



Goodhue-Bellechester Messenger

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Just Enough Snow



Early models of Arctic Cat and Polaris snowmobiles on display at the annual Goodhue-Bellechester Railriders show.

By Beth Brekke

Minnesota has a long history with snowmobiles. Some of that history was on display during the annual Goodhue-Bellechester Railriders snowmobile show February 7th.

(continued on page 4)

Announcements

• City of Goodhue City Wide Clean Up April 18, 2026 from 8a.m.-10a.m.

(see ad on page 3)

• Belvidere Happy-Go-Luckies 4-H Club (usually) meets the first Monday of each month at 7p.m. at St. Peter's Church, rural Goodhue. New members are always welcome! Contact club leader Michelle Benrud at 651-923-5247 for more information.

(continued on page 2)

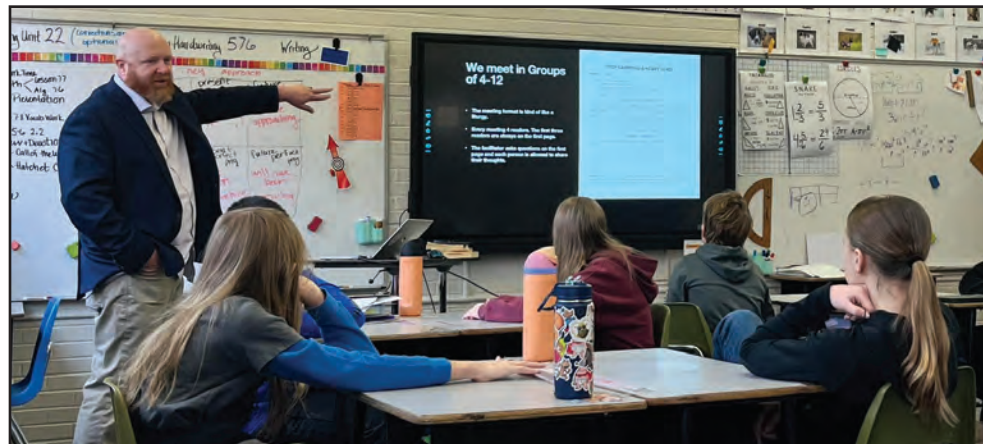
Out of Programs; In to Pews and Potlucks

By Beth Brekke

Where do you go to find addiction recovery help? In today's world of Internet access and Zoom meetings, help is at your fingertips. Many local resources are available through county, church and organized programs. You can also join an online program without leaving home.

(continued on page 3)

Pictured to the right: Jason Jonker presents information about a law and gospel approach to addiction recovery to students at St. John's Lutheran School in Red Wing. He made additional presentations in West St. Paul and Goodhue in February.



Goodhue Day: Long-standing Tradition Still Going Strong



The Goodhue Day crowd sits between tractors and other equipment on display in Lo-dermeier's shop area.

By Beth Brekke

While "It's not what it used to be" echoed at nearly every stop during Goodhue's annual Appreciation Day event, it is still a great opportunity to patronize local businesses and catch up with community members. Older members of the community saying "Not what it used to be", likely refers to when the event spanned two days; younger generations might be referring to more businesses handing out sandwiches while they ran downtown on their school lunch break.

With more people working weekdays and some businesses hosting their own appreciation events at other times, the official chamber event may be shorter and smaller but no less popular.

(continued on page 11)

Vine Haven Hardware Officially Opens in Goodhue



Vine Haven Hardware officially opened in Goodhue on March 2nd with a Grand Opening event coming soon. Store hours are Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 8 AM- 4 PM; Wednesday 8 AM-3 PM and Saturday 9 AM-Noon.

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Pastors Corner



By Pastor Eric Hanson,
St. Luke Lutheran Church

Right now, Christians around the world are celebrating the season of Lent. Lent, as you may know, is the season of the church year

Announcements

• **Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Bellechester, Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Goodhue, Pine Island, Kenyon, Wabasha 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. Please contact Three Rivers at 507-316-0610 or email: oas@threeriverscap.org

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that leads to Easter when Christians celebrate new life.

This Lenten season I'm lingering on Jesus' last night on earth for some reason. That last night is described in the 13th chapter of John's Gospel. There's a lot going on that night. Jesus feeds his disciples a meal, giving bread first to his enemy, Judas. Jesus puts wine in their hands & likens the wine to the blood he will soon pour out for them. After dinner, Jesus puts a towel around his waist and washes his disciple's feet. Then of course, Jesus dies on the cross that same night. That last night is peppered with acts of self-sacrificial love from Jesus.

Leading up to all of that, John tells us that "Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God." (John 13:3). That verse makes me stop.

The power that made the stars decided to spend its last night on earth washing feet? The power that spun the earth into motion decided to spend its last night feeding an enemy? The power that could crush evil with one snap of its fingers allowed himself to be crushed? The power that wove all matter together let somebody else wash the matter that made up his body? That's what divine power looks like when it leaves the stars? Foot washing? Sharing bread? Death for somebody else?

That's what's so weird about the power of God. When the power that made the stars leaves the stars it looks like a man washing

feet...even his enemies' feet. When the power that holds the galaxies in its hands takes on human flesh it breaks bread with those same hands & shares it. When the power that created human bodies actually occupies a human body it looks like John 13... kneeling, foot-washing, sharing bread, sacrificing itself for the things it made. God's unfathomable power, when translated into something actually fathomable, looks like THAT.

I wouldn't have seen that coming. Would you have?

That makes me wonder if sometimes I'm

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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Sausages

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." — Luke 3:10-11

The man had been invited in, and he had become part of the church. He lived on a pension and struggled with a mental illness. He had been the CEO of a large company in Toronto until his health had changed. His life had become drastically different, but he lived with a large and generous heart. He wanted to contribute, and one day he walked into the church to join others.

He said, "I have eight sausages, still frozen. I don't like sausages, but I would like to share them with others. Can we make two pots of soup; one with sausage, and one without?" We assured him that we could do that. He enjoyed the soup that had no sausage, and he was pleased that others enjoyed the soup with sausage.

He knew that meals were harder to find at the end of the month. He had learned that a pension check goes only so far. He knew that if he shared with others, it would be good news for them. His sharing also inspired others. It was the start of our church's Stone Soup meal, and many people have contributed to it. He was glad to find a place of peace that could help him serve others.

Stone Soup is now a community event where food, clothes, and friendship are shared on two Thursdays each month. Many are invited so that the good news can be shared. This has led many people to walk through the door of a church who might not have otherwise done so. You are invited too!

"Dear God, help us to be generous and kind even if our life turns upside down. Help us to use what you have given us to bless others. Amen."

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN (WELS)

Pastor Randall Kuznicki
Minneola Twp. Co. Rd. 7, rural Zumbrota
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.; Communion 3rd Sunday
Sunday School and Bible Studies (Adult & Teen) 11:00a.m.

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD

Pastor Steven Frentz
28961 365th St., Goodhue
651-923-4438
Email: stpeter@sleepyeyetel.net
9:30a.m. Sunday School
10:30a.m. Worship

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

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Thomas McCabe • www.holytrinitygoodhue.org
211 4th St. N., Goodhue • 923-4472
Parish Office Hours, Mon.: 9:00AM - 2:00PM
(Holy Trinity Parish Office has sacramental records for St. Mary, Bellechester, and St. Columbkil, Belle Creek, since merger in 2013).
Sat.: 4:45PM - 5:20PM Confession, 5:30PM Holy Mass (Sunday vigil)
Tues.: 8:00AM Holy Mass
Wed.: 8:00AM Holy Mass, 9:00AM - 2:00PM Eucharistic Adoration
Rosary said 25 minutes before Holy Mass
All are WELCOME! But receiving Holy Communion are for those who are of age and practicing the Catholic faith.
We practice because we are not yet perfect!

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Thomas McCabe • www.holytrinitygoodhue.org
221 Chester Avenue • 923-4472
(Holy Trinity Parish Office has sacramental records for St. Mary, Bellechester, and St. Columbkil, Belle Creek, since merger in 2013).
Sun.: 8:15AM - 8:35AM Confession, 8:45AM, Holy Mass
Mon.: 8:00AM Holy Mass, 6:30PM - 9:00PM Eucharistic Adoration
Rosary said 25 minutes before Holy Mass
All are WELCOME! But receiving Holy Communion are for those who are of age and practicing the Catholic faith.
We practice because we are not yet perfect!

ST. COLUMBKILL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Thomas McCabe • www.holytrinitygoodhue.org
County Road 47, Goodhue • 923-4472
(Holy Trinity Parish Office has sacramental records for St. Mary, Bellechester, and St. Columbkil, Belle Creek, since merger in 2013).
Sun.: 10:30AM Holy Mass
Thurs.: 8:00AM Eucharistic Adoration/Confession, 9:00AM Holy Mass
Rosary said 25 minutes before Holy Mass
All are WELCOME! But receiving Holy Communion are for those who are of age and practicing the Catholic faith.
We practice because we are not yet perfect!

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

Pastor Martin Weigand
39774 Co. 4 Blvd., Goodhue • 651-923-4624
gracelutheranchurch@gmail.com • www.gracestpeters.org
Sunday Morning Worship 8:30a.m. with communion on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.
Sunday School at 9:30a.m., Sunday Bible Study at 9:45a.m., Confirmation Class 5:45 on Wednesday at St Peter's.
8:30a.m. Quilting and Bible Study on Wednesday at St Peter's, and 10:30a.m. Midweek Bible Study on Thursday at St Peter's.

looking for the power of God in all the wrong places. In kings, rulers, governments, court rooms, armies, movers-and-shakers, celebrity, popularity, fame, wealth, achievement, success, glory, honor, possessions, comfort, security.... Why didn't the power that made the stars occupy any of those things?

The Gospels don't tell me why, they just tell me He didn't. When that great Power left the stars it washed feet.

I guess if we want to participate with that power, we'd best pick up our own towels & find some feet to wash.

Celebrate Recovery

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Join us on Sundays at
South Troy Church

We meet Sundays at 5 pm
South Troy Wesleyan Church
56817 Highway 63 Zumbro Falls, MN

Schedule for meetings:

- Supper at 5:00 pm
- Large group meeting: 5:45 - 6:30 pm
- Small group meeting: 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find healing for your hurts, hang-ups and habits.

Begin your journey today!

Questions?

Contact Pastor Colleen How at celebraterecovery@southtroy@gmail.com or 507-259-1442.
Visit southtroywesleyan.org for more information.

MINNEOLA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Hannah Bergstrom de Leon
www.minneolalutheranchurch.com
13628 Cty. 50 Blvd., Goodhue
Office line: (507) 218-7177 • Pastoral Care: 507-218-9063
Sunday School (first two Sundays of month) 9:30a.m.
Worship at 10:30a.m.
(Communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays)

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

Pastor Robbin Robbert
36620 Co. 4 Blvd., Goodhue • 651-923-4773
Sunday 9:00am Worship
Communion offered on the 2nd & 4th Sundays.

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

Pastor Eric Hanson
37750 County 6 Blvd., Goodhue, MN 55027
Email: office@stlukegoodhue.org • 651-998-7106
8:30a.m. Sunday School; 9:30a.m. Sunday Worship
6:45p.m. Wednesday Worship
www.stlukegoodhue.org

ST. PETER'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

Pastor Martin Weigand
702 West Third Ave., Goodhue, MN • 715-441-5086
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45a.m. with communion on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.
Sunday School at 9:30a.m. at Grace.
Sunday Bible Study at 9:30a.m., Confirmation Class 5:45p.m. on Wednesday, 8:30a.m. Quilting and Bible Study on Wednesday, and 10:30a.m. Midweek Bible Class on Thursday.

LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Out of Programs; In to Pews and Potlucks

(continued from page 1)

One online support option is the Resilient Recovery program led by Jason Jonker. The Bible-based program operates from Phoenix, Arizona with an online course option. Jonker visited the Goodhue area in February, sharing the work he does with local students.

Jonker is a Michigan native currently living in Arizona. After grad school he became a therapist working in a mental health clinic as director, regional director and vice president. While still working at the clinic, he founded the Resilient Recovery program through Crosswalk Church in Phoenix in 2017. Jonker left his job at the clinic 5 years ago to focus on the program that started with a few church members and expanded to four other churches, rehab facilities, prisons and the on-line courses.

Jonker says the program does not provide

treatment for addictions but supports recovery and provides spiritual direction. Comparing it to a physical illness such as cancer, he says he and the 20 part-time volunteer coordinators and Bible study facilitators are not doctors but provide spiritual treatment. Jonker created a workbook that utilizes a law and gospel approach to addiction and mental health support. Each lesson uses scripture to identify human faults, lead to confession and find forgiveness. He explains that Resilient Recovery is not a 12-step program saying, "Our goal is to welcome people (and show them) how Christianity might support their recovery. People do get better learning about faith—or more about their faith. Whether you make amends or not, you are forgiven and that is motivation to change".

As a trained chaplain through the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and his 20 years in the mental health clinic, Jonker has vast knowledge of addiction. "Age of first use can determine the trajectory," he says of chemical abuse, adding, "Every year kids wait, helps". People may become drug addicted seeking relief when they feel their situation is terrible. Others may start using, thinking it can't make their terrible situation any worse. Many find it easier to remain addicted than to go through the chemical process of detox and withdrawal. Addicts often come from dysfunctional families or suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and may not seek help until they reach a point Jonker calls the "Everything must go

sale", meaning they have lost their job, spouse, kids and housing.

The Phoenix area has a large homeless population, many with meth, fentanyl and alcohol addictions. There is a system of sober living homes to combat the problem. Day programs connect people with nurses or psychiatrists that will refer them to Resilient Recovery. Some come in off the street with meth addiction psychosis, rambling incoherently. Some come in to rehab with a bad attitude and most struggle with a cycle of hopelessness and shame. Often, it is a lifetime battle, returning to the program numerous times.

Jonker says it has been hard to track success of the program as people move out of the area, lose phones and change their number. "We've invested a lot of time and energy in them and no one knows where they are." "I can't predict it," he says of individual outcomes. Resilient participants may join the church, possibly relapse, or go on to get jobs and give back to the program and community. Jonker shares the story of a Native American woman with no Christian background who came to church, was baptized and after completing the program, works in a rehab facility that directs clients to Resilient.

A woman born in prison, tossed around the juvenile system and landing in prison herself, crediting Resilient with helping to turn her life around saying, "Now I know that nothing can stand between me and God". Another female inmate towering over six feet tall and previously selling fentanyl for the cartel, renounced her Satanist religion and found forgiveness. "We plant and water but God causes the growth," Jonker says of positive outcomes.

The Resilient Recovery program regularly sees 20-40 people attending at churches with a 12 person cap at prisons. Prisoners have to apply for the 10 lesson course to verify need and suitability. Jonker sees good attendance

and retention among those who opt in to the gospel-motivated recovery. Long-term, Jonker hopes to "Take people out of programs and put them in to pews and potlucks". Sadly, some enter rehab already near death and Jonker only has opportunity to simply share God's word.

During a recent visit to Minnesota, Jason shared God's word and how he uses it in the program, with students at St. Croix Lutheran Academy in West St. Paul, and St. John's Lutheran Schools in Red Wing and rural Goodhue. Robbin Robbert, pastor at St. John's Goodhue, accompanied Jonker and is looking into starting a local Resilient Recovery program that uses Jonker's law and gospel based lessons and workbook. Resilient is an acronym derived from the basis of the program:

R-est in Jesus and His care
E-xpress my need for Jesus
S-eeek God's presence and power
I-magine freedom in Christ
L-ive transparently by owning my sin
I-nvite Jesus to change me
E-xalt Jesus above all things
N-eutralize temptation through meditation on God's word
T-ell others what God has done for you.

For more information and a link to the online program, visit www.restinjesus.org. You can contact Jason Jonker at Resilient@cwklchurch or 602-491-4090. Locally, direct questions to Pastor Robbin Robbert at 907-315-3851 or email, pas-trob2@yahoo.com.



Jason Jonker founded the Resilient Recovery program based in Phoenix, Arizona and available online at <http://www.restinjesus.org>.

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CITY OF GOODHUE

CITY WIDE CLEAN UP

APRIL 18, 2026 8AM-10AM

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Questions? Contact City Hall

Website

cityclerk@cityofgoodhue.gov / 651-923-4310

<https://www.cityofgoodhue.gov>

Curbside prescheduled and prepaid pickup will be Wednesday and Thursday April 15 & 16 and must be set out by 7:30 A.M. of chosen day. Schedule and pay with the slip below, no later than April 10.

Pay at City Hall - 405 Broadway N. - \$15 per picked up load

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OBITUARY

Arlis Alma Brinkman

Arlis Alma Brinkman, 85, of Lake City, died on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at the Lake City Care Center.



Arlis was born on September 26, 1940 in Lake City to John and Alma (Klein) Hinck. She attended country schools and later went to Goodhue High School where she graduated from in 1958. She was a life-long member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Belvidere where she was baptized and confirmed. On November 3, 1962, she married Ralph Brinkman at St. Peter's Lutheran Church Belvidere. They bought the farm she grew up on and continued to operate the farm for many years. Arlis wore many different hats at the farm, from housework to helping with the animals. They enjoyed playing cards and going to Polka Dances. She liked it when Ralph would hook up the horses to the wagon and the whole family would go for a wagon ride. Before her stroke in 2012, Arlis loved to visit with people and talk with her circle of friends on the telephone keeping up with all that was happening. More than anything she loved spending time with her family.

Arlis is survived by her daughters, Terri (Dana)Ryan of Goodhue and June (Kevin Liffri) Brinkman of Lake City; grandson, Kurt (Cheri) Brinkman of Goodhue; great-grandchildren, Kendra Brinkman, Lincoln and Lane Brinkman, Kyla Possehl; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph; grandson, Andrew Brinkman; parents; sister, Lois Brinkman.

A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Thursday, February 12, 2026 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church Belvidere. Reverend Steve Frentz officiated. Visitation was 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Anderson Peterson Chapel in Lake City, and for one hour prior to the funeral on Thursday at the church. Burial took place at the church cemetery. Online memorials can be left for the family at www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com

Just Enough Snow

(continued from page 1)

44 Sleds lined the street south of the Corner Bar while owners and spectators enjoyed the show and indoor program.

Referred to as “The Grandfather of Snowmobiling”, Edgar Hetten founded both Polaris Industries and Polar Manufacturing (later renamed Arctic Enterprises and Arctic Cat) in Minnesota. He designed sleds at each company, focusing on developing snowmobiles for commercial and recreational use and could reach speeds of 25 mph. The Goodhue show included examples of both companies early 1960’s models owned by Nick Novak of Mazeppa.

Another rare and distinctive entry was a 1964 Trailmaker snowmobile manufactured by the

Abe Mathews Engineering Company based in Hibbing. This specialized all-terrain vehicle featured a Kohler 8-13hp engine, a unique track with an internal octagon drive system, and pneumatic tires. The Trailmaker earned its owner, Mike Wilson of Red Wing the trophies for best 1970 and older sled (7 in class), Best of Show/People’s Choice (also received \$50), and Most Off The Wall (\$10). The Off The Wall winner must be able to drive the sled legally on the trail although Wilson did not participate in the ride.

The show was held just in time to create a custom trail with the snow that remained between a few days of warm weather before and after the cold show day. Steve VanDeusen and Jonathan Luhman talked to landowners, getting permission to modify and groom the trail for a 15-mile ride after the show. 26 sleds took part in the ride described as “pretty smooth and mostly snow, with a little ice, a little dirt, but awesome!”.

The Corner Bar provided food for the event and many sponsors supplied prizes for the raffle. A 50/50 raffle awarded \$205.00 to Treyben Kehren.

For a complete list of sponsors, winners and more pictures, see the Goodhue-Bellechester Railriders Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064591093438>



An early Arctic Cat child-sized Kitty Cat snowmobile



2026 Arctic Cat child-sized Kitty Cat snowmobile



The trail grooming machine used to create a custom trail for the February 7th ride from Goodhue to Bellechester.



Mike Wilson of Red Wing moves his prize-winning 1964 Trailmaker toward his trailer.



44 snowmobiles lined the street February 7th for the annual Goodhue-Bellechester Railriders show and ride.



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Benefit for Milton in Zumbro Falls

A benefit in honor for Michael Koop will be held this weekend, Saturday March 7th starting at 11am at the Zumbro Falls VFW.

Michael was a friend and neighbor to many and worked for Central Livestock since he was fifteen years old. He had recently started his own business, Koop Livestock. Micheal

passed away from a heart attack on December 17, 2025.

The benefit is for his son, Milton, and all proceeds will be held in a trust for the young man.

The benefit will include a meal starting at 11am as well as raffles and a silent auction. You may drop off donations at the Buck Wild Bar & Grill in Zumbro Falls prior to the event.



Michael and Milton Koop

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Goodhue-Bellechester
Messenger

Minnesota FFA Foundation Wants to Hear Your Story

Planning for the 100th anniversary celebration is underway

PLAINVIEW, Minn. — The Minnesota FFA Foundation — which supports the state's FFA organization through scholarships, teacher preparation, youth leadership, state convention and other special projects — is kicking off planning for Minnesota FFA's 100th anniversary celebration in 2029. And it needs your help.



As part of the celebration, the Foundation is gathering unique FFA stories from across the state that could potentially be shared on a larger platform such as in videos, books or recorded for historical reference. These are stories that honor great FFA moments, influential people, important events and special memories that have shaped the legacy of the youth program. Please use this form to submit your unique FFA story and share photos.

"We are excited to commemorate this historical milestone through storytelling and reflecting on the positive impact FFA has had on people, agriculture, businesses and communities across the state for the past 100 years," said Val Aarsvold, executive director of the Minnesota FFA Foundation. "Even though we are still three years away from the 100th anniversary year, we are starting to plan now in order to make sure we accurately share the impact this organization has made during its first 100 years so we can continue even stronger in the future."

To learn more about Minnesota FFA's 100th anniversary celebration, visit MNFFA100.org.

WINE BINGO!
EVERY SATURDAY 12-2:30PM

Large groups are welcomed
with reservations for 8 or more.

507-753-3131
60146 Hwy. 63, Zumbro Falls

ZUMBRO FALLS Winery

Food donated by Lodermeier's Inc.

DOOR PRIZES!

22nd Annual

Goodhue Lions SHOP TOUR

March 21, 2026

9:00 AM start at Lions Building

Tickets & directions available on March 21st at the Lions Building and at each shop

Cost: \$30.00 (15 & up)
\$10.00 (7-14)
FREE (6 & under)

Includes: Door Prizes & Meal

Shops on Tour

Bucks Unlimited (Dave, Ann, Chris & DJ)

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Dale Johnson

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M-F 8:00-5:00 or by appointment
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Farm Girl Chatter **The Most Wonderful Time of Year... No Not Christmas, Calving Season!**

By McKell Lemmerman

The most wonderful time of year is finally approaching — and no, it doesn't come wrapped in ribbon or lit by a Christmas tree. For me, the real holiday is calving season. While some farmers are already deep in it and others won't begin until April or May, the feeling is universal: anticipation mixed with exhaustion, humor tangled with responsibility, and a quiet sense that something meaningful is about to unfold. It's the season when sleep becomes negotiable, coffee becomes essential, and your social circle narrows to a barn full of cows who have absolutely no respect for your bedtime.

Calving season has a way of reminding you who is truly running the schedule — and it isn't you. You can check a cow ten times with nothing happening, convince yourself it's safe to rest, and return twenty minutes later to find a calf already on the ground. Somehow they always seem to choose the coldest, crappiest, or darkest hours of the night to begin. There you are, half-awake in chore boots, stained jeans, and an old ratty sweatshirt that has seen better days. You step outside to cold air that fills your lungs and wakes you faster than an energy drink. Yet under the moonlight and barn lights, the exhaustion feels secondary to the purpose of you playing tug-o-war to the barn. Calving season is not gentle. It tests patience, endurance, and emotional resilience. You experience the highs of healthy deliveries and the heartbreak when outcomes aren't perfect. Agriculture teaches you quickly that life is precious and unpredictable. Those challenges also deepen your respect for the animals in your care and the responsibility you carry as their owner. Every healthy calf on the ground represents months of preparation, late-night checks, and unwavering commitment.

During this season, you become many roles at once: caretaker, problem solver, night watch, and occasionally your cows' unofficial OB-GYN doctor. Each trip to the barn carries suspense. Some nights are peaceful; others demand quick thinking and steady hands. When a delivery stalls, time stretches thin. You have to move the mom to the chute to work as her OB doctor. You find the feet, wrap the chains, your breath fogs in the air while you work carefully, aware that your actions matter. Then the thud...a calf finally arrives, wiggly and drawing that first determined breath. The biggest sigh of relief washes over you in a way that words can't quite hold. You stand there in bedding and silence, heart pounding, grateful for the fragile miracle in front of you that you just helped.

Although a cow that can have her own calf is the biggest blessing, there is something that really touches your soul when you are able to give assistance to a live calf.

Then comes the moment that feels almost sacred. A newborn calf, still slick with life, lifts its head for the first time. A first-time mother circles, confused yet instinctively protective, nudging her calf toward its feet. Watching those shaky legs attempt their first stand feels like witnessing resilience in its purest form. Under the soft hum of a barn light, steam rises from warm bodies into the cold air, and the world narrows to this quiet exchange of life and care. In those moments, it's impossible not to feel the presence of something greater — a reminder of creation unfolding exactly as it was meant to. The barn becomes a chapel of sorts, straw beneath your boots and breath hanging like incense, where gratitude comes naturally and prayers feel as simple as whispering, thank you for this life.

Calving season carries humor right alongside its difficulty. There's always the cow who insists on doing the exact opposite of what you expect, the calf that runs everywhere except where you need it to go, or the realization that you've been talking to livestock like coworkers because they're the only ones awake with you. You laugh at the absurdity — muddy knees, frozen fingers, hair doing whatever it wants — because humor is part of surviving the season. The cows don't judge, and somehow that makes the long nights lighter.

Yet woven through the laughter is something deeply emotional. There are moments of heartbreak that sit quietly in your chest, reminding you how fragile life is. When the calf is stillborn and you hear those low sounding moos call out from mom. It is almost like she is begging for her innocent baby to awake and nurse, but there was never a call back to her. In those times, faith becomes steady ground. You do what you can with the skills you've been given, then trust the rest to God. The successes — every healthy calf standing, every mother calmly licking her newborn — feel like small blessings placed gently in your hands.

As the season unfolds, the barn becomes its own world. Mornings arrive in pale pastel yellow, blue and green light with frost sparkling like glass and little steam rolls curling upward from warm breath. You begin measuring time not by clocks but by arrivals — who calved overnight, who's close, who needs watching, who is left. The rhythm feels ancient and grinding, echoing cycles of life that existed long before you and will continue long after.

Through the exhaustion and wonder, you find spiritual reflection woven into ordinary tasks. Standing in the quiet before dawn, listening to a calf nurse for the first time, you



feel a profound humility. Life is beginning right in front of you — messy, imperfect, miraculous. It's a reminder that care is a calling, stewardship is a privilege, and every breath is a gift. In these moments, faith doesn't feel distant or abstract; it feels present in warm straw, steady hands, and the fragile strength of a newborn finding its footing.

By the time the season slows, you carry more than fatigue. You carry pride in the lives you helped bring into the world, lessons in patience and adaptability. You have a renewed appreciation for the work that sustains

both animals and people. Calving season isn't just a task — it's an experience that grounds you, humbles you, and reminds you why you chose this life in the first place.

Despite the sleepless nights, stubborn cows, and endless barn checks; you find yourself looking forward to doing it all again. Calving season isn't just work. It is the unforgettable privilege of witnessing life begin — one wobbly, determined calf at a time.

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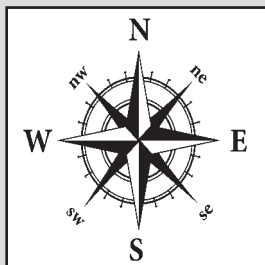
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

A Polaris in Florida



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

I have always had a love affair with horsepower. If it had an engine, I was intrigued by it. My job as a young kid was to mow lawn on the farm. I was too young to drive a big tractor yet, so I spent hours on a garden tractor. I loved the sound of a motor running, what a great combination, the rumble and the fra-

grance of engine oil and fuel. Hasn't changed much over the last sixty years, just a different variation of the internal combustion engine.

This winter we vacationed in Florida, and spent time at Cocoa Beach. A certain restaurant on the beach, Longboards Tiki Beach Grill was our favorite. We sat outside on the deck by the ocean. The first day we were going to watch a space launch, since Cape Canaveral is just a few miles away and we would have a ring side seat of the blast off. It seems launches are scheduled regularly and scrubbed almost as often.

As we left the restaurant, we noticed a row of Polaris Slingshots lined up outside. My first thought was perhaps a club had stopped for lunch, but my wife noticed they were for rent. Now it was getting more interesting. A Polaris Slingshot is the result of mating the front end of a sports car with the rear of a motorcycle. They are made in Huntsville, Alabama. With nothing more exciting to do, we decided to rent one and head down the Florida beach on state Highway A1A. It took a couple minutes to scan the card and initial the waiver, and away we went. The sales guy gave us a four-digit code to start it and seemed more concerned we wouldn't remember the code than that we would make it back. I wanted the fun, so I requested one with a manual transmission.

It looked fast and mean. I was already comparing it against my favorite sports car. It had no doors and was a total open air experience. A 1,700 pound vehicle with a 2 liter four cylinder engine generating 204 horsepower



at 7,500 rpm. That is 8 pounds per hp. My Corvette has a 5.7 liter engine developing 350 horsepower at 5,200 rpm. A ratio of 9.5 pound per hp. They both go from zero to 60 mph in five seconds and consume about 25 mpg. This little Slingshot has a 12.5 to 1 compression ratio though, requiring 91 or higher octane fuel.

Time for the rubber to hit the road. I found that the Slingshot had better traction with one tire than the Chevy with two. As I ran through the gears all I could get was a squeak and it wasn't the rear tire breaking with the pavement. It was the rear drive belt slipping. Definitely impressive traction, probably due to the weight distribution. The Slingshot cruised at 65 mph turning 2,500 rpm and redlined at

8,000 rpm, but there was no way I was pushing that flimsy thing anywhere near that point. No danger, I discovered because the engine has a cutout when it reaches 125 mph.

It had a terrific stereo system that drowned out the scream of the engine. Ashley cranked it up as we blasted down the Atlantic sea coast highway. You get quite the feeling of speed when you are basically sitting on and watching the pavement go past. There is not much of a windshield either. I was surprised that it seemed very stable and had solid traction. Fun to drive but no danger of one being on my wish list. I prefer the V-8 over a four banger. Still, I would do it again. Nothing beats the sunshine and fresh ocean air on a warm day in Florida.

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A Minnesotan: Goats



By RosaLin Alcoser

High on the hills lives a lonely goat. Well maybe, I am not sure exactly how lonely the hill goats are. My sister, however, does believe that everyone has at least one good story about an encounter that they have had with a goat.

Our goat encounter story happened when the neighbor's new pet goat got loose and ended up on our parents front porch when we were children. Not knowing who's goat it was we put the dog in the house and the goat in the dog's fenced-in yard, thinking that whoever owned the goat would come looking for it, which they did. This

arrangement drove our dog nuts, and the goat would only stop bleeding if my sister sat outside next to it. Causing her to spend the whole day sitting outside with said goat.

One of my favorite goat stories I have heard was back when I lived in the Ozark region of Southern Missouri. I heard it from one of my mother's high school friends out in the Jefferson City area. Their house is built into the side of a hill. Making the top of the hill and the roof of the house is about on the same level as the roof, which had a skylight.

One day they heard something going "clomp! Clomp!" on the top of their roof. Naturally they went outside to see what was making the clomping sound. Low and behold what did they see out there, but a goat was walking on top of their roof. Right up there by their skylight.

In the end, the goat was removed from the roof, after as I am told getting to close to the skylight for comfort.

My sister sticks to her claim that everyone has at least one story about an encounter with a goat. If you have not had an encounter with a goat that warrants a story, there is still time. You just have not had that goat story-worthy experience yet. And if you never have one, then you are not spending enough time seeking out goats.

The Farm that Came to Town A Guy Could



By Jayne Bredlau

We've all known a lifelong farmer who moves to town after turning over the farm to the kids, or sells it to an eager young person ready to live off the land. No more early morning livestock feedings, thawing frozen water troughs, no racing the sun and season to get everything planted, harvested and stored away for another winter. No more vegetable garden that needs weeding (so much weeding!), harvesting and canning. A rest has been well-earned.

Except, the farm never leaves the heart of the farmer. The knowledge, love and legacy are crucial to spur the next generation of farmers to greatness. The saying applies, "necessity is the mother of invention." I am convinced that farmers are the original "mothers" of invention.

My Dad, who wasn't a farmer but he was clever, would say, "A guy could..." and then share his latest idea to create, fix or solve a challenge. A guy (or gal!) could put a screw and washer here, flywheel there, pound posts, hammer boards, frame up or mark out the exact details for the thing-a-ma-jig. To make the work, work. To get-er-done.

Hi - I'm Jayne, owner of The Greensted Grocery store in Zumbrota. In 2018 my husband, Dean, and I started a small "urban farm" growing microgreens in our garage. No, we'd never heard of microgreens; we had no plans to start up a farm business. We had no investors, tools, infrastructure, nothing. Not even a shovel. We didn't know a darn thing about what we were doing. We bought some

soil, seeds and plastic growing flats. We planted the seeds, you know, trying out all of our YouTube best tips, tricks and how-tos. They grew! They were delicious. But we had so much to learn.

We bootstrapped everything. We tried and failed. And succeeded. We took risks, asked questions, dug deep into all of our mental, physical and spiritual reserves. We cried, laughed, got mad and glad. We showed up at Farmers Markets, took opportunity and knocked on doors. In the end, we created a registered trademarked brand - The Greensted®. Under the brand we had five micro-green products, packaged, labeled, barcoded and ready for retail sales. By 2021 our micro-greens were offered in 50+ grocery and co-op stores. We set up large scale production, harvesting, packaging and distributing 200+ pounds (1000+ packages) of microgreens per week. Like farming the production schedule was rigorous, planting and harvesting our field of dreams every week. There was no wiggle room. No vacations. No "off the clock" time.

Then we learned vegetable gardening (we had to buy a shovel first) and offered produce share boxes. Soon after we opened our locally sourced grocery store, The Greensted Grocery, in July of 2021. Turns out three enterprises were kind of a lot, though.

In October of 2025 we had the opportunity to move our "farm to town." We created a new brand, The Greensted Fresh-n-Local® - a name that suits the vision of binging the best in regional, wholesome, clean and authentic foods to our community. It is great being part of the buzz and vibe of downtown Z-town. Our farm products (dairy, meat, eggs, produce) come from local farmers. Packaged goods are sourced from small businesses throughout Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. The mission: Your hometown source for all things local.

A guy and gal could, so we did. What's your story?

I look forward to sharing great stories behind the products in our store, in future The Farm that Came to Town columns.

~Jayne

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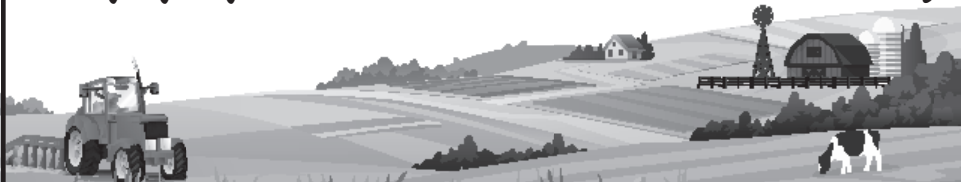
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Is Brain Rot Real? Blueberries help Circulation!



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Short-form video platforms have reshaped how we engage with digital content, training our brains to prioritize speed and novelty over depth and focus. This shift has led to noticeable changes in attention spans, making it harder to stay on task or enjoy quiet moments without distraction. The term "brain rot" has

gained popularity to describe this phenomenon, not because it exaggerates the issue, but because it captures the lived experience of many. The constant stimulation from endless feeds and autoplay features strains our ability to focus, regulate impulses, and manage stress, leaving us mentally fatigued and less productive.

Research confirms that heavy use of short-form video platforms weakens attention and self-control. A meta-analysis of 71 studies involving nearly 100,000 participants found that higher usage consistently correlated with poorer cognitive performance, particularly in attention and impulse regulation. These effects are not tied to intelligence or personality but are a result of the brain adapting to an environment of constant novelty and rapid rewards. Interestingly, while focus and self-control suffer, self-esteem and body image remain largely unaffected. The design of these platforms, rather than the content itself, drives these cognitive challenges by overloading attention systems and reinforcing habits of quick gratification.

Younger users, especially adolescents, are more vulnerable to these effects due to their still-developing brains. Studies show that frequent scrolling disrupts sustained attention, academic performance, and task persistence, with neuroimaging revealing changes in

brain regions responsible for focus and reward processing. However, not everyone is equally affected. Those with stronger self-regulation skills or more diverse offline activities tend to experience less severe attention problems. This highlights the importance of understanding individual habits and limits, as well as the role of platform design in shaping behavior.

The good news is that focus can be retrained. Attention loss isn't a failure of willpower but a learned response to an overstimulating environment. To rebuild focus, experts recommend removing short-form video apps from your phone, setting clear boundaries like time boxing, and engaging in activities that reward sustained effort, such as reading, exercising, or cooking. Tracking progress with simple metrics, like uninterrupted focus blocks or reduced screen time, can also help. By changing the environment and practicing deeper engagement, you can restore your brain's ability to focus and regain control over your attention.

Blueberries are proving to be more than just another trendy superfood, with research highlighting their significant impact on blood vessel function. A comprehensive review of clinical trials revealed that their most consistent benefit wasn't tied to weight loss or detox claims but rather to improved circula-



tion, sometimes within hours of consumption. This is crucial because healthy blood flow plays a vital role in long-term vitality, brain performance, and aging gracefully, yet it's often overlooked in discussions about health.

What sets blueberries apart is their ability to influence multiple systems in the body simultaneously. Their rich blue hue comes from anthocyanins, compounds that the body converts into metabolites supporting nitric oxide signaling. This pathway is essential for maintaining flexible and responsive blood vessels, ensuring the heart and brain receive adequate oxygen and nutrients. This goes beyond the typical antioxidant narrative, emphasizing their role in sustaining the body's internal infrastructure, which becomes increasingly important with age.

Additionally, blueberries work synergistically with the gut, as their polyphenols reach the colon, where beneficial microbes transform them into bioactive compounds. This interaction may promote a healthier microbiome and even enhance cognitive performance in older adults. While further research is encouraged, the evidence so far paints a compelling picture: this simple, traditional food delivers measurable, whole-body benefits quickly, making it a powerful ally for health and longevity.

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

The Savvy Senior How to Navigate Inheriting an IRA From a Parent



By Jim Miller

Dear Savvy Senior,

What are the rules regarding inherited IRAs? My brother and I recently inherited our father's IRA when he passed away late last year and would like to know what we need to do to handle it properly.

—Oldest Sibling

Dear Oldest,

I'm sorry to hear about the loss of your father, but you're smart to be planning ahead. Inheriting an IRA from a parent comes with a unique set of rules. Understanding them can help you make the most of the money you inherit and avoid an unpleasant surprise at tax time. Here are some basics you should know.

Setting It Up

Many people assume they can roll an inherited IRA into their own IRA, but that's not allowed for most beneficiaries. If you inherit an IRA from a parent, sibling, or anyone other than a spouse, you cannot treat the account as your own. Instead, your share must be transferred into a newly established inherited IRA, properly titled in the deceased owner's name—for example, John Smith, deceased, for the benefit of Jane Smith.

If your father named multiple beneficiaries, the IRA can be split into separate inherited accounts. This allows each beneficiary to manage withdrawals independently, as if they were the sole beneficiary.

You can open an inherited IRA at most banks or brokerage firms, although the simplest option is often to set it up with the firm that already holds your father's account.

The 10-Year Withdrawal Rule

Under the SECURE Act, signed into law in December 2019, most non-spouse beneficiaries must withdraw all the money from an inherited IRA by the end of the 10th year following the original owner's death. This rule applies if the owner died in 2020 or later.

If your father had already begun taking required minimum distributions (RMDs), you generally must continue taking annual RMDs while also emptying the account within 10 years. If he had not yet started RMDs, annual withdrawals aren't required, as long as the entire IRA is withdrawn by the end of the 10-year period.

You may take withdrawals faster if you choose, but distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable as ordinary income in the year taken. Roth IRA withdrawals, however, are usually tax-free, provided the account has been open at least five years.

If you fail to take a required RMD, or don't



withdraw enough, the penalty is 25 percent of the amount you should have taken. That penalty can be reduced to 10 percent if the mistake is corrected within two years.

Exceptions to the Rule

Several beneficiaries are exempt from the 10-year rule, including a surviving spouse, a minor child, a disabled or chronically ill beneficiary, or someone who is within 10 years of age of the original IRA owner. These beneficiaries may be allowed to stretch withdrawals over a longer period.

Minimize Your Taxes

As tempting as it may be to cash out an inherited IRA in a lump sum, or take large withdrawals over just a few years, proceed carefully. Doing so could trigger a hefty tax bill. Withdrawals from a traditional IRA are generally taxed as income at your regular tax rate.

For many heirs, spreading distributions over the 10-year period can help manage taxes and reduce the risk of being pushed into a higher tax bracket. Other strategies may make sense if your income fluctuates or you're nearing retirement.

To help navigate these decisions, consider working with a financial advisor. If you don't have one, you can find a fee-only, fiduciary financial planner through the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors at napfa.org.

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Goodhue Day: Long-standing Tradition Still Going Strong

(continued from page 1)

A combine, skid loaders, tractors and ATVs intrigued visitors in Lodermeier's large shop area that offered a warm respite on the seasonably cold February 20th day. Chili and sweet rolls were on the menu, a prize drawing and a 10% discount on parts showed the implements appreciation for the many customers that bought grain bins, buildings, combines, lawn mowers and everything in between during the past year. A representative of the MC grain dryer company was on hand to answer questions. Lodermeier's Inc. received the MC

Grain Dryer Dealer of the Year award for the third consecutive year.

Parking spots were sparse downtown as people checked in to various businesses. It was the perfect day to run errands and visit with store owners. JoAnn Hilleshiem reported being busy making Goodhue Wildcat shirts for winter tournaments. Her J-Hill Promotions store offered a jewelry discount and reports that a new line will be introduced soon. The jewelry, and things like knife blades, can be customized with a laser capable of engraving metal.

More gift items and fresh flowers are available down the street at Blooms on Broadway. Appreciation Day treats were enjoyed while picking an "Olympic medal" in the store garnered an instant prize. Peters' Insurance also offered plentiful treats and giveaways as did other service organizations around town.

Free milk and cookies were the perk for shopping at Goodhue Market. Owner, Jate Meyer, said business is a little slower this time of year, perfect for hosting the event that brings people in to the store. Both 2nd Street



Lodermeier's Inc Employee of the Month welcomes guests to the business during Goodhue's annual appreciation day.

Pub and the Corner Bar offered free or discount food and drinks to enjoy while debating with friends and neighbors whether the

unique tradition is "what it used to be"—or maybe better.

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Essential Exercise



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

Why is exercise important? There are thousands of online sources and books describing how to get in shape and how to get fit. For many the goal of building muscle may not be motivating, so what other reasons are there for regular exercise and what is the minimum amount of exercise required?

Your body is designed for movement. Every part of your body benefits from regular movement throughout the day. As modern lifestyle increasingly promotes sitting in one place for long periods of time, the body functions begin to have a harder time working properly. Daily movement benefits bone health, liver health, and the body’s ability to get rid of toxins.

As the body ages, bone strength will be directly related to the amount of strain and use placed upon the bones. If there is minimal movement or pressure placed on the bones, the cells that build bone material will not be stimulated to reinforce the bone structure and make it stronger. Generally, the strongest bones are measured in twenty-year-old individuals who are coming to the end of the growth stage and have experienced some of the most active years of life. But healthy bones can be maintained throughout your entire life with a healthy food plan and regular exercise. In her book, Healthy Bones, Healthy You, Lara Pizzorno states, “At age 72, I have the bone density of a thirty-year old!” Lara describes exercises that build bones safely. These exercises provide the regular stimulation needed to keep the cells active that maintain bone density.

An increasing health challenge across America over the last four decades has been the rise in fatty liver disease, specifically non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. This health challenge may go unnoticed since you cannot see or feel the difference initially. According to the American Diabetes Association about 38% of Americans have a fatty liver and up to 70% of individuals with diabetes have a fatty liver. In 2019, the Journal for the American Medical Association reported that a fatty liver is becoming one of the most common liver disorders in children.

A fatty liver develops when fat begins to be stored in the liver. When fat builds up in the liver, the liver cells are not able to function properly, fatigue increases, blood sugar levels increase, cholesterol levels increase, and health begins to decline.

Daily exercise can be an effective way to reduce and eliminate fat build up in the liver.

The Journal of Sport and Health Science published a report in January 2026 showing a dose response to the amount of exercise and reduction of fatty liver. The study presented the minimal amount of movement to reduce fat build up in the liver was 25 minutes of brisk walking at least 5 days a week. A moderate level of movement was 30 minutes of walking or aerobic exercise 5 days a week. The maximum level of movement to provide any benefit for liver health was 45 minutes 5 days a week. Movement can include aerobic exercise, cardiovascular exercise, and resistance exercises. More than 45 minutes each day did not provide any additional benefit to liver health.

Daily movement will also benefit the ability of the body to detoxify and remove toxin

buildup. The body has an amazing drainage system known as the lymphatic system. The lymph vessels in the human body are small vessels that absorb the excess water and fluids that come out from the blood vessels. These lymph vessels act like drain tiles returning the excess fluid to the heart for recirculation. Lymph vessels have no pump and no muscle to move the fluid along the pathway. Lymph tubes are dependent upon body movement to cause the fluid to move from one part of the body to the next part of the body. When a person sits for long periods of time, or is unable to move due to illness, the lymph fluid can build up resulting in swelling tissue and inflammation.

In order to reduce inflammation and improve overall health, daily movement is a necessity. Identify those moving activities that you enjoy. A daily walk, bicycle ride, aro-

bic exercise, pickleball, rebounder, or vibration plate, are just a few ideas that are among the popular choices available to you. Set a SMART goal for yourself and see what progress you notice. A SMART goals is:

- S – Specific
- M – Measurable
- A – Achievable
- R – Relevant
- T – Time Bound

Make 2026 your healthiest year yet.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. Nutrition is designed for healing. I can help you reach greater health freedom in 2026. Contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

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

Change starts in your community:
The Minnesotans behind the Speaking
of Cannabis campaign

By Goodhue County Health and Human Services

Goodhue County, MN - Recently, you may have noticed messages about Speaking of Cannabis online, in stores and around your community.

Much like alcohol, cannabis is now legal for adults, but that doesn’t mean it’s always safe. Using it during a time when the brain is actively growing can have harmful and long-term effects on things like memory, coordination, concentration and mental health. This is why the Speaking of Cannabis campaign was created: to support parents, caregivers, mentors and other trusted adults to understand and talk to the youth in their communities about the risks of cannabis use.

The Speaking of Cannabis campaign came to Southeast Minnesota because of a group effort by public health staff. A subgroup from Fillmore, Goodhue, Olmsted and Winona County is leading the effort, in partnership with Dodge, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Rice, Steele, and Wabasha County.

“Public health staff reviewed existing campaigns and picked Speaking of Cannabis. They talked to local adults to guide revisions and create new messages, recommended display locations, provided their county logos, and granted Meta access so O’Rourke Media Group could run Facebook ads across all 11 counties,” said Ruth Greenslade, MPP, Public Health Supervisor, Goodhue County Health and Human Services.

Speaking of Cannabis started in Northeast Minnesota. It was originally created last year by public health staff from Carlton, Cook, Lake and St. Louis Counties and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa’s Human Services Division, with support from a Minnesota Department of Health Infrastructure Grant.

The campaign’s website and original materials were created by the Duluth-based Sek Design Studio, who helped develop a look and tone for the campaign that is friendly, informative and non-judgmental.

PlaceBased, a Minneapolis-based media company specializing in out-of-home advertisements, placed displays, posters, and window clings in community locations in both Northeast Minnesota and Southeast Minnesota.

You can find messages from Speaking of Cannabis in your community, online and throughout the region. This activity is made possible by a grant from the Cannabis & Substance Use Prevention program of the Minnesota Department of Health’s Health Improvement Bureau. For more information, visit www.speakingofcannabis.org.



Display at Tobacco Vapor in Cloquet

2026 SWIMMING LESSON SCHEDULE

GOODHUE POOL

Session 1: June 1 - 12

9:45 – 10:15 Level 1, Level 3, Level 5
10:30 – 11:00 Level 2, Level 4, Level 6
11:15 – 11:45 Level 1, Level 3, Level 4
12:00 – 12:30 Level 1, Level 2, Level 5

Session 2: June 15 – 26

9:45 – 10:15 Level 1, Level 3, Level 5
10:30 – 11:00 Level 2, Level 4, Level 6
11:15 – 11:45 Level 1, Level 3, Level 4
12:00 – 12:30 Level 1, Level 2, Level 5

Session 3: July 6 – 17

9:45 – 10:15 Level 1, Level 3, Level 5
10:30 – 11:00 Level 2, Level 4, Level 6
11:15 – 11:45 Level 1, Level 3, Level 4
12:00 – 12:30 Level 1, Level 2, Level 5

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Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol



Question: *I heard about a thing called "Vanessa's Law" the other day and I wasn't quite sure what it was all about. I know it has to do with new or young drivers.*

Answer: Vanessa Weiss was killed just days before her 16th birthday in May 2003. In her memory, Vanessa's Law was passed a year later. She was a passenger in a vehicle driven by an unlicensed 15-year-old.

Vanessa's Law applies to all teens who commit an impaired driving crime or crash-related moving violation but applies differently whether you have a provisional license or are unlicensed.

If you are convicted of a crash-related moving violation or an alcohol/controlled substance-related violation (such as Driving While Impaired, Implied Consent, Open Bottle, or Underage Drinking and Driving/Not a Drop Law) while you are driving without a li-

cense as a teenager, you cannot get a license, instruction permit or provisional license until you are 18. At 18, you must:

- Pass the Class D written test.
- Fulfill reinstatement requirements, including payment of fees, which can be up to \$680 depending on circumstances.
- Obtain an instruction permit and hold it for at least six months.
- Pass the road test and apply for a new license.

If you lose driving privileges due to a crash-related moving violation or an alcohol/controlled substance related violation while driving with your provisional license, you cannot regain a license until age 18.

At that time, you must complete the following steps to obtain a full driver's license:

- Fulfill all reinstatement requirements, including the payment of fees, which can be up to \$680 depending on circumstances.
- Complete the classroom portion of a formal driver education course.
- Pass the Class D written test if the license has been expired for over one year.
- Obtain an instruction permit and hold it for three months.
- Complete the behind-the-wheel portion of a driver education course and apply for a new license.

Question: *Hi, I read your "Ask A Trooper" article regarding Winter Travel Survival Kit Essentials. You might reconsider recommending cat litter as an agent for traction. Traditional cat litter is made of small chunks of clay, when one attempts to use it for traction in winter conditions it*

quickly dissolves into a slippery mess, making traction less viable. That was my experience.

Answer: There are several effective alternatives to help regain traction if you become stuck in the snow. Options include sand, tire chains, snow socks, traction mats or boards. In emergency situations, some people have even used floor mats, cardboard, or branches/weeds with success.

How to Use Traction Aids:

- Clear the snow: Dig out snow from in front of and behind your tires to give yourself room to move.
- Apply material: Place your chosen traction aid (sand, mats, boards, etc.) directly in the path of the drive wheels.
- Accelerate slowly: Gently apply the gas so the tires can grip the material. Avoid spinning the tires, as this can dig you in deeper.
 - If your vehicle has traction control, you may want to temporarily turn it off.
 - A gentle rocking motion (forward and reverse) can also help free the vehicle.

We still have a lot of winter left, and it's always best to be prepared for any winter travel emergency.

Question: *I took my driver's training course many years ago. One thing I remember from my training is the steps that goes into making a right-hand turn, including:*

1. Looking to my right to make sure no one/nothing is there.
2. Putting on my right turn signal.
3. Looking again for no obstacles.
4. Proceeding to move over to the curb to allow forward-moving traffic (behind me) to not be disrupted by my right-hand turn.

In my nearly 12 years back in the community, I could very easily count on both hands the number of people that have followed this method for making a right turn. Very few drivers, if any, move over to the right when making their turn, let alone use their signals. Can you provide clarification on this?

Answer: A traffic lane is a part of the street or highway wide enough for a vehicle or line of vehicles to drive safely. You are in a traffic lane whenever you drive on any street or highway. Lanes may not always be marked, but they exist whether marked or not. You must stay within a single traffic lane without weaving or straddling the lane markings. If it is a solid white line, you should not cross over it. Some areas have marked turning



lanes.

Many highways and streets have pavement markings. 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

You often need to change lanes to turn, merge with traffic or do other driving activities. Changing lanes can be dangerous and must be done carefully. To stay safe, make sure you have space to the side behind and ahead of your vehicle before moving into another lane. Turn your head to check the lane you are moving into for vehicles. Don't rely solely on mirrors; you may miss vehicles in your blind spots.

Drivers who turn improperly cause many traffic crashes. Move safely into the correct lane well ahead of the place where you will make the actual turn.

• Slow down before turning. Signal your intent at least 100 feet before the turn. Signals let pedestrians and drivers know what you plan to do.

• While waiting to turn, keep your wheels straight and your foot on the brake. If your vehicle is struck from behind, you are less likely to be pushed into oncoming traffic.

• Continue signaling until you begin your turn.

• Do not make sudden turns from the wrong lane.

• Watch for traffic or obstacles in the road you plan to enter.

• Always finish your turn in the correct lane.

• If the car ahead of you is signaling for a left turn, slow down and prepare to stop.

Safely Sharing the Road with Commercial Vehicles

Whether it's a semi, a school bus or a vehicle carrying hazardous materials, we share our roads with commercial vehicles every day. Because of their size and weight – often exceeding 26,000 pounds – these vehicles operate differently than the average car. To help ensure everyone gets home safely, please keep these practical tips in mind.

The Art of the Pass

Passing a commercial vehicle requires more time and space than passing a standard car.

Time your move: On a level highway, it takes 3–5 seconds longer to pass a large truck. Ensure you have enough clearance to return to your lane at least 100 feet before meeting oncoming traffic.

Check the grade:

Uphill: Trucks often lose speed, making them easier to pass.

Downhill: Trucks gain momentum quickly; allow extra distance before attempting to pass.

Clear the mirror: Only move back into the right lane once you can see the entire front of the truck in your rearview mirror. Maintain your speed so the truck driver doesn't have to brake suddenly behind you.

Don't rush: If your exit or turn is coming up soon, stay behind the vehicle rather than trying to pass it.

When a Truck Passes You

Help the driver complete the maneuver safely:

Stay right: Keep to the far side of your lane.

Be predictable: Slightly reduce your speed or maintain it – never speed up while a large vehicle is trying to pass.

Important Safety Reminders

Judging distance: Because of their massive size, commercial vehicles often appear to be traveling slower than they actually are. Many intersection crashes happen because drivers misjudge a truck's speed. When in doubt, wait.

Wind turbulence: When meeting a truck from the opposite direction, stay to the right. Turbulence will naturally push vehicles away from each other; staying right helps you maintain steering control.

Understanding how big trucks work helps us look out for each other and keep the roads safe. Together, we can drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.



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Rep. Steven Jacob

DISTRICT 20B

NEWS



Hello from St. Paul,

This week, our human services committee attempted to review a recent Optum report that suggests that 90% of claims made to pay for autism services may be fraudulent.

As a lawmaker who is tasked with trying to oversee, understand, and eliminate potential fraud, the task is awfully difficult when the Walz administration retracts 90% of it.

Among the facts that weren't redacted, the analysis found the number of autism service providers jumped from 41 to 328 over a five-year span. Some of these providers were missing very basic information, such as phone numbers or websites, yet were routinely sending bills to the State of Minnesota.

At least \$9 billion has been stolen from state taxpayers due to fraud, and the Walz administration continues to be of little help. It is very frustrating.

INCOMPETENCE ONCE AGAIN RE-WARDED

Shireen Gandhi is our new commissioner for the Department of Human Services. She's held the interim tag for more than a year. Since then, we've learned \$9 billion has been swindled from our state due to repeated inactions by the administration, and in some cases, coverups.

As a member of the Legislative Audit Commission, Gandhi spoke to us about fraud in this state. Discussing the need for getting fraud under control, she said, "First we're going to crawl. Then we'll walk slowly, then we'll walk, and then we'll jog slowly."

Not exactly the kind of person who appears

to believe we have hit crisis mode when it comes to fraud in this state.

Gandhi was in charge when the nonpartisan Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) audited the Behavioral Health Administration, which is part of DHS. It found that state employees not only mismanaged money but also participated in a cover up by fabricating documents to cover their tracks.

I honestly thought she'd be fired. Instead, she gets a promotion. Another 'only in Minnesota' moment; of which there are far too many.

COUNTIES NEED MONDERNIZED SOFTWARE

As a former county commissioner, I understand the problems our counties are facing with outdated equipment and technology. Currently, there are employees staring at decades old green screens while trying to implement social programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid.

Think of the wasted staff time as they are trying to grapple with software that is no longer reliable. These are also programs that are ripe for being ripped off by fraudsters. We don't want the swindlers to have the ability to operate more quickly and efficiently than the counties. We need to find a way to update their technology.

TROUBLES IN MEXICO

Most of us have heard about the unrest in Mexico, and I have heard from several residents who are desperately trying to leave that country, but cannot. Unfortunately, I am

fairly limited in ways I can help these folks, but have been urging them to contact Congressman Finstad's office. I truly wish I could do more. Prayers needed for our neighbors as they try to get home safely.

KEEP IN TOUCH

As always, my door is always open. If you ever have any legislative questions, please contact me. I can be reached at rep.steven.jacob@house.mn.gov or by phone at 651.296.2273.

Have a good weekend,
Steve



Verify the Vote - Not Too Much To Ask



Rep. Pam Altendorf (R)
District: 20A

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon denied a U.S. Department of Justice request to share the state's voter roll data with the federal government. Other states cooperated and utilized tools to assure duplicate or dead voters were removed. That's good governance.

Despite what you hear, it is not a fracture of trust to share private information - such as name, address and birthdates - with the federal government, when the federal government already has this information. Further, the Secretary of State's (SOS) Office has no problem sharing your private data with a non-governmental agency called Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) on a monthly basis - yet where is the outrage?

Democrats have plenty of canned replies, but these arguments have more holes than Swiss cheese. Ask yourself: why is Minnesota not verifying its voter rolls are clean?

As an elected Minnesota public official serving as the vice-chair of the Elections Committee, I recently made a formal request for voter data information from four Minnesota counties.

Two days after my request, the SOS contacted elections' offices in all 87 Minnesota counties, telling them a public official had made a data request for master voter lists. The SOS gave a directive, redefining the "master list" to contain less information than the list that is publicly available and instructing county officials not to provide specific data, like "voter status."

Of the four counties, three followed the

SOS directive. Hennepin County shared its voter master list in full, and it contained numerous problematic findings:

2,992 voters with missing data, most missing part of a name, address or birthdate - which by state and federal laws should trigger a stop

503 active voters aged 100 or older

7,779 "challenged" voters because of questions about their eligibility to vote

One precinct with 21.6% - or 1 out of every 5 voters - as "challenged"

Voters in large numbers with the same address

Voters with the same name and address with two voter identifications

This isn't rampant speculation. These are proven facts, compiled using data kept on file and sent to me directly from the source: Hennepin County. We now know that there are thousands of voter records with discrepancies, omissions, or questions of eligibility in the state's largest county.

When Secretary Simon is more concerned about what I might find on the voter rolls rather than ensuring the integrity of our state's elections system, that's a major problem. The attempt to control what voter data counties should release is troubling and raises a huge red flag. If he truly believed the state's voter rolls were spotless, would he not welcome the scrutiny?

This is just one county out of 87, but the one with roughly 20% of the state's population. It's clear we need more transparency because the Hennepin County data proves the voter rolls aren't clean. Many of us remember a U.S. Senate race that was decided by less than 300 votes. Having thousands of challenged voters lurking on Hennepin County's voter rolls before this November's election raises serious questions about the quality and integrity of our voter data, not only there but across our state.

Based on these facts, it's clear the voter rolls in all 87 counties need a thorough inspection. If the SOS office is unable or unwilling to assure our voter rolls are clean, then we must accept federal assistance. Insisting the voter rolls are clean when the facts prove otherwise makes the average Minnesotan question whether our election system is truly fair and honest, and that is an unacceptable outcome.

Election integrity should not be a partisan issue. Bringing full transparency to our voter rolls is of highest importance to me. One legal, adult Minnesota citizen per vote - anything less is disenfranchising our most important American duty. Verify the vote!

WHEAT TRAIL FESTIVAL

JULY 24TH & 25TH

GOODHUE, MN

FRIDAY NIGHT:

BRYAN ANDERSON

NOAH HICKS

DYLAN SCOTT

SATURDAY NIGHT:

FOSTER GRAND

CORI KENNEDY

NATIONAL HEADLINER TBA

VARIOUS DAYTIME ACTIVITIES:

MENTAL HEALTH KEYNOTE

FOOD TRUCKS

CAMPING

BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT

BBQ CONTEST

*MORE ARTISTS TO BE ANNOUNCED

NOAH HICKS

DYLAN SCOTT

NATIONAL HEADLINER TBA

CORI KENNEDY

#LIVIN



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We're at the end of the 2nd week of the legislative session. Committees are meeting, bills are being introduced and heard, and lots of constituents are coming to visit my office to talk about the issues that they care about. Last week, Senate Republicans, including me, held a press conference on our initiatives to combat fraud in the state's public programs, and on Friday, we heard information about the State's economic health, with spending outpacing revenue and other troubling signs.

Economic Forecast leaves a lot of questions

The February and November budget forecasts give lawmakers and the governor their most up-to-date picture of how much money the state expects to take in and spend, based on the latest economic data. Legislators use the forecast as a financial guide for any budget decisions made during the session.

Minnesota's Office of Management and Budget released its February budget forecast on Friday, 2/27 showing a \$3.7 billion surplus in the current two-year budget cycle. The forecast continued to predict structural imbalances ahead that could easily become significant budget deficits.

I strongly believe that the state surplus that will be in the headlines exists because President Trump's policies have created a stronger national economy, but the fact remains that Minnesota continues to spend more than it takes in. We are still trying to patch the hole Democrats created when they expanded and created new programs when they held both houses of the legislature under Governor Walz's direction.

Finally, the forecast notes that we don't know the effect of the federal clawbacks of fraudulent payments authorized by the state for Medicaid and of other penalties for noncompliance with new federal laws, such as work requirements for some welfare payments.

The next tasks are clear: we must stop the fraud, prosecute the criminals, end the reckless spending, and give the taxpayers of this state some relief."

A report from the Tax Foundation on State Competitiveness rankings: Minnesota ranks 44th out of 50 for tax competitiveness. The state's top income tax rate of 9.85% is among the highest in the country. Sales taxes average over 8%, property taxes are high, and the corporate tax rate of 9.8% is also near the top nationally. Minnesota stacks tax on top of tax, and it's costing the state its competitive edge.

A Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Business Benchmarks Report ranked Minnesota 38th with 1% GDP per capita annual growth, 40th for labor force growth, and 41st in net domestic migration. Between 2019 and 2024, key economic statistics slowed to nearly stagnant or negative levels, reversing previous trends, and impacting the state's overall economic climate.

FORECAST DOCUMENTS

** February 2026 Budget and Economic Forecast (PDF)

** February 2026 Budget and Economic Forecast Presentation (PDF)

Senator Steve Drazkowski at 2/19 press conference - Senate Media

Republicans do the heavy lifting on fraud

On February 19, Senate Republicans rolled out several new bills as part of an action plan to stop and prevent fraud in Minnesota's public programs. The bills give the legislature stricter oversight of taxpayer's dollars and the administration of these programs, support the use of technology to streamline delivery and verification of services, and provide better accountability within state government.



ity within state government.

Bill List

Stricter legislative oversight

Reestablishing and requiring legislative confirmation of commissioners (Kruen)

Automatic audits and/or pause in social services have a large growth in spending (Rassmusson)

Technology to streamline verification and delivery of services

Electronic visit verification and recipient sign off for services provided (Rassmusson)

Do not pay list database of people ineligible to receive state payments (Drazkowski)

Verification of eligibility requirements for Medicaid by Managed Care Organizations (Drazkowski)

Technology advancements on eligibility and verification (Koran)

Accountability in state government

Criminal penalties for falsifying paperwork for audits (Koran)

DHS and DCYF OIG Annual Reporting Requirements (Gruenhagen)

Unannounced in-person site visit for every DHS and DCYF program (Holmstrom)

Fishing information for 2026

Spring is nearly here, and so is the end of ice fishing season. Dark houses, fish houses, and portables must be off the ice no later than 11:59 p.m. (end of the day) for each of the dates given in the categories below. County sheriffs may prohibit or restrict the use of motorized vehicles if dangerous ice conditions are present. If shelters are not removed, owners may be cited. A conservation officer may also confiscate, remove, or destroy any ice structure and its contents if they are not removed by the deadline.

Dates of removal are determined by an east-west line formed by U.S. Hwy. 10, east along Hwy. 34 to Minnesota Hwy. 200, east along Hwy. 200 to U.S. Hwy. 2, and east along Hwy. 2 to the Minnesota-Wisconsin border. After removal dates, shelters may remain on the ice between midnight and one hour before sunrise only when occupied or attended. Storing or leaving shelters on a public access is prohibited.

Inland waters

South of line - March 2, 2026

North of line - March 16, 2026

Border waters

Minnesota-Iowa - February 20

Minnesota-Wisconsin - March 1

Minnesota-North and South Dakota - March 5

Minnesota-Canada - March 31

Download your 2026 Fishing Regulations booklet here or pick one up wherever you buy your fishing licence after March 1. Regulations go into effect March 1, 2026.

The DNR also has a survey on Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping Regulations.

Don't hesitate to contact me anytime with any issues, concerns, or feedback so I can best represent you. The best way to reach me is by email at sen.steve.drazkowski@mnsenate.gov or by phone at 651-296-5612. My legislative assistant is Margaret Martin, and her number is 651-296-4264. She will be happy to assist you, in or out of session.

OFFICE OF COUNTY ASSESSOR

TO THE CLERK OF THE _____ CITY _____ OF _____ BELLECHESTER _____

GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the _____ 23RD _____ day of _____ APRIL _____

at _____ 4:00 _____ o'clock _____ PM _____, has been fixed as the date for the meeting of the Board of Appeal and Equalization in _____ your CITY _____ for said year. LOCATION: BELLECHESTER COMMUNITY CENTER

Pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 274.03, you are required to give notice of said meeting by publication and posting, not later than ten days prior to the date of said meeting.

Given under my hand this _____ 13 _____ day of _____ JANUARY _____, 2026

Olson Augustino
Goodhue County Assessor
Goodhue County Assessor's Office
Goodhue County, Minnesota

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Goodhue City Council Meeting Minutes City Hall ~ January 28, 2026 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Chris Schmit, Council Members Michael Brunkhorst, Jeanine Nagel, Eric Brandt

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Lisa Redepinning, City Administrator, Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk, Jason Mandelkow, Public

Works Director, Bonnie Strusz, Mike Ayres-GCSO, Sarah Bien, Jeremiah Bien, Pete Grimsrud-News Record, Corey Roper, Jon Huneke-GCSO

Remote: Bob Vose, City Attorney

Call to Order

Mayor Schmit called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approve or amend Agenda

Motioned to approve agenda by Brunkhorst, seconded by Brandt, motion carried 4-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the January 14, 2026, work meeting minutes made by Brandt, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Bills

Questions were clarified about payments for fire truck charitable fund pass-through, legal fees related to the sale of the ball field to the school (with costs split between city and school), water line emergency repairs, quarterly building permit payments, copier contract finance vendor, and scanning project details. Motion was made to approve the bills by Brunkhorst, seconded by Brandt, motion carried 4-0-0.

Old Business

Ambulance committee appointment

Council is waiting on the ambulance committee to reply with the correct meeting date. Commitment is at least one meeting per year. Council will wait for date of ambulance committee meeting and then appoint representative at the next month's meeting.

EDA appointment/update

No new appointment was needed as Council Member Nagel's report from the last EDA meeting that it was determined that the Economic Development Authority would be better served by the city council, following past precedent. There are three façade applications in place. Council member Jeannine Nagel announced paying for a membership to join the Chamber of Commerce and will continue managing the façade applications.

New Business

Joint Powers Fire Truck Association Agreement

Significant debate over governance structure of the fire association took place. City council member Brunkhorst prefers keeping 20 (2 reps per community) for broader representation. Voting rights and contributions discussed with large percentage entities having same vote as smaller ones. Legal counsel highlighted a unique governance structure of smaller entities having equal voting power and the risk of larger contributors being outvoted on major expenditures exceeding \$100,000 without it being a unanimous vote. His example of a new \$1M fire truck purchase and using Goodhue's portion of approximately 25%, City of Goodhue's share would be \$250,000. (Without Exhibit A being present that showed actual payment amount, approximate percentage was used for this example. August agreement had Goodhue at 23.5%). Voting formula alternatives were discussed, but there was no consensus. Council asked Attorney Vose to send feed-

back to the Fire Truck Association's attorney that they prefer to retain two representatives per community (20 total board members) and amend relevant agreement sections. Tabled discussion until later in the meeting to move onto next agenda item with community members present.

Bonnie Strusz - Snow ordinance and ticket received while working

Public Comment: Bartender cited for parking during business hours requested enforcement to start after 2AM to support late-night workers and customers. Council acknowledged the concern and stated that adjustment of ordinance enforcement is noted in minutes of the previous meeting.

Façade Program Application

A new application was received and approved at the last EDA meeting. Kyle Poncelet will be reopening the hardware store and has applied for a façade grant for signage and awning improvements to the store front. EDA will continue processing the application.

Joint Powers Fire Truck Association Agreement - Continued

Legal counsel pointed out the question of how much control you should have when you contribute the most. You may not vote for it at all, and you would have to pay a quarter whether you wanted it or not. Council stated they want two members for each community as it was. Overall, council approved of the current terms except for the representative reductions presented. Council tabled final approval pending these changes and clarification of missing exhibit A (contribution percentages).

Public Works Comments

Snow storage is adequate for one more storm. A backup plan is in place. Parking enforcement issue is resolved for now.

Council Comments

Council commented that the Fire Chief had expressed interest in serving as city Emergency Management Director, which is supported due to his proximity and availability. Legal or structural implications were discussed since the Fire Chief is an association employee now, not a city employee. This can be formalized at the next meeting after reviewing requirements, possible training needs, and confirming appointment process.

Council member Nagel informed members that she will be absent from the February 11th work meeting and will attend the February 25th council meeting remotely.

Council member Brandt also asked about the plan for interim mayor appointment. Administrator Redepinning confirmed that it is on the next meeting agenda so council can make that decision when there is a full council present.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:27 p.m. by Council Member Brandt, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 4-0-0. Respectfully submitted, Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk

Goodhue City Council Work Meeting Minutes

City Hall ~ February 11, 2026 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Chris Schmit, Council Members Michael Brunkhorst, Eric Brandt

Members Absent: Jeannine Nagel

Others Present: Lisa Redepinning, City Administrator, Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk, Jason Mandelkow, Public Works Director, Katie Kurtti, Pete Grimsrud-News Record

Remote: None

Call to Order

Mayor Schmit called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approve or amend Agenda

Removal of the Fire Truck Association Agreement for lack of an agreement. Motion by Brandt to approve amended agenda, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 3-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the January 28, 2026, council meeting minutes made by Brandt, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 3-0-0.

Approval of Bills

Motion was made to approve the bills, by Brandt, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 3-0-0.

New Business

Council Appointment to Vacancy

Council engaged in conversation with the applicant and commended how thoroughly and well the application was completed. A motion was made to accept the application and appoint Katie Kurtti as a council member, by Brunkhorst, seconded by Brandt, motion carried 3-0-0. The Oath of Office was read and welcomed Katie Kurtti to the City of Goodhue City Council.

Committee Assignments – Ambulance, Acting Mayor

Council member Brunkhorst expressed interest in the Ambulance representative assignment. A motion to appoint Brunkhorst to Ambulance representative was made by Mayor Schmit, seconded by Brandt, motion carried 4-0-0.

Council member Brandt expressed interest in Acting Mayor assignment. Council member Brunkhorst motioned for Council Member Brandt to be Acting Mayor in the Mayor's absence, seconded by Kurtti, motion carried 4-0-0.

Snow/Parking Concern

Council reviewed the fact that discussion and changes with the process took place at a previous meeting and the changes to the snow emergency alert and timing were changed as requested to accommodate employees working downtown until 2:00 a.m.

Cell Tower

GSS Midwest Project Manager asked again for consideration of a cell tower project in Goodhue requesting a counteroffer from the City. The council denied their proposal.

Spring City-Wide Cleanup Day – April 18th – Set Rates

Council discussed rates, special priced items, residential vs. commercial and days for the prepaid curbside pick-up. Item was tabled for the next meeting to receive more detailed rate information from Waste Management.

Resolution 2026-02 Approving Lawful Gambling Premises Permit for the Goodhue Lion's Club

Council agrees to approve Resolution 2026-02 Approving Lawful Gambling Premises Permit for the Goodhue Lions Club and will be added to the consent agenda for the next council meeting for approval.

Approval of Consumption and Display Alcohol Permit for Lions Club

Council agrees to approve the Consumption and Display Alcohol Permit for the Lions Club and will be added to the consent agenda for the next council meeting for approval.

All Night Graduation Party Donation Request

Council agrees to donate a family pool pass for the drawing at the All-Night Graduation Party and will be added to the consent agenda for the next council meeting for approval.

Goodhue Community Foundation Donation Request

Council has agreed to donate a family pool pass to the Goodhue Education Foundation and will be added to the consent agenda for the next council meeting for approval.

Volksfest Security Financial Request

The Jaycees are asking the City of Goodhue for a contribution of one-half the cost of security for the Volksfest event this year. They received a quote for security services of \$15,000-20,000 from the Goodhue County Sheriff Department. This is separate from the City's Volksfest event Posse amount and the current contract with Goodhue County Sheriff's Office. Council recognized that the City naturally incurs costs associated with this event and decided to decline the request and suggested they seek funds elsewhere.

Administrator Report

No comments

Public Works Report

A grant was received for the addition of the generator at the main well #1. Well #3 costs to keep it in operation were discussed. Removed more boxelder trees, installed new brooms on sweeper and John Deere. Still waiting to hear if we will be receiving funds for replacing galvanized water service lines.

Council Comments

Council member Kurtti informed that she will be absent from the next meeting on February 25, 2026.

Council member Brunkhorst referenced an item from the administrator report asking what the concerns were for the Fire Truck Association agreement. Administrator Redepinning shared concern for, not only the attorney concerns, but also on the billing process that was listed in Section 7.5 of the agreement that involves all the entities doing the fire call billing and collection of fees, which will require a new ordinance and fees included on the entities fee schedules, and increased workload for the city and township clerks. Brunkhorst mentioned that this was not in the document presented to him two weeks ago. He thought that was for delinquent bills only.

He also commented that the Fire Truck Association is reviewing the billing process for the Joint Powers Agreement and some other things that needed to be looked at. Along with that, he shared some logistics of billing, charges and rules that the department needs to follow.

Council member Brandt asked about the Emergency Plan and Emergency contact. Administrator Redepinning confirmed that it is scheduled to be on the next work session.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:29 p.m. by Council Member Brandt, seconded by Kurtti, motion carried 4-0-0. Respectfully submitted, Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk

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1. Comprehend
6. It has no staying power?
9. Auditioner's hope
13. Prevention measure?
14. Ill temper
15. Poetic although
16. Brooke or John Jacob, of New York
17. Downhill equipment
18. Beau
19. "'What Was I Made For?' singer
21. "'Fast Car" singer
23. Part of URL
24. Peephole glance
25. Morning drops
28. 1920s art style
30. Reduce, as in standing
35. Big Bang's original matter
37. Lad's counterpart
39. Connection
40. Milton Bradley's game
41. Tea from certain region of India
43. Some bent pipes
44. Rose oil
46. Zeus' wife
47. Remove from a manuscript
48. What bird did, homewise
50. Hyperbolic sine
52. "_____ and the City"
53. Prejudice
55. "Wow!"
57. "'Song Sung Blue" singer
61. "'I Just Called to Say I Love You" singer
64. Barrel racing meet
65. _____ Maria
67. Shockingly graphic
69. Not upright
70. Bathtub libation
71. Food contaminant
72. W on a light bulb
73. Consume
74. Aves

1. Former Portuguese colony in India
2. Deceptive maneuver
3. Naysayer's favorite prefix
4. Upbraid
5. 1/3rd of a hockey game
6. Phish homophone
7. One of Indiana's quests
8. Prepare for winter takeoff
9. Alka-Seltzer sound
10. Nucleus plus electrons
11. Actress Perlman
12. Tattered's partner
15. Rouse
20. Inscribed pillar
22. He had
24. Own
25. "'Hurricane" singer
26. Like March Madness' eight
27. Hair extensions
29. "'Folsom Prison Blues" singer
31. "'Walk on the Wild Side" singer
32. Wheel shafts
33. Tutu fabric
34. English county
36. Source of protein
38. Delhi wrap
42. Popular lassi fruit
45. Restart computer
49. Clamor
51. "'The Boys of Summer" singer
54. "Bad news travels fast", e.g.
56. Draw a conclusion
57. Pull out a pistol
58. Letter before kappa
59. Type of mine passage
60. Cheesy sandwich
61. Hit the road
62. Cupid's counterpart
63. Rub the wrong way
66. Road, in Rome
68. Bad-mouth, slangily

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



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JULY 10 & 11
2026

Friday, July 10

Saturday, July 11



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