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NOVEMBER 19, 2025

Volume 22 • Issue 11

Announcements

• **The Little Free Food Pantry** will stay open, and needs your donations. Weather resistant products would be appropriate for winter donations. The Little Free Food Pantry is located by Dennison City Hall behind the big sign. Paper products: paper towels, toilet paper, kleenex. Personal care items: soap, toothbrushes, pads/tampons, diapers/wipes, deodorant, chapstick, hats, gloves, scarves, handwarmers. Nonperishable foods: boxed/bagged grains/beans, rice, couscous, quinoa, red beans, white beans, dry pasta, bagged pasta meals, mac 'n cheese, hot and cold cereal, snack crackers, dried fruits, granola bars.

• **Vang/Dennison Church** will be hosting a Red Cross Blood drive on December 11th from 12:00 to 6:00 pm at the Vang Church. Please consider donating your blood to a worthy cause. Saving lives is easy and free and so very important. You may go to the Red Cross online and sign up yourself or call Steve at 651-332-3583 with your preferred time and he will sign you up. Thank you for giving the gift of life!

• **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. Ohter 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.

Hopeful Heritage

By Tyler Weeks

Nothing is quite so bittersweet as retirement. On one hand, it is a time in which you depart from the field you've poured consider-

able time, effort, and hard work into and hopefully look back on with pride. On the other, leaving the position opens the door to countless opportunities, allowing you to harness previously unattainable time to pursue what you value. As enticing as a world of travel, time with family, and meaningful pursuits may be, it's only fair to recognize this work with a proper sendoff first. Larry and



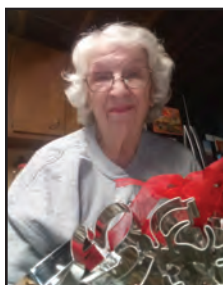
Larry and Kari Flom

Kari Flom will find themselves in this very scenario in less than a month, when they hang up their hats and take the step into retirement.

(continued on page 6)

One Woman's Cookie Cutter Collection

Sugar cookies at Christmas is a tradition in most families. You may remember a few of the cookie cutters your mom or grandmother used when you were young. Probably was a drawer in the kitchen with a dozen or so cookie cutters.



Joyce Moorhouse

(continued on page 5)

CFS Sells Dennison Location



Sighting continuing efficiency and operation efforts, CFS (Central Farm Service) has continued to sell off smaller elevator locations in their trade area, this year, closing the Dennison location.

(continued on page 4)

Gobin Seed Company Moving Into Former CFS Building in Dennison



Dennisons mainstreet will gain a new business in December. Gobin Seed Company announced this week they are moving into the former CFS (Dennison Elevator) warehouse and office located in Dennison. Gobin Seed Company was started in 2017 by Brian

Gobin. Brian had been in the seed business since 1987, selling for Trelay Seeds in Wisconsin. Trelay was purchased by Monsanto in 2005, later merged with Gold Country Seeds and now is Chanel Seed, owned by Bayer. Krissy joined the business after she retired from her job in Minneapolis, and as the business grew, son Brock joined the family business, working with Brian and Krissy on day to day operations.

(continued on page 4)

Utility Work Starts in Northfield Township



By Doug Jones

The 80-acre Eugene Lyman farm east of Hall Avenue and the water tower is being annexed (retroactively) by the city of Northfield.

(continued on page 4)

GRAND OPENING
WED. NOV. 28 - SUN. NOV. 30
(Closed Thanksgiving Day)

FRIDAY - BEST DRESSED COWBOY & COWGIRL CONTEST!
Enter every day for your chance to win!

BRYAN ANDERSON
Friday, November 28
7:00-11:00 PM

MICHAEL SHERWOOD
Saturday, November 29
7:00-11:00 PM

TUESDAY BINGO 6:00 PM • SUNDAY MEAT RAFFLE 3:30 PM
Dennison Lions Club Charitable Gambling Permit #2782

MAIN STREET, DENNISON • 507-782-9753 • Closed Thanksgiving Day
Monday - Tuesday - Thursday - Friday 3 PM - Close; Saturday - 11 AM - Close
Sunday - Noon - Close; Closed Wednesdays
Our kitchen is not open yet, but watch for "Pop Up" kitchen features coming soon!

BRING YOUR HERD IN FOR A COLD ONE!

TRY MISS MARIE'S HOMEMADE FLATBREADS!

CATTLEMEN'S SALOON
Dennison, MN

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Join Us for a Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday, November 27 • Serving 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
(Final Seating 3:00 p.m. • Bar Open Later)
Serving Turkey or Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Cranberries, Vegetable, and Choice of Salad & Dessert
~ Appetizers Available ~
\$24.99 per person • Kids 12 & under \$9.99, Kids 4 & under Free
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37540 Goodhue Avenue, Dennison, MN
Hours: Wed. & Thurs. 11:00AM-8:30PM; Fri. & Sat. 11:00AM-9:30PM; Sun. 9:00AM-8:00PM
Bar Open Later
www.firesidelounge.net

Turned off from Jesus and the Bible?



By Ashley Dudek,
founder of Isaiah Ministries, bringing
Biblical teaching to help overcome
life's everyday challenges.
www.isaiahministries.cc

Can you believe that I did not like pizza as a kid? That's right! I remember going to a really good pizza place in my hometown called Charlie's Pizza for a pizza party as a young child. I ordered spaghetti as everyone else ordered pizza, 'cause I was not going to have any of that yucky, soft bread, with half melted cheese on it stuff. However, when the food came out, I saw the pizza and it looked surprisingly good.

You see, when I thought of pizza as a youngster, I only thought of the pizza I knew—school pizza. Some of you may have liked it, but I did not. Our school pizza was in a square, there was so little cheese that you could see the red sauce, and it had a soft and soggy texture with a weird smell. So when pizza was mentioned, I was instantly turned off. Until I had the good stuff. If my memory serves me right, it was on that pizza party day, at Charlie's Pizza, that I discovered what true pizza tasted like, and it was amazing.

I often wonder if people have associated Jesus and the Bible with "school pizza." Just as I was turned off by the elementary pizza, perhaps people have been turned off from Jesus and the Bible because He and the Word

were misrepresented.

One day, I was having coffee with a friend in late spring. You could feel the warmth in the air, yet there was a chill in the wind as we sat outside on the patio as I was sipping a white chocolate mocha and my friend was drinking a matcha. My friend and I were catching up on life since it had been a few years since we'd seen each other.

We eventually started talking about church and how at times some of them can be a little legalistic. Meaning people can teach the Bible in such a way that it is rule-bound and there is little life, joy, and spirit behind that knowledge of the Word they are educating on (see Ephesians 2:8-9 and 1 Corinthians 13:2). This opened the door to my friend mentioning how the Bible can at times be hard for her to read because in the past she had people in her life that twisted the Scripture by using it out of context (see 2 Peter 3:16-18). People may do this for personal gain, manipulation, control, or other various reasons.

I eagerly sat up and told her the story about the pizza. My little heart was like, "What they did was not okay! Please try eating 'the Bread' again. The Word of God (which can be referred to with the metaphor of Bread) changes everything!" My friend, with such respect, listened and received what I had to say.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good;

Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!
Psalm 34:8

It grieves my heart to hear stories of people who were raised in a religious, rule-bound home or church. When legalism (rules) is left and right, it can lead a person to fall into

shame or not feeling good enough. It saddens me when I hear about stories like my friend's, where church leaders twist the Scriptures, therefore causing confusion and discomfort to those who are listening to them.

I am in shock when I hear stories of people being kicked out of church for how they looked or because of a sin they had committed. Is it not the church's role to accept the outcast, the ones that look different, and the "mess-ups" (see Romans 15:7)? If we look in the mirror, sure, maybe we appear a little more polished, but we are just the same as them. We sin and mess up too.

Perhaps there was a pastor, youth group leader, or relative in your life that called themselves a Christian, but that was the last thing they acted like. They could have been cold, overbearing, and not very loving. Maybe there was a church or a "Christian" that judged you, did not accept you, or looked down on you. Oh, my sweet friends, I apologize if this happened to you. I am sorry for the people who have called themselves Christians but behaved the opposite. Please do not let this stop you from getting reacquainted with Jesus and the Bible.

Yes, the Bible does have certain standards, but those standards are there for our good. When we learn about the ways Jesus wants us to live, they need to be taught with love and gentleness as well as within the context of the Scriptures (see 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Galatians 5:22-23). Not like the Sadducees and Pharisees. If you don't know who these groups of people were, in a nutshell, they were two religious groups in Jesus's day. They were stuck in following the "rules."

Trust me, I love doctrine (teaching of the Bible); however, it needs to be presented in the right manner. If you are reading this and have been hurt in any way by the church and/or Christians, and therefore are turned off from Jesus and the Bible, please attempt Jesus and the Bible again. They may taste completely different than in the times of the past.

Solution:

1. Know the Lord LOVES you. He is not those who hurt you and/or misrepresented the Bible. Many people quote John 3:16, which is awesome, but why do they not include verse 17? Do you know what it says? "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." Jesus does not condemn, my sweet friends, and once again, He is not those who have hurt you.

2. A little offense may arise as I say this next point, but if you have not forgiven those who have hurt you, I would highly encourage you to forgive them. We all are indeed human, and no one is perfect. I know it can be hard to forgive those who have hurt you, but Jesus must be onto something if He encourages us to forgive those who have sinned against us (see Matthew 18:21-22).

3. Give Jesus and the Bible another try. Ask the Lord for "new eyes" as you enter into conversation with Him and start reading about Him in the Word of God. If you are not sure where to start reading in the Bible, try the book of John and the Psalms. I do truly believe this time around it will be different—a Charlie's Pizza kind of different!

LUTHERAN

Dennison/Vang Lutheran Parish
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN
507-645-6042

Website: www.dennisonvang.org
Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com
November Worship Schedule

November 23rd: Vang-9 am; Dennison-10:30 am
November 30th: Vang-9 am; Dennison-10:30 am

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

Grace Lutheran, Nerstrand
Mike Alvens 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.



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

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

First Table of God's Law

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. — Matthew 22:37-38

My wife and I recently attended a symphony. Seventy-five musicians on the stage gave their best. The star of the show was a young violinist playing a 1699 Stradivarius violin. At the end of the performance, with the crowd on their feet applauding, the young man left the stage. The applause continued, and he reappeared and bowed. The applause increased, and he returned a second time.

Was this violinist an egotistical young man? No. Giving the audience the opportunity to express their gratitude and amazement for a beautiful performance added to the listeners' joy. If the violinist had simply walked off and not returned, the audience would have felt shortchanged. Expressing appreciation is an important part of enjoying a great performance.

The first table of God's law to his people (commandments 1-4) calls them to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and mind. God wants us to honor and glorify him in all we think, say, and do. The first table of the law is designed to enable us to truly appreciate God's beauty and glory.

Calling for our love and respect in this way is not egotistical. Rather, it is a sign that the utterly amazing and loving God wants us deeply to enjoy the best life, blessings, and hope possible.

Lord God, thank you for your law, which teaches us to see and enjoy your amazing, beautiful love for us all. Help us to think and act and live in your ways always. In Jesus' name, Amen.

METHODIST

Nerstrand United Methodist

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

Stanton United Methodist

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

ST. JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

NEW LIFE CHURCH

525 Beverly St., Wanamingo
9:00a.m. Sunday School for all ages;
10:00a.m. Worship Service
7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

HOLDEN AND DALE LUTHERAN CHURCHES, ELCA

Pastor Dustin Haider • 507-789-6677
holdendalsecretary@gmail.com
Holden: 6949 County 30 Blvd, Kenyon
Dale: 9210 County 12 Blvd, Kenyon
www.holdenlutheranchurch.org
Holden/Dale on Facebook
Worship Services
Nov 23: Holden 9:00, Dale 11:00
Nov 30: Dale 9:00, Holden 11:00
Dec 7: Holden 9:00, Dale 11:00
Dec 14: Dale 9:00, Holden 11:00
Dec 21: Holden 9:00, Dale 11:00
Christmas Eve: Dale 5pm, Holden 10pm
Christmas Day: Holden 10am
Dec 28: Dale 9:00, Holden 11:00
Jan 4: Holden 9:00, Dale 11:00



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Carl Lawrence Mortenson

Carl Lawrence Mortenson, age 89 of Faribault, passed away on November 2, 2025, at The Emeralds of Faribault, following a brave battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Memorial Services celebrating the life of Carl were held at Boldt Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Faribault, on Friday, November 14, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Dean Wolf, a long-time family friend, officiated. Private interment was held at the Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour, Faribault.

Visitation was held for one hour prior to the service on Friday.

Carl was born on March 1, 1936, in Cannon Falls. He graduated from Kenyon High School and completed one year at the University of Minnesota. Carl married Jeanie (Ruths) Mortenson on December 5, 1958. Together they raised children Allan, Wendy, and John.

Carl was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was known for his incredible work ethic and commitment to providing the best life for his family. He often worked several jobs, looking for better opportunities to care for his family's needs. He began as a welder, a postal worker, and a fireman, which led Carl to Mortenson Fire and Safety, Inc., a business he founded and operated for 26 years. He took great pride in his work and

friendships.

Carl was known for his calm strength, humbled nature, and very kind and gentle demeanor. He lived life to the fullest; he was a fun-loving man who was an avid reader. Carl and Jeanie enjoyed traveling, taking numerous cruises. They vacationed with each of their five grandchildren at Disneyland, creating many beautiful memories. Together, they loved exploring unique communities in search of antiques, adventure, and good food. Carl was a talented stained-glass artist, creating many beautiful works of art.

Carl is survived by his wife, Jeanie Mortenson; children, Allan (Debbie) Mortenson, Wendy (Craig) Laughridge, John Mortenson; grandchildren, Jonah Mortenson, Lance (Jodi) Laughridge, Larissa (Justin) Nalipinski, Leah Mortenson (Rob Czech), Lee (Ashley) Laughridge; 12 great grandchildren; his beloved dog, Sammy; numerous nieces and nephews.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Ella Mortenson; siblings, Marie, Olive, Hazel, Martin, Harold; father-in-law, John Ruths; mother-in-law, Ruth Ruths; brother-in-law, Jack Ruths.

In place of flowers, memorials to honor Carl may be directed to Brighton Hospice or Believet Canine Service Partners.

The family is grateful to the devoted and compassionate staff at The Emeralds of Faribault and Brighton Hospice for their professional, loving care and support.

Jay Thomas Otte

Jay Otte, age 64, of Randolph, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, November 10, 2025, at Northfield Hospital.

Born May 1, 1961, to William and Mary (Husaby) Otte, Jay's life was a testament to the values instilled in him during his upbringing on the family farm in Randolph.

A graduate of Randolph High School in 1979, Jay's path crossed with his beloved Duvae at a street dance, which started their lifelong journey together. Jay and Duvae married on August 5, 1989, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Farmington. Together, they raised three children on the family farm.

The legacy that he built alongside family at Triple O Dairy is one that the family will always be proud of. As a third-generation farmer, Jay taught his family how to work hard, stay humble, and take pride in what they do. He poured his heart into family and the farm, both of which are better because of him. He was a proud dad; supporting all three children through coaching youth sports throughout the years.

It felt like Jay's purpose in life was farming, until grandkids came along. His role as "Papa" was truly the proudest title he carried. Whether it was riding with in the tractor, seeing him there at every sporting event, or watching every recital, his grandkids always felt his love, pride, and support.

Beyond being a farmer, husband, father, and Papa, he was a great friend. He could strike up a conversation with anyone and make them feel like an old friend. He would drop anything for someone in need and was always there to help. Jay took pride in his community and invested 18 years of service to the Randolph school board helping to ensure the students received the best possible experience.

Jay not only made the world a better place, but he also encouraged others to do the same. He passed his passion for community support, his friendship, and his commitment to family to all who were fortunate enough to know him.

He is survived by his wife, Duvae; children, Brienna (Dennis) Mulvihill of Randolph, Scott (Ashley) of Randolph and Trevor (Melissa) of Rochester; grandchildren, Lucy, Carson, Hadley, Levi, Ethan, Morgan and James; his 3 brothers, many in-laws and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Mary, and sister-in-law, Danelle.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 11 AM, Monday, November 17, 2025, at the Church of St. Dominic in Northfield. Visitation was from 4-7 PM, Sunday, November 16, 2025, at the Church of St. Dominic and continued one hour prior to mass. A reception followed mass at the church. Interment was in Lakeside Cemetery in Randolph, following the reception at the church.

Arrangements are with Bierman, Benson & Lanhough Funeral Home & Crematory. www.northfieldfuneral.com

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

From all of us to all of you, best wishes for a bright and beautiful Thanksgiving!

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We're here for You!

We will be closed Thursday, November 27th so our employees can enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.



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ATM AVAILABLE AT PARKSIDE



Utility Work Starts in Northfield Township

(continued from page 1)

The city council just recently voted for initial funding to extend Jefferson Parkway east across Hall and northeastward across the Lyman farm.

The city is still working on its "orderly annexation" (retroactive to 2023) with the township. The city is saying they will zone it all residential development for about 400 houses.

With completion of the Wall Street road rebuilding over Spring Creek to the north wrapping up, the obvious question arises when will the last two stretches of Hall Avenue get paved as traffic builds up.

Northfield City bought 13 acres from the Lyman trust in 2023 (for \$440,000 per acre), back when the city thought they had a \$30 million "Covid recovery" Federal grant from Senator Amy Klobuchar. This led to plans for a \$60 million manganese removal water treatment plant on the 13 acres, that since was cancelled by the city council. But Congress took back all unspent Covid recovery money in favored the new Trump spending plans.

The contract signed in 2023 by former mayor Rhonda Pownell and city administrator Ben Martig promised to extend Jefferson parkway along the south and east sides of the 13 acres and "all utilities". The contract (first disclosed by AGA in a letter to the Northfield editor published October 22nd) showed that the city, under the contract, could pay the Lyman \$25,000 to cancel the road and utility project (estimated by AGA (Association for Government accountability) to cost \$10 million).

But Martig and public works director David Bennett acted to head off the council reconsidering spending just \$25,000 to save taxpayers \$10 million. They rushed through a contract with SM Hedges of Jordan, which immediately started welding sections of water main pipe for burial in a northeastward diagonal across the farm and with all connecting streets. Now a \$10 million "sunk cost", AGA estimates the full cost of streets and all utilities will be in excess of \$40 million (before interest costs).

The neighbors to the new subdivision include the Peterson brothers to the south, Dave Huber to the east and Mark Pritchard to the north.

Got a Great Local News Story?

Tell us about it today!

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Mainstreet
Messenger



CFS Sells Dennison Location

(continued from page 1)

CFS had wound down operations at the Dennison location in the past year, while continuing to grow its Randolph location.

CFS representatives stated, "as these older locations age and smaller farmers retire, it is not cost effective to make the necessary upgrades to accommodate the larger scale farmers at these smaller elevators. Consolidating is a necessary business decision."

Earlier this fall, the Dennison location was sold to a local farm partnership. The Dennison location is now privately owned. The bin site will continue to be used for crop storage and the former office and warehouse on main street will be leased to another agri business, Gobin Seeds.

Gobin Seed Company Moving Into Former CFS Building in Dennison

(continued from page 1)

"We are excited to be a part of Dennison," Krissy Gobin stated, "we have been blessed to grow our business in an ever changing farm environment, and we look forward to having a more central location to work with our existing and new farms in the area." Krissy is also the newest member and Treasurer of The Dennison Lions Club. Brian and Krissy live in the Sogn Valley and Brock in Rural Dennison. Business Hours and more information will be announced at a later date. You can reach Brian at 507-649-1137 or Brock at 507-254-6651.

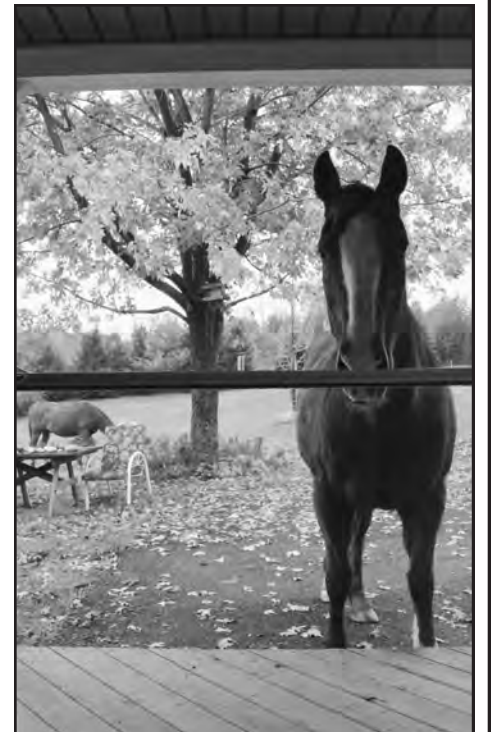
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and happiness this holiday season
and all year!

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One Woman's Cookie Cutter Collection

(continued from page 1)

Imagine collecting cookie cutters of every variety and style. Joyce Moorhouse of Randolph, Minnesota has done just that and currently has about 40,000 by her estimate.

Joyce received her grandmother, Alma's cookie cutters in 1954. She recalls spending time with her grandmother as a young girl and making hearts out of the left over dough for her grandfather. When she had a family of her own it became a holiday activity for the whole family to bake and decorate Christmas cookies. Before she knew it she had about 400 cookie cutters and the collection began to multiply. At first, she would hang them above the kitchen cabinets. She noticed when visitors would come into her kitchen their eyes were drawn to the collection displayed up high. Christmas designs were the most popular followed by Easter images.

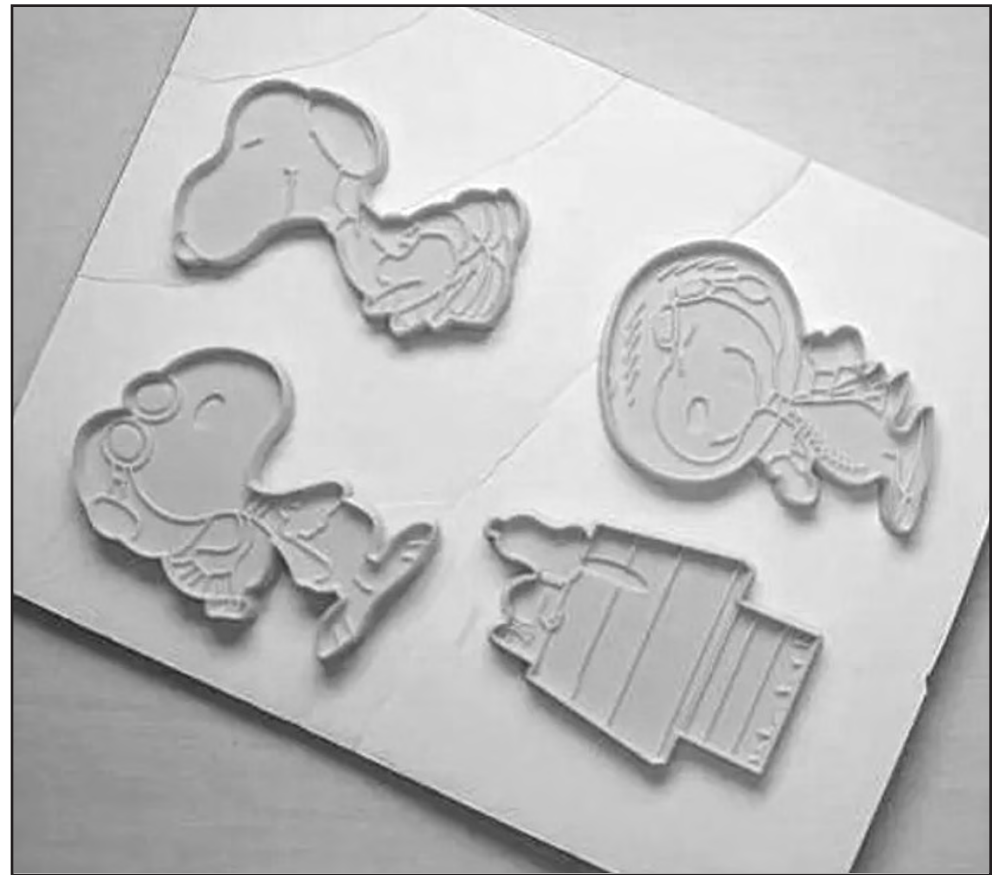
Joyce was an avid cookie maker and looked for special cookie cutters. One time she was looking for a specific design and the tin smith

who created her cookie cutters was too busy to make it. Her husband Al stepped in and took the challenge. He designed and made the exact cutter she was looking for and to the quality required for her baking needs. From that first project a family business was born.

Al started ASM Cutters in 1993 to create and manufacture custom cookie cutters. A home business which grew over thirty years to manufacture and deliver more than 300,000 handmade, precision cookies cutters nationwide. People would send a picture or drawing of a pet, house, car, tractor or anything they desired a cookie to resemble. Some were individual orders of one specific design and others were large orders of 500 to 1,000 of the same style. A national hotel chain ordered their image for all their franchises to use for baking cookies.

Joyce's passion for collecting led her to explore garage sales, thrift shops and online sales for unique cutters. Many cost only a nickel while others were a bit more expensive to procure. The best cutters are metal but many manufactured during World War II when materials were hard to find were made out of plastic. The plastic ones may be good collectibles but do not work as well as a metal cookie cutter. The recommendation is to not wash the metal cutters but wipe them clean and dry to best keeping.

One of the rarest cookie cutter sets is a four-



piece Peanuts cartoon edition made in 1971. It is still in the original packaging. The unusual and hard to find cutters are the most fun to procure and Joyce has found some of these on e-bay auctions. Her collection has been the subject of a couple national magazine articles and a CBN television special. Joyce has also served as the president of the National Cookie Cutter Club.

On December 6th at the Randolph Historical Society museum Joyce will be on hand with a display of some of her Christmas cookie cutters. The event is from 11am to 3pm and will feature Christmas cookies decorating, a drawing for a cookbook Joyce has compiled and kids get a free cookie cutter. Joyce says the secret for the best sugar cookies is in the butter in the recipe.

TURKEY BINGO

BINGO

43	22	72	36	4
29	18	63	52	
70	8	FREE	24	3
6	27	16	30	4
31	12	39	57	26

EVERYONE'S INVITED!

Saturday,

November 22

7:00 PM

Dennison

City Hall

\$5.00/card

DONATIONS WELCOME FOR KENYON AREA FOOD SHELF

Christmas Sugar Cookies Recipe

Ingredients

Cookies

1 ½ cups powdered sugar
1 cup butter, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla
½ teaspoon almond extract
1 egg
2 ½ cups Gold Medal™ all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cream of tartar

Frosting

2 cups powdered sugar
½ teaspoon vanilla
2 tablespoons milk or half-and-half

Instructions

In large bowl, mix 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar, the butter, 1 teaspoon vanilla, almond extract and egg until well blended. Stir in flour, baking soda and cream of tartar. Cover and refrigerate at least 3 hours.

Heat oven to 375°F. Divide dough in half. On lightly floured surface, roll each half of dough 3/16 inch thick. Cut into assorted shapes with cookie cutters, or cut around patterns traced from storybook illustrations. If cookies are to be hung as decorations, make a hole in each 1/4 inch from top with end of plastic straw. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 7 to 8 minutes or until light brown. Remove from cookie sheet to cooling rack. Cool completely, about 30 minutes.

In medium bowl, beat all frosting ingredients until smooth and spreadable. Tint with food color if desired. Frost and decorate cookies as desired with frosting and colored sugars.



Hopeful Heritage

(continued from page 1)

This decision concludes two notable careers: Larry's farming business and Kari's many jobs, ending with the last six years at Heritage Bank.

Kari: "I grew up around and graduated from school in Northfield, later attending Rochester Vocational School for Child Development. I then spent the next fourteen years in the daycare business. After working and managing the Dennison Depot for 17.5 years, I took some time off to help care for my grandkids. But they grew up, leading me to work at Heritage Bank for the last six years."

Holiday Recipe Contest

The Holidays are just around the corner. If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share with others, send it to us and win a gift certificate to a local restaurant.

We will be selecting the best and printing them in the Christmas issue of the Messenger in December. It can be an appetizer, main course, side dish or a dessert. Just submit the complete recipe with all ingredients and preparation instructions along with your name to messengerdrawing@gmail.com. Winners will be chosen by November 21st.

This "small-town, family-friendly" institution started with a location in West Concord. Since then, their services have extended to Dennison and, in December of 2019, Northfield. Their family-owned and operated business strives to work in the communities they serve, investing in you and your town. Changing their name from Farmers State to Heritage Bank in 2018 better reflected this history as a multigenerational operation. Although this decision brought a notable revamp to their brand image, they have prided themselves on having faces like Kari Flom's around to fulfill customers' needs and demands since 1930. If you're wondering how an employee at Heritage Bank ever got into touch with the seemingly distant world of a farmer, the answer lies in the couple's love for parties. During one of the town's local get-togethers in the 1980s, the two hit it off and have been together ever since.

Looking at Larry's side, he grew up and graduated in the Kenyon area on the same farm he's lived on since he was two. Despite the industry's many highs and lows, these roots in no-till corn and soybean farming have remained strong. Even during the busy planting and harvesting seasons, however, Larry has managed his Dennison farm solo. Though he and Kari brought their 2,000 acres down to 500, there was still the issue of handling marketing and on-farm work without an extra hand. To avoid the cost and time of training someone, he typically emptied loads and moved grain carts into semis without assistance. Since their grandkids usually kept Kari occupied, the latest farm equipment and technologies had to make up for the labor

shortage. To guide the community and showcase farming products fit for Minnesota, Larry also hosted field days for Isaacson Implement starting around 2000. These one-day events gave customers the chance to see the newest combine models, tractors, and tilling machines harvest corn and clean up stubble.

Larry: "It's something I enjoy. Plus, it allows me to learn something new from the company field reps who come out to help. Farming in the Dennison community has always been a great place to visit with your neighbors and friends. Sharing ideas or just trash-talking about the 'green equipment' with the locals at coffee in the mornings is always a highlight of the day."

With both of their careers containing such wonderful moments, the two undoubtedly have reason to celebrate. For Kari, it will be the workers and customers she misses the most, who constantly played a role in her daycare, manager, and bank positions. Meanwhile, Larry will treasure the land and his efforts to care for it as best he can. Though it was challenging to brave the industry at times, he has developed a love for the land that will undoubtedly stick with him beyond his career. In the coming months and years of their retirement, the two hope to enjoy more cabin time and travel around the U.S. In a world where spectacles and grandiose works occupy our time and attention, it can be easy to overlook stories like those of these



Larry and Kari Flom taking a stroll through their farm near Dennison, Minnesota.

two small-town workers. However, it is their faith and devotion that run these communities. Behind the stereotypes we pin to specific jobs and career paths are real people, experiences, and dreams, whose faces and heritage deserve recognition. Their story shows how retirement does not conclude a person's legacy; it merely spotlights it.

Holiday RECIPE CONTEST

WINNERS CHOSEN BY NOV. 21st

Mainstreet
Messenger

If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share with others, send it to us for your chance to win a gift certificate to a local restaurant.

We will be selecting the best and printing them in the Christmas issue of the Messenger in December.

It can be an appetizer, main course, side dish or a dessert.



Submit the complete recipe with all ingredients and preparation instructions along with your name to messengerdrawing@gmail.com.

Winners will be chosen by November 21st.

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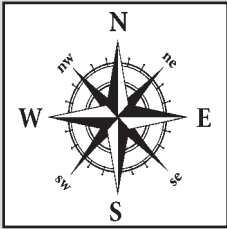
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Hunting Season



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.

It is that time of year again. Hunting season. When the manly tradition of heading out into

the woods to shoot meat for your freezer arrives. I don't have a problem with hunting. I owned a gun shop for many years and made a living selling firearms and ammunition. But some hunters lack common sense. Like the one who came in opening day to buy a hunting license and slugs for his 16 gauge. I was all sold out of 16 gauge-ammo already. And he thought it was my fault he couldn't go hunting. I made a comment about there being 364 other days in a year to purchase ammo, he didn't think it applied to him.

Being a lifelong farmer, I raised livestock to keep myself in meat all year long, so cleaning game seemed more work than I wished to invest. Being a landowner, I found myself dealing with the hunters who didn't respect private property. We had over 100 acres of woodland which seemed mighty tempting to many people. It was also home to my beef cow/calf herd and I preferred to keep it that way.

We leased the woodland out to a hunter who paid way more in hunting rights than he could ever harvest in meat. But he enjoyed the sport and we could trust him to not shoot our cattle. But outside of that we had some interesting interactions. Anyone who hunts is required to have permission to enter private property. Without that you become a trespasser. Your hunting license becomes rather worthless once you cross that line.

One autumn day in the late 1980's we were cutting firewood deep in the property when one of my friends noticed a guy sitting on a stump above us with a shotgun. I walked up to him and asked what he was doing. He told me he knew Campbell, the owner, and had

permission to hunt. I, with my father's sense of humor, asked what Campbell looked like. His answer was rather evasive until I informed him who I was and requested he leave ASAP.

I often times came down to check the cattle and found the gates left open. We eventually hard wired the electric fence in front of the gates to prevent unauthorized access. Every fall while riding through on my daily herd check I would come across a deer stand. My paid hunter only used a ground blind so we knew it was an interloper. For liability reasons we had to dismantle the trespasser's unit and see if he would show up to claim it. Whoever did it must have had lots of money because they donated a couple stands each year.

One fall I was hauling round bales out of the field and met a pickup coming into the field drive. The driver looked most displeased to see me and waved me out of the way. I looked displeased right back and motioned him to leave. When I returned for another load of bales, I saw that same pickup parked in the corner of my field. I reported it to the sheriff and had him ticketed for trespassing. Another early fall morning while I was plowing, I interrupted a couple hunting pheasants in my cornfield. They were mad I was scaring the birds and I told them to leave immediately.

The funniest story was watching a tree stand being built in my back field one harvest season. I was irritated that no one got permission to do so and it boiled over the night before hunting opener. I took my chainsaw out and cut the saplings off level with the ground. I chained all four trees together and pulled them out of the field. My neighbor told me later that a guy showed up in their barn early



the next morning while they were milking their cows. He was mad as could be, and asked them what happened to his deer stand. They couldn't stop laughing and told him to go ask the property owner. He never did and I assume it was the same guy I had ticketed for trespassing.

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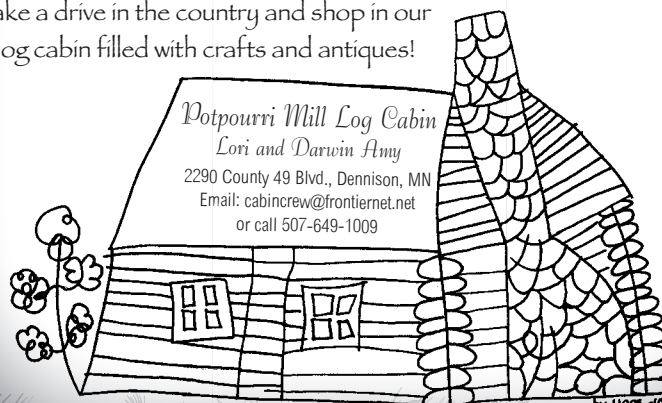
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Sundays: November 30, December 7, 14

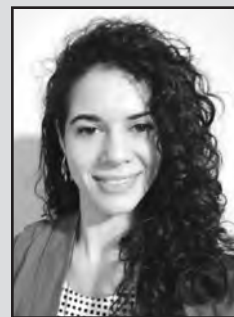
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A Minnesotan: Thanksgiving Turkeys



By RosaLin Alcoser

Once again the days are growing short, the nights are growing long, the air is now cold and November has truly rolled around. Which means once again that it's time for Thanksgiving.

The Thanksgiving Day turkey is one of the most icon part of the holiday. Weather he is on your table or only on your TV screen I can assume that a turkey will be present at most of your Thanksgiving celebrations.

While I could go on with story's of turkey cooking mishaps. The many hunting stories of great turkey hunts that could

be collected or about my older sister's confirmation turkey; yes she got a turkey as a confirmation gift. Instead I'm going to tell you about a group of turkeys that my husband often talks about and misses just a little bit.

This summer while my husband and I were vacationing in South Dakota. We encountered a rafter of big old mean Toms right outside of our Air B&B. There had to be about five or six of them out that evening.

At first these turkeys were neck wrestling in the drive way right where we had been parking our car. We slowly rolled towards the turkeys just enough to get them to move. This did work as they did move. They moved all the way to slightly father up the drive way; where they decided to resume their neck wrestling.

After several minutes of watching these big old Tom Turkeys neck wrestle each other from our car. We finally had to beep the car horn to scare them away so that we could get out of the car.

While this did send them running it did not send them running far.

Once we were safely inside and away from the turkeys my husband, who is from the cities, figured out that if he stood on the deck and called at them they would call back. A lot of time that evening was spent with him yelling 'balalala' at the turkeys to get them to call ack to him. Which much to his delight they did.

Over 30 Vendors in Attendance at WildWood of Nerstrand's Makers Market held November 1



Photos courtesy of WildWood of Nerstrand



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Nerstrand School 5th Graders Visit Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center



The whole school came out to send off the 5th graders last week. They were all looking forward to spending the next few days at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center.

Courtesy of Nerstrand School

Meet Frankie!



Ms. Meghan's addition to Ms. Andrea's classroom has been a hit! The Woodland students seem to LOVE their time with Frankie! *Courtesy of Nerstrand School*

Nerstrand Big Woods State Park to close during special hunt Dec. 6 and 7

Nerstrand Big Woods State Park will be closed to all visitors Dec. 6 and 7 for a special deer hunt, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The purpose for the hunt is to prevent overpopulation of deer and to protect other resources.

Special hunts will take place at other Minnesota state parks and recreation areas this fall, and access to the parks will vary. Park visitors are advised to check the alerts and notices on state park and recreation area websites (mndnr.gov/park-list) to find details about any upcoming special hunts as they make their plans.

"Too many individuals of one species can throw an ecosystem out of balance," said Mark Cleveland, Parks and Trails natural resource policy and program coordinator. "When deer populations grow too large, they over browse on native plants and young trees, making it harder for forests to regenerate. Dense deer herds also create conditions where diseases spread more easily. Special deer hunts in state parks and recreation areas are one of the tools we use to protect natural resources and keep ecosystems healthy."

The deadlines have passed for youth and adults to apply for the permits to participate in these special hunts, which include regular firearms, muzzleloader and archery options.

As of 2023, state park and state recreation area special hunts require use of nontoxic (nonlead) ammunition. An exception is for youth hunts in the shotgun-only use area of Minnesota, where hunters are not required to use nontoxic ammunition. However, those not using nontoxic ammunition for special hunts in the shotgun zone must remove all parts of harvested deer from the state park or state recreation area, including the entrails. For details, visit the DNR hunting regulations webpage (mndnr.gov/regulations/hunting).

Nontoxic ammunition protects animals, such as bald eagles, ravens and bobcats, from ingesting lead while feeding on deer gut piles. It takes only a very small amount of lead to cause lead poisoning in wildlife.

For a list of parks that are hosting special hunts during the 2025 hunting season, visit the state park hunts webpage (mndnr.gov/parkhunts).



Dakota City Christmas in the Village December 6, 7, 13 & 14

The village is buzzing with preparation for Christmas in the Village to be held December 6, 7, 13, & 14 from 3-8 pm at the Dakota County Fairgrounds in Farmington.

All ages will enjoy the many displays and buildings that reflect the sights, sounds, and scents of the season!

The buildings are heated and horse-drawn trolleys will be available to take visitors throughout the village.

Hot chocolate, apple cider, hot soups and ice cream are available in the Drug Store.

Apple cider donuts and popcorn will be available in the Fire Barn with warm up fire barrels and benches set up nearby.

The Dakota Garage will be open and hosted by the IMCA car club members. Visitors will find a photo booth, kid's activities and a baked potato bar and beverages in this new building. Parents are encouraged to bring their children's letter to St. Nicholas in a self-addressed envelope (not sealed) to this building where the special post office box is located.



After the event, children will receive a letter in the mail from St. Nicholas. Saint Nicholas will be visiting with children in the Depot.

The popular model engine train display (scale G) will be back this year again in the Library. The free "Making Minnesota", a children's activity book from the Minnesota Historical Society will be available in the School House where children will be invited to add a paper ring to the paper ring chain decorating the tree and to write their name on the chalkboard.

Choir groups and musicians will be sharing music in the Church. Sing along Christmas carols will also be available there. Some of our choir groups enjoy caroling outside and walking through the village as they sing! Demonstrations will take place in the Carpenter shop, Harris House, McMenomy House and the Blacksmith Shop.

(continued on page 11)



Join us for the Opening Day Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 6! We will gather in the middle of the village at the Bandstand Gazebo. The ceremony begins at 6 pm sharp with a welcome and introduction of St. Nicholas who will be arriving in a 1922 Model T Doctor's Coupe. The Farmington High School New Dimension Choir will perform and St. Nicholas will lead us in the countdown to light the gorgeous tree in the middle of the Bandstand Gazebo. Gates and buildings open at 3:00 pm. Enjoy hot chocolate, cider, hot dogs, sloppy jos, soups, ice cream and cookies and 1919 root beer at the Drugstore. The new Dakota City Garage will be serving baked potatoes, popcorn and soda and water. The Fire Barn will have popcorn, Brand Apple Farm apple cider donuts, and hot beverages. Demonstrations and music will be provided in some of the buildings. More info at www.dakotacity.org

The Christmas in the Village Event

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Dakota City Christmas in the Village December 6, 7, 13 & 14

(continued from page 10)

Be sure to check out the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 6 at 6 pm at



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the Bandstand. Farmington High School's New Dimension choir will share their holiday music and Saint Nicholas will arrive in a Model T 1922 Doctor's Coupe with skis!

Admission price is \$5 (cash) \$5.50 (credit card) with children under 5 free.

Tickets are available at the gate, or online at www.dakotacity.org

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please have your confirmation receipt viewable on your cell phone or printed on paper to show the gate attendant as you approach the admission gate. Thank you!

Interested in serving as a Volunteer, hosting a building or scooping ice cream in the Drug Store? Maybe you would like to volunteer with your child in the Harris House the McMenomy House. All volunteers receive free parking and an orientation as to your volunteer duties. See our volunteer link above or call our office at (651) 460-8050 for more information.

Handiwork Volunteers are encouraged to demonstrate their craft in a building or out side on a porch. We welcome woodcrafters, wood carvers, blacksmiths, spinners, knitters, and more! See our Sign up Genius link above.

Musicians are welcome to share their talent in our Bandstand, front porch or in the Museum. Please call our office for more information. (651) 460-8050.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Please call our office at (651) 460-8050. Please leave a message if you get our voice-mail. You can email us also at info@dakotacity.org. Check us out on Facebook!



Be sure to visit the model train display at the village library during Christmas in the Village. Engineer and model train enthusiast Don is creating a running train display that will captivate audiences of all ages!



Happy

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Held Bus Service Update

By Cheri Roshon

By now, many of you know that the Held Bus Company that services both Wanamingo and Kenyon has been sold to a company called Minnesota Coaches.

Jon and Mary Held have been running the family business for the past 18 years.

Before that, he worked with his father who owned Held Chevrolet, purported to be the longest running Chevrolet dealership in the world at the time. Jon worked with his father, Howard at the dealership, and his dad purchased the bus service and is still running it out of Kenyon.

On June 1, 1992, Jon and his dad decided to end their Chevrolet franchise. Jon began selling vehicles on a lot where the new dollar store currently stands. They also serviced all domestic vehicles in a full-service location downtown where Held Bus Company now operates out of. They called it Held Auto Center. In that space, they employed three mechanics, a parts man, and his mom and dad. Howard and Mardell Held operated the location. That's a real family business! He still worked at the bus company, too. In 2007 he went full time into the bus service, greeting students twice a day with the kids of Kenyon-Wanamingo schools.

When Jon speaks, it is totally apparent that he loves being with the students on a daily basis. The kids see Jon as a friend, not just a bus owner. There is a great "feel good" article online at Kare 11 News about Jon and how he goes above and beyond in his job.

People tell me he is the first person to help out families in need and is a very generous member of the community. He does special things for the kids like handing out a piece of candy to his charges on Friday. Once a young boy asked Jon if he could try on his "signature red hat", and the next thing you know 144 students were proud owners of their own red hats. "Best money I ever spent", says Jon!



The parents were concerned last spring when they heard about a possible sale of Held Bus Service. They wondered if their kids would have the same great experience with another bus company, and many came to Jon to ask him about this. After a lot of negotiating with Minnesota Coaches they finally settled on a deal. Jon and his crew of experienced drivers would stay on as employees and Jon would retain ownership of the

building downtown. "At first, I wasn't too sure about the way things were going", he said.

"But now I believe things happen the way they were supposed to". He even had to apply for his job, and now gets a salary. So, this story has a happy ending. It will be business as usual for Jon and his crew and I'm sure the kids who get to ride the bus are happy as well!

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Kenyon Market Has Whaaat?

By Cheri Roshon

When is a grocery store more than a grocery store? When it has Kenyon Market Famous meatballs, gluten free meatballs, and Pulsa made on site! This is a tradition that has been around for years, and I think it's worth talking about!

Pete Wagner, owner of Kenyon Market located at 109 Red Wing Avenue, grew up in the grocery business in Adams, MN. His grandfather John Wagner started a grocery store in Adams in the 1940's, which his father then took over in the 1970's.

When Pete graduated, his father began expanding by buying small grocery stores in the area. After graduating from Mankato State University, Pete worked as a musician in the Dallas TX area before returning home and

purchasing a store in New Richland MN. 11 years ago when the Kenyon Market came up for sale he couldn't pass on the opportunity. His brother Chris owns the Island Market in Pine Island, which is why you will see the same advertising for both stores.

I wandered into the store a few weeks ago, because if you get the Messenger, you will see they have a new ad posted each month. Just go into the store with the entry tickets to a drawing giving the winner a free \$25 gift certificate for one of Kenyon's restaurants! Once I was there, I had to wander around and see what they carried. I found things I have never seen in other local grocery stores. The one I had to ask about was the "Kenyon Market Famous" products. I made an appointment to meet with Pete, and asked him what that was all about. I expected to hear it was an advertising ploy to get people to come in, but no! It's a real thing!

The previous owner, Fred Braegelmann, purchased the store from Owen Musgjerd and with it some famous local recipes. With a large Scandinavian local population, Fred continued the tradition of pulsa in his store much to the delight of its customers. Not having to butcher the animal, grind it onto sausage, season it and stuff it into a casing was a great time saver! The next thing was Meatball mix, and it, too, continued to be a hit among the locals and was intertwined with many local family traditions. When Fred purchased the store, he made sure he got the



rights to the recipes that had become so popular with the townspeople. When Pete purchased the store, he also got the recipe, and now Carla and Sonya make it still, in store, and with a gluten free option as well. People order these delicacies year round with orders peaking around the holidays! Many of the churches in the area give Pete their orders well ahead of the traditional church suppers we enjoy in this neck of the woods! That way, you know you are eating the freshest meat available. They have since begun making ham loaf, pork sausage and Italian sausage as well.

More of the traditional foods I saw were lefse, both the mix to make it yourself, and the lefse itself. Lutefisk can be found in the freezer and is still available for fresh orders too. I purchased some creamed herring to try when I got home, and I am pleased to say, it is the best I have found in the area!

While Pete and his wife Dorothy live in Rochester where his wife owns a family therapy practice with their kids Phoebe and Jack, Pete commutes to Kenyon to make sure the store runs to his standards. I asked him what he considers to be the most important parts of running a small town grocery store. "I want to be able to provide the freshest and healthiest foods for my customers," he said. "Knowing what people want is just a matter of letting them know that if there is a product they want us to carry, I will do my best to get it for them." I then asked about any changes he was putting into effect that were different from the previous owners. He told me about the Kenyon Market app where you can log in on your phone, take advantage of "App Only"



specials, get points for what you spend, and Loyalty Rewards. They have a Milk punch card where when you buy certain amounts of special items, you will earn one free. And if you are like me, and not technical in these areas, just ask anyone at the Market to help you sign up, and they will be happy to show you how it's done!

One thing Pete and his employees miss seeing around the store is long time store manager Randy. He recently retired and is missed by all. But Pete acknowledges that the staff still on board are great and can answer your questions and help you find the items you are looking for. Pete feels incredibly blessed to have such an amazing crew of employees and to be in such a vibrant small town with special and unique traditions

So if you haven't been in to see the major renovations and host of new products they carry, come in and see the changes. If you don't find what you are looking for, just ask, and if they don't carry it yet, they may be able to find it for you. I would have to say, small town service is the best!

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Thanksgiving

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Farm Girl Chatter Silent Whispers at Dusk

By McKell Lemmerman

Hello, my name is McKell Lemmerman and I am from Mazeppa. I have turned my lifelong passion for cattle into a thriving local business. In addition to owning my own beef herd, I offer hands-on cattle services for area farmers, including vaccinating, castrating, de-horning, and implanting. Whether it's a large operation or a small family herd, I approach every job with dedication and care. No job is too big or too small. My commitment to efficiency and strong work ethic have made me a trusted name among farmers in the Southeast area

I've always been a small-town girl with big farm dreams. Every sound at dusk tells a story - of care, of rhythm, of a life rooted deep in earth and grace. This column is my way of gathering these moments on the farm.

Silent Whispers at Dusk

As I sit here admiring God's creation, the sun begins its slow descent behind the hills, casting long shadows across the fields. The sky is a masterpiece—streaked with shades of gold, rose, and soft lavender. It's the kind of beauty that doesn't need words, just eyes will-

ing to see it and a heart open enough to feel it.

The air has cooled, carrying with it the earthy scent of cut grass, fields being worked, and the fading warmth of the day. I'm perched on the edge of the fence, the work of the day is nearly done, but the land still hums with life.

Cows move slowly, their low moos soft and steady as they make their way out in the pasture. Not loud, not frantic—just little murmurs, like they're saying goodnight. Horses stand quietly under the shade of the old pine trees, offering gentle nickers as the evening settles in. All while a farm dog trots lazily across the gravel, tail swishing, keeping an eye on everything without a rush.

In the distance, the combine finishes its final pass through the field. Its engine groans gently, not with urgency but with satisfaction—like a farmer leaning back in his chair after supper, tired in the best kind of way. Even the tractors, parked by the edge of the field, seem to hum with quiet purpose as the farmhands end their day. Soon, the low rumble of engines joins the symphony—metal meeting earth, machine joining man in this ancient rhythm of harvest and hope. The tractor hum fades as it turns toward home, and the combine leaving behind neat rows and the scent of freshly harvested grain.

I close my eyes for a moment and listen.

It's not silent, not really. But it's a different kind of sound. A sacred kind. The kind that seeps into your bones and slows your heartbeat. The kind that makes you grateful without needing a reason. I listen to the sounds—not loud, not sharp—but layered



and rich. The quiet moos, the whisper of wind through the corn stalks, the clink of metal as tools are set down for the night. It's not silent. It's harmony. A lullaby of work well done.

The sunset wraps everything in gold, like heaven's own blanket tucking in the farm for sleep. It reflects off the tin roof of the barn and dances on the surface of the land, where the livestock roam and the farmers work.

I breathe it all in.

Out here, gratitude doesn't need to be spoken; it's lived. It's dust on your boots, and in the ache of your shoulders after a long day. It's in the knowledge that even if no one sees the work, God does. And that's enough.

I realize how much life there is in stillness. The kind of life that doesn't scream for atten-

tion, but quietly hums along, working, moving, breathing—alive in every sense. Sometimes, I think people forget about places like this. Places where time doesn't demand attention but simply passes, like clouds across the sky. Where the work is hard but honest, and joy is found in the simplest things.

In the quiet harmony of this land, I am reminded that sometimes, the most beautiful songs are sung in whispers. As the light fades, I sit a while longer, not needing anything more than this moment. A quiet place, a full heart, and the soft song of the land saying goodnight.

Nightfall whispers through the fields I call home,
McKell

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The Savvy Senior How to Make a Home Safer and More Accessible as You Age



By Jim Miller

Dear Savvy Senior,

What simple tips can you recommend for making a home age friendly? My husband and I are in our late-sixties and want to remain living in our home for as long as possible.

—Home Body Hanna

Dear Hanna,

Many older adults, like you and your husband, want to stay living in their own home for as long as possible. But being able to do so will depend on how easy it is to maneuver your living space as you get older.

There are literally dozens of simple adjustments and modifications you can do to help make your home safer and more accessible for aging-in-place. Here's a summary of tips from the National Institute on Aging and AARP, which offers a free room-by-room guide with practical suggestions for older adults living independently.

ENTRANCE WAY:

Have at least one exterior doorway with step-free access. If not possible, consider a ramp.

Add a bench in the foyer to sit on when removing shoes or to set down items while locking or unlocking the door.

BATHROOM:

Install a walk-in shower with a bench and nonskid decals or mats to prevent falls.

Add a hand-held nozzle to the shower head to facilitate rinsing off while seated.

Install grab bars on the shower wall and near the toilet.

Put in a taller toilet or add a toilet riser.

Consider plugging in a nightlight.

BEDROOM:

If stairs are too difficult to manage, create a bedroom on the main level by transforming a den or an office.

Make sure the bed is easy to get in and out of. Purchase bed risers, if needed.

Invest in an adjustable bed for extra comfort.

KITCHEN:

Purchase a stove with safety features that alert the resident when a burner is on or have automatic shutoffs.

Relocate major appliances to make them easier to reach.

Add slide-out drawers or trays to existing

cabinets for better access.

Install a lever-style, light-touch or sensor faucet, which is easier to use than a faucet with turn-style knobs or handles.

FURNITURE & RUGS:

Get rid of furniture and clutter to make rooms easier to move around in.

Use chairs with armrests, which makes sitting and standing easier.

Avoid furniture with sharp corners, which can cause bruises and cuts when bumped up against.

Hide cords out of pathways — but don't put them under rugs.

Area rugs, if used, should be secured to the floor with a nonslip mat or anti-slip rug tape.

For more tips, get a copy of AARP's "HomeFit Guide" which is a 36-page fully illustrated guide and has more than 100 aging-in-place tips and suggestions that can be made to an existing house or apartment or incorporated into designs for a new residence.

It explains how a smartly designed or modified home can meet the varied and changing needs of its older residents. It also features easy-to-do, low-cost and no-cost fixes that lessen the risk of trip hazards and increase the safety of high-use areas like the bathroom, kitchen and stairway.

In addition, AARP also offer videos and a HomeFit AR app (available for iPhone and iPad) that can scan a room and suggest improvements to help turn your house into a "lifelong home," free from safety and mobility risks.

Visit AARP.org/HomeFit to order or download a free copy of this guide, or to watch their videos. You don't need to be an AARP

member to access this content.

If you'd like more hands-on help, you could also hire an occupational or physical therapist that works with older adults. He or she can come in, evaluate your home and recommend aging-in-place solutions. And if you get a referral from your doctor, Medicare will usually cover a home walk-through.

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Sleep



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

Sleep is an essential part of maintaining a healthy life. Though we may resist it sometimes due to workload or social events, we quickly experience the consequences of those missing minutes of sleep. There is an increasing trend for using sleep aids to help achieve a good night of sleep. Sleep aids like Ambien, Benadryl, Tylenol PM, Zopiclone, or Z-Quil are popular choices for helping the body to move into a sleep cycle. Both the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and Statista predict an annual increase of 6% sales of over-the-counter sleep aids. With this growing trend across our society, let's look at the consequences of these sleep aids and the natural options for pursuing quality sleep.

While these sleep aids can help a person fall

asleep, the sleep aids do not help the brain to acquire restful sleep and renewal. The sleep cycle is a time for your brain to be able to remove useless proteins and garbage that have built up during the day. Your brain is very active throughout the day processing information at one quintillion calculations per second. All this processing will generate some garbage during the daytime, so a key purpose for sleep is to give the brain a chance to move out the garbage during quiet time. This natural cleaning process, called glymphatic flow, only happens during the deep sleep cycles. Sleep aids like Ambien help a person to reach the light sleep cycle but disrupts the ability of the brain to reach the deep sleep cycle where the garbage clearing can take place. A 2025 research article published by the Sleep Research Society found sleep aids decreased the amount of time in the deep sleep cycle. The sleep aid may help a person achieve a quantity of sleep, but the quality of sleep is greatly reduced.

The quality of sleep is measured by the amount of deep sleep achieved where the excess proteins from the normal day activities can be removed. These excess proteins in the brain are associated with symptoms of Alzheimer's and dementia. A 2023 research article in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease studied over 3000 healthy senior adults for 15 years and discovered that White participants who used sleep aids were almost twice as likely to develop dementia compared to those who did not use sleep aids. The Sleep Re-

search Society found that individuals with insomnia who did not use sleep aids had better brain wave patterns than those who did use sleep aids for insomnia. Therefore, drugless ways of promoting quality sleep need to be considered.

Specific habits you can start that will help to reduce those sleepless nights include:

- Sleep in a completely dark room. Reduce as much light as possible.
- Aim to be in bed by 10 pm. Sleeping before midnight is critical for circadian rhythms.
- Adjust the temperature of the sleeping area to 65 degrees, no higher than 70 degrees
- Remove electronics and electromagnetic fields (EMFs) from your sleeping area. These forces disrupt your body's natural production of melatonin and serotonin.
- Practice relaxation techniques in preparation for bedtime including breathing exercises, relaxing stretches, meditation, or massage.
- Stop eating food at least three hours before bedtime, especially grains and sugars.
- Stop drinking water two hours before bedtime.
- Stop using computers, cell phones, or TVs at least an hour before bedtime. The blue light from these devices stimulates wakefulness.
- Avoid alcohol
- Avoid caffeine

Additional natural supplements are available to assist the transition to deep sleep cycle. Melatonin and GABA supplements have been effective for some individuals.



Supplements containing valerian root or passionflower have also been helpful to increase relaxation and quiet the mind. Magnesium threonate is a targeted magnesium supplement that delivers magnesium to the brain and helps promote rest. These recommendations are not replacements for establishing a consistent, quality bedtime routine as outlined above.

Protecting your brain involves more than just wearing a protective helmet on fast rides. You can protect your brain every day by providing opportunity for quality sleep. The result will be greater mental clarity and improved quality of life. Make healthy sleep a priority in your personal health care this coming year.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. I can help you create space for improving sleep and natural healing. Contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net, or follow me on Facebook at Nutrition Proportion USA.

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

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Eggs Do Not Cause High Cholesterol? Colon Cancer Prevention and More!



By Shauna Burschem, D.C.

Colon cancer often develops silently, so prevention through daily habits matters. Diet is a powerful lever you control. It shapes the gut environment, supports detoxification, and can help prevent mutations that lead to tumors. Among the most effective foods are cruciferous vegetables—broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts—which supply bioactive compounds that protect DNA, strengthen the colon lining, and support a healthier microbiome.

A large analysis in BMC Gastroenterology pooled 17 studies with 639,539 participants and found that higher intake of cruciferous vegetables was linked to a 17% lower risk of colon cancer. Notably, the “sweet spot” was modest: about 40–60 grams per day—roughly half a cup of cooked broccoli—offered the strongest protection. Eating beyond that didn’t add much benefit, suggesting a saturation point and making prevention realistic without drastic dietary changes.

The protective punch comes from glucosinolate-derived compounds like sulforaphane and indole-3-carbinol, released when you chop or chew these vegetables. They activate detox enzymes that clear carcinogens, trigger apoptosis in damaged cells, and slow cell-cycle progression to prevent runaway growth. These mechanisms hold up under rigorous sensitivity analyses, reinforcing that the link isn’t a fluke or a product of publication bias.

Cruciferous vegetables also improve gut barrier integrity by tightening the junctions between colon-lining cells, which helps keep toxins and harmful bacteria from stoking inflammation. This shift favors beneficial microbes and amplifies the anti-cancer effect. Make a simple, consistent habit: include a moderate serving of cruciferous vegetables on most days, and pair it with smart lifestyle choices—like limiting seed oils and environmental toxins, choosing quality carbohydrates, and exercising—to build a reliable, daily shield against colon cancer.

Walking is one of the simplest, most accessible ways to care for your health. It requires no special gear or gym time and fits naturally into daily life—around the neighborhood, on

errands, or during short breaks. Every step supports whole-body wellbeing, from better blood sugar control and stronger bones to improved mood and immune resilience.

While we often focus on minutes or step counts, emerging evidence shows pace may matter even more. A large U.S. study following nearly 80,000 adults for close to two decades found that walking speed offered sharper insight into health outcomes than time alone. Participants reported whether they walked at a slow or brisk pace, allowing researchers to compare real-life habits with long-term results.

The findings were striking: brisk walking—even just 15 minutes a day—was linked to nearly a 20% reduction in overall mortality, with the strongest protection for cardiovascular health, including ischemic heart disease and heart failure. Benefits held regardless of other exercise and were especially pronounced for people with conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, or obesity. Slow walking still helped, particularly for heart health over longer durations, but the advantages were more modest and less consistent than with a faster pace.

So what counts as “brisk”? Think of a deliberate pace that elevates your heart rate and deepens breathing—you can talk but not sing—typically around 2.5 to 3 mph. To level up your routine, try interval walking (alternating easy and fast bouts), add a weighted vest or Nordic poles, invite a walking buddy, and choose outdoor routes for sunlight and stress relief. Even small daily doses, done briskly, can deliver outsized benefits.

For years, eggs were painted as “cholesterol bombs” that would clog arteries and raise LDL, but newer research shows that story was oversimplified. A recent American Journal of Clinical Nutrition study cut through the confusion by testing how cholesterol and saturated fat interact, and the results were clear: the context of your diet matters far more than the cholesterol in eggs themselves.

In the trial, adults followed three diets for five weeks: high saturated fat (foods like fatty meat, lard, tallow, cheese, butter, cream, palm oil, and cocoa butter) with high cholesterol, high saturated fat with low cholesterol, and high cholesterol with low saturated fat. Only the third group—eating two eggs daily but keeping saturated fat low—reduced LDL cholesterol. The groups with higher saturated fat saw LDL rise, underscoring that saturated fat, not egg cholesterol, is the bigger driver of “bad” cholesterol increases.

Mechanistically, saturated fat burdens the liver and slows LDL clearance, leaving more LDL circulating. Eggs deliver cholesterol without that saturated fat load, so the liver can keep doing its job, helping prevent the artery buildup tied to heart disease and stroke. In other words, cholesterol doesn’t act in a vacuum—what you eat with it changes the outcome.

The bigger picture backs this up: in older adults, weekly egg intake was associated with a 29% lower risk of heart disease deaths and a 17% reduction in all-cause mortality. The takeaway isn’t “eat unlimited eggs,” but rather that thoughtful, moderate egg consumption within a balanced diet can be not just neutral, but protective.

Food quality and pairings amplify the ben-



efits. Choose pastured eggs, avoid industrial vegetable oils, and build meals around nutrient-dense whole foods to minimize omega-6 linoleic acid intake. Simple swaps—think eggs with greens, avocado, and olive oil instead of bacon, sausage, and fried sides—shift your lipid profile in the right direction.

Bottom line: eggs weren’t the problem—outdated guidance and high saturated fat

meals were. With the right context, two eggs a day can fit squarely in a heart-healthy pattern, supporting LDL management rather than sabotaging it. It’s time to retire the cholesterol myth and focus on the full dietary picture.

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

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Housing is Everyone's Business - And Everyone's Opportunity

By Bob Hawley, Executive Director,
Goodhue County
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The City of Red Wing's recent Housing Summit was an encouraging first step - and an important reminder that housing challenges don't stop at any city's borders. Leaders from across sectors came together to talk about one of our region's greatest challenges - and greatest opportunities - housing. It was heartening to see so many people working toward solutions.

Housing affects everything - our workforce, schools, economy, and community health. When families can't find safe, affordable places to live, the costs ripple through every corner of Goodhue County.

Employers are struggling to attract and keep workers because too many families can't find housing they can afford near their jobs. All types of housing are needed - quality rentals and attainable homes for purchase - in every community across the county.

At Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity, our part of that puzzle is helping working families become first-time homeowners through partnership and hard work. Habitat homebuyers purchase their market-priced homes with an affordable mortgage and invest hundreds of hours of sweat equity to help build them. They learn to manage their home and finances and witness volunteerism in our communities. Families pay taxes, gain stability, build equity, and strengthen neighborhoods.

Through our Build for Tomorrow Initiative, we're also working alongside the next generation of builders. In partnership with the Goodhue Wildcats and Kenyon-Wanamingo Knights, high school students work side-by-side with instructors and Habitat staff to construct homes that transform lives. It's a win-win-win: families gain affordable housing, students gain hands-on trade skills, and our communities gain a stronger workforce for the future.

Habitat for Humanity is proud to be part of the solution, but we can't meet the full demand alone. Our volunteer-build model produces a few homes each year - life-changing for those families, but far short of the need. That's why we need strong public and private partnerships that make it feasible for developers and contractors to build more workforce and affordable homes. With the right programs, incentives, and creative financing, every sector can help close the housing gap.

Goodhue County Habitat is doing its part through HOPE Heights - a new development of 26 energy-efficient Habitat homes on Red Wing's former St. John's Hospital site within an existing, vibrant neighborhood. Infrastructure work begins in early spring 2026, followed by construction of the first twin home soon after.

I left the Red Wing Housing Summit encouraged but aware that progress depends on all of us. It's easy to assume someone else will take the lead, but lasting change requires everyone's involvement. One city cannot solve this alone - it will take a countywide approach and a shared commitment from every community, organization, and neighbor who calls Goodhue County home.

Let's build on this momentum and come together for a Goodhue County Housing Alliance - uniting cities, schools, employers, and residents to plan for housing at every stage of life and work.

Together, we can build homes, build hope, and build community.

Bob Hawley is Executive Director of Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity. Learn more at gchabitat.org.



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Public Health Spotlight**Be Alert to Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning in Your Home as the Weather Gets Colder**

By Tisha Bergner, PHEPC

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas formed by the incomplete combustion of fuels. When people are exposed to CO gas, the CO molecules will displace the oxygen in their bodies and lead to poisoning.

The problem with CO since CO has no odor, color or taste, it cannot be detected by our senses. This means that dangerous concentrations of the gas can build up indoors and humans have no way to detect the problem until they become ill. Furthermore, when people become sick the symptoms are similar to the flu, which can cause victims to ignore the early signs of CO poisoning.

The CDC estimates that approximately 400 people die from unintentional CO exposure in the United States every year. Data specific to Minnesota show that an average of 14 people die due to unintentional CO poisoning each year. Approximately 300 people visit emergency department each year for treatment of symptoms linked to unintentional CO

exposure.

The good news is that carbon monoxide poisoning can be prevented with simple actions such as installing a CO alarm and maintaining fuel burning appliances.

CO is produced whenever a material burns. Homes with fuel-burning appliances or attached garages are more likely to have CO problems. Common sources of CO in our homes include fuel-burning appliances and devices such as:

- Clothes dryers.
- Water heaters.
- Furnaces or boilers.
- Fireplaces, both gas and wood burning.
- Gas stoves and ovens.
- Motor vehicles.
- Grills, generators, power tools, lawn equipment.
- Wood stoves.
- Tobacco smoke.

Carbon monoxide leaks from appliances can cause poisoning. Detection is required in new construction and when installing boilers and water heaters (under fire and boiler codes).

Protecting your family from CO poisoning is easy:

1. It is important to know what appliances in your home are fuel-burning and make sure that they are maintained properly. All of these appliances should be vented to the outside. You should have your fuel-burning appliances (ex. furnace) checked by a qualified heating contractor every year to look for potential problems. It is also a good idea to know the signs of a

potential CO problem:

- Streaks of soot around fuel-burning appliances, or fallen soot in a fireplace.
- Absence of an upward draft in your chimney.
- Excess moisture and condensation on windows, walls and cold surfaces.
- Rusting on flue pipes or appliance jacks.
- Orange or yellow flame in combustion appliances (the flame should be blue).
- Damaged or discolored bricks at the top of the chimney.

Never use appliances intended for outdoor use inside. Examples include barbecue grills, camp stoves, portable generators or gas-powered lawn equipment. Do not use an oven to heat your home. Not only is it a fire risk, it is also a carbon monoxide hazard. Do not run or idle your vehicle in an attached garage. Instead, back your vehicle out right away. Check that your vehicle's exhaust pipe is not blocked, for example, by snow during the winter.

2. Identifying CO poisoning can be difficult because the symptoms are similar to the flu. CO is often called the "silent killer" because people will ignore early signs and eventually lose consciousness and be unable to escape to safety.

For most people, the first signs of exposure include mild headache and breathlessness with moderate exercise. Continued exposure can lead to more severe headaches, dizziness, fatigue and nausea. Eventually symptoms may progress to confusion, irritability, impaired judgment and coordination, and loss of consciousness.

You can tell the difference between CO poisoning and the flu with these clues:

- You feel better when you are away from home.
- Everyone in the home is sick at the same time (the flu virus usually spreads from person to person).
- The family members most affected spend the most time in the house.
- Indoor pets appear ill.
- You don't have a fever or body aches, and you don't have swollen lymph nodes that are common with the flu and some other infections.
- Symptoms appear or seem to get worse when using fuel-burning equipment.

3. Install and maintain CO alarms in your home

Minnesota state law (MN Statute 299F.50) requires that every home have at least one operational CO alarm within 10 feet of every room legally used for sleeping. All CO alarms should conform to the latest Underwriters Laboratory (UL) Standards. Please follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement of your CO alarm, and take note of the suggested replacement date. These will vary depending on the manufacturer.

Don't ignore a CO alarm if it is sounding. If people in the home are exhibiting symptoms of CO poisoning, immediately leave the building and call your local fire department. In cases where residents are feeling fine, call your local gas utility company or a qualified technician to help identify the cause of the problem.

Infant Safe Sleep Week in Minnesota is November 16-21

Unsafe sleep environments and practices can put infants at increased risk for sleep related unintentional injury or death. Annually, approximately 50 babies in Minnesota die suddenly and unexpectedly, and most of those deaths happen in an unsafe sleep environment.

Parents and caregivers should know the ABCs of safe sleep:

- **ALONE:** Infants should always sleep or nap alone.
- **BACK:** Always put a baby on their back to sleep or nap.
- **CRIB:** Babies should always sleep or nap in their own safety-approved crib or play yard without blankets or pillows.

Rice County Public Health would like to help share this message with caregivers of infants and young children. "All caregivers should know and practice the ABCs of Safe Sleep: A baby should sleep alone, on his or her back, in a safe crib," says Fae Schumacher, Rice County Family Child Health Supervisor. "Crib mattresses should be firm, sheets should fit tightly and there shouldn't be anything else in the crib, including pillows, blankets, crib bumpers or toys." Infants also should not be placed to sleep on a couch, in a car seat or in the caregiver's bed.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, research continues to show that bed-sharing raises the risk of a baby's injury or death. The risk goes up when the co-sleeper is impaired by fatigue, alcohol or drug use. While bed-sharing should be avoided, having the infant sleep in the same room as parents in their own crib for at least the first six months is recommended.

Rice County Public Health staff are available to conduct a home safety visit for caregivers of young children. In partnership with "Cradle of Hope," staff can also provide a portable crib if needed, to ensure that every baby has a safe place to sleep.

For more information, contact Schumacher at 507-321-4978.

More information on infant safe sleep can be found on the Minnesota Department of Health website at

www.health.state.mn.us/people/womeninfants/infantmort/safesleep.html

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Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol



Question: Hello, I want to work for a farmer during planting and harvest season driving a semi. I have a valid Class D driver's license but no Commercial Driver's License. Can I cross a state line while working for the farmer, Minnesota into North Dakota?

Answer: Yes, as long as you stay within 150 air miles of the farm. If you have additional questions regarding commercial motor vehicles please contact cmvinfo@state.mn.us

Motorists need to be especially alert when they share the road with farm equipment that is often so large and heavy that accelerating, slowing down and stopping take more time and space than other vehicles. These vehicles also have large blind spots for operators and make wide turns and sometimes cross over the center line. All these factors can and do result in serious crashes.

Motorists are urged to:

- Slow down and use caution when approaching farm equipment. Don't assume the operator can see you.
- Watch for debris dropped by trucks. It's safer to brake or drive through debris than to veer into oncoming cars or off the road.
- Wait for a safe place to pass.

Farm equipment operators should:

- Use lights and flashers to make equipment

more visible.

- Use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 mph.
- Consider using a follow vehicle when moving equipment, especially at night.
- Properly secure your load.
- Ensure all lights are clean and fully visible.
- Ensure all safety equipment, including brakes and tires, are well maintained.

Question: Can you explain what the lines on the highways and streets indicate? I feel like a lot of people can't figure it out. Thanks.

Answer: Pavement markings direct and regulate traffic.

White lines separate lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction.

- White dashes: You can change lanes where this marking is present.
- Shorter and thicker white dashes: The lane is ending.
- Solid white line: You should not change lanes. Solid white lines also mark crosswalks, stop lines at intersections, parking stalls and the edges of a roadway.
- Double solid white lines: You must not change lanes.
- Solid white line with bicycle insignia: This area is for bicycle or electric-assist bicycle traffic only.
- If you are on a bicycle, you must travel in the same direction as adjacent traffic.

Yellow lines separate traffic moving in opposite directions.

- Solid yellow line: You must not pass. Passing in a no-passing zone is illegal.
- Yellow dashes: You may pass.
- Mixed lines (solid and dashes): A solid yellow line may appear on one side of the roadway while a line of dashes appears on the other side. You must obey the marking in your lane of traffic.
- Double solid yellow lines: You must not pass, regardless of which side of the line you

are driving.

Question: In your last article you wrote about "pavement markings." Could you talk about "turn lanes" as I think there are quite a few people who get confused by this?

Answer: Turn lanes near intersections separate left-turning or right-turning traffic from through traffic. White arrows, sometimes accompanied by the word "only," indicate that drivers must stay within a designated lane while turning onto the cross street. If your vehicle is in this type of lane, you must turn. Some turn lanes have multiple arrows, allowing you to turn left or right, or to go straight. To discourage drivers from changing lanes near an intersection, turn lanes are separated from through traffic lanes by solid white lines.

A center lane between lanes of traffic traveling in opposite directions may be designated for left turns only. This type of lane is marked by parallel solid and dashed yellow lines. These lines are sometimes accompanied by white arrows on the pavement. Vehicles traveling in either direction can use these lanes to make left turns onto another roadway or a driveway.

Question: I feel like I see so many vehicles tailgating and following too close. I remember people talk about a so-many second following tip. Can you remind me and others what that is?

Answer: Applying the "Three-Second

Rule" helps you keep a safe distance between your car and the vehicle ahead of you. This rule is for standard-length vehicles driving in ideal conditions.

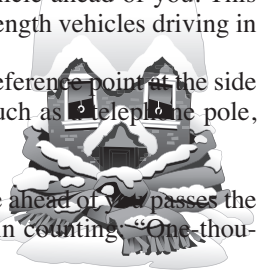
1. Choose a fixed reference point at the side of the road ahead, such as a telephone pole, signpost, tree or bridge.
2. When the vehicle ahead of you passes the reference point, begin counting "One-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three."
3. If you pass the reference point before you finish counting, you are following too closely.
4. Gradually slow down until you reach a safe following distance and speed.

When road conditions are poor, or if you are driving a vehicle longer than the standard length, increase your following distance to a four- or five-second count.

If the vehicle behind you is following too closely, slow down slightly and allow it to pass.

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.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson — Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)



Fall Driving Alert: Watch for Deer

Fall brings beautiful colors and crisp air, but it also brings the increased risk of deer on the roads. Deer are most active around dawn and dusk, which means the chance of a crash rises dramatically during your commute. The best way to avoid a deer-vehicle crash is to stay attentive behind the wheel and expect the unexpected.

Tips for All Drivers:

Slow down in areas known for deer or where fields and wooded areas meet.

Be extra cautious from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. as this is the peak time for deer activity.

Use high beams when possible at night to spot deer eyes reflecting light.

Never swerve to avoid a deer. Swerving can cause you to lose control and go off the road, or crash into oncoming traffic.

Watch for one deer but expect more. Deer often travel in groups.

Tips for Motorcyclists:

Slow down and use both brakes (front and rear) to stop as quickly as possible when encountering an animal.

If contact is unavoidable, release the brakes and attempt to swerve slowly behind the animal, only if there is room in your lane.

Always focus on maintaining control of your motorcycle.

Slow down, stay alert and always buckle up! Your seat belt is your best defense in case of a crash.



Harvest Season

This is a crucial time to be extra cautious and patient while driving. Farm equipment is large and heavy, making it hard for operators to accelerate, slow down and stop. The equipment also makes wide turns and sometimes crosses over the center line. In addition, farm vehicles can create large blind spots, making it difficult for operators to see approaching vehicles behind them.

By following these simple guidelines, we can all help ensure a safe harvest season.

For Drivers: Stay Alert

Be patient: Farm equipment is large and slow-moving. Pass only when it's safe and legal to do so.

Watch for debris: Debris on the road due to harvest work can make for dangerous conditions.

Stay focused: Avoid distractions like your phone. It's easy to miss something when you're not paying full attention.

For Farmers and Equipment Operators: Stay Alert

Be seen: Use proper lights and safety flashers. Use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 mph.

Keep it clean: Clean mud and debris off your equipment before you hit the road.

Check your hitch: Double-check hitches and safety chains before you go.

Stay focused: Minimize distractions like cell phone use.

Let's all work together to make sure everyone arrives home safely this harvest season. Together, we can help drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.



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Winter Hazard Awareness Week is November 17-21



By Joe Johnson
Rice County Sheriff's Office -
Emergency Management

As winter approaches, it's critical to prepare for extreme cold, snow, and icy conditions.

These storms can last a few hours or several days and cut off heat, power, and communication.

Winter storms create a higher risk of car crashes, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, residential fires and heart attacks from overexertion.

To help ensure that you and your loved ones are prepared, follow these steps below:

Create an Emergency Kit: it should have essential items like food, water, blankets, winter clothing sand or cat litter, phone charger and flashlights. Be sure to have one in your home, car and at work.

Stay fire safe: keep combustibles away from wood stoves and space heaters. Have fireplace and wood burning stove chimneys inspected and cleaned prior to use, extinguish candles before leaving room. Stay in the kitchen when cooking.

Be alert for CO: Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, and invisible byproduct of fuel and wood burning appliances and vehicles. Install CO alarms on every level of your home and in each sleeping area. Consider adding a CO alarm in your ice fishing shelter as well. Signs of CO poisoning in-



cludes headaches, nausea, fatigue, vomiting and disorientation.

Give snowplows room to work: check road conditions on 511mn.org before heading out. Be patient and stay five car lengths behind the plow. Slow down to a speed that's safe for current conditions and give yourself plenty of time to get to your destination. Buckle up and ensure your young passengers are in the proper seat for their age and stage of development. Avoid unnecessary travel if road conditions are poor.

Enjoy the outdoors safely: There is no such thing as 100% safe ice; carry ice picks and

know how to self-rescue if you fall through. Wear layers of loose-fitting warm clothing, hat, and mittens. Be alert for frostbite and hypothermia. Protect your back and listen to your body when shoveling. If something doesn't feel right or you are tired, take a break and re-evaluate how you feel before shoveling again.

Prepare early to ensure your family's comfort and safety. For more tips, visit www.rice-countymn.gov/623/Winter-Hazard-Awareness

— Joe Johnson is the Rice County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management

Commissioner Corner

Greetings, sorry it has been awhile since my last commissioners corner. It has been a busy summer and fall for all our staff, public works with various road projects, HHS with State and Federal mandates and the paperwork that goes along with their requirements is at times overwhelming. Our Sheriff's staff and all the rest of our staff are all busy keeping us safe and moving our county business forward. We are still working towards the final budget levy amount. I wish that we could go without a levy increase but I do not want to cut or reduce any programs at this time. I hate to think that someday I may be forced to cut out some part of what the county currently provides for all of our citizens. Please keep a watch for our children going to school and the school buses on our roads, along with the harvest equipment and our farmers. We hear so much about the political polarization of our state and federal government but I want to ask all of our county to really look at the whole picture and what is truly important in the lives of our citizens. Needs and wants are sometimes lost in the discussions and can lead to arguments or worse. Remember we are all in this together. God Bless you all.

Commissioner Greseth



Todd Greseth
Goodhue County
Commissioner
District 3

County 2026 Truth in Taxation statements are in the mail

Rice County property owners should watch the mail for their 2026 proposed tax statement.

Commonly referred to as the Truth in Taxation statement, it includes a property's estimated market value, exclusions if applicable, as well as a list of proposed 2026 taxes for each taxing authority for the property's jurisdiction. It also includes the actual figures for payable 2025 which serve as a comparison.

The proposed taxes are based on the preliminary levies approved by each applicable taxing authority. Final levies will be certified by the end of December.

The statements also list the time, date and location of required Truth in Taxation meetings for each taxing authority. These meetings provide taxpayers an opportunity to speak directly to elected officials who approve the levies and budgets, and to offer comment on how tax dollars are being spent.

While Rice County Assessor's Office staff will be available during the county's Dec. 11 Truth in Taxation meeting, the annual opportunity for property owners to challenge their estimated market value took place in June.

Rice County holds its Truth in Taxation meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 in the board room on the second floor of the Rice County Government Services Building, 320 Third St. NW, Faribault. The meeting will begin with a presentation on the proposed 2026 county budget and levy.

Property owners can also participate virtually during the county's meeting via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3421170614>. The participant meeting ID is 342 117 0614, passcode: 1234. Anyone requiring special services to attend or participate should call 507-332-6100 or email shari.noll@ricecountymn.gov 24 hours before the meeting begins.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

To the Editor:

City officials also are not thinking on a regional level when they need to be regarding data centers. The Prairie du Chien and Jordan aquifers are two prominent aquifers for the SE Minnesota region. For a brief perspective of just who relies on these 2 aquifers in some capacity for private wells and municipal water: Rice county has 7 cities. Dakota county has 34 cities. 8 out of 10 cities in Goodhue county connect to at least one of them. That's 49 communities so far. Olmsted County, Winona County, Dodge County also connect to them in varying capacities and the list goes on since the Jordan aquifer touches 7 states. 6 hyperscale data centers (Pine Island, Apple Valley, Cannon Falls, Farmington, Faribault, Lakeville) are currently proposed to draw from these 2 aquifers alone. 4 of them are being sued by the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. None of them have done full environmental assessments. Not a single one. Being in the karst region our aquifers are at the highest vulnerability risk for being compromised by human activities and remediation efforts are also harder to do. These 7 cities are intentionally and wantonly jeopardizing the entire region's groundwater supply and they need to be taken to task and held accountable. Residents of SE MN should be infuriated by the complete lack of regard these 7 cities have for the most basic element needed to survive: water. Let them know it before it's too late.

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CITY OF DENNISON MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 14, 2025

The August Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Flaten on Thursday, August 14th, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Caleb Voight, Heidi Cooke, and Diane Ruddle, and clerk Jessica Page.

Councilor Ruddle moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from the July City Council meeting, as well as the special meeting held on July 21st, 2025. Mayor Flaten second. Motion passed 4:0.

Councilor Cooke moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 4:0.

Old Business/Committee Reports/Building Permits: Marathon sign update permit. The convenience store is planning on updating the signage for the gas station. Mayor Flaten move to approve the Marathon building permit for updating the signage. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 4:0.

Administrative Issues:

1. Stephanie Kylo and family have requested to address the Council regarding the discussion on a possible fine for having the Honor Guard salute for Charles Kylo at his memorial service.

Mayor Flaten read a statement regarding the Honor Guard salute for Charles Kylo and expressed condolences to the Kylo family as well as thanking Mr. Kylo for his service to the country. He reviewed Ordinance 32 for the City of Dennison. He explained that since there were no complaints called in about guns being fired, there could be no misdemeanor, so no fine could be applicable. The Mayor set some guidelines for public discussion so that everyone could be heard, and that everyone remain respectful throughout the discussion.

Joe Valkasek, Owatonna VFW, explained how his group performs the military honors, and they follow a well established protocol.

Erik Kylo wanted to express his disappointment at the Council. He noted that the Kylo's have a family history that is strong in the area.

Neal Wilson expressed his condolences to the family. He is an army veteran of 29 years with numerous injuries and experiences during those years. He has been active with the VFW and American Legion. He stated there was not a clear cut ordinance when it comes to this within the City. He was adversely affected by the volleys that were fired by the honor guard as he had not been notified. All veterans deserve to be honored and it's unfortunate that the situation has come to what it has.

Jim Hoffman commander of the honor guard, explained that they do Honor Guard ceremonies at places other than the cemetery.

Stephanie Delzer relayed they were originally told it was okay, then were told no, that it wasn't okay to do it. Councilor Ruddle did say he was notified that the Council voted to uphold the Ordinance.

Brian Homier from the Kenyon PD was present. He explained that Kenyon has done it in the residential areas where a church would be, as well as on main street at the VFW before.

The gentleman from the independent media productions explained that the City Council is a servant to the residents. He has experi-

ence in military service. He talked about how people have served and deserve to be honored and not denigrated.

Mayor Flaten asked if there were any comments from the Council members present.

Councilor Ruddle noted that there has to be an actual misdemeanor ticket in order to be fined. There is no misdemeanor, so there can be no fine.

Councilor Cooke felt there wasn't time to look at the honor guard and wished that Sean Kylo had given sufficient time for the Council to consider.

It was noted that the Honor Guard ceremony doesn't happen often in Dennison. It does happen more in Kenyon as there are several churches plus VFW in Kenyon. Officer Homier noted that the PD doesn't always get notified, and the people in Kenyon don't always get notified.

It was stated again that the Kylo family can't be fined.

There was a recommendation that if there would be an Honor Guard Ceremony in the City again, that the citizens are notified in advance of the date.

Mike Gillispie feels that folks need to be notified. What if someone got hurt? Can they sue the City?

Councilor Voight noted the he voted to uphold Ordinance 32. He read the firearm section to the room so everyone knew what it said.

Brian Edwards, a city resident, felt it was a firearms issue. He noted that State Statute read that recklessly discharging a firearm in a municipality is the issue. Brian has a berm that he shoots into when he practices so it is a safe activity. One would have to prove reckless intent for it to be illegal.

In summary, the City will work to improve this ordinance so there isn't this vague situation in the future.

2. The City received a Notice of Violation from the MN Department of Health regarding high levels of Gross Alpha and Combined Radium in our drinking water (measurement of the total radioactivity from alpha emitting particulates, primarily from naturally occurring elements like radium and uranium, found in rocks and soil) on 7/30/25. There is a 30-day window to do a Public Notice which is due by 8/29/2025 and certification is due by 9/8/2025. A detailed plan of action and timetable for how our system plans to return this violation to compliance is due by 10/28/2025. The mayor and city clerk reached out to Bollig Engineering and Travis Reichl for feedback/updates. MN Dept. of Health recommended talking to Travis because the City of Hayward is working through a Gross Alpha Violation, too. Jessica has the letter for the public notice ready to go out. Travis is planning on being here on Thursday. Bollig is planning to come in September.

Discussion was held regarding the three choices that were most often made. Travis felt that well would be the best option, than getting water from another city. The radio activity in the water is in the solids in the water, and it gets caught in the filter materials. Councilor Ruddle noted it can be labeled as radioactive and as a whole, it can lead to a difficult disposal of the filtering materials. Travis brought a compliance agreement from Hayward to look at for a sample.

Another town, Twin Lakes, had a compliance agreement in 2020, but they actually had lowered readings, so no longer need to do anything.

Haywards system is over \$4 million for the filter system.

Councilor Ruddle explained that certain media is better than others as far as absorbing the radium. Some City's want the filter system because it will also lower the iron and manganese.

Some engineering consultants are pushing RO plants as a treatment option, but that means the Operator would need to go up to a B license.

A shallower well might work, but then you might have other contaminants such as nitrates or PFAS.

If you have a clean well, then you can blend it with the other well to bring down.

Nate gave a quick utilities update so he and Travis could go out to look at the lightning damages in the phosphorus shed.

Travis recommended the City make note of who those homes or business' who have softeners, because you can't use them for the lead and copper samples.

Nate said that Q water samples done in July. Meters were read last month. Ponds may need to have an emergency discharge if we get a lot of rain. Mixer breaker was damaged due to a possible lightning strike. Will work with insurance company to get that fixed.

3. Low hanging branch removal/stump estimates. The mayor received an estimate from John Miner to remove low hanging branches, and a proposal to remove tree stumps.

-Work to remove tree branches include two options: 1.) Removing tree branches in town over streets in the fall (about 18 trees) 4hrs @ \$150/hr. = \$600. 2.) Removing Black Walnut tree branches on the North side of town (going up the hill towards Prairie View) a blind spot at that location, and branches/shrubs on the East side of town (5th Way Avenue/West ditch) 2hrs @ \$150/hr. = \$300.

-Stump removal proposal. To get a better feel for real time costs involved, John would like to remove the 2 existing stumps on the corner of 377th and 2nd Avenue on a trial basis. He would cap the proposed work to be performed below 4hrs @ 150/hr. Labor and materials not to exceed \$650 for the 2 stump removal. His work would include: Reaching out to Gopher State One and schedule a location of any underground utilities in the vicinity of the stumps, Grind the stumps, Remove debris, Back-fill with topsoil, Place sod over affected area and Initial soaking/watering of sod.

John Miner and the mayor saw 5 ash trees remaining in the city boulevards. 3 around the Beebe property; 1 on 377th street, across from the city well house; 1 on 376th street. The trees are in various stages of decline. At least in the short-term, taking down a couple a year seems reasonable/prudent.

Lions Club may be making a donation to paint the pump house and some stump grinding. Stumps in the park can be done with the park fund money.

Councilor Ruddle move to do the tree trimming both the first and second options: 1.) Removing tree branches in town over streets in the fall (about 18 trees) 4hrs @ \$150/hr.

= \$600. 2.) Removing Black Walnut tree branches on the North side of town (going up the hill towards Prairie View) a blind spot at that location, and branches/shrubs on the East side of town (5th Way Avenue/West ditch) 2hrs @ \$150/hr. = \$300. Cost for the trees on the park property can be taken out of the park fund. Mayor Flaten second. Motion passed 4:0.

Councilor Cooke move to have John Minor do the stump grinding. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 4:0. City will continue to work on removing additional Ash trees next year.

4. Discussion regarding the new Cannabis Ordinance. Councilor Ruddle emailed the council with the proposed ordinance to review. Cannabis event application form that Councilor Ruddle found was used as an example. She found fees ranging from \$300, to up to \$1000-1500. The higher fees included completing notifications as required. Duluth fee is \$300, other towns may be \$1000-1500 which include notifications, etc.

Highlighted areas are ones that she filled in on the digital copy.

Recommendations for fees: For temporary events \$375 for the City. These would need to be added to the fee schedule. It was suggested to name the City as an additional insured.

City can use the sample event application as a base for an event application for City of Dennison.

Zoning areas as follows: Wholesale Industrial B-2, Transportation Industrial B-2, Delivery Industrial B-2.

Forward Ordinance to Clerk on Monday to send to Bethany to review.

5. Discussion on new Zoning Ordinance: Formatting has been difficult to work with for the Ordinance. Clerk will need to consult with someone who has better formatting skills before bringing it back to Council.

6. Update regarding audit requirements for the City. The mayor was informed by state officials that starting in 2025, cities with a population below 2500, combined clerk/treasurer and with an annual threshold below \$1 Million will be required to have an Agreed Upon Procedure Engagement (AUP) once every five years. If the City is above 1 Million in annual revenues, a cash or regulatory basis audit is required annually. For the years an AUP or Audit is not required, cities must still submit unaudited financial statements and complete the Annual Financial Reporting Form and submit the information to the Auditor's office by the required due date to be eligible for local government aid and small cities assistance. Links provided for the clerk regarding the audit requirements and the AUP.

7. Updates from Jessica on OPUS. Has progress been made in resolving billing errors/mistakes? Progress has been made, but need to continue to monitor.

8. Street construction progress/update. Seykora Asphalt finished their work on August 6th. Cost over runs occurred because the amount of asphalt needed to make the transition from the cement spillway next to K. Nygaard's house (374th street and 2nd Ave.) increased on the north side of the street (10 feet by 50 feet additional asphalt) resulted in about a \$4,000 invoice increase.

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DENNISON CITY COUNCIL

(continued from page 25)

There was about a 5 inch drop on the north side of the road between the asphalt and cement, and also a crown in the road, which required a longer transition between the new cement and asphalt. Two gate valve boxes were adjusted with risers, one at Goodhue Avenue and 2nd Avenue, the other at 374th street and 2nd Ave. Dan Storlie and the mayor exercised both gate valve boxes on July 8th and removed 3 to 4 feet of gravel/dirt/sand in each one. Jeff has been backfilling the curb areas in the yards.

9. Lenny Dohmen finished his concrete work on August 8th. The work went according to the plans.

10. Chip rocking of the streets is scheduled for August 28th, as long as the weather cooperates. The company will put up no parking signs the day before, and sweep the streets in the morning before they begin with the oil and chip rock.

11. Update on complaints filed last month. 3 new complaints submitted to City Hall on 8-12-25 and 8-13-2025. Mayor met with the Vititoes on 8-6-25. Vehicles/Pontoon in front yard are registered and licensed. Roger explained they share a driveway with the next door neighbor and space is limited to park vehicles/boats. Some weed whipping/mowing done. Roger is asking for more time to move items into his garage/remove stuff from his property. The mayor will meet with Roger after the November meeting to discuss his progress.

Heidi Cooke submitted two letters to the City addressing the two complaints for both her and Mike Gillispie’s properties. Letters forwarded to Council members. Mayor Flaten responded to her letters: Mikes’ house vehicle in the right of way. Other people have them in the right of way. Pohl’s move them around. Heidi noted that it has been moved but it goes right back. Needs to be clearer in the Ordinance. Jeff sees it as City property, should people be able to leave things on “city property” for a long time. Needs to clarify. Need to have Nichole here to review as Jeff and Heidi should probably recuse themselves for the vote.

Heidi’s house: Complaint form was incomplete. Jeff says he could have been more complete in listing. He states he didn’t go on the personal property. States he was on the street to see the items. Part of the property is ag land that is all within the City limits. Heidi feels that these complaints were cherry picked. There are 15 other cars that are unlicensed, etc.

More updates regarding complaints? Kevin Pohl has been working to clean up the backyard with the intent to organize and move vehicles out of the way. Update on 8-13-2025.

The mayor is asking Nate Sparrow to remove his snow thrower and trailer from the west side of the city shop/fire station. If he needs help removing the items, maybe Dan Storlie or Bill Deutsch can assist with it. The tall grass/weeds need to be weed whipped around those items/area.

Send a letter to Neal Wilson about the weeds growing in the alley next to his house on 376th Street and his second home on Farm Road if they aren’t cut down by the 25th of August.

1st Ave Court and request for signs to slow

people down, maybe something like “Watch for Children.”

12. Does the city council want to keep the wood chairs donated by Joe Amy? Council felt they can be better used elsewhere.

13. The preliminary levy is due on September 30th. What do we want to do? Options would include 1) setting the levy at the same amount as last year. 2)The preliminary Levy could be set slightly higher and it would stay the same or could be adjusted lower in December for the final levy as it cannot be raised, but it can be lowered. 3) Council can do a work session to come up with a 2026 budget to come up with a number. The Preliminary Levy must be finalized at the September 4th meeting, unless they want to schedule a special meeting after the 4th, but prior to the 30th.

14. Work session on the 27th to work on the budget.

15. Snow plow bids need to go out soon.

16. Ask sheriff to park on 1st Ave. Court. Are the violators known? Does the complainant know who they are? Clerk will try to find out more about any patterns, specific times of days, etc.

Citizens Issues:

Mayors Issues:

Utilities:

1. Update from Nate:
2. J Hasse water quality issues. Any progress.
3. Update on DO meter. Received the different probe? Is it working?
4. Thompson water meter and reader. Delivered meter to plumber. Had times lined up and twice it didn’t work. Schedule another time.

The fire hydrant flushing for the spring/summer wasn't conducted by Nate. When is the City going to flush hydrants this fall?

Citizens Issues: No additional ones that have not already been addressed earlier in the meeting.

Mayors Issues: None.

Councilor Voight move to pay the bills. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

Mayor Flaten moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion was adjourned at 9:34pm.

Next meeting: Regular meeting on Thursday, September 4th at 7:00.

CITY OF DENNISON MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

The September Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Flaten on Thursday, September 4th, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Caleb Voight, Heidi Cooke, and Nichole Schloesser, and clerk Jessica Page. Diane Ruddle arrived shortly after the meeting was called to order.

The Meeting Minutes from the August City Council meeting were not ready at this time.

Councilor Schloesser moved to approve the Treasurer’s report. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 4:0.

Goodhue County Sheriff: mentioned the complaints about speeders on 1st Ave. Ct need to call them in when they are happening.

Todd Greseth, Goodhue County Commissioner: Preliminary budget too high. No

forced reduction in employees is planned, but may consider consolidating. Kieth Allen at commissioners meeting that they put in money for computers to save time for redundancy. 10 positions open. Road construction costs have gone up the most.

Old Business/Committee Reports/Building Permits: None

Administrative Issues:

1. Bollig Engineering was present for the meeting to discuss the Gross Alpha Violation from the Minnesota Department of Health and talk about future planning when it comes to our drinking water system. The public notices required by the Department of Health were mailed out last week. The notice was also posted on the city website. Bollig notified the mayor a copy of the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was submitted to Rural Development on Friday 8/29/25. Mark Klema brought a hard copy of the PER to the council meeting.

Compliance evaluation agreement: from Travis Reichl. On step 4. Bollig has put in the PER book that a basic filtration system is the preferred treatment system. Any treatment system will include drilling another well.

Can the City raise the well to 390 to 400 feet and test it out to see if Gross Alph results are reduced? McCarthy Well can lift it up. Doing the inspection soon, City can call and ask what they can do.

Bollig can draft a letter for the City to use as a compliance agreement. (City can send it in using some points brought forward by Bollig)

Funding drinking water revolving fund PFA: Already on the project priority list. Bollig can contact them and request that scoring be looked at with gross alpha letter being issued. Local reps, Laura is up for meeting with local reps. Laura sent info. Mayor Flaten is interested in meeting with them with Laura. Is radium letter helpful to get late entries for funding? Mayor Flaten suggested meeting with the Representative from the Northfield also.

How long does it take for USDA to react? 1-3 years. At least 1 year though.

Lead and copper pipes: Be in Dennison next week to look at 9 places.

2. Dennison Lead Service Line Inventory Round 2 – Asset Management. In order to help facilitate the lead service line inventory for the City, the mayor and clerk applied for technical assistance from the Minnesota Department of Health. Bollig Engineering would assist the City in collecting information, and Sliversmith Data would be the asset management software. The first-year subscription of \$1,172 would be paid by Bollig Engineering, reimbursed through the Lead Service Line Inventory Technical Grant Round. After one year, the City can continue to be part of the asset management system, but we would have to pay \$571 for an annual fee. Councilor Ruddle move that we do the first year free for the Silversmith Data Collection System. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed at 5:0.

3. Updates and discussion of the complaints submitted to the city. Progress made by the property owners?

Nate has plates for the two vehicles (Collector plates). Other vehicle will go in the shop before winter.

No update from Paul N.

Jeff took care of Vititoes property. November will review.

Kevin Pohl has addressed the issues that the letter was sent for. Nichole will talk to him about unregistered vehicles in front and the parking too close to the street.

There was discussion amongst the Council that the Mayor can’t submit a complaint. If there is a concern about mayor submitting a complaint, he doesn’t feel that he should be excluded to filing or taking a complaint. Nichole read off the complaint process. Mayor can appoint a couple people to review the complaint to see if it is valid. Caleb and Nichole will go look at the complaints.

4. Complaint regarding 1st Avenue Court when it comes to speeding and unsafe for pedestrians. Mayor is suggesting putting up a speed sign or a “Children at Play” sign, for example. We could also dedicate a small portion of the street for pedestrians, maybe 5 feet in width, paint a line to mark the boundary/area. Mayor did inform the Goodhue County Patrol Major about speeding on 1st Avenue Court. Discussed with Sheriff. Council will see if it gets better by next month.

5. The city council met on August 27th for a work session regarding the 2026 budget and setting a preliminary levy amount. No levy increase was recommended. RESOLUTION NO. 9-2025-1: BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Dennison, Counties of Goodhue and Rice, State of Minnesota, that the following sums of money be levied for the current year, collectible in 2026, upon taxable real property in the City of Dennison: \$200,000. Councilor Ruddle move to approve the resolution. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0.

6. CDs at the Heritage Bank are at the end of their terms by September 10th. What does the city council want to do? Renew/reinvest a certain amount? We currently have around \$308,000 in the savings and checking (nonpark fund). Property taxes will come around the first part of December. (Pearson \$60,000, Nerstrand \$12,000, LMCIT \$12-14,000 for property/liability, Deutsch in Dec –any other big bills coming up?) Councilor Ruddle move to keep them in the CD’s. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0.

7. Update on the new Cannabis Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance. Did the city attorney review the latest version of the Cannabis Ordinance? Not yet. Councilor Ruddle and clerk will work to get the Ordinance to the lawyer.

8. Snowplowing and ice removal for the winter of 2025/2026. Advertise for bids during the month of September. Receive the bids on Thursday, October 2nd, by 5 pm. The city has already received one bid, prior to the September meeting. Dates from last year changed, other items will stay the same.

9. Update on the Xcel Energy project from Nerstrand to Stanton. The mayor was informed of the progress of re-conducting and replacing most of the power poles between the two communities. Xcel relayed the following information: “Local started on the project in January and worked thru until July getting a few miles north of Nerstrand on Goodhue Ave.

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DENNISON CITY COUNCIL

(continued from page 26)

Unfortunately, because of a larger than expected customer workload on our schedule, we have had to send the remaining project to our contracting department.” No further updates from Xcel about the schedule of work as it pertains to the City.

10. New street lights in the City of Dennison. Mayor received news the new lights will be installed on 373rd street around September 18th. The locations have been staked. The cost of project will be \$3,342.

11. Mayor received proposals from Seykora Asphalt to stripe parking spots on main street. One proposal was from 375th to 376th Street for \$700. The other proposal was 375th to 377th Street for \$1,000. Council felt that the project could wait until next year.

12. Civil Defense siren was fixed by Ancom Communications on 8-14-25. The technician on-site recommended the City secure the breaker box with a padlock and also the boxes on the siren pole. Councilor Schloesser move to buy padlocks for the boxes. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 5:0.

13. Damage to the control box for the mixer at the ponds. Electrical damage occurred at the ponds either August 8th or 9th. Mayor asked Cedar Lake Electric to do an assessment of the facilities and determine what was damaged, which was done on August 22nd. It was found the breakers for the control box and heat tracer were tripped. Cedar Lake believed the motor for the mixer was unaffected and didn't need to be replaced. There appeared to be arching in the control box. Mayor initiated a claim with the insurance company. The City is in the process of getting a new control box and fixing that first.

14. Playground equipment issue. It was reported to the City on 8-25 that a particular piece of equipment was unsafe/loose and needed attention. Councilor Voight checked the equipment that evening and reported his findings to the council. There is a bracket that moves, attempts were made to tighten it without any success. Dan Storlie checked the equipment and recommended getting the information on the manufacturer with a phone number and a description. In the meantime, the affected playground parts have been closed by using yellow police tape. Fixed over the weekend and is ready to go.

15. Nate would like to replace the burned out LED light bulbs on the control panel for the lift station. Cedar Lake Electric proposal to do that work was \$240. Councilor Ruddle move to approve the replacement of the bulbs for \$240 by Cedar Lake Electric. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 5:0.

16. September 8th Pearson planning to sweep the streets.

17. Bill for the portable toilets during Dennison Days is \$1200. In the past the City has covered \$400. Is the City willing to do so again? Agreed to before to do the \$400. City will cover the \$400, Lions will cover the remainder.

18. Liability Coverage Waiver Form for LMCIT: “The City of Dennison does not want to waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn Stat. 466.04.” Must be approved annually. Councilor Schloesser move that “The City of Dennison does not want to waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn Stat. 466.04.” Councilor Cooke sec-

ond. Motion passed 5:0.

19. Has Nate removed his snow thrower and trailer from the west side of the city shop? He said he will do this week. Councilor Schloesser will assist Nate to ensure this gets done.

Citizens Issues:

Mayors Issues: Mayor issues/report: As part of his Active Transportation Advisory Committee responsibilities for MNDOT, he will be visiting Downtown Pelican Rapids on 9-18-25 to participate in the Complete Streets Project Walking Tour, which involved Hwy 59 and Hwy 108 and projected to cost 22.8 million dollars. Key project elements included: Resurface Hwys 59 and 108 in Pelican Rapids, Utility replacement, Sidewalk improvements, Bicycle & ADA accessibility upgrades, Construct roundabouts at the two intersections of Hwy 59 and Hwy 108.

Utilities:

1. Update from Nate: No report was submitted by Nate, but he had talked about some of the things that would come under an update with others.

2. J Hasse water quality issues. Any progress? None. Will talk to Jeff again.

3. Update on DO meter. Received the different probe? Is it working? No update

4. Thompson water meter and reader. Delivered meter to plumber. Had times lined up and twice it didn't work. Schedule another time. Jeff will check if it is done already.

5. The fire hydrant flushing for the spring/summer wasn't conducted by Nate. When is the City going to flush hydrants this fall? Nate said he was planning on the next two weeks.

6. Nate had to do one emergency discharge already in August as the ponds where very full. He was hoping to avoid another one before the September 15th date, but the ponds are near capacity already.

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

Mayor Flaten moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion was adjourned at 8:24pm.

Next meeting: Regular meeting on Thursday, October 2nd at 7:00.

CITY OF NERSTRAND, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Oct 14th, 2025 7:00p.m.

221 Main Street, Nerstrand

1. Call to Order/Pledge Allegiance

2. Roll Call: Present: Karla Ingersoll, Todd Evavold, John Harris and Pam Caron. Betty Voge was absent.

3. Approval of Last Month's Agenda

Motioned by Karla Ingersoll and seconded by John Harris and approved by all.

4. Consent Agenda

(All items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and have been made available to the City Council in advance of the meeting. The items will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from this agenda and considered in normal sequence.)

- Regular Meeting Minutes of Sept 9th, 2025

- Ordinance Committee Update

B. Payment of Claims dated:

1. September 25th, 2025

2. October 8th, 2025

3. October 14th, 2025

Motioned by Karla Ingersoll and seconded by John Harris and approved by all.

5. Clerk's Report

- Rice county did not have the average rate that for election judges. They would only share that they are paying \$20 per hour. Council has agreed that regular judges are to earn \$15 dollars and the Head judge would be \$17.

- Water Billing Update: 1 delinquent accounts. And one account we are looking at having to assess for non-payment.

- Newsletter topics: Please check your trees to see if limbs and branches may need to be trimmed so others can see, when visiting the waste water area please stay on the gravel, and we will also be asking residents to refrain from using Nerstrand streets as a dumping ground. It is acceptable to put items in front of their home for others to take but please do not leave on street corners.

- The Clerks still need the map so we can post about the lawn mowing bid request.

- Clerks are going to reach out to the residents who we will be assessing to inform them of the intent to asses.

- Park is closed for the season.

- Garden clean out.

6. New Business

A. Announcement of potential funding- Bollig was able to attend the meeting. Brady Panitzke, he presented on the funding situation and below is a summary:

- SCDP Grant Award: Congratulations to the City on receiving a \$600,000 SCDP grant! Bollig's funding team is already coordinating with DEED on next administrative steps, including the required environmental review. This award is a strong addition to the overall funding package and helps attract other funding sources. It was fun to be able to share the announcement with Representative Allen last Wednesday while I was at a legislative tour with him. He was excited for the city and even gave me a big high-five!

- Legislative Update: Representative Allen has agreed to introduce Nerstrand's bonding bill in the upcoming session, and all required materials (including the draft bill) have been submitted through MMB.

- IUP Rankings: The Draft Intended Use Plan (IUP), including updated PPL rankings, is expected to be released around November 15th.

- Congressional Directed Spending: Nerstrand remains identified as a Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) Appropriation submitted by Congressman Finstad. This \$1M opportunity would require passage of a federally approved omnibus bill.

- USDA RD Submission: The PER has been submitted to Rural Development; however, review timelines most definitely be delayed due to the federal shutdown.

B. Citizen Complaint-Vines-Steve reached out to the homeowner and they are waiting for winter and then plan to chop them down.

C. Doors for City Hall- One quote was presented to the council. It was reviewed and there was a request for modification. Council also requested that there be an additional quote presented. Mayor was going to seek this and reach out to the first company quote for changes.

D. Fire Dept Audit- There has been a delay in submitting the Audit. Joe Johnson was in attendance and will be stepping in and ensuring this is getting completed. There has been a potential loss of funding due to the delay. This will be the final year we use Abdo's services for this type of audit as it will no longer be needed.

E. Dept of Health Violation- The health department has sent a letter of violation to Nerstrand in regards to the testing timeline for a sample. Nerstrand Public Works Department is fighting this violation as they feel it was an error on the labs part for not providing the necessary testing equipment in the proper amount of time.

F. City of Nerstrand MAC-John Johnson presented a MAC to the council for consideration. Council will review and provide feedback.

7. Old Business

- Dettling Lease is up (Oct)-Renter's Insurance and Value-Lease agreement will be sent to Dettling for signing.

- Projector Options-John Harris provided a "free" option. Council has agreed to try this for a period to see if a new one is necessary.

- Discussion regarding cannabis ordinance-Tabled.

- Discussion regarding liquor ordinance and permitting-Tabled.

8. Reports of Officers

- Public Works Director- Jacob was able to attend and explained the Dept of Health violation and the actions he is taking to fight it. It seems as though the lab was late at sending a re-test kit after they failed to test the original sample upon receiving. Fire Hydrants are to be flushed Oct 17th beginning at 9 pm.

- Mayor – Is looking to do a little work at City Hall in order to get it ready for winter. Heat tape and a backup to be installed at City Hall. Also, there is a need for a GFI.

- Fire Department – Joe Johnson

- Acceptance of 50 portables and 22 mobile radios From Hamilton County Emergency Communications, Hamilton County Indiana. Estimated Value \$250,000.

Motioned by Karla Ingersoll and seconded by Pam Caron and approved by all.

- Request approval to donate 9 Mobile radios and 9 portable radios to neighboring departments.

Motioned by John Harris and seconded by Pam Caron and approved by all.

- Request approval to Auction or sale via bid Surplus equipment: 6 SCBA tanks, 3 fire-fighting nozzles, 1 strainer, 2 6" covers, 1 radio charger bank, 1 ax, 2 cpr mannequins and a 1995 Medtec ambulance upon delivery of new vehicle.

Motioned by Todd Evavold and seconded by Karla Ingersoll and approved by all.

- City of Nerstrand EOP-Need to review and approve at another meeting. Clerks will create a binder to have on site with this information.

- Council Members

- Zoning Committee-Meeting Minutes Provided by Lu

- Ordinance Committee- Update provided by email by Karla

9. Other Business

10. Adjourn

Motioned by Karla Ingersoll and seconded by John Harris and approved by all.

Next City Council Meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2025, at Nerstrand City Hall.

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Center Restaurant
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A promotional graphic for Consumer Cellular. On the left, a large, 3D-style "\$25" is displayed, with a smaller "\$10" partially visible behind it. A speech bubble next to the "\$25" says "SWITCH & GET". To the right, a dark speech bubble contains the text "Off First Month of New Service!" and "USE PROMO CODE: GZ590". Below this, the Consumer Cellular logo is shown. At the bottom, a dark banner contains the text "CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913" and a small copyright notice: "© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913".

1. Singular of #1 Across
2. *Woodpecker's pecker
3. *One lost in the woods
4. Posture
5. Boy Scout's badge
6. "Fear of Flying" author ____ Jong
7. *Furniture wood
8. *Conifer's dropping
9. Peters out
10. Def Leppard's "Rock of ____"
11. Psychedelic drug, acr.
13. St. Valentine, e.g.
14. Equip again
19. One of Seven Dwarfs
22. Rejuvenating spot
23. ____ Arabia
24. Wrinkle-prone fabric
25. Declaration of Independence, e.g.
26. 2002 Winter Olympics state
27. Mother-of-pearl
28. Weasel's cousin
29. *Golf's great
32. Catch one's breath
33. A in MOMA
36. *Scientific study in woodlands
38. Meteorologist's tool
40. Nile reptile
41. Masculine one and proud of it, pl.
44. Theater greeter
46. Something extraordinary
48. "Mea ____," or "my fault"
49. Hailing from the East
50. Type of salmon
51. *Seed covering
52. *Trunk growth
53. Sty cry
54. Speck
55. Recipe amt.
58. Go-ahead

[illegible]

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

An advertisement for Safe Step Walk-In Tub. The background is a black and white photograph of a walk-in tub with a showerhead. Overlaid on the image is the text: "Call today and receive a FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF". In the top right corner, a diagonal banner reads "SPECIAL OFFER". The Safe Step Walk-In Tub logo is in the bottom left, and the phone number "1-855-576-5653" is in the bottom right. A disclaimer at the very bottom states: "With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445".

9		2		5		7		
4	7		3		2			
	8							
		5		8			4	
	4			1			6	
	1			6		3		
							7	
			7		8		1	5
		8		4		6		9

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.

All the Best at Thanksgiving

In the tradition of Thanksgiving,
we would like to share our
thanks and best wishes
with all of you.

We are grateful for your trust and support.

From All of Us at Heritage Bank

We will be closed Thursday, November 27th so our employees can enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.



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