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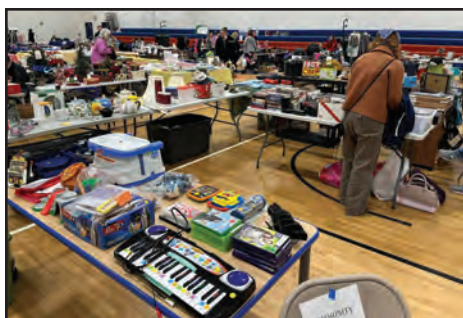
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March 19, 2026

Volume 23 • Issue 3

3rd Annual Randolph Music Department Garage Sale



Submitted

The Randolph Music Department will have their 3rd Annual Community Garage Sale on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Randolph High School. The event will help raise funds to support the department's March 2027 music trip to New Orleans. Community members are invited to rent spaces at the sale to sell their garage sale items. *(continued on page 8)*

Randolph School Hosts Large Group Music Contest

Courtesy of Randolph School

On March 6, Randolph hosted 6 schools and 743 students for Large Group Music Contest.

Our band and choir performed superbly and the band received a superior rating again this year! Congratulations students!

Thanks to all the students and administration that helped keep everything running smoothly. We couldn't have done it without you.

Summer RCC Open House

We will be hosting Open House for our Summer Child Care program on Thursday, March 26, 2026, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Randolph Child Care "RCC" is available to children age 4-grade 5 that attend Randolph Schools.

Bring your child/children in to meet our staff and explore our room. Learn about our many exciting field trips and activities that we have planned for the summer.

(continued on page 6)



Early Childhood Screening

Early Childhood Screening will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

Screening will take place from 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

(continued on page 6)

Council moves forward with forcing Hastings Creamery cleanup

Courtesy of Hastings Journal

Nearly two and a half years after a fire reduced the former Hastings Cooperative Creamery complex to a charred shell, the Hastings City Council on Feb. 17 took decisive action to force the long-stalled cleanup of the Vermillion Street site.

Meeting in regular session at City Hall, the council unanimously approved a resolution and order under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 463 requiring the property to be cleaned up.

(continued on page 9)



*photo by
Bruce Karnick*

Announcements

- March 21 - Farmers Appreciation Breakfast 7-10a.m. at St. Mark's Church, Randolph.
- March 23 - Randolph FFA Alumni Annual Meeting & Toy Auction 7p.m. in Randolph Ag Room.
- March 24 - Early Childhood Screening 3:30-6:30.
- March 31 - Speech Showcase 7:00 p.m.
- RANDOLPH RAILROAD DAYS MARCH 28 & 29. *(See ad on page 9)*

FFA Winter Leadership Day - Region 8



Courtesy of Randolph FFA

Grady Taylor competed in Poultry Placement Proficiency and placed 3rd in the Region. Jonathan Tate ran for Region Officer Team, Karlea Roehl was a voting delegate.

Pictured to the left: Logan Tate, Grady Taylor, Wyatt Herman, Colton Herman, Sadie Wagner, and Lindsay Taylor interviewed for their State Degrees



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Exhausted anxiety
Face numb
Chest tightening
Hard to breathe
Lonesome like no other
Thoughts of self-harm
Past haunting
Distress reappearing
Misunderstood
Heavy, so extremely heavy

These words describe the content of my heart this past summer. I just came off a time of dense fear and depression. It was crippling to say the least. The situation I was facing is far too long to describe at this time. In a nutshell, I had trauma from the past resurfacing, and I was panicking and spiraling to a pretty dark place. Thanks to Jesus, I got out by speaking truth, declaring the promises of the Bible, praying, worshiping, and letting the Lord parent me.

Fear is not of the Lord. If you are feeling any sort of anxiety or panic, this is not from Jesus but from the enemy, Satan. We live in a spiritual world, my friends, and we are in a spiritual battle.

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

When we witness and experience rage, gripping addiction, disabling fear, distressing anxiety, and many other torments, there is a spirit behind these things. This is the enemy at work. No fear though, my beloveds, no fear.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). If you have a relationship with Jesus and He resides in your heart,

you have authority over the enemy. “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19).

Relationship with Jesus and having Him reside in your heart—what are you talking about, Ashley? Having a relationship with Jesus and Him living in your heart means you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, asked for forgiveness for your mess-ups, and believed that He died on the cross for your sins and was resurrected from the dead. Then you talk to Him. You talk to Jesus and you never stop.

When you have relationship with Jesus, you have confidence that when fear springs, creeps, or stirs up, you can put your gaze on the Lord. You have assurance that Jesus has you and is with you wherever you go (see Joshua 1:9).

One way to help combat fear when it is knocking at your door (or is already inside) is by putting on the Armor of God. If you are unfamiliar with this armor, it is made up of six pieces and is shown in Ephesians 6:10–20. I will list out these six pieces with a short description of how I see them being used. I would encourage you to put this armor on and not take it off. You can put it on by praying

these pieces over yourself out loud or inwardly, journaling them, or even drawing a little picture of them. Check in with yourself daily to see if any piece needs a tightening!

- Belt of Truth—Cling to the truth of Jesus. You can know His truth by reading the Bible.

- Breastplate of Righteousness— You are in right standing with the Lord because of what Jesus did on the cross. We want to do our best to live a righteous lifestyle too.

- Feet Fitted with the Readiness of the Gospel of Peace—Repentance, knowing the gospel, sharing the gospel, receiving God’s peace, and sharing His peace. The gospel is what I shared earlier about having Jesus in your heart.

- Shield of Faith— Your faith in Christ and all that He says will block the fiery arrows of the enemy that want to destroy you.

- Helmet of Salvation— You are saved and renew your mind with God’s promises.

- Sword of the Spirit— This is the Bible; use it to strengthen yourself and fight against the lies of the enemy.

Jesus loves you. He loves you more than you will ever know. The Lord is coming through for you. He will perfect all that concerns you (see Psalm 138:8 NKJV). Jesus, I pray for all those reading, let them know You, Your love, and that they have nothing to fear

because You are in the room. You are not going anywhere. You are holding them and will not let go.

Lord, we put on the belt of truth. Help us cling to your promises. We put on the breastplate of righteousness. Remind us that we are in right standing with you because of what you did on the cross and help us to live in a godly way. We put on the feet that are fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace. Show us any sin that needs to be dealt with. Help us know and share your peace. We hold the shield of faith, to block the arrows of the enemy. We lean into what you say and not the lies of the enemy. We put on the helmet of salvation. If we have you in our hearts, we are saved and are going to heaven. Help us renew our minds to truth as well. We grab a hold of the sword, your Bible. Remind us to read it daily and apply its guidance. Amen to amen.

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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.

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Irving "Dean" Nordeen Sathre

Irving "Dean" Nordeen Sathre, age 83, of Randolph, passed away peacefully at his home with family by his side on Monday, February 2, 2026, following a brief battle with cancer. He was born on June 3, 1942, in Faribault, to Nordeen and Pearl (Jacobson) Sathre. They moved to Randolph in 1947, and Dean graduated from Randolph High School in 1961. He built his home in 1965, which he cherished for the rest of his life.

Dean worked with his dad helping with garbage collection in the Randolph area. In 1962, he went to work at Armour's in South Saint Paul, where he worked until the plant closed in 1979. He also worked for Meisinger Construction, the Farmington Dairy Plant, and at Farmers Union Co-op in Randolph. He helped install the Randolph city water lines and then worked part-time for the City of Randolph Water Department for 20+ years. In 1999, he worked at Midwest of Cannon Falls, where he enjoyed working until his retirement on April 1, 2004.



Dean had a great love for the Randolph community. He served 30 years on the Randolph Fire Department, and in 1968, he and a few firemen started the annual chicken barbecue, which, after 57 years, is still going strong.

He married the love of his life, Cindy (Leese) Richardson, on August 5, 1995. He loved spending time with his family, especially his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed woodworking, and his pride was making chairs for each of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He loved going to his cousin's cabin in Federal Dam for many years. He enjoyed going on side-by-side rides and visiting family or just taking a ride. He loved making lefse and rosettes every year just to give them to others. His biggest joy was playing Santa at many places and seeing the kids' faces.

He is survived by his wife, Cindy; children: Lisa (Quin) Podritz, Beth (Nick) Lindenfelter, Sandi (Dave) Kapsner, and Travas Richardson; 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings: Betty (Ron) Taubman, Bob (Durene) Sathre, Barb (Jerry) Ozmun, and Patty (Bruce) Gustafson; in-laws: Linda Gramstad, Tonia (Terry) Johnston, Vickie St. John, Lola (Ken) Lawrence, Carol Grieger, and Mike Leese; as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his great-granddaughter, Elle; his parents; and his parents-in-law, William and LaDonna Leese.

A memorial service was held on Friday, February 13 at 12:00 p.m., with visitation from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., at St. Mark's

Lutheran Church in Randolph. Interment followed at Lakeside Cemetery in Randolph. The active urn bearer was Travas Richardson; honorary bearers were the Randolph-Hampton Firemen.

Robin Gail Charnell

Robin Gail Charnell, age 62 of Randolph, died on Thursday evening, February 26, 2026 at Mayo Clinic Hospitals - Methodist Campus in Rochester.



Robin was born on May 9, 1963 in Northfield, the daughter of Arnold "Red" and Myrtle (Perry) Ziemer. She grew up in Ran-

dolph, attended Randolph High School, and loved spending more time with her horse than school. She married Jeff Holm and they had two children together. After Jeff's unexpected death, she later married Richard "Pete" Charnell.

Robin and Pete enjoyed concerts, sporting events, and traveling. She loved her flowers and her time in the garden. She would decorate her home for the different seasons, and lighting up her house with Christmas lights was her favorite thing to do! Being at home with her dogs, Mercedes, Tilly, Dakota, and Kimber brought her great joy, along with cooking and baking for her family. She had a great sense of humor and could be outspoken, but she was the family rock when it came to help or advice. Her family was very important to her, and she so loved her grandchildren!

She is survived by her son, Joshua (Leah) Holm of Randolph; daughter, Jessica (Dustin) Woodruffe of Douglasville, Georgia; granddaughter, Jaycie Woodruffe; grandsons, Jeffery and Brycen Holm and Dylan Woodruffe; siblings, Bonnie (Tony) Lindemuth, Chuck (Sue) Ekstrom, Rick (Annette) Ekstrom, and Paul (Sheila) Ekstrom; and many other loving relatives.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands; two stillborn babies, Shawn and Shandy; and brother, Daniel "Danny" Ziemer.

A Celebration of Life gathering was held on Tuesday, March 3 from 5-8 pm, with a brief service at 6 pm, at Lundberg Funeral Home in Cannon Falls.

She was laid to rest by her first husband, Jeff at Lakeside Cemetery, Randolph. Active casket bearers were Josh Holm, Jessica Woodruffe, Leah Holm, Brycen Holm, Jeffery Holm, and Abel Castillo. Honorary casket bearer was Dylan Woodruffe.

Olive J. Hupf



Olive J. Hupf, 92, of Randolph, MN, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 15, 2026, entering the loving arms of her Jesus after a full and meaningful life.

Olive was born October 10, 1933,

in Watertown, South Dakota, to Alonzo and Dorthea Amelia (Vick) Nygaard. She graduated from Watertown High School in 1951 and worked at Kreiser's Drug Store through high school, then at a local bank after graduating. While rollerskating, she met the love of her life, Vernon Hupf, of Kranzburg, South Dakota. They were married June 11, 1955, after his return from Army service.

The couple moved to Northfield, Minnesota in 1956 to chase their dream of dairy farming, and in 1962 purchased their farm near Randolph, where they raised six children.

Olive had a deep faith and was very active in church life at St. Mathias Church in Hampton and St. Pius Church in Cannon Falls. She served as a Christian education teacher and later Director of Christian Education. She gave of her time and talents endlessly. She started a children's choir, played the organ for Mass, and mentored young organists. She was also active in the Council of Catholic Women, holding multiple leadership roles, including state president. Her most recent passion project was the Appalachia Semi Project. For more than 15 years, she led this mission collecting Christmas gifts and donations for underprivileged children in Kentucky. Enough to fill a semi each year!

Olive was a dedicated 4-H mom and leader at local, county, and state levels. She reveled in watching her kids show cattle, learn to lead, and grow in the program. She helped start the Cloverbud program for younger children, which continues to be one of the largest programs in 4-H. She had a lifelong love of fairs, exhibiting flowers and baked goods, earning several Champion ribbons over the years. Olive ran the 4-H dairy show at the Cannon Valley and Dakota County fairs for many years, and was instrumental in starting the Minnesota Ayrshire State Show at the Cannon Valley Fair.

Olive served for many years on the Randolph School Board, helping to establish the Randolph High School agricultural program in 1977, and helping launch the student-built house project in the 1980's - programs that continue to thrive and benefit students and our community today.

Olive enjoyed gardening, playing cards, and time with her family and friends. Her smile and laugh were infectious!

Olive is survived by her children: Jeannette (Bob) Sheehan, Mary Nelson, Kathy Hupf, John Hupf, and Libby (Todd) Montreuil; grandchildren: Kelly (Dan) Kendall, Andrew (Juliana) Sheehan, Krista (Jordan) Kuzma, Erik (Megan) Nelson, Tracy Nelson, Brenda (Alex) Miller, AJ (Courtney) Neil, Molly (Ryan) Kappers, Dylan Tate, and Cooper Tate; and many great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Vernon; son, Stephen; siblings Alvin, Oscar, Andrew, Odell, and Ann Nygaard; and son-in-law Duane Nelson.

Visitation will be held Friday, March 20 from 4-7 pm at St. Mathias Church in Hampton. Mass of Christian Burial will be Saturday, March 21 at 11 am, with visitation from 10-11 am, at St. Mathias Church. Interment to follow at the church cemetery.

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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 some-

thing 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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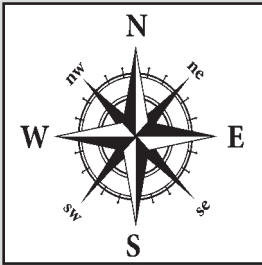

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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

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 fragrance 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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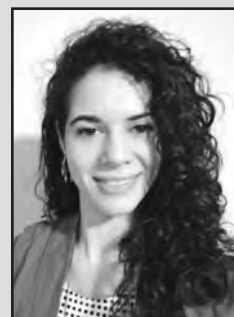


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A Minnesotan: Goats



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.

Randolph 1st Semester Honor Rolls Announced

A HONOR ROLL	Eliza Giles-Olson	Lucas Pahl	Triston Schaffer	Lola Leitch	11TH GRADE	Lindsay Taylor	Kylan Goering
7TH GRADE	Bella Hohenstein	Ellen Radman	Max Waltman	Cheyenne Maras	Ella Gerster	Tyler Thomsen	Barry
Thomas Cooper	Makaya Kasper	Charity Reinardy	Thomas Wernimont	Jackson Otte	Sophia Gounaikis	Sadie Wagner	Cooper Hansen
Grayson Cooreman	Ramsey Krueger	Karlea Roehl	Gitana Whitacre	Brendan Otto	Aubree Hanson	Preston Wernimont	Taya Lagro
Rayna Cortes	Jacqueline Lee-Miranda	Emma Schiller	8TH GRADE	Felix Plaza	Ruby Heiman	Breckyn Whiting	Carson Lorenzen
Noah Elioff	Samuel Leske	Nathan Sheridan	Grayson Alexander	10TH GRADE	Tanner Hoes	Preslea Zimmer	Maggie Mlsna
Payton Endres	Anna Lindahl	Gavin Sumption	Sherry Bell	Addison Bauer	Aiden Kimari	12TH GRADE	Frankie Novak
Franklin Flatjord	Noah Meyer	Amelia Stehr	Lucas Brink	Jaylee Crouch	Kaia Krie	Oren Alexander	Henry Pagel
Eva Gergen	William Mies	Gradyn Taylor	Danica Casalenda	Maclynn Exley	Rachel LaVan	Carter Amy	Gavin Podritz
Clinton Gustafson	Annelise Murray	Julia Wiik	Hudson Cooreman	Natalee Feldman	Brody Little	Adrian Battles	Maya Preston
Merida Kasper	Tenley Otte	12TH GRADE	Brody Exley	Adelaide Helgren	Logan Maras	Jordan Bauer	Jackson Sheridan
Cash Kirchner	Adam Pahl	Kyra Brochman	Katherine Flodeen	Dawson Heuer	Mackenzie Murray	Sophia Beyer	Nola Thompson
Winifred LaPorte	Emma Pahl	Jacob Buckley	Hallie Gergen	Jaeda Johnson	Eric Nelson	Claire Berndt	Alexander Van Eps
Paityn LaVan	Julianna Ritz-Gilomen	Hadley Cooreman	Olivia Haro	Addison Leese	Paige Otte	Colton Ford	Alexis Van Eps
Liberty Lyon	Brekken Schock	Jameson Exley	Adam Hoffbeck	Mogan Leitch	Madison Pressnall	Olivia Gergen	Conrad Wedel
Gertrude McCabe	Jenna Simon	Kyle Ford	Gabe Johnson	James May	Jacob Snyder	Noah Girgen	
Ellyana Nicolai	Macy Sunquist	Helaena Hensley	TeaganKabat	Meghan McCabe	Logan Tate	Allie Gillette	
Clara Olsen	Jonathan Tate	Adelynn Haugen	Jason Kronberg	Mark McNamara			
Kylie Otte	Luciana Whaley	Morgan Jacobson	Connor Lindahl	Avery Novak			
Sam Otte	10TH GRADE	Alana May	Emery Marthaler	Jared Nybakke			
Easton Pofahl	June Banks	Carter Olson	Luke McNamara	Mia Podritz			
Laven Prada	Abby Beissel	Ella Streiff	Zach McNamara	Emma Rechtzigel			
Abraham Saueressig	Reyna Beyer	Rylynn Sheridan	Carlee Miller	Mary Reinardy			
Morgan Schiller	Marilla Emery	Gabby Smith	Kathryn Miller	Jaxton Sorem			
Emma Streiff	Harlow Esser	Tristan Ziemer	Paiton Niendorf	Maxx Staub			
Emma Sunquist	Julia Flemming	Tristan Zingler	Seth Ratliff	Michael Streiff			
Henry Wiik	Hannah Gordy		Jaxson Rechtzigel	Tucker Swentik			
Alaina Williams	John Irrthum	B HONOR ROLL	Patience Reinardy	Jakob Toledo			
8TH GRADE	Jackson Kuth	7TH GRADE	Tate Sauer	David Wagner			
Grayson Alexander	Claire Lindahl	Oliva Banks	Millyah Swanson	Judd Wersal			
Owen Braun	Addison McCoy	Jonathan Buchanan	Kaitlyn Taylor	Torrance Ziemer			
Jordyn Dingels	Ella May	Asher Bauer	Callan Terry				
Nolan Duesterhoeft	Laila Meyers	Wyatt Betzold	Gavin Warner				
Addyson Huebl	Alexis Novak	Alexandra Cormican	Kylee Williams				
Peyton Kieffer	Adeline Opelt	Payton Endres	9TH GRADE				
Genevieve LaPorte	Georgia Otte	Nolan Esser	Cam Anderson				
Truli Leitch	Stella Pagel	Boe Gaudé	Ashton Bauer				
Ali Little	Grace Perry	Kate Gergen	Brennan Beer				
Levi Marthaler	Cameron Seelig	Zoey Helgren	Jacob Beissel				
Owen Meyer	Courtney Siebenaler	Waylon Hensley	Maddison Beissel				
Logyn Otte	Leo Waltman	Rebekah Hoskins	Samuel Bell				
Walter Perry	Taylor Werner	Savanah Kabat	Jayson Botten				
Elliot Qualey	Lily Wichser	Brantley Larson	Ignacio Briseno				
Daelyn Rother	11TH GRADE	Anson Leitch	George Brochman				
Henry Sheridan	Brady Beissel	Colton Lindahl	Ella Calvin				
Brooke Siebenaler	Owen Braatz	Dakota Lynne	Seneca Chartier				
Julia Streiff	Kyle Braun	Torval Meide	Zoe Emerson				
Parker Tchida	Makenzie Brown	Charles Mies	Zane Freiermuth				
Alexis Waltman	Sarah Dohmen	Sloan Myrvold	Ryan Goodfellow				
Garrett Williams	Hayden Huddleston	Riley Otte	Skylar Hassing				
9TH GRADE	Grace Jenkins	Brentlee Otto	Piper Hill				
Lily Anderson	Emalyn Koktavy	Gwendolyn Post	Abigail Hoskins				
Nolan Beissel	Maksim Krech	Cal Rieken	Brodie Johnson				
Charlotte Bell	Sibley Krueger	Quinn Sauer	Rafe Kimmes				
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Brynnli Fredrickson	Danielle Nelson						
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Summer RCC Open House

(continued from page 1)

Please direct questions to the Community Education Office at 507-645-4773, or email otted@district195.org.

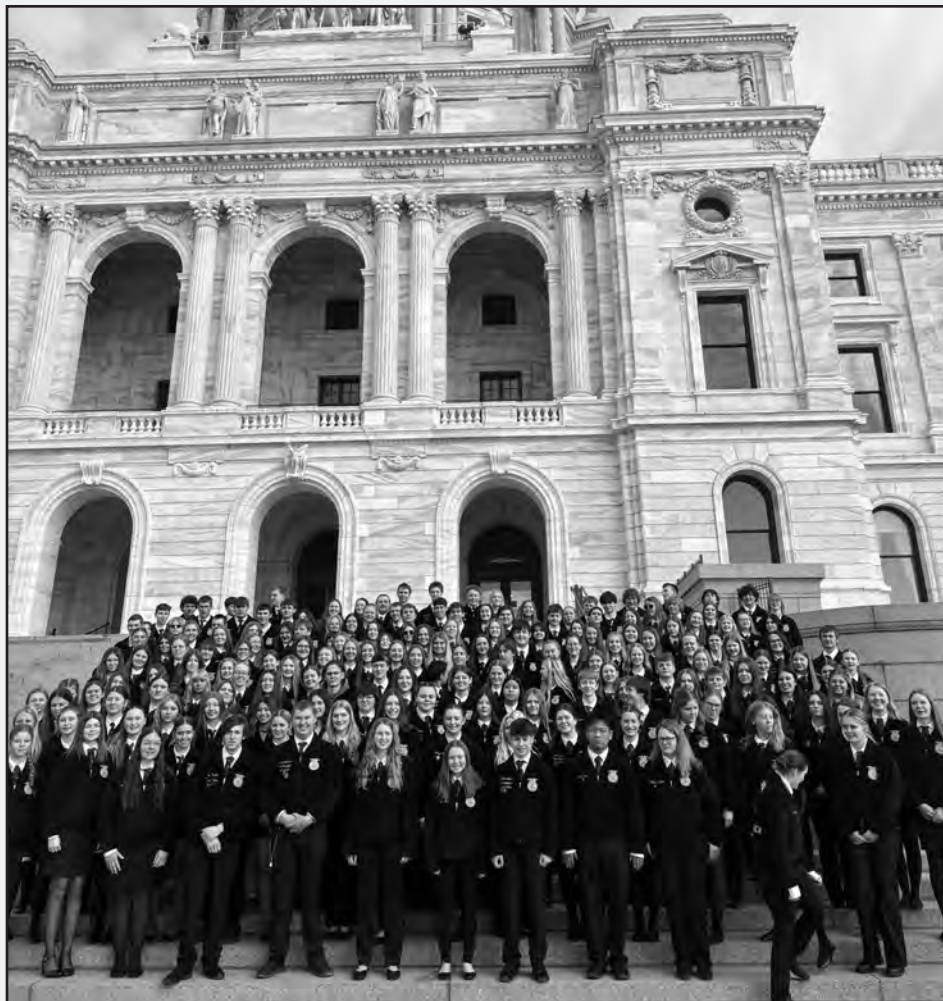
Early Childhood Screening

(continued from page 1)

Families with children age 3-5 that have not been screened should contact the Community Education office at 507-645-4773, ext. 209 to schedule an appointment. The state suggests that children be screened at the age of three.

It is required that children be screened before entering preschool and kindergarten at Randolph.

FFA/Youth Day at the Capitol



In March, several of Northfield FFA members, joined by some Randolph FFA members, attended FFA/Youth Day at the Capitol, where we learned valuable insights about legislation, current bills, and proposed amendments. We had the opportunity to advocate for FFA and share what matters most to our chapter. During our visit, we met with Bill Lieske and Kristi Pursell to discuss the importance of supporting agricultural education and student leadership programs. *Courtesy of Northfield and Randolph FFA*

Riverview Dairy & Spring Valley Cattle Tour



FFA members toured Riverview Dairy and Spring Valley Cattle Farms in Morris MN.

Courtesy of Randolph FFA

Randolph FFA Alumni Annual Meeting & TOY AUCTION

Monday, March 23rd, 2026 at 7pm

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All proceeds raised at the toy auction will be used for Scholarships.

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*Other activities we do to support the Randolph FFA chapter:
Tractor Pull, Winter gathering, Spring gathering, Mentorship program
Tractor parade, Tracy Farm, and many others as needed.
Other activities throughout the year to assist the active chapters.*

The Annual Tractor Parade will be April 17th, 2026, 9am
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Minnesota FFA Members Participate in Technology Empowered Careers (TEC) Conference

Courtesy of Minnesota FFA Association

In March, Minnesota FFA members participated in the all-new Technology Empowered Careers (TEC) Conference, focused on power, structural, and technical systems and the many career pathways within agricultural mechanics and technical industries.

Throughout the conference, students toured the John Deere Training Center, St. Paul College, The Toro Company, and more, and participated in hands-on technical skill experiences, and connected with industry professionals during a networking reception.

Thank you to the partners, instructors, and industry professionals who helped make this experience possible for Minnesota FFA members.

Jonathan Z was able to attend this new conference this year, representing Randolph Schools.



3rd Annual Randolph Music Department Garage Sale

(continued from page 1)

The idea for a community sale came from a conversation with a community member who noted that garage sales in rural areas often struggle to attract enough shoppers, especially when homes are located outside of residential neighborhoods or when weather affects outdoor sales. Selling items on Facebook Marketplace or Craigslist is also difficult in the rural community. This event provides sellers with a central, climate-controlled location and a larger audience of 500-600 people passing by your space.

Sellers can rent a 10-by-10-foot indoor booth space in the school gym for \$25, and multiple spaces may be rented. Advertising will be provided through social media, Craigslist, Cannon Falls Beacon, Randolph Messenger, and signage. Student volunteers will help with loading and unloading. Setup for the sale is available Friday, May 15 from 6-9 p.m. or Saturday from 6:30-9 a.m.

The music program will also be accepting donations starting in May of items to sell at the sale. For more information about the space rental and what items will be accepted for donations email sczepanskij@district195.org or visit: <https://sites.google.com/district195.org/randolph-rockets-band/home>

The deadline to register and submit payment is April 1, 2026.



CVEC Spring Term Starts March 23

Cannon Valley Elder Collegium (www.cvec.org), offers fifteen Spring Term courses for learners aged 50+. Fourteen courses will be taught in-person at Northfield locations; one course will be offered online via Zoom.

For thirty years, CVEC has stuck to its successful formula:

- Thought-provoking courses, with engaged elder students
- Outstanding instructors: professors, teachers, community experts

- No tests, no grades, no papers to write, no class presentations
- Affordable tuition fees, course books are extra, scholarships available

Registration for CVEC's Spring Term is underway. Go to www.cvec.org for complete course details and to register. Spring Term 2026 starts March 23, and ends May 15. Registration continues for courses with openings until April 3.

Spring 2026 courses cover a wide range of topics: Northfield's beginnings to today, understanding AI, ethics in everyday life, Minnesota weather, misfit characters in movies, Vietnam's history, playwright Tom Stoppard, American civil liberties, Irish history, short stories, and more. CVEC welcomes participants from Minnesota's Cannon River valley region; online participants join from throughout the USA.



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Council Moves Forward with Forcing Hastings Creamery Cleanup

(continued from page 1)

The action sets the stage for demolition of the burned-out structure, which has stood as a highly visible eyesore since a September 2023 fire destroyed much of the vacant industrial complex.

The vote followed comments from a construction attorney representing the property owner and a newly retained demolition contractor, who indicated work could begin as early as mid-April.

The creamery site, located along Vermillion Street, has drawn increasing frustration from residents and city officials. Since the fire, the partially collapsed building and debris have remained in place, prompting concerns about safety, nuisance conditions and the impact on nearby businesses and neighborhoods.

City officials have previously cited the property owner over failure to remove debris, and deadlines for voluntary compliance have come and gone. By approving the formal order Tuesday night, the council signaled that patience had run out.

Mayor Mary Fasbender noted the prolonged nature of the situation and the community's desire to see progress. The Chapter 463 process allows the city to order hazardous or dangerous structures repaired or removed and, if necessary, undertake the work itself and assess the costs to the property.

Prior to the council's vote, Aaron Dean, a construction attorney representing Lloyd's Construction Services and the property owner, addressed the council during public comment. Dean said he had been involved in the case for only one week, stepping in after a colleague was unable to attend. He told the council that a signed contract is now in place between the property owner, 3D LLC, and Lloyd's Construction Services for just under \$411,000, with some alternates that could increase the cost.

According to Dean, Lloyd's hopes to begin demolition work on April 15 and complete the project within 60 days, targeting a mid-June finish. However, he cautioned that several factors could affect that timeline, including weather and unknown site conditions.

"This is going to be a pretty nasty project," Dean said, noting the potential presence of asbestos-containing materials, underground tanks or other hazardous materials not fully identified in prior reports.

Only one environmental report from 2024 has been provided to the contractor, he said, meaning additional hazardous materials could be discovered once work begins. Dean emphasized that Lloyd's is among the top hazardous materials and demolition contractors in Minnesota and has handled projects significantly larger than the Hastings site. He also indicated that the property owner intends to formally object to the city's order — not to delay cleanup, he said, but to preserve legal rights in case the 60-day timeline proves unrealistic.

"I don't want that objection to be construed as being uncooperative," Dean told the council. "No one is interested in dragging their feet."

Despite the contractor's assurances, the council proceeded with its resolution and order, requiring cleanup of the site. City officials have cited ongoing concerns about the condition of the property, including debris, structural instability and potential hazards to the public.

Under Chapter 463, if the owner fails to comply within the timeframe set by the order, the city may arrange for demolition and removal itself, with costs assessed against the property. City staff have been engaged in discussions with ownership and contractors for months, seeking voluntary action. The council's vote formalizes the process and provides a clearer enforcement path.

The Hastings Cooperative Creamery building, once a prominent industrial landmark, had been vacant before the 2023 fire. After the blaze, significant portions of the structure were left standing, with burned debris remaining on site. Over the past two years, shifting ownership arrangements, management changes and legal disputes have complicated cleanup efforts. Earlier enforcement steps included revocation of occupancy certificates and citations for failure to remove debris. However, the physical condition of the site has remained largely unchanged.

Council members have heard repeated concerns from residents who describe the property as both an eyesore and a safety risk along a major corridor into the city. The issue has also surfaced at meetings of the Hastings

Economic Development and Redevelopment Authority, where city officials have discussed the impact of the blighted property on redevelopment efforts in the area.

Demolition of fire-damaged industrial buildings can present unique challenges, especially when hazardous materials are involved. Dean told the council that average nighttime temperatures must reach roughly 40 degrees to ensure adequate water access for dust control during demolition. With Minnesota's unpredictable spring weather, that requirement could affect the project's start date.

Additionally, asbestos-containing materials must be carefully removed and disposed of at specialized landfills, which can slow the pace of demolition.

"If it takes 90 days or 120 days to complete, it's not because the owner is being uncooperative or because the contractor is incompetent," Dean said. "It means it's a very sophisticated project and requires a lot of caution."

He expressed hope that work would proceed smoothly and that the council would not need to take further enforcement action.

The council's action was widely expected, given the length of time the site has remained in its current condition.

Residents have repeatedly asked city officials when the property would be cleared. For many, the burned structure has come to symbolize stalled progress and unresolved disputes.

By invoking Chapter 463, the council has placed a formal deadline on cleanup efforts and created a mechanism to ensure compliance if voluntary action falters.

While no specific demolition date was written into the public discussion Tuesday night, the expectation set by the contractor's comments — mid-April start and mid-June completion — offers a tentative timeline.

Whether that timeline holds will depend on weather, environmental conditions and coordination between the contractor and regulatory agencies.

If demolition proceeds as outlined, the creamery site could be cleared by early summer — nearly three years after the fire.

What comes next for the property remains an open question. Redevelopment possibilities have been discussed informally, but no formal proposals have been brought forward.

For now, the council's focus is on ensuring the site is made safe and cleared of debris.

As Dean told the council, "I hope this is the last time that you ever hear from me as a construction lawyer."

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Hastings Chevrolet Dealer Under New Ownership

Courtesy of Hastings Journal

Hastings' longtime Chevrolet dealership has entered a new chapter, bringing with it fresh energy, a customer-first philosophy, and local ties. The dealership, now operating as Tri River Chevrolet, is under new ownership and management, and its leaders are determined to reestablish the store as a reliable hometown option for both new and returning car buyers in Dakota County.

At the helm of the new operation is Hayes Piker, a veteran of the automotive industry with more than 30 years of experience. Originally from North Dakota, Piker now resides in Northfield and serves as the Director of Operations for the Marthaler Automotive Group, based in Red Wing. Through that role, he has helped grow the company's reach across Minnesota and Wisconsin, recently adding new stores in Hutchinson and other communities. His latest acquisition brings the Hastings Chevrolet dealership into the fold, forming the foundation for Tri River Chevrolet.

The opportunity came about through a connection with the Valley Auto Group, which had previously owned the Hastings location. According to the new general manager, Dominic Kielas, the former owner had decided to scale back his operation and focus on fewer brands, particularly GMC and Buick. That downsizing created a chance for Piker and his team to step in and rejuvenate the Hastings store.

What attracted the new leadership team to Hastings was not only the brand familiarity but the personal connection to the area. Kielas, who previously lived in Cottage Grove and ran a successful Ford dealership in Sioux Falls, said the opportunity felt like a full-circle moment. He and his family are now in the process of moving back to the area, and his kids will be attending middle school locally.

"Professionally, it made sense," he said. "Chevrolet is a brand we already do well with, and personally, it feels like coming home."

But with new ownership comes change. While the staff has been fully retained and the dealership remains at its familiar location, Tri River Chevrolet is planning to overhaul much of how the business operates. The most immediate priority is inventory. When the new team arrived, they found a near-empty lot and minimal service operations. In response, they purchased over a million dollars' worth of new inventory in the first week, with multiple truckloads already arriving on-site.

The goal is to meet community demand locally, without customers feeling the need to

travel across the river or up to the metro for vehicle purchases or service. A core component of that strategy is a pricing model the company calls "Everyone's Price," which eliminates traditional back-and-forth negotiations. Instead of starting at MSRP and haggling, vehicles are listed at a competitive price upfront. The approach offers full transparency and aims to level the playing field for every customer, whether they are seasoned negotiators or first-time buyers.

One early customer, a local business owner with multiple service vehicles, saw firsthand how the new structure worked in his favor. After attempting to negotiate a vehicle under the previous pricing model, he ended up with a better deal under Tri River's updated approach. "He appreciated the straightforward pricing," said the Kielas, "and he knew he could send friends or neighbors here and they'd get the same fair deal."

Tri River Chevrolet is also expanding its service department to include offerings such as local pickup and delivery for vehicles needing maintenance or repairs. The new team is working to make Hastings a one-stop destination for Chevrolet customers, both in sales and service. They've already begun discussions with the Hastings Rotary Club, the Journal and local radio station, with plans to launch a community-focused advertising campaign and get involved in local initiatives.

That community connection is personal for the leadership team. "When I brought my wife and kids into town, we toured the middle school," said the Kielas. "We plan on living here, having our kids attend school here, and being part of what makes Hastings special."

Facility upgrades are also underway. While the building is already in good shape, plans are in motion for lighting improvements and long-term expansion ideas. The dealership has retained the existing staff, all of whom live in or near Hastings, and the team is focused on delivering a personal, friendly experience where customers are known by name, not treated as just another transaction.

Hours remain consistent with past operations. Sales hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Service hours run 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Both departments are closed on Sundays. Customers can visit www.tririverchevy.com, which redirects seamlessly from the previous Valley Chevrolet web presence.



The Hastings Chevy Dealership at the intersection of Highway 316 and Spiral Blvd has been recently purchased and is now operating as Tri Rivers Chevrolet. The new ownership is already working to bring back the community involvement and trust of the Joe O'Brien Chevrolet days. photo by Bruce Karnick

As Hastings continues to grow, Tri River Chevrolet is positioning itself not just as a car dealership but as a community partner. By offering competitive pricing, investing in the community, and committing to transparent,

respectful business practices, the new leadership hopes to earn the trust of Hastings families.

"This isn't just another dealership in another town," said the general manager. "This is our community too. We're here for the long haul, and we're proud to call Hastings home."

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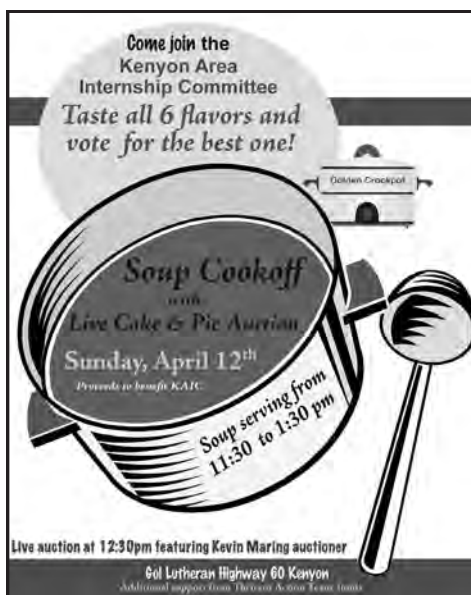
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A Chiropractor Who Comes to You

By Jocelyn Aldrich

What if you could receive a quality chiropractic adjustment without having to sit in the waiting room or even leave home? Well, that is exactly what Dr. Jeremy Ackerson, D.C., offers to his clients.

Dr. Ackerson is a mobile chiropractor with Resolute Chiropractic, serving the Kenyon-Wanamingo and Zumbrota communities. He has been practicing chiropractic care for 12 years, and he specializes in prenatal care. He believes “that [prenatal chiropractic care] can affect change for an entire family by just caring for the mother. If the mother can feel better, meaning less pain or discomfort, then she is able to thrive in the family environment.” Helping families thrive through chiropractic



Chiropractic field work

care is what Dr. Ackerson loves about his occupation.

Ackerson’s chiropractic journey began shortly after the 9/11 attacks, when he decided to join the army three weeks after the tragic event. From 2005-2007, he served as a U.S. Army combat medic in Iraq. The physical demand of army work meant that he was carrying 50-60 pounds of gear, not to mention the extra 30 pounds of medical supplies. Naturally, Ackerson and everyone he knew in the army suffered from daily back pain. Ackerson says, “I was lucky enough to have access to a chiropractor in the desert. But because of the regulations and restrictions, it was very challenging to be allowed to see the chiropractor.” When Ackerson returned from Iraq, he continued to seek out care from a local chiropractor. Within 3 weeks, he no longer suffered from back pain. Ackerson



recognizes that it was after receiving care that “this was a turning point in my life.” He was fascinated that chiropractic care could be used as a natural way to relieve pain. This led him to seek further education, and in 2013, Dr. Ackerson graduated from chiropractic school at Northwestern Health Sciences University.

Dr. Ackerson says his mobile model began “when a farmer told me he was going to need [chiropractic] help soon, but he wasn’t able to leave the fields during harvest. He joked about it and said, ‘It’s too bad you couldn’t adjust me in the field!’” Dr. Ackerson says, “I thought about it for 2 seconds and said, ‘I could do that.’ It was wonderful to see the

look in his eyes. That was the first time I really thought about making a change. That was about 4 years ago, and I started slowly and have been mobile full-time for about one year.” Dr. Ackerson greatly enjoys the freedom that the mobile model gives him to truly build relationships with individuals and families. For Dr. Ackerson, chiropractic care is more than just seeing another client on the list; it means being able to come alongside families and individuals.

Dr. Ackerson lives with his wife and four children in the Cannon Falls/Northfield area. To book your appointment with Dr. Ackerson you can email resolutechiro@gmail.com or call/text 507- 403-0069.

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Northfield Township slips deeper and deeper into clutches of the city

As reported on November 19, 2025, utility work was started on the 80 acre Eugene Lyman farm in Northfield Township. The contract with SM Hentges & Son of Jordan was first disclosed to the public in the October 22, 2025, Northfield News in a letter to the editor from Doug Jones for AGA. The contract clearly stated that the city could pay the Lymans just \$25,000 and thereby not be obligated to spend \$10 million, which is now a “sunk cost” under the snow and frozen ground.

At the annual meeting of Northfield Township on March 10, 2026, the three supervisors will be asked whether they have agreed to the retroactive annexation going back to 2023. If the Lymans have not received their \$25,000 and the massive sewer and road work is irrevocable, then the second large annexation of agricultural land (the first was for the golf course expansion) will mean the 80 acres will no longer be in the township tax base. Northfield city council will no doubt want to pave the north and south ends of Hall Avenue and demand that the township pay half the cost.

Northfield City is currently annexing land north of MN 19 and west of St Olaf college under a previous annexation agreement with Bridgewater. Next to Dundas’s west side, a proposal to annex 40 acres for residential was rejected by the township. On Northfield’s south side, the Spring Creek development is nearing completion next to the soccer fields, ending development there.

Since the start of 2024, Northfield city administrator Ben Martig (paid \$208,000 per year) has personally approved \$10 million of consulting contract cash payments (all without public bids), leading to four city projects each costing \$10 million (rebuilding Bridge Square and putting a giant new municipal liquor store on the city parking lot at 5th and Washington, across from all Saints Episcopal Church, and a \$40 million Local Option sales Tax on the November ballot for park projects, and the \$40 million (principal and interest) new hockey arena.

These taxes, even before the Lyman Farm development of streets and utilities which will no doubt grow from \$10 million to \$40 million, have raised commercial and industrial property taxes per square foot in Northfield 30% higher than comparable quality property in Lakeville (where AES is currently moving, taking 100 jobs from Northfield).

This explains why there are absolutely no prospects by any industrial companies or developers to even look at developing Northfield’s 1,400 acres in Dakota County north of North Avenue.



**Central Farm Service,
TalusAg, and
CleanCounts Announce
Project to Bring
Commercially Available,
Locally Produced
Ammonia to Minnesota
Partners Seek Minnesota
Renewable Development
Account Funding to Support
Necessary Infrastructure;
CleanCounts to Enhance
Registry Capabilities for
Ammonia Energy Attribute
Certificates**

TRUMAN, Minn. and BLUE EARTH, Minn. - Central Farm Service (CFS), TalusAg, and CleanCounts today announced a collaborative project to build Talus10 local ammonia production facilities in Minnesota, marking the first time locally produced ammonia fertilizer will be commercially available. Pending support from the Renewable Development Account (RDA) which will be decided in Minnesota's 2026 Legislative Session, the project will deliver a first-of-its-kind regional supply of ammonia fertilizer directly to CFS member-owners, helping shield farmers from the price volatility seen in ammonia fertilizer markets.

Using electricity from Blue Earth Light & Water, the two Talus10 systems will each convert air, water, and power into up to 20 tons per day of locally produced ammonia, enabling reliable, local production of a fertilizer essential to crop production across the region and a fuel for power generation.

For Minnesota farmers—who have endured years of price shocks driven by international gas markets and geopolitical instability—this project offers a new model of price stability, supply certainty, and independence. The project will provide supply of ammonia to cover more than two-thirds of CFS' annual ammonia sales and field applications to more than 100,000 total acres.

"Ammonia prices have swung by more than 300% in recent years," said KC Graner, CEO of Central Farm Service, a farmer-owned co-operative serving nearly 4,500 members across southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. "Local production gives our member-owners a level of control and predictability they've never had before—and it strengthens the economic resilience of every farm we serve."

"This is a great example of cooperatives looking to the future to ensure our members have certainty of supply and price for the products they need to produce a quality crop," said Kurt Koehler, Board Chair, Central Farm Service.

TalusAg, which completed a one-ton-per-day local ammonia production project in early 2025 in collaboration with Landus, an Iowa-based agriculture cooperative, will bring its modular, rapidly deployable Talus10 technology to Minnesota.

"Local ammonia production is the future of agricultural fertilizer," said Hiro Iwanaga, co-founder & CEO of TalusAg. "By producing ammonia where it's used, we ensure reliable

supply, reduce transportation costs, and provide price stability to one of American farmers' biggest variable costs."

**Minnesota Renewable Development
Account: Catalyzing Innovation**

Funding from Minnesota's Renewable Development Account—established under Minn. Stat. § 116C.779 to support innovative energy technologies—is being sought by the partners to cover necessary infrastructure for the project. The RDA's mission is to accelerate solutions that benefit Minnesota ratepayers, reduce emissions, and spur rural economic development.

**Ensuring Credible Clean Fuel Markets
Through CleanCounts**

As part of the project, CleanCounts—the largest registry and source of truth for compliance and voluntary clean energy markets within North America—will enhance its existing capabilities for issuance, retirement, and transacting Energy Attribute Certificates (EACs) for ammonia. While known for its best-in-class services focused on supporting electricity and clean fuels markets across North America, CleanCounts is expanding into tracking ammonia.

CleanCounts supports more U.S. state and Canadian province regulatory programs than any other single registry and brings the same level of rigor, transparency, and verification to voluntary buyers as is required by state regulators nationally. The process is similar to how the organization tracks renewable energy and issues Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and Renewable Thermal Certificates (RTCs) for clean fuels like bio-methane and green hydrogen.

EACs for ammonia produced using renewable energy, and other low-emissions methods, will verify the production of ammonia and attach a carbon intensity measurement to ammonia quantities, enabling downstream buyers, co-ops, and supply chain partners to make clear, auditable claims about ammonia-related emissions.

"As one of the world's largest clean energy registries, CleanCounts has spent nearly 20 years serving our nonprofit mission focused on trust, transparency, and market integrity," said CleanCounts CEO Ben Gerber. "Certificates for clean ammonia will give all market participants confidence that a verified amount of ammonia has been produced using zero or other low-emissions methods."

"As ammonia begins to play a larger role in both agriculture and energy systems, market confidence is essential. Our role at CleanCounts is to ensure that every clean ammonia certificate represents real, verified production with transparent emissions data so buyers and supply-chain partners can make credible, auditable claims," said James Critchfield, head of registry and market integrity for CleanCounts.

**Research Expands on World-Leading
Model**

The West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) at University of Minnesota, Morris built the world's first wind power to local ammonia production facility in 2013 and expanded it substantially over the following years. Today, the facility at WCROC generates more than one ton of ammonia per day and includes leading research and production partners.

As part of the TalusAg/CFS project, Great



Plains Institute will receive funding and work with WCROC on grid data to advance wind power to ammonia, and ammonia production to prevent wind power curtailment.

"Local production of nitrogen fertilizer makes sense for many reasons," said Mike Reese, Green Ammonia Research Lead and Director of Operations at WCROC. "Primarily, farmers are able to lock in the cost of a key crop input and, the dollars that typically go elsewhere to purchase this fertilizer remain in our communities helping support rural economies."

Addressing Curtailed Wind Power

Concurrent with the announcement Agricultural Utilization and Research Institute (AURI) and Great Plains Institute issued reports highlighting the opportunity to generate millions of dollars in rural county property tax by preventing the curtailment of wind power through behind-the-meter generation of local ammonia.

Unlike most states, owners of wind turbines in Minnesota pay property tax based on the turbines' annual production. Curtailment of wind power results in lost property tax revenue to rural counties. A 2022 letter from Murray County to the Minnesota Department of Commerce notes:

Over 70 percent of energy produced from wind turbines in Minnesota comes from just six rural counties: Lincoln, Mower, Jackson, Nobles, Pipestone, and Murray;

Between 2020 and 2022 Murray County experienced a 34% drop in energy production property tax revenue due to wind turbines being curtailed;

Between 2020 and 2022 Fenton and Moulton Townships experienced a 54% and 52% drop in energy production property tax revenue due to wind turbines being curtailed;

Counties have been told that imposed curtailment by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) is due to economic dispatch drivers.

According to data from National Lab of the Rockies, today more than eight million MWh of wind is curtailed from generation in the MISO North region. National Lab of the Rockies' Cambium models further show that, even with announced and planned expansions in transmission infrastructure, curtail-

ment will increase to more than 15 million MWh in 2035.

Distributed ammonia generation facilities, such as the project proposed by TalusAg, can be placed in key locations so that electricity produced by wind turbines is used to produce local ammonia fertilizer during times of grid congestion instead of curtailing the turbine.

Preventing curtailment of wind turbines—through use of distributed ammonia generation during times of grid congestion—is a way for rural counties and townships to control and maximize property tax revenue while also supporting additional economic development.

**National and regional leaders welcomed
the announcement:**

"By supporting initiatives like Talus and the use of credible registries such as CleanCounts, PepsiCo aims to advance lower-carbon, locally produced fertilizer solutions that can help strengthen supply chain resilience and deliver climate benefits for agriculture," said Margaret Henry, VP Sustainable Agriculture at PepsiCo.

"The City of Blue Earth is committed to fostering a resilient economy and this technology creates a dynamic industrial park where enterprises can expand and thrive. We proactively welcome and want to collaborate with development that aligns with the city's focus on smart growth and sustainability," noted Rick Scholtes, Mayor of the City of Blue Earth.

"From an economic development standpoint, we offer a business-friendly environment with resources to support businesses of all sizes," said Blue Earth Economic Development Specialist Amy Schaefer. "We are grateful for the flexibility and confidence in the reliable infrastructure Blue Earth Light & Water invested in the City of Blue Earth."

"From an energy perspective, this is about building a circular system that works for Minnesota," said Rachel Stuckey, Executive Director of the Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum. "We already generate a lot of wind and solar power, and at times that energy is curtailed."

(continued on page 15)

Central Farm Service, TalusAg, and CleanCounts Announce Project to Bring Commercially Available, Locally Produced Ammonia to Minnesota

(continued from page 14)

Using that electricity to produce ammonia locally allows it to be stored, transported, and put to use later — whether as a clean fuel for power generation and shipping, or as a critical input for mining and materials like steel that

are essential to building energy infrastructure. Done right, this kind of local production can reduce curtailment, create new revenue for rural counties, and strengthen industries that have long been part of Minnesota's economic and energy history, not to mention reducing dependence on foreign supply chains at a time when that risk is increasingly clear."

"The Region Nine Development Commission is extremely proud to have this development coming to the City of Blue Earth in our region," said Sabri Fair, Environment & Sustainability Planner, Region Nine Development Commission. "We have worked deeply with communities across our region building relationships and knowledge to bring the opportunities of the clean energy transition to our rural communities. When

we heard that TalusAg and CleanCounts wanted to leverage low-cost wind power on the grid in our region, we knew Tim Stoner at Blue Earth Light and Water was the first connection we wanted to make. And now with the leadership of these great partners we look forward to seeing this project break ground and start creating a cleaner and more resilient economy in south central Minnesota."

"We welcome disruptive technology and innovation in the GreenSeam region, especially solutions that can be a game changer for reliable nitrogen access. This facility not only supports the farmers who feed the world but also drives job creation and economic growth across our rural communities." Sam Ziegler, Director of GreenSeam, a Mankato, Minn. area nonprofit. "I applaud the innovation and partnership working to make this project a reality."

"This project is exactly what the Renewable Development Account was created to support: practical, commercially available innovation that strengthens Minnesota's economy while making better use of the energy resources we already have," said George Damian, Director of Government Affairs at Clean Energy Economy Minnesota. "By pairing local ammonia production with identifying the specific areas of the grid with surplus wind generation, this project tackles wind curtailment, supports distributed energy resources, and delivers real value to farmers and rural communities. It's a bipartisan win that's good for agriculture, good for energy reliability, and good for keeping dollars and jobs here in Minnesota rather than sending them out of state or overseas."

"NRDC has found that producing fertilizer with electrolytic hydrogen is one of the highest value uses of hydrogen in agriculture. Instead of using price volatile natural gas to produce hydrogen for fertilizer production, this proposal incentivizes the use of electrolytic hydrogen that utilizes renewable energy. This funding proposal will help unlock federal 45V tax credit funding to launch Minnesota's low carbon fertilizer industry and minimize price volatility for farmers," said Erik Kamrath, Hydrogen Advocate, Natural Resources Defense Council.

About Central Farm Service (CFS)

CFS is a farmer-owned cooperative serving more than 3,600 member-owners across southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. The co-op provides agronomy, energy, grain, and feed services designed to maximize farm profitability and long-term resilience. Learn more at www.cfscoop.com.

About TalusAg

TalusAg is an agriculture technology and energy infrastructure company that provides affordable and reliable fertilizer through its local distributed network of green ammonia systems. Talus locally produces this critical raw material in a more cost-competitive and reliable way to support farmers in the U.S. and globally. For more information, please visit www.talusag.com.

About CleanCounts

CleanCounts is North America's most expansive clean energy registry and a trusted gateway to environmental markets. As a nonprofit organization, CleanCounts empowers participants across the energy ecosystem to track, trade and validate clean energy production and consumption with confidence and transparency. CleanCounts' cross-function teams have a combined 510 years of software experience and 117 years of clean energy registry-specific experience. Learn more at www.CleanCounts.org.

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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 circulation, 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.*

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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 im-



prove overall health, daily movement is a necessity. Identify those moving activities that you enjoy. A daily walk, bicycle ride, aerobic 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

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Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol



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.

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Hampton City Council Special Hearing, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2026

The Hampton City Council met on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at Hampton City Hall for a Special Hearing, a Public Hearing and the Regularly Scheduled Meeting. Present were Mayor John Knetter and Council Members Jerry Huddleston, David Luhring and Nick Russell. Also present were Brad Fisher of Bolton & Menk, Chris Meyer, treasurer, and a few Residents of the City.

Special Hearing Called to Order – Mayor Knetter called the special hearing to order at 6:33 p.m. to discuss Resolution 2026–(1) regarding salaries and fees. Council reviewed building, zoning, and subdivision fees, noting that revenues have been low due to limited development activity rather than high fee rates. After discussion, the Council approved increasing building, zoning, and subdivision fees by five percent, rounded to the nearest five dollars, excluding permit fee schedules, escrow amounts, deposits, copy fees, and state-regulated charges. A three percent inflationary wage increase for hourly employees was also approved. Discussion was held regarding the upcoming Minnesota Paid Leave law and earned sick and safe time requirements. Council reached consensus to implement a 50/50 cost share between the City and employees for required premiums, pending final rate confirmation. The Clerk confirmed employees had been notified of the new leave program. Council further discussed councilmember compensation, which has remained unchanged for approximately 25 years, and approved increasing meeting pay from \$35 to \$50 per meeting for both Council and Planning Commission members, with one dissenting vote. Water and sewer rates were reviewed, with no increases recommended at this time. Council also discussed adding cannabis-related fees to the fee schedule pending further guidance following Planning Commission review and clarification of state regulations. With no further business, a motion was requested to close the special hearing.

Adjournment: Motion by Luhring, seconded by Huddleston, to adjourn the special hearing. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4-0. The Special Hearing adjourned at 6:55pm.

Public Hearing Called to Order – Mayor Knetter called the public hearing to order at

7:00 p.m. The purpose of the hearing was to receive comments regarding the proposed issuance of revenue notes for the Fraser Child and Family Center project. Staff explained that the arrangement allows the organization to utilize the City’s ability to issue tax-exempt bonds, generating revenue for the City in the amount of approximately 0.25 to 1 percent of the bond issue, depending on the amount, without any financial risk or liability to the City. It was clarified that the City assumes no debt obligation and bears no responsibility in the event of default. Council noted that similar arrangements have been approved in the past and have provided a beneficial revenue source to help offset expenses and limit tax impacts. No members of the public spoke in opposition or support. Council expressed consensus to move forward with approval of the bond during the regular meeting, and a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Adjournment: Motion by Russell, seconded by Luhring, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4-0. The Public Hearing adjourned at 7:05pm

Regular Meeting Called to Order – Mayor Knetter called the regular meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Disclosure of Interest – Mayor Knetter provided his annual January disclosure, stating that he is also a member of the Randolph Hampton Fire District and would not be voting on any fee increases.

Approval of December 16, 2025 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes – Motion by Luhring, seconded by Huddleston, to approve the December 16, 2025 public hearing and regular meeting minutes. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4-0.

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

Public Comments: Dale Radman addressed the Council regarding property damage resulting from the water main break on Highway 50, seeking clarification on restoration plans prior to spring. Mayor Knetter confirmed that restoration work will be completed, including replacement of rock and black dirt, with pavement restored to MnDOT specifications per state permit requirements. Discussion was held regarding replacement of a portion of Mr. Radman’s concrete driveway, with staff noting that the work is typically completed by the contractor according to City standards, with efforts made to match existing scoring and appearance. Mr. Radman questioned the decision to bore the pipe under Highway 50 rather than using an open cut, expressing concern about long-term durability and costs. The Mayor explained that the method was coordinated with MnDOT and met all permitting and specification requirements. Additional questions regarding water tower startup and contractor responsibility were deferred to later in the meeting. The Mayor thanked Mr. Radman for his comments.

Petitions, Requests, and Communications: Mayor Knetter reported that the City will be replacing the fan and vent system in the pump house. Although budgeted, the system is currently not functioning properly,

creating safety concerns during the handling of fluoride and chlorine, and repairs will be scheduled. Councilmember Luhring noted that the final disposition of the old water tower had been anticipated for discussion under unfinished business, referencing prior timelines provided by the City’s engineer. It was clarified that the matter would instead be addressed within the Engineer’s Report, with the contractor scheduled to remove the tower by June of next year unless action is taken sooner.

Neil Hoadley addressed the Council regarding damages resulting from the recent water main break. He explained that his water heater failed due to pressure issues and required full replacement. Because the unit included a boiler coil system, it had to be purchased and installed by a certified plumber and was not readily in stock. Mr. Hoadley reported the total replacement cost of \$8,849.65 and submitted documentation to the Clerk. He requested consideration for reimbursement but noted he would await further discussion regarding the cause of the incident. The Mayor stated that the cause has not yet been fully determined and would be discussed later in the meeting.

Mayor Knetter requested that next month’s meeting be moved to January 17th due to work travel; the Council had no objections. Councilmember Luhring requested the March meeting be moved to the third Tuesday, March 17th, due to a scheduling conflict; the Council had no objections. Councilmember Huddleston noted that the meeting schedule posted outside City Hall is outdated, and the Clerk confirmed it would be updated.

Stacie Leifeld of the Meisville Lions Club addressed the Council regarding charitable gambling operations at Meric’s. She noted that the Hampton Cardinals are not registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and must meet a three-year requirement before qualifying for a gambling license and gambling manager. She inquired whether the Council was aware of this requirement. Mayor Knetter clarified that final approval authority remains with the Council, that no formal application has been submitted, and that the ordinance matter could be scheduled for a future meeting. Ms. Leifeld thanked the Council for the clarification.

Ordinances and Resolutions: Resolution 2026__ (1) Setting Salaries, fees, licenses, and permits, changes for services, schedules, appointments, and annual designations – Motion made by Luhring and seconded by Russell to adopt the Setting Salaries, fees, licenses, and permits, changes for services, schedules, appointments, and annual designations, all voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4-0.

Resolution 2026__ (2) Resolution Approving the Issuance and Sale of a Revenue Note, Series 2026 and Authorizing the Execution of Documents Relating thereto (Fraser Child and Family Center Project) – Motion made by Luhring and seconded by Huddleston to approve Resolution Approving the Issuance and Sale of a Revenue Note, Series 2026 and Authorizing the Execution of Documents Relating thereto (Fraser Child and Family Center Project) all voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passes 4-0.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Com-

mittees: Engineer Report – Brad Fisher of Bolton & Menk provided an update on the new water tower project. The tower had been initially filled and pressurized; however, following the water main break and subsequent drainage, testing returned a positive bacteria sample. The tower is being re-disinfected and will need to be refilled and retested. Cold temperatures have delayed commissioning, as state guidelines require the tower to be filled to overflow, sampled, held for 24 hours, and sampled again before going online. Sustained warmer temperatures are needed to complete the process safely. No pay application was submitted this month.

Mr. Fisher presented high-level cost estimates for potential salvage and relocation of the old water tower. Having the current contractor lower and set aside the tower would cost approximately \$10,000. Additional costs for relocation, foundation work, engineering, and installation as a monument were estimated at over \$100,000, with potential lead paint remediation ranging from \$225,000 to \$300,000 if required. Council discussed liability concerns related to possible lead paint. Prior testing confirmed lead on the legs, but not on the tank. Direction was given to obtain a lead paint sample from the tank, explore private ownership options, and determine if fundraising could cover costs if no lead is present. The matter was tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

Water / Sewer Report – Mayor Knetter reported that the pump house requires a new ventilation system to ensure safe operations during the handling of fluoride and chlorine. No additional updates were provided.

Park Report – Councilmember Russell requested assistance flooding the hockey rink, noting that recent weather conditions had undone previous efforts. He plans to work on the rink over the weekend but is very busy and requested help. Knetter suggested hiring someone for an hourly fee, and Radman noted that resident Adam Siebenaler, who lives nearby, had previously offered to help. Knetter indicated they would reach out to him.

Street Report – Councilmember Luhring reported that streets are generally in good condition but highlighted the need to replace the curb on Hampton Avenue between Doffing and Water Street. Knetter confirmed that the contractor will provide a price and that the damaged asphalt curb will be replaced with concrete. Fisher noted that this is the same section where pavement was recently replaced. Knetter assured the Council that Brad Fisher’s engineering fee would not be required for the work and that the curb replacement would be prioritized in the spring. Luhring had no additional updates regarding streets.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Adjournment - Motion by Russell, seconded by Huddleston, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Kelly Roan

(continued on page 20)

MISSING PERSON

SINCE JULY 6, 2024

NICOLE "NIKKI" ANDERSON

5 FOOT 10 INCHES

135 LBS

Last seen on July 6, 2024 wearing a grey sweatshirt and camouflage pants in the City of Randolph.

REWARD UP TO \$50,000

The Dakota County Sheriff's Office continues to actively investigate the disappearance of Nikki and is seeking any information leading to her whereabouts. You may provide information anonymously at the link above or call 651-564-9097

**City of Randolph
December 10, 2025
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Call to order:**

The regular Randolph City Council meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Marie Jacob

Roll Call:
Present were Mayor Marie Jacob
Council Members Tony Price, Randy Ferguson and Keith Sande
Treasurer Sandy Nicolai and Clerk Mary Haro.

Also, in attendance was Bolton & Menk engineer, Matt Blazer

Approval of Agenda:
Motion to approve the agenda with the deletion of Jessica Willems under new business and move the water rate item under old business before Water Tower Funding, was made by Jacob and seconded by Haro.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Public Comments:
None

Prior Meeting Minutes
A motion to approve the November 12, 2025 regular council meeting minutes was made by Price, seconded by Ferguson.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:
On the list of payments it was noted that the payment that is listed as Bolton & Menk is actually to Northland Grading.

Motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Price, seconded by Sande.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

**Old Business
Water Rates**

We had a discussion regarding water rates and the need to increase them since they have not been increased since 2022. We could use tier increases in the gallons but should do a 10% increase overall.

Here is what we propose for rate increases: The minimum 0 – 1,000 is \$15.96

1,001 to 5,000 is \$15.96 +.00483 per gallon
15,001 to 50,000 is \$15.96 + .00531 per gallon

50,001 to 100,000 is \$15.96 + .00584 per gallon

100,001 + is \$15.96 +.00632 per gallon
We will also increase the \$20.00 Water Tower Repair fund to \$25 per quarter.

We will notify the households regarding the rate increases with the next water bills that will be going out in January and the increases will be effective on the next water bills in March 2026. Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2025-02 was made by Jacob and seconded by Ferguson and also increasing the Water Tower Repair Fund from \$20 to \$25 per quarter.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

**New Business
Deputy**

The Deputy noted that they are reporting to calls for people getting scammed out of large sums of money. Just a reminder that anything involving purchasing gift cards to strangers are too good to be true and investment opportunities are most likely scams. Anybody pretending to be law enforcement over the phone and demanding money is 100% of the time

trying to scam someone. They responded to several vehicles crashes during a recent snow storm – just a reminder to slow down.

Cannabis Public Hearing
Mayor Jacob closed the regular meeting and opened the public meeting at 7:10 p.m. for public questions or comments. Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2025-01, An Ordinance Amending Title XV: Land Use, Chapter 152 Enacting Distance Buffers for Cannabis Businesses in the City of Randolph was made by Mayor Jacob, seconded by Ferguson.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Clerk Haro made a motion to approve Resolution 25-15, A Resolution Delegating Authority to County of Dakota for Cannabis Registration for City of Randolph, seconded by Price.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

The public hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m. and the regular meeting was reopened.

Final Budget for 2026
It was decided to not make any changes to the 2026 budget. Jacob made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-14 approving the 2026 final levy at \$225,075 and the debt levy at \$0, seconded by Haro.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Pete Schaeffer – Permit Fee
Pete and Joyce Schaeffer owns a house in town that they rent out and they re-roofed it on a Saturday and indicated they were going to come in to get a permit; however, the inspector stopped by and asked about the permit. They asked why the invoice was so high which was because they did not get a permit before starting the work so they are charged a penalty. He did ask about the re-decking fee and what was listed on our website for permits. We 2 will check on the re-decking fee because you don’t know if you need to replace boards until you tear off the shingles. He also asked about the permit fee per structure. He was told that you are supposed to pay the permit fee before any work is even started. We also told him that the inspector could have put a stop work order since they did not get a permit before the work started. Pete indicated that the fees are excessive. Also we need to make sure to get a completed application. We also need to check on the per structure permit. We should make it clear in the fee schedule what the fees for permits are. We will revisit this. He was told to make sure to get the completed application in.

Dave Fellon
He discussed a public team track and the companies that use the railroad tracks. He is asking for a letter from the City supporting the railroad. He will reach out to Mayor Jacob regarding the letter. He also discussed the Durango Silverton Railroad which does scenic train rides. They are trying to get them to come to our area.

Water Tower Funding
Matt reached out to their grant people and noted there is a Clean Water Revolving Fund which is administered by the PFA. There are grants or low interest loans available and Bolton & Menk will complete an application for the city at no cost for the repairs that we need done at the water tower. They will sub-

mit the PPL in March and that ranks us and give us points based on the project and then in mid-summer they usually have an idea on how far they are going to fund. Then if we are in the funding area, they would proceed with the project and then submit an IUP (Intended Use Plan) which indicates if we get the funding and then decide if we want to do the project. We would find out by the Fall if we qualify. If we are fundable, then they look into the affordable index which is a worksheet to determine if we get a grant or a low-interest loan which is in the 1-1/2 to 2% range. Since this is a federal grant or low-interest loan, it falls underneath the prevailing wage, buy America, and has administrative costs. After the PPL, Bolton & Menk would look at the numbers to see if it’s worth going after. We told Bolton & Menk to pursue this. They will discuss this with Byrce on what all needs to be done for the repairs. They will put together a proposal and hopefully we get a good score to move forward. We should let Bryce know that we are going to do and that his help will be needed.

Sewer Project
Matt indicated that all of the sod was laid and the mailboxes were put back up. Streets signs were put back up; however one stop sign was put up incorrectly so it was covered. There were some signs laying on the ground. They were going to start cutting down the pipes but we got the snow so they will wait on that until Spring. It was noted to Matt that Socct Mortenson indicated that he has a lot of standing water by his place. It was told to Scott that he should take pictures and send them to Matt or the city so that we know what is happening. It was asked regarding the two new school houses and what is happening with their septic/sewer. Clerk

Haro noted that they got a permit to install a holding tank in the older house but are not installing a drain field because they plan to hook up to city sewer when it is available. With this installation they are hoping it will be easier to sell the house The plan is for hooks up to the new sewer system to happen in June assuming they that Northland is able to start right away in the spring. The Historical Society is thinking about putting in a septic tank but Dakota County would need to get our approval to install it.

Council Member Reports
It was noted that the fire department addition will be pushed to the Spring.

Randy gave a recap of the watershed management meeting. The MPCA gave a presentation on the water discharge permitting because of the data centers, etc. Waterford Township is being sued regarding of the quarry proposal. Eureka Township is declaring that Chub Lake Road become a maintenance road because it low lying, its gets flooded, and the beavers create problems. He also noted that they found zebra mussels in Lake Byllesby mostly on the east side.

Northern Salt is in the whole of \$8300 – we need to invoice them. Send them a letter. Be detailed of what they paid and what is being charged. This needs to be reviewed to make sure it is correct. Clerk Haro will get together with Sandy to review.

Mayor Jacob has purchased the TV to be installed at the City. She noted that Cannon River Tree Service did take down trees by the water tower. They will also grind the stumps. He also noted that there are two dead ash trees behind the garage so he will take those down as well. In the spring we will take a drive around and see if there are any other trees that need to come down on city properties.

(continued on page 21)

Hampton Accused of Systematically Blocking Public Records; UMLC Files Lawsuit to Enforce State Transparency Law

(Minnetonka, MN) - The Upper Midwest Law Center (UMLC) filed a lawsuit on behalf of Hampton Township residents Erik and Kathleen Porten alleging extensive and willful violations of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA) by the City of Hampton and senior city officials

The case arises after the Portens submitted public data requests seeking information related to a proposed 1.5-million-square-foot data center development that could significantly impact the small Dakota County community.

What they discovered, according to the complaint, raised serious concerns about transparency, record retention, and compliance with Minnesota law.

The lawsuit alleges that the City:

- Failed to search email accounts used by the Mayor to conduct city business;
- Delayed responses for months at a time;
- Produced records containing unexplained and unauthorized redactions;
- Attempted to impose unlawful fees for merely inspecting public data;
- Failed to update its required data access policy for nearly 20 years; and
- Required the Portens to inspect hundreds of pages of documents while standing at a service window rather than in a reasonable inspection setting

The complaint further alleges that the City Clerk does not have access to personal or non-city email accounts used by city officials for official business, meaning public records may not be properly retained or searchable as required by law.

At its core, the lawsuit argues that the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act exists to protect an informed citizenry and to ensure accountability in local government.

The right to access public records is not a courtesy extended by government officials; it is a legal obligation,” said Doug Seaton, President of UMLC. “Transparency laws exist so citizens can understand what their government is doing. When those laws are not followed and public information is withheld, the courts are the proper place to enforce those protections and restore trust.”

The lawsuit seeks declaratory and injunctive relief requiring full compliance with the Portens’ data requests, proper record-retention procedures, lawful inspection practices, and statutory remedies provided under Minnesota law.

Randolph City Council Meeting

(continued from page 20)

Marie has been working on the website and she will start posting all of the past minutes and hopefully get caught up soon.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Price, seconded by Sande, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

City of Randolph
January 14, 2026
Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Call to order:

The regular Randolph City Council meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Marie Jacob

Roll Call:

Present were Mayor Marie Jacob, Council Members Randy Ferguson and Keith Sande, Treasurer Sandy Nicolai and Clerk Mary Haro.

Council Member Tony Price was absent.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Jacob and seconded by Ferguson.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 4:0.

Public Comments:

Luke Dubbels asked about assistance with paying for his repairs when the valve broke at his residence in December. The pipe that was repaired previously broke again. He checked with the plumber that installed the valve and they only warranty the work for 12 months and this happened 12 months and 27 days later. They also went to the valve company and they indicated it was not their valve. McNamara originally pulled the pipe out of the wall and hired a plumbing company to fix it. McNamara blamed the plumbing company and the plumbing company put the blame on the valve company. The valve cracked right after the meter. Luke indicated that they did not replace the valve as they just used the same valve that was there before. Matt indicated that he will look into it. Luke asked if we have a parking ordinance during the winter months. We indicated there is no official ordinance to tow if they park on the street if it snows. He noted almost every other city has an ordinance regarding no parking when it snows during certain hours. We will look at this as we have other ordinances that we need to review.

Prior Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the December 10, 2025 regular council meeting minutes was made by Ferguson, seconded by Sande.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 4:0.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

On the list of payments, we need to remove the \$320 check to Marie from the claims as Sandy thought she was reimbursing her but realized she used the credit card for the purchase of the television. We need to add Metro Sales for \$75.64 for our copy machine. Also there was a check for \$5,000 that was a donation from the Ferguson Foundation that we transferred and made payable to the Randolph Hampton Fire Department. Also Clerk Haro noted that the \$522 check to Bolton & Menk should be scratched and that invoice was voided. Motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Jacob, seconded by Ferguson. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 4:0.

Old Business

Pete Schaeffer – Permit Fee

Clerk Haro checked with Mark our building inspector and he indicated that the fees are correct. Mayor Jacob indicated she looked through our ordinances and noted it does not specify a fee for each building and she agrees that there are some items that need to be reviewed. She noted to him that he started this project without a permit and if he would have gotten the permit prior to the work being done none of this would be an issue. He indicated that he did not redeck the house so he should not have to pay that as well as the penalty. We indicated that he told us that he did do some redecking and he did indicate a few sheets. He indicated that it indicates in our fee schedule that work between \$0 and \$500 is a \$29 permit. Pete does not believe the invoice is correct. It seems there are a few different things happening here – one is that the ordinance itself is not as clear as it should be so we should look at that so it is clear and besides the wording of the ordinance is sounds like you have a problem with the redecking as you indicated that you did not do that. Everyone has been charged a fee per structure for permits. When Mark showed up the roof was done, so he wants to know how he can charge for redecking. We will table this until next month and ask Mark our building inspector to attend the meeting.

New Business

Deputy

A Deputy stopped in before our meeting and noted that there have been cars being broken into so a reminder to lock your doors.

Jessica Willems – Lot Split

Jessica Willems indicated she wanted to purchase a small piece of property from the Ferguson due to a fence issue. A previous owner put up a fence on the property without getting a survey. They found it out from Dakota County when they were out surveying that the fence was not on their property. It was noted that the property owner needs to either move the fence to their property line or Ferguson’s need to sell them some property so that the fence will be on their property.

Motion to approve Resolution 26-01 Approving the Property Split of Dakota County

Parcel Identification No. 32-00700-75-010 in Randolph, Minnesota was made by Mayor Jacob, 2 seconded by Sande.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 3:0.

Council member Ferguson abstained from the vote.

Chris Opelt – Fire Department

Chris Opelt attended the meeting and mentioned that Chief Whitson officially retired on December 31, 2025 after 31 years on the department. Chris was voted in as the new Fire Chief in December and Jake Toledo will be the First Assistant Chief and Tom Gergen the Second Assistant Chief. They have 4 applicants for the captain/lieutenant positions. They want to work closer with the city on the JPA and approving their budget. They will also be working on a strategic capital plan for a 3 year, 5 year and a 10 year plan. They ask that we assist in that. Last year they went over a little bit on their budget of \$170,000, however, they kept it at \$170,000 but that meant that they usually take 20% and put it in a new truck fund but they were only able to apply \$8,900 to the fund. Chris handed out the budget for 2026. There was an increase in the contract to all the cities and townships. They are planning to purchase 5 or 6 sets of turn out gear for new members and a new air monitor for station 2 which are some of the big ticket items for next year. They plan to come back in July to work on the budget for 2027 and then back again in November for approval of the budget. They want to work closer with the cities and let us know what is happening with the department. They did install cameras in the hall and they have a data surveillance policy which they gave us a copy. The Fire Chief will be the point of contact for any inquiries and their data retention is 30 days. They will be handing out calendars over the next several weeks so you will see the firemen out in the community. It was asked if someone was appointed to lower and raise the flag. Mayor Jacob will ask her husband, Larry, if he would be interested to do it.

Mike Slavik, Dakota County Commissioner

Clerk Haro asked about when the county plows their county road are they in charge of making sure the storm drains are open. Mike indicated that they usually use steamers in March to make sure they are open – usually when the thaw starts to happen. He indicated they may have to come up with a different way of doing things. He indicated that in Hastings they have people adopt a storm drain. They sign up and commit to being responsible to make sure the storm drains are open and the fire hydrants are accessible. He indicated that if it was really bad we could contact the county and they would send someone out. It was asked about the speed limit through the city. Mike discussed that they are working on the speed limit for the school zone. Since they have a school resource officer they can get it lowered when school is in session since law enforcement is a requirement. They hope to have this in place by the start of school year 2026-2027. Mike discussed the open house for Lake Byllesby improvements that was held at City Hall on January 7th. It was very well attended. Dakota County was granted lottery money and 3 they plan to do some restora-

tions on the west end which includes a look out which they hope to start the work in the Fall. Mike noted that at the county level they are feeling pressure by the state and federal levels on shifts and mandates which are hitting the counties more than they are hitting the cities and local governments such as social services that were currently paid for by the state and federal government. One item that is required for food stamps or subsidized healthcare is that you either have to work or volunteer which was put into federal law but who has to verify it is the county. For healthcare it must be verified every six months. They must hire 70 new employees to do that. He indicated he will try to come more often. They are going to start on their budget next month.

Appointment of Committees

Acting Mayor – Randy Ferguson

Parks - Clerk Mary Haro, Mayor Marie Jacob and Council Member Randy Ferguson
Sidewalks - Council members Tony Price and Keith Sande

Streets – Council members Tony Price and Keith Sande

Wellhead –Clerk Mary Haro and council member Tony Price

Civil Defense – Keith Sande

Building Inspector – Mark Ceminsky, Beaver Creek Companies

City Attorney – Kennedy & Graven – Greta Bjerkness

Prosecution Firm for City – Campbell Knutson

City Engineer - Bolton & Menk

Official Bank - Merchants Bank

Official Newspaper - Cannon Falls Beacon

Insurance - Northfield Insurance

Motion to approve the list of appointment of committees was made by Clerk Haro, seconded by Jacob.

All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 4:0.

Sewer Project

Matt, Tony and Keith and a few other Bolton & Menk personnel had a meeting with NGE regarding the delay claim. NGE asked them to check in with MNDOT because of the funding of the project. MNDOT agreed where we were regarding the entitlement of the contract. Then they had another discussion with NGE regarding the update with MN DOT. NGE indicated they need to talk with their attorney and see what their next steps are. They have not heard back from them. Matt is asking for a schedule for this year and noted they still are under a contract.

Council Member Reports

Randy talked about the recent open house for the changes that Dakota County is planning around Lake Byllesby. They indicated there are 3 areas – (1) is the old Knox farm which will have a look out built and (2) is the Wachendorf area they plan to put some picnic tables 4 back there and (3) at the end of Dixie where the old railroad line was, they plan to put some rails up for a fishing area.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ferguson, seconded by Sande, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 4:0.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Haro

**HOLLAND AUCTION**



Farmers Machinery Consignment
Live & Online Bidding
Saturday, APRIL 18, 2026 - 9:00 A.M.
LOCATION: East of Beaver Lake, Ellendale MN
Taking consignments: Tractors • Combines • Haying Equip. • Tillage Equip. • Planters • Wagons • Farm Pickups & Trucks • Construction Equip. • All Types of Farm Machinery • Recreational Items Welcomed (No car or truck tires)
Call early to take full advantage of advertising.
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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

[illegible]

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