

# KENYON • WANAMINGO Messenger

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JULY 9, 2025

Volume 18 • Issue 13

## The Circus is Coming to Dennison

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Dennison Lions Club & Fireside Lounge, the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus is coming to Dennison, MN on Thursday, July 31st, to the lot across from the Dennison Lutheran Church located at 37514 3 Ave. with shows at 5:00 & 7:30 pm.

(continued on page 6)

## Security State Bank of Kenyon Partners with Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines to Award \$20,000 to Kenyon Area Foundation and \$10,000 to Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity through the Member Impact Fund

*Grant program supports affordable housing and community development*

Security State Bank of Kenyon in partnership with Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (FHLB Des Moines), is pleased to announce that Kenyon Area Foundation will receive a \$20,000 and Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity will receive a \$10,000 grant from the Member Impact Fund.

(continued on page 9)



L to R: Stuart Campbell (SSBK President), Bob Hawley (Executive Director of Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity), Abby Dahlgren, Kevin Kruger, Nicole Seifert, Dana Ostertag

## Announcements

• All are welcome to breakfast, fellowship, bible study, and prayer time every Saturday morning at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon. Breakfast and fellowship start at 8:00 am. Followed by a verse by verse bible study. Finishing with prayer time at 10:00 am. All are welcome (men, women, and children) each Saturday morning!! Any questions, please contact Loren Bauer: 507-450-6623.

• Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Zumbrota, 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

## Fresh Bites

The little sandwich shop named Fresh Bites is a welcome stop for getting a quick bite to eat.

(continued on page 3)



## A Great Turnout for 4th of July Celebration in Wanamingo



What a turnout we had for our Wanamingo 4th of July celebration! The lot across from the fire station was a buzz with animals, food and fun! Yard games, face painting and water fights were some of the activities set up by the Lions, the Firemen and the Commercial Club, so a big thank you goes out to them, and all the folks in the background, making things happen.

(continued on page 11)

## Next Month is Rosefest



August 13th thru 17th will be Rosefest this summer in Kenyon. Some things to look for are the ATV, UTV, golf cart cruise on Wednesday evening. (continued on page 3)

## SEE YOU AT THE CIRCUS!

**JULY 31 • ACROSS FROM DENNISON LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Tickets available at: Heritage Bank - Dennison, Dennison Depot, Fireside Lounge, Parkside General Store (see pg. 6 for more info)

Sponsored by Dennison Lions Club and Fireside Lounge

37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN  
Hours: Wed. & Thurs. 11:00 AM-8:30 PM; Fri. & Sat. 11:00 AM-9:30 PM; Sun. 9:00 AM-8:00 PM  
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## Pastors Corner

By Pastor Larry Grove,  
Hauge Lutheran Church, Kenyon

As a nation we recently celebrated 249 years of freedom from tyrannical rule, religious oppression, and the right to pursue things that few countries allow.

Joseph Ellis, a famous American historian, wrote that our Declaration of Independence contained “the most potent and consequential words in American history.”

How could one document stand the test of time the way that our Declaration has? My theory is that the success of this charter is encapsulated in this unambiguous quotation.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

### “Created By God”

These words make it abundantly clear that our Founding Fathers believed that we have a Creator. That He has granted us certain rights, and those rights cannot be taken away by our governing authorities.

### “All Men Are Created Equal”

When our founders penned these words there were still thousands of people that were not being treated as equal because they were slaves. God’s plan for equality has slowly come to fruition in this country as we strive to judge men and women by the content of their character.

### “Unalienable Rights”

**Life** - Deuteronomy 30:19 gives us an idea of what our Founding Fathers used as a template for their thoughts on life.

“This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live”

**Liberty** - The Oxford Dictionary explains liberty as, “the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one’s way of life, behavior, or political views.”

**Pursuit Of Happiness** - By writing in this provision they were opening the opportunity for people to acquire and possess property. Along with this comes safety and protection of things owned and worked for.

### “Self-Evident Truths”

These men felt that their was no need for

debate or discussion about these things. These truths were obvious to all. Once again, scripture tells of this in Romans chapter 1, verse 20. It says, “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

Thomas Jefferson was said to be the author of the Declaration of Independence, but he received input from John Locke, William

Blackstone, George Mason and Ephraim Bravard, who were all devout Christians. So many of our foundational documents were rooted in the truths of God’s Word and grounded in Biblical Principles.

As our country approaches a quarter of a millennium, we must hold tightly to the truths that have made our nation great. May God continue to bless the United States of America!

## AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Light Rising in the Darkness

*If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. — Isaiah 58:10*

The roles of mom, dad, brother, and sister can be broader than traditional definitions suggest. My mom has embodied an expansive view of motherhood throughout her life. She not only raised my siblings and me alongside our father, but she also served as a Christian school principal for 35 years and as an elder in her church. Her influence reached far beyond our home—spending summers in Ukraine, Uganda, and Russia, as well as three years in Bangkok to help establish Christian schools.

When I was a single father with sons ages 7, 4, and 1, my mom stepped in to help me, sharing as a grandmother the same energy and devotion she had shown as a mother. Her love, especially in times of need, reflected God’s calling to spend herself on behalf of others. She’s always been a square peg in a world that tries to fit people into round holes, and that uniqueness is her strength. The churches, orphanages, and schools she has served have benefited deeply from her gifts—as have we, her family.

God promises his servants: “You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.” Is there someone in your life whose faith and service reflect God’s light and bless others in remarkable ways?

*Lord, thank you for all whose love and service reflect your light. Bless those who give generously of themselves. May their lives be like well-watered gardens, ever refreshing others. Amen.*

### GOSPEL OF LIFE FAMILY CHURCH

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

### ST. JOHN’S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Wheeling Twp) 19086 Jacob Avenue, Faribault  
Gary Liker, Pastor • 507-330-0025  
www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info  
Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

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### DENNISON/VANG LUTHERAN PARISH

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

### July Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 13: Dennison – 9:00 AM  
Sunday, July 20: Dennison – 9:00 AM  
Sunday, July 27: Dennison – 9:00 AM

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

301 2nd Avenue, Wanamingo  
824-2155  
July 13: 9:00a.m. Worship  
July 20: 9:00a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
July 27: 9:00a.m. Worship

### WANAMINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

130 West 3rd St., Wanamingo  
824-2457  
www.TrinityWanamingo.org  
July 13: 9:00a.m. Worship at TLC  
July 20: 9:00a.m. Worship at TLC with Holy Communion  
July 27: 9:00a.m. Worship at TLC

### ASPELUND EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

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

### FIRST EV. LUTHERAN

D.J. Chatelaine, Pastor  
309 Forest Street, Kenyon  
507-789-5261  
website: [fickenyon.org](http://fickenyon.org)  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.;  
Noon-1:00p.m. Open Prayer Time,  
1st Tuesday each month

### GOL LUTHERAN

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



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

### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NERSTRAND

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

### HAUGE LUTHERAN

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

### LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

David Krinke, Pastor  
16640 Hwy. 60 Blvd. • [www.landslutheran.com](http://www.landslutheran.com)  
Wednesday 6:15 p.m.  
Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. at Everson Park

### STORDAHL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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

### HOLDEN/DALE

Pastor Dustin Haider • 507-789-6677  
Email: [holdendalsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:holdendalsecretary@gmail.com)  
Worship schedule found at:  
[www.holdenlutheranchurch.org](http://www.holdenlutheranchurch.org)  
Holden/Dale Facebook

### MOLAND CHURCH

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

### NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

### KENYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

### ST. MICHAEL’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Cory Rohlfing  
Deacon Newell McGee  
108 Bullis St., Kenyon  
Sunday Mass 8:00a.m.; Wednesday Mass 5:00p.m.

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Website with online services which are live at 10:00a.m. or can be viewed at anytime:  
<https://nlcwanamingo.org/>



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### E-mail:

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

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## OBITUARY

### Leif Sawyer Gunhus

Leif Sawyer Gunhus, age 21, of Carver, MN, died unexpectedly on Sunday, April 20, 2025 in Menomonie, Wisconsin. Leif was blessed with a brilliant mind, a huge heart, and was an amazing brother and son.



Memorial Service was held on Sunday, May 4, 2025, 2:00 PM at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 23290 Highway 7, Excelsior, MN. Pastor Adam Hengst officiated. Family received friends on Saturday, May 3, 2:00 – 5:00 PM at the Bertas Funeral Home, 200 West Third Street, Chaska, and also one hour prior to the service at church. The inurnment was at Gol Church Cemetery in Kenyon, MN. Memorials may be given to Southwest Christian High School, designated for the Leif Gunhus'22ScholarshipFund. <https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/adaptive-donor-form/?formId=d1a3aa27-32be-4e6f-a934-0d6939bdf5e3&envId=p-iniPBkpb8USzfc30fdBp5w&zone=usa>

Leif was born on September 23, 2003 in Burbank, CA one of three children to Chester and Lisa (Records) Gunhus. He was baptized at Hollywood Presbyterian Church, Hollywood, CA and confirmed in 2018 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Excelsior, MN. He graduated from Southwest Christian High School in 2022 and was currently a Junior at University Wisconsin – Stout in Menomonie, WI. Leif loved gaming – creating video games with the music and artwork. He loved unique food, travel (including trips to Finland, Puerto Rico and Belize) and enjoyed art and art exhibits at school. He particularly loved playing with his doggies, and all animals loved his kind and gentle nature.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Janice Gunhus and Raymond Records. Survivors include his parents, Chet and Lisa Gunhus of Carver; siblings, Cooper and Charlotte of Carver; grandparents, Paul Gunhus of Kenyon, Marjorie Records of Edina; uncle and aunts, Gunder Gunhus of Red Wing, Cindy Gunhus of Kenyon, Kari Gunhus of Zumbrota; many cousins and friends.

## Next Month is Rosefest



2024 Rosefest

(continued from page 1)

On Thursday the Kenyon Police will hold a bike rodeo followed by a garden tractor pull. Friday is city wide garage sales, a golf tournament at noon, a hog roast at the VFW from 5 to 7pm and a street dance with live band at 7pm.

Saturday is the Fire Department pancake

breakfast, an Old Car & Truck show, a tractor pull and a vendor and craft market all day long. A family fun day is planned at Depot Park. A street dance featuring Lost Highway will start at 8pm.

On Sunday there will be a 1pm parade followed by the Fire Department water fights and the Rose fest Regatta at the Kenyon Pool at 5pm. Look for more details in the August 6th issue of the Kenyon/Wanamingo Messenger.

## Fresh Bites

(continued from page 1)

The selections are quite good and ready in very short order. The subs are priced at \$8.99 and there are eleven to choose from. You can get a meal with chips or a cookie and a drink for \$11.99. Soft shell tacos are \$2.50 each or three for \$7.00.

There are six salads and four bowls to choose from and cost \$11.99 or \$13.95 with a drink. The best are the fresh baked cookies for \$1.25 each. Some days there are four or five varieties to choose from and always taste soft like they came right out of the oven.

After the Subway left town there was a void in the quick and fast meal options, but this little shop is a gem.

## Dennison and Vang Lutheran Parish

A shared ministry of two congregations.  
We are a Community of Faith with a Proud Past, a Vibrant Present,  
a Hopeful Future.  
There is a place for you here! All are welcome.  
- [www.dennisonvang.org](http://www.dennisonvang.org) -

### VBS-Enrollment July 20th-July 24th

It's time to enroll your kids in the best event of the Summer! Vacation Bible School with Good Earth Village at Depot Park in Kenyon! VBS is open to the community and welcomes all kids who have completed grades K - 5. To ensure the proper resources and staff, we require a \$50 fee per child to reserve a spot.

As long as the child attends, our church's will cover the camp fee and the deposit will be returned to the family.

To register:

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdtUNkniCaxSG.../viewform>  
If any families have questions regarding the camp or fees, they should reach out to Sam Meyer ([sjwickum@gmail.com](mailto:sjwickum@gmail.com)) or Sarah Christensen ([schristensen84@gmail.com](mailto:schristensen84@gmail.com)).



### Interim Pastor Peter Coen Tuff

Interim Pastor Peter's first Worship service will be Sunday, July 13th, 9:00 am at Dennison. There will be a meet/greet following the service in the basement with coffee & treats to welcome Pastor Peter.

### Vang Steeple Project

Everyone is Invited to Come MEET, GREET and EAT Lunch - Hot Dishes, Salads and Desserts (provided) With the staff from Partners for Sacred Places.  
Tuesday July 22 -11:00-12:30

### Red Cross Blood Mobile Coming To Vang

There will be a blood drive at Vang Lutheran on July 30th from 12:00 – 6:00 PM. Please give your blood to save lives.

You can sign up online at the Red Cross or call Steve at 651-332-3583.



### Save the Date

Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner. Saturday October 4th, 2025

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## 2025 Goodhue County Breakfast on the Farm

The Goodhue County dairy farmers and the Goodhue County American Dairy Association showcased dairy farming and products at their annual Breakfast on the Farm held Friday, June 21st at the O'Reilly Green Acres Organic Dairy in rural Goodhue. The purpose of the Breakfast on the Farm event is to share with the public how the dairy industry works and contributes to the local economy and way of life. Events like these provide visitors the opportunity to get a first-hand look at where their wholesome and nutritious dairy products come from, and how dairy farmers care for their cows and land. This is increasingly important as each generation has less exposure and connection to dairy farms.

Approximately 2000 people visited Green Acres Organic Dairy where they were able to eat breakfast, tour the farm, participate in interactive activities, and interact with various agricultural business and community leaders.

Visitors were able to get a close-up look at the farm's milking parlor in action, various calf and cow housing facilities, and some of

the farming equipment used. Each area was staffed by volunteers who explained milking practices, farm safety, cow care, and answered questions. Local FFA chapters, 4-H members, and FCCLA/Leo Clubs assisted with interactive activities including a baby animal petting zoo, tractor train rides, face painting, and making homemade butter. Rochester area's "Sing Out Loud!" group led by Mark Weorpal provided musical entertainment. Goodhue County's dairy princesses and dairy ambassadors were on hand, as well as Minnesota's Princess Kay of the Milky Way, Rachel Visser.

In addition to the activities of the morning, various contests were held. The winners of the Name the Calf contest were as follows: Bull calf (boy) – "Tofu" by Rowan Larson. Heifer calf (girl) – "Mrs. Curds" by Sandy Christensen. O'Reilly family farm bingo winner was Allison Lubahn.

The Goodhue County Breakfast on the Farm committee is led by local dairy producers Ann Buck, Kristin Schrimpf, and Shannon Dicke, with the assistance of many other local producer and business partners and volunteers. KCUE Radio of Red Wing produced their morning broadcast live on the farm sharing information and talking with the many contributors to the dairy industry.

Thank you to the O'Reilly family for sharing and showcasing their farm during this successful event!



Goodhue County Dairy ambassadors and princesses gather to promote the dairy industry and Goodhue County dairy farmers. L to R: Eleanor O'Reilly, Chloe Sjoquist, Garrett Pearson, Jenna O'Reilly, Troy Clementson, Natalie Clementson, and Hannah Gutknecht.



Minnesota's Princess Kay of the Milky Way hands out stickers to children attending the Goodhue County Breakfast on the Farm

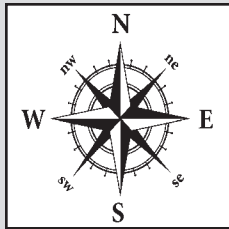


Goodhue County Dairy Princess Jenna O'Reilly greets local children as they don their farm safety gear.



## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

### Retirement, heading south and taking it easy



By Terry Campbell

*This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.*

I was born to be a farmer, it was in my blood from birth. I probably got that from my father. I couldn't imagine doing anything else for the rest of my life. It was the greatest vocation you could ever aspire to. Farmers were the best people. Most of them stayed farming until they tipped over. It was the thing a man did. You died with your boots on. Leaving the

farm wasn't going to happen for most farmers. So, I never imagined I might ever move south to somewhere warmer.

In 1964 my dad took the family on a trip south over Christmas vacation. He made the decision after he had survived a helicopter crash, with a desire to spend more time with the family. We traveled through Tennessee. I was mesmerized by the state. It wasn't bitter cold in December like Minnesota. And there was interesting history there. And it was beautiful. Tennessee had rivers, lakes and pine trees. You would think you were in northern Minnesota, without the winter. Those trips as a young child put the bug in me to vacation in the south. Just about every winter after that included the family heading south.

Years of raising livestock through a Minnesota winter takes it out of a guy. Many times, I have been stuck in a snowdrift with a tractor hauling manure into the field, froze my fingers crawling up a silo to fix an unloader, thawed out countless outdoor water fountains for cattle, fought with barn cleaner chains buried in ice and been so cold I couldn't feel my extremities while cutting and splitting firewood to keep the house warm. These memories are permanently imbedded in my mind.

I think of these things over the last eight years that I have spent the winters down south. I wrote this the first week of February while relaxing on my porch where we live on Kentucky Lake. Kentucky Lake is the Tennessee River where it is about a mile wide. The Tennessee River starts in the east of the state and meanders all the way to the west



View of Kentucky lake from Lodge dining room

where it eventually makes its way into the Mighty Mississippi.

Back to the first week in February in Tennessee. It is sunny and well into the 70 degree range. A perfect day by any standard. But even better in contrast to a February day in Minnesota. I went for a walk with the dog along the road by the river. Then we sat on the front porch together and relaxed, the dog snoring while I dozed off. Then I picked up my neighbor, Harry, and we drove to the Paris Landing Lodge Restaurant. This is a great place to eat and is only a few miles from our house. We sat by the window over-looking the lake enjoying a burger and talking for over three hours. He grew up on a farm in Indiana and operated heavy equipment all his life. We have a lot in common and enjoy

doing things together, even though he is more than ten years older than me. Funny how the age difference doesn't mean anything when one gets old.

When I am not on the farm, I do not have the constant call of things to do. No fences to tear down or build, no barns or buildings to maintain, nothing to feed or clean, no mowing, tilling, planting or fixing. Somedays down here I sweep out the shop and organize the tool bench, just because there is nothing else pressing to do. Many an afternoon I have fallen asleep in the porch chair on the front deck with my dog laying their head on my lap. I never saw this coming. But it is hard to beat having lots of spare time and not much to do with it.

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## A Minnesotan: Fair Season



By RosaLin Alcoser

We've hit the point in the summer when things start to turn hot and sticky. Which also means that we've hit the beginning of the county fair season.

While the people living in the cities tend to only care about the state fair at the end of the summer. The rest of us know that to get there first we have to go through all of the county fairs.

When I was a kid I clogged at the Goodhue county fair every year until I left for college; right over in the small entertainment tent across from the beer garden. Every year before and after I clogged I spent my time wandering in and out of all

of the fair exhibits.

Now that I'm grown I pretty much do the same things no matter which county fair it is. Because we all know that you have to hit up the 4 H building, all of the barns, plus the craft and agriculture buildings. After all, how else would we know which locals would be going onto state at the end of the summer?

Personally I think that the barns are always some of the most interesting to visit. After all you have wide variety to go to. You have the dairy barn, the goats, the pigs, the rabbits, the poultry, and of course my mother's favorite, the horses. Every year my mother has tried to use the county fair as a means to get us interested in one of her childhood interests. Horses.

This includes this year's visit to the county fair. When we were in the horse barn looking at all of the horses participating this year she was excited about me correctly identifying a Shetland pony. It was once she started pointing out all the reasons that I could tell it was a Shetland pony that I had to admit that I knew none of that. I was doing what I often do when telling people about whatever is right in front of me and was reading the sign telling what I was looking at.

Needless to say she was less impressed with me upon my admittance of this. However, this was soon remedied with the Minnesotan fair staple of cheese curds and a turn around the poultry barn.

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## The Circus is Coming to Dennison

(continued from page 1)

C&M Circus has been providing quality, local family entertainment for 40 years.

This authentic One-Ring, Big Top Circus has been featured on the A&E Special: Under the Big Top, Nick News: On the Road with Circus Kids and most recently OETA's Big Top Town.

This year, we're very excited to bring you our brand new 2025 performance featuring Big Cats presented by Trey Key, our Aerialist Extraordinaire Simone on the trapeze, the Perez Daredevil Duo on the Tight Rope and Wheel of Destiny, the high energy Macias family hand and foot juggling, and everyone's favorite Circus Clown Leo Acton.

### Circus Day Schedule

#### 9:30 a.m. - Tent Raising & Tour

Everyone is invited to watch the Big Top rise! You'll also get a chance to tour the

grounds and get a behind-the-scenes look at our show! Learn about life on the road and the care our animals receive.

#### 4:00 p.m. - Midway Opens

Pony Rides, Moon Bounce, Giant Slide, Face Painting, Concession Stand and Box Office open up for some extra fun!

#### 5:00 & 7:30 - Circus Performance

Get ready for an amazing show the whole family will love! Each show lasts about 90 minutes.

### Tickets

#### Advance Tickets Prices

Adult Ticket - \$13 Child (2-12) or Senior (65+) - \$8 Advance tickets can be purchased BEFORE Circus Day from these locations:

#### Heritage Bank - Dennison

#### Dennison Depot

#### Fireside Lounge & Supper Club

#### Parkside General Store - Nerstrand

A higher percentage of advance tickets goes back to the sponsor, meaning more money back into your community! You'll also save money and can skip the lines at the box office!

#### Box Office Prices

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The new business in the former K-Town Video and Ice Cream will be opening by the end of July. The construction is coming along and the owner expects to open within the month.

## Construction on Dollar General Nearing Completion



Construction on the Dollar General is nearing completion on the west end of Kenyon.

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## Security State Bank of Kenyon partners with Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines to award \$20,000 to Kenyon Area Foundation and \$10,000 to Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity through the Member Impact Fund

(continued from page 1)

This matching grant program will result in FHLB Des Moines awarding \$20 million in funding to support affordable housing and community development in Minnesota.

Security State Bank of Kenyon has been serving our community for over 90 years. We know the importance of supporting our local organizations and investing in our community's future. The Security State Bank of Kenyon is proud to partner with the newly formed Kenyon Area Foundation and Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity. Both organizations strive to improve their community through economic and community development initiatives.

The Kenyon Area Foundation, formed in 2025, is a nonprofit organization that exists to improve the future of an entire community. It does this through uniting people and resources to address the community's most critical or persistent issues and producing significant, widely shared, and lasting results. The Kenyon Area Foundation is proud to partner with Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), who is the fiscal host of the Kenyon Area Foundation, allowing the local volunteer board to focus on making an impact where you call home.

"We are honored to receive this donation which will make a significant impact on economic and community development efforts in our community," said Wayne Ehrich, vice chair of the Kenyon Area Foundation. Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity (GCHF) will be the recipient of \$10,000 from this matching program. GCHF has a collaboration with the Kenyon-Wanamingo School District allowing high school students to construct a home for a GCHF family. These funds will support the construction of this Kenyon home under the Habitat for Humanity affordable homeownership program.

GCHF Executive Director, Bob Hawley commented "We are very pleased for the support of the high school construction program and our affordable home ownership program by Security State Bank of Kenyon and the FHLB Des Moines. We feel our collaboration with Kenyon-Wanamingo Schools is positive for all involved."

FHLB Des Moines provides funding solutions to more than 1,200 members to support mortgage lending, economic development,



**L to R : Stuart Campbell (SSBK President), Pam Anderson, Wayne Erich (Kenyon Area Foundation Vice President), Allen Stolee, Nicole Seifert, Abby Dahlgren. Pam Anderson and Allen Stolee are members of the board on the Kenyon Area Foundation.**

and affordable housing in the communities they serve. The Member Impact Fund provides FHLB Des Moines members up to \$3 for every \$1 in matching grant donations to strengthen the ability of not-for-profits or government entities to support the needs of their communities.

"The Member Impact Fund continues to be a powerful resource in supporting our members as they expand access to affordable housing and drive community development," says Kris Williams, president and CEO of FHLB Des Moines. "It's inspiring to see the partnerships centered around improving local communities in such a variety of ways."

Recipient organizations were selected based on the needs for grant funding to support capacity-building or working capital necessary to strengthen their ability to serve affordable housing or community development needs including job training, affordable housing, financial literacy, food banks and youth programs.

This member matching grant program is part of FHLB Des Moines' ongoing mission to offer a variety of funding options through its members.

Since its founding in 2023, the Member Impact Fund has supported affordable housing and community development with nearly \$70

million in grants awarded by FHLB Des Moines.

Member institutions apply and receive Member Impact Fund matching grants to be distributed to eligible organizations alongside their own grant contribution.

*About Security State Bank of Kenyon*

The Security State Bank of Kenyon has been proudly serving SE Minnesota since 1934. As a family owned and operated bank, we are dedicated to the financial needs of the area farmers, businesses, and individuals. We strive to meet the growing needs of our customers while maintaining the personal aspects of community banking.

*About Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines*

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines is deeply committed to strengthening communities, serving 13 states and three U.S. Pacific territories as a member-owned cooperative. We work together with over 1,200 member institutions to support affordable housing, economic development, and community improvement.

FHLB Des Moines is one of 11 regional Banks that make up the Federal Home Loan Bank System. Members include community and commercial banks, credit unions, insurance companies, thrifts, and community development financial institutions. FHLB Des Moines is wholly owned by its members and receives no taxpayer funding. For additional information about FHLB Des Moines, please visit [www.fhlbdm.com](http://www.fhlbdm.com).

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## Rediscovering Connection: The Benefits of Family Camp



By Emmarie Moon

In today's fast-paced world, it's not uncommon for families to feel more like a collection of individuals than a unified team. Between work, school, sports, social media, and screens, families are busier than ever—often at the expense of meaningful time spent together. That's why Family Camps are making a powerful comeback as one of the most rewarding investments a family can make in their relationship with one another. More than just a getaway, family camps provide an intentional, immersive experience designed to help families reconnect, reset, and rediscover

joy together.

### 1. Unplugging to Reconnect

One of the most immediate benefits of family camp is the opportunity to unplug—literally. Many camps have limited cell service or intentionally create “device-free” zones to encourage families to focus on what matters most: each other. For parents and children alike, it can be refreshing (and even a little challenging at first) to step away from screens. But once the distractions fade, meaningful conversations, laughter, and real connection begin to take their place.

When was the last time your family sat around a campfire sharing stories, played a board game without interruption, or went an entire day without checking a device? Family camps provide the space and structure to make those moments happen.

### 2. Shared Adventures Build Stronger Bonds

Family camp is packed with activities designed for all ages and skill levels. From canoeing and hiking to zip-lining, archery, or crafting, families are encouraged to participate together in new and sometimes challenging experiences. These shared adventures create memories that last far beyond the final campfire sing-along.

When families try something new as a unit—whether it's a high ropes course or a silly skit night—they grow closer. Accomplishing goals together fosters trust, communication, and a sense of unity. Even the occasional failure or funny mishap becomes a cherished inside joke.

### 3. Intentional Time Strengthens Relationships

Family camp offers something that's in short supply during normal life: intentional, uninterrupted time. Meals are eaten together without rushing, schedules are simplified, and the pace is slower. Many camps include guided family devotionals, reflection times, or parent-child discussion moments that help deepen emotional and spiritual connections.

These moments of intentionality can strengthen marriage relationships, open new lines of communication with teens, or simply allow parents and young kids to delight in being together without distraction.

### 4. Encouraging a Healthier Family Rhythm

Sometimes families don't realize how fast they're moving—or how disconnected they've become—until they experience something different. Family camps often provide a much-needed reset for stressed-out parents and overstimulated kids. The slower pace, natural setting, and wholesome fun help families experience what it's like to live with more balance.

Many parents leave family camp with a renewed commitment to setting boundaries around tech, creating family traditions, or prioritizing Sabbath rest. Camp doesn't just refresh; it reorients.

### 5. Positive Role Models and Supportive Community

Another great aspect of family camps is the chance to interact with other families who share similar values. Camps are often staffed with caring leaders, mentors, and volunteers who model healthy family relationships, spiritual growth, and joyful service. This environment can be especially encouraging for

families navigating challenges, blended families, or those seeking to establish a stronger faith foundation.

Some families find lifelong friends at camp. Others are simply comforted to know they're not alone in the struggles of modern family life.

### 6. Faith and Fun Interwoven

Many family camps are rooted in Christian values and offer families a space to grow in their faith together. Through chapel services, worship nights, campfire devotions, and prayer times, families can draw closer to God and each other. Faith becomes not just something talked about at home or church—but something lived out in everyday moments, shared under the stars or after a morning paddle.

It's these spiritually formative experiences that often stick with kids long after the week is over. For parents, it's a rare and beautiful opportunity to disciple their children in a hands-on, heart-first way.

### In Conclusion

Family camp is more than just a vacation—it's an intentional step toward building stronger family bonds, creating lasting memories, and rediscovering what it means to rest, play, and grow together. Whether you're looking to reset your family rhythms, unplug from the noise, or simply laugh more together, family camp offers a unique and powerful way to invest in what matters most.

So pack up the car, leave the Wi-Fi behind, and head into the woods—you may just come home with more than mosquito bites and souvenir T-shirts. You might come home with a stronger, more connected family.

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# Wanamingo 4th of July

July 9, 2025

- KENYON-WANAMINGO MESSENGER -

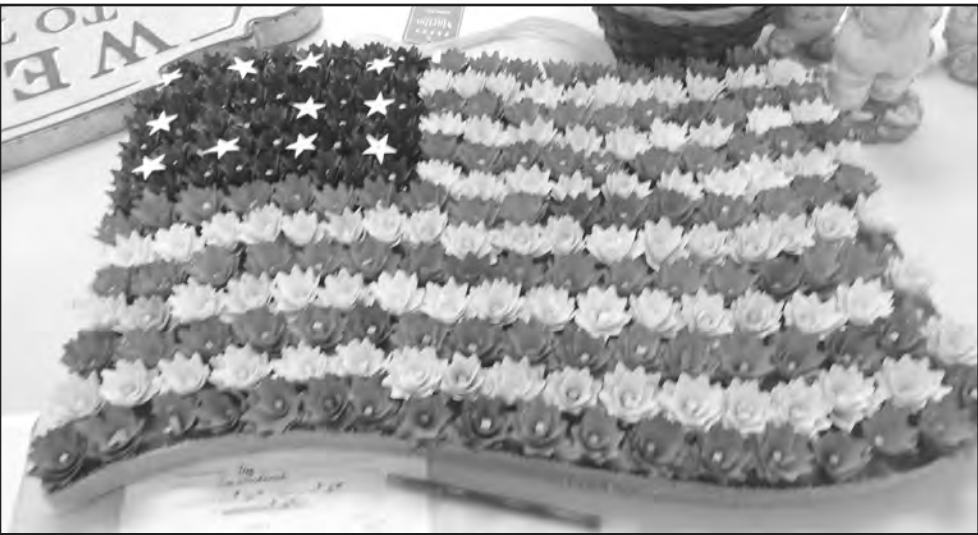
Page 11

## A Great Turnout for 4th of July Celebration in Wanamingo

*(continued from page 1)*

At 2:30, the parade marched and drove down Main Street to Beverly and back again, to the thrill of the crowd, and lasted over 40 minutes....about twice as long as last year. There were golf carts and floats, and candy was being thrown to the kids on the street, big and small. Bouncy balls were bouncing and freeze pops were melting, and everyone was having a great time, despite the above 90 de-

gree weather. I don't think I have ever seen the streets so packed with onlookers, enjoying the spectacle!! A silent auction was held at the Community Center, and there were food wagons like Tequila's and the Fox Wagon set up with their fare. A horseshoe tournament was held at the park, and the Keg Toss and Bean Bag Tournament at JB's were well attended. A free open swim was enjoyed at the now 50 year old pool. Hot dogs, cotton candy and sundaes were served at Second Shift by the Lions Club. And last but not least, the Fireworks! So, as we wrap up yet another Independence Day Celebration, let's all remember to be thankful for the joy we share in the country we live in, and the freedoms that we are blessed with because of those who serve and have served this great country we call home.





# Wanamingo 4th of July



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July 9, 2025

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## Sunshine Vitamin



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS  
Licensed Nutritionist

As we enter the summer season and experience the longest daylight hours of the year, this is a good time to consider our dependence on the sun for daily life. Our modern conveniences of electricity, natural gas, and supermarkets can distract us from recognizing how important the sun is. The sun is the source of all energy on the planet from coal to oil and natural gas, to the fresh food in the market place, all the chemistry involves energy input from the sun. In addition, the sun provides another critical chemistry creation in your body with the formation of Vitamin D, the true sunshine vitamin.

Have you noticed how fewer people have flu symptoms and colds during the summer months? A key reason for this is the increased exposure to sunshine. Sunshine is the necessary energy boost your body uses to convert cholesterol into Vitamin D. The ultraviolet light from the sun is a powerful energy packet that transforms cholesterol in your skin into Vitamin D. This is the only vitamin the human body has the ability to construct and it can only be made with the ultraviolet rays from the sun.

Vitamin D is an essential fat-soluble vitamin that has steroid strength in your body. Vitamin D is able to start actions in the nucleus of your cells that no other vitamin can turn on. Bone strength and immune cell response are two key areas of health dependent on stable levels of Vitamin D. This vitamin is essential for a healthy pregnancy and can pass through the placenta to the baby as well as moving through the placenta back to the mother. Vitamin D is essential for a healthy start to life as well as sustaining through all the stages of life.

A healthy level of Vitamin D in the human body is between 40 – 80 ng / ml. According to Grassrootshealth.net, the average American has a measure of about 30 ng / ml. During the COVID pandemic, those individuals who were placed in Intensive Care Units at the hospital typically had Vitamin D levels lower than 30 ng / ml. Contrast with those who work outdoors for a living, such as landscapers, construction workers, and lifeguards, whose average measure is around 50 ng / ml. The sun is not to be avoided as some might suggest, for it is our source of life.

Healthy exposure to sunshine includes timing and quality foods. Sunburn is a result of overexposure and some unhealthy food sources. Spend time in the sunshine before 11 am and after 4 pm to avoid the intensity that can burn. In addition, increase intake of Omega 3 fatty acids like extra virgin olive oil and flaxseed oil while reducing intake of Omega 6 fatty acids, which are found in vegetable oil, corn oil, and deep-fried foods. The high consumption of Omega 6 fatty acids increases the chance of sunburn because Omega 6 fatty acids are unstable in ultra-violet light. An individual who consumes healthy oils can spend more time in the sunshine without concern of getting sunburn.

For those who do not get outside frequently, a quality supplement for Vitamin D is cod liver oil. This supplement is available with lemon or orange flavoring, so it is easy to take with food. I recommend taking cod liver oil with your meal. Cod liver oil is a wonderful combination of Vitamin D, Vitamin A, and omega 3 fatty acids, so you are



getting a quality supplement with every spoonful.

Ask your doctor for a Vitamin D test or go online to grassrootshealth.net to request a simple kit to be mailed to your home so you can test where your Vitamin D level is. The common lifestyle of many Americans involves staying indoors out of the sunshine doing office work and sheltered in air-conditioned settings. A test of your Vitamin D level can provide you with a good evaluation of the next steps you need to take in lifestyle and healthy food choices.

Every health challenge you face in the year ahead has a nutritional answer to it. Your health challenge can be successfully addressed with a quality nutrition plan. Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. I can help you realize greater health freedom in 2025. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

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

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## Letter to the Editor The Churches of Ephesus and Laodicea - A Foreshadow of Today's Churches

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

It will all begin with a great falling away of the church. "For the time will come when they will not endure; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4). It will be a time of false doctrine coming from the pulpit.

They represent the seven churches and the seven angels of Asia Minor as found in the first three chapters of the Book of Revelation. They are a foreshadow of what is to come in the end times.

The Book of Revelation speaks of five churches that Jesus condemned: Ephesus, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis. and Laodicea; two churches that He commended: Smyrna and Philadelphia. While each of these churches are found in today's world, I list Ephesus and Laodicea to make Jesus' point: Unless they repent, they will be part of what Revelation 3:10 calls, "the hour of temptation," and what Mark 24:21-22 warns, "For then shall be great tribulation, such was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days should be shortened." These are the kind of people who will be left for the Tribulation:

And Jesus said, "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write: "Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, because thou has left thy first love" (Revelation 2:4). "The

church at Ephesus abandoned their love for God and His Word" (KJV).

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write: "These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that though art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit thee out of my mouth. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, repent" (Revelation 3:14-16, 19). Jesus and the infallible Word of God were no longer the "Heart" of the Church. "The spiritual worthlessness of the church in Laodicea was nauseating to Christ" (KJV).

As I look at churches in the Kenyon area, I find eight Lutheran Churches: Hauge, First Lutheran, Gol, Holden, Vang, Moland, Hegre, and Dale. In addition, I find St. Michael Catholic Church and the United Methodist Church. With the exception of Hauge (AFLC) and St. Michael, all of the ELCA Churches, as well as the United Methodist Church, are in support of abortion with gay and lesbian pastors and lifestyles to follow. In each case, it is called an abomination and a violation of the infallible Word of God.

As one looks as far back as the Book of Exodus, Chapter 21, the Bible uses the word "mischief" to describe an abortion that causes the death of an unborn baby. The penalty: life for life (v.23). Sadly, Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, reinforces this kind of behavior by saying, "This church teaches that abortion must be legal and accessible." Is there any wonder why the seven area Lutheran Churches no longer subscribed to the infallible Word of God? Accordingly, they are no longer Evangelical Churches.

And finally, the Epistle of Romans, Chapter 2:24-32, and the Epistle of Colossians, Chapter 3:5-9, make it clear what the penalty for gay and lesbian lifestyles will be according to the infallible Word of God: "The second death." While God is a God of unending

love, His holiness will not permit this kind of lifestyle to exist.

But there is more to the story. At least one member of a local ELCA congregation has made the argument that the Old Testament is no longer relevant to the Bible (Replacement Theology); at least one ELCA pastor made the argument that our American Flag has no place beside the church altar. Thankfully, at least one member of the congregation had the courage to stand up and demand that the flag be returned to its proper place. God bless her memory!

Let me conclude with some final thoughts. Now that the word "repent" is staring you in the face, I would like to share with you what I have observed over the last few years. This is not something that happened over night.

First, Bishop Eaton is the type of teacher that the Apostle Paul is talking about in 2 Timothy 4:3-4. When you listen to her; when you believe in what she has to say, you are believing in false doctrine. Here is a Bishop of the Lutheran Church (ELCA) leading you away from your first love. Don't let her do this to you. Repent!

Second, both the Old and New Testament is not only alive and well, but it tells us that life begins in the womb. If you do not believe me, read the Word of God: Jeremiah 1:5 and Psalm 139: 15-16. If you do not get it right after reading these versus, you are in serious, serious trouble. Repent!

Third, the Bible clearly prohibits gay and lesbian (Homosexual) lifestyles. If you do not believe me, read Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13; Romans 1:27 and I Corinthians 6:9.

Don't place your salvation in this lie. Repent!

Fourth, you need to remember Acts 5:29 where it says, "We ought to obey God rather than man." If people like Bishop Eaton are speaking from your church pulpit, you need to find a new Bishop or search for an Evangelical Church. Repent!

Fifth, seven churches in the Kenyon area claim to be Evangelical...but they are not; one church claims to be United...but it's not; one church believes in a Mass of Indulgence and Purgatory to make satisfaction for the sins of people who have passed away even though the Bible says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). The belief that people who have not repented (repentance always comes after the sin) of their sins before death will be given another chance somewhere between earth and heaven is absolutely contrary to the Word of God. These are the Churches of Ephesus and Laodicea. Repent!

And sixth, one church follows the infallible teaching's of the Word of God. "Saved by Grace through Faith" (Ephesians 2:7-8), they have not lost their first love; and remain committed to an Evangelical heritage (the absolute authority of scripture) that all began at the Old Stone Church over 150 years ago. A Light on the Hill.

In closing, let me leave you with the words of Frederick P. Wood: "Ask the Lord to make your life a glory to Him, a menace to the devil, a strength to your church, and a witness to the world." (Turning Points)

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## Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,  
Minnesota State Patrol



**Question: I heard something about kids needing to ride in the back seat if possible. What is the age on that?**

Answer: Back on August 1, 2024 there were new car seat guidelines put in place along with this. The back seat is the safest place in most vehicles. Children under 13 must ride in the back if it is available.

- Children under 2 years of age must ride in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the weight or height limit of the car seat. If they are too heavy or too tall for the car seat, they must switch to a front-facing car seat. Once they turn 2 years old, if they are under both the height and weight limits, they must stay in the rear-facing car seat until they are too tall or heavy for the seat.

- Children older than 2 who exceed the rear-facing height or weight limit of the car seat must sit in a forward-facing car seat until they reach the height or weight limit (typically 40-60 pounds, depending on the manufacturer).

- A child from 4 to 9 years old must use a booster seat and be secured with a safety belt if they are too tall or too heavy for the car seat.

- When a child is 9 years old, or they exceed

the weight or height limit of the booster seat, they must sit without the booster and be secured with a seat belt.

**Question: I thought I heard something about a new law in regards to caretaker information included on driver's license or identification card record. Do you have any information on this?**

Answer: You can now use your Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) records to let law enforcement know if you're the caretaker for someone else. That way, if you are involved in a crash, law enforcement officers will know that there is someone at home who depends on you. They can quickly respond and ensure that the people you care for are not left alone. The new law gives you reassurance that your loved ones will be taken care of if something happens, reducing your anxiety and stress about leaving them alone.

**Question: I was just talking with someone the other day and they mentioned there is an age requirement for operating an "e-bike." Can you get me more information on this?**

Answer: When it comes to E-bikes, a driver's license or permit is not required. However, the minimum operator age is 15 years old. E-bikes are primarily regulated in the same manner as bicycles and nearly all bicycle laws apply.

Riding a bike, walking or using a wheelchair on your neighborhood sidewalks can be a safe and convenient way to get around, but only if everyone follows the laws. Whether you are on the sidewalk or driving near a bicyclist or pedestrian, always be aware of your surroundings and keep the state laws in mind.

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



Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Troy Christianson –

Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. or reach him at, [Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us](mailto:Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us).

## Slow Down, Pay Attention. Do it for Them.

The Minnesota Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (MN NETS), Minnesota Safety Council and State Farm are calling on drivers to think of the lasting consequences of risky driving behavior. Their newest statewide campaign "Slow Down. Pay Attention. Your Driving Matters. Do It for Me" encourages all of us to think about the real, lasting impact of our driving choices — not just for ourselves, but for the people who care about us most.

### The campaign includes:

Two new videos highlighting everyday distracted driving risks.

Shareable social media messages.

5-Minutes for Safety talks and workplace reminders.

Fact sheets and conversation starters for families and coworkers.

Let's be the example, both at work and on the road. Together, we can protect one another, reduce crashes, support a culture of safe, intentional driving, and drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.



## Know the Sign. Save a Life.

Trains can't stop quickly. A freight train going 55 mph can take a mile or more to come to a full stop — that's the length of 18 football fields. In Minnesota, from 2020 to 2024, there were 178 rail crossing incidents resulting in 12 deaths and 58 injuries — most of which could have been prevented.

Emergency Notification System (ENS) Sign Awareness Day! The campaign is dedicated to shining a spotlight on the lifesaving importance of the Blue and White ENS Signs posted at railroad crossings. The ENS signs provide a phone number and location information needed to quickly report emergencies or safety concerns around tracks and trains directly to the railroad. These signs can help you save a life, but only if you know where to find them and how to use them.

### As a safety refresher, here are key tips:

Always expect a train. Trains can come at any time from either direction.

Slow down, look both ways, and listen. Don't rely only on signals.

Never stop on the tracks. Make sure there's space to fully cross.

Obey all signs, signals, and gates. Never try to beat a train or drive around lowered gates.

At multiple tracks, check each direction. Another train may be coming.

If your vehicle stalls on the tracks, exit immediately and move away in the direction the train is coming from. Look for the blue Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign or call 911.

Stay alert, stay safe to help prevent crashes before they happen. Together, we can drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.



## Keep Grass Off the Road. Keep Riders Safe!

Yard work season is in full swing, and as we fire up our mowers and tidy up our lawns, it is important to keep in mind that grass clippings on the road can be deadly for motorcyclists. Even when they look dry, grass clippings are still about 85% water, making them as slick as ice. Add a little rain, and they become even more dangerous, especially on curves or during sudden stops.

### Preventing this is simple:

Mow with intention: Make your last pass the one closest to the street, so clippings stay on your lawn.

Aim wisely: Position your mower to blow clippings back into the yard. They naturally fertilize and hydrate your lawn as they decompose, so it's a bonus!

Most people don't intend to create a dangerous situation, so with a little extra care, we can make our roads safer for everyone during motorcycle season.

Thanks for doing your part as we work together to move Minnesota toward zero deaths.





## KENYON CITY COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 10, 2025

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council Meeting was duly held in the City Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. on the 10th day of June 2025. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Donald Kirchmann.

The following members were present: Mayor Donald Kirchmann, Council Members Kim Helgeson, Mary Bailey, Lee Sjolander, and Elana Brunner

Absent: None

Also, present: City Administrator Scott Lehner, Administrative Assistant Holli Gudknecht, Finance Director Whitney Kylo, Engineer Derek Olinger, City Attorney Scott Riggs, Officer Brian Homeier, John Lee, Josh Johnson, Liquor Store Manager Matt Bartel, Chris Kylo, Brittini Schmitz, Sadie Schmitz, Doug Henke, Randy Eggert, Todd Greseth, Brad Falteysek

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### CITIZEN COMMENT ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Bailey seconded by Helgeson to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0-0.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Sjolander second by Brunner to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes:

Alley Closure – Kenyon Municipal Liquor Store – Side by Side Run June 28, 2025

Public Library Request to close at 4:30 pm on Thursday, July 3 and be closed on Saturday, July 5

Financials and Payment of check numbers, 77141 through 77216; 5611E through 5761E  
Minutes of May 13, 2025

Appointment Kenyon Fire Department Volunteer Dylan Pritchard  
Motion carried 5-0-0.

### PRESENTATIONS/ PUBLIC HEARINGS/ RECOGNITIONS/PROLAMATIONS

#### Summary of 2024 City Audit - Abdo

Brad Falteysek from Abdo presented a summary of the 2024 City and KMU audits and an overview of the overall City financial condition. The city received an “unmodified” or clean opinion on the audit.

#### Continued Assessment Hearing - 2025 Street & Utility Improvements

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to open the public hearing at 7:19 pm.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Attorney Riggs stated that this Public Hearing was a continuation of the May 13, 2025 public hearing. No public comments were received. No action regarding the assessments was taken since the project will be rebid in July.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Helgeson to continue the public hearing until July 8, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Motion carried 5-0-0.

### ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

#### Proposed Sale of Land to Corgi Canna

Administrator Lehner stated that the city was notified by Corgi Canna last evening that they are experiencing difficulty attaining financing, so the project is off the table for now.

#### Request to Close the City Office on Friday, June 20

Administrator Lehner requested that the city office be closed on Friday, June 20, 2025.

Motion by Sjolander seconded by Brunner to close the city office on Friday, June 20, 2025.

### ENGINEERING

#### 2025 Street and Utility Improvements – Bid Authorization

Engineer Olinger stated that following the rejection of the bids last month, the plans and specifications have been revised to reduce the ability and impact of problematic price structures received during the previous bidding process. If this is approved for bidding tonight, the bids will be opened July 2 with construction beginning as soon as late July.

Resolution 2025-18: Approving Plans & Specs & Ordering Ad for Bid

Motion by Bailey seconded by Helgeson to adopt Resolution 2025-18 with removal of the 8th Street sidewalk alternative. Motion carried 5-0-0.

### LEGAL FINANCIAL OLD BUSINESS Muni Expansion – NAPA Building Quotes

Matt Bartel, Liquor Store Manager, discussed the quote he received from L&M Construction to remodel the former NAPA building. He is still expecting to receive two more quotes.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Resolution 2025-17: Accepting the 2024 Audited Financial Statements

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to adopt Resolution 2025-17: accepting the 2024 audited financial statements. Motion carried 5-0-0.

### Administrative Policy #38: Debt Management

Finance Director Kylo stated that the city does not have a Debt Management policy. George Eilertson with Northland Securities recommended adopting a Debt Management policy for the city before the bond rating is completed, which will help our bond rating.

Motion by Brunner seconded by Kirchmann to adopt Administrative Policy #38: Debt Management.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Approve Paying a \$40 Stipend per Month for the Use of KMU Employee's Personal Phones

Mayor Kirchmann stated that the KMU Commission recommended a monthly phone stipend of \$40 for KMU employees that use their personal phones for work. His concern was that other departments may also want this stipend.

Motion by Sjolander seconded by Kirchmann to provide a \$40 stipend for on-call personnel for use of their personal cell phones based on a conversation with their supervisor and the city administrator.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Approve Moving Joshua Johnson to grade 12, step 3 Retroactive Back to April 15.

Mayor Kirchmann stated that the KMU Commission recommended moving Joshua Johnson to a grade 12, step 3 retroactive back to April 15, 2025.

Motion by Kirchmann seconded by Bailey to approve moving Joshua Johnson to a grade 12, step 2 retroactive to April 15, 2025. Motion carried 5-0-0.

(continued on page 19)

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## KENYON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(continued from page 18)

### Approve posting the Line Worker/Water Operator position

Administrator Lehner stated that the KMU Commission recommended posting the Line Worker/Water Operator position. Austin Fitch resigned from this position effective May 30, 2025. Mayor Kirchmann stated that he didn't think the workload had increased for KMU to justify rehiring a 4th employee. The KMU employees had to leave the meeting for an emergency call, so they were not available for questions.

Motion by Sjolander seconded by Bailey to table posting the Line Worker/Water Operator position pending further discussion with the Operations Superintendent. Motion carried 5-0-0.

### Finance Director Resignation

Mayor Kirchmann stated that Finance Director Whitney Kylo submitted a resignation letter effective July 17, 2025. Attorney Riggs stated that Minnesota law says once the resignation is submitted, it is effective.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to accept the resignation of Whitney Kylo effective July 17, 2025.

Motion by Sjolander seconded by Kirchmann to acknowledge the rescinded letter from Whitney Kylo and take it under advisement for discussion by the City Administrator and the personnel committee if needed.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

### Schedule for Upcoming Meetings

KMU Meeting: Tuesday, June 17th @ 2:00 p.m.

EDA Meeting: Wednesday, June 25th @ 8

a.m.

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, July 8th @ 7 p.m.

### COUNCIL AND STAFF GENERAL COMMENTS

Administrator Lehner stated that he just received an email from Public Works Director Wayne Ehrich stating he was resigning effective in 30 days. Attorney Riggs added that now that this has been communicated, it is effective.

Council member Sjolander stated he was sorry to hear that, Wayne has been a great employee here.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Brunner to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Holli Gudknecht, Deputy City Clerk  
Donald Kirchmann, Mayor

\*\*\*

### CITY OF WANAMINGO

#### City Council Regular Meeting

Monday, June 9, 2025 7:00 P.M.

Wanamingo City Council Chambers – 401 Main Street

Wanamingo, MN

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ryan Holmes.

PRESENT: Council: Ryan Holmes, Eric Dierks, Jeremiah Flotterud, and Rebecca Haugen

City Administrator: Michael Boulton

Deputy Clerk: Laurie Musselman

ABSENT: Council: Stuart Ohr

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Kennedy, Beth Haas – Zumbrota News-Record, Andrew Deziel – Kenyon Leader, Kurt Schulz, Kar-

lene Schulz, Alexander Boulton, and Mike Ayers – Goodhue County Deputy Sheriff.

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

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

### PRESENTERS:

A) Brad Kennedy reported on:

1) Relaxed brooms on sweeper. Swept streets; the goal is to sweep Main Street weekly, the west side of town one week and the east side of town on Wednesdays.

2) Finished getting the pool up and running for the season. The main pump went out on the seconded day the pool was open. The pump was switched out and running again within hours. There are a few operational issues that staff is continuing to work through.

3) Completed preparation work for sewer service replacement and water service installation on Centennial Street. The trees were removed by Heartland Tree Service while City Staff removed plants that were dug up and saved to be replanted. Schumacher Excavating Inc. will be installing the water and sewer service lines the week of June 16th.

4) Riverside Park – removed four sets of tree stumps in the middle of the playground area. The City will be working to obtain four small stature trees that will be planted in the future.

5) Finished painting water hydrants on Main Street, 2nd Avenue, and 3rd Avenue.

6) Placed barricades entering the Emerald Valley II Addition to inform residents that the informal pathway running through the undeveloped portion of Emerald Valley, near

the proposed 3rd Street East, will be closed to vehicle access. In coordination with the property owners, the decision has been made to close the path until proper road infrastructure is developed in the area. Residents and visitors are kindly asked to respect this closure and use the designated roadways to the south, such as 5th Street, for access.

7) Mowed and trimmed along MN TH 60 & MN TH 57 ditch and utility poles. Mowed at the WWTP, community garden, undeveloped lot boulevards, and other various areas around town.

8) Emptied garbage containers on Main Street; the goal is to check and empty the garbage containers weekly. The new garbage container and pet helper trash bag dispenser will be installed at the Prairie Ridge Estate park shelter this week.

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### RESOLUTION:

**25-039 = Adopting 2025 3rd Quarter Maintenance Work Plan:** Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 4-0-0.

**25-040 = Setting Date for Budget Workshop City Council Meeting:** Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Boulton stated that he will provide a first draft 2026 Wanamingo City Budget to the Council members in the coming weeks. Boulton stated that the budget could be affected by the final State budget, which is being completed this week by the special legislative session. The budget continues to be pressed by inflation. The City is also looking to continue capital improvements plan implementation that will include the street shop rehab project in 2026. Passed 4-0-0.

(continued on page 20)

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## WANAMINGO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(continued from page 19)

**25-041 = Declaring Wanamingo 4th of July Celebration a Community Event within the City of Wanamingo:** Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that the flyer of events is still in progress and will be finalized later this week. Passed 4-0-0.

**25-042 = Accepting 2025 4th of July Fireworks Monetary and In-Kind Donations:** Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

**25-043 = Approving Separate Land Lease Agreements with WANA-PROP LLC, 890 3rd Avenue LLC, and Concast Inc. for the July 3rd Fireman's Dance and 4th of July Fireworks:** Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

**25-044 = Approving Combination of Parcels:** Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. Passed 4-0-0

**ORDINANCE #211 – Amending Wanamingo Code of Ordinances § 53 152.27 and 152.28 to Allow Daycare Business as a Conditional Use in Certain Zoning Districts – 1st Reading.** Administrator Boulton stated that the proposed changes to the ordinance were in preparation for the former Kenyon-Wanamingo middle school sale and proposed use as a daycare center. Bob Vost of Kennedy and Graven put together the proposed language. David Jacobsen is in the loop on the proposed changes but has deferred any requested zoning changes to Kennedy and Graven.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Administrator Boulton provided a June investment of funds update memo. The City of Wanamingo has four CD's (Certificate of Deposit), created in 2023 with \$1,000,000. The City received 4.5% interest over 13-month CD (\$49,760.92 interest earned). The City reinvested \$1,049,760.92 in four separate CD's in May 2024 on special 13-month rate of 5.09%. The CD's mature in early June 2025. City Staff spoke with Security State Bank on future investments of \$1,103,240.92 (\$53,480 interest from past 13 months) after the CD's mature. Security State Bank would like the City to continue to have the deposit and offered another special interest rate CD for what the going rate interest is in June. The current special interest rate is 12-month 4.15%. The City Staff and Mayor Holmes worked with Security State Bank to sign the four new CD's on June 4th regarding the new investment of funds.

The interest earned (estimated at \$45,784.50) is planned to be accounted for under multiple funds (i.e. general fund, water fund, and sewer fund). These investments should leave plenty of funds for cash flow in checking account. The checking account, new CD's, the current CD, and money market funds (Stifel Nicholas and 4M Fund) all help to diversify the City investments.

Flotterud asked what the status is with the pedestrian walking bridge ramp after the fire. Boulton stated that the City is waiting on an answer with private insurance on liability. Boulton stated that the Council may have to explore other options with the residents whose golf cart started the fire if insurance does not cover the repair costs. Boulton ad-

vised the Council that the general fund may need to cover the costs in the meantime to make repairs. Kennedy stated that the ramp decking was burnt extensively weakening the structure. Boulton stated that the ramp is constructed out of true size green treat lake lumber. Boulton stated that the engineers have already provided the specs from the ramp construction in order to assist with estimates and the eventual repairs. The City has obtained a \$24,000 estimate from Zumbro Valley Landscaping. Pine Island Lumber quoted ZVL that the material and some of the more uncommon size boards could be up to 90 days lead time. Kennedy stated that the posts are concreted into the footings, which may require digging up the footings. Kennedy stated that the City could consult with the engineers to work on some sort of

plating system rather than digging up the footings. Boulton stated that the City would obtain other estimates for the repairs. Flotterud asked why the wood ramp needed to be replaced and why an earth ramp could not be constructed. Boulton stated that the City received special approval from the Army Corp of Engineers and other State Agencies to install the current structure. The structure was designed for flooding. Any changes to the design would require approval.

\*Next City Council meeting on 7/14/2025 at 7:00pm.

Adjourn: At 7:22PM a motion to adjourn was made by Haugen and seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator

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## SUDOKU ANSWERS

**Email your news to:**  
**[hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)**

1. Staff symbol
2. Zoo sound
3. Gumbo pod
4. Separate grain from chaff
5. Model-building wood
6. Smart ones?
7. 100 centavos
8. Refrigerate
9. Commits a faux pas
10. Mont Blanc, e.g.
12. a.k.a. meditation in motion (2 words)
13. Ranch grazer
14. \*Bette Midler's 1981 Grammy winning song (2 words)
19. Dungeness one and snow one
22. \*Poppy's seed container
23. Banned camera setting, in a museum
24. Falcon's home
25. Boreal forest, in Russia
26. Ma tre d's list
27. Raccoon's South American cousin
28. \*2024 Grammy winner for "Flowers"
29. Hop-drying kilns
32. \*Lis in fleur-de-lis
33. \*\_\_\_\_\_ Goo Dolls of "Gutterflower" fame
36. \*"Flowers in the Attic" author V.C. \_\_\_\_\_
38. One of journalism's Ws
40. Declare
41. Costing nothing
44. Want to
46. \_\_\_\_\_ Beach, SC
48. Belonging to duke
49. Miuccia Prada's homeland
50. Like traditional storytelling
51. Lose skin
52. Tea servings
53. Tobacco
54. Strong desire
55. Standard's partner
56. Govt. property org.

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





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STRIPEs,  
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