Postal Customer ECRWSS

JULY 23, 2025 Volume 18 • Issue 14

Announcements

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

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

for more information.

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

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

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.

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.

(continued on page 7)



50th Annual Rice County Steam and Gas Tractor Show August 29, 30 & 31

Visitors can take a trip back in time with all the various exhibits and activities going on at the annual Rice County Steam & Gas Show just South of Dundas MN on Hwy. 3 Friday, Sat. and Sun., August 29, 30, 31.

Attendees can expect to see many of the familiar attractions as they have in the past including the operating sawmill, corn shelling, thrashing, blacksmithing, and more. The annual flea market will take place on the grounds and additional exhibits are many, including antique tractors, classic cars and trucks along with draft horses. (continued on page 7)



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.

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. (continued on page 11)

Goodhue County Fair

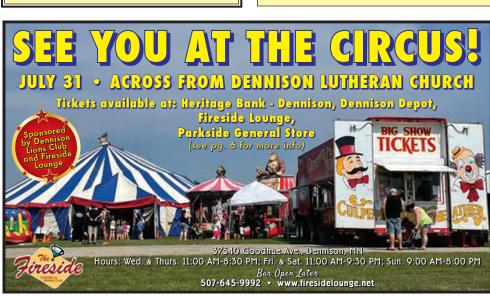




This August 6th the Goodhue County Fair will start at the Fair

Grounds in Zumbrota. This year offers a change as there will be Daily Free Events taking place each of the five days of the fair.

The Tumbleweed Crossing is an award-winning comedy wild west gunfight stunt show. (continued on page 10)





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Religion

Pastors Corner

By Peter Moen

Have you ever heard the expression "God gave you two ears and one mouth for a reason"? This terse admonishment essentially is saying, "Hey! You need to do more listening and less talking." This wise saying is quite the word picture to get a point across! Obviously God created us with two ears and one mouth in order to effectively hear and speak, but oftentimes in a figurative sense God probably wants us to do more listening and less speaking.

In a similar vein, God uses the book of James in the Bible to dispense all sorts of wisdom in how powerful and dangerous our mouths can be. In James 3, we are given many word pictures to describe the tongue: bit in horse's mouth, rudder on a ship, fire by hell, deadly poison, both fresh & salt water. Each metaphor gives us a lot to ponder, but in our short time I want to expand on our tongues being like a rudder.

When the Titanic was making its ill-fated voyage across the Atlantic in 1912, there was much fanfare and boasting about how great and mighty this ship was. There was even the audacious claim by one White Star Line employee that "Not even God himself could sink this ship!" To live up to all these claims the chairman of the ship building company encouraged Captain Edward Smith to go as fast as possible through the chilly North Atlantic waters.

As we all know the Titanic sank due to striking an iceberg. Even though a lookout on the crow's nest spotted the iceberg, due to the size of the ship and the speed it was traveling, the ocean liner was unable to veer quick enough to avoid striking the large chunk of ice. The words of the Apostle James quickly come to mind when thinking about turning such a big ship, "Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go." (James 3:4)

How many times have you found yourself in a disagreement and your brain quickly comes

Messenger

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up with a snarky or mean response? How many times have you been heading toward an impact with damaging results all the while a still small voice is yelling "Iceberg, right ahead!" but your brain was moving too fast and could not avoid the destructive collision of words with someone else? How many times have you hurt-or been hurt-by words?

Mind you, these words are not just the audible sounds coming out of our mouths, but the words we send in a text message or social media post or even by sharing someone else's words. Ultimately we are responsible for the messages that come forth out of us. We are in charge of navigating these waters we sail in.

It all seems so simple but yet it is still so profound: Our tongues are small yet very influential to our whole being. Just as a ship uses its rudder to find safe harbor by following the correct course and being vigilant in avoiding obstacles, our tongues help our souls navigate our lives by following proper instruction and being prepared for whatever may come our way. Conversely, we stray from the path and are not prepared at our own peril!

The letter James wrote is a book of wisdom full of warnings and blessings for those who choose to follow Jesus. I encourage you to look up James 3:1-12 in the New Testament of vour Bible. Pour over the instructions James gives us all in understanding how dangerous our tongues are and how mindful we need to be of using this small and powerful tool God has given us. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance both in understanding what God is saying to you and how you can be ready for when those trying times come your way.

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July Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 27: Dennison - 9:00 AM August Worship Schedule A reminder that Sunday morning worship in

August will be at Vang at 9:00. We will resume having two services after

Labor Day weekend. Sunday, Aug. 3: Vang – 9:00 AM Sunday, Aug 10: Vang - 9:00 AM Sunday, Aug 17: Vang - 9:00 AM Sunday, Aug 24: Vang - 9:00 AM Sunday, Aug 31 (Labor Day Weekend): Vang - 9:00 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

301 2nd Avenue, Wanamingo • 824-2155 July 27: 9:00a.m. Worship

WANAMINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH, **ELCA**

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

ASPELUND EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Rob Edwards, Pastor 42957 County 1 Blvd, Kenyon 507-824-2307 www.emmanuelaflc.org 9:30a.m. Worship Service 10:30a.m. Coffee Time

FIRST EV. LUTHERAN

D.J. Chatelaine, Pastor 309 Forest Street, Kenyon 507-789-5261 website: flckenyon.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

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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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 Wednesday 6:15 p.m. Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. at Everson Park

STORDAHL LUTHERAN CHURCH, **ELCA**

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

HOLDEN/DALE

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

MOLAND CHURCH

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

NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

KENYON UNITED METHODIST **CHURCH**

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

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

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525 Beverly St., Wanamingo • 507-824-3019 10am Worship Service office@nlcwanamingo.org Website with online services which are live at 10:00a.m. or can be viewed at anytime: https://nlcwanamingo.org/



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Obituaries & Community

- KENYON-WANAMINGO MESSENGER -

Danford "Dan" Schmidt Sr.

Danford "Dan" Schmidt Sr., 90, of Ner-



July 3, 2025

strand, passed away on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at Three Links Care Center in Northfield. He was born January 22, 1935, in Algona, Iowa, to the late Fred and Mary

(Marlow) Schmidt. Dan gradu-

ated from Lone Rock High School and enlisted into the United States Air Force on March 3, 1953. After serving nine months, Dan returned to Iowa to marry his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Arlene Zumach, on December 25, 1953, at Lotts Creek Immanuel Lutheran Church in Iowa. After they married, the couple moved to Washington D.C. where Dan was stationed for a few months. After his honorable discharge in 1957, Dan had decided to reenlist into the Air Force, where he would be reassigned to many airbases in several states and various European countries that included: Greenland, England, Spain, Portugal/Azores, France, Germany, and even northern Africa. The stories that Dan could tell were numerous, but the one story that always came up was when he had the privilege of flying with Bob Hope during a USO tour through Europe.

On March 1, 1963, Dan was again honorably discharged from the Air Force in Duluth. Minnesota. He soon after made the transition to the Federal Aviation Association as an Air Traffic Controller in Farmington, Minnesota which he did for 22 years until his official retirement. Thinking he was retired, Dan and Arlene spent time working on the farm where they would care for beef cattle and hogs and raised corn and soybeans.

When Dan wasn't working, he enjoyed reading and was a meticulous wood worker. As a dedicated member and past president of Holden Lutheran Church, some of Dan's beautiful woodwork can be found in the

WE'RE ONLINE www.kenyonmn.net www.wanamingo.com church. As a proud veteran, Dan also was a member of the Kenyon American Legion. The most important things to Dan were his family, his faith, and his country.

He is survived by his wife of 71 years Arlene Schmidt of Nerstrand; his sons, Danford Jr. (Mary Ann) of Carthage, IL, and Jeff (Cathy) of Palm Beach Gardens, FL; daughter-in-law, Shawn Schmidt of Spring Valley, MN; and brother, Jim (and Barb) Schmidt of Keswick, IA. Dan is further survived by his sister-in-law, Carol Berkland of Cape Coral, FL; brother-in-law, Larry Block of Anoka, MN; grandchildren: Holly, Nikolas, Nathan, Mikayla, and Maddie; and great-grandchildren: Morgan, Rhyan, Noel, Harper, Chloe, Cassidy, Sophia, and Myles.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Kevin Schmidt; his sister, LeElna Weimer; his brother, Kenneth; and granddaughter, Sarah.

A Celebration of Dan's Life will be held at 11:30 AM on Sunday, August 24, 2025, at Holden Lutheran Church, rural Kenyon, with Reverend Dustin Haider officiating. A visitation will be held from 10:30 AM until the time of service. Dan will be laid to rest at the church cemetery with full military honors.

Marlene Janet Musgjerd

Marlene Janet Musgjerd, 87, of Kenyon,



passed away on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at Three Links Center Northfield, where she had lived for the past two years.

Marlene was born on October 12, 1937, in Faribault, MN, to Myron and Helen

Evalyn (Pofahl) Wunderlich. She worked at Wunderlich Grocery store until she graduated from Kenyon High School. She then attended the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis and graduated in 1956. She then married Leonard Musgjerd on June 15, 1958. Together they raised two children, Cheryl and Dean.

She worked as a dental assistant in Kenyon and did all the book work for her husband's business, Musgjerd's Standard Oil Bulk. Leonard and Marlene moved to Detroit Lakes after the children graduated. She worked for a dairy supply company while

living there. They moved back to Kenyon to be close to their children and grandchildren. After returning, Marlene worked for the City of Kenyon and in the lunchroom at the school.

Marlene loved to cook and bake in large quantities. She loved bringing lots of food for family gatherings and the holidays. She was a member of Holden Lutheran Church and the Kenyon VFW Auxiliary. Her hobbies included sewing, quilting, doing puzzles, playing cards and boardgames. She was also very proud of her large collection of over 1,000 cardinals.

She is survived by daughter, Cheryl (and Bob) Klahr of Kenyon; son, Dean (and Trista) Musgjerd of Kenyon; grandchildren, Kayla (and Mike) Kaufmann, Dylan (and Taylor) Musgjerd; great-grandchildren, Raelyn and Avery Musgjerd, and Marshall Kaufmann.

She was preceded in death by her husband Leonard Musgjerd in 2023; parents, Myron and Helen Wunderlich; and brother, Myron

Visitation will be held at Holden Lutheran Church on Saturday, July 26, 2025, from 10AM to 11AM, with the funeral starting at 11AM. Interment will be in the Holden Cemetery in rural Kenyon. Memorials are preferred to Holden Lutheran Church, Kenyon VFW Auxiliary, or Three Links Care

Kenneth B. Wold

Kenneth B. Wold, born January 31, 1940,



in Crookston, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on July 17, 2025, surrounded by his family.

Ken was beloved husband of Susan Wold and a devoted father to Mara Wold (Khiem Hoang), Sarah Van

Epps (Scott Van Epps), and Bruce Wold (Janelle Wold). He was a proud and loving grandfather to nine grandchildren: Daniel Van Epps (Alexandra Holmes Van Epps), Katherine Van Epps, William Van Epps,

Quinn Hoang, Spencer Hoang, Madeleine Hoang, Riley Bram, David Wold, and Floyd Wold. Ken also had a vast extended family of nieces, nephews, brothers and sisters in-law he loved dearly.

Page 3

Born to Ruth Berentzen and Arthur Wold, Ken's early years in Crookston shaped his strong values, love of music and literature, and a deep sense of connection to others.

He played football for the University of Minnesota while earning his undergraduate degree in liberal arts and later received a master's degree in education from the University of New Hampshire.

Ken was a gifted alternative school educator, a skilled carpenter, and a compassionate, community-minded individual.

Ken was active (with wife, Sue) in the Kenyon First Evangelical Lutheran Church choir as a bass tenor and performed in community plays with the Kenyon Arts Council. He played a role in founding the local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), and spoke frequently to young people about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse. His commitment to supporting others was evident in everything he did, as he always chose to embody the love-thought system.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ruth Berentzen and Arthur Wold; his first wife, Mary McCulla Wold; his sister, Patricia Lloyd; his brother, Paul Wold; and his cousin, Karen Rowley King.

Ken leaves behind a legacy of integrity, kindness, and quiet strength. His children and grandchildren were his greatest students, and his most enduring lessons were to live fully and love without condition. He will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by all who had the honor of knowing him.

The family would like to thank the Mayo Clinic medical teams and the St. Croix Hospice staff for their exceptional support and

In lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice.

The Celebration of Life will be held 2:00 PM, Saturday, August 30, 2025 at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church (309 Forest St., Kenyon, MN 55946). The visitation will one hour prior to the service at the church.

(obituaries continued on page 4)

Driver Hospitalized after Pick-ups Collide at Hwy. 56 Intersection

Dennison, MN (KROC-AM News)- One man was hurt after a pair of pick-up trucks collided at a southeast Minnesota intersection.

The State Patrol responded to the crash shortly before 6 p.m. on Saturday. Each vehicle had the driver as the sole occupant.

The crash occurred at the intersection of Hwy. 56 and Goodhue County Rd. 9, which is about 10 miles southwest of Cannon Falls.

50-year-old Kelly James Kreisler of Kenyon was driving the Ford. He was transported to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester with non-life-threatening injuries, the State Patrol

68-year-old Bryan Francis Linder of Easton, MN was driving the Dodge. He escaped the crash without injuries, according to the State Patrol.

Both motorists were buckled up and alcohol was not involved in the crash, the state crash report indicates.

The Goodhue County Sheriff's Office, Cannon Falls Police Department, Nerstrand Fire Department, Northfield Ambulance and the Kenyon Police Department also responded to the two-vehicle crash.



Obituaries

Richard L. Thissen

Richard L. Thissen died unexpectedly at his



home on July 9, 2025. He was born on January 13, 1944, at the Waseca Hospital to Irene (Cahill) Thissen and Ignatius Thissen. The family of six children and their parents lived on a farm near Janesville until Ignatius was killed by

a drunk driver in 1951. Irene then married Cliff Baynes in 1954, and the youngest brother soon joined the family. Sadly, Cliff too died in 1960, but the family remained in the Waseca and Janesville area.

Dick graduated from Sacred Heart High School in 1963. Following high school, he entered Madison Barber College in Rock Island, IL. When he completed his barber training, he began his career in Waseca and attended Mankato State University. In 1966, he met the woman who would later become his wife, who was teaching vocal music at the elementary schools in Waseca. Dick and Anna (Odegaard) Thissen were married on August 7, 1971, and moved to an apartment in Prior Lake, MN. They later moved to a home in Burnsville as Anna was teaching there at that time. Dick worked at the Southdale barbershop in Edina until they bought the barbershop and laundromat in Kenyon in 1974.

After several years in Kenyon, Dick and Anna contracted with American Family Insurance to sell their products. They later rescinded the contract with American Family and began to sell insurance with various companies independently. During this time their only child, Jennifer, was born. Dick sold insurance from the barbershop, Anna wrote the applications, and Jennifer played in her playpen either in the office or the barbershop. They bought the laundromat next door (yes, there were two laundromats next to each other then), combined the two laundromats in one space, and moved his barbershop next door. The two buildings became one.

In 1989, Dick and Anna purchased another pair of buildings and, with the help of a federal grant, turned an old dime store into a pizza place. A video rental store rented part of the space and the perfect business for the early 1990s was born: pizza on one side, video rentals on the other. Dick and Anna sold the restaurant and the building in 1998. Never one to let grass grow under his feet, Dick then worked several jobs as night security at various locations in and around Kenyon. Finally in the fall of 2008, he found the perfect job to combine with his barbershop. He began serving legal papers evenings and weekends and continued until his death.

Dick is survived by his wife of 54 years, Anna of Kenyon; daughter, Jennifer of Saint Paul; four brothers: Ray (Rosie) of Waseca, Tom (Dianne) of Janesville, Jerry of Newport Beach, CA, and Mike (Karen Heinke) Baynes of Prior Lake. Included in Dick's family are his sister-in-law, Romona Tjosvold of Mankato, his wife's only sibling, Ruth (David) Legvold of Northfield, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was

preceded in death by his parents and stepfather; his brother, John; and his sister, Gayle.

A memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenyon, MN. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the church. Refreshments followed the service.

Dick will be laid to rest at Oaklawn Cemetery in Northfield, MN. Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon has been entrusted with arrangements.

Barbara Jean Berguam

Barbara Jean Berquam, age 86, of Kenyon,



passed away surrounded by her family on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at Three Links Care Center in Northfield.

Barbara was born June 13, 1939, in St. Paul to Milton and Marjorie (Ravey) Schottmuller. She

was a graduate of St. Paul Park High School and attended nurses training at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul.

Barbara was united in marriage to Harold J. "Jim" Berquam on November 28, 1959, at Newport Methodist Church. The couple lived in Kenyon for five years before moving to a farm in Sogn Valley.

Before raising her children, Barbara was a nurse's aide in Faribault. She later also was employed at the Kenyon Sunset Home. Barbara was a member of Urland Lutheran Church. She enjoyed crocheting, playing board games and cards with her family, attending her children's and grandchildren's sporting events, and was a MN Twins fan.

Barbara is survived by her daughter, Debi (Doug) Selle of Maple Plain; son, James (Dawn) Berquam of Kenyon; grandchildren, Andrew (Alicia) Selle, Joe (Val) Selle, Kailee (Matt) Kruger, and Emma Berquam; greatgrandchildren, Rory and Bella Selle, Jack and Nick Selle, and Kinsley Kruger; special niece, Tracey (Bob) Flom; brothers, Robert (Birdie) Schottmuller of Little Chute, WI, Steven (Pauline) Schottmuller of Newport, and Jeff (Brenda) Schottmuller of Jacobson, MN; also many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jim; son, Mark Berquam; brothers, Lee (Karen) and Bruce (Jean); and sister, Sharon Erickson.

A Memorial Service will be held 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 27, 2025, at Urland Lutheran Church in Leon Township, rural Cannon Falls. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be in Urland Cemetery.

Memorials are preferred to Urland Lutheran Church.









Community

Goodhue County Farm Bureau Sponsors Dairy Cow for Kenyan School children

GOODHUE, MN — The Goodhue County Farm Bureau is proud to announce its sponsorship of a dairy cow for Simba Educational Ministries, an organization dedicated to supporting schools and communities in Kenya.

The cow, affectionately named Miss Goodhue, will help provide vital nutrition to 50–60 schoolchildren and their families by supplying fresh milk on a daily basis.

This initiative was inspired by local residents and Goodhue County Farm Bureau members, Ted and Katie Brenny, who have been actively involved with Simba Ministries since 2019. Katie, who first traveled to Kenya on a mission trip, has remained committed to supporting the school through agriculture-based efforts, sponsoring a child, providing agricultural education, and funding poultry projects. The Brennys recently advocated for the donation of two dairy cows, recognizing the critical role milk can play in supporting childhood development and bone health.

"Miss Goodhue is more than just a cow,







she's a symbol of our county's commitment to sharing the values of agriculture with communities around the world," shares the Board of the Goodhue County Farm Bureau. "We're honored to contribute to a cause that promotes nutrition, education, and global agricultural awareness," shares president Tom Perkins.

The sponsorship includes a \$750 donation to cover the cost of the cow. Simba Ministries

is also fundraising \$3,000 for a shelter to house the animals, ensuring their health and productivity.

The Goodhue County Farm Bureau encourages other organizations and individuals to consider supporting Simba Ministries and join in connecting agriculture across borders.

For more information on Simba Educational Ministries and how to contribute, visit www.simbaministries.org.

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Keller Agency

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That's the Latest Survival Days 1985



By Emery Kleven

Emery is now a retired farm broadcaster after starting at KDHL in Faribault in 1987. He's a 1971 graduate of West Concord High School. You can view past columns at his website RoadFarming.com. You can email him at emery@roadfarming.com.

I was on the farm north of West Concord in the 1980's and I remember well, highway 56 being closed in 1984 from town south to highway 14. I don't remember exactly how long it was closed but it seemed like a couple of years. Small towns were beginning to have enough problems trying to make ends meet without having all traffic being rerouted. Well, almost all traffic. I was on the Concord

Town Board in the 80's and our township roads took on a lot of traffic even if they weren't the official detour. So much so that in August of 1987, four of our town board members, Stan Strieff, Darrel Faulkner, Fred O'Brien and myself, went to St. Paul to testify before a house committee to describe the damage and seeking some monetary compensation for the said damages which included a lot of extra crushed rock and extra maintenance by our road grader operator Harold Vangness. We did end up receiving \$10,000 from the state.

I remember this well because it was the start of my farm broadcasting career. I was not on the air yet but soon would be. Our town board had it all planned that we would meet and ride up to the Capitol in one car. But my plans changed when I had a job interview in Faribault that I thought would last an hour or so but it went for over 4 hours. Let me give you the background of all of this.

Dean Curtiss was the long time farm broad-caster at KDHL starting in 1948. Rod Johnson from Cannon Falls, was Dean's replacement. Rod was at KDHL from the late 70's to 1985 when he decided to go full time into auctioneering and running the family business in Cannon Falls. Rod later was the public address announcer for the Minnesota Timberwolves for 21 years.

In the meantime, after a short stint working in radio in the mid 1970's, I came back to the family farm. By 1985, the farm economy had gone south and it was time to either get

bigger or get out. With Rod leaving KDHL, their salesman, Ray Sanders would stop into Dick's Repair on a weekly basis to visit and see if they needed to do any radio advertising. Ray asked Dick and Mary Jo Floren if they knew anyone who would be interested in being a farm broadcaster. Now normally, you would not know anyone who could try to step into the shoes of Dean Curtiss and Rod Johnson but Mary Jo knew I went to radio school and had worked at KOWO in Waseca before coming back to work on the family farm.

She told my mom about it and to make a long story longer, I called Ray Sanders to check on this possibility. So he forwarded me to the owner of the station, Jack Hvde, Jack was a co-founder of the station. The 'H' in KDHL was his initial. The other two founders of the station were Palmer Dragston, the 'D' and Herb Lee, the 'L'. Thus the call letters: KDHL. My interview was scheduled the same day as our hearing in St Paul, which started at 1pm. My interview in Faribault started at 8am. I thought I would have plenty of time but the interview turned into a training day as I got hired before I knew I was hired. I called Darrel and told him to drive up and I'll meet them at the Capitol. When I met up with the other board members, they were the first 3 people to know that I was the new KDHL farm director.

Meanwhile, Jack introduced me to the entire staff. I remember meeting Gordy Kosfeld, long time news and sports announcer who was 6 months into his job at KDHL. When Rod left, Gordy was doing both his job and Rod's farm broadcasting job. He was so happy to see Jack had hired someone that he

said to me and I quote, "If you were a woman, I'd kiss you!" I kept my distance from Gordy for some time after I started there. Eventually, I realized he was harmless. I also realized he was a great reporter and I hope the Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame someday will recognize his contributions to the industry.

Getting back to Survival Days in 1985, remember, this column was about Survival Days and the road closing. It was nice of the State Highway Department closed the road for a couple of weeks this year for our 40th anniversary celebration. It helped us remember why we celebrate. In 1985, the Sunday parade took place on one of those hot and windy July days. Our church, Mount Olive Grove Church, had built a beautiful float on one of my hay racks. On it was a tall palm tree among other decorations. We had a small Kubota tractor that the dealer in Kasson lent to us to pull the wagon. As I pulled on to the highway to head south into town, that strong south wind immediately blew the tree over. The rest of the decorations held on. We had two young boys who rode the float and held the tree up. We told them to try and look like disciples.

We made it through the parade, which as I remember it, was one of the better parades that West Concord ever had. At least I thought so. But then again all parades are fun. 'Who doesn't love a parade? It's hard to believe that it's been 40 years. I hope the parades keep happening every year and that the road closures are kept to once every 40 years.

Survival Days in West Concord this Weekend

Survival Days will be celebrating the fortieth anniversary this year during the last weekend of July. On Thursday July 25th the Guns and Hoses charity softball game will take place at 7pm with donations going to Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention.

On Friday from 7 to 11am the American Legion will have coffee and homemade doughnuts. City wide garage sales commence for the weekend at 8am. The West Concord Historical Society will host an open house from 9am to 1pm. At 5pm the beer garden and food stands open. A basketball tournament starts at 5:30pm at Memorial Park. A garden tractor pull starts at 6pm on Front Street. The Miss West Concord pageant will take place at Lion's Park as well as the Mayor's Key, Citizen of the Year and baby contest winners announced.

From 8pm to midnight there will be live music under the big tent featuring "Distilled". Fireworks are planned for 10pm Friday evening.

Saturday July 26th the Fire Department will serve breakfast burritos starting at 8am. The Scott Hodgman Classic Car and Bike Show will be held from 8am to noon. The softball tournaments and 5K Run/Walk begin at 8am. Sand volleyball tournaments start at 9am. An antique tractor pull is planned from 9am to 2pm behind Hyland Systems. A petting zoo will be held at the Gochnauer Dairy barn from 10am to 2pm. Kids activities, a bounce house, face painting and FUR ever Friends will be at

the WCHS yard from 10am to 3pm with a foam party held at 11:30am.

The food stands open at 11am and a treasure hunt takes place at the swimming pool at 11am. The library pro-

gram "Eagle Show" is scheduled at 1pm in the WCHS gym. At 2pm the beer garden opens and Family Bingo will be held under the big tent from 2 to 4pm. The "wife Carrying" competition will take place from3 to 4pm at the Hyland Systems field. The Fire Department has mock crash demo planned at 4pm on Main Street & Front Street. The excavator rodeo will be held at 7:30pm at the east end of Main Street. A dance under the tent with live music by "Zero Below" is planned from 8pm to 12:30am.

40TH ANNUAL

On Sunday morning at 9am the softball and volleyball tournaments resume and the community church service will take place at 9:30am. Food stands open at 11am, the beer garden opens at noon and the Trinity Lutheran Pie and Ice Cream social is held under the tent from noon to 3pm.

The Grand Parade will start at 1pm on Main Street. The Firefighter water fights star at 2pm and there is music under the tent from 2 to 4pm by Matt Cherokee.

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The Circus is Coming to Dennison

(continued from page 1)

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! Learnabout 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 - \$13Child (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

Adult Ticket - \$16Child (2-12) or Senior (65+) - \$9 Box office tickets go on sale at the Circus grounds starting one hour before each show.



50th Annual Rice County Steam and Gas Tractor Show August 29, 30 & 31

(continued from page 1)

Vintage Machinery, both horse drawn, and tractor driven, will be on display and used in various exhibits on the grounds.

The tractor parade takes place at noon each day.

Breakfast is served daily on the grounds as well as other food stands offering food throughout the day.

The kids pedal pull is Saturday after the parade, and the tractor pull is Sunday at 9:00 AM. For the annual fundraising raffle, a Club Car Golf Cart is the Grand Prize this year. Raffle Tickets are just \$5.00, with the drawing Sunday at 4 PM.

A petting zoo will also be available for visitors, presented this year courtesy of Windy Willow Farm Adventures.

There will be live music all three days and a non-denominational church service will take place Sunday at 8:00 AM.

General admission is just \$10 for the entire weekend and all events are free for ages 12 and under.

Celebrating 50 years of shows, the all-volunteer group works hard to preserve history,



file photo

maintain the grounds and bring new pieces of history to visitors every year. The newest building acquisition for the club was the former Waterford, MN schoolhouse and township building, which was moved to the grounds from its original location in Waterford (Just North of Northfield). Photos of the historic move are available on the Rice County Steam and Gas Facebook page.

Complete information and event listings are available on the group's Facebook page and website at ricecountysteamandgas.com

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Goodhue County Fair

(continued from page 1)

Shows are at Tuesday, August 5th, 5 pm, Wednesday, August 6th 2:30 pm / 5:30 pm, Thursday, August 7th, 11:30 am / 3:30 pm / 6:30 pm, Friday, August 8th, 11:30 am / 3:30 pm / 6:30 pm and Saturday, August 9th, 12:30 pm / 4:30 pm / 7:30 pm.

The Xtreme Strong Man Show is also new this year. Watch in amazement as this STRONG MAN pulls a vehicle with his teeth, bends bars, juggles tires, drives nails and breaks chains with his body! Shows are Tuesday, August 5th, 6 pm, Wednesday, August 6th, 11:30 am / 3:30 pm / 6:30 pm, Thursday, August 7th, 12:30 pm / 4:30 pm / 7:30 pm' Friday, August 8th, 12:30 pm / 4:30 pm / 7:30 pm and Saturday, August 9th, 10:30 am / 2:30 pm / 5:30 pm.

At Fisherman Dan's "Off the Hook" comedy stunt show you can dive into the rip-roaring world of laughter and lunacy with 'Fisherman Dan's Off The Hook Comedy Stunt Show'! Shows are Tuesday, August 5th, 7 pm, Wednesday, August 6th, 12:30 pm / 4:30 pm / 7:30 pm, Thursday, August 7th, 10:30 am / 2:30 pm / 5:30 pm, Friday, August 8th, 10:30 am / 2:30 pm / 5:30 pm and Saturday, August 9th, 11:30 am / 3:30 pm / 6:30 pm.

For the kids you can enjoy Polka Dot Entertainment with Penelope and Peter. Penelope is an Escape Artist, Magician, Juggler,



Balloon Artist, Mentalist, Human Statue, Airbrush Tattoo Artist and Hypnotist. Peter is a Juggler, Stilt Walker, Magician, Balloon Artist and Airbrush Tattoo Artist. Shows are Tuesday, August 5th, 10 am – 8 pm. Wednes-

Tuesday, August 5th, 10 am – 8 pm, Wednesday, August 6th, 10 am – 8 pm, Thursday, August 7th, 10 am – 8 pm, Friday, August 8th, 10 am – 8 pm and Saturday, August 9th, 10 am – 8 pm.

So Hot Glass brings the ancient art of glass blowing right to your front doorstep—uniting artistry, education, and excitement with every demonstration.

The Grandstand Shows feature Bull riding, barrel racing and mutton busting on Tuesday at 7pm. Wednesday is AutoCross racing at

7pm. Thursday is the Truck & Tractor Pull at 6pm. AutoCross Racing returns on Friday at 7pm a Demolition Derby is planned for Saturday at 5pm.

The Beer Garden is open daily and serves ice-cold beer and rail drinks with FREE juke-box and live bands Tuesday thru Saturday. Tuesday is Leonard McCracken at 7pm. Wednesday is Dave Carpenter & Friends at 3pm followed by Ryan Sullivan at 6pm. Thursday is Kaptain Karaoke at 1:30pm and 8th Street Bend at 6pm. Friday is George's Concertina Band at 2:30 and Bryan Anderson at 7pm. Saturday will be Zachary Giebler at 4:30pm and Foster Grand at 8:30pm.

Open House to showcase new livestock barns on Goodhue County Fairground

Three new livestock barns will be ready for this year's Goodhue County Fair. The public is invited to a ribbon cutting and Ice Cream Social on Thursday, July 24, 7 p.m. on the Fairground in Zumbrota.

The brief ceremony will include introduction and acknowledgment of the three major donors. The Goodhue Lions significantly funded the Poultry Barn, as did Red Wing Shoe for the Pig Barn and the Lowell Broin Family has fully funded the Cattle Barn.

"The Friends of the Goodhue County Fair (FGCF), the group that worked to raise the funding, sincerely thanks the generous donors who have made these new barns reality," said Sherri Betcher, FGCF chair. "Our work supports the Goodhue County Fair (GCF) as they plan and complete all details needed for construction.

"We thank the generosity of these donors and our community for their enthusiasm and support to improve our fairgrounds," she continued. "We hope the community will join us for this celebration!"



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Pearson Brothers to Complete Chip Sealing on Streets and Parking Lots throughout Kenyon



The City of Kenyon has hired Pearson Brothers to complete chip sealing of various streets and parking lots throughout town. Work is scheduled to begin on Tuesday 7/22 (weather dependent). Street parking will be restricted on the streets indicated. Except for very short periods of time, you'll be able to access streets and driveways throughout the work.

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Next Month is Rosefest

(continued from page 1)

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.



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Community

Dakota County Woman Remains Missing After 1 Year

Courtesy of KARE 11



RANDOLPH, Minn. — It's been one year since Nicole "Nikki" Anderson went missing after leaving her home in Randolph Township to retrieve her mail.

According to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal

Apprehension, Anderson left her home around 10 a.m. on July 6, 2024, and hasn't been heard from since. Officials say Anderson left on foot without her phone, wallet, glasses or medication, adding there is "concern for her welfare."

Anderson's mother, Dorene Mies, told KARE 11 that her daughter left the house that morning to get the mail and never returned. The moment was captured on their Ring camera.

In October, officials announced a \$45,000 reward for anyone who provides information that leads to Anderson's whereabouts or the prosecution of anyone involved in her disap-

Today marks one year since Nicole "Nikki" Anderson was reported missing after walking out the door of her home in Randolph, Minnesota.

Over the past year, investigators from the Dakota County Sheriff's Office — in collaboration with federal, state, and local partners — have worked tirelessly to locate Nikki. Our commitment remains unwavering. We will not rest until we find her and bring answers to her family.

We continue to urge anyone with information, no matter how small, to come forward. If you know something, say something.

Our tip line is open 24/7 at (651) 564-9097 or at this link: https://www.cognitoforms.com/DakotaCountyMN/NicoleAndersonMissingPersonTips.

All tips can remain anonymous. Please share this post as your share could reach to someone who knows something.

Posted by Dakota County Sheriff's Office on Sunday, July 6, 2025

pearance. Only tips received through the sheriff's office or CrimeStoppers will be eligible for the reward. Tips can be submitted by phone at 651-438-TIPS (8477), via email at crimeandwarranttips@co.dakota.mn.us.

A man was arrested and questioned about Anderson, but he was released to Le Sueur County, where he had an active felony bodyonly arrest warrant.

Anderson is described as 5-foot-6, 135 pounds with blonde hair and brown eyes. She was last seen wearing a long gray sweater/shirt, dark pants and sandals.



MISSING PERSON

SINCE JULY 6, 2024

NICOLE "NIKKI" ANDERSON

5 FOOT 10 INCHES

135 LBS

Last seen on July 6, 2024 wearing a grey sweatshirt and camouflage pants in the City of Randolph.



\$50,000

The Dakota County Sheriff's Office continues to actively investigate the disappearance of Nikki and is seeking any information leading to her whereabouts. You may provide information anonymously at the link above or call 651-564-9097







Community

The Savvy Senior Beware of the Medicare Advantage Trap



By Jim Miller

Dear Savvy Senior,

I will be enrolling in Medicare in a few months and would like to know if I initially enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan, am I able to switch back to original Medicare and get a supplemental (Medigap) policy and prescription drug plan later with without paying a fine? -Almost 65

Dear Almost,

You won't be subject to any fines for switching Medicare plans, but you will be subject to medical underwriting for the supplemental (Medigap) policy. That means the private insurance companies that offer these plans can

deny you coverage or charge you a lot more for preexisting conditions. This is known as the Medicare Advantage trap. Here's what you should know.

Understanding MA Plans

Medicare Advantage plans (also known as Medicare Part C) are government approved health plans sold by private insurance companies that you can choose in place of original Medicare. The vast majority of Advantage plans are managed-care policies such as HMOs or PPOs that require you to get your care within a network of doctors.

If you join an Advantage plan, the plan will provide all of your Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance) coverage like original Medicare does. But many Advantage plans also offer extra health perks like dental, hearing and vision coverage along with gym/fitness memberships, and most plans include prescription drug coverage too.

Medicare Advantage plans are also cheaper than if you got original Medicare, plus a separate Part D drug plan and a Medigap policy. This can be very attractive to new enrollees who are relatively healthy and don't require much medical care.

But the benefits and networks of Advantage plans can change from year to year. And if you get care outside the networks, you'll usually pay more – sometimes a lot more. Advantage plans are also criticized for pre-authorization requirements which can delay or deny patient access to medical care.

The rap on Medicare Advantage has always been that they're great when you're healthy and don't require much health care, but de-



pending on the plan, may not be so great if you get sick.

With original Medicare, benefits remain the same and you can use any provider that accepts Medicare (most doctor's do). But original Medicare has coverage gaps (deductibles, coinsurance and copayments) that can be very expensive, which is why you'll need a supplemental (Medigap) plan offered by a private insurer.

If you opt for original Medicare when you're first eligible, insurers are required to issue you a Medigap policy and can't charge you more based on your health status. In most states, Medigap plans are automatically available only in the first six months after an enrollee becomes eligible for Medicare.

But if you enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan when you're first eligible, you'll miss the Medigap enrollment window, which means an insurer can refuse to write you a Medigap policy or charge you a lot more for signing up later. And in case you're wondering, you can't buy a Medigap policy while you're in a Medicare Advantage plan.

There are, however, four states — Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine and New York — that prohibit insurers from denying a Medigap policy to eligible applicants, including people with pre-existing conditions.

For more information on how Medigap works visit Medicare.gov/health-drug-plans/medigap.

Dennison Farmers Market Wednesdays at 5:00

From 5 to 7 pm, you will find not only the vendors you have become accustomed to, but a few new members are there, vending their wares this year!

Located south of Fireside on Main Street, you will find delectable delights to tempt your taste buds, as well as handmade crafts for your home, or to give as unique gifts.

As the summer progresses, there will be lots of produce to choose from, too.

The Farmer's Market was started many years ago, and the founders had their last season in 2022. Heidi Cooke was kind

enough to take the lead to continue this great community event on Wednesdays. Keep up to date with information on the Dennison Farmer's Market page, letting you know weekly what is for sale. The market is hoping to expand some more this year with a bigger variety, so if you or someone you know has something that fits in with our market, please contact Heidi at dennisonfarmersmarket@gmail.com to let her know, or to ask questions. The market remains free to vend, so let your friends and family know when we will be there.

Spread the word! Buying local is the best way to help boost our economy. When you buy at a farmer's market, not only are you supporting your friends and neighbors, but you know where your food comes from, and that brings peace of mind as well!





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Friday
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CONCERTINA POLKA
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7:00pm

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