Britt, Iowa. He graduated from high school in Buffalo Center, Iowa – Class of 1976. On March 5, 1977, Craig married Teresa Dresback in Winterset, Iowa. They lived in Warsaw before moving to Nerstrand in 1989. For the last 26 years, Craig worked as a custodial engineer at the Faribault High School. He retired in January 2025. He also worked for Wolf Creek Dairy for 30 years. Craig had a passion for youth sports, especially umping and refereeing. He enjoyed reading and watching movies, his greatest love was his family.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Terri; children, Tracy (and George) Hemphill, Marcus (and Cassie) Johnson and Randall Johnson; grandchildren, Chandler Hopkins, Allison, Abigail, Addilynn, Owen and Emma Johnson; siblings, Clyde Johnson, Jr., Kim (and Gene) Geopfert, Chuck (and Chris) Smoley and Jim Smoley; brothers and sisters – in – law, Rick (and Mindy) Dresback, Barb (and John) DeJoode and Gary (and Amy) Dresback; many nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

Craig was preceded in death by his son, Jeremy; his parents; stepfather, Ray Smoley; sister, Debbie Johnson in infancy; brother – in – law, Bob Dresback and parents – in – law, Deane and Shirley Dresback.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the family for a memorial to be determined later.

Visit [boldtfuneralhome.com](http://boldtfuneralhome.com) for information and guestbook.

## Holden Community Park Accepting Reservations

The Holden Community Park is accepting reservations. The park is open from June 1 – September 30 and is located just west of the Holden Lutheran Church on Co Rd 30, Kenyon. Please contact Peggy Kroenbach if you would like to reserve the building. (p\_kronbach@yahoo.com, # 507/227-4992)



## KENYON-WANAMINGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STUDENTS of the WEEK



### NOBLE KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK FOR MAY 9, 2025

Front Row: Tobias Smith, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Ava ClinE, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Fatima Estevez Lima, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Reese Allen, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan. Back Row: Jackson Little, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Roman Johnson, Gr. 3, Mr. Joel Olson; HunterMae Wetzstein, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Henry Skillestad, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



### NOBLE KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK FOR MAY 16, 2025

Front Row: Emma Guzman, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Adeline Strand, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Nicholas Hargarten, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Olivia Ramirez, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Haddie Schwering, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Adeline Baalson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Aftyn Meyers, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Adaline Richards, Gr. 3, Mr. Joel Olson; Korbin Flotterud, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Sebastian Uran, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

## 67-year-old Killed in Rice County Crash Wasn't Wearing a Seatbelt, State Patrol Says

Courtesy of KSTP & MN State Patrol

A 67-year-old man who was killed Friday after his vehicle collided with another on a wet road was reportedly not wearing a seatbelt.

According to the Minnesota State Patrol, Craig Eugene Johnson, 67, of Nerstrand, MN, was driving a 2014 Ford Escape in the eastbound lanes on Highway 246 around 1:42 p.m.

A GMC Yukon, driven by a 44-year-old woman from Kenyon, MN, was driving west on the highway when the two vehicles collided near 170th Street East.

The Minnesota State Patrol said Johnson was killed in the crash, and the other driver received non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to the hospital. She, according to the State Patrol, was also not wearing a seat belt.



Craig Johnson



## Kenyon Farmer's Market Sets Their Dates

(continued from page 1)

Pickles, green beans, garlic, jams and jellies are among the treasures you will find when you check them out. Also, a lot of baked goods, gluten free treats, freeze dried candies, coffees from around the world, honey and maple syrup. Homemade crafts line the perimeter of the Kenyon Farmers Market, including wood working, crocheted items, jew-

elry, beautiful paintings and fresh cut floral bouquets. It will be held every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, from 4 to 7pm. Kim Helgeson is one of the committee members who brought back the market after not having one for a while. They started small and have continued to grow to well over a dozen vendors. It is being held at the Evangelical Lutheran Church at 309 Forest Street. Mark your calendars for June 5th and 19th, July 3rd and 17th, August 7th and 21st, and September 4th and 18th.

This year's news is that the Park and Rec Department was awarded a grant this year from Compeer Financial for picnic tables, so a big shout out to them for their generous donation!

It's so fun to see all the people who come to check out the market, and visit with their neighbors and friends. Not just Kenyonites, either. There are people from other surrounding communities who have heard how many vendors are displaying their wares, and what a variety of goods are being sold. There are vendors of every age marketing their products and produce, and beautiful woodworking, too. You just have to stop by and see it for yourself! And tell them the Messenger sent you!



## Fire On the Nature Trail

(continued from page 1)

The pedestrian walking bridge at the Nature Trail is closed until further notice. No one was hurt, and the damage was limited thanks to the quick response by the Fire Department. The City is working with the insurance company, and once coverage is approved, the repairs will be made.

## Correction

In the Bombay Store article it states that the store was sold to Michael Davidson in April of 1912 & it remained in the Davidson family until it closed. This is incorrect. Claremont & Esther Skillestad purchased the store in 1967 & owned & operated it until its last day of business on February 29, 1992. The building was sold by the Skillestads to its current owners in August 1992.

## School House News

(continued from page 1)

Since it was important that the offers were made before the regular City Council meeting on Monday, May 12th, an emergency meeting was held at 8:30 am on Saturday, May 12th. One offer was time sensitive, and school board members had to meet prior to the City meeting to make their decision.

The School Board reviewed the two offers and the one that was accepted is from a local family who intends to make it a multi-use location. Some possibilities are a day care center for kids, and another idea is an adult day care for our disabled adults in the area. The intention is to keep the gym open for local teams who need places to practice, and of course, Granny Basketball! Beth Giese stated, "We are very excited for the opportunity to continue to grow the community of Wanamingo."

The bid has been made and accepted, but as of today, the sale has not closed, so we feel it best to withhold the names of the family who has made the offer until all appropriate steps have been taken. This is a big step for everyone who has done due diligence to find the best outcome for a tenacious situation. Here's to moving forward in a positive direction!!

## Lab Puppies for Sale



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 Wormed, vaccinated, dewclaws removed,  
 1 year health guarantee

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## Berne Wood-Fired Pizza Reopens for 2025 with First-Ever Saturday Night Event

West Concord, MN – A favorite summer tradition returns as Berne Wood-Fired Pizza kicks off its 2025 season, bringing together community, music, and delicious wood-fired pizza in the heart of the Minnesota countryside. This seasonal outdoor venue, nestled in rural Dodge County, transforms every Wednesday night in June, July, and August into a celebration of food, fellowship, and rural charm.

This year's season includes something extra special: Berne's first-ever Saturday night event on June 28 from 5–10 PM—Battle of the Tribute Bands—featuring Tumblin' Dice: The Rolling Stones Experience and Dust n' Bones: A Guns N' Roses Tribute. The evening also includes craft beer from SxSE MN Brewing Company of Pine Island, MN.

Berne Pizza is operated solely by volunteers and raises money for nonprofit organizations across SE Minnesota. "I love meeting new

people and working side by side with them," said Patricia Derby, event coordinator. "Seeing people visiting, dancing, and little kids playing brings me joy. Many people have told me they're busy on Wednesdays, so I'm excited we can welcome them for this one special Saturday night this season!"

In addition to the Saturday event, the 2025 season promises a vibrant lineup of weekly live music, family-friendly fun, and special themed tribute concerts.

### 2025 Tribute Concerts:

- June 4 – Tribute to Heart
- June 11 – Tribute to Queen
- June 18 – Tribute to Johnny Cash
- August 13 – Tribute to Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young
- August 20 – Tribute to ABBA

### Additional Special Events:

- Monthly Classic Car Cruise-Ins (June 25, July 30, and Aug. 27)
- Salute to Veterans Event (July 2)
- Kids' Night with Zollman Zoo (July 9)
- Artisan Market Night (Aug. 6)

Each night features seven specialty pizzas, which can be purchased upon arrival or in advance on Eventbrite. Pizzas range from the traditional pepperoni and sausage, meat lover's, and bacon cheeseburger to Hawaiian, Greek, or barbeque. All events are free to attend and offer a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere. Visitors can enjoy handcrafted wood-fired pizzas, made fresh on-site, while soaking in the sights and sounds of summer.

### About Berne Wood-Fired Pizza

Berne Wood-Fired Pizza is a seasonal outdoor pizza venue located in rural West Concord, Minnesota, known for its handcrafted



pizzas, weekly live music, and warm community spirit, Berne has become a beloved destination each summer for residents and

visitors alike. Learn more at [www.bernepizza.org](http://www.bernepizza.org).

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(Commercial, Residential, Industrial)
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(507) 421-2891

[knottmachine@gmail.com](mailto:knottmachine@gmail.com)

## Celebrating You, Class of 2025

You've set a great example for tomorrow's graduates with your hard work and perseverance, and we hope you're as proud of your accomplishment as we are.

## STRESE'S TREE SERVICE, INC.

[www.streses.com](http://www.streses.com)

12312 110th St. E., Dennison, MN 55018

PHONE: COLE 507-298-1005

Email: [cole@streses.com](mailto:cole@streses.com)

Fax: 507-645-6066

## DODGER DAYS FRIDAY, JUNE 13 LP & THE 45's ON MAIN

- BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS -

GAMES/CARDS EVERY TUESDAY from 2-5 PM

OPEN  
MIC  
June 5  
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Dodge County's Greatest Anodyne

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Watch for  
Music on  
Main  
this  
summer!



The logo for River Country Cooperative features the name in a serif font, with 'RIVER COUNTRY' on the top line and 'COOPERATIVE' on the bottom line. Below the text is a decorative element consisting of a five-pointed star flanked by two wavy horizontal lines. Underneath this is the phrase "Established 1935" in a script font. A dark rectangular box contains a list of services in white serif font: Fertilizer • Seed, Soil Sampling • Chemicals, Custom Application, Field Scouting, Bulk, LP, and Gas and Diesel Fuel. At the bottom, four locations are listed in two columns: Kenyon (507-789-6201), Hastings (800-349-5743), Randolph (800-657-3285), and Hampton (800-225-4316).



WHEEL IN WEDNESDAY

to *Dennison*

STARTING MAY 28

TAKE A MID-WEEK BREAK!

HOSTED BY 625 & THE FIRESIDE!

625

EST. 2023

BAR AND GRILL

FARMER'S MARKET

The Fireside

LOUNGE AND SUPPER CLUB

Classic Cars Motorcycles Side-by-Sides



Wednesdays on Main Street Starting at 5:00 PM

BROASTER CHICKEN

BROASTED CHICKEN SPECIAL!

Closed Mondays

Tuesday-Thursday: Bar 4pm-Close

Kitchen 4-8pm

Friday & Saturday: Bar 11am-Close Kitchen 11am-9pm

Sunday: Bar 1-9pm Kitchen 1-8pm

Main Street, Dennison

507-782-9061

Farmers Market

Main Street Dennison

WATCH FOR THE FIRST FARMERS MARKET DATE COMING SOON!

For more information, contact Heidi at: dennisonfarmersmarket@gmail.com

Wednesday Dining at The Fireside



WEDNESDAY FEATURES

Enjoy Our "Jumbo" Wings Specials!

BBQ Rib Dinner 1/2 or Full Rack (begins at 4:00p.m.)

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

Open 24hrs

507-645-9992 • www.firesidelounge.net

Take the short Drive to Dennison!



Wanamingo Memorial Day Program

May 26, 2025

Assembly (8:30 A.M. at the Community Center)

9:00 a.m. - Step off at the Community Center

Order of March

Color Bearers

Mayor Ryan Holmes, Pastor Dave Sorenson, LTC Heather Arndt (ret) (guest speaker)

Rifle Squad

All Veterans (if unable to march we have vehicles provided)

Flower Bearers Vera Burt, Violet Burt, Micah Salveson, Natalia Vargas

Boy Scouts

Kenyon-Wanamingo Marching Band

Parade will proceed down Main Street to the Zumbro River Bridge

Brief remarks honoring those lost at sea Pastor Dave Sorenson

Flower Bearers: Vera Burt, Violet Burt, Micah Salveson, Natalia Vargas

Program at Riverside Park

Welcome:

Words from the Mayor

Invocation and introduction of the band

Musical Selections: America, and America the Beautiful (Claire Larson: Director)

Introduce Scouts for Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of Students for readings

In Flanders Field (father was a veteran of Iraq)

Gettysburg Address (brother serving in the Marines)

Introduce speaker (read bio)

Remarks by guest speaker

Star Spangled Banner

Honor Roll of the Fallen

Salute to the Fallen

Taps and Flag detail

Benediction

Pastor Dave Sorenson

Ryan Holmes

Pastor Dave Sorenson

Kenyon-Wanamingo Band

Pastor Dave Sorenson

Holly Carlstrom

Pastor Dave Sorenson

Holly Carlstrom

Elliot Schwab

Pastor Dave Sorenson

LT C Heather Arndt (ret)

Kenyon-Wanamingo Band

read by Gary Floan VFW Post 186 Commander

WVHG Rifle Squad

Ross Aldorfer

Jim Kittelson - Holly Carlstrom

Pastor Dave Sorenson

All Veterans are welcome to march in the parade. For Veterans unable to march we have transportation provided, (uniform not required). In case of rain the ceremony will be held in Trinity Lutheran Church.

At 8:00 A.M we will have a short program and prayer at the Wanamingo POW/MIA Memorial

--TAKE NOTE--Breakfast served to all veterans and parade participants prior to parade at 7:30 AM in the Community Center. (Courtesy of the Todd Greseth family)

WHY CHOOSE US?

At ProBuilt Construction, we were founded on the belief that homeowners deserve better - better quality, better service, and a better experience.

Following a FREE AND THOROUGH EVALUATION, our expert project managers and craftsmen will bring your vision to life, enhancing your home's curb appeal.

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Whether your roof has aged over time or suffered damage from Minnesota's weather, the ProBuilt team will deliver dependable, professional roofing solutions tailored to your home and budget.

SIDING

ProBuilt offers comprehensive siding solutions from evaluation to installation, enhancing your home's protection, value, and curb appeal.

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507-323-0319





# DENNISON DAYS

June 20 & 21, 2025

RAIN OR SHINE

SATURDAY  
FOOD STANDS  
OPEN AT 11AM!



All You Can Eat  
**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Includes Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage  
& Beverages

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21**  
**8:00 AM to 11:00 AM**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 21**  
**CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

**8:00 AM**

**Trophies at 1:00 PM**

**ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULL**  
**10:00 AM**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21**

**KIDS PEDAL  
TRACTOR PULL**  
**11:00 AM**

**BE IN THE PARADE**

**SATURDAY at 1:30 PM!**

*A Kiddie Parade  
Leads Off Main Parade  
(Ages 12 & under)*

**Sign up at 12:00 p.m. South Main Street**

**\$100.00 Prize for  
Best Parade Entry!**

**Call 507-645-9992**

**Dennison Lions Club  
DENNISON DAYS  
RAFFLE**

**1st Prize: \$500 Cash**

**2nd Prize: \$200 Cash**

**3rd Prize: \$100 Cash**

**4th Prize: \$50 Cash**

**Drawing held at 9:00p.m. at the  
Fireside Lounge**

Need not be present to win.  
Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees.  
SPONSORED BY DENNISON LIONS CLUB  
CHARITABLE GAMBLING PERMIT #2762

**FRIDAY, JUNE 20 KICK OFF**

**Gopher State  
Garden  
Tractor  
Pull**  
**6:00 PM**

**LIVE MUSIC**



**ANDY TACKETT**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21**



*presents*

**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. **Keg 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

**We Thank All Of Our Sponsors & Supporters**

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City of Dennison  
Clutchmen Car Club  
College City Beverage - Budweiser  
Community Resource Bank  
Cub Foods  
D & S Sign  
Dennison Community Church  
Dennison Depot  
Dennison Meat Locker

Dennison Tire & Repair  
Dohman Concrete Enterprises  
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Flom Dairy  
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Frandsen Bank  
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IMS Contracting  
Interstate Lumber - Cannon Falls  
Kenyon Ace Hardware  
Kenyon Veterinary Clinic  
Kenyon VFW  
KYMN 95.1

Lake Country Bank  
Mainstreet Messenger  
Merchants Bank  
Midwest Machinery Co. - John Deere  
Nerstrand Agri Center  
Nerstrand Fire Dept.  
Nerstrand Meats  
Nest Woodworking  
Northfield Lines  
Northfield Retirement Center  
Parkside General Store - Nerstrand

Paul's Plumbing  
Pro Built Construction  
River Country Coop  
River Road Repair  
Security State Bank Kenyon  
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Streitz Heating & Cooling  
Strese Tree Service  
Sviggum Insurance  
Sweet Shibui Photography

Syngenta  
Tatge Jewelry  
Taylor Truck Lines  
Traxler Power & Equipment  
Wood Doc Construction - Emery Maher

*If we missed your name, please accept  
our apology.  
Your support is appreciated.*

**For updated info. go to [www.dennisondays.org](http://www.dennisondays.org)**



## Business Planning Grants Open for Minnesota Dairy Farmers

*Apply early, funding is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis*

Minnesota dairy farmers are encouraged to apply for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Dairy Business Planning Grants, a funding opportunity designed to support dairy operations in planning for the future.

Eligible projects include hiring a qualified, independent third party to help create a business plan for your dairy operation. This can include plans to:

- Evaluate the feasibility of expanding your operation
  - Plan for environmental upgrades
  - Develop a farm transition or succession strategy
  - Update feedlot permits
  - Address other business planning needs
- "Dairy farming comes with real challenges,

and thoughtful planning is essential. We're proud to offer Dairy Business Planning Grants to support Minnesota farmers as they look ahead to strengthen their operations. Their hard work brings fresh, high-quality dairy products to tables here in Minnesota and beyond," said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen.

The grant pays 50 percent of the cost to develop a business plan, up to \$5,000. Producers are responsible for the remaining 50 percent. Applications will be funded on a first come, first served basis until June 1, 2025. The MDA has approximately \$28,000 remaining to be used this fiscal year.

To see the full eligibility requirements and to apply, visit the Dairy Business Planning Grants web page. Questions at this program can be directed to Kami Schoenfeld at [Kami.Schoenfeld@state.mn.us](mailto:Kami.Schoenfeld@state.mn.us) or call 651-201-6643.



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### Try our evening hours.



Monday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Wednesday: Closed  
Thursday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
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**Kenyon Clinic**

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Northfield Hospital + Clinics

## Rice County Steam & Gas Engines, Inc.

*Invites You To Our Annual*



**SATURDAY, MAY 24 & SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025**

**Rice County Steam & Gas Showgrounds**

11988 Faribault Blvd \* Dundas, MN 55019 (Located 3/4 mile South of Cty. Rd. 20 on Highway 3)

**Annual Swap Meet & Flea Market \* Consignment Auction 9am Saturday**

**S.E.A.T.P. Tractor Pull 9am Sunday \* Miniature Railroad Train Rides**

### SWAP MEET & FLEA MARKET

\$30 - Outdoor Space (30'x30')  
\$40 - Indoor Space (10'x10')

SET UP 8AM-8PM, FRIDAY ONLY  
Sale of firearms is prohibited

**FLEA MARKET CONTACT:**  
Sandy Boulliez 507-581-8223

**Early Registration:**  
Mail your name, address, phone number, MN Tax ID# and space rent:  
**RCSGE, Inc.**  
Attn: Flea Market  
PO Box 76  
DUNDAS, MN 55019

**General Information Contacts:**  
Bill Becker 507-581-1225  
Jeremy Sevcik 507-403-1614  
Carmen Sevcik 507-649-0352

### SATURDAY CONSIGNMENT AUCTION Fundraiser

Bring your items to sell  
Thursday afternoon (May 22nd), Friday all day (May 23rd)  
All commissions will be donated to the Club.

**AUCTIONEER: LARRY VALEK 612-978-6901 TO CONSIGN**  
[www.valekauctions.com](http://www.valekauctions.com)

### SUNDAY

**S.E.A.T.P. TRACTOR PULL**

Registration opens 7:00AM • \$20 per hook to pull tractor  
Tractor Pull contact Steve Nelson 612-366-5461

**Miniature Railroad Train Rides Saturday and Sunday**  
No charge, but donations welcome

[www.ricecountysteamandgas.com](http://www.ricecountysteamandgas.com)

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**Great Happiness & Success**



[www.vsgmi.com](http://www.vsgmi.com)

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Email:  
[info@securityinsurancekenyon.com](mailto:info@securityinsurancekenyon.com)

### Sviggum Agency

133 Main Street  
Wanamingo  
Phone: 507-824-5105  
Email:  
[agent@svigguminsurance.com](mailto:agent@svigguminsurance.com)

### Castle Rock Agency

27925 Danville Avenue  
Castle Rock  
Phone: 651-463-7590  
Email:  
[michelle.kreisler@castlerockbank.net](mailto:michelle.kreisler@castlerockbank.net)

### Keller Agency

305 Main Street  
Nerstrand  
Phone:  
507-334-6550

### Kalass Agency

242 Main Street  
Zumbrota  
Phone: 507-732-7614  
Email:  
[kalassagency@kalassagency.com](mailto:kalassagency@kalassagency.com)



## Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management Launches Grant Program for Organizations to Help Farmers Succeed in the Legal Cannabis Industry

The Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) announced a new program to

help Minnesota farmers enter and thrive in the cannabis industry. The \$2 million CanGrow program includes grants to eligible organizations that will help farmers navigate the regulatory structure of the legal cannabis industry through CanGrow farmer training grants, and to nonprofit organizations that will fund loans to farmers who want to expand into the legal cannabis industry through CanGrow farmer loan grants.

CanGrow farmer training grants will fund these eligible organizations to provide educational materials, training, and technical support to farmers who want to enter or expand into the legal cannabis industry. Project categories eligible for funding are outlined in the request for proposals. CanGrow farmer loan grants will fund nonprofit organizations to assist farmers by providing low-interest loans for entering the legal cannabis industry. This initiative aims to accelerate market entry and growth for farmers ready to start or expand their farms, avoid costs and risks for farmers at all stages of readiness, and reduce compliance risks, costs, and infractions for cannabis farms.

“Providing farmers the financial opportunity to take part in Minnesota’s cannabis market and make strategic investments is the best way to ensure they can build equity,” said OCM Interim Director Eric Taubel. “Through CanGrow, farmers who want to enter the cannabis market will receive support and tools to succeed.”

The announcement comes a week after the formal adoption of OCM’s rules governing Minnesota’s adult-use cannabis market – a crucial step that allows the office to begin is-

suing business licenses to applicants who have completed all necessary steps in the application process. With rules in place, hundreds of social equity applicants are first in line to receive business licenses after completing application requirements.

CanGrow grant awards for technical assistance in the first round of funding are expected to range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per project. Grant awards for loan financing are expected to range from \$200,000 to \$500,000 per eligible organization (individual farmer loans will range from \$2,500 to \$50,000 or up to \$150,000 for projects with matching funds). OCM intends to fund investments in eligible communities throughout the state with this competitive grant program. Organizations eligible to receive CanGrow farmer training grants include nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, local governments, private businesses, community groups and partnerships between different types of organizations. CanGrow farmer loan grants are only eligible to nonprofit corporations.

Organizations interested in applying for a CanGrow grant must submit a written application that explains their proposed community investment, the community’s needs, and the expected positive outcomes. Applications will be evaluated based on their potential community impact, the organization’s track record of success, and community support for the investment. Priority will be given to applications from organizations that demonstrate a history of successful training or navigation services, particularly for farmers facing barriers to education or employment. OCM will give weight to applications where

the proposed grant projects will serve areas where residents are eligible to be social equity applicants.

CanGrow grants are part of a larger collection of grants that will support and provide funding for technical assistance, financial capital, and workforce training for the Minnesota legal cannabis industry. The other grant programs are CanRenew, promoted through OCM, and three programs that are overseen by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED): CanStartUp, CanNavigate, and CanTrain. For more information on those grant programs visit DEED’s Support for Cannabis Businesses website.

“We recognize that financing and resources are critical for Minnesota farmers,” said Jess Jackson, OCM’s director of social equity. “CanGrow helps to increase access to ownership by ensuring underserved farmers get a fair opportunity at entering the cannabis market.”

Funding will be awarded through a competitive process with review by a committee representing content and community specialists. OCM will announce selected grantees/awardees in fall 2025. If selected, applicants may only incur eligible expenditures when the grant agreement is fully executed, and the grant has reached its effective date.

For more information on CanGrow grant opportunities and how to apply, please visit the Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management website.

## Traxler Law PLLC

traxlerlaw.com

**Ann Traxler**

Attorney

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

**Letter to the Editor;**

Our state legislature is in the process of determining the budget. One item on the table is the funding of benefits for immigrants. I would urge readers to consider the economic benefits that immigrants bring to the United States and Minnesota. Immigrants compose about one-third of the workforce in farming, fishing and forestry, building, grounds cleaning, and maintenance organizations. Immigrants also provide 29% of the textile and garment industries workforce (2018, U.S. Department of Labor Statistics). Immigrants fill an important employment gap in the United States. There is a great demand for low-skilled labor. Immigrants are willing to fill those positions. Immigrants to the U.S. are also more likely than U.S. citizens to be employed (65.7% for foreign-born, 62.3% for native-born individuals). Immigrant workers help support the aging native-born population (sometimes as direct caregivers in group homes, assisted living, and long-term care institutions). They are willing to take the jobs that retiring baby boomers can no longer fill. Immigrant workers increase the Social Security

and Medicare trust funds. (Yes, immigrants contribute to YOUR social security). Immigrants may require SNAP and Medicaid benefits to make ends meet; they are employed at minimum-wage jobs. Most of the immigrants who receive these benefits are employed while receiving benefits or they are married to someone who is working.

As a nurse, a nurse practitioner, and a nursing instructor I have worked with many students who did not begin their lives in the United States. I found them to be dedicated to quality patient care. I have worked with many nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians who immigrated to the United States or those who held work visas. I haven't had any problems working with them. I found them competent, easy to communicate with, and compassionate.

Therefore, I do NOT begrudge immigrants SNAP, Medicaid, and other benefits in Minnesota. When my great-great-grandparents came to the United States, they were immigrants. I am the descendant of immigrants and unless you are a member of one of the indigenous nations who share geography with Minnesota, so are you.

Also, every budget is a moral decision.  
Susan B. Janicke



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## Talking Spring Allergies with U of M



Neal Godse,  
University of Minnesota Medical  
and M Health Fairview

As spring arrives, so does allergy season. The runny nose, sneezing and watery eyes that come with spring allergies can sometimes dim the excitement of the new season.

Neal Godse, MD, with the University of Minnesota Medical School and M Health Fairview, talks about spring allergy symptoms and steps to keep them under control.

**Q: What are the main causes of spring allergies?**

Dr. Godse: Allergies are an inflammatory response that our bodies create in response to some external irritant. Early spring allergies are typically caused by tree pollens — commonly birch, maple and oak — and, later in the season, by grass pollens. Molds can

also grow in damp, snow-melt environments and are another common source of spring allergies.

**Q: What are the most common symptoms of spring allergies?**

Dr. Godse: Runny nose, sneezing, itchy/watery eyes, nasal congestion — difficulty breathing through the nose, or a “stuffy nose” — facial pressure and headaches are classic issues that people with spring allergies face. This can also affect sleep, create fatigue and cause brain fog when severe.

**Q: What steps can you take to minimize your exposure to allergy triggers?**

Dr. Godse: It can be difficult to avoid exposure to spring allergens. With the weather getting better, people want to be outside! Some helpful strategies include staying indoors with air conditioning on days with high pollen counts, using an air filter to reduce airborne pollen counts in your home, keeping windows closed at night and using a mask when gardening or doing yard work.

**Q: What are the available options for managing allergy symptoms?**

Dr. Godse: There are a number of good options for treating allergies. Nasal saline can help flush irritating allergens out of the nose. Oral and topical antihistamines block histamine, one of the key inflammatory chemicals released in response to allergens. Nasal steroid sprays are powerful anti-inflammatory medications that work very well to reduce symptoms. Be careful of decongestant sprays: these can help with symptoms, but can damage the nose over the long term.

**Q: How does your work at the University of Minnesota advance health in Min-**



nesota?

Dr. Godse: Our research at the University of Minnesota Medical School is focused on better understanding how issues like nasal allergies play into chronic inflammatory sinus diseases and how we can treat these issues in a more comprehensive and targeted way.

Dr. Neal Godse is an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School and a rhinologist and skull base surgeon at M Health Fairview. His research focuses on better understanding and treating patients with cancer of the nasal cavity and skull base. He is also interested in the novel applications of emerging technologies to patients with these issues and chronic inflammatory sinus disease.

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