

KENYON • WANAMINGO Messenger

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #2
Dennison, MN 55018

Postal Customer
ECRWSS

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Volume 19 • Issue 4

School Bus Driver Appreciation Day



Administrator Boulton providing a signed copy of the resolution to Lorin Pohlman of Reliant Student Transport LLC (formerly Held Bus Services).

The Wanamingo City Council approved a resolution adopting a proclamation for School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in Wanamingo on February 19th. The City of Wanamingo appreciates area school bus drivers.

(continued on page 5)

Announcements

• **Wanamingo Fire Department Chili Cook-off March 7.** Any and all fire departments, EMS services & law enforcement eligible to join. Judging happens between 3-4pm.

(continued on page 3)

NAPA celebrates 50 years in Kenyon

By Jocelyn Aldrich

Fifty years of dedication, service, and pride. That's the legacy of the Kenyon NAPA Auto Parts store. The legacy began in 1976 when Ken Pierce and Gary Van Erp opened the

business and began to serve the Kenyon community. Throughout the years, the NAPA business was owned by various owners until 2006, when Jeff and Ann Traxler purchased the NAPA auto parts store from Larry Halthus and Rick Degan.

Jeff and Ann already owned their own auto business: Traxler Power. For them, adding the NAPA store seemed like a good fit since it was a major supplier to Traxler Power. Jeff and Ann recalled that when the NAPA store went up for sale, they "didn't want it to leave town." Farmers and auto mechanics alike depended on the NAPA store for easy access to parts that kept them on the road and in the

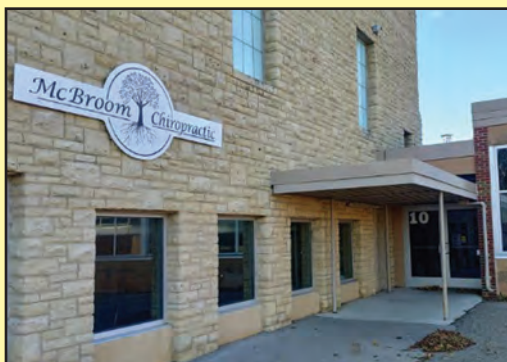
Summer Fun

By Cheri Roshon

It's never too early to look forward to warmer weather in Minnesota! A summer-time daycare program is now available in Wanamingo with lots of fun included.

(continued on page 4)

McBroom Chiropractic Moves to New Location



Entrance to McBroom Chiropractic

health. She notes that, "I became more interested in how non-pharmaceutical treatments fit into healthcare. The more I learned about chiropractic, the more it felt like the right fit for me."

Dr. Laura McBroom is a local chiropractor who has been practicing for 14 years, but has been fascinated with natural healthcare since she was a child. Dr. McBroom says, "as a child, I knew I wanted to work in healthcare because I was so interested in the human body and enjoyed taking care of others. I read my mom's nursing texts for fun in elementary school and rolled a tennis ball over my grandpa's sore back muscles when he got home from work." Even as a teenager, she continued to pursue her passion for

(continued on page 5)



Jeff, Ann, their son Levi, and the NAPA team

field. If the NAPA store moved to a different town, obtaining parts would become more of a hassle. Jeff and Ann had "always wanted to put the two businesses together," and in July of 2006, they did just that.

Traxler Power focuses on four areas of service: Ag repair, semi-trucks and trailers, auto, and lawn and garden. The Kenyon NAPA store, blended with Traxler Power, provides more than just auto parts.

(continued on page 4)

FRIDAY FISH FRY

ENJOY OUR LENT FISH FRY and DINNER SPECIALS

Every Friday starting at 4:00PM

Serving Fish Dinners Fridays for Lunch from 11AM-3PM

Open Wednesday-Thursday 11:00am-8:30pm (Bar Open Later)
Friday-Saturday 11:00am-9:30pm (Bar Open Later);
Sunday 9:00am-8:00pm (Bar Open Later)

37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN
507-645-9992 • www.firesidelounge.net

The Fireside
LOUNGE AND SUPPER CLUB

KENYON VFW POST 141

JOIN US FOR...
TACO TUESDAYS!
In March
From 5:00-7:00 PM

March 17 Legion Meeting 7:30 PM
March 23 Auxiliary Meeting 5:30 PM, Veteran Support Group Meeting 7:00 PM
March 24 VFW Meeting 6:00 PM • March 25 Color Guard Meeting 6:30 PM

FISH FRY FRIDAY
February 27 • 5-7 PM

HAPPY HOUR:
Monday-Saturday from 4:00-7:00 PM
Come on down and support the VFW and enjoy some good times!

Conrad Osthum Post 141
Veterans of Foreign Wars
601 2nd Street, Kenyon, MN • 507-789-5691
Consider joining an organization, the VFW needs you.

Gulf War Veterans, come join us!

MARCH 14
ST. PATTY'S
CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE
5:00-7:00PM

Pastors Corner

God Heard

By Pastor Dave Breederland

Many people today are trying to be heard. They have opinions and thoughts especially concerning politics. They post on X, Facebook, and other social media platforms to get their message out. Others make literal posters and demonstrate on our nation's streets – hoping that their actions will draw people's attention to their message. No doubt some are heard in varying degrees, but others are not.

The two words of this article's headline are found in Exodus 2:24. Those two words can be of great encouragement to us spiritually if we let them. Why? Because they remind us that we are not forgotten, we are not overlooked, and we are not praying in vain. Those two words give us assurance that God hears what we tell him – our praises, our petitions, our pains, and our pleas.

Recall the context for those two words (God heard) occurred during the time the Israelites were in slavery in Egypt. Life was hard, but they had God's promises made to their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The people cried out to God in the pain of their circumstances. Were their prayers falling on deaf

ears? No! If you go back to Exodus 2:24-25 you'll find that God did four things: he heard, he remembered his covenant promise to Abraham, he looked on the Israelites' situation and he was concerned about them.

Those are tremendous reminders of the character of God we pray to and worship. Those things should encourage us in our prayers. However, even though God heard the prayers of his people, we must remember that his response was on his schedule and not

the people's. If you read Exodus chapters 3-12, you'll see that God had a plan to deliver his people, a plan for a deliverer in Moses, and you'll also notice that life didn't instantly get easier for the Israelites. Life got worse for them before it got better. Yet, at the right time – God's time, things happened. When God's timing arrived, it called for immediate action on the part of his people.

In our instant society, we often expect instant results. Sometimes that thinking carries

over into our prayers to God. We want an instant response that lines up with our agenda. Although God hears, he has a timetable for his response that is far beyond our comprehension. We must humbly, not grumbly, submit to his plan and timing. Our trust is to be in God who knows what is best for us and for his glory.

Are we willing to do that?

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Newness of Eternal Life

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. — John 3:16

The newness we celebrate at the start of each year pales in comparison to the ultimate newness we receive through Christ. Eternal life isn't just about a future promise; it's about a present reality that transforms how we live today. When we embrace the newness of eternal life, we accept that we are part of something far greater than ourselves—an unshakable kingdom that will never fade.

I remember when I first understood this truth fully. It wasn't until a hard season in my life that I truly grasped what it meant to have eternal life through Jesus. I realized that no matter what happened in the world or in my circumstances, the gift of eternal life could not be taken away. This profound shift in perspective gave me the peace that surpasses understanding. I knew I had a hope beyond what this world could offer.

Eternal life changes everything. It shifts our values, our priorities, and even the way we see hardship. Each day becomes a step closer to the fulfillment of God's promises. So when the trials of life come, we can face them with the confidence that we are secure in the love of God, which never ends.

As we conclude this devotional journey, let's remember that the newness we experience now is just a foretaste of the life we have in Christ that will never fade but last forever!

Lord, thank you for the gift of eternal life. Help us to embrace your love and the hope you have given us, trusting in your promises. Amen.

DENNISON/VANG LUTHERAN PARISH
(C) 507-269-5997 Office: 507-645-6042
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN 55018
Website: www.dennisonvang.org
You can join us for Worship online at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/167136242800>

Wednesday Lenten Vespers

Our Lenten Vespers are Holden Evening Prayer, a brief sung liturgy by Marty Haugen. Midweek worship is Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Vespers are preceded by soup suppers beginning at 6:00.

Soup suppers and Lenten Evening Vespers will be at Dennison.

Sunday, March 1: Vang – 9:00 am;

Dennison— 10:30 am

Sunday, March 8: Vang – 9:00 am;

Dennison— 10:30 am

Sunday, March 15: Vang – 9:00 am;

Dennison— 10:30 am

Sunday, March 22: Vang – 9:00 am;

Dennison— 10:30 am

Palm Sunday, March 29: Vang – 9:00 am;

Dennison— 10:30 am

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
301 2nd Avenue, Wanamingo • 824-2155

WANAMINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
130 West 3rd St., Wanamingo • 824-2457
www.TrinityWanamingo.org

ASPELUND EMMANUEL LUTHERAN
Rob Edwards, Pastor
42957 County 1 Blvd, Kenyon • 507-824-2307
www.emmanuelafic.org
8:30a.m. Prayer Time; 9:00a.m. Sunday School
10:00a.m. Coffee Time; 10:30a.m. Worship Service

FIRST EV. LUTHERAN
D.J. Chatelaine, Pastor
309 Forest Street, Kenyon • 507-789-5261
website: fickenyon.org
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.;
Noon-1:00p.m. Open Prayer Time,
1st Tuesday each month

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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NERSTRAND
Mike Ahrens S.A.M.
Service 9am. Coffee hour follows @ 10 am
Sunday School 10:15 am

GOSPEL OF LIFE FAMILY CHURCH
Pastor Steven G. Roberts
www.gospeloflifeflchchurch.org
2010 Jefferson Rd, Northfield - Sunday 10:30a.m.
507-259-2644
Wanamingo - Wednesday 7:00p.m.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Wheeling Twp) 19086 Jacob Avenue, Faribault
Gary Liker, Pastor • 507-330-0025
www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info
Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.
E-mail your church announcements, schedule, etc.

to the
Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger at:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

HAUGE LUTHERAN

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

LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH

P O Box 225/16640 Hwy 60 Blvd
Zumbrota, MN 55992-5105 • (507) 732-5482
Web Site: www.landslutheran.org
Facebook: Lands Lutheran Church
Pastor: David Krinke
Email: pastordavid@landslutheran.org
Pastor: Nikki Rockne
Email: pastornikki@landslutheran.org
Sunday services 8:30 am Contemporary Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship

STORDAHL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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

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
Holden Lutheran Church on Facebook
Worship Services
Mar 1: Holden 9:00, Dale 11:00
Mar 4: Lenten service Holden 7pm
Mar 8: Dale 9:00, Holden 11:00
Mar 11: Dale Lent 7:00pm
Mar 15: Holden 9:00, Dale 11:00
Mar 18: Holden Lent 7:00pm
Mar 22: Dale 9:00, Holden 11:00
Mar 25: Lent Dale 7pm
Mar 29: Holden 9:00, Dale 11:00
Apr 2: Maundy Thurs Dale 7:00pm
Apr 5: Easter Sunrise Dale 7:00, Holden 10:00

MOLAND CHURCH

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

NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

KENYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

NEW LIFE CHURCH

525 Beverly Street, Wanamingo, mn
Phone - 507-824- 3019

WWW.NLCWANAMINGO.ORG

(Online Services also available)

OFFICE@NLCWANAMINGO.ORG

Pastor Vince Derr

Sunday School for preschool - adult 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Services 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Available)

New Life Kids (K- 6th) Wednesdays 6 - 7:15 pm

Youth Group (7th- 12th grade)

Two Sunday evenings per month

Women's ministry, Men's ministry and more.

Contact the church for more information.

 **Security State Bank of Kenyon**
602 Second Street • P.O. Box G
Kenyon, Minnesota 55946
507-789-6123 Toll Free 1-888-789-6123
Visit our website: ssbkenyon.com

 **The Fireside**
37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN
Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 AM-8:30 PM
Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM-9:30 PM; Sunday 9:00 AM-8:00 PM
Bar Open Later
507-645-9992 • www.firesidelounge.net

THE HAIR PLACE

Master BARBER
Stop By or Call for Appointment 507-789-5899
609 2nd St. Kenyon, MN (next to VFW) Tues - Fri 8-5:30, Sat 8-3 Cash or Check Only

 **KENYON • WANAMINGO Messenger**
Mainstreet Publishing Minnesota, Inc.
P.O. Box 125 Dennison, MN 55018
Phone/Text 507-649-3327
Fax 507-645-9878
www.kenyonmn.net
www.wanamingomn.com
E-mail: hometownmessenger@gmail.com
Published in cooperation with
Mainstreet Publishing Minnesota, Inc.
©2026, Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger. All rights reserved.
For advertising information call
Terry Campbell at 507-951-7417

Thelma Jane Spitzack

Thelma Jane Spitzack, 89, of Wanamingo, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at Cannon Rivers Senior Living in Cannon Falls, surrounded by her loved ones. She was born on March 9, 1936, in Morristown, MN to Roy and Irene (Geisler) Kratt. She grew up in Morristown and graduated from Morristown High School as salutatorian in 1954. For a short time, before she was married, she worked as a switchboard operator for the local telephone company, and worked at the canning factory. On June 23, 1956, she married



Ralph Spitzack at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. In 1966, they moved their family to Wanamingo, where Thelma resided until she transitioned to Cannon River Senior Living. For many years Thelma worked as the secretary at Kenyon-Wanamingo Schools. During that time Thelma and Ralph operated the Hader Auction Barn. Thelma and Ralph also worked as custodians at Security State Bank in Wanamingo for many years. After retirement, Thelma worked at the Dairy Queen in Zumbrota where she served her favorite treat – ice cream.

Thelma was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo participating in various committees. She enjoyed baking, especially her famous “grandma’s buns”, decorating and making Christmas time very festive. Thelma also was an Avon Sales representative. Most of all she looked forward to attending her grandchildren’s sporting and school events and you would also find her attending the basketball games and keeping the scorebook.

Thelma is survived by her four children, Brad (Michelle) Spitzack of West Concord, Brenda (Scott) Jackson of Cannon Falls, Bruce Spitzack of Maiden Rock, WI and Barbie (Tim) Kalien of Eau Claire, WI; grandchildren, Joshua (Missy) Spitzack of Northfield, Hannah (Andrew) Weiers of Lonsdale, Logan (Tracy) Spitzack of Elk River, Tatam (Michael) Ayres, Korie (Matt

Benson) Jackson of Cannon Falls, and Tanner (Lauren) Jackson of Hastings, Stephanie (Kevin) Taylor of Chippewa Falls, WI, Dustin Kalien of Eau Claire, Tyson (Morgan Schmitt) Kalien of Chippewa Falls, Nathan (Amelia) Kalien of Plover, WI and Malia Kalien of Eau Claire; great grandchildren, Linden, Cooper, and Grady Spitzack, Parker, Sawyer and Mayson Weiers, Teegan and Brinley Spitzack, Brekkyn, Lakynn, Jackson and Kamden Ayres, Haydn and Leighton Benson and Lydia, Etta and Cole Taylor; siblings, Fritz (Dell) Kratt, Donna Dokken, Lenora Kuball, Chuck (Trish) Kratt, Ken (Joan) Kratt, Becky (Dennis) Hager, Cliff (Molly) Kratt, and Mike (Darlene) Kratt; brother-in-law, Dave (Sharon Homeier) Kolsrud along with many nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ralph in 2015, brother, Allen Kratt; brothers-in-law, Willard Kuball, Neil Hager and Truman Dokken; parents-in-law, Paul and Helen Spitzack, sisters-in-law, Marion (Harvey) Gieseke, Dorothy (Del) Butterfield and Lois Kolsrud and brother-in-law, Harlan (Darlene) Spitzack.

Memorial service was at 11 a.m. Monday, February 16, 2026, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo. Reverend David Sorenson officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery. Visitation was for one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorials can

be directed to Brighten Hospice. Thelma’s family would like to thank the care givers at Cannon Rivers Senior Living. Arrangements are by the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel in Zumbrota.

Mark Edward Rumpho

Mark Edward Rumpho, age 67, of Missoula, Montana and formerly of Kenyon died on Friday, February 20, 2026, at Ridgeview Medical Center, Waconia, after an extended illness.

The Boldt Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Faribault, are arranging private services for the family in the spring.

Mark was born on October 7, 1958, in Faribault, Minnesota, the son of Morris and Blanche (Miller) Rumpho. Mark graduated with the class of '77 from Kenyon High School, earned his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Minnesota, and took classes towards his master's degree at the University of Montana in Missoula. It was while living in Montana and working for the city of Missoula that Mark developed a love for the outdoors and became an avid fisherman.

Mark is survived by his brother Andrew Rumpho of Rochester, and sisters Ann (Jim) Heckert of Faribault, Beth (Greg) Ellerbusch of Faribault, and Mary Rumpho-Kennedy of Baxter. He is also survived by several nieces (Amber, Maia, Jena and Sara) and nephews (Jake, Zach, Caleb, Alex, Bryce and Curran), and great-nieces (Hannah and Ella) and great-nephews (Liam, Caden, Colton, Carter, Daniel, Nolan, Nicholas and Kieran).

He was preceded in death by his parents, Blanche and Morris, and his brother-in-law, Robert Kennedy.



**Share your engagement,
birthday, wedding,
anniversary or
birth announcement**

Email:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Announcements

• **Wanamingo Vintage Ride & Show, Saturday, March 7** - 96 Main Street, Wanamingo.

• **Save the date! 2026 Dennison Days August 7 & 8.**

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

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

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

• **Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard invite you to become a member.** Join us and help us make the Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard an even bigger success. WVHG meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Wanamingo Community Center. The VFW will meet from 7-7:30p.m. The Honor Guard will meet from 7:30-8:30p.m. For more information contact Eric Dierks 507-321-1967, Gary Floan at 507-732-7740, or Larry Van De Walker at 507-421-4674.

Do you have an announcement?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com



Dennison Lions Club

ANNUAL SPRING BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 29, 2026

8:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

at Dennison Lutheran Church, Dennison



All You Care to Eat
Pancakes, French Toast,
Eggs, Sausages,
Juice, Milk, Coffee

Adults \$13.00 • Kids \$5.00 (Kids under 3 Free)

*Proceeds will benefit the Dennison Lions Club and
Dennison Community Church activities*



Traxler Law PLLC

traxlerlaw.com

Ann Traxler
Attorney

PRACTICE AREAS

- Wills, Trusts, & Estates
- Farm and Business
Transition Planning
- General Practice
- Probate

502 Huseh St. Ste. C
Kenyon, MN 55945
507-405-0420
ann@traxlerlaw.com



NAPA celebrates 50 years in Kenyon

(continued from page 1)

Jeff and Ann noted that when you walk into their store, you are getting more than just

parts, “you’re also getting some technical help” from employees who know their stuff. Having their business now situated on Huseth Street instead of downtown has really helped them to more easily provide service to the bigger vehicles on the road, like semi-trucks and DOT vehicles. The NAPA and Traxler Power businesses have been in the new building for a year. Jeff says having extra parking space has made repairs and business much easier.

Jeff and Ann Traxler love being able to serve the Kenyon community through both Traxler Power, the NAPA store, and Traxler Law (Ann’s business). Their son, Levi, who works with them, said he greatly enjoys “helping everybody” who comes into the

shop. The Traxler family loves the small-town atmosphere and knowing their customers. The Traxler Power and NAPA store is truly a family business. Their commitment to quality and community is seen in the way they interact with their customers. As for the future of the Traxler Power business, Jeff and Ann are looking forward to hiring a few more people in the near future. They are also excited to see how their son, Levi, becomes more involved in the business.

NAPA is currently running a sale on filters, so don’t forget to stock up. The sale will run through the 28th of February, 2026. Jeff and Ann would also like to invite the Kenyon community to join them in celebrating the retirement of Owen Aaland, a long-time employee. The celebration will take place on February 27th, from 1-3 pm. The NAPA and Traxler Power storefront is located at 502 Huseth Street in Kenyon.



For all your insurance needs.

Phone Number	Address
(507) 824-5105	133 Main Street PO Box 54 Wanamingo, MN 55983

Jim Sviggum | Adam Dicke | Justin Thomforde

LIVE MUSIC

Friday, March 13
Nathan's Jazzers
7:00-9:00 PM

Cards Every Tuesday 2:00-5:00 PM

Fresh Coffee • Fine Wine • Craft Beer • Live Music

OPEN MIC
Mar. 5 & 19
7-10PM



THE Annadine
Dodge County's Greatest Anodyne
16 West Main, Dodge Center
507-273-9530
Follow Us on Facebook @THEANNADINE



TRAXLER

POWER & EQUIPMENT

Specializing in Farm Equipment Repair

Authorized Toro® Dealer



DOT Inspections/Welding

502 Huseth St., Kenyon
507-789-6321

Summer Fun

(continued from page 1)

As you know, the school in Wanamingo is now home to Golden Days & Little Rays, as well as an open gym and office spaces available to local businesses. This summer it will also include a special day care program full of food and fun. This program is designed to help kids grow in kindness and knowledge, responsibility and self-confidence while making new memories. This is a special program and spaces are limited, so sign up is required.

The summer days will sponsor outdoor activities for learning real life skills and values, as well as creative play and meaningful experiences. Highlights of the program include daily outdoor play and nature experiences, Golden Days Gardening Club, creative art, sensory and STEM activities, community connections and special visitors, with structured routines that keep learning fun!

The cost per child is \$220 for a 5-day week. Two meals and two snacks are provided daily by the caring, trained staff in a welcoming environment.

You must register in advance, and spaces will fill quickly, so be sure to check it out on the website under Daycare at www.core824.com to see if this program is for you.



Does your car need a second opinion?



We have quality mechanics who can diagnose and repair what others can't.

~ See us for Tires and Custom Exhaust ~

**River Road Repair**



11365 Highway 60, Wanamingo
Call 507-824-2479 to schedule.

We warranty all of our auto, light truck, or trailer repairs.

McBroom Chiropractic Moves to New Location

(continued from page 1)

Dr. McBroom enjoys having her own practice and being able to help others in their healthcare journey. When asked what she enjoys about her practice, she notes, "I enjoy listening/talking to people, reducing their pain, helping them reach their goals, and giving them the tools to take care of themselves." She offers traditional chiropractic care using a selection of tools and techniques to care for each of her patients. In addition to chiropractic care, she also considers physical movement and stretches to be an essential

part of care for the body. She received her training from Northwestern Health Sciences University in Bloomington, MN, and graduated in 2011 with her doctorate in Chiropractic. Dr. McBroom thoroughly invested in her education and gained experience working with the Minneapolis Salvation Army, Woodwinds Clinic in Woodbury, and private practices in Farmington and Cannon Falls.

In addition to helping others in their healthcare journey, Dr. McBroom has found chiropractic care helpful in her own life. She notes that she "personally found chiropractic care helpful during pregnancy, postpartum, following car accidents, [and] studying for finals in college. Chiropractic has helped me

recover from injuries and prevented some from happening again." Dr. McBroom understands the benefits of chiropractic care because she has experienced them herself.

Dr. McBroom's clinic is located on the south side of the old Wanamingo school building (225 3rd Ave. S.). Dr. McBroom says she enjoys this new location because it "is more private for patients." She also enjoys being able to "walk to work." Dr. McBroom's practice was previously located in Kenyon.

Dr. McBroom lives in Wanamingo with her husband, Jacob, and their four children. To contact Dr. McBroom and book your appointment, call 507-273-9108 or email lauramcbrroom@gmail.com.

School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

(continued from page 1)

WHEREAS: In darkness and daylight, on dirt roads and multi-lane highways, from the warm spring to the frigid winter, Minnesota school bus drivers safely transport more than 682,000 cherished students to and from school and activities each day; and

WHEREAS: Kenyon-Wanamingo school bus drivers are responsible for the safety of children across our city, often navigating challenging weather and schedules to ensure students arrive to their destinations; and

WHEREAS: They also play a critical, reliable support role for Kenyon-Wanamingo families, savings parents and guardians time and expense by transporting their student; and

WHEREAS: School buses are the safest mode of transportation for children, as students are eight times safer riding in a bus to school than in a car thanks to rigorous safety standards for vehicles and drivers; and

WHEREAS: The school bus driving industry is the largest form of mass transit in Minnesota and has worked hard to reduce its environmental impact by using alternative fuels, retrofit diesel engines, and electric buses; and

WHEREAS: The City of Wanamingo appreciates the dedication and invaluable contributions of school bus drivers. Today, we recognize these worthy professionals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WANAMINGO: That February 18, 2026 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in Wanamingo.

Our advertisers appreciate your business!

Tell them you saw their ad in the

KENYON • WANAMINGO
Messenger



KENYON-WANAMINGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STUDENTS
of the
WEEK



NOBLE KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK FOR FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Front Row: Dexter Obernolte, KG, Ms. Emma Kmoch; Jasper Harmon, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Leon Reinardy, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Raelynne Westlund, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Paisley Schley, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan. Back Row: Oliver Miner, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Ella Hernandez-Washington, Gr. 3, Mrs. Sandy Bohaty; Kiley Hedeem, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Hugh Ellingsberg, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

2026 WANAMINGO Vintage Ride & Show

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
WANAMINGO
FIREFIGHTERS**

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH, 2026
96 MAIN STREET WANAMINGO MN 55983

FREE RIDE & SHOW REGISTRATION @ 9AM

SNOWMOBILE JUDGING @ 11AM

12 MILE RIDE LEAVES @ NOON

AWARDS AND RAFFLE @ 3:30PM

FIREFIGHTERS CHILI COOK-OFF 3PM-4PM

BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT @ 4:30PM
- REGISTRATION @ 4PM

ALL SNOWMOBILERS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!
BRING YOUR OLD, NEW, UGLY, FANCY

Kenyon[🛒]market

OPEN EVERYDAY 7 AM-8 PM

We accept WIC Vouchers, Snap, Visa and Mastercard

109 Red Wing Ave., Kenyon • 507-789-5101 • www.kenyonmarket.com



Prices Effective Wednesday

FRESH Bone-In Pork Shoulder Roast \$1.99 Lb.	FRESH 85% Lean Ground Beef \$5.99 Lb.
Frozen Split Chicken Breast \$1.49 Lb.	Smithfield Bacon 12 Oz., Selected Varieties \$3.99 Ea.
Fresh Express Iceberg Garden Salad 12 Oz. or Coleslaw Kit 14 Oz. 2/\$3	Kings River Navel Oranges 4 Lb. Bag \$3.99 Ea.
FRESH Cosmic Crisp Apples \$1.49 Lb.	
Best Choice Sweet Cream Butter 16 Oz., Selected Varieties 2/\$7	Chobani Yogurt 5.3 Oz., Selected Varieties 10/\$10
Best Choice Pasta 16 Oz., Selected Varieties 10/\$10	Banquet Pot Pie 7 Oz., Selected Varieties 10/\$10
Best Choice Vegetables 14.5-15.25 Oz., Selected Varieties 10/\$10	Best Choice Soup 10.5-11.25 Oz., Selected Varieties 10/\$10
Orv's Rizers Pizza 23.15-23.85 Oz., Selected Varieties 2/\$9	Kemps Chocolate Milk Half Gallon \$3.49 Ea.
Nabisco Family Size Snack Crackers 12-14 Oz., Selected Varieties \$4.99 Ea.	Chex Mix, Bugles or Gardetto's Snack Mix 7-8.5 Oz., Selected Varieties 2/\$6
	Old Dutch Ripples Potato Chips 8-8.5 Oz., Selected Varieties 2/\$7

Due to supply uncertainty, some ad items may be out of stock. We are unable to provide rainchecks at this time. We apologize for any inconvenience. *All items shown may not be available in all stores, some regional differences may occur. We reserve the right to correct printing errors, set limits and/or refuse sales to commercial/wholesale customers.

GROCERY			
Hungry Jack or Pillsbury Funfetti Pancake & Waffle Mix 26-32 Oz., Selected Varieties \$2.79 Ea.	Hungry Jack Syrup 24 Oz., Selected Varieties \$3.79 Ea.	Best Choice Baking Chips 11.5-12 Oz., Selected Varieties \$3.69 Ea.	Best Choice Gelatin or Pudding Mix 3.5-9 Oz., Selected Varieties 10/\$10
Nabisco Premium Saltine or Soup & Oyster Crackers 8-16 Oz., Selected Varieties \$3.49 Ea.	Best Choice Pasta or Marinara Sauce 24 Oz., Selected Varieties 3/\$5	Pop-Tarts Toaster Pastries 8 Oz., Selected Varieties 2/\$5	Bounty Paper Towels 6 Double Rolls or Charmin Bath Tissue 8 Mega Rolls, Selected Varieties \$11.99 Ea.
FROZEN			
Jack's Pizza 13.8-15.8 Oz., Selected Varieties 3/\$10	Best Choice Frozen Potatoes 20-32 Oz., Selected Varieties \$3.49 Ea.	Louisa Toasted, Ravioli or Tortellini 16-19 Oz., Selected Varieties \$4.49 Ea.	Bagel Bites Pizza Snack 7 Oz., Selected Varieties 2/\$5
DAIRY			
Best Choice Shredded or Chunk Cheese 8-8 Oz., Selected Varieties 2/\$4	Best Choice Cream Cheese 8 Oz., Selected Varieties 2/\$4	Yoplait Yogurt 8 Ct. or Go-Gurt 16 Ct., Selected Varieties \$4.99 Ea.	Daisy Brand Sour Cream 8 Oz., Selected Varieties 2/\$3
MEATS			
FRESH Bone-In Pork Steak Product of USA \$2.49 Lb.	FRESH Boneless Beef Arm Roast USDA Choice Product of USA \$5.99 Lb.	Jimmy Dean Breakfast Sandwiches 12.8-18.8 Oz., Selected Varieties \$6.99 Ea.	
Frozen Pork Loin Back Ribs Product of USA \$3.99 Lb.			
PRODUCE			
Best Choice From The Farm Russet Potatoes 5 Lb. Bag 2/\$3	Best Choice From The Farm Red or Gold Potatoes 5 Lb. Bag 2/\$5	FRESH Jumbo Idaho Russet Potatoes 39¢ Lb.	FRESH Strawberries \$3.49 Ea.

Winter Weather SAVINGS!

Wednesday, February 25 through Tuesday, March 3, 2026



**Best Choice
Broth or Stock**
32 Oz.,
Selected Varieties

\$1.49
Ea.



**Cascade
Action Pacs**
9-10 Ct.,
Selected Varieties

\$4.99
Ea.



**Best Choice
Ice Cream**
4 Qt. Pail,
Selected Varieties

\$5.99
Ea.



**Dannon
Oikos,
Light & Fit
or Too Good
Greek Yogurt**
4.5-5.3 Oz.,
Selected Varieties

10/\$12



**FRESH
Boneless Beef
Sirloin Steak**
USDA Choice
Product of USA

\$7.99
Lb.



**Oscar Mayer
Bologna or
Cotto Salami**
16 Oz.,
Selected Varieties

\$2.99
Ea.



Bananas

59¢
Lb.

BAKERY



**The Father's Table
Strawberry
Cheesecake**
32 Oz.

\$9.69
Ea.



**JJ's Bakery
Raspberry Pie**
4 Oz.,
Selected Varieties

5/\$5



**The Father's Table
Coconut Cream Pie**
6 inch

\$5.99
Ea.

DELI



**Mrs. Gerry's
Supreme Salad**

\$6.99
Lb.



**Mrs. Gerry's
Coleslaw, Macaroni, or Deli
Fresh Potato Salad**
40-48,
Selected Varieties

\$7.99
Ea.



**Kretschmar
Deli Sliced
Hickory
Smoked Turkey**

\$8.88
Lb.

ADDITIONAL SPECIALS



**Pepsi
Products**
12 Pack 12 Oz. Cans,
Selected Varieties

2/\$13



**Pepsi
Products**
10 Pack 7.5 Mini Cans,
Selected Varieties

\$5.99
Ea.



**7-Up
Products**
10 Pack 7.5 Mini Cans,
Selected Varieties

\$5.99
Ea.



**Best Choice
Drinking Water**
24 Pack 16.9 Oz. Bottles

\$3.88
Ea.



**Old Orchard
Juice**
64 Oz.,
Selected Varieties

\$2.79
Ea.



**Best Choice
Soda or Mixers**
2 Liter Bottle,
Selected Varieties

10/\$10

SIGN UP FOR OUR DIGITAL APP!



Kenyon market

NOW AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD!



REGISTER EACH WEEK
TO WIN A
\$25.00
GIFT
CERTIFICATE
TO A LOCAL
RESTAURANT!

One winner drawn each week.



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Hiawathaland Rails

By Cheri Roshon

Are you looking for some fun and historical events to attend this spring? If so, and if you like trains, the 20th Annual Randolph Railroad Days is coming to town! Located at the Randolph High School & Museum at 29110 Davisson Avenue in Randolph, you will find all things trains! March 28th from 9 am to 3 pm and March 29th from 10 am to 2 pm, there will be a lot going on. There will be a swap meet of collectables, model trains, antique toys, books and magazines. The Museum will be open with many new railroad artifacts, and its enhanced G scale Train! There will be large scale train layouts and displays, and of course a concession stand. Admission for adults is \$7.00, and children 10 and under are free with a paying adult. A bit of railroad history to get you better informed follows.

The Hiawathaland region of southeastern Minnesota holds a rich and enduring railroad heritage. From high-speed streamlined passenger trains to hardworking regional freight lines, rail service shaped the economy, culture, and identity of this Mississippi River Bluff Country landscape. At the heart of this legacy was the famed Twin Cities Hiawatha, one of America's most celebrated passenger trains.

"Hiawathaland" refers to a 12-county area in southeastern Minnesota: Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona, Houston, Rice, Dodge, Olmsted, Fillmore, Waseca, Steele, Freeborn, and Mower counties. Nestled along the Mississippi River Valley, the region's rolling bluffs and fertile farmland made rail transportation essential to its growth. Agricultural transport as well as passenger cars were vital to the growth and stability of the country.

Beginning in the late 19th century, several

major railroads established routes through the region. Chief among them was the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, commonly known as the Milwaukee Road. Another key player was the Chicago Great Western Railway (CGW), which operated important regional lines connecting agricultural communities to larger markets.

These railroads provided more than transportation. They linked small towns to urban centers, moved grain and livestock to national markets, delivered manufactured goods, and carried passengers across the Upper Midwest. Rail lines became economic lifelines, shaping settlement patterns and fostering industrial growth throughout the Hiawatha Valley.

Introduced in 1935, the Twin Cities Hiawatha quickly became the pride of the Milwaukee Road. Running between Chicago and Minneapolis-St. Paul, the train began official service on May 29, 1935. It soon earned national attention as one of the fastest scheduled passenger trains in the United States, averaging speeds that exceeded 100 miles per hour in certain segments.

Powered initially by specially designed Atlantic-type 4-4-2 steam locomotives, the Hiawatha featured striking two-tone orange and gray paint schemes and innovative passenger amenities. Its distinctive Beaver Tail parlor-observation cars—and later the dramatic Sky Top lounge-observation cars—offered sweeping panoramic views, blending luxury with modern design.

The train's popularity led to expanded service, including the Morning Hiawatha, Afternoon Hiawatha, Midwest Hiawatha, and eventually the long-distance Olympian Hiawatha. Over time, streamlined diesel locomotives such as EMD's E6 and E9 units replaced steam power, but the Hiawatha name remained synonymous with speed, comfort, and Midwestern innovation.

Although private passenger rail declined in the mid-20th century, the Hiawatha legacy continues today through regional passenger

services operated by Amtrak, preserving at least part of the original corridor's spirit.

Beyond the famous passenger trains, southeastern Minnesota's rail heritage includes countless branch lines, depots, river crossings, and junctions that once bustled with activity. In an effort to preserve the local southeastern Minnesota area's history, train buffs in this area and beyond have been actively bringing history to life by building replicas of different train routes to scale with corresponding trains of the eras in which they served.

Rail historians and enthusiasts alike have documented these remnants through video archives, field explorations, and preservation efforts. Former Chicago Great Western routes at Zumbrota Junction, segments of the Milwaukee Road's River Division, abandoned trestles, and historic signage remain tangible reminders of the region's rail-centered past.

Museums, local historical societies, and model railroad exhibits help preserve artifacts and stories tied to these lines. In many cases, former rail corridors have been converted into recreational trails, allowing residents and visitors to walk or cycle along routes once traveled by freight and passenger trains. The famed Douglas Trail is one of the rail line turned bike and walking paths observed in this area.

Railroads were instrumental in shaping Hiawathaland's economy. They enabled efficient agricultural shipping, supported industrial development, and connected rural

communities to national markets. Passenger service fostered tourism and mobility, while freight operations sustained local businesses.

The Twin Cities Hiawatha stands as a symbol of the golden age of streamlined rail travel—an era defined by speed, technological progress, and design innovation. At the same time, the region's lesser-known branch lines reflect the everyday importance of rail transportation in small-town America.

Today, preserved depots, converted rail trails, and historical archives maintain a tangible connection to southeastern Minnesota's railroad heritage. The tracks may be fewer, but the legacy of Hiawathaland's railroads continues to run deep through the Bluff Country landscape.

So, if this sounds like an outing not to be missed, come on over to the show, and enjoy going back in history to learn all about trains!

Keeping your name in front of your potential customers is an essential part of marketing your business in today's competitive market.

Place your ad in the next issue of The Messenger.

Call Terry at 507-951-7417 or email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Fire Department Chili Cook-off! March 7, 2026



Any & All Fire Departments, EMS Services & Law Enforcement eligible to join!

Judging Happens between 3 & 4 pm!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
WANAMINGO FIREFIGHTERS
f /WanamingoFireandRescue

Wanamingo Mutual Insurance Co.

est. 1876

- Homeowners
- Farm
- Workmen's Comp
- Inland Marine
- Auto
- Commercial

Office open in Wanamingo Monday through Friday

507-824-2912

2026 Faribault Flannel Formal

*Uff-da! Get Your Plaid
Ready for the
10th Annual Faribault
Flannel Formal!*

FARIBAULT, MN – Sharpen your axes! The Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is back with the 10th Annual Flannel Formal on March 7th, 2026. It's the most Minnesotan event in Minnesota, taking place at the Craft Beverage Curve (10,000 Drops and Corks & Pints) in Historic Downtown Faribault from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

What's Cookin' & What's Happenin':

- The Hotdish Showdown: Taste the finest casseroles in town or sign up to compete for the title by emailing devin@faribaultmn.org.

- Live Music: We've got Robos headlining the stage to keep the joint rocking all night long!

- Lumberjack Games & Axe Throwing: Test your true grit with traditional lumberjack games and our brand-new axe throwing trailer (\$5 for non-VIP).



- Signature Swag: The first 500 ticket holders snag a collectible pint glass and a complimentary beverage to get the party started!

- New Chilly Additions: Check out the Sleigh Bar, grab a drink, and then warm your toes in our heated tent.

- Beard & Plaid Glory: Compete in the Best Beard Contest or strut your stuff in the Lumberjack & Jane costume contest for a chance to win big.

Go Big with the NEW VIP Flannel Experience (\$75):

Why wait in the cold? VIPs get the Goldilocks Treatment with two hours of early access (starting at 3:00 PM), exclusive performances by Wayne and the Boys, and the

power to vote in our legendary contests! Your VIP ticket includes a curated swag bag, two complimentary drinks, and access to exclusive VIP hideouts.

Tickets & Sponsorships:

General Admission tickets are \$25. Don't be left out in the snow—this event sells out faster than a hotdish at a church potluck! Grab yours now at flannelformal.org

To partner with us as a sponsor, reach out to casie@faribaultmn.org.

So grab your favorite red and black flannel, round up the neighbors, and we'll see you at the

Curve. It's gonna be a real humdinger!

*Looking for a Space for Your Next
Gathering, Meeting or Event?*

THE
SAPPHIRE
Event Room & Cocktail Lounge

Powered By
The
Fireside

Spaces for
10-150+ Guests
Private Dining
Cocktail Lounge
Off Site
Catering



- Centrally Located
- Company Meetings
- Holiday Parties
- Celebrations of Life
- Weddings
- Birthday & Anniversary Parties
- Grooms Dinners

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 507-645-9992

Main Street, Dennison • www.firesidelounge.net • firesideloungedennison@gmail.com

RIVER COUNTRY COOPERATIVE



"Established 1935"

**Fertilizer • Seed
Soil Sampling • Chemicals
Custom Application
Field Scouting
Bulk, LP,
Gas and Diesel Fuel**

Kenyon
507-789-6201

Hastings
800-349-5743

Randolph
800-657-3285

Hampton
800-225-4316

Proudly Supporting the Future Leaders in Agriculture

*National FFA Week
February 21-28, 2026*



www.vsgmi.com

COMMUNITY GROWN INSURANCE
...you're covered!

**GRINNELL
MUTUAL**

Trust in Tomorrow.

LOCALLY AVAILABLE FROM

Security Agency

600 2nd Street
Kenyon
Phone: 507-789-6366
Email:
info@securityinsurancekenyon.com

Sviggum Agency

133 Main Street
Wanamingo
Phone: 507-824-5105
Email:
agent@svigguminsurance.com

Castle Rock Agency

27925 Danville Avenue
Castle Rock
Phone: 651-463-7590
Email:
michelle.kreisler@castlerockbank.net

Keller Agency

305 Main Street
Nerstrand
Phone:
507-334-6550

Kalass Agency

242 Main Street
Zumbrota
Phone: 507-732-7614
Email:
kalassagency@kalassagency.com



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

To the Editor:

PCB's

By Kathryn Keller

Do you remember when PCBs were first found to be an endocrine disruptor, neurotoxin and a potential cause of breast cancer. We all checked our plastic food containers, Water bottles, and anything made of plastic to make sure it did not contain PCBs. Most manufacturers producing food related products have now eliminated its use. I just learned of a new threat of PCBs. One you can do nothing about if wind turbines come to your area. Industrial wind turbine blades contain BPA in the resin coating used to slow erosion that occurs on the leading edge of the blades. A Norwegian analysis calculates 62 kg (137 lbs) of material loss from each turbine annually. A paper written by Solberg however calculated that 20 turbines (130m rotor diameter) could release up to 24.8 tons of material over the course of their lifetime (approximately 20 years). The wind industry claims a much lower loss of just 150 grams per year. I don't know about you, but I do not want any PCBs being distributed through the air to land on my lawn, my vegetable garden, the lakes and rivers I recreate in and even in my house. Without air-conditioning our windows are open six months out of the year. It takes only 1 kg of BPA to pollute 2,641,720,524 gallons of water. And what happens when the blades are replaced? Most of them are stock piled because there are very few landfills that will accept them. They sit out in the weather as more PCBs are released and washed into our lakes, rivers and underground water supply. If this upsets you, I suggest you contact your elected officials. Especially those at the state and national level since Minnesota recently passed a law taking away the ability of local governments to regulate turbines over 500 feet. Those being proposed for Rice, Goodhue, Steele and Dodge counties will be well over that height.

You can educate yourself about some of the harms that wind turbines have the potential to cause by visiting the local website saveourskylinesmn.com.

Share Your Good News!
Submit your engagement, wedding or birth announcement.

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com



Celebrating Our Area's Future Farmers

National FFA Week • February 21-28, 2026

For Dependable Home Heating & Commercial L.P. Gas...

Call Community Co-op Today!



Experience the Difference

- Regular Scheduled Delivery Option
- Budget Pay Plan Available
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Tank Installation
- Residential
- Commercial & Ag
- Online Ordering Available
- Online Bill Pay Available
- Contracting Open Year-Round

Proudly Serving You Since 1925

Community Co-op

Proudly Serving You Since 1925

9 Central Avenue
Faribault, MN 55021

(507) 334-8642

800-COOPOL

(800-266-7645)

www.fbocoop.com



News

Rep. Keith Allen

DISTRICT 19A



Legislative Update

Dear friends and neighbors,

It's hard to believe that we are already back at the Capitol, getting to work for the people of District 19A. It is also hard to wrap my head around everything that has happened in the time since we were in session last year. Tragically, we experienced the assassination of Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman, her husband Mark, and their dog Gilbert.

Coming together again for the first time since this incident, we heard heartfelt remembrances from legislative leaders and the governor. I am grateful for this time to grieve together and for those that put together the program and reception.



Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman's desk, covered with roses placed by Representatives, Senators, and others in attendance at the Hortman Remembrance.

Keying in on Top Issues

As we get back into the swing of the legislative session, our committees have begun meeting again and our priorities for the session have become apparent. We remain focused on the same issues that we were fighting for last session:

Stop the Fraud

Make Minnesota Affordable

Make Minnesota Safe

Raise Standards, Reduce Mandates

Make Minnesota Competitive

Minnesota Tax Dollars for Minnesotans

While these are all high priorities, "Stop the Fraud" is number one on the list on purpose. By now, I'm sure you have heard about the monstrous amount of fraud that has occurred in our state programs. With the number somewhere around \$9 billion so far, that equates to \$3,840 per Minnesota household, lost to fraud. The bottom line is that fraud isn't just wasted money, it's stolen trust. In Minnesota, every dollar lost to fraud is a broken promise to our communities. It's time we stop it at the door and restore integrity to every cent. I remain committed to fighting for greater accountability and oversight in our state programs.

Introducing HF3436 to Protect our Kids



One of the first bills I will have the honor of introducing this session is HF3436, a bill that would require vehicles approaching school buses to stop while the flashing red lights are engaged. This bill is important for student safety, and is common-sense measure for community protection. I am proud to be an author of the bill and make this meaningful change for Minnesota.

Please Contact Me

I am here for you! If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to talk, I can be reached by phone at 651-296-8237 or by email. Be sure to reach out if you are visiting St. Paul during this session!

Thank you!



Business Link

• **Bellechester • Castle Rock • Claremont • Dennison • Dodge Center • Dundas • Goodhue • Hampton • Kenyon • Mazeppa • Nerstrand • Randolph • Wanamingo • West Concord • Zumbro Falls •**

DODGE COUNTY LAND TITLE COMPANY

* Over 40 Years Experience
* Residential
* Farm
* Commercial

Use Dodge County Land Title Company for your next real estate transaction or loan closing.

38 W Main Street, Dodge Center, MN
Ph: 507-633-6355
Email: dclandtitle@kmtel.com

TRAXLER
POWER & EQUIPMENT

Specializing in
Farm Equipment Repair
Authorized Dealer
DOT Inspections/Welding

507-789-6321

NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS

Kenyon NAPA Store
507-789-5254
502 Huseth Street, Kenyon

LODERMEIER'S
STEEL & WOOD FRAME BUILDINGS

- Machinery Storage
- Commercial
- Livestock Buildings
- Garages

38241 County 6 Blvd, Goodhue
651-923-4441
Lodermeiers.net

ROVLAND
Tires & More

- Tires
- Wheel alignments
- Steering & suspension
- Brake repair
- A/C maintenance
- Batteries

641 S Main Wanamingo
507-824-2710

All Seasons Community Services

SENIOR DISCOUNT TUESDAYS

DISCOUNT POKER WEDNESDAYS

30/30 THURSDAYS

Mon - Sat 10am to 5pm
Closed Sundays
530 2nd St. Kenyon
507-789-5622

AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE
HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING
ON-SITE WASTEWATER COLLECTION & TREATMENT
PIPE REHABILITATION
GIS MAPPING

ELLINGSON
EST. 1970

EllingsonCompanies.com | 507.527.2294

All Your Printing & Sign Needs

D&S Banner, Sign & Print

All Your Printing and Sign Needs
In House Graphic Design
Large Format Graphics for Vehicles and Trailers
Installation services

113 Forest Street, Kenyon, MN 55946
507-789-4611
dandsbannersignandprint.com

L&D Recycling, Inc.
Scrap Iron & Metals

Steel, Farm Machinery, Car Bodies, Aluminum, Copper, Batteries, Appliances, E-Scrap

55976 State Hwy. 56, West Concord
Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm
June-October
Open Saturdays 9:00 to 11:30am
507-527-2408
www.ldrecycling.com

MANTORVILLE SQUARE
ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

Largest Antique Store in Dodge County

416 N. Mantorville Ave, Mantorville
507-635-5554
Facebook@MantorvilleSquareAntiques

SIFT (SAVE IT FROM TRASH)
THRIFT STORE

26 RED WING AVE Kenyon, MN

LIKE US ON **facebook**

Hours: Thur & Fri 12 to 8pm,
Saturday 9am to 5pm

DOUG AND MARY KLATT

Call us today!
507.259.2386

Mantorville Chocolate Shoppe

420 Main St.
Mantorville, MN 55955
507-635-5814

OVER 100 CHOCOLATE DELICACIES HANDMADE IN STORE!

UNIQUE CANDIES **SWEETEST PLACE IN TOWN**

Tues-Sat 11:30-5:00; Sun 12:30-5:00

Appliance Repair

All makes & models.
On-site service.
Vent cleaning.
Home or Commercial.

~Serving SE Minnesota~

Washers, Dryers, Dishwashers, Refrigerators, Stoves, Ranges, Ice Makers & More!

Dustin Sletten
507-676-4406

Tatge Jewelry

Awards By Tatge
Celebrating 50 Years of Business in 2025

625 2nd Street, Kenyon, MN
(507) 789-6522

fw

Flat Water Futures, LLC
Grain and Livestock Hedging

Todd Ryan
651-764-5590
tryan@flatwaterfutures.com

Goodhue, MN
Branch Office

SINCE 1839
Schaeffer's
SPECIALIZED LUBRICANTS

AGROECOPOWER

Bruce Freerksen
(507) 273-9110
brucewithschaefferoil@gmail.com
West Concord, MN

FAHNING & ASSOCIATES LLC.

BETH S. FAHNING-HANGGL
AGENT #46786

Licensed Life And Health Insurance Agent

35 West Main Street
Dodge Center, MN 55927
(507) 374-6342

Life • LTCI • Employee Benefits
Health Insurance • MNsure Certified Agency

Traxler Law PLLC
traxlerlaw.com

Ann Traxler
Attorney

PRACTICE AREAS

- Wills, Trusts, & Estates
- Farm and Business Transition Planning
- General Practice
- Probate

502 Huseth St. Ste. C
Kenyon, MN 55945
507-405-0420
ann@traxlerlaw.com

PLACE YOUR AD ON THIS PAGE

Call Terry at 507-951-7417
or
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Let's talk fence

Alpacas, Apples, Beef Cattle, Deer, Dairy Cattle, Elk, Emus, Gardens, Goats, Grapes, Gorillas, Horses, Lions, Llamas, Ostriches, Ponies, Raccoons, Sheep, Trout, Tigers, Yak

K FENCE

928 Chestnut St NE, Mazeppa MN 55956
Phone 507-753-2943 • www.kfence.com
Free Estimates • Free Catalogs

ADA ENTERPRISES, INC.

Protect Your Investment - Raise Healthier Calves!

Durable. Hygienic. Proven.
Satisfied customers in the US, Canada, and Mexico

- ✓ Raised, plastic-coated steel stalls and flooring
- ✓ Keeps calves clean, dry, and comfortable
- ✓ Options include closed or vented side panels, headlocks, and head dividers

See photos, videos, and testimonials: facebook.com/ADAEnterprises

641-324-1093
www.adaent.net

305 Enterprise Drive
Northwood, Iowa, USA

COUNTRY GOODS

LARGEST GIFT STORE IN SO. MN!

ACROSS FREEWAY FROM CABELA'S
INSPIRATIONAL ITEMS
HOME DECOR
LAWN DECORATIONS
UNIQUE GIFT IDEAS

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY 9am-5:30pm; SUNDAY NOON-4pm
4515 NW 22nd Ave, Owatonna • View / Like us on Facebook

507-451-5661



**In celebration of FFA Week, we stand with local farmers
and the next generation of agricultural leaders.**

FFA Week is February 21 - 28



SSB Wanamingo
Banking for your success

232 Main St, PO Box 188
Wanamingo, MN 55983
(507) 824-2265
www.ssbwanamingo.com

Member
FDIC

