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JULY 23, 2025

Volume 22 • Issue 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, Saturday and Sunday, August 29, 30, 31.

(continued on page 9)

Announcements

- **Wednesday Wear, Nerstrand United Methodist Church** hours are Wednesdays 1 - 5 and Saturdays 9 - 12. Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys and books. All things are free with donations accepted. Come and see what we have!

- **Dennison City Council** meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

- **The Nerstrand City Council** meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at the Nerstrand City Hall. Office hours are: Wednesdays 9:30-11:30a.m. and Thursdays 6:00-8:00p.m. Other times available per request, 507-332-8000.

- **Warsaw Township Meeting** is held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Warsaw Township Hall. Meeting time is 6:00p.m.

- **The Wheeling Township meeting** will be held on the second Monday of each month at 8:00p.m. at the Wheeling Township Hall. Contact Rebecca Vergin, Township Clerk.

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.

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.

(continued on page 10)



Zimmermans named 2025 Rice County Farm Family of the Year

Kara and John Zimmerman of Northfield have been selected as Rice County's Farm Family of the Year.

Their farm, just outside the city, is primarily turkeys, but also includes row crops of corn and soybeans. They grow both heavy toms and heavy hens for Ferndale Market in Cannon Falls.

John is the owner and primary operator, Kara is a full-time CPA, while their school-age son Grant helps out wherever he can.

John's mother Karen helped out with farm operations in the past.

(continued on page 4)

The Zimmerman Family with the 2024 Thanksgiving turkeys they raised, which were pardoned by President Joe Biden. Pictured from left, Kara, Grant and John Zimmerman



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.

(continued on page 11)



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)



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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 there 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 Brevard, 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!



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Published in cooperation with
Mainstreet Publishing Minnesota, Inc.

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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

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

Grace Lutheran, Nerstrand
Mike Ahrens S.A.M.
Service 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran
9:00a.m. Sunday School
10:00a.m. Coffee Time 10:30a.m. Worship Service

Hegre Lutheran - Pastor Chris Brekke
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

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

First Ev. Lutheran, Kenyon - David J. Chatelaine, Pastor
Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC
Shannon Bauer, Pastor
24289 Cty. 24 Blvd., Cannon Falls
Sunday Worship at 9:00a.m. followed by fellowship.
Thursday Bible Study at 9:00a.m.

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.

METHODIST

Nerstrand United Methodist

Gary Liker, Pastor
507-330-0025
Worship 9:00a.m.

Stanton United Methodist

Rev. Tom Countryman
Worship 10:15a.m.
Church Phone 507-321-3598

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7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

HOLDEN-DALE PARISH

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

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

Danford "Dan" Schmidt Sr.

Danford "Dan" Schmidt Sr., 90, of Nerstrand, 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 graduated 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 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, Rhyann, 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.



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 -

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.
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Save the Date
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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 resi-

dents 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.

For further information and questions, please contact Goodhue County Farm Bureau Office Assistant Mary Jo Schoenfeld at 507-455-0745 or steelecountyfb8@gmail.com.

Zimmermans named 2025 Rice County Farm Family of the Year

(continued from page 1)

John was the 2014 president of the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association and the Minnesota Turkey Research and Promotion Council. He also served several years on the board of directors for Minnesota Agricultural Rural Leadership (MARL).

Currently, John is the chairman of River Country Cooperative in Inver Grove Heights. He was the 2024 chairman of the National Turkey Federation and is currently a member of the Executive Committee. John is also chairman of the National Turkey Federation Foundation.

The farm’s turkeys are so well regarded that two of its toms made the trek to Washington, D.C., in November where they received a pre-Thanksgiving pardon from President Joe Biden.

The University of Minnesota Farm Family Recognition Program honors farm families from throughout the state for their significant contributions to the agriculture industry and their local communities.

The Farm Family Recognition Program has honored Minnesota farmers since 1979. It is coordinated by University of Minnesota Ex-

tension, the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Farm Families are recognized at Farmfest in August.

The Zimmerman family home farm was settled by August Zimmerman in the 1870s near Northfield, Minnesota. It started as a mixed crop and dairy farm until the 1950s when John’s father Chuck started raising turkeys. John is the second generation to raise turkeys and the farm is in its fifth generation.

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Dennison Days

July 23, 2025

- MAINSTREET MESSENGER -

Page 5



The Antique Tractor Pull was part of Dennison Days 2025



Bingo Petes BBQ served up some great BBQ during Dennison Days



Several Farmers Market members participated in Dennison Days 2025



courtesy of Goodhue County Sheriff

The Goodhue County Sheriffs in the Dennison Days Parade



Our staff enjoyed the parade and Sheriff Kelly, Chief Deputy Huneke and County Commissioner Greseth were able to see Minnie the Cow from Flom Dairy.

courtesy of Goodhue County Sheriff



courtesy of Goodhue County Sheriff



courtesy of Goodhue County Sheriff

Nerstrand Fire Relief Association Dance



The Annual Nerstrand Fireman's Dance was held July 12, 2025 with live music, games, great food, and fun! Thanks to all that helped make the event happen, and to everyone that attended! Be sure to mark your calendars for the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, August 10th.



Nerstrand Fire & Rescue Reviews SCBA Operations and Air Tank Filling Procedures



Courtesy of Nerstrand Fire & Rescue



This month, Nerstrand Fire & Rescue reviewed SCBA operations and air tank filling procedures.

An SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) is the critical gear that allows firefighters to safely enter smoke-filled or toxic environments. It provides clean, breathable air—helping protect us from heat, smoke, and hazardous gases while we do our job.

Regular training like this ensures we stay sharp and ready to respond safely and effectively—because in an emergency, seconds matter and there's no room for error.



**Nerstrand Fireman's
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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.

Camp Victory

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SUMMER CAMP 2025

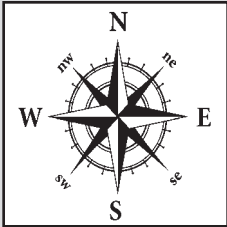
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

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.



View of Kentucky lake from Lodge dining room

The Tennessee River starts in the east of the state and meanders all the way to the west 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.

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

(continued from page 1)

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.

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, 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



file photo

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.

The Circus is Coming to Dennison

(continued from page 1)

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

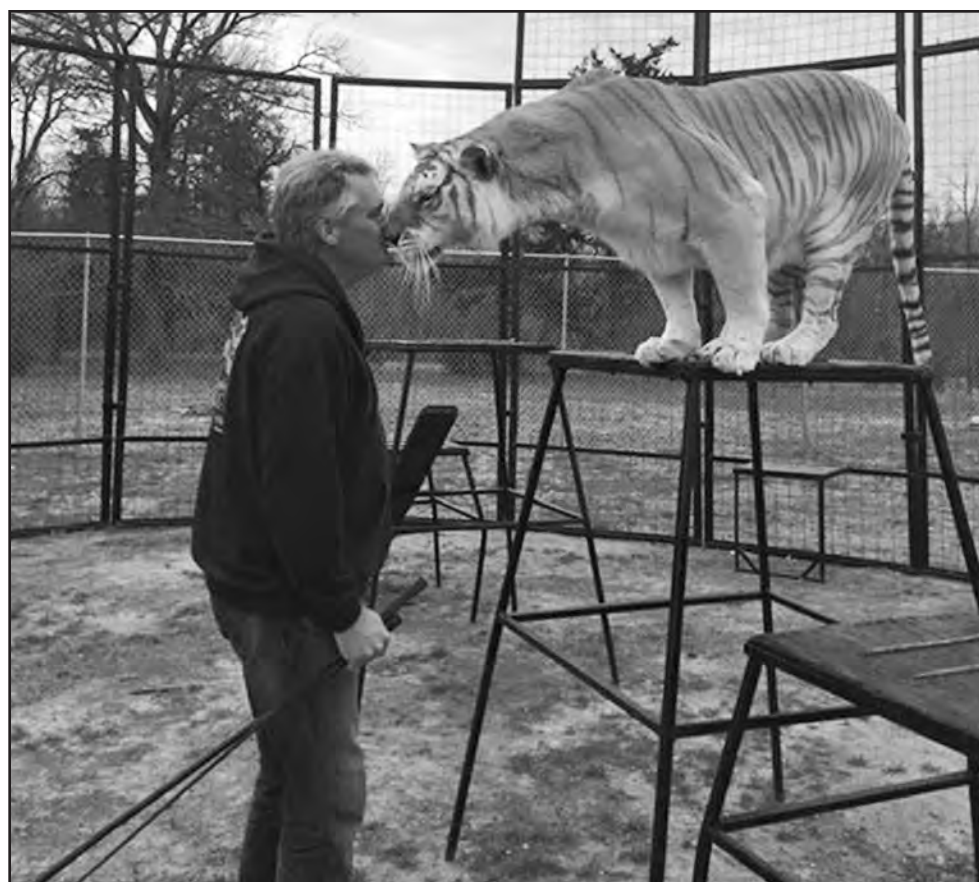
Fireside Lounge & SupperClub

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



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Dakota County Woman Remains Missing After 1 Year

(continued from page 1)

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 disappearance. 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

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

Anderson, but he was released to Le Sueur County, where he had an active felony body-only 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.

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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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.

ENDANGERED MISSING PERSON



REWARD UP TO \$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



WEDNESDAYS IN DENNISON

FARMERS MARKET ON MAINSTREET
5:00-7:00 PM



Farmers Market



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

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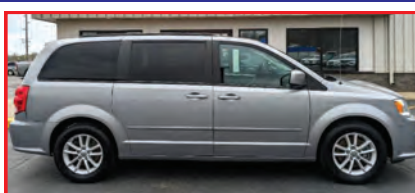
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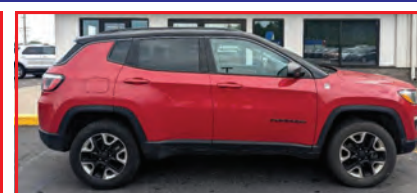
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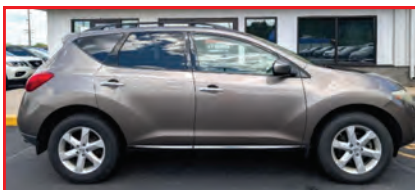
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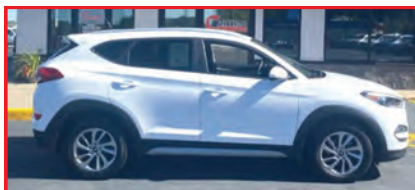
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SL**

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Multiple Sports Improve Children's Health



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

A study published in the Journal of Sports Science followed 627 children in Finland over three years to explore how early physical activity influenced their coordination and movement skills by age 11. Researchers examined two types of physical activity: organized sports, such as team sports or lessons, and unstructured outdoor play. The aim was to understand how these different forms of movement impacted motor coordination, balance, and overall movement abilities in the long term.

The children underwent assessments that measured jumping, throwing, running, and balance using standard physical skills tests and a jumping test. These tools are commonly used to evaluate basic motor functions. The study categorized movement into four areas:

locomotor skills like running and hopping, object control skills such as throwing or dribbling, a combined score of these two, and dynamic balance, which was tested by counting how many side-to-side jumps a child could complete in 15 seconds. Findings revealed that children who participated in multiple sports showed greater improvements in motor skills compared to those who played just one sport or none at all. Specifically, children involved in two or more sports achieved 10.1% higher jumping scores and up to 14.5% better coordination than their peers who did not engage in sports. While playing a single sport still provided benefits, the improvements were less pronounced, particularly in tasks involving jumping and running.

The study highlights the significant advantages of engaging in diverse physical activities during childhood. Participating in multiple sports appears to enhance a broader range of motor skills, including coordination and balance, more effectively than focusing on just one sport. This suggests that varied physical experiences may better prepare children for physical challenges and activities later in life. Overall, the research underscores the importance of encouraging children to explore multiple sports and forms of physical activity. By doing so, they can develop stronger coordination and movement skills, which are essential for their physical development and overall well-being.

Florida has become the second U.S. state, after Utah, to ban water fluoridation, with the law taking effect on July 1, 2025. Governor Ron DeSantis described fluoridation as

"forced medication" without informed consent. Public water systems must cease adding fluoride, and state regulators will enforce the ban. A National Toxicology Program review of 72 studies found consistent evidence linking fluoride exposure to lower IQ scores and impaired cognitive development in children. Research also associates fluoride with thyroid dysfunction and neurological harm, even at doses as low as 2 to 5 milligrams daily. While fluoride was introduced in 1945 to reduce cavities, mounting evidence suggests the risks, including neurodevelopmental and endocrine issues, outweigh the benefits. Many European countries rejected fluoridation decades ago, with 98% of Western Europeans now drinking non-fluoridated water. Other states, such as Ohio and Texas, are considering similar bans, and federal agencies are reevaluating fluoride recommendations. Currently, 63% of Americans drink fluoridated water, but this policy shift may prompt widespread reassessment of its safety.

Sitting too long many decrease your life span: Prolonged sitting has quietly become a major risk factor for heart health, even for those who regularly exercise. Research reveals that sitting more than 10.6 hours daily increases the risk of heart failure by 45% and cardiovascular death by 62%. This underscores the urgent need to break up sedentary time, as reallocating just 30 minutes of sitting to light activity can reduce heart failure risk by 7%. Sitting still for too long impairs circulation, decreases insulin sensitivity, and hampers mitochondrial activity, progressively damaging cardiovascular health over time.

The detrimental effects of sitting aren't off-

set by regular exercise alone. Movement throughout the day is critical to protecting heart health and metabolic function. Even active individuals who meet the recommended weekly 150 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous exercise remain at risk if they spend prolonged hours seated. The key lies in shifting how we perceive movement—not just as a scheduled task but as a consistent practice integrated into daily life.

A study involving over 89,000 participants, tracked using wrist-based activity monitors, reinforced this point. It revealed that people who sat for over 10.6 hours daily faced significantly higher risks of heart-related conditions compared to those sitting less than 9.4 hours. Importantly, participants who incorporated small breaks in their sitting patterns by standing or walking benefited from observable reductions in heart health risks. Even minimal changes, like standing for 10 minutes every hour, have meaningful health pay-offs.

The bottom line is simple yet powerful. Our daily routine, often centered around desks, cars, and screens, may be undermining our health without obvious signs. By incorporating regular movement into our days and breaking up sedentary periods, we can safeguard our cardiovascular health and overall well-being. The solution doesn't require monumental changes but rather mindful action to stand, stretch, or take light walks consistently throughout the day. Small steps can lead to life-changing improvements.

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

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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 fre-

quently, 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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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 wheel-



chair 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.

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Courageous Listening



By Benya Kraus
President & CEO Southern
Minnesota Initiative Foundation

My Grandma Vivan Zimmerman was one of Tim Penny's earliest and most emphatic supporters during his initial run for Congress – so much so that she convinced my Grandpa Jim, an active member of Waseca County's Republican Party, to vote for Tim despite the "D" behind his name.

This traversing across political identities seems almost miraculous in today's eyes. But I am told that it was Tim's willingness to listen, his commitment to knock on the doors of every house in the district, to see national problems with the specificity of a local context, that won my Grandpa over. Tim brought these virtues to his role as President of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) for nearly two decades. As I now step into the

role of the next SMIF president, I can't help but feel my Grandma's pride and hopefulness that I, too, may carry forward Tim's legacy of service and courageous listening.

It is a courageous thing to listen.

In light of the recent acts of violence that have shaken our state, I've found myself reflecting on what it means to truly listen – especially in difficult, divided, and uncertain times. These moments test our belief in the goodness of our neighbors and the strength of the communities we call home. And yet, I come to my first week in my new role with a deep sense of gratitude and knowing that this spirit of connection and care still defines who the vast majority of Minnesotans are – thanks in large part to the civic institutions, like SMIF, that model the virtues of empathy, trust and shared responsibility. Our work to foster belonging across our programs and region feels all the more urgent. I'm grateful to step into this role with all of you, to live out our values more boldly, and to keep listening – one of the most powerful tools we have to build community – as we move forward together.

Listening requires us to temporarily suspend our own judgments and ways of thinking of the world, in order to make space for another's story to take shape in our mind – and potentially, to take hold of our heart. We may find that when we listen, we see problems and uncover new solutions we didn't see earlier. Or maybe we listen, and the stories we hear don't change our minds at all and instead, give us a perspective on why others may see things differently. However, sometimes when we really listen, we are

called to hold two opposite things true at the same time. Living in paradox runs almost counter to the very human, biological desire to sort and categorize the world around us.

Yet, I am no stranger to paradox.

For one, I am both native and newcomer. I was born in Bangkok, Thailand where I spent most of my childhood and high school years, but I also enjoyed summers on the family farm in Waseca County, where my dad's side of the family has farmed for six generations. As the daughter of a first-generation Thai immigrant and a blonde-hair, blue-eyed Minnesota farm boy, I've had the gift of seeing southern Minnesota through the eyes of both parents. Since moving back six years ago, I feel connected to a family history tied to this prairie land, yet still miss the taste of lemon-grass and scent of jasmine flowers from my childhood home.

I am a social entrepreneur who co-founded a national nonprofit that encourages young people to return to their rural hometowns, embracing fresh perspectives and new ways of building community. And yet, I'm also a Rotarian and a Catholic who loves tradition and the wisdom found in faith institutions and having friendships with people older than me. I'm a humanities student who also earned her master's in business administration, energized by private sector solutions while also attentive to community needs that arise from market failures. I worked to redirect national philanthropy toward rural America, and also believe that the most innovative investment strategies are forged at the local level.

Living in paradox takes courage because very often, you don't feel "enough" of either

identity. And when one part of myself gets territorial of the other, it takes courage to remind myself that all the parts of me need each other.

I believe this is true for us as a region, too. We need all of each other.

At SMIF, we are a funder, convener and capacity builder for southern Minnesota. Our issue areas focus on Entrepreneurship, Early Childhood Education, and Community Vitality – and while almost all of us can agree that these are important factors for a thriving community, we likely have different, perhaps paradoxical, ideas on how to get there. Rather than see paradox as a peril, I see it as a promise. It is a promise to listen deeply and courageously, to build a region that is resilient because of its dynamism and diversity, to strive for a culture that balances the needs between old and young, newcomer and native, private and public, small and large.

In my first 100 days in this role, I'll be hitting the road to every corner of our region, eager to listen with the same courage and persistence as my predecessor, Tim Penny. I look forward to hearing your stories and weaving together the paradoxes of our region as we craft a shared path, and shared identity of who we are, together.

I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at benyak@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

About Benya Kraus

Benya Kraus is the President & CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. Benya is the co-founder of Lead for America and served as the Network Advancement Director at Resource Rural.

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Nonprofit Focused on Helping Foster Children Thrive

By Rice County



Holly Schoenbauer couldn't have imagined how foster parenting would impact nearly every aspect of her and her family's lives.

Six years after becoming a licensed foster parent, the Northfield mother of three says fostering has been better than she ever expected – her children have become stronger, more patient, empathetic and kind. Each says they plan to someday become a foster parent.

And now, she's expanding her reach well past the few dozen children she and her husband Dave have welcomed into their home. She's founded a nonprofit, This Is Me, to help children in the foster care system develop a sense of belonging and the self-worth they so often lack.

While foster care is intended to provide a temporary living arrangement, nationwide, foster children live, on average, in 15 different homes; four in their first year. State figures show that in 2024, Rice County foster

children averaged two moves.

Because they've been removed from their family due to maltreatment or neglect, foster children often have behavioral problems and suffer from complex trauma.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 80% of children and adolescents in foster care have mental health needs. Statistics on young adults who've transitioned out of foster care paint a pretty bleak picture. By the time they're 21, 29% report experiencing homelessness, 20% report being incarcerated and 23% report becoming a parent.

Schoenbauer, who has a dual degree in theology and psychology from the University of St. Thomas and a master's in Gifted and Talented Education, and is executive director of the Northfield nonprofit, Project Friendship, says that through observation and research, she discovered that foster children see themselves through that lens. In addition to a lack of permanency, few, she's found, have any personal belongings.

But how, she wondered, could she help kids identify as something other than "foster kid"? And what would it take to make it happen?

"If we can get a child in foster care to see that they're more than a foster kid, they can direct their lives in different ways," she said.

This Is Me is working to provide yearbooks, club and team photos, letter jackets, anything that gives kids an identity of their own for the county's foster children, and collaborating with volunteer photographers to offer milestone photos like senior pictures



Holly Schoenbauer, center, speaks with a foster mother during a May event in Bridge Square in Northfield to raise awareness of her organization and foster care in general.

Rice County photo

and at adoptions and parental reunifications. She's currently raising money and working on several grants to pay for activities like clubs, sports or lessons and is beginning to recruit mentors for the youth 7 and up that would be paired with children in foster care through This Is Me's mentoring branch.

And if all goes well, This Is Me will hire full-time staff and, hopefully with the help of grant funding, expand to the 32 counties in southern Minnesota.

While noting that the work isn't something

LEARN MORE

Holly Schoenbauer
ThisIsMe@IDoExist.org
507-595-5437

This Is Me: www.idoexist.org

The organization is looking for volunteer board members who are passionate about youth and foster care. Meetings are held quarterly.

Mentors Needed: Adults interested in mentoring a foster child (7 years and up) starting this fall can contact Holly on the This Is Me website at www.idoexist.org. Prospective mentors will be interviewed and after acceptance take a mandatory 2-hour training and periodic training after. Mentors will be asked to commit to at least one year and to spend an hour per week with their mentee.

Foster parenting: Visit the county's website, https://bit.ly/RiceCo_FosterCare, call 507-332-6115 and ask to speak to a county licensor or email either

• Katie Anderson
katie.anderson@ricecountymn.gov

• Cheryl Marek
cheryl.marek@ricecountymn.gov

County-led Housing Development Earns National Recognition

By Rice County



Each year, the National Association of Counties recognizes outstanding programming in 18 categories aligned with the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice and public safety, libraries, management, information technology, health and civic engagement.

This year, Rice County has been recognized with an Achievement Award in the category of Community and Economic Development for the Twin Oaks housing development project. The project is part of a larger vision brought to life by the Rice County Board of Commissioners following the 2021 purchase of more than 100 acres of property on the northern edge of Faribault.

The county has developed formerly underutilized land to meet its immediate needs with the construction of the new Public Safety Center and develop -- in collaboration with the city of Faribault -- an area that will benefit the community well into the future. As part of this development, trail connections and green space were added, lots for economic development were established and an area, now known as Twin Oaks, was designated for housing.

When fully developed, 22 families will have an opportunity for affordable workforce homeownership and in the future, as their homeownership needs change, new families will have the same opportunity.

The development of Twin Oaks is a partnership between Rice County, Rice County



Housing Director Joy Watson, right, holds an award certificate from the National Association of counties, commending the county for its work on the Twin Oaks housing development. Also pictured, from left, are Administrator Sara Folsted, and Commissioners Charlie Peters, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Steve Underdahl and Galen Malecha.

Rice County photo

Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Three Rivers Community Action, Minnesota Housing Finance and the city of Faribault. The first 6 homes are being constructed by Rice County Habitat for Humanity with one of those constructed by students and faculty from South Central College.

During the July 8 Board of Commissioners meeting, Administrator Sara Folsted commended the board for its vision and Housing Director Joy Watson for her work to bring

this project to fruition.

"With the housing market as it is, it is difficult to find available affordable homes to meet the needs of our local workforce and industries," said Folsted. "Twin Oaks is a good first step in a model of public/private partnerships that can work together to help increase the availability of affordable workforce homes for people in our community."

the child welfare system is built on, Chris Sammon, Rice County Child & Family Services manager, says Schoenbauer's work is a needed companion to the work of Human Services staff.

"We try to pay attention to the child's needs through their eyes, but the reality is we're focused on 'are they going to have a safe place to sleep?'" she said. "Our funding is built on basic needs, basic care. Holly's organization is built on the building blocks of who you are."

Ensuring foster children are seen and heard is THE mission of This Is Me, said Schoenbauer.

"Kids in foster care are given what they need to survive," she said. "This Is Me is giving them what they need to thrive."

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.

DENNISON CITY COUNCIL MEETING (continued from page 19)

According to the signed contract, Pearson Bros. has a minimum charge of \$2,500 to mobilize and chip seal the missed area, and a \$500 minimum charge to mobilize and sweep the missed area. Does the city want the millings for anything? It was noted that they may be random sizes. If it was finer milled, could be used in the alley behind Fireside. Find out how much, how fine, and if we get a discount if the City keeps it.

No parking signs Need everyone off the streets on July 28th. Need schedule and time frames so we can get information to people in town. Stripe the lines once the road is finished. Ask a price for striping.

4. Dennison Days approvals: Close off streets? Councilor Schloesser move to approve the streets being blocked off Friday night and Saturday, June 20/21 for Dennison Days. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0 Councilor Ruddle abstained from voting.

5. Questions brought to the mayor regarding the Community Event Center and alcohol being served there during the Celebration of Life event for Charles Kylo on 4-12-25. Mayor was informed the kitchen is not operational but there's a working bar in the building. Joe Amy is using his catering license to serve food there. Does Joe need a liquor license for the Community Event Center? Reviewed state Statute and it seems pretty cut and dry as far as how it works. Not an issue. Councilor Schloesser move to allow charitable gambling at The Sapphire when they are able to host it. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 4:0. Councilor Ruddle ab-

stained from voting.

6. Follow-up regarding April 12th and Goodhue County Sheriff Department. Mayor received a phone call from the Patrol Major after our May meeting. The Patrol Major confirmed they had a deputy in the area but not specifically assigned to the City for the Kylo event. He said the Sheriff's Office never received a phone call complaining about the 21-gun salute. If there had been a complaint filed, then a ticket could have been written. He apologized for any miscommunication. Nichole has an issue about it. She feels that she would have the sheriff called in her. She feels it was specialized treatment. Why are we paying for the Law enforcement services when they wouldn't even respond to the City's request for help in the situation. Maybe revisit the ordinance. Put on the agenda next month for a possible fine for the funeral.

7. Questions regarding the use of city chairs and tables. It was brought to the mayor's attention most of the tables and gray chairs are in the Dennison Event Center. The motion passed almost 10 years ago, specifically about chair and table rental, requires the city property be returned in 7 days. The language of the motion was forwarded to the council to review before the June meeting. Council was notified that the chairs will be returned soon. Chairs have been ordered for business by the owner. Thank you to Joe for giving the new chairs to the City Council.

8. The weed inspector has noticed tall grass and weeds behind the city shop/fire station on the west side again. There was a motion passed last October requesting Nate remove his snow thrower and trailer within

30 days. Mayor is requesting he remove the items from the city property before Dennison Days, and also weed whip the area. Nate was going to take care of that.

9. Tree planting update. 13 trees planted in the old part of town, 7 more planted on the north side of town in May. Any remaining trees? Discussion about future areas in town to plant. Area beneath the wa-ter tower could use cleaning up and plant some trees in the future. Spillway area needs to be addressed with trees that are dying, we need to keep that area in mind as trees die that we need to take out. Prairie grass plantings to help hold the soil?

10. Almen's Glass and Lock replaced the front door lock on May 19th. Same key opens both the front and back doors now.

11. Four 3 month CD's coming due on June 10th. What do we want to do? New renewal date will be September 10th if renewed. 3 month rate is again at 4.65%. Mayor Flaten moved to renew 3CD's, and cash out one of the 3 month ones. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0.

12. Nerstrand Fire and Rescue would like to invite the City to our 2026 contract meeting June 24th 7:00 PM. As with last year they will provide our prospective 2026 budget prior to bringing it to the City of Nerstrand as well as an update on department operations. Mayor Flaten will go.

13. Propane contract proposal from CFS to the agenda. 2,500 gallons @ \$1.5490 per gallon = \$3,872.50. \$966.12 in credit/unused balance from last year. Councilor Ruddle move to contract for propane for 2,500 gallons at \$1.549/gallon. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 5:0.

14. 2 completed barricades with the proper reflective material on them were delivered to the city shop/fire station on 6-3-25. Mayor wants to thank Caleb for a job well done! We will be making an attempt to revive another barricade that was left on the outside of the city shop.

15. July meeting date. Nichole gone. Council decided to keep meeting on July 3rd.

16. Bank signers. Bank says the listing of who is able to sign is up to date. Ashley wasn't sure if the paperwork had everyone's signatures on them though. Has everyone been to the bank to sign? Clerk will follow up to ensure everything is correct.

Citizens Issues:

Mayors Issues:

Councilor Schloesser move to pay the bills. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 5:0.

Mayor Flaten moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Cooke second. Motion was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Next meeting: Regular meeting would be on Thursday, July 3rd at 7:00. Work group meeting June 16th at 6 pm.

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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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