



Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger™

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SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

Volume 22 • Issue 9

Announcements

• **Homecoming Pep Fest** for grades 7-12 on Friday, September 12. Saturday, September 13 there is a formal dance for grades 9-12 from 7-9pm. Home Athletics: Thursday - Randolph volleyball against WEM; Football hosts Kenyon-Wanamingo.

• **Randolph Food Shelf** located at **St. Mark's Church 28595 Randolph Blvd.** Monthly Open Hours: 1st Tuesday 8:00 - 9:30 am; 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays 4:30 - 6:00 pm. Questions call (507) 263-9182.

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

The King with Cash & Diamond Show Returns to Dennison at the New Sapphire Event Room

The popular Vegas Style Tribute Show featuring the music of Johnny Cash, Elvis, and Neil Diamond returns to Dennison Saturday, September 27th. This year's show will move next door inside the new Sapphire Event Room and Cocktail Lounge. Tickets are available by calling Fireside Lounge during normal business hours at 507-645-9992.

For fans young and old, if you have ever been to the popular Breezy Point Resort up north in Minnesota, you may have caught

The Memories of Elvis Show (www.espkings.com) with Chris Olson on the dockside bar at Breezy Point or the popular up north spot, Zorbaz. Chris Olson performs this entertaining tribute of The King, and will be bringing his talents and show back to DENNISON, MINNESOTA on Saturday, September 27th. Show time will be at 7:30p.m., this year next door to the Fireside at the all new Sapphire Event Room and Cocktail Lounge, the area's newest event space located on main



street in Dennison.

(continued on page 3)

**2025 HOMECOMING
TACO FEED**

**Friday, September 12
5:00 - 6:30 PM IN THE COMMONS**

ADULTS: \$8 (3 TACOS)
SENIORS 65+: \$6 (3)
STUDENTS: \$6 (3)
KIDS: \$4 (2)
KIDS UNDER 3: FREE (1)

Proceeds Go To Randolph Rockets Theatre.



Annual Randolph- Hampton Fire District Chicken BBQ a Success

The Annual Randolph-Hampton Chicken BBQ was a success again this year. The day started out a little soggy with rain showers, but things dried out as the day went on!

Thank you to all the volunteers and friends that make this annual event a success!

Goodhue County driver involved in fatal head-on crash in Dakota County

Courtesy of KIMT3 News

RANDOLPH, Minn - The Minnesota State Patrol says alcohol use by a southeast Minnesota driver was involved in a fatal collision outside the Twin Cities.

It happened around 11 am Saturday on Highway 56 in Dakota County.

The crash report says a 2016 Dodge Ram driven by Seth John Nechville, 28 of Kenyon, was northbound in the southbound lanes of Highway 56 and crashed head-on with a southbound 2019 GMC Terrain driven by Peter Foxvong Olson, 68 of Apple Valley.

(continued on page 3)

THE KING
with
**CASH &
DIAMOND**

Chris Olson
is ELVIS
www.espkings.com

Doug Allen Nash is
JOHNNY CASH & NEIL DIAMOND
www.dougallennash.com

~ A Tribute Show to The King, Man In Black & Neil Diamond ~
AT THE ALL NEW SAPPHIRE
Saturday, September 27
Reserved Seating in the Event Room! Tickets just \$35.00!
LIMITED INDOOR SEATING! Call 507-645-9992

THE SAPPHIRE
Event Room & Cocktail Lounge
MAIN STREET - DENNISON

The Fireside
LOUNGE and
SUNNY CLUB

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY

- 2 Piece Fish Dinner Deep fried or Broiled cod
- 3 Piece Fish Dinner Deep fried or Broiled cod
- All You Can Eat Fish Dinner Deep fried cod

Served with salad or coleslaw, choice of potato or vegetable medley and 2 slices of garlic toast.

Kitchen Opens at 11am
Dinners and All You Can Eat
Fish Starts at 4pm
651-437-5618

TROPHY HOUSE
COCKTAILS • DINING
GATHERING

Wisdom Brings True Success

"Only a fool hates wisdom..." I'm trusting none of us want to be found to be a fool.

I want you to consider the wisest person you know... maybe you are thinking of some famous person, or maybe it was your grandpa, or grandmother, maybe it was your father or mother. Maybe the people you are thinking of are wise for different things... wise in life, wise in relationships, wise in business, wise in fishing... Many of us can think of really intelligent people that make very foolish decisions- so we know that it isn't intelligence that is necessary to be wise. One proverb says a "fool is wise in their own eyes." Wisdom lives with good judgment. Wisdom shows us where to discover knowledge and discernment- (from God's Word!) And I don't

know about you, but I can use all the knowledge and discernment I can get. Only with God's help can I truly discover and live out good, wisdom.

Focus your Spiritual eyes on Proverbs 8:12-16, "I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment. I know where to discover knowledge and discernment. 13 All who fear the Lord will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech. 14 Common sense and success belong to me. Insight and strength are mine. 15 Because of me, kings reign, and rulers make just decrees. 16 Rulers lead with my help, and nobles make righteous judgments."

Solomon likes to give wisdom a human element. Wisdom lives with good judgement. One without the other isn't truly wisdom. As we develop wisdom in our faith and in our life we will be able to discern God's will and direction in our lives. Paul writes that we are to 'work out our own salvation...' That doesn't mean we can save ourselves; it means that we need to do our part to live out the faith that we claim to have. When we have faith in

God- we can rest in the fact that He is in control. He does know what is happening and no matter the outward circumstances or the human element involved we can trust Him. We need to work it out in our own lives- it is a gift, free and waiting, but we need to unwrap it and use it- otherwise we don't really own it. When we claim something it isn't ours until we pick it up and take it with us. Just saying the words- just going through the motions of receiving Christ- means nothing if we are not living it out. As we live it out- we discover that our spiritual discernment becomes stronger as we grow in wisdom and knowledge of God's Word. Do you want to become wise? You have got to do the work.

When we walk in God's wisdom we will fear the Lord- (remember that's the beginning of wisdom) The wise hate evil. It doesn't read hate evil people; it says hates evil. We hate those things that Jesus hates. There are lists throughout scripture of the sins that God hates. Bottom line God hates sin. If you need a list here in one from Proverbs, "There are six things the Lord hates—no, seven

things he detests: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, 18 a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord in a family." Proverbs 6:16-19

As a new believer I had a very 'gray' line about what was right and wrong, so I began to pray that I would only hate those things that God hates. Every sin separates us from God. As Followers of Christ- how dare we continue to knowingly live in sin... it's just as if you are spitting in the face of Christ at the cross. It's just as if you were the one nailing Jesus hands again and again to the wooden beams. Do you love Jesus or don't you? Jesus said, "If you love me you will obey my commands..." John 14:15. It doesn't get much clearer than that.

If you want wisdom that brings true success in your life- hate those things that God hates- and love those things that God loves- mainly people!

(continued on page 3)

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Dennison, MN 55018

Phone or Text: 507-649-3327

Fax: 507-645-9878

Website: www.randolphmn.com

Place your ad in the next issue of the Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger.

Email:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com
or call 507-649-3327

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RANDOLPH BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Dennis Ingolfssland 29020 Dawson Avenue in the heart of Randolph (adjacent to Randolph Public School grounds). Sunday School 9:00a.m. (children, teen, and adult classes) Sunday Worship 10:00a.m. Adult Bible Study Every Wednesday at 6:00p.m. Questions? Call church office 507-663-1437	AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY What to Say? <i>"When they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit..." — Matthew 10:19</i> Are you ever at a loss for words? I am, at times, in difficult or sensitive situations, where the cost might be high. In our reading for today, we see Peter and John living out a promise that Jesus had given them—that the Holy Spirit would provide them with words in difficult situations. Jesus had commissioned his disciples to continue his ministry (Matthew 28:18-20), and now they were doing as he had taught them. They were healing people and proclaiming his forgiveness of sins and his resurrection from the dead. But Peter and John were arrested and brought before the religious authorities in Jerusalem, and those leaders wanted to know how the disciples had the authority to heal a lame man. The critical moment had come, and Peter, "filled with the Holy Spirit," proclaimed boldly that they had healed the man in the name of Jesus Christ, who had risen from the dead, and that salvation is found only in him. Unlike Christians in parts of the world that are hostile to the church today, most of us have not been called to account for our belief in Jesus. We can be grateful, though, for the faithful witness of Jesus' followers. And we can trust that the Spirit will give us what we need when we too may be called on to share the truth about our Lord and Savior. <i>Jesus, help us to trust you and the Spirit to help us speak with love and boldness when are called to do so in your name. Amen.</i>	ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Pastor Lue Moua 28595 Randolph Blvd. www.stmarksrandolph.com Sunday Worship 10:00a.m. & on Facebook Bible Study Tuesdays at 9:00a.m. & 1st Wednesday at 11:00a.m. WELCA 1st Wednesday at 10:00a.m. Questions? Call 507-263-9182
CHRIST UMC Rev. Thomas Countryman 29470 Gaylord Ave., Cannon Falls 507-757-8043 www.christunitedmethodist.org Sunday Worship 8:30a.m. Sunday School 8:30a.m.	The Church Directory is Sponsored by: Merchants Bank 23280 Main Street, Hampton (651) 437-9535 Member FDIC 300 West Main Street Cannon Falls 	ST. MATHIAS CATHOLIC CHURCH, HAMPTON stmathias-hampton.com 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass 7:30a.m. Monday Mass Questions? Call Mon.-Friday 651-437-9030
STANTON UMC Reverend Thomas Countryman 1020 Hwy. 19 Blvd., Stanton • 507-321-3598 www.stantonunitedmethodist.org Sunday Worship at 10:15a.m. <i>Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com</i>	ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NEW TRIER stmarys-newtrier.com 8:00a.m. Sunday Mass 7:30a.m. Friday Mass Questions? Call Mon.-Friday 651-437-9030 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CASTLE ROCK 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, Coffee After 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Questions? Call 507-645-0042	

Wisdom Brings True Success

(continued from page 2)

If we don't love the people that God has created in His own image- how can we love God? "If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? 21 And he has given us this command:

Those who love God must also love their fellow believers." 1 John 4:20-21.

When we strive for wisdom, it will treat us well. Wisdom blesses all those that strive to attain it. Often those that strive to live out their lives filled with God's wisdom discover that they receive riches in this life- as well as store up riches in the next. I don't think you can go wrong striving for Godly wisdom. Solomon prayed for wisdom and God gave him everything any king would desire. People like LeTourneau, George Washington Carver, Madame Curie; they all trusted God, worked to obtain Godly wisdom and God blessed their endeavors.

Not every wise person becomes famous or is remembered in history books, but there are people that will look up to them. And even

better there are no regrets to have to apologize for. When our lives are focused on the wisdom of God- we don't mimic the world's way of doing things, we live out our faith and love God and love people. We seek His wisdom to guide and direct us so that we don't lean on our own understanding, but only on God's. Just like the worker in Timothy, that proves himself to be true to God's word- we too will be remembered for our integrity, our justice, our love and our mercy.

Wisdom's true success is found in the legacy we leave behind. Will you be a great and thoughtful thinker like Ghandhi? Or a merciful and compassionate leader like Mother Theresa? Maybe your faith and love will be something that your grandchildren will one day want to be like in their lives.. What legacy do you want to leave? What successes will you be remembered for?

Goodhue County driver involved in fatal head-on crash in Dakota County

(continued from page 1)

The collision happened just south of the 292nd Street East intersection.

The State Patrol says Peter Olson and his passenger, Patricia Ann Olson, 49 of Apple Valley, were killed in the crash. Nechville suffered what are described as non-life threatening injuries. He was taken to Regions Hospital for treatment.

Investigators say alcohol use by Nechville was involved in the collision.

The Randolph Fire Department, Cannon Falls EMS, Life Link, and first responders from Dakota and Goodhue counties assisted at the scene.

The King with Cash & Diamond Show Returns to Dennison

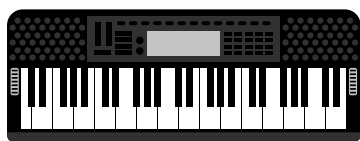
(continued from page 1)

Doug Allen Nash will again join the show this year with is tribute to Neil Diamond and also his "Johnny Cash Tribute - American Icon". (www.dougallennash.com).

Advance tickets are just \$35.00. Call Fireside at 507-645-9992 during normal business hours, or e-mail them at firesideloungedennison@gmail.com to order tickets.

You can also make dinner reservations at The Fireside Lounge & Supper Club that evening ahead of the show. Space is limited, so guests will want to make their reservations early, as Fireside Lounge celebrates 23 years of Amy Family Hospitality, Saturday, September 27th.

Organist Wanted



**Holden Lutheran Church
Rural Kenyon**

Interested contact:
holdendalesecretary@gmail.com



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and first vaccination

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The Annual
Lutefisk and Norwegian Meatball Supper
Vang Lutheran Church
2060 County 49 Blvd
Dennison MN 55018
Saturday, October 4th 2025



Menu:

Lutefisk with melted butter, Norwegian Meatballs with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Cole Slaw, Fruit Soup, Lefse and Norwegian baking's

Join us for our annual supper, buffet style

New for 2025; Continuous seating no reservations needed: 11:00am, thru 1:00pm seating times and 4:00pm thru 6:00pm seating times.

Home or business delivery by reservation

11:00-2:00pm/4:00pm-6:00pm

Please call 507-789-5189 (leave message) or email at vanglutefisk@gmail.com

Ticket price \$26.00 each; payments by check or cash on October 4th

#507-789-5186 vanglutefisk@gmail.com

Everyone's Invited to our

TURKEY DINNER

Sunday, October 26th
at Dennison Lutheran Church
Serving 11:00am-1:00pm

Menu:
Turkey Roast,
Dressing,
Mashed Potatoes,
Corn, and Pies

Adults \$13.00 • Children \$5.00
Children Under 5 Years Free

Take Out Available
Call Ahead or Text
Your To Go Orders
507-645-6042



Annual Randolph-Hampton Fire District Chicken BBQ a Success



Helaena Hensley Represented Randolph High School at the Minnesota All-State Choir Camp

Courtesy of Randolph School

Huge congratulations to HELAENA HENSLEY! She represented Randolph High School at the Minnesota All-State Choir Camp in August at Concordia College in Moorhead!

After a competitive audition process last spring, she was selected as one of the top high school vocalists in the state. She's rehearsed with some of Minnesota's finest young singers in the week long intensive music camp.

She will also perform again in concert during the Minnesota Music Educators State Convention on February 14 at ORCHESTRA HALL. Tickets will be available for purchase at a later date.

Way to go, Helaena— your dedication and talent make us EXTREMELY proud!



A new baby? Congratulations!

Register your baby for the census - A new baby is any child, under the age of 5, who is new to Independent School District 195. It is important for our future planning to get all children on our census files. In return, you will receive timely communication from District 195 regarding early learning programs and services to support you and your child prior to kindergarten. Please complete this census form and return it to the Randolph School District Office or call 507-263-2151, ext. 3 to complete the form over the phone. Thank you.



Baby's Name: _____

First Middle Last

Baby's Birth Date: _____

Month Day Year

Baby's Gender: _____

Male Female

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please return form to:
Randolph School District Office
P.O. Box 38
29101 Dawson Avenue
Randolph, MN 55065

EMAIL: staufferk@district195.org

2025-2026

Randolph School Calendar

29101 Dawson Avenue, P.O. Box 38
Randolph, MN 55065
507-645-4773
Fax: 507-645-5950

August '25

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September '25

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October '25

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November '25

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December '25

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January '26

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Aug 20 New Teacher Day 7:30-3:30
Aug 21 Teacher Day 7:30-3:30
Aug 25 Teacher Day 7:30-4:00
Aug 26 Teacher Day 7:30-4:00
Aug 27 Teacher Day 7:30-7:30
Open House 3:00-7:00
Aug 28 Teacher Day 7:30-4:00
Sep 01 NO SCHOOL - Labor Day Holiday
Sep 02 Opening Day
Sep 30 Mid-Quarter
Oct 14 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00
Oct 15 EARLY DISMISSAL 12:30
Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00-5:00
Oct 16-17 NO SCHOOL - MEA
Oct 31 End of 1st Quarter
Nov 26-28 NO SCHOOL - Fall Break
Dec 05 Mid-Quarter
Dec 23 EARLY DISMISSAL 12:30
Teacher Day 12:30-3:30
Dec 24-Jan 2 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
Jan 05 School Resumes
Jan 16 End of 2nd Quarter
Jan 19 NO SCHOOL
Teacher Day 7:30-3:30
Feb 12 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00
Feb 13 NO SCHOOL
Parent/Teacher Conferences 8:00-12:00
Teacher Day 12:00-3:30
Feb 16 NO SCHOOL - President's Day Holiday
Feb 23 Mid-Quarter
Mar 16 NO SCHOOL
Teacher Day 7:30-3:30
Mar 27 End of 3rd Quarter
Apr 3-6 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
Apr 17 EARLY DISMISSAL 12:30
Teacher Day 12:30-3:30
Apr 28 Mid-Quarter
May 25 NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day Holiday
May 28 End of 4th Quarter
May 29 Teacher Day 7:30-3:30

There are 173 student days in this calendar.
In the event of a school closing, up to five E-Flex Learning Days may be used in 2025-2026.

February '26

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March '26

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April '26

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

May '26

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June '26

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

No School
Early Release
First Day/Last Day of School

Calendar includes one 8-hour floating teacher day in August.



September & October Upcoming Events

September 11	7 pm FFA Alumni Board Meeting, Ag Room (2nd Thursday)
September 15	6-7 pm FFA Monthly Meeting, Ag Room - KickOff CookOut
September 15	7-9 pm FFA Outreach Class, Ag Room - PARENT MEETING Required for all members taking Outreach Class
September 18	8-3 pm FFA General Livestock Miller Invite Contest, Mabel-Canton
September 24	8:30-2 pm FFA Dairy and General Livestock Judging Contest, Stewartville
September 24	7-8 am FFA Officer Meeting, Ag Room (2nd & 4th Wednesday)
September 24	7:30 am - Corn Drive Planning Meeting, Ag Room
September 26	8-2 pm FFA Fall Leadership Day, Heintz Center, Rochester
October 1	FFA Region Contest & Scanton Fees Due
October 8	7-8 am FFA Officer Meeting, Ag Room (2nd & 4th Wednesday)
October 8	7:30 am - Fruit Sales Planning Meeting, Ag Room
October 8	8-2 pm FFA U of MN CDE Invite (Dairy, General Livestock, Soils, Poultry)
October 9	7 pm FFA Alumni Board Meeting, Ag Room
October 10	8-2 pm FFA UWRF CDE Event: (Poultry Invite, State Qualifiers: General Livestock, Dairy, Horse)
October 15	FFA Blue Jackets- Bright Futures App Due
October 15	FFA Corn Drive for Camp Courage (Jr & Sr) (Randolph 1/2 Day)
October 20	6-7 pm FFA Monthly Meeting, Ag Room
October 20	7-9 pm FFA Outreach Class, Ag Room
October 29 - November 1	National Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana – Leave Wednesday at 6:30 am - Return Saturday @ 10 pm
October 27	FFA Fruit Sales Start

Join us in becoming a Randolph FFA Alumni and Supporter

Adult membership is open to anyone who is interested in supporting and promoting agriculture, agricultural education, and the FFA at the local level.

If you are proud of FFA and want to help local FFA members acquire knowledge and experience from agricultural education and FFA activities –becoming an adult member is for you! The Randolph FFA Alumni Booster and active members depend on volunteers to help support our chapter through the gifts of time, talent, and resources in order to gain community support. Join us and give back your skills, starting at the local level. Contact Bret Otte at otte.bret@gmail.com to sign-up.



Set-up your Scholarship/Memorial Memorials/Scholarships

A memorial or tribute gift is a meaningful way to remember a loved one's legacy or express your appreciation for someone special. Your gift on behalf of a loved one will make a difference in the lives of others today, tomorrow and far into the future, all while supporting Randolph's future leaders.

Losing a loved one is difficult, but many families find comfort in honoring those they have lost by requesting memorial contributions be made to the Randolph Alumni FFA. You can invite others to give, when making aftercare decisions, by requesting to direct memorials to the Randolph FFA Alumni.

Honorariums

Celebrate those milestone moments in life with a gift in honor of that special person. A gift may be given in honor of a birth, anniversary, retirement or any occasion that we celebrate as important in the life of the honoree.

Blue Jacket - Bright Futures

Dreams are possible when you wear a Blue Jacket. You can make a difference in the life of a young person by sponsoring a Blue Jacket for an FFA member by giving them the gift of infinite possibilities and the chance to start their FFA Career. This project provides members with the opportunity to earn an FFA jacket through an application process. Jackets can be sponsored for \$90. Each sponsorship includes a complimentary tie or scarf to accompany their jacket. We have 18 members attending State FFA Convention in May. We have 5 younger members and we would love for each of them to have their jacket. Please let us know if you would like to sponsor one of those jackets.

The Randolph FFA Alumni is happy to provide direction or materials when setting up a Memorial or Honorarium, contact us today for details.

Randolph Community Food Shelf

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

28595 Randolph Blvd.

Randolph, MN 55065

(507) 263-9182

stmarksrandolph@gmail.com

www.stmarksrandolph.com

Facebook: Randolph MN Area Food Shelf

Monthly Food Shelf Hours:

1st Tuesday 8:00 - 9:30 am

2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays 4:30-6 pm

Randolph Community Food Shelf is for anyone in need within the Randolph School District. (Randolph, Stanton, Hampton & New Trier area)

We are here to help!

Please pull around to the southwest corner door for easy loading of your items



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MyRide seat suspension
19" gaming style seat

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hedge trimmers & more



502 Huseth St., Kenyon
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Randolph Football vs. Cannon Falls



Randolph Football vs. Goodhue

September 10, 2025

- RANDOLPH-HAMPTON-CASTLE ROCK MESSENGER -

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Castle Rock Agency

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Castle Rock, MN
Phone: 507-263-7590
Email: michelle.kreisler@castlerockbank.net

Nelson Agency

119 4th Street
Cannon Falls, MN
Phone: 507-263-3812
Email: info@nelsoninsurancecf.com

Freeberg Agency

100 4th Street North
Cannon Falls, MN
Phone: 507-263-4276
Email: info@freebergins.com

Ins Brokers of Cannon Falls

106 4th Street North
Cannon Falls, MN
Phone: 507-263-5100
Email: v.dungan@insurancebrokersmn.com

Northfield Agency

711 Division Street S
Northfield, MN
Phone: 507-645-8861
Email: nfldins@hotmail.com

Haggerty Agency

1206 North Frontage Road
Hastings, MN
Phone: 651-437-5410
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Help for Minnesota Farmers to Buy their First Farm Returns

Down Payment Assistance Grant program now open for applications

Minnesota farmers' next chance for help buying their first farm has arrived, with the return of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Down Payment Assistance Grant program. The Down Payment Assistance Grant offers

eligible farmers up to \$20,000 to help buy their first farm, up from \$15,000 in past years to reflect increasing land prices. The Minnesota Legislature boosted funding for the program to \$1.25 million this year, up from \$1 million last year.

Applications are open now through September 15, 2025 for the fourth round of funding. To date, the program has helped 112 farmers buy their first farms, with \$1,677,500 in total awards made.

Eligible applicants must make less than \$250,000 per year in gross agricultural sales, and they must match the award with at least \$8,000 of other funds (e.g. loan, contract for deed, cash, or other financing) to unlock the full award amount.

The MDA will award grants using a random lottery process, with priority given to eligible applicants who:

- Have earned no more than \$100,000 in annual gross farm product sales, or;
- Are producers of industrial hemp, cannabis, or specialty crops.

The MDA will notify applicants of award decisions in late September.

Farm purchases from direct family (e.g. parents, grandparents, or siblings) are not allowed. Purchases from extended family (e.g. aunt/uncle, cousins) will be allowed.

Farm purchases must take place after approval of the application. The MDA cannot award grants for purchases that have already taken place.

Awardees have six months from the award notification to close on land purchases. The

MDA will consider a deadline extension if the awardee can provide a signed purchase agreement or written commitment from an approved technical assistance provider stating that the applicant is looking for land and financially prepared to buy.

The MDA is hosting an informational webinar for prospective applicants. Additional webinar recordings and other resources focused on different topics related to the farm-buying process are also available on our webpage.

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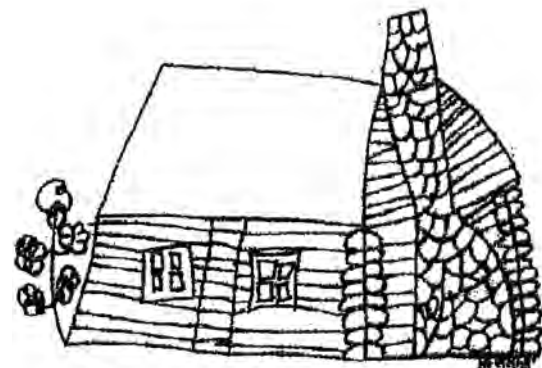
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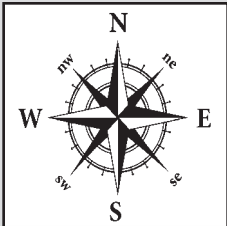


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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes I Was Born a Cowboy



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 have always loved horses. My dad bought my older brother a Welsh pony when I was in Third grade. It was my first hand me down horse. We only rode it bareback. It was a good trainer horse. I learned how to fall off and sur-

vive. I found that to be very important in life. In Fifth grade I bought a cob horse from my best friend for \$100 and a new saddle from Wayne Abbey's tack shop in Pine Island for \$40. Best starter horse ever. In seventh grade I bought a quarter horse gelding for \$400 and put thousands of miles on him. The Dodge County Saddle Club would have trail rides each month starting at the Bringgold farm. I would ride him up there and join everyone for a couple hour ride through Buehler's Woods, and then after a late night hot dog roast I would ride him three miles back home in the dark.

Every horse has a warm place in my memory. A 3 year-old un broke Appaloosa I bought from my best friend was my project in the mid 80's. I broke him to ride in a couple weeks and he never gave me a bit of trouble. He was a cow horse and when it was time to cut cattle he knew exactly what to do. If there were beef to herd you learned to have a firm grip on the saddle horn when your foot hit the stirrup or he was going to accelerate right out from under you.

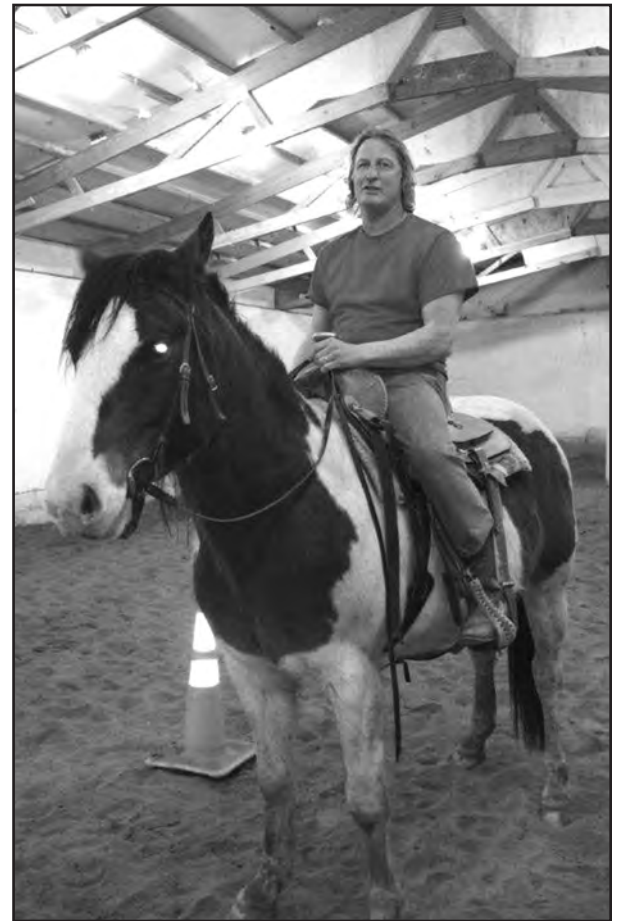
I got the idea I wanted a draft horse to ride and bought a 5 month-old Clydesdale about 2005. That was the first time I had to halter break a colt that outweighed me by a couple times. He walked right over me for the first month before he learned to respect the lead rope. I ended up riding him bareback most the time because I couldn't get my foot high enough to reach the stirrup.

In 2007 I traded a cob horse for a 5 year-old un broke Paint gelding. His name was Mayson and he was beautiful. Not being

under a saddle for 5 years presented a challenge. We went through a month during training where he did his best to shed both saddle and rider. I won and he became a terrific horse.

But my best horse story happened when I was 18 years old. I found a quarter horse for sale outside of Zumbrota. My dad and I went to check it out. It was a college girl selling her horse after winning a blue ribbon at the Goodhue Fair. My brain shut off when I saw her. The girl, not the horse. Instead of listening closely that this was halter class only, I said I wanted to ride it. They had no saddle and only an old bridle with twine string reins. My teenage boy brain still didn't get it. It was a pretty girl and I was clearly not thinking about the horse. Ignoring common sense, I pulled the reins up, grabbed the mane and vaulted onto its back. We headed down the drive and up the ditch. Once out of sight of the girl I began to understand the situation I was in. This horse did not respond at all to the bit or the reins. After a short way down the road, the horse decided to head back to the farm at a full gallop. After thundering down the driveway and skidding to a stop in front of the surprised family, I dismounted and said they were asking more than I was interested in paying.

We got back in my truck and headed home.



Once we turned onto the road my dad began to laugh uncontrollably. He said family was shocked that I would even consider mounting the horse as no one had ever ridden it before. They were certain the horse was going to return without the rider. He wasn't sure himself that I was coming back. Unfortunately, I knew a lot more about horses than girls.

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A Minnesotan: Canning Season



By RosaLin Alcoser

Now that Fall is rolling around and the county fairs have come to an end. Or if you live anywhere near a lake the cabin people have started to go home. That means one thing in rural Minnesota. It's nearly harvest time.

I grew up in rural Minnesota, but I was not a farm kid. So outside of my family's massive garden, I never participated in harvest. I did, however, grow up between farms so there was a time or two in my teen years that I was called upon to watch younger children during harvest. Outside of that late Summer and early Fall usually

meant something very different at my house. It meant it was canning season.

As previously mentioned my family had a massive garden and my father was very good at procuring large quantities of apples. Looking back at it all, the amount of apples he was able to get a hold of was extremely impressive. Which did mean we spent a good portion of the Fall canning nearly all of the vegetables from the garden but also making everything apple that could be canned. We're talking applesauce, apple butter, apple pie filling, and apple jam. Now if you've never made any of these things I can tell you that it is a long and time consuming process. Which can also be quite explosive.

Once when my older sister was a teenager she was keeping an eye on a round of apple butter that was in the middle of the canning process. It was in the pressure cooker when it exploded, getting apple butter all over the kitchen. All the way up to the ceiling; which was quite impressive, considering it was a 9 foot ceiling.

Needless to say that the apple butter explosion of 2005 is probably part of the reason she doesn't can or make apple butter. Not that I do either of those things, but my apartment also doesn't have the counter space. Nor do either of us have our father's gift for being able reasonably to get that many apples at once.

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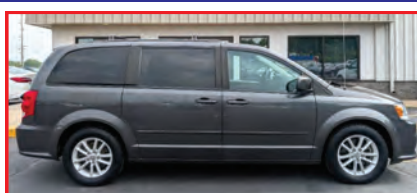


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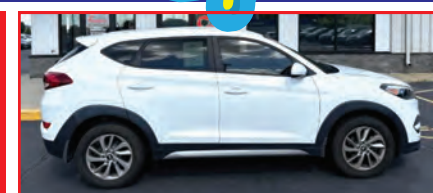
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Apples



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

You probably have heard the rhyme, “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.” But what does an apple really do for you? Does any apple work, or only certain kinds? Let’s dig a little deeper.

Medications - A 2015 study published in JAMA Internal Medicine by Davis et al observed that those who consumed one apple a day required less prescription drugs. Those who eat one apple a day probably make other healthy choices as well that contribute to this positive association between apples and reduced drugs.

Heart Disease - A 2017 study published in Molecular Nutrition Food Research by Bonadonna et al compared apples high in flavonoids, which are found in the apple skin, with apples low in flavonoids and observed improved blood flow through the brachial ar-

teries when the high flavonoid apples were eaten. In other words, these apples improved the blood flow through the body. The apples with high flavonoid content will typically be darker red apples that are not too sweet.

Cholesterol - The healthy control of cholesterol has also been improved with an apple a day. A 2017 study in the Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture by GC Tenore compared modern apples with the Annurca apple and observed that two small Annurca apples a day significantly lowered the bad cholesterol and increased the good cholesterol. The Annurca apple is known for its higher flavonoid content. Older, heritage apples typically have high flavonoid and polyphenol content.

Blood Sugar – Those individuals who had a daily intake of apple polyphenols, which are from the skin of the apple, had an improved ability to manage blood sugar compared to individuals who did not consume the polyphenols. This observation was reported in a 2017 study published in Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice by Shoji et al. One possible reason for this improved sugar control is the polyphenols seem to reduce the sugar absorption ability of the intestines by closing the primary “door” that sugar uses to pass through the intestines, according to Schulze et al in their 2014 published study in Molecular Nutrition and Food Research.

Colon Health – The ability of the polyphenols of apples to “close the door” on sugar transport to cells is one of the pathways to stop the growth of cancer cells in the colon, as observed in a 2016 study by Lin et al in the



Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry. A cancer cell has many more “doors” to bring in sugar to accelerate growth, so polyphenols help to close these doors and inhibit the growth of cancer cells. The peeling of the apple contains the highest content of effective polyphenols with antioxidant activity, anti-bacterial activity, and anti-cancer activity, which was documented in a 2016 study by Lin et al in the Journal of Food Science.

The older apple varieties that have high polyphenol content include – Braeburn, Jonathan, McIntosh, Gravenstein, and Annurca. Avoid the newer varieties that have been bred for increased sugar content and size.

An apple a day is the eighth guideline in the Foundation to Thrive program, a whole food lifestyle program providing personal coach-

ing to help you succeed in your goal to live a healthier life. This program provides a personalized meal plan based on your unique blood chemistry. Those who have followed their personal plan have observed blood sugar levels become controlled, cholesterol levels improve, inflammation decreased, acid reflux disappear, and the body shifts to a healthy weight.

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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We would love to hear your thoughts. Jack Schlichting 612-325-5528 or jackschlichting@gmail.com

Is Your Skin Aging Prematurely? Heart burn pills are Bad!



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Use your senses: Expiration dates are more about quality than safety. Labels like "sell by" and "best before" indicate peak freshness, not when food becomes unsafe, leading Americans to toss out billions of pounds of perfectly good food. There's no universal rule—states set their own policies, and companies use different methods, which is why similar products can have varying labels. The only federally regulated dates are for infant formula. Health experts warn that raw meat,

seafood, unpasteurized dairy, and baby food pose the biggest risks, but for most other items, trust your senses—appearance, smell, and taste are better indicators. Until labeling becomes consistent, a little common sense can go a long way in reducing waste and staying safe.

Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), commonly used to treat heartburn, have been linked to significant health risks, including a 16% higher chance of heart attacks and double the risk of dying from cardiovascular events, even in individuals without prior heart disease. While these drugs are marketed as a quick fix for acid reflux, they suppress stomach acid production entirely, which is problematic since most reflux is actually caused by too little stomach acid, not too much. This suppression exacerbates the underlying issue, leading to fermentation, bloating, and pressure that pushes acid into the esophagus. The risks extend beyond the gut, as PPIs interfere with nitric oxide production, a molecule essential for healthy blood vessels, increasing the likelihood of heart-related complications. Examples of PPIs include esomeprazole (Nexium), lansoprazole (Prevacid), omeprazole (Prilosec), pantoprazole (Protonix), and rabeprazole (AcipHex).

The dangers of PPIs don't stop at cardiovascular risks. Long-term use has been associated with kidney damage, weakened bones, and impaired nutrient absorption. Chronic kidney disease, acute kidney injury, and even end-stage renal disease have been linked to these medications. Additionally, the suppression of stomach acid hinders calcium absorp-



"Keep your spine happy by maintaining good posture throughout the day—whether you're sitting, standing, or sleeping. Regular stretching and movement can help reduce tension and improve spinal alignment, especially if you spend long hours at a desk. And don't forget to stay hydrated—your spinal discs need water to stay healthy and cushion your movements!"

tion, leading to fragile bones and a higher risk of fractures, particularly in older adults or those with pre-existing bone conditions. Stomach acid also plays a critical role in defending against harmful pathogens, and its reduction makes PPI users more susceptible to severe infections like C. diff, pneumonia, and E. coli.

For those relying on PPIs, it's crucial to understand that these risks can accumulate even with standard doses or over-the-counter use. The FDA advises limiting PPI use to no more than three 14-day treatment periods per year, a guideline often overlooked. A safer alternative is famotidine (Pepcid), an H2 blocker that reduces stomach acid through a different mechanism and doesn't carry the same cardiovascular risks. Famotidine also helps block excess serotonin, which can disrupt energy levels and drive inflammation, making it a more holistic option for managing reflux.

If you're currently using PPIs, transitioning off them requires a gradual tapering process to avoid rebound acid production. Full recovery of stomach acid production and digestive function can take months or even years, necessitating targeted nutritional support to rebuild gut health. With over 60 million Americans experiencing heartburn monthly, it's vital to address the root cause of reflux rather than masking symptoms with medications that may do more harm than good. For all natural symptom relief, we have successfully used Zypan in our offices. Zypan is a whole food supplement that reduces and prevents acid reflux (from Standard Process).

Is your skin aging prematurely? Your skin is a dynamic, multi-layered organ that serves as a protective barrier and reflects your overall health and lifestyle choices. Its structure, comprising the epidermis, dermis, and hypodermis, is designed to shield against external threats, regulate internal stability, and support immune and metabolic functions. The epidermis forms a water-tight barrier,

while the dermis provides strength and flexibility through collagen and elastin. The hypodermis, rich in fat and blood vessels, cushions the body and regulates temperature. This intricate system communicates with the body through nerves, hormones, and bioactive compounds, but its ability to repair and protect diminishes with age, making consistent dietary support essential for maintaining its resilience.

Skin aging is influenced by two overlapping processes: chronological aging and photoaging. Chronological aging is an internal, genetically driven process that slows cell turnover, reduces collagen and elastin production, and alters hydration levels, leading to fine lines, sagging, and thinning skin. Photoaging, on the other hand, results from external stressors like UV exposure, pollution, and smoking, which create oxidative stress and inflammation that degrade skin structure. While sunlight is often blamed for skin aging, the real issue lies in the skin's nutritional preparedness. A well-supported diet can enhance the skin's ability to recover from UV exposure and other environmental stressors, reducing visible signs of aging.

Diet plays a pivotal role in skin health, influencing its hydration, repair, and structural integrity. Nutrients like vitamin C, omega-3s, carotenoids, and fermented foods strengthen collagen networks, improve hydration, and bolster antioxidant defenses. Conversely, diets high in trans fats, sugars, refined carbs, and additives accelerate aging by promoting glycation, disrupting the microbiome, and weakening the skin's repair capacity. Poor dietary choices, particularly those high in linoleic acid, make the skin more vulnerable to UV damage, amplifying the effects of photoaging. This underscores the importance of a nutrient-rich diet in supporting the skin's natural defenses and maintaining its youthful appearance.

External factors such as pollution, harsh weather, smoking, and irritants like strong soaps further strain the skin's barrier, generating free radicals and triggering inflammation that impair its renewal capacity. While the skin is designed to interact with sunlight and even benefits from it in terms of vitamin D synthesis and energy regulation, its ability to handle exposure depends on its internal nutritional state. A well-nourished skin barrier is better equipped to withstand daily wear and environmental stressors, highlighting the critical connection between diet and skin health. By prioritizing a balanced, nutrient-dense diet, you can support your skin's ongoing regeneration and resilience against aging.

**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



I was recently issued a 2024 Dodge Durango, replacing my 2019 Dodge Charger. Dodge discontinued making the Dodge Charger for a few years but is supposed to be coming back. State Patrol's main squads are Dodge Durango or the Ford F-150. The State Patrol issues new squads to troopers when the vehicle reaches approximately 120,000 miles. The retired squads are then auctioned off online to the highest bidder.

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5.7L V8 Hemi engine with 360 horsepower/390 lb-ft torque
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Question: It seems like we have been seeing a fair amount of rain along with flash flood warnings. Can you talk about what motorists should do if they encounter such a thing?

Answer: Flooding can happen when streams and rivers overflow, dams or levees break, snow melts rapidly, or during heavy rainfall. Floodwaters can cover roads, bridges and low areas. Flash floods can come quickly and without warning, within minutes or hours of excessive rainfall.

- Do not drive through flooded areas. If you see a flooded roadway ahead, turn around and find another route.
- Be cautious, especially at night when visibility is limited.
- Remember, 6 inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control or possible stalling.
- 2 feet of moving water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pickup trucks.
- Even if the water appears shallow, do not attempt to cross a flooded road. Water can hide dips or damage roadways by washing away the surface.
- If there is no other route, proceed to higher ground and wait for the waters to subside.

Question: I have a new driver in the house and they asked a question that got me thinking. If someone has a crash and hits a

power pole, what should they do in that situation?

Answer: If your car comes into contact with a utility pole, wire or power box, you should:

- Stay in your vehicle and call 911.
- Only get out of the vehicle if it is on fire.
- If you must get out, jump from the vehicle

with both feet together and shuffle your feet on the ground as you move away from the scene.

• Always assume all wires and equipment are electrified.

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

NEW MN OHV/ATV Seat Belt Law

A new Minnesota law concerning off-road vehicles (OHVs) and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) went into effect July 1, 2025. This new law is simple — if an OHV or ATV comes equipped with factory-installed seat belts, all occupants must wear them when operated on or within the right-of-way of a public road. By following the new seat belt law, we can collectively contribute to a safer riding environment for everyone. The Minnesota Safety Council and Minnesota Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) developed a resource to help riders understand the new law. Please share with family and friends to help promote a culture of safe, responsible riding.

Off-road vehicles are popular for both work and fun, but they can present some serious dangers if not operated safely:

Limited protection: Some don't have the same safety features as a car, like seat belts and airbags, so there is little to protect you in a crash.

High speed and stability issues: These vehicles can go fast, making them difficult to control on uneven ground. They can also tip over easily, especially on paved roads where they don't grip well.

Safety risks: A significant number of injuries — about 26 percent of all ATV-related injuries happen to children under 16.

Enforcement and penalties:

A fine of \$25 per violation may be issued.

Drivers are responsible for their own violations and for any violations committed by passengers under 15 years old.

Drivers looking for additional resources on off-road vehicles should go to buckleupmn.org for more information. RIDE SMART. HELMET ON. BUCKLE UP.



NEW Seat Belt Requirement for ATV Riders

ALL operators and passengers of a Class 2 ATV with factory-equipped seat belts **MUST** wear the seat belt, including both the shoulder and lap belt (if so equipped), at all times when operated on or within the right-of-way of a public road. (Statute 169.685, subd. 1)

What is Required for Riders?



HELMETS

Class 1 and Class 2 ATVs:
A helmet approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety is required for **ALL riders under age 18** when riding on public land, public waters, or on private property.



SEAT BELTS

Class 2 ATVs Only:
If the ATV has factory-installed seat belts, **ALL operators and passengers** must wear them when operated on or within the right-of-way of a public road.

Class 1 ATVs



Width 50 inches or less

Class 2 ATVs



Width greater than 50 inches but not more than 65 inches

What is the Right-of-way?

Driving the ATV either directly on a public road or within the area that is legally designated as part of the road, known as the **right-of-way**. The right-of-way includes the road itself, shoulder, ditches, sidewalks, etc.

Enforcement & Penalties:

- If you are **15 or older** and violate the law, you can be fined **\$25**.
 - If you are the **driver** of the vehicle, you are responsible for:
 - Your own violations.
 - Any violations committed by passengers under 15 years old.
- You can be fined **\$25 per violation**.



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5 FOOT 10 INCHES

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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



Benya and Tim's Road Trip



By Benya Kraus
President & CEO Southern
Minnesota Initiative Foundation

Last month, I took to the road alongside my predecessor, Tim Penny, as we visited nearly all 20 counties in our region over a six-day span. We kicked off in Albert Lea and ended in Winona, weaving between the bluffs in Rushford and Preston, following the Cannon River into the Great Mississippi from Cannon Falls into Wabasha. We toured the nation's cutting-edge biotech research labs from Rochester to Austin and spotted street art of butterflies and hog sculptures through the vibrant downtowns of Montgomery to Mankato to Fairmont. From all of these travels, three things were made absolutely clear to me: reinvigoration, reinvestment and reinvention are essential for strong communities.

While outside our region, the recent vio-

lence in Minneapolis has a devastating effect on all of us across the state, and reminds us that the work of strengthening communities is not abstract — it is urgent, and it requires us to invest in the local leadership and opportunities that foster safety, meaning and social connection everywhere in our state.

First, reinvigoration. One of the recurring themes during the tour was the need for the next generation of leadership to step into key community leadership roles — whether that be running for elected office, volunteer organizing for local events or serving on Community Foundation and nonprofit boards. It takes time, energy and new perspectives to keep our communities' traditions, core services and civic institutions vibrant.

I think of the Montgomery Community Foundation's commitment to have a high school junior or senior serve on their foundation board, or of the burst of youthful leadership driving the decision to co-locate the Albert Lea Chamber and Economic Development Agency nonprofit, ALEDA. The proximity of creativity among these young leaders, guided and championed by the long-standing leaders, allows new ideas to build momentum from each other.

Second, reinvestment. We toured Ferndale Market out in Cannon Falls, which is now managed by second and third generations including John Peterson, one of SMIF's former board members. In addition to reinvesting in the family business, the family also chose to open a market onsite for other local area producers to gain market access. Their farm hosts regional events, fundraisers to help small-scale farmers with disaster relief efforts and how-to's on how to compete as

smaller or mid-sized farms.

In New Ulm, the owners of Black Frost Distilling — a stunning redevelopment of a former train depot — cites the city's pro-entrepreneurial spirit being sparked by the decision of a young entrepreneur nearly ten years ago who chose to redevelop a corner building off the town's main drag.

Reinvestment requires a personal vision, but it's fueled by how your community co-invests with you. In return, that initial investment sparks a domino effect of possibility for the places and projects that bring our communities together.

Thirdly, reinvention. In order to spur reinvigoration and reinvestment, we need the underlying relational networks, civic habits and local institutions that can identify and champion these efforts. As the people living in our communities change, our institutions also need to adapt to the changing needs and interests for involvement.

I think of the civic group I met in St. James — Convivencia Hispana — which began as a hotdog fundraiser organized among employees in the two poultry processing plants in the county to raise college scholarships for their children. Rather than see this group as competitive, the school district embraced their efforts and gave their fundraiser a fiscal home. Today, several of the original volunteers of the group — started nearly ten years ago —

serve on the St. James school board, as well as other community planning efforts organized by Community Education.

Our road trip focused on the possibilities that next generation leadership can bring to our region, but it's important to note that for every young entrepreneur reinvigorating, reinvesting or reinventing in their communities, there is an army of long-time community leaders who are fanning their flame, removing barriers and inspiring their leadership. In the spirit of focusing on new possibilities, we are accepting Economic Development Grant applications until October 10 that support economic development and entrepreneurship in the region.

The in-between moments during my road trip, the hours behind the windshield driving with Tim, the generosity of his stories, guidance and relationships were also powerful takeaways from the road trip. This passing of the torch has been a tremendous marker of my first two months at SMIF, and I'm certain, too, for the future prospects of our vibrant region.

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

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.

SEMAC Announces Two Grant Opportunities for Arts Education and Programming

The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council is pleased to announce two grant opportunities designed to strengthen arts education and programming throughout the region. Both programs aim to provide meaningful artistic experiences while supporting professional artists and organizations in southeastern Minnesota.

Artists and Culture Bearers in the Schools Grant

Program Highlights:

\$2,000 to \$4,000 grants available for interactive arts residencies

Residencies from 1 day to 4 weeks in public or non-religious private K-12 schools

No matching funds required

Previous recipients may reapply annually

Deadlines: October 1 and December 1

The program provides students with direct opportunities to work with professional artists and culture bearers during school hours. Activities can span any artistic discipline including painting, photography, music, dance, theater, storytelling, literary arts, and traditional arts. Residencies must supplement, not replace, existing arts curriculum.

Application Deadlines:

Applications received by October 1: Notification by end of November

Applications received by December 1: Notification in mid-January

Programming and Project Support for Organizations Grant

Program Highlights:

\$3,000 to \$11,000 grants for nonprofit arts organizations

\$3,000 to \$6,000 grants for non-arts organizations, schools, and government entities

Focus on Arts Access, Arts Education, and Cultural Heritage

All projects must include an accessible public event

lic event

Collaborations between arts and non-arts organizations encouraged

This program supports activities directly involved in the creation, performance, publication, and exhibition of arts. Budgets should prioritize artist fees and technical support to build southeastern Minnesota's thriving arts ecosystem.

Application Opened: September 1

Deadline: September 30

Professional Development Opportunity

SEMAC will host a free Step-by-Step Grant Workshop for Artists & Culture Bearers in the Schools on September 10 from 6:00-8:30 PM online, covering the complete application process and requirements. Registration is required. Register online at semac.org/workshops.

Both grant programs are open to individual artists, culture bearers, nonprofit organizations, schools, local government entities, and tribal organizations within SEMAC's eleven-county region.

Interested applicants can find detailed information, eligibility requirements, and application materials at www.semac.org. For questions, please contact Karen Miller at staff@semac.org or 507-281-4848.

SEMAC is designated by the State of Minnesota Arts Board as the regional arts council for eleven southeastern Minnesota counties: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL FOR CITY OF DENNISON, MN

Dennison, MN is currently accepting bids for snow and ice removal for the 2025–2026 winter season. Bids will be accepted for hourly rates for the contract period of October 1 to March 31. Bids must include a schedule of all available equipment and the applicable hourly rate, as well as a copy of the certificate of insurance showing current worker's compensation coverage and a general liability policy with an aggregate limit of at least \$2,000,000.

The minimum equipment required is:

- Snow Plow - truck with plow, wing and sander with a minimum 5 yard box.
- Road Grader for Plowing Snow - grader with a V-plow and wing with a minimum 150 horse power.

Bids will be accepted at City of Dennison PO Box 56, Dennison, MN 55018 or email to clerk@cityofdennisonmn.com. The deadline for submitting bids is Thursday October 2nd, by 5 pm. Bids will be opened at that time and prepared for consideration by the city council. Bids will be considered at the monthly Council Meeting held at the Dennison City Hall on Thursday, Thursday October 2nd, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Snow removal map and contract is located on city website:
<https://www.cityofdennisonmn.com/> or contact
Jessica Page Dennison City Clerk at 507-990-4150.

HAMPTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING JULY 8, 2025

The Hampton City Council met on Tuesday, July 08, 2025, at Hampton City Hall for a Public Hearing and the Regularly Scheduled Meeting. Present were Mayor John Knetter and Council Members Jerry Huddleston, Anthony Verch, and Nick Russell. Absent was Council member David Luhring. Also present were Brad Fisher of Bolten & Menk, Jeanne Werner, and Alec Jarosinski

Public Hearing Called to Order – Mayor Knetter opened the public hearing and expressed a preference for having a representative from Bolton & Menk present to explain the drainage easement, noting that he believed he understood it but wanted confirmation. Councilman Huddleston provided clarification, stating that the property in question includes a 5-foot easement and a 10-foot easement located slightly further west. Councilman Verch commented that the matter appeared straightforward and asked whether any members of the public were present for the hearing.

Alec Jarosinski introduced himself as the individual interested in purchasing the .85-acre parcel. It was noted that there were no objections or concerns from neighboring property owners or other members of the public in attendance.

Adjournment - Motion by Russell, seconded by Huddleston, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Regular Meeting Called to Order – Mayor Knetter called the regular meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Disclosure of Interest – None

Approval of June 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes – Motion by Huddleston, seconded by Verch, to approve the June 10, 2025 regular meeting minutes. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Disbursements - Motion by Russell, seconded by Verch, to approve the May disbursements. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4-0.

Public Comments: None.

Petitions, Requests, and Communications:

Property Use Inquiry – Jeanne Werner

Jeanne Werner asked the council about potential future uses of the former dental office she recently purchased and renovated. She currently operates her business there but is considering relocating and would like to explore converting the space into either a long-term residential rental or a short-term rental (e.g., VRBO).

Mayor Knetter explained that the building has long operated as a mixed-use space, with business in front and residential in back, a use predating current ordinances. Werner clarified she intends to rent the entire space as residential.

Council members expressed support for both short- and long-term rental options. Councilman Verch noted a need for short-term accommodations in the area and emphasized the high quality of Werner's renovations. It was determined that the appropriate path forward would be through a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) or Interim Use Permit (IUP) to avoid rewriting the zoning ordinance.

Brad Fisher agreed to work with the city planner, Jenni, to outline the steps required. A

memo will be provided to Werner, and the matter will be revisited in the coming month or two.

Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Rezoning, and Easement Vacation – 4751 Aspen Street

Following the discussion with Werner, the council moved on to review a resolution regarding a .5-acre property at 4751 Aspen Street. Brad Fisher, summarizing on behalf of Planner Madison, outlined the details of the application. The request involves several components: a comprehensive plan amendment (changing land use designation from agricultural to low-density residential), rezoning (from agricultural to single-family residential), vacation of an existing utility easement, and an administrative subdivision to adjust the lot line.

The driving factor for the change is a shed that currently sits over the property line. The proposed lot line adjustment would bring the structure into compliance and expand the property size from .83 acres to 1.12 acres. A new 10-foot drainage and utility easement would be established along the west, north, and south property lines, in accordance with city code. The Metropolitan Council has waived the adjacent review period and indicated the comp plan amendment would likely receive administrative approval.

The Planning Commission previously reviewed and recommended approval of the proposed changes. No council members raised objections, and all expressed support for the project.

Ordinances and Resolutions: Resolution 2025-04 Approving an Amendment to the City of Hampton Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map – Motion made by Verch second by Russell to approve the Amendment to the City of Hampton Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passes 4.0

Ordinance 1132 Amending Section 152.016 of the Hampton Code of Ordinances Related to the Official Zoning Map for the City of Hampton. Motion made by Verch second by Russell to Amend Section 152.016 of the Hampton Code of Ordinances Related to the Official Zoning Map for the City of Hampton. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passes 4.0

Resolution 2025-05 Approving an Administrative Subdivision within the City of Hampton – Motion made by Huddleston second by Verch to Approve an Administrative Subdivision within the City of Hampton. All voted in Favor. None opposed. Motion passes 4.0

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees:

Engineer Report – Brad Fisher of Bolten & Menk provided an update on the water tower project. Concrete curb and driveway aprons were installed on Lincoln Street the previous week. Base course paving was scheduled for the current week but has been delayed due to trucking issues and incomplete gravel delivery. Paving may occur later this week or slide into the following week.

This paving work represents the last major task on Lincoln Street for now, aside from site restoration. The final top wear course will be placed on the frontage road but held off on Lincoln Street until the water tower is fully erected. This is to avoid damage from

heavy equipment that could cause settlement. The goal is to complete this work by the end of the construction season, though it may be deferred to early next spring depending on progress.

Steel fabrication and erection work will begin soon on-site. Some scheduling adjustments are occurring due to crew reassignments following tornado damage in North Dakota. Crews may be seen coming and going as work progresses.

Lastly, Pay Application #3 for work completed through June was submitted and included in the disbursement list. Mayor Knetter thanked Brad, and no questions were raised by the council.

Water / Sewer Report – Mayor Knetter reported no issues with the water system and confirmed that sewer holding and discharge operations have been completed. He noted he had forgotten to ask for an update on the phosphorus management plan.

Brad Fisher responded that an initial draft of the phosphorus management plan has been completed and is currently under review by the project manager. Staff-level review is expected to occur within the next month.

Mayor Knetter thanked Fisher for the update.

Park Report – No major updates.

Street Report – Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business: - None.

New Business – Temporary Liquor License and Gambling Permit – Fun Fest

The council approved a temporary on-sale liquor license and gambling permit for Fun Fest.

Motion by: Councilman Verch

Second by: Councilman Russell

Vote: Passed unanimously

One-Day Raffle Permit – Non-Profit Event

Approval was granted for a one-day raffle permit for a non-profit hosting a bag tournament at City Hall.

Motion by: Councilman Russell

Second by: Councilman Verch
Vote: Passed unanimously

Old City Hall Lease Renewal

The council discussed renewing the lease for the current tenant at the old City Hall building. The tenant has maintained the property well, including interior painting. A three-year lease with automatic renewal was approved.

Motion by: Councilman Russell

Second by: Councilman Verch

Vote: Passed unanimously

Appointment of New Building Official

Due to the previously hired inspector stepping away, the city reviewed proposals from two building inspection firms: Dunn and Inspectron. After comparison and discussion, including feedback from council members and a local real estate professional, the council chose Inspectron based on their experience, online capabilities, broader client base, fee structure, and insurance coverage.

Motion to approve Inspectron as the new Building Official by: Councilman Russell

Second by: Councilman Huddleston

Vote: Passed unanimously

Building Inspection Status – Gun Club & Stallion Project

Mayor Knetter informed the council that the Gun Club is awaiting a new roof installation, pending formalities. The Stallion remodeling project had previously been working with SAFEbuilt, then referred to Goodhue, but that fell through. The project is currently in limbo. Despite the permitting gap, the city allowed work to continue to avoid delays. Councilman Verch requested documentation, such as progress photos, to ensure accountability.

Adjournment - Motion by Russell, seconded by Verch, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Roan

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1. Bothersome one
2. *Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Graham
3. Molokai party
4. Leechee, alt. sp.
5. R2-D2, e.g.
6. Declares to be true
7. *College, home to football's Nittany Lions
8. *Football intermission
9. Paella pot
10. Addict
11. *What the NFL's Jim Brown famously did
13. Fixed up
14. Bleated
19. Hoagie, alt. sp.
22. Bathtub hooch
23. Green side
24. Accustom
25. Imitate
26. *Quarterback's downfall
27. The N of U.S.N.A.
28. Move smoothly
29. Mister in Madrid
32. ____-view mirror
33. What Harry and Sally did
36. *Pre-championship games
38. Work the dough
40. High tea vessel
41. Bucolics
44. Gustatory sensation
46. Hook, line and sinker person
48. Coffin holders
49. Rekindled
50. Type of ski lift
51. Drift like aroma
52. Type of fish net
53. Like acne-prone skin
54. Climber's destination
55. It's more, to some
56. Don McLean: "A long, long time ____..."

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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