



Goodhue-Bellechester Messenger

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O'Reilly family of Goodhue hosts Breakfast on the Farm

The O'Reilly family welcomes everyone to Green Acres Organic Dairy for "Breakfast on the Farm" on June 20th from

7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at 17839 360th Str. Goodhue, MN 55027. Come and enjoy a complimentary breakfast with deep fried cheese curds, ice cream and other wholesome dairy products.

The Goodhue County dairy farmers, the Goodhue County American Dairy Association, local businesses and Bluff Country KCUE Radio will be showcasing dairy farming and the dairy products they produce at their annual Breakfast on the Farm event.

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Bethany Lutheran College Professor to Speak at Volksfest Service

By Beth Brekke

All are invited to attend the Christian worship service planned for 9 a.m. Sunday, June 15, in Gym 1 at Goodhue Public School. The annual Volksfest Service is a joint project of the local Wisconsin Synod Lutheran parishes of St. John's, St. Peter's and Grace. Reverend Martin Weigand will conduct the liturgy with special music provided by a joint choir and

band of the three churches. Reverend Donald Moldstad, Director of Campus Spiritual Life at Bethany Lutheran College, will deliver the main message.

Reverends Dallas Miller and Randall Kuznicki initiated the community service for the Goodhue Centennial in 1997. Pastor Roger Sachs, who previously served St. Peter's, was the guest preacher. The special

service, held on Volksfest weekend every year except during COVID, always features a different keynote presenter.

Pictured to the right:
Reverend Donald Moldstad



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Bellechester Lion's to Disband, Dig in with New Non-Profit



The officer team selected to run the newly established Bellechester Clay Diggers non-profit organization are (L-R) Emily Schmidt, secretary; Candy Kiebel, treasurer; Nick Keller, president; and Roger Kittelson, vice president.

By Beth Brekke

The Bellechester Lion's Club (BCLC) met on May 5th and again on May 19th at the Bellechester Tavern to discuss the future of the club. Established in 2021 as an official member of Lion's International, those attending the meetings voted to uncouple from the organization and establish a new non-profit group.

With a population of 173, Bellechester, like other small towns, is struggling to build or even maintain Lion's club membership. The BCLC official membership stands at 14 with around half actively attending meetings and paying dues.

(continued on page 12)

Flower Girls Dare to Dream

By Beth Brekke

Mary Jean Carlson and Paulette Meyer love to go shopping. The crafty sisters' favorite store is Hobby Lobby but they also love flowers. Since moving into Goodhue Living (GL) apartments, they have missed being able to purchase and grow plants.

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Sisters, Paulette Meyer (left) and Mary Jean Carlson contemplate all the flower choices in the Goodhue FFA greenhouse on May 8th.

Announcements

• **Belvidere Happy-Go-Luckies 4-H Club** (usually) meets the first Monday of each month at 7p.m. at St. Peter's Church, rural Goodhue. New members are always welcome! Contact club leader Michelle Benrud at 651-923-5247 for more information.

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Pastors Corner

By Robbin Robert
St. John's Lutheran Church
Goodhue

Proverbs 13:24 “A person who withholds his rod hates his son, but one who loves him administers discipline promptly.”

With real little children discipline especially has to be prompt or the child will not connect the cause and effect. For children and all of us Ecclesiastes 8:11 has words of wisdom about the promptness of discipline:

“When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people’s hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong.”

The proverb "Spare the rod and spoil the child" is often attributed to Samuel Butler, an English writer who used it in his poem "Hudibras", although the underlying concept is rooted in Proverbs 13:24.

Christian discipline for children has been changing, especially over the past few decades. While core values like love, guidance, and teaching right from wrong remain central, the methods and attitudes toward discipline have evolved in many Christian communities. Here are the key ways it's changing:

- 1. Shift Away from Physical Punishment**
 - Traditional View: Many Christians in the past interpreted Bible verses like Proverbs 13:24 (“He who spares the rod hates his son...”) as endorsing corporal punishment.
 - Modern Shift: Increasing numbers of Christian parents, leaders, and psychologists now advocate non-physical approaches, emphasizing that “the rod” is symbolic of guidance, not violence.
 - Influence: Scientific studies on child development and trauma, along with legal and cultural shifts, have influenced this change.
- 2. Greater Emphasis on Grace and Relationship**

- Old Model: Discipline was often authoritarian, emphasizing obedience and punishment.

- Newer Approach: There's a stronger focus on grace, communication, and building a trusting parent-child relationship, modeled after God's relationship with His people.

3. Use of Positive Parenting and Discipleship

- Discipline as Discipleship: More Christian parents now view discipline as discipling — teaching children how to follow Jesus, not just enforcing rules.

- Techniques Used: Time-outs, natural consequences, positive reinforcement, and active listening are more common than punitive measures.

4. Cultural and Denominational Diversity

- Changes vary widely across denominations and cultures. Evangelical, Catholic, mainline Protestant, and Orthodox communities may approach discipline differently.

- In more conservative circles, traditional discipline methods are still more common, though even these are being re-evaluated.

In Summary:

Yes, Christian discipline for children is changing — moving away from punitive, authoritarian methods toward more relational, grace-filled, and developmentally informed approaches. I think there are improvements to be made from old-school and from new-school.

We have seen that child who needs a spank-

ing to bring him back to reality and on the other hand we have all felt bad for the child whose parent is disciplining in an exasperating manner.

We should be grateful that we live at times that we understand autism and special needs and even something as simple as left-handedness that up to 80 years ago was still looked upon as demonic and worthy of a beating.

Can autistic children, can any child become a master manipulator? Of course, the thought would not be that such a child does not need discipline but rather being smarter than the child to discipline in a manner that is most effective. Between any two children there can be a wide range of what would be able to be used to get a child to say he is sorry when he misbehaves. A professor of mine at the seminary talked about the difference between his two daughters in regard to discipline. He said one daughter a mere look of disappointment would melt her but the other daughter would have had to have extreme corporal punishment if that was going to be the route of extracting an apology. Of course, he never beat his daughter but learned effective means to discipline her.

My Dad retired from teaching in the early 2000's and when the newspaper interviewed him about a top reason that made him decide to retire after 40 year his response was discipline. He had worked hard to change with the times in regards to effective discipline, but it was getting tiring. God grant all of our

teachers a restful summer to come back refreshed to effectively discipline. God grant our parents and students a relaxing summer to make sure they come back in Fall ready to listen to the teachers as representatives God has put in place.

Are you having problems with discipline? James 4:2 reminds us that sometimes we have not because we ask not. Take discipline and everything to the Lord in prayer. Be consistent. Hebrews 12:11 “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”

Contemporary Music Director Job Opening:

*Do you love God?
Do you love worship music?
Want to combine your love for God and music?
This position might be for you.*

St. Luke Lutheran Church in Goodhue is looking for a Contemporary Music Director. The Director would lead music ministries for a once-a-month contemporary worship service at St. Luke.

Interested in hearing more?
Please reach out to Pr. Eric Hanson at
anspachh2002@gmail.com
or the office of St. Luke Lutheran at
office@stlukegoodhue.org

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Sat.: 4:45PM - 5:20PM Confession, 5:30PM Holy Mass (Sunday vigil)
Tues.: 8:00AM Holy Mass
Wed.: 8:00AM Holy Mass, 9:00AM - 2:00PM Eucharistic Adoration
Rosary said 25 minutes before Holy Mass
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Rosary said 25 minutes before Holy Mass
All are WELCOME! But receiving Holy Communion are for those who are of age and practicing the Catholic faith.
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GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

Pastor Martin Weigand
39774 Co. 4 Blvd., Goodhue • 651-923-4624
gracelutheranchurch@gmail.com • www.gracestpeters.org
Sunday Morning Worship 8:30a.m. with communion on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.
Sunday School at 9:30a.m., Sunday Bible Study at 9:45a.m., Confirmation Class 5:45 on Wednesday at St Peter's.
8:30a.m. Quilting and Bible Study on Wednesday at St Peter's, and 10:30a.m. Midweek Bible Study on Thursday at St Peter's.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

I Am God's Chosen Possession

He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. — Ephesians 1:4

The Bible explains that believers have been freely and generously chosen by God. This choosing is not based on our appearance, intelligence, personality, status, or anything else. It's not something we earn or deserve. Instead, it's a purely gracious act.

God, in his great love, initiates the process of salvation. By his sovereign will and good pleasure, God has decided to save us, making rescue and redemption possible for all who have been made in his image (Genesis 1:26-27). Even though we were ensnared in sin, Jesus died to deliver us from the curse of sin and death to make us holy in God's sight.

Being chosen by God is an overwhelming blessing that fills us with humility and helps us see that there is no room for pride or boasting. It also instills in us a sense of security and confidence, recognizing that our salvation is not based on our religious performance. Instead, as God's chosen possession, we belong to him. Body and soul—in life and in death—we are his, and nothing can snatch us from his hand (John 10:28-30).

What an exhilarating honor—to be chosen, wanted, and valued by the most significant being in the universe!

Gracious God, thank you for choosing us. Thank you for being the author, perfecter, and finisher of our faith. May we live with the assurance that you will complete the good work you have begun in us. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN (WELS)

Pastor Randall Kuznicki
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Lawrence Joseph "Larry" O'Reilly

Lawrence Joseph "Larry" O'Reilly, age 89 of Anaheim, California, died peacefully at home surrounded by family on Saturday, May 3, 2025.

Larry was born on December 19, 1935 in Red Wing, Minnesota, to Vincent and Agnes (Guenther) O'Reilly. He graduated from Goodhue High School and went on to serve with the US Navy. Upon his

honorable discharge, he graduated from Winona State University with a degree in Liberal Arts.

He taught high school in Los Angeles, CA for two years and then changed his career to insurance, working at Aetna Life Insurance Company. Larry started his business, Three Green Thumbs, and Jerry went in to partnership two years later.

He loved traveling and did that extensively. He was active with his bowling league throughout his life! He loved spending time with their friends and family.

He is survived by his spouse, Jerry Osborne; nieces and nephews, Kathy Johnson, Cherie (Richard) Bien-Coffman, Kerry (Pat) Bien, Vaughn Jr. "Bud" (Bernadette) Bien, Tim (Denise) Bien, and John (Andrea) Bien and their families; and many friends and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Donald (Jen), James, and Gerald "Lefty"; sister, Therese (Vaughn) Bien; nephew, Thomas Bien; great nephew, Joel Bien.

A private family graveside service was held at Holy Trinity-St. Columbkil Catholic Cemetery, Belle Creek.

A Celebration of Life was held at the Goodhue Lions Building on Friday, May 30 from

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Maxine Elaine Ryan

Maxine Elaine Ryan, 87, of Goodhue, died Monday, May 26, 2025 at her home in Loving Residence in Red Wing.

She was born February 1, 1938 in Red Wing to Milton and Mildred (Lorenson) Larson. She grew up in Vasa and attended country schools before graduating from

Red Wing Central High School in 1955. On November 26, 1955 she married Leo Ryan at St. Columbkil Catholic Church where she became a life-long member.

She was a wonderful homemaker and farm wife, raising 7 children on their farm in Goodhue. Over the years she worked various jobs in the area, including at the local newspaper, cleaning for a hotel in Zumbrota, and waitressing at the Edgewood Café.

When she was younger, she loved going dancing with Leo. She enjoyed playing records and singing along with her children. Despite struggles with her health, she was known for her spotless house. She loved playing cards with her family and friends and looked forward to family gatherings. Maxine was always outgoing and could make friends with anyone. She had the gift of gab and never met a stranger. While not Irish by blood, she joined Leo in celebrating St. Patrick's Day with all the luck of the Irish. She enjoyed babies and little ones and was thrilled to become a grandmother. She was a

member of the Homemakers Society and enjoyed their monthly meetings and outings. She was also active with the CCW at church.

She was outwardly affectionate and very loving. A devoted wife, mother and grandmother, she will be missed by many, including her 6 children surviving; Victoria (Paul) Ryan, Patricia (Jon) Roschen, Carolyn (Steven) Peterson, Barbara (Richard) Evans, all of Goodhue, and Roger Ryan of Red Wing, Kathleen (Gerard Poncelet) Ryan of Kenyon; daughter-in-law, Debra Ryan of Hudson, Wisc.; grandchildren, Carissa (Colin) Brown, Garrett (Katie) Ryan, Andrew, Keith (Crystal), Nathan (Haley), Corey (Heather), and Craig Ryan, Derek (Callie), Kyle (Megan), Kaylee (Scott) and Emilee (Jacob) Roschen, Christopher (May) and Mitchell (Emma) Ryan, Rachel (Jeremy) Koenig, Joshua (Laura) Peterson, Malory (Bryant) Grover, Angela (Evan) Ramseth, William Peterson, Ryan, Haley (Noah) Gonzales, Kathryn, and Julia Evans, Noah, Katarina, and Markus Rechtzigel; 35 great-grandchildren; brother, Roger (Lori) Larson, and sister-in-law, Algene Larson; as well as many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Leo; son, Bradley; brothers, Lowell, Donald and Douglas Larson; and sister, LaVonne Nelson.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 11 a.m., Friday, June 6, 2025 at St. Columbkil Catholic Church in Goodhue with Father Thomas McCabe presiding. Visitation will be 9-11 a.m. prior to the service at church. Burial will be at the church cemetery. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com



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

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*Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a floral piece,
if so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words
as a friend could say;
Perhaps you were not there at all,
just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did
to console our hearts,
we thank you so much
whatever the part.*

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**8th Grade
Students Win
at the
Prestigious
eCYBERMISSION
STEM
Competition**

A huge congratulations to our 8th-grade team of girls who have won at the state level in the prestigious eCYBERMISSION, a national STEM competition! Their project, ThermoTend, tackled an important community issue: the safety of animals and children

left alone in vehicles. With temperatures in cars rising quickly, this team created a solution to help prevent unnecessary suffering. ThermoTend is a device that measures the temperature inside a car, sending alerts to the driver if the temperature becomes dangerous. The name combines "Thermo," for thermometer, and "Tend," meaning to attend to or check on the vehicle's occupants. Their innovative design not only aims to protect pets but also children left in cars. Each team member received a scholarship from the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) for their hard work and dedication to STEM. We are so proud of their creativity, teamwork, and commitment to making a difference!



From L to R: Clara Mandelkow, Brenna Buck, Haley Betcher


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Goodhue Lions Present Awards



The Goodhue Lions presented three Goodhue seniors with an award and \$1,000 each. Left to right: Lily Peterson, Avy Agenten, Briana Lodermeier. Awards presented by Lion Kevin Altendorf.

Goodhue Envirothon Sends Two Teams to State

By Goodhue Schools

The Goodhue Envirothon team sent two teams to the state competition after having two teams place in the top three at the regional competition.

The regional competition took place at Byron Sportsmen Club on Tuesday, May 6th. They earned a birth to the state competition which took place on Monday, May 19th.

The third place team is made up of junior boys Hayden Holm, Jack Carlson, Michael Roschen, Roland Munson, and Luke Roschen. The champions of region 7 are made up of junior girls Natalie Thomforde, Kylie Mandelkow, Kendra Rehder, Brynna Shaw, and Macy Buck.

Envirothon is a science and nature competition in which students are tested in the field of soils, water, wildlife, forestry and special topic. The competition also includes a heavily scored oral presentation which relates to the yearly special topic-this year it was on changing biomes due to climate change. Teams have to come up with a plan of how to fix a current scenario in Minnesota. Goodhue is part of the Southeast Region VII which includes schools in Goodhue, Wabasha, Rice, Steel, Freeborn, Mower, Dodge, Olmstead, Winona and Houston counties. The top three teams in each region qualified for the state competition. With eight regions in the state, there were 24 teams that compete at the state level.


We're online!
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Brynna Shaw, Kylie Mandelkow, Kendra Rehder, Macy Buck, Natalie Thomforde



Hayden Holm, Jack Carlson, Michael Roschen, Roland Munson, Luke Roschen




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May Events at GHS Prom

By Beth Brekke

Shades of blue, ruffles and tulle, sequins and sparkles dominated the dresses adorning the ladies of the 81 couples crossing the stage on prom night. The theme of the event, “Starry Night”, shone in the metallic stars, streamers, and balloons illuminated above and below the stage. They also hung from an archway framing a Victorian sofa on the gymnasium floor. The couples followed a path between strings of lights and posed for photos. The grand march played out in front of a crowd of on-lookers on May 3, 2025.

After group photos and saying goodbye to family members and friends, the couples headed to Red Silo Events for dinner and dancing. The committee chose to keep the event local using the Bellechester area venue. Students could participate in other activities such as bean bags, cards and a bonfire until being released at 11pm.

See all the photos in color online at www.goodhuemn.com



Braeden Eckhoff and Ciara Callstrom in front of the large crowd viewing the 2025 grand march.



Nate Beck and Kendyl Lodermeier strike a pose at the grand march.



Austin Bartholome and Lily Peterson



Senior class members attending prom

Goodhue School

June 4, 2025

- GOODHUE-BELLECHESTER MESSENGER -

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Kiefer Olson and Addison Taxdahl



Levi Zinser and Cora Marx



Ethan Diercks and Lillian Raasch



Atticus Miller and Mallory Richarson



Junior class members attending prom



Sophomore class members attending prom

May Events at GHS Graduation

By Beth Brekke

The 112th annual Goodhue graduation commencement ceremony took place in the high school gymnasium at 6:30 pm Friday, May 30th. 58 graduates crossed the stage to receive their diplomas with nearly half recognized as honor students. Superintendent Dr. Evan Gough welcomed the crowd, telling the graduates that the community will always support them. The high school choir sang "For Good" by Mac Huff, a fitting song for graduation with lyrics that include, "I am who I am today because I knew you... who can say if I've been changed for the better but because I knew you, I have been changed for good."

Allison Rothmeier offered words on behalf of the school staff. Rothmeier became emotional as she spoke to the students that were 7th graders when she became a counselor in Goodhue. Her words of advice were to grab a snack and work out their problems because "chicken strips are always the answer".

Responding for the class were Kendyl Lodermeier and Caden Lodermeier who said it

was an honor "to proudly represent our class on this beautiful night". The duo went on to share a few humorous memories from grade school, to middle school (which Kendyl looks back on as "optional"), to more recent antics and achievements. They thanked the community, staff members, Principal Rehder, family and friends, and closed by calling the Class of 2025 "the greatest grade of all time".

Following the distribution of diplomas, several members of the class shot off confetti cannons, sending paper slips into the air overhead. The annual car parade followed the ceremony before students returned to the school for the Senior party. This year's theme was "Wildcat County Fair" with prizes awarded for the best costume.

Thanks to a spring raffle and other fundraisers, classmates enjoyed snacks, beverages and games until about 2:30 am. Divided into groups, the teens participated in laser tag, bean bags, chicken poop bingo and other activities. Each graduate received a basket with "GHS" embroidered towels and other favors, small and medium prizes including gift cards, headphones and Bluetooth speakers, coolers, air fryers, microwaves, pizza ovens, and more. A random drawing was held for the largest prizes including a mini-fridge and large-screen TV.

See all the photos in color online at www.goodhuemn.com



Kendyl Lodermeier and Caden Lodermeier speaking for the class. According to them, 2025 is "the greatest grade of all time".



Salutatorian, Taylor Betcher



Members of the class opened confetti cannons on stage after diplomas were awarded.



Alexandra Parra-Murillo waves to onlookers during the Senior class car parade that followed the commencement ceremony.



(L-R) Aurora Wiskow, Taylor Thomforde, Lillian Luhman and EmaRae Holst sported great costumes for the contest revolving around the county fair theme.



Mini corndogs and cheese curds were a couple things on the menu at the county fair themed Senior party.

MN/USA Wrestling Results

By Chad Otterness

Adam Grant and Arlyn Von Knobelsdorf placed at the Minnesota State Freestyle & Greco-Roman Wrestling Championships. Tim Straus and Jack O'Reilly competed, but did not place.

In the Northern Plains Regional National Tournament, Adam Grant placed 6th in Greco-Roman and has earned an entry into the USA National Tournament this July in Fargo, ND.

State Greco and Freestyle:

- Adam Grant Greco 3rd/Freestyle 3rd
- Arlyn Von Knobelsdorf Freestyle 4th Greco DNP
- Time Straus DNP
- Jack O'Reilly DNP

Northern Plains Regional National

- Greco-Roman and Freestyle Championships
- Adam Grant Greco-Roman 6th
- Arlyn Von Knobelsdorf DNP



Arlyn Knobelsdorf. 4th place. State Greco-Roman Championships



Coach Otterness providing advice to Arlyn Von Knobelsdorf at the break



Tim Strauss, Adam Grant, Coach Otterness, Arlyn Von Knobelsdorf



Adam Grant. 3rd place at the MN Greco - Roman & Freestyle Championships

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Sports

Beck's and Brownfield Recognize Athletes Making a Difference

Program celebrates high school athletes in six states for leadership, character, and community impact across all sports seasons

Atlanta, Ind. – Beck's and Brownfield Ag News are proud to announce the continued growth of the Players with Heart program, now in its fifth year of recognizing outstanding high school athletes across the Midwest. Launched in 2020, Players with Heart was created to honor student-athletes for their character, leadership, and dedication — not only on the field or court but in their communities. What began as a program focused on fall football athletes has since evolved to include students participating in all sports throughout the fall, winter, and spring seasons. "At Beck's, we believe in being the difference — and these students are doing just

that," said Corey Beck, business and supplier strategist at Beck's. "Their commitment to excellence and service aligns with the values we strive to live out daily." In 2025, Beck's added a scholarship component to the program, awarding 12 deserving students with \$1,000 scholarships. With an overwhelming response of more than 900 nominations from six states, the team at Beck's was thrilled to select this year's winners. The 2025 Players with Heart scholarship recipients represent a diverse group of athletes from Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and South Dakota. Each student was nominated for demonstrating outstanding leadership, humility, and service in their school and hometown. Their stories are a testament to the values at the heart of the program — and a reminder of the impact one person can have, both on and off the field.

- Gavin Sloss - Guthrie Center, Iowa
- Rachel Ehlers - Walcott, Iowa
- Addison McKenna - Lawton, Iowa
- Saela Steege - Fredericksburg, Iowa
- Madison Lauck - Salem, South Dakota
- Noelle Fox - Pettisville, Ohio
- Katie McCashland - Liberty, Indiana
- Brady Moore - Richmond, Indiana
- Sidney Erickson - Fertile, Minnesota
- Caleb Kurtti - Goodhue, Minnesota
- Ashton Brusveen - Cambria, Wisconsin
- Wyatt Stowell - Fox Lake, Wisconsin

"Players with Heart celebrates students who go beyond stats and scores," said John Baker,



Caleb Kurtti

senior vice president and general manager with Brownfield Ag News. "These are young people who lead with integrity and heart, and it's an honor to recognize their impact with support from Beck's." Students are nominated by coaches, teachers, family, and peers and are selected based

on their commitment to their team, school, and community. For more information and to view this season's Players with Heart honorees, <https://www.brownfieldagnews.com/beck-player-with-heart/>.

Goodhue's Horsman Finishes 2025 Golf Season on a High Note

Ayden Horsman just finished his 4th season on the varsity golf team for Kenyon-Wanamingo/Goodhue schools, also the 4th season ever for Goodhue having golf as a sport. Never the longest hitter, but always one of the straighter ones with great hands around the green, he continues to improve year after year. As a 7th grader he was consistently finishing in the top 5 in the varsity golf meets, as an 8th grader he earned honorable mention all-conference honors. In 9th grade he jumped up and earned 1st team all-conference honors, and this year he ended with a 3rd place overall finish in the gopher conference, 1st team all-conference honors, and gave himself a shot in the last 9-holes at the section 1AA tournament to make it to state, ultimately ending up a few strokes short but with lots to build off of. Section 1AA is known as one of the toughest in the state, for all sports, and golf is no different. As a 9th grader in 2024 he was 1 of only 2 freshmen, the rest all sophomores and above, to advance to golf on day 2 of the section tournament, this season as a 10th grader he finished 13th out of 114 total golfers at the section 1AA tournament at Northern Hills in Rochester. With rounds of 80 and 79, he finished with a total score of 159, the cut off for state ended up being 152. As most of you know, golf is just as much a mental game as it is a game of skill, and Horsman is proving that being mentally tough is also something you can improve upon with practice and dedication. Look for a more detailed article in the July



6th Hole at North Links Golf Course in Mankato during the 2nd round of the Gopher Conference Tournament

edition of the Messenger on the Kenyon-Wanamingo/Goodhue Schools golf and track and field teams, how it all got started and the bright future it seems to have ahead. Also keep an eye out for the tall lankey golfer from Goodhue at a local golf course near you this summer, his only downfall might be that he stands on the wrong side of the ball, but then again maybe things look better from the left side?

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Flower Girls Dare to Dream

(continued from page 1)

Life Engagement Coordinator, Susie Matthees and Ag teacher, Chris Poncelet, set up a visit to the Goodhue FFA greenhouse. This Dare to Dream event allowed Mary Jean and Paulette to choose plants that beautify the facilities outdoor spaces.

Paulette and her husband, Eugene moved into GL in 2024 and Mary Jean has been a full-time resident since January 1, 2025. After touring other facilities, they said GL was "More our style". Although they live in separate apartments on different levels of the building, Matthees says, "They do almost everything together. They were both just talking together about how hard it is to walk away without flowers when they are out shopping. When we asked Paulette and Mary Jean if they would like this Dare to Dream option, they both said YES immediately!"

The Thursday, May 8th outing not only benefitted the sisters, but the Goodhue Living facility and the FFA program. The greenhouse has been part of the FFA program and plant science class since 2018. The plants are started from plugs in the spring and tended by someone in the class twice a day. The students' hard work culminates in a public plant sale the day before Mother's Day. The event draws a large crowd and always sells out. This is the second year the school has invited GL to choose flowers before the sale.

The sisters wandered through the greenhouse enjoying the flowering plants and choosing their favorites to purchase. The outing was funded through GL's budget. "We'll spend all the money before we get to the back (of the greenhouse)", Paulette said in praise of the quality. Poncelet and five students assisted the girls, gathering the containers they chose and placing them in Matthees' vehicle. Meyer shared that her granddaughter had been an FFA president and both women had some connection to all of the morning assistants' families.

Having roots in the area is one reason they settled on Goodhue Living even though their sister, Judy lives in Deercrest and brother, Richard in St. Crispin in Red Wing. Other relatives are currently, or have previously resided at GL. Coincidentally, their great-uncle once lived where the facility now stands. The Jonas siblings grew up on a farm near Zumbrota where they attended grade school. They graduated from Red Wing High School after moving to Hay Creek.

Paulette's 50-year career in nursing included working in the neurology department at Mayo and the Seminary Home in Red Wing. She credits her involvement with the long-term care facility for her four children's compassionate attitudes. A grandson is now living



Goodhue Living's Dare to Dream program honored Paulette Meyer and Mary Jean Carlson with a shopping trip to the school greenhouse to choose flowers for the facility's outdoor spaces. GL coordinator, Susie Matthees, Ag instructor, Chris Poncelet and plant science students helped the sisters with their picks. (L-R): Matthees, Hailey Dankers, Meyer, Lillian Raasch, Kyla Nardinger, Isabel Germann-Hutter, Carlson, Poncelet, and Aubriel O'Reilly.

on the Bellecreek area farm where she lovingly tended to both flower and vegetable gardens. She recalls doing a lot of canning and making lots of strawberry jam.

Mary Jean and her husband, Roger raised 6 children on their Red Wing area farm saying, "Kids played outside more than now days". She worked at Jostens for 25 years and Roger was a member of the sheriff's posse. The couple owned Quarter horses, drove and sold Belgium horses, and also raised beef cattle. When Roger died young 22 years ago, Mary Jean said she "Had to figure things out". She continued to live in the brick house and care for the yard on the Carlson generational farm until passing it on to her son and moving to GL.

After Roger's death and going through other difficult things in life, Mary Jean and Paulette's relationship became even stronger. They enjoy each other's company, especially when they can go shopping together. Their trips to Hobby Lobby usually reap yarn for Paulette who taught herself to knit for a role in a school play. She has made many baby blankets and dishcloths and Barbie Doll clothes through the years. Mary Jean prefers counted cross-stitch and embroidery. Both love to decorate their space and seasonally change the dresser top in the hallway of their respective floors for everyone to enjoy.

Returning from their flower buying junket, Paulette said "I'm anxious to see how it turns out". The project became a community effort with staff doing the planting, a resident watering the front landscape and memory care residents and volunteers helping with the patio flowers. A month later, Matthees says, "(The plants) are growing and thriving. They look beautiful, adding color to our senior living community!"



Paulette Meyer with her display of spring items adorning the dresser top in the hall near her apartment.



Mary Jean Carlson set out a wooden lemonade stand and other pieces of her seasonal collection to bring a smile to everyone on her floor at Goodhue Living.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA?
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Bellechester Lion's to Disband

(continued from page 1)

Member support is stronger when it comes to showing up to volunteer for the club's events and projects.

The lack of enthusiasm, complaints of insurance costs and the percentage of the dues paid that goes to Lion's International and the district organization, had members questioning the benefit of remaining affiliated with Lion's. The decision was not made lightly and several options were considered.

The first option was to continue without change but there was no support for that option. The second option would be to become a chapter under the Goodhue Lion's. The Goodhue club was supportive of the idea but it would require attending their meetings and paying their dues, which are set higher than Bellechester's. BCLC secretary, Emily Schmidt described the Goodhue club as "a well-oiled machine" and praised their activities and success but she, and others attending, did not feel this option would be in the best interest of the Bellechester members.

The third option discussed was to reorganize as a new 501(c) non-profit community group.

The main advantage of this option is all money raised—whether from member dues or donations, fundraising, or grants—would be kept in the Bellechester area. With Lions, "The money does not stay in the community," Schmidt said. After the major portion of Lion's club dues were sent to the governing bodies, only a few dollars remained local. There were also stipulations on obtaining insurance and how fundraising revenue could be used, limiting desired projects. A 501(c) would potentially have cheaper member dues while allowing more funding to improve the park, community center, American Legion or other needs within the area.

The current club could donate their assets to their new non-profit if it were established before the Lion's club officially disbanded. Acting on a motion by Roger Kittelson, members present voted to establish a 501(c) before meeting again on May 19th and dissolve the BCLC at the end of their fiscal year, June 30th.

The May 19th meeting opened with more discussion on officially ending the BCLC due to some of the 10 members present missing the previous meeting. The main topic of concern centered on charitable gambling. An organization must be established 3 years before being approved to operate charitable gambling. The BCLC could have raised funds this way but had not made the commitment to the time, labor and bookkeeping involved. The idea could be revisited in 3 years if the new non-profit becomes well established. The Bellechester Tavern sells pull tabs but the proceeds benefit another organization.

The original motion to dissolve the BCLC on June 30, 2025 and donate all assets remaining after paying any outstanding invoices was reiterated and passed. The treasury currently stands at \$11,732.00 and a list of other property including a storage container, seasonal decorations and a laptop computer will be compiled before the last meeting

which will be June 23rd. The meeting was adjourned and a short break was called before opening discussion on the new organization.

Roger Kittelson started the process of applying for a 501(c) non-profit designation.

He will need to finalize the application with the name and group function.

A few options for names were tossed out and discussed with "Bellechester Clay Diggers" receiving the vote. The group's func-

tion will simply be, "To improve the Bellechester area community".

Officers selected are Nick Keller, President; Roger Kittelson, Vice President; Emily (continued on page 15)

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+

WILD BILL & BRUISERS
Jesse Becker & The Neon Revival



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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DENNISON DAYS



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FRIDAY, JUNE 20 KICK OFF

**Gopher State
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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
- 6:30p.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



All You Can Eat PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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& 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
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3rd Prize: \$100 Cash

4th Prize: \$50 Cash

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For updated info. go to www.dennisondays.org

Bethany Lutheran College Professor to Speak at Volksfest Service

(continued from page 1)



This year's speaker is Reverend Donald Moldstad. Moldstad is a senior administrator and part-time professor of Religion serving Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato the past 20 years. Moldstad's father was the Dean of Students at Bethany when Don was a child and teenager. He attended two years of junior college at Bethany after graduating from the

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) preparatory school, Martin Luther Academy. He then earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Minnesota State University at Mankato before entering four years of seminary training. He holds a Master of Divinity from Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Don enjoys watercolor painting in his spare time. He met his wife, Gina at Bethany. They have two children and seven grandchildren.

In his role as Director of Campus Spiritual Life, Reverend Moldstad oversees the daily chapel program and teaches various religious courses. "Each semester I teach about 80 freshmen, most of whom know little or nothing about Christianity. Bethany currently has about 160 international students representing 27 countries from all parts of the world. The mission field has come to us!"

There are currently two Bethany graduates working as Goodhue school teachers. Jacob McNamara, who was born and raised on a dairy farm West of Goodhue, graduated from Bethany in 2021 with a degree in elementary education and an endorsement in middle school math. McNamara is currently a fifth grade teacher at Goodhue public school. He also coaches football and boys basketball.

"In the college search process, I visited and toured many different campuses. One of the things about Bethany that stood out right away was the opportunity to go to a Christian college where I was surrounded by people that had similar beliefs to me," McNamara said about choosing Bethany. "In high school I played football and basketball and was involved in a variety of different clubs and activities. I was able to play basketball (at Bethany) as well."

He noted the college's education department is ranked among the best in Minnesota with small class sizes. "I had a great relationship with my professors. In my time at Bethany, I had Rev. Moldstad for a few classes. One of my favorite classes was called Christian Social Thought. This class was very impactful on me because it analyzed topics in our world today that can be controversial. It gave me

great insight into how to have conversations with people that may view topics differently than me, and to always approach conversation with the mindset of giving mercy and grace. Another memory that I have is going to daily chapel for 20 minutes and the positive impact that it had on my faith journey."

Jacob, his wife, Rachel and daughter, Delaney live in Goodhue where they are the high school youth leaders for St. Luke's Lutheran church. "That has been a life-changing experience because we are able to share our passion for faith with 9th through 12th graders."

Jessica Duden earned her degree in Communication Arts and Literature: 5-12 Education from Bethany and is currently a high school English teacher at Goodhue. She teaches College Writing, English 10, English 11, and Mythology. Duden's husband is originally from Red Wing, which is what brought them to this area.

Originally from Mosca, Colorado, Jessica came to Minnesota for an ID soccer camp at Hamline University where the Bethany soccer coach saw her play. "The original draw to Bethany was soccer, but I also knew I wanted to attend a small college. When I stepped on campus, it was so beautiful and felt like the right place to be. Being able to get a Christian education was an added benefit!" Duden went on to describe her college choice saying, "Bethany was such a blessing in my life. I loved my classes, how knowledgeable my professors were as well as the close relationships I was able to build with them, the Christ-centered focus, and I made my best friends during my time there. I unfortunately did not get to take a class with Rev. Moldstad as his classes were extremely popular and everyone wanted to learn from him, but I always enjoyed his messages at daily chapel services."

Links to chapel services given by Rev. Moldstad and others can be found on the college's website, www.blc.edu. The website includes much more information about the college, its programs, sports teams and planning a visit. Distinguished graduates can be found under the "about" then "alumni" tabs. Bethany's 2018 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient, Dr. Richard Bartsh grew up in Zumbrota, and attended Zumbrota High School. After high school, Bartsh enrolled at Bethany Lutheran College, played on the baseball team and graduated with his Associate in Arts degree in 1972. After Bethany, he attended the University of Wisconsin River Falls, where he earned his BS degree, and was a Seymour Award recipient representing the highest-ranking graduate. Bartsh was then accepted into the prestigious Mayo Medical School in Rochester. He practiced family medicine and in 2000 he became the President of John Deere Health Care, the health care division of John Deere & Company that served employees and retirees of John Deere as well as other employers in the United States.

Another alumni most people are familiar with is Marvin Schwan, founder and late president of the Schwan Food Company. Schwan was more than just a businessman, he was a strong Christian who was dedicated to spreading the Gospel. A 1949 graduate of Bethany Lutheran College, he was honored with the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award

for his generosity toward the college and his dedication to the work of the Church throughout his life.

Reverend Moldstad relayed that he is looking forward to coming to Goodhue saying, "It sounds like a great weekend." Everyone is welcome to come hear his message and learn more about Bethany while enjoying special music and community fellowship.

NOTE: Bethany is located in Mankato, MN. It is run by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), a small Lutheran Synod with headquarters in Mankato, which is in full agreement on Bible teaching with the WELS, and cooperates with the WELS in various ways. You do not have to be WELS or ELS to attend.

Miss Goodhue 2025 Contestants



Left to right: Sofia Lodermeier, Macy Voth, Libby Thomforde, Leetta O'Reilly, Isabel Germann-Hutter & Madison Poston

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O'Reilly family of Goodhue hosts Breakfast on the Farm

(continued from page 1)

Guests at Green Acres Organic Dairy will see first-hand the facilities and how the family farm works to produce milk and dairy products. Visitors will have an opportunity to name a calf, receive dairy goody bags, play O'Reilly farm family bingo, petting zoo sponsored by local FFA members, make homemade butter, games and fun farm activities for kids and adults, tractor and farm equipment display and more. New this year will be live music performed by Sing Out Loud! Women's choirs from Rochester and area music students studying under Mark Weorpel.

The 71st Princess Kay of the Milky Way, Rachel Visser along with our Goodhue County dairy royalty will be available to take pictures with Minnesota's dairy industry good-will ambassadors.

Every day three generations of the O'Reilly family work together on Green Acres Organic Dairy Farm. Since 1894, their goal has been to produce the highest quality of milk possible

so that you can provide wholesome food for families. You are invited to bring your entire family to learn about how milk and dairy products are produced and meet the farmers who feed your families.

Family on this farm is just as important as the product that they produce. Brothers, Chris and Tony O'Reilly, own and operate their family's organic dairy farm. They work alongside their dad, Dave who grew up farming, and it was the profession he returned to after serving in Vietnam. Together, Dave and his wife Mary Jo built their farm and raised their family of seven children. Mary Jo, at one time helped milk cows and feed calves. Today, Dave still helps in the barns and fields, and Mary Jo brings food to the field during the busy harvest season. The family has been shipping milk to Organic Valley since 1994. Pioneers in the organic dairy industry, they were one of the first Minnesota farmers to sell their milk on the organic market. Now partially retired from farming, Dave and Mary Jo also stay busy spending time with their 33 grandchildren.

Both Chris's family and Tony's family are involved in the 200 cow and 600-acre operation with Chris's son, J.J. (20), joining the organic farming operation full-time after graduation from high school in 2023. Chris's daughter, Jenna (18), graduated this spring and helps with the morning milking and in the afternoon when her school schedule al-

lows. Jenna recently was crowned one of three Goodhue County Dairy Princesses and will be working all summer to promote the dairy industry. Chris's youngest daughter, Josie (9), helps by playing with the kitties and her cousins. Tony and his wife Carrie work together with their seven children: Eleanor (16), Patrick (15), Francis (13), Phillip (11), Michael (9), Glen (6), and Louise (1). Tony and Carrie have raised their children to be an integral part of the farming business, and the older children are taking on leadership roles as they have time. Eleanor recently became a dairy ambassador and will be helping her cousin Jenna promote the dairy industry this summer. The older boys all help in the barn and in the field. On a family farm everyone is needed and belongs!

The Goodhue County Breakfast on the Farm committee is led by local dairy producers and sponsored by local businesses and Bluff Country KCUE Radio of Red Wing. KCUE radio will be doing their morning broadcast live on the farm. Breakfast on the Farm is a unique day that bridges educational outreach, farming, and cultivates a sense of belonging between the dairy industry and consumers.

FREE BUS SHUTTLES:

Red Wing High School:
Pick-up at 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.
Return-10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Goodhue High School:
Starting at 6:45 a.m. and running continuously until 11 a.m.

Bellechester Lion's to Disband

(continued from page 12)

Schmidt, Secretary; and Candy Kiebel, Treasurer. Kiebel will work with the former Lion's treasurer to start a new account and transfer funds. Schmidt will work with insurance issues and invite Allie Peters of Peters Insurance to be a guest at the June 23rd meeting. Jody Gordon will have the name on the Adopt-A-Highway sign changed.

Looking ahead, the group will need to decide on a regular meeting frequency, time,

and place and establish new social media accounts. One goal is to make the lighted Christmas parade bigger and better, turning it into their signature event. First, they have other events and projects they hope to work with including "Ribfest" scheduled for July 19th at the tavern. The event will include the local 4-H club ice cream social and other fun activities.

Anyone interested in becoming a Bellechester Clay Digger is welcome to join, whether you live in Bellechester or not. For more information, contact Emily Schmidt at 651-408-4447.

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Friday, June 20th, 7-11 a.m.

Green Acres Organic Dairy LLC

17839 360th St. Goodhue, MN 55027

Everyone is welcome - families, neighbors, community members, and school groups!

Meet Princess Kay of the Milky Way, Rachel Visser and the Goodhue County Dairy Princesses

- Free Breakfast with ice cream!
- O'Reilly Family Bingo
- Farm Tours
- Petting Zoo
- Name a Calf Contest
- Ag Cab Lab - Tractor Drive Simulator

- Ellsworth deep fried cheese curds!
- Games and Farm Fun Activities for Kids
- KCUE Live Radio Broadcast 7-11 a.m.
- Tractor and Farm Equipment Display
- Milk "Annabelle" the cow
- Tub Train Ride for Kids
- Live Musical Entertainment

Sponsored By: Goodhue County Dairy Farmers, KCUE Radio, Organic Valley, and local Businesses



The O'Reilly Family

Back Row: J.J., Jenna, Chris, Francis, Patrick, Eleanor, Carrie, Louise, Tony. Front Row: Josie, Glen, Michael, Phillip

Join our Host Family Farm
- Green Acres Organic Dairy LLC -
to celebrate June Dairy Month!

Direction from Goodhue: Take County 9 Blvd. West. Turn right onto 180th Ave for 2 miles. Farm on the Left

FREE BUS SHUTTLES:
Red Wing High School: Pick-up at 7:30 am and 8:30 am
Return-10:00 am and 11:00 am.
Goodhue High School: Starting at 6:45 am
and running continuously until 11 am.

The June Dairy Breakfast on the Farm is a "fun" yet "educational" event to explain how milk is produced and to educate consumers and community on the positive impact the dairy industry has in Goodhue County and MN. They want to say "Thank you" for being our neighbor and supporting our family farm.

Questions? Or group reservations of more than 10:
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June Is Dairy Month



Congratulations to Natalie Clemenson of Goodhue on being named Princess Kay finalist.
Best of luck in the Minnesota State competition this summer!

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More Than Marshmallows: How Summer Camp Builds Lifelong Friendships



By Sam Smith
Program Director Camp Victory

For many kids, summer camp is a place of adventure, discovery, and marshmallow-fueled campfires. But beyond crafts, canoe trips, and cabin games, camp offers something even more enduring: friendship. In a world where social interactions are increasingly filtered through screens, summer camps provide kids with a rare and vital opportunity to build deep,

in-person relationships that often last a lifetime.

A Natural Setting for Connection

Summer camps are uniquely designed to foster relationships. Removed from the pressures of school, extracurricular schedules, and technology, kids find themselves in a setting that encourages authenticity. They eat together, sleep in the same cabins, overcome challenges as a team, and support each other through new experiences. This constant proximity and shared routine naturally lead to bonding.

Without phones and the internet to distract them, campers rely on face-to-face interaction, eye contact, and real conversations. This environment helps kids develop interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence—foundational elements for meaningful friendships.

Shared Experiences Create Strong Bonds

One of the most powerful catalysts for friendship is a shared experience. At camp, kids aren't just hanging out, they're navigating obstacle courses, working on group skits, competing in friendly games, and maybe even singing off-key in front of an entire dining hall. These moments, big and small, create memories that glue kids together.

Conquering a ropes course or staying up late during cabin night can turn casual acquaintances into trusted allies. These shared adventures often forge connections deeper than those formed in typical day-to-day school life, where academic pressures and social cliques can create barriers.

Everyone Starts on Equal Footing

Camp is a great social reset. Whether a child is shy or outgoing, athletic or artistic, every camper begins their experience on relatively equal footing. Most campers don't know each other when they arrive, which eliminates the pre-existing social hierarchies that often dominate school life.

This leveling of the playing field gives kids a chance to be themselves, discover who they are, and be accepted for it. When kids are free to express themselves without fear of judgment, they often find friends who appreciate them for exactly who they are.

Counselors: Role Models in Friendship

Camp counselors play a huge role in modeling healthy, supportive friendships. These leaders often demonstrate what it looks like to communicate openly, resolve conflicts kindly, and support one another. Their guidance helps kids learn how to navigate the inevitable ups and downs of friendship in positive ways.

Many camps also include specific programming around empathy, teamwork, and inclusion. These intentional efforts teach kids how to be good friends—skills that stay with them far beyond the summer.

Diversity and Exposure to New Perspectives

Camps often bring together kids from different cities, backgrounds, and cultures. This exposure helps campers develop empathy, respect, and appreciation for people who are different from themselves. When kids spend weeks living and learning together, they realize that deep connections can be formed across all kinds of boundaries.

This kind of early exposure to diversity

strengthens social skills and prepares kids to thrive in a global society. And many campers find that friendships formed in this kind of open-minded environment are more meaningful and lasting.

A Network That Extends Beyond Summer

Ask any former camper, and they'll tell you: the friendships made at camp don't end with the final campfire. Many kids stay in touch with their camp friends for years, visiting during the school year, connecting through letters, texts, or video calls, and reuniting summer after summer. Some even end up attending the same colleges, becoming roommates, or standing beside each other at weddings.

These relationships, forged in shared experience and sincere connection, often last far beyond the years of bunk beds and bug spray.

Final Thoughts

In a world where kids are often overwhelmed by academics, sports, and social media, summer camp offers something simple but profound: a space to connect, laugh, grow, and make friends who feel like family. Whether it's a quiet chat in a hammock, a goofy campfire song, or a tearful goodbye at the end of the session, these moments lay the foundation for lifelong relationships.

Camp is more than just a place—it's a community where kids learn that friendship isn't about popularity or perfection. It's about showing up, sharing experiences, and being yourself. And for many, the friendships made at camp become the most treasured relationships of all.

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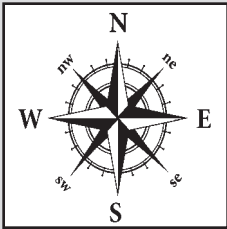
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

New Life for an Old Axe Head



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.

Tennessee was settled by pioneers about a century before Minnesota, so there is a wealth of historical items to be found. Daniel Boone had first explored this part of the country in 1760. The area we live in was the site of a significant Civil War battle and items turn up from time to time from that era and before.

One morning I was walking at the northeast end of our property and I saw something metal imbedded in the ground. After kicking the soil away, I realized it was more substantial than just a tin can. I became more interested by the moment as I extracted it from the earth. Even covered in crusty scales of rust and dirt I could identify what it was. Ex-



citedly, I headed for the shop. That is just where a man goes when he has a project to work on. My mind was imagining all the scenarios that the history of this axe head might have included. I had the foresight to take a picture of it on my workbench before the restoration began.

My mind wandered across axe stories as I pondered the direction I would take with this new project. An axe is the tool of a woodsman. Paul Bunyon had a big axe for shopping down trees in the Northwoods. I used a mattock to chop frozen silage off the silo walls in the winter. We always carried an axe when cutting wood to free a pinched chainsaw bar from a large tree trunk or limb. I remembered a story from the Bible back in 848 BC when a workman had the axe head fly off the handle and out into the river. The prophet Elisha threw a stick out onto the river and the iron axe head floated to the surface for the man to retrieve. (2 Kings 6:1-6) Axe heads always had value.

I started cleaning the axe head up and then polished the rust off using the wire brush on my bench grinder. It was pitted from years in the mud, but I eventually got down to the bare metal. What began as just another day

was suddenly exciting and interesting in a way I had never imagined. I love to work in the shop on most any project and this was a most unusual one. It was by far the oldest artifact I had found here on any of our properties in Tennessee. Once the axe head was cleaned up, I began to think of what to do with it.

I already had nice new hatchet for splitting kindling wood. It was shiny and bright, but had been purchased and not discovered on our property. I bought oak slab wood from the Swift Sawmill to burn in our firepit in the evenings. I would split the wood into small pieces for an easy fire. I started thinking that this new found axe head would be excellent for that job.



I selected a nice slab of oak board from the firewood rack and began to cut it to size. Measuring and cutting and lots of wood chisel work formed the top of the handle to fit precisely into the opening of the axe head. I drove it firmly into place and trimmed off the excess from the top. Was an enjoyable morning in the shop and I had a new tool from an old relic. Quite satisfying.

A Minnesotan: Outdoor Weather



By RosaLin Alcoser

Once again it's summer in Minnesota which means that it's time for all Minnesotans to migrate outside. We all know that the four Minnesota seasons are pre winter, winter, still winter and construction season; otherwise known as summer. Which is the cue for all of us to go outside while we can.

We all know that we have to take advan-

tage of the good weather while we have it. After all, we live where it can snow for about seven months out of the year; so we all have to make the best of it when we can.

For some people this means gardening, going to the lake, or biking. When I was a little kid in rural Minnesota this meant us getting sent out to play in the field until supper time. As an older child and teen it meant running around the woods until it was time to come back.

Now that I'm an adult in the Twin Cities it means my household is going hiking nearly every chance we get. Whether it is through the local nature center or on a trail in a State Park we hike as much as possible. From the time that it gets into the 40's, mainly because I'm a transplant and can't be pried outside until it's at least 40 degrees, onward we hike.

Easy path, hard path, paved, unpaved, even the occausall not quite a path. We will hike it. Until the winter comes around again and all the Minnesotans go back inside for the winter. Except for those of you that are really into winter outdoors activities. However, I think that the rest of us will leave the cold weather outdoor excursions to you.

Russ Franek and The Biscuits to Headline Dennison Days

Summer festival season kicks off soon as area communities plan their summer events and festivals.

Dennison Days takes place this year 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 from Andy Tackett.

A full schedule of events will take place Saturday. Kicking off the days will be the annual pancake breakfast, hosted by the Nerstrand Fire Department and Dennison Church. The Farmers Market is scheduled to return along with The Classic Car Show.

Trophies will be awarded for the Car Show at 1 PM.

Euchre will take place at The Fireside at 8:30. New this year is a Scavenger Hunt at 9 AM. Those wishing to participate should sign up at the Mainstreet Tent to learn about the search area. The First person to find the treasure will win \$100.00.

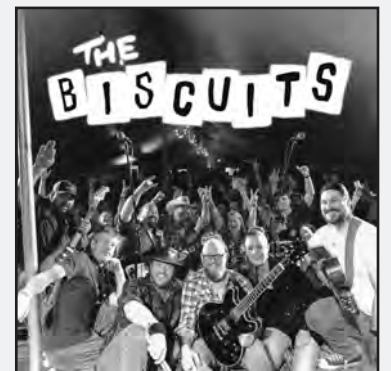
The Antique Tractor Pull begins on the hill at 10 AM. The Cow milking Contest hosted by Flom Dairy will be at 10 AM downtown.

The Kids Pedal Pull will take place at 11 AM, and Kids Bingo under the tent will be at noon. A kickball tournament will be at Noon in the city park area. The kids carnival will be from 1-3 PM, with the parade on mainstreet at 1:30. Be a part of the parade! Best Parade entry can will \$100.00 A Bags tournament will start at 2:30 hosted by 625 Bar & Grill.

Other activities on the afternoon calendar include Purse & Gift Card Bingo at 4 pm, a Pie Eating Contest, with a \$250.00 prize at 6 pm.

The Keg Toss returns at 6:30 across from Fireside, and the day rounds out with local musicians, RUSS FRANEK and THE BISCUITS playing entertaining for the evening. A Full Schedule is available at www.dennisondays.org.

Also watch for any updates on the website and on Facebook!



Andy Tackett will perform during Dennison Days Friday, June 20th at 625 Bar & Grill

Ghost Poops?? Allergy Season, Worst Ever?



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

What Foods Trigger the Greatest Cravings, Leading to Overeating? Researchers at the German Center for Diabetes Research have found that just five days of overeating ultra-processed snack foods can alter how insulin functions in the brain—even before you notice a single pound gained. Insulin isn't just about blood sugar; it's a hormone that helps the brain manage hunger, satisfaction, and that all-important feeling of self-control after eating. When insulin's signaling breaks down, that gentle nudge telling you "enough for now" goes silent. Suddenly, you find yourself craving more food, regardless of real hunger or need. What really surprised me about this study, published in *Nature Metabolism*, is how the negative effects on the brain outlasted the unhealthy eating itself. After returning to a regular diet, the brain scans revealed lingering disruptions in areas tied to memory, decision-making, and reward—actually resembling patterns seen in obesity. This tells us that even short encounters with ultra-processed foods can leave a mark, echoing long after the bags and boxes are emptied. The environment doesn't help matters. The smell of cookies in the air, a well-placed ad, or even the crinkle of packaging works like Pavlov's bell, triggering the brain to seek out food, hunger or not. All of this manipulates our natural satiety cues, teaching us to eat for reasons other than nourishing our bodies. Even more, these ultraprocessed snacks light up dopamine pathways in the brain, similar to addictive drugs, driving us to crave more—

even if the reward fades with each bite. Restoring a healthy relationship with food begins with honest, mindful choices. I've seen it firsthand; swapping out ultra-processed snacks for whole foods, slowing down to appreciate each meal, and adding some daily movement can reignite your body's natural signals. It's a process that's as much about tuning into your own experience as it is about nutrition science. After all, reclaiming your appetite isn't just about food, but about finding satisfaction and control in the everyday moments at the table. Here are some examples of ultraprocessed foods. Ready-to-eat meals and snacks: Frozen pizzas, instant noodles, ready-made pasta dishes, and packaged soups. Sweet and savory packaged snacks: Chips, chocolate, candy, biscuits, and pastries. Breakfast cereals and bars: Often sweetened with additives and preservatives. Processed meats: Cold cuts, ham, sausages, hotdogs, chicken nuggets, and fish sticks. Mass-produced bread and baked goods: Including packaged breads, buns, and pastries. Carbonated drinks: Soda, energy drinks, and sports drinks. Ice cream and frozen desserts: Often containing numerous additives. Sweetened and flavored dairy products: Such as fruit-flavored yogurts. Sauces and condiments: Ketchup, mayonnaise, and other packaged sauces.

What Ghost Poops Say About Your Digestion and Gut Health. Ghost poops, also known as "no wipers," are those rare, deeply satisfying bowel movements that leave no residue behind when you wipe and sink straight to the bottom of the toilet. To me, that's not some fluke of nature; it's a sign your gut is truly thriving. Experts like Dr. Ira Leeds and Julia Barten actually describe these as "nirvana poops"—the kind of thing we should all strive for, not dread. It's about what you don't see or feel after using the bathroom. No endless wiping. No evidence left on the bowl. Just a clear sign your digestive system is firing on all cylinders. It's not as simple as luck or genetics, though. Over the years, I've seen people struggle with their gut because of stress, dehydration, lack of movement, or a diet that doesn't quite suit their needs. These factors can all disrupt the gut microbiome, making the elusive ghost poop almost impossible to achieve. Gut health, I've learned, is about much more than

just how often you go; it's about how well your body processes what you eat and drink. A surprising insight? Many people try to fix their digestion by piling on the fiber, but if your gut's already out of balance, that can make symptoms worse. From personal experience and plenty of research, I've found that increasing digestible carbohydrates (usually 200 to 350 grams per day) helps heal the gut more effectively. And don't underestimate the power of posture; using a footstool or leaning forward can open up the colon and lead to more complete, easy elimination. Signs like floating or sticky stools are red flags—that your body isn't absorbing fats properly or that there's gut inflammation. But hitting those regular ghost poops? That's the body's way of telling you everything is humming along just as it should. For anyone seeking a clear gauge of gut health, skip the fancy tests and look for what's not left behind.

As we've seen, our gut health has a huge impact on our overall well-being.

And while there are many factors that can affect it, maintaining regular and healthy bowel movements is one of the most important things we can do for our digestive system.

But beyond just physical health, having a happy gut also means feeling more energized, focused, and emotionally balanced. It's no coincidence that the phrase "gut feeling" exists—our gut is often referred to as our "second brain" because of the strong connection between the two. So next time you're experiencing bloating or discomfort in your stomach, remember that it's not just about finding temporary relief. It's about taking care of.

Allergy season is now longer and more intense due in part to our milder winter weather. Warmer weather and higher carbon dioxide levels help plants produce more pollen for longer periods, which means spring allergies start earlier and last into fall. Pollen counts in North America have jumped more than 20% in the past 30 years, and the season itself is about two weeks longer than it was two decades ago.

Doctors recommend beginning allergy precautions like saline nasal sprays, before symptoms hit. Keeping your room pollen-free, shutting windows, and changing clothes after being outdoors can also help manage symptoms like sneezing, itchy eyes, and congestion. Chiropractic care may offer notable

benefits for individuals dealing with allergies. By focusing on the alignment of the spine and the functionality of the nervous system, chiropractic adjustments can help reduce stress on the body, which in turn may support a more robust immune response. Since the nervous system plays a key role in regulating the immune system and its reactions, enhancing its function through spinal adjustments may help the body respond more effectively to allergens. Additionally, chiropractic care can alleviate tension in the neck and upper back, where sinus drainage and nasal passages are often affected, potentially reducing symptoms like congestion and sinus pressure. While it's not a direct cure, chiropractic care can be a helpful part of a comprehensive strategy to manage allergy symptoms.

COVID-19 Treatment News: J. Hatfill, a seasoned virologist with a history of advocating for hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) as an early treatment for COVID-19, has stepped into a major public health role as the special adviser for pandemic prevention at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). For those who followed his previous tenure as a White House adviser during the Trump administration, you might recall his controversial—but steadfast—defense of using HCQ based on thousands of peer-reviewed studies, some of which he personally referenced in a recent interview. Hatfill points to the fact that even President Trump took the drug under doctors' guidance, standing by its safety when administered appropriately.

Hatfill is now just beginning his work at the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), where he's eager to join forces with other experts. The agency operates several centers focused on tackling pandemics—including those on biomed research and our national stockpile. This new role, as he expressed, isn't just about COVID or influenza but encompasses preparedness for emerging global threats of all kinds. Throughout his career, Hatfill has advocated for thoroughness and awareness in pandemic science; it appears he's bringing that same mindset to HHS as he helps our country brace for whatever comes next. Dr. Mary Talley Bowden, an ear, nose and throat specialist in Houston, Texas, reported, "I treated over 6,000 COVID-19 patients during the pandemic, a large number of those patients took hydroxychloroquine."

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

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Brain Food



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

In The Wizard of Oz tale, the scarecrow laments that he does not have a brain. How could he think about not having a brain without having a brain to think? By the end of the tale, we see the scarecrow does have some “smarts” and he is capable of learning new things. Your brain is an amazing structure allowing you to read this article and remember old stories without having to think about monitoring heartbeat, breathing rates, and nutrient levels. One area we should think about more is the food we eat that supports a healthy brain.

Diseases of the brain are increasingly discussed as more individuals are diagnosed with these challenges. A 2025 article published in Nature Medicine predicts 42% of adults over 55 develop dementia by age 95. A 2023 article in the Alzheimer’s and Dementia Journal reported a 145% increase in deaths

from Alzheimer’s between 2000 and 2019. The Anxiety and Depression Association of America reports that 40 million Americans are affected by various anxiety disorders. With all the suggested advances in modern health care, why is this problem with brain health happening?

Brain health can be reviewed from three levels: the structure, the function, and the energy of the brain. Each of these levels requires specific nutrients which are available from specific types of foods. Brain health can be supported by choosing the right foods.

Your brain is seventy percent fat. The one hundred billion neurons within your brain are each made of millions of fatty acid molecules that make up the cell membrane and the myelin sheath. The myelin sheath is an extra insulation layer wrapped around each neuron to keep the electrical signal contained so that the energy flows in the right direction and does not get lost. Quality fat sources that enhance this insulation layer include coconut oil, butter, lard, olive oil, and flaxseed oil. These sources of fat contain the electrical charges of the neurons more effectively than the vegetable oils common in the grocery store. Trans-fats and seed oils high in omega-6 easily breakdown in the cell membrane resulting in early cell death or dysfunction. A 2017 research paper from the Temple University Health System linked canola oil with worse memory. Canola oil is a seed oil high in omega-6 fatty acids. A 2024 paper in JAMA Network reported that consuming 7 grams of olive oil each day was related to a 28% decrease in dementia related death. To

support the brain structure of neurons, consuming quality oils is essential.

The function of the nerve cell is to pass information on to the next nerve cell. The speed of this transfer of information has been recorded to be as fast as 250 miles per hour. Another evaluation has noted the brain performs one quintillion calculations each second. A quintillion is one million trillions. Information is passed from one nerve cell to another by a variety of chemicals called neurotransmitters. Adrenaline, dopamine, serotonin, and histamine are just a few of these neurotransmitters. A group of foods that can significantly improve nerve activity are fermented foods which contain health-promoting bacteria. Fermented foods like plain yogurt, fresh mozzarella cheese, and sauerkraut, in addition to fresh fruits and vegetables will promote a healthy bacteria community that produces butyrate, a short chain fatty acid related to brain health. Scientific Reports Journal published a 2023 article showing that butyrate producing bacteria are associated with a lower risk of Alzheimer’s. A June 2022 article from Frontiers in Immunology reported butyrate helps fight against Parkinson’s disease. Improving the quality of the bacteria community in your gut has a direct result in healthy brain function.

The energy for your entire body is produced within tiny structures called mitochondria. Your brain has a high energy requirement consuming twenty percent of all the energy your body produces each day. Just as fuel is needed at the energy plant to

make electricity, so your mitochondria need the right fuel to create the energy your body needs. The most efficient source of fuel is sugar that comes from long-chain carbohydrates. Those long-chain carbohydrates are fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, and whole grains. These carb sources do not create unbalanced blood sugar levels and do provide dietary fiber for the bacteria in the gut to produce butyrate, so you get an extra bonus when you eat these foods.

Adding quality fats, fermented foods, fresh vegetables and fruits can make a significant difference in your brain activity. According to the Brain Health and Alzheimer’s Prevention Program at Loma Linda University over ninety percent of Alzheimer’s cases can be prevented with simple changes in diet and lifestyle. 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

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JULY 3rd: CHICKEN RANCH DUO 8:30 PM
JULY 4th: DAVE CARPENTER BAND 2:00-5:00 PM
BRYAN ANDERSON 8:30 PM
JULY 5th: THE CHUBS 8:30 PM
JULY 6th: BLYND EYE 8:30 PM

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Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes April 17, 2025 @ 4:00 PM

Call the meeting to order at 4:00. Meeting is recorded, and the recordings belong to the City of Bellechester.

Pledge to the flag

Open Board of Equalization Meeting

Lavonne Augustine opened the Board of Equalization meeting. Accompanying her from Goodhue County Assessor's office was Rebecca Peters and Jeremy Laska. She gave a brief overview of how rates are determined in the county as it relates to home and property values.

With no residents present, the Board of Equalization meeting was closed at 4:34.

Close Board of Equalization Meeting Open City Council Meeting

Acting Mayor Mark Gerken opened the regular city council meeting at 4:35.

Roll call was taken: The council in attendance: Acting Mayor Mark Gerken, Council member Jacob Gilsdorf, Nick Keller and Rich Majerus as well as City Clerk Lisa Redepening, treasurer Kyle McKeown, City Engineer Matt Mohs as well as Nolan Boice from

Bolton Menk was present. Mayor Jody Gordon was absent.

Minutes of the March 19, 2025 meeting were reviewed and motion was made by Jake Gilsdorf with a second by Nick Keller to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Bills were reviewed with a motion by Rich Majerus with a second by Nick Keller to approve and pay the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business:

• **Update – Sewer Lining Project** – Matt introduced Nolan who presented pay application #6. Chimney seals on manholes can be addressed and finished now that it's spring. Sewer laterals needed to be cleaned and was done. Results of televising was discussed. 1 manhole cannot be lined and will be addressed. Extension of an existing line was discussed. The project is starting to wind down to completion which is anticipated to be June. The vendor will be coming back in May to fix and take care of cleanouts that may be in yard. Also flags and stakes can be removed from your yard. Next meeting will have an amendment request that will need to

be approved.

• **Update – Water Meter Project** – Sustainably completed and working towards final close of this project. Retainage is the only funds left to pay. Motion was made by Nick Keller with a 2nd by Jake Gilsdorf to approve the change order #1 contingent on Rural Development concurrence submitted by Matt. Motion carried.

• **ADA Fixes** – There will be modifications to the report pertaining to the old bathroom at the Community Center and to remove the requirement to upgrade them. Landing and railing work on the back of the building will be needed. We will get an updated report at that time. We will need to present a transition plan to Rural Development on the planned changes to fix ADA changes needed.

New business:

• **Pay Application #6 for \$97,656.91, which includes a 5% retainage** – Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Nick Keller to approve the payment. Motion carried.

• **Goodhue County GIS Users Group – Agreement** – This will be tabled until our

project is finalized, and we get more information on this, and a full council.

• **Transfer of funds to Savings Account** – we will take a look at a possible CD to see which is better.

• **Pay off interim loan** – Motion was made by Nick Keller with a 2nd by Rich Majerus to pay off interim loan. Motion carried.

Engineer Report – Lead Service line – Matt is going to submit an application for Project Priority List which is due in May. It will come back to council in May if we wish to proceed.

Clerk Report – Transfer to Savings – since we do not have a street loan payment, I would recommend transferring \$45,000 to savings out of general fund. Our current general fund balance is \$284,355.86. The loan payments we were making each year were \$47,000. The last payment was in 2024. This would double the amount we currently have in savings. We would then have \$100,000 in a CD and \$90,000 in savings, still leaving \$200,000 (more or less) in general fund. Sewer Fund Balance – we received reimbursement from Rural Development for all the lining project expenses we were paying from our current funds. The sewer balance is now \$118,139.67. Quarterly Reports – have all been done for 1st Qtr, 2025. COVID Reporting – has been completed. Payoff of Interim Sewer Loan – Now that we are nearing completion, are we at the point of paying off this interim sewer loan at Fransden Bank. We already have the funds to pay it off in an interim savings account. We were keeping it in case we needed it while the project was in progress. This amount will be included in our final bond we will have when this project is completed. We have earned \$921.72 interest on this money since opening the account in June of 2023.

Treasurer Report – List was distributed and discussed how changes can be made to the report.

Water/Wastewater/Facility Report – fixed around hydrants, discharging in the beginning of May. We should take a look at cleaning our pressure tanks.

Mayor Concerns: None

Council Concerns: Discussion on field updates and the Lions are interested. A formal plan will be brought back to in the future.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Nick Keller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:16. Motion carried.

Submitted by Lisa Redepening – City Clerk

Goodhue County		
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule 2025		
Tuesday, May 6	Kenyon Goodhue Co. Shop 1005 Hwy 60	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday, May 20	Wanamingo Casey's - Hwy. 60	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday, June 24	Zumbrota Park-N-Ride Parking lot	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday, July 8	Pine Island Pine Island High School	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday, July 15	Goodhue Community Center	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday, July 29	Cannon Falls Lake Byllesby Park	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

COMPLETE HHW INFO ONLINE: goodhuecountymn.gov
HHW HOTLINE: 651-385-3107

We will NO LONGER be collecting Fluorescent Bulbs at the Hazardous Waste Collections. The Goodhue County Recycling Center accepts fluorescent bulbs Monday-Friday, year-round. We are very sorry for the inconvenience.

A Household Hazardous Waste drop-off is available at the Goodhue County Recycling Center in Red Wing, from the first Monday in May through the last Friday in October. Hours of operation for the drop-off will be Monday through Friday (except holidays), from 8am until 3pm. Please utilize the drop-off as much as possible in order to prevent large crowds at the collection events listed above. There is a 10 gallon per person per day limit at the Red Wing drop-off. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Goodhue County Recycling Center is located at 3745 Highway 61 N in Red Wing (across Highway 61 from the Red Wing Shoe Factory).

For safety, place waste products in a box when transporting Questions? Call the HHW Hotline: (651) 385-3107 We will no longer collect Fluorescent Bulbs at the HHW Collections

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Do's and Don'ts

DO BRING:

- Paint/Stain/Thinner Etc.-** Bring unusable paint products to the collection.
- Pesticides/Herbicides (Non-Agricultural, Non-Commercial Grade) -** Products designed to kill weeds, bugs, rodents, mold and fungus.
- Automotive Products-** Bad gas, cleaners, anti-freeze, fuels, grease, lead-acid batteries.
- Household Products-** Drain opener, strong cleaners, spot removers, adhesives, acids & bases.
- Exotic Batteries-** Ni-Cad rechargeable, Button, Lithium, Mercury, other unusual batteries.
- Mercury Devices-** Thermometers, thermostats, mercury switches.
- Aerosol Cans-** Partial or plugged pressurized spray cans of all types. Empty, depressurized cans can be disposed of in trash.

Please limit quantities to 10 gallons per person per event, as space is limited at collections.

DO NOT BRING:

- Business or Agricultural Hazardous Wastes-** Business wastes will be refused. Businesses should contact the Olmsted County Hazardous Waste Facility at 507-328-7078.
- Electronics-** City of Red Wing Waste Campus 651-385-3658
- Prescription Drugs-** Contact: Goodhue County Law Enforcement Center 651-385-3155
- Empty Containers-** If a container is empty and dry, it is no longer hazardous. Recycle or dispose of in trash.
- Fluorescent Tubes-** Bring them to the Goodhue County Recycling Center.
- Non-Hazardous Products-** Soaps, regular light bulbs, broken glass or ceramics, recyclables, trash.
- Waste Oil, Oil Filters-** Engine oils and filters can be recycled through local sources.
- Medical Wastes/Sharps-** Contact your local clinic or hospital for disposal information.
- Explosives and Ammunition-** Contact local law enforcement on their non-emergency number.
- Appliances-** No appliances.
- Solar Panels-** No solar panels.



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Goodhue City Council and Goodhue Gas Commission Meeting Minutes City Hall ~ April 23, 2025 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Ernie Valenzuela, Council Members, Michael Brunkhorst, Chris Schmit, Jeannine Nagel, Staff: Lisa Redepenning, Lori Luhman, Kyle McKeown

Absent: Joe Benda

Guests: Wayne Gadiant, Mike Ayres GCSO
Call to Order Mayor Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The City and the

Gas Commission do not have an official agreement. Questions arise as to what is the arrangement between the two? How do things operate here with the two entities relating to equipment, space, labor and payroll? Some larger cities have the Gas Commission as a separate entity that runs on their own. Some smaller cities have the gas utility as a department of the city if it is managed by the city. Gas Commission Board Member Wayne Gadiant summarized the history of how the Gas Commission came about. Their goal was to not be a burden to the taxpayer and keep prices reasonable. The City not growing, at this time, is a burden on the taxpayer. Then when the City of Goodhue built the new City Hall building, the Commission offered to rent a space for \$500 per month to help support the funding of the building. Most years the Gas Commission has donated/discounted the swimming pool gas charges. The Gas Commission expenses that are taken care of or handled by the City are reimbursed monthly.

Attorney Vose recognized there is value in having the Gas Commission and City work together. He also suggested ways to come up with an agreement. The City Council, staff

and the Gas Commission should write down the way they see things being done and compile a list of who does what for who, who is handling what, and as much detail of the relationship as possible. Then decide what parts are working and what parts are not for both parties and come up with any necessary changes.

Now that there are new staff and council, some questions came up that will need to be addressed like "Who does Kyle work for?" "Is he a city employee?", "Does he qualify for PERA?", "How much time is spent helping City Staff?", is his compensation appropriate for the exchange of work being done?"

Wayne and Kyle reminded City Council they are welcome to attend the Gas Commission meetings that are held on the third Monday of every month at 4:45 p.m.

Council agrees that the way things are being run seems to be working well. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk

Goodhue City Council Meeting Minutes City Hall ~ April 23, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Ernie Valenzuela, Council Members, Michael Brunkhorst, Chris Schmit, Jeannine Nagel, Staff: Lisa Redepenning, Lori Luhman

Absent: Joe Benda

Guests: Connie Staton, Dean Staton, Kyle Poncelet, Brittany Huneke, Marc Huneke, Dan Englund GCSO

Call to Order Mayor Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Hearing for Conditional Use

Permit at 308 1st Avenue

Mayor Valenzuela opened the public hearing. Public comments and council concerns consisted of type of events, parking issues, C.U.P. remaining with owner not the property, hours of operation, fire code occupancy, and the word "donation" being used as a loophole for commercial business, live entertainment and alcohol consumption. Huneke's responded that the building in its current state can occupy around 50 people on the upper level. The monthly event they will be holding that will open to the community would be intended for indoor activity for children aged 0-6 years old. The tenants will be aware of the use of the space. The other times will be for free will donation by others to use the facility for small family events or play time. There are currently 16 parking stalls. Since the neighborhood was already used to extra parking once a week around the church, they figured the number of events wouldn't make it seem any different. Now that they know that the street parking was an issue in the winter, they will address that in the future. Huneke's explained their intentions of staying non-commercial. Mr. Huneke explained without the wording "donation only" in there, the property would be considered commercial and that is not what they want to see happen. Council member Schmit clarified that Huneke's mention the space is for rent when it is a free will donation which is confusing, when a donation is not mandatory but can be highly recommended. It is recommended they not use the word "rent". The parking recently has been an issue with the vehicle near the intersec-

tion which does minimize visibility which is a safety issue. The curb should be marked with yellow in that intersection so it is clearer to tenants and guests as to where they can park. Attorney Vose reviewed that this property is in R2 Zoning and requested to be used as R1 and that this kind of mixed use is new for Goodhue. He then instructed how to proceed. Restrictions or conditions would then need to be adopted. Mayor Valenzuela asked Huneke's what they were intending for hours of operation. Huneke's confirmed that the hours would be 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Huneke indicated that they encourage outdoor play and park use so the season of use would typically be from September through March. Huneke's also mentioned the handicapped parking space signs were removed and they were hoping that they would have stayed. They were referred to Public Works for discussion of Handicapped parking signs and yellow painting on the curb. 2 It will not be a daycare or allow live entertainment or alcohol. Their intention is to do this for the good of the community and give young children another opportunity for a place to play in the winter season. Mayor also asked Huneke's if they will be adding the rules to their use agreement. They have not worked on a rules and regulations for the use yet.

Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:26 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Schmit, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 4-0-0.

(continued on page 23)

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House Democrat Start of Session Holdout Proves Costly



Rep. Pam Altendorf (R) District: 20A

At the beginning of the 2025 session, I wrote that this was going to be yet another “historic” session.

Boy, was it.

With the House tallying 67 Republicans and 67 Democrats, most of us knew compromises were going to be necessary in order to move any bills forward. The problem was we couldn’t make any compromises for weeks as House Democrats refused to show up for work for 23 days, collecting their legislative paychecks that entire time.

In hindsight, those 23 days of nothingness have proven to be very costly now that the 2025 session has ended, and a good share of our budget work remains unfinished.

If there’s any good news to come from this, it’s that we won’t be entering a special session starting from scratch. Late last week,

legislative leaders and Governor Walz announced that an agreement had been reached on a state budget framework.

That framework will provide the largest cut to government spending in state history. It will eliminate nearly half of the projected budget deficit Democrats created when they grew government by 40% and raised taxes by \$10 billion two years ago. In fact, no Minnesota family will see a tax increase from state government this year.

With leadership having agreed on the broad parameters of our next budget, joint House/Senate conference committees worked on the specifics within their respective areas within government. During the final weekend of session, we approved several of these compromise finance proposals, such as public safety, agriculture, and state government. But others, like the health and transportation conference committees, came close but did not finalize agreements before adjournment, which means a special session is needed to finish things up.

I believe the governor will only call a special session when agreements have been reached on all of the outstanding budget bills and am expecting that will happen before the end of May.

I will be sure to keep you updated on the progress we make and will provide you with some highlights next month once special session concludes.

Goodhue City Council Meeting

(continued from page 22)

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the April 9, 2025, City Council work session was made by Nagel, seconded by Schmit, motion carried 4-0-0.

Approve Consent Agenda

Approve the opening of savings account and direct \$10,000 per year to be deposited

Re-assign Dance Permit Fee and add to fee schedule

Approve Space Lease Agreement Form with Goodhue County Sheriff’s Office

A motion was made by Schmit, to approve the Consent Agenda, Seconded by Brunkhorst, Motion carried 4-0-0.

New Business

Council discussed the C.U.P request from Huneke’s with consideration of the public comment and council concerns. They confirmed the hours and times of operation. A suggestion was also made to have a contact number on the outside of the building for emergencies. A motion was made by Schmit to approve the C.U.P. with the following conditions:

Operation is Sunday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Donations only

Maximum Occupancy 50

No Alcohol or Drugs allowed

Signage with contact information

C.U.P. ends with the sale of the property Seconded by Brunkhorst, motion passed 4-0-0.

The Lions amended lease agreement was reviewed. The only changes made were the address correction and the wording clarification for insurance. A motion was made by

Brunkhorst, to approve the City of Goodhue and Lions Club building lease agreement form, seconded by Nagel, motion approved 4-0-0.

The council discussed the EDA bylaws. Council Member Nagel mentioned that Article III #2 is not stated it is not for a 5 member EDA. Now the EDA has two 2-year terms, one 3-year term and one 4-year term. Motion to approve the EDA Bylaws was made by Schmit, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

Council Comments

Council member Brunkhorst updated the council on Fire Department Joint Powers Board statistics and changes that will be faced. The City of Goodhue portion would be roughly \$34,581. These are not concrete numbers yet. The Worker’s Compensation does not need to go through the city anymore along with a sum of money that comes directly from the state 3 that can come directly to the fire department. The only thing they would like is the City to do the clerical work for trainings as far as facilitating the paperwork side of it. The Fire Truck Association would repay that time to the City. The invoices would still be facilitated at the City Clerk’s Office. The Clerk will not be paying the invoices, just submitting them to MFBTE for payment. Goodhue has never paid anything for fire trucks or vehicles. To continue this partnership, it was suggested that the City be a budgeted voting member. Their goal is to not be a burden on the smaller townships. Now the unexpected/unbudgeted expenses will not happen in the future with the new agreement.

(continued on page 24)

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Goodhue City Council Meeting

(continued from page 23)

Administrator Redepinning mentioned the only thing that seems a little in the grey area is of the finance part with the City submitting for reimbursement. That communication with what needs to be submitted and who needs to be reimbursed just seems like it should all stay together.

Mayor Comments

Mayor mentioned that he, Sheriff Kelly and Lisa will meet next week about the bathroom facility for Sheriff Department staff in Goodhue.

Other

Public Works Report stated that the new quote received for the water tower painting was much lower and Public Works Director is working to coordinate the current warranty work with the new contractor to facilitate it at the same time if possible. It is suggested that council take a close look at the tower and see why it needs to be done. There is angle crosswalk at the corner between the school and Church of Holy Trinity that should be extended. Administrator Redepinning met with the local ASCS office about getting a grant to help with the waterway issue and silt pond. The City needs to maintain the pond first, then the grant can help with the waterway.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made to approve the bills by Schmit, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:14 p.m. by Schmit, seconded by Brunkhorst 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted, Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk

Goodhue City Council Work Meeting Minutes City Hall ~ May 14, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Ernie Valenzuela, Council Members Joe Benda, Michael Brunkhorst, Chris Schmit, Jeannine Nagel

Staff: Lisa Redepinning, Lori Luhman

Absent: None

Guests: McCrae Olson

Call to Order

Mayor Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approve or amend Agenda

Agenda was approved as written, motion by Brunkhorst, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the April 23, 2025 City Council meeting minutes was made by Brunkhorst, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 5-0-0. Motion to approve the April 23, 2025 City Council and Gas Commission meeting minutes was made by Nagel, seconded by Benda, motion carried 5-0-0.

New Business

Resolution No. 25-08 Approving the CUP for The Goodhue Sanctuary can be added to the consent agenda for the next regular council meeting on May 28, 2025.

Administration presented the idea for offering an annual City-Wide Clean Up Day like

what other cities provide for their residents to properly dispose of items such as metal, appliances, mattresses, tires, etc... Council agreed that it would be a good idea to test the City-Wide Clean-Up Day program in Goodhue once this fall and if successful, continue to do it in the spring after the City-wide garage sale. Logistics and liability of staffing and volunteers need to be addressed. Options for volunteers in the fall could include the school athletes for help. Local disposal companies can be notified and see what services can be provided free of charge and what costs would need to be satisfied to determine fee for residents utilizing the service. A flyer would be sent with the water bills and placed on the website for advertising the event.

The City of Goodhue Subdivision Form for the sale of the property to the school is the final form that Kennedy & Graven need to finish the process of the sale of the property. The reason for the subdivision is, the City needs to retain a narrow strip of the land for the purpose of snow placement during snow removal. The school is willing to split all the expenses involved in the purchase. The completed paperwork for the sale of the property to the school will be prepared for approval on the consent agenda for the next meeting.

Counselor Brunkhorst reminded members and staff that Volksfest is a festival that is held to give back to the community. Volksfest handlers have changed over the years and when the City ran the event, vendor fees were collected to operate in the City. The Street Dance is run by the Jaycees, and the rest of 2 the event is run by the Volksfest Committee. The vendor fees are now going to the coordinator of the event. The City and staff help with barricades, "No Parking" signs, garbage disposal and storing the float in shed and in the garage during the parade season. We are currently also allowing people who are not City employees to access the float in City buildings. This is not recommended by the City Attorney for liability reasons. Staff is

suggesting that we not allow the continuation of this without a City staff member unblocking and being present during float repair and decorating. Certain council members mentioned they would volunteer if needed but didn't seem to think it was necessary. Suggestions of an event fee were brought up to offset costs for permit fees, supplies or staff labor before, during and after the event. Council members did not feel a festival permit fee was needed. Nor do they feel the City has a need to charge any fees for the Volksfest event supplies and labor.

Counselor Schmit mentioned that the Dance team has a food vendor for a fundraiser and the Jaycees tried to find local food trucks within a 20-mile radius to accommodate the event. He will also talk to Jaycees regarding the alcohol server responsibilities and expectations during the event.

The City plow truck replacement was discussed at the last meeting and Jason has quotes and council was fine with following through.

The crosswalks that are currently at an angle by the school are illegal. To be enforced by law, they need to be legal. They were painted with intentions of being safer for the kids to be noticed. The Safe Routes to School program is still in progress and will help with the problem when that is complete.

The next street improvement will be 4th Street. This will also involve replacement of some water connections that are galvanized or "unknown" located in the area being repaired.

The City Golf Cart Ordinance needs some updated language. The permit is for the golf cart, not the person. The ordinance does not clarify age restriction for operation, only for obtaining the permit. Since it is being amended, we should correct the policing language also. Council agreed the changes should be made and added to the consent agenda for approval at the next meeting.

Most of the items were already discussed

in the Public Works Report.

No discussion for administrator report or EDA report.

Council asked if staff have heard anything more about the Lions' agreement moving forward. They are getting another definition of "Net Profit" before they continue with the agreement. The City does not need to allow gambling. The council feels the Lions did not need a permit from the City since the Gambling goes directly to the State and is managed there.

The Ordinances are being enforced and reviewed that those pools at 5000 gallons or more need a 4-foot fence self-locking from the inside. The Ordinances that were set in place are what we must work with, and we need to do our job by enforcing them. We also want residents to enjoy their pools.

Mayor Valenzuela kindly reminded members and staff to avoid having certain conversations with others outside of meetings. The public can bring their issues to the 2nd meeting of each month. It is ok to disagree and disagree with respect. 3 Staff informed Council of the trees that were donated to the City and that we will be sending a "thank you letter" to the Goodhue SWCD for that generous donation.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made to approve the bills by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 5-0-0.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:45 p.m. by Council Member Brunkhorst, seconded by Benda 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted, Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk

City of Goodhue Recognized for Protecting Drinking Water Sources

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) have recognized the City of Goodhue for its exceptional efforts to protect community drinking water sources.

Goodhue was a finalist for a 2025 Source Water Protection Award from MDH and MRWA.

Goodhue undertook several notable projects to protect the city's drinking water source from contamination and ensure the long-term safety and sustainability of the water supply. The city's actions included:

- Collaborating with local partners to implement best practices for reducing nitrogen, a common contaminant to drinking water sources in agricultural areas.
- Hosting a collaborative nitrate clinic, where 123 water samples were tested.
- Providing educational luncheons to teach community members about wellhead protection.

MDH and MRWA work with public water suppliers and other partners to develop and implement protection plans that include efforts to prevent contamination of the drinking water source. Preventing contamination is the best and most cost-effective way to protect drinking water for public health.

Earlier this week, MDH released the state's first Drinking Water Action Plan, which outlines strategies for protecting drinking water from source to tap over the next 10 years. The plan identifies goals for ensuring safe drinking water around the state and highlights the vital partnerships with local communities to achieve these goals.

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**Thank You,
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Flat Water Futures, LLC
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