



Goodhue-Bellechester Messenger

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Goodhue Wildcats Boys Basketball Season

The Wildcats basketball team had a great season heading to the state tournaments with the #1 seed and a 30-1 record for the season. They headed to the playoffs with a 24 game winning streak and a desire to come home with the win after single digit losses in the 2024 and 2025 playoffs.



photo by
Chace Landsteiner

The Wildcats defeated Perham 70-49 in the quarterfinals and then faced the defending state champion Albany on Friday. The game was hard fought and the Wildcats overcame the Huskies with a 76-74 win.

(continued on page 9)

Vine Haven Hardware: Building on a Family Legacy

By Beth Brekke



The Vine Haven logo aims to incorporate hardware, gardening and healthy living.

In 1936, Adam Poncelet purchased a hardware store in Bellechester. In 1995, his grandson, Charlie Poncelet and his wife, Grace purchased the hardware store in Goodhue. On March 2, 2026, Charlie and Grace's son, Kyle reopened the store as Vine Haven Hardware. "The stars lined up," is how Kyle describes the series of events that led to the business venture.

(continued on page 5)

Pictured to the right: Kyle and Elia Poncelet and children, Ayven and Novah outside their newly opened Vine Haven Hardware store.



Announcements

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

(see ad on page 4)

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

(continued on page 2)



Pastor Randall Kuznicki gave a presentation on metal detecting and the history it uncovers at the Goodhue Area Historical Society annual meeting March 23rd.

Goodhue Area Historical Society Annual Meeting Features Treasures

By Beth Brekke

The annual meeting of the Goodhue Area Historical Society planned for March 16th was postponed to March 23rd due to snow. President Dave Betcher called the meeting to order at 7 PM at St. Luke's Church. Attendees received handouts of the 2025 meeting minutes, society happenings and financial situation. General business was conducted with a unanimous ballot cast for returning board members, Don Gadiant and Barry Holst, and for Dale Dicke to replace retiring member, Rocky Rambolt.

(continued on page 6)

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Pastors Corner

LET EACH DAY BE AN EASTER DAY!

By Pastor Marty Weigand,
Grace and St. Peter's
Lutheran Churches (WELS)
of Goodhue, MN

"This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24 NIV) Christians have often used this verse to remind each other that each new day on this earth is a gift from God, who made all things, so enjoy each day as a gift from him! This is true, so keep on enjoying each day as a gift from your Creator!

Announcements

• **Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Bellechester, Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Goodhue, Pine Island, Kenyon, Wabasha and Wanamingo.** Receive a hot meal delivered to your home by a volunteer at lunch time up to 5 days per week. To qualify you must be 60 or older, live within city limits, have limited mobility and/or are unable to prepare nutritious meals. The suggested donation is \$5-\$10 per meal. Please contact Three Rivers at 507-316-0610 or email: oas@threeriverscap.org

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



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But when you look at this Bible verse together with the verses that come right before it, you realize it is saying even more. Those verses say: "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes." (Psalm 118:22-23 NIV) "The stone the builders rejected" is Jesus. The "builders" who rejected him are the leaders of his people. They should have been encouraging people to be "built on Jesus" by trusting in him as the promised Savior. Instead, they rejected him and got him nailed to a cross. But they didn't stop God from carrying out his plan to have Jesus be our Savior. He used the wrong they did to put Jesus in just the right place to give his life as the sacrifice that paid for our sins. Then he raised Jesus from the dead, to live forever, and be forever the Rock on which the Church is built. That's what the inspired writer of Psalm 118 is especially rejoicing in when he says, "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

But this verse isn't just for Easter Day. What it celebrates came true on the day our Lord Jesus rose from the dead; but it remains true on each new day that God gives us on this earth. Each day is a day when the Lord Jesus lives, risen from the dead, and is ruling over all things at God's right hand.

And so each day new day of your life is a day when what else will be true? You who are built on Jesus by trusting in him, will be

right with God, (1 Pe 2:6) clothed in his righteousness and covered by his forgiveness. Each day your Lord will use his power over all things to make sure that in all things- even painful and difficult ones- he will make them serve for your good and the good of your fellow believers. (Ro 8:28) Each day he lives to keep his promise that you won't be tempted more than you can bear. (1 Co 10:13) Each day he will be with you as your loving shepherd, to guide you and carry you along in just the right way, knowing just what you need. (Isaiah 40:11) Each day will he will place before you ways to serve him and bless others

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Visit soufritroywesleyan.org for more information

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ST. COLUMBKILL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

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

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

A Sign of Healing and Life

Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived. — Numbers 21:9

Israel had a lot to learn about being the people of the holy and faithful God. In our story today the people grew impatient with God again as they traveled through the wilderness.

They spoke against God and against Moses, saying, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?" Sometimes the Lord was merciful when the people acted so rebelliously, but other times, when they had gone too far, the Lord sent punishment. This time the consequence for their actions was a plague of venomous snakes, and a number of the people died from snakebites.

What would happen next? How would salvation appear for these unfaithful people?

In what is a preview of the saving work of Christ, a bronze snake became an instrument of healing and life. Moses made a bronze snake and lifted it up on a pole, and the people were told to look at this snake and live. Many years later Jesus explained that this miracle in the wilderness pointed to the gift of his own life for us all (being lifted up on a cross—John 3:14-15). Through this act of faith, we are freed from death!

Lord, we can be so rebellious and stubborn in our resistance to you. Help us to look to you and believe in Jesus, who was lifted up for us. Amen.

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN (WELS)

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

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD

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

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

MINNEOLA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Hannah Bergstrom de Leon
www.minneolalutheranchurch.com
13628 Cty. 50 Blvd., Goodhue
Office line: (507) 218-7177 • Pastoral Care: 507-218-9063
April 2 Maundy Thursday: 7:00p.m.
April 5 Easter Sunday: 8:30a.m. Easter Breakfast, all donations will go to 2026 youth trip; 9:30a.m. Easter Service
Sunday School (first two Sundays of month) 9:30a.m.
Worship at 10:30a.m. (Communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays)

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

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

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

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

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

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

LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Diane Dorothy Hardy

Diane Dorothy Hardy, 75, of Goodhue, passed away Monday, March 2, 2026, at Loving Residence in Red Wing, Minnesota. She was born December 8, 1950, in Milwaukee, Wisc., to Philip DeGrey and Dorothy (Platte) DeGrey. She graduated from Lincoln High School in Lake City in 1968 and went on to study at Rochester Beauty College. Diane worked at local beauty salons in Red Wing for over 40 years, most notably Red Wing Beauty Salon. On June 28, 1975, Diane married David Hardy and they made their home in Goodhue, MN. They celebrated fifty plus years of marriage. Diane had a special love for cats which many called home with her and Dave in Goodhue. She enjoyed gardening and loved watching birds and the fish in their backyard fishpond. Knitting blankets for special children in her life was a favorite pastime and she used her creativity to make Halloween costumes and sew many projects for her loved ones. She took particular pride in being a part of the Phantom Car Club, especially the parades; Diane could be caught waving her hand out the window of her and Dave's Corvette. She was a social butterfly and would strike up a conversation with anyone. Diane enjoyed music since childhood and you could catch her tapping her feet to a song and busting out into dance moves. Cooking was a big part of her life, near the holidays she would spend hours in the kitchen making Christmas cookies for her family members, friends and neighbors. If there was any time left in the day, Diane would settle down for the night with a crossword puzzle. The most important thing for Diane was the time she spent with her family, especially playing games with them. She was a master at Yahtzee, proudly yelling that she had a "full barn" instead of "full house". Diane is loved by many and will be greatly missed by all.

Diane is survived by her loving husband David Hardy; daughter Anita Hardy-Mapel; grandsons Koby Mapel, Kas (Jennifer) Mapel, and Kader Mapel; great-granddaughter Madeline Mapel; sister Carla (Chuck) Pelowski; sisters-in law Judy Platte, Tammy Anderson, Sharon (Mike) Hemphill, Linda (Russell) Quade, Patti (Dan) Unser,; brothers-in-law Gary (Sandy) Nielsen, Randy Hardy, Kevin (Sue) Hardy, Jeff (Margie) Hardy, and nephews Kris (Lynn) Platte, Matt (Julie) Platte, and Craig (Janet) Platte; and many other nieces and nephews related to her by marriage.

She is preceded in death by her father Philip DeGrey; parents Dorothy and Luther Anderson; grandparents George and Mabel Platte; brothers Morris Platte and Mark Anderson; and sister-in-law Judy Nelson; and brother-in-law Tim Hardy.

A memorial service for Diane was held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at Mahn Family Funeral Home, Bodelson-Mahn Chapel. A visitation was one hour prior. Diane will be buried at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Lake City at a later date. Online condolences may be left at www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Joan M. Holst
Joan M. Holst, 92, of Red Wing, died Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at Mayo Clinic Hospital, St. Marys Campus. She was born February 7, 1934, in Red Wing, to George and Sophie (Nehring) Mehrkens. She grew up in Goodhue and graduated from Goodhue High School in 1951. On June 9, 1954, she married Merlin Holst at Grace Lutheran Church. They lived in Hay Creek where they farmed and raised their family. Joan was always a hard-working farm woman, but after her family was grown and had families of their own, she began working at the Benedictine in housekeeping, working there from 1997 until 2014, retiring on her 80th birthday.

Joan was social and friendly, always wel-



coming others with genuine kindness and a caring heart. Her humility made her even more admirable, as she quietly gave of herself without ever seeking recognition. She found joy in simple, meaningful things — especially crafting, cross-stitching, and sewing. Over the years, she lovingly created many pieces of clothing for her family.

She is survived by her daughters, Sandi (Len) Berg of Welch, Colleen (Dana) Phillips of Hager City, WI and Jean Martin of Red Wing; daughter-in-law, Diane (Kevin Eckblad) Holst of Dover, AR; grandchildren, Jennie (Dave) Bungum, Brianna Berg, Lexi (Ben) Bettis, Chris (Linsy) Holst, Kory (Amanda) Holst and Lucas Phillips; step-grandchildren, Missy Phillips, Nick (Becky) Phillips, Sam Phillips and Yena (Jeff Heilman) Phillips; great-grandchildren, Carter, Gabriella, Hudsyn, MaKenna, Rhett and step-greatgrandchildren, Amara, Alana, Cameron, Owen, Hayden and Karlie and sister-in-law, Alice Mehrkens of Goodhue. She was preceded in death by her husband, Merlin in 2006, son, Keith Holst, son-in-law, Paul Martin and brother, Roy Mehrkens.

Funeral service was at 11 a.m. Monday, March 9, 2026, at St. John's Lutheran Church. Reverend Todd Engel officiated. Burial took place at St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery. Visitation was for one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorials are preferred to the St. John's Church Elevator Fund. Funeral service will be livestreamed and can be viewed here the day of the funeral :<https://www.youtube.com/@SJRW/streams>

Kenneth "Ken" Maynard Buck
Kenneth "Ken" Maynard Buck, 94, passed away March 9, 2026, with family by his side. Ken was born on May 14, 1931 in Red Wing to William F. and Lena (Drop-scheske) Buck. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Goodhue, MN. Ken graduated from Goodhue High School in 1949. He served in the Army National Guard from 1950-1952 and was stationed at Camp Rucker in Alabama and at



Fort Jackson in South Carolina. On June 22, 1951, Ken was united in marriage to Verleen Banitt at Christ Lutheran Church in Zumbrota. Ken and Verleen were blessed with four sons and 70 years of marriage. They dairy farmed for 39 years until selling the cows in 1991. Ken also did some part time work at the Zumbrota Elevator, Durst Feed and was a custodian at the Zumbrota Public School. And he still found time to coach 4-H softball. They traveled to Germany, Thailand as well as collecting treasures from every state in America. His many hobbies included years of polka dancing, camping, boating, gardening, fishing, playing cards and wood-working. He enjoyed hunting with his sons and grandsons. He was a meticulous artist with a paintbrush and colored markers. He also enjoyed working on puzzles and every family member received a glued together puzzle for Christmas.

Ken is survived by his sons Michael (Marcia), David (Kathy), Allen (Renae), and Brian (Becky); grandchildren Ann (Chris) McIntosh, Jeff (Diana) Buck, Jon (Jamie) Buck, Kory (Beth) Buck, Aimee (Matthew) Phillips, Brett (Carley) Buck, Kyle Buck, Angela (Mike) Matiash, Matthew (Suparada) Buck, Emily (Tim) Frank, and Jennifer (Ben) Lindquist; great grandchildren, Alivia and Kellen McIntosh, Heidi and Daniel Buck, Charlotte and Lila Buck, Evelyn Buck, Collette Phillips, Samuel and Allison Buck, Aaron, Caleb, Annalise, and Emmalyn Matiash, Madison and Grayson Buck, Carson and Summer Frank, Jackson and Noah Lindquist; sister-in-law Kay Banitt; and several nieces and nephews.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents William and Lena Buck; his wife Verleen; two brothers Silas and Mathias; three sisters Verneal Voth, Leone Benidt and Ebba Bredehoft; and great grandson Maxwell Buck.

Funeral Services were held at 11:00 AM, Friday, March 20 2026 at Christ Lutheran Church in Zumbrota. Visitation was at the church an hour prior. Please join the family for burial at Zumbrota Cemetery following the funeral. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Christ Lutheran Church Building Fund, Zumbrota. The family wishes to extend their sincere thanks to all the providers, care givers, and staff of Edenbrook Pine Haven Nursing Home and Mayo Hospice Services for the loving care Ken received.

Lands Easter Worship Services

Moonlight Vigil, April 4th

8:00 PM In the park - Weather permitting
Followed by a Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt and Easter S'mores

Easter Morning, April 5th

8:30 and 10:30 In Person and on Facebook
Breakfast and Egg Hunt Between Services

Lands Lutheran Church
16680 Hwy 60 Blvd, Zumbrota MN 55992



23rd Annual

GOODHUE COUNTY 4-H HOG ROAST

Sunday, April 26 2026
Dine in OR Take out - 11am-1pm

To purchase tickets, contact your local 4-H member or the 4-H office.

Family style & individual meal options!



Jane Audrey Struss

Jane Audrey Struss, 95, of Red Wing, died peacefully surrounded by her family, on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. She was born on March 5, 1930, in Goodhue, to Helen Buchholtz and Gordon Haas. Her family moved to Red Wing in 1940, and she attended Jefferson Elementary and graduated from Red Wing Central High School in 1948. On July 2, 1949, she was united in marriage to the love of her life, Samuel Struss, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Red Wing and together they enjoyed 66 years of wedded bliss. They were blessed with three children, Samuel Jr., Daniel and Jan and resided in Red Wing.

Jane began working at the Red Wing Pottery under her mother and continued there for 20 years until they closed in 1967. While at the Pottery, she painted RW Pottery Dinnerware. One of her favorite patterns was the "Red Apple" and as Jane tells the story, "When I was feeling mischievous, I would paint a worm coming out of the apple as my artistic signature in hope that they'd clear inspection" and some did! As of late, Jane had been the last living artist/painter for RW Pottery. Following her time at the Pottery, she worked at Jostens for nearly 30 years until her retirement.



Jane had a love of music, dance, theater, boating, bowling, golf and shopping. She had been a member of a women's bowling league, as well as a lifetime member of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary and a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Travel was a must for her — family experiences were always an adventure. Some of the furthest destinations included family trips to Germany, Netherlands, Austria and Hawaii among other domestic destinations. She and Sam also made annual trips to Las Vegas, to enjoy various shows like Wayne Newton, Don Ho and Elvis Presley (twice). They wintered on Fort Meyers Beach in Florida for 30 years, worshipping the sun, sand and seafood.

Jane was the consummate entertainer! She made every holiday and birthday so festive and special for her family. She hosted annual wild game feeds for the "mighty hunters" and their wives. And after painting the town red with friends, they always ended the night at the Struss house for a "final, final" and a bowl of homemade chili or a plate of eggs and bacon. She was an amazing cook and baker. A few of her specialties included Christmas goose with wild rice, oil buns and rhubarb pie—a Struss family secret. Mostly

Jane just liked to hang out with her kids and grandkids and keep all the family secrets.

Jane is survived by her two children, Daniel (Shelly) Struss and Jan Struss, all of Red Wing; three grandchildren, Morley and Chloe Struss of Red Wing and Lindy Schutz of Bluestone, Missouri; five great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren and three nieces, Cynthia (Skip) Anderson, Shari Lampert and Suzanne Buchholtz. She was preceded in death by her parents and stepfather, Alvin Nordeen; husband, Sam; son Sam Jr.; grandson, Bryan Struss and brother,

Robert Buchholtz.

Memorial service was at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Bodelson-Mahn Chapel in Red Wing. Visitation was from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday and for one hour prior to the service, all at the funeral home. Burial was at the Burnside Cemetery. A celebration of life immediately followed the service from 2:30-7:00 p.m. at the Red Wing Elks Club. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Red Wing Kiwanis Flower Basket Fund or St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

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CITY OF GOODHUE

CITY WIDE CLEAN UP

APRIL 18, 2026 8AM-10AM

CITY HALL & PUBLIC WORKS LOT – 405 BROADWAY N

\$10 PER LOAD! Each time you come through, you will pay \$10

RESIDENTS ONLY – ALL RESIDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING PHOTO ID AS PROOF OF ADDRESS

ACCEPTED ITEMS	SALVATION ARMY	NOT ACCEPTED
ALL LARGE APPLIANCES WASHERS/DRYERS/ STOVES/ REFRIGERATORS/ FREEZERS/ DEHUMIDIFIERS/AC/MICROWAV ES/ METAL/STEEL/RIMLESS PASSENGER VEHICLE TIRES	CLOTHING/BOOKS/MISC ITEMS HOUSEHOLD ITEMS/BEDDING CHAIRS/COUCHES (NO MEDICAL/MATTRESS/BOX SPRINGS OR BOOKS WITH BAR CODES)	HAZARDOUS WASTE-OIL- PAINT-FLOURESENT BULBS-BATTERIES- CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS- AG/SEMI TIRES

Questions? Contact City Hall
cityclerk@cityofgoodhue.gov / 651-923-4310

Website
https://www.cityofgoodhue.gov

Curbside prescheduled and prepaid pickup will be Wednesday and Thursday April 15 & 16 and must be set out by 7:30 A.M. of chosen day. Schedule and pay with the slip below, no later than April 10.
Pay at City Hall - 405 Broadway N. - \$15 per picked up load

CUT HERE FOR CURBSIDE PICKUP PAYMENT-----

RESIDENT	CURBSIDE \$15 FEE to City of Goodhue	*OFFICE*****
NAME:	_____	*CHECK# _____ CASH _____
ADDRESS:	_____	*DATE PAID _____
PHONE#	_____	
PICKUP DATE:	APRIL 15 OR 16 (CIRCLE ONE)	*COMPLETED BY: _____

Items that may be left behind would be "Not Acceptable"

GOODHUE SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY!

May 4th, 2026

Deadline for sign up: April 17th

When?
May 4th, 2026
Cleaning will take place between 8:30am - 11:30am.
Students will clean-up for ~20-30 minutes and will do the best they can within that time!

What work will be done?
(Please provide black trash bags if possible)

- Raking leaves
- Picking up sticks
- Pulling weeds
- Etc.

How to sign up:

If you were previously signed up from last year and/or past years, you must sign up again.
In order to get your house on the clean-up list, use the QR code above OR email: sstelling@goodhue.k12.mn.us
In email, provide the following information:

- Name, phone number, home address, and any special instructions you may have.

Deadline for sign up: April 17th

Vine Haven Hardware: Building on a Family Legacy

(continued from page 1)

Kyle said the idea of owning the store had always been in the back of his mind, picturing a second career 20 years down the road. Fate had other ideas. After high school, Kyle went to work for O'Reilly Fabricating and then the Ironworkers Union. "I loved it," he said of iron work he did at jobsites including the Eisenhower Bridge of Valor in Red Wing and Lake Byllesby Dam near Cannon Falls. The union job literally came crashing down in 2020 when he suffered a life-threatening injury. Kyle eventually went back to work but suffered another serious on-the-job injury in 2023. Now metal work holds a triple compound fracture in his leg together. Losing some natural function in his leg, ankle and foot, he realized balancing, walking, and climbing on narrow metal bars would no longer be safe and left his Ironworkers Union job in December 2025.

Charlie and Grace closed C&G Hardware around the time of Kyle's second injury. It had been closed for about two years when Kyle started cleaning shelves and moving displays in February 2025. He describes the process as being "A jigsaw puzzle to piece it all together again". He cleaned, rearranged the shelving, and updated displays in sections. Many of the visitors to the store have commented on the old wood floor. Loving the floor and all of its imperfections, Kyle wanted to preserve it "as is". Rather than sanding and refinishing, he poly-coated right over hardware logo stickers and the old markers for measuring rope. He says it just wouldn't be the same without the familiar creak as you enter.

The front door of 212 North 2nd Street has been opening to customers since 1905. Originally known as the Quast Building, it housed the General Village Store for five years. The building changed hands and functions many



Lending their name to the store, the dormant vines will soon come alive, adding beauty and a sense of peace.

times over the years. It may be referred to as Gorman Hall, Ben Gorman having an ownership interest between 1918 and 1946. Moving away from mercantile, Gorman hosted bands and dancing, roller skating, and the first talking picture show. Gorman also opened a horseshoe court and built a bowling alley in the basement.

By 1947 the entertainment business changed and the building found its lasting identity when M.D. Gulley and H.E. Harvey opened the Marshall-Wells Hardware Store. The Gerken Brothers of Mazeppa purchased the building and continued Hardware sales until 1968, followed by Alvin and Shirley Allers (1968-1994) and James and Yvonne Hinsch (1994-1995). The Poncelets opened C&G Hardware in April of 1995.

Kyle and his siblings grew up in the store. "It was our daycare", he said, showing where a TV had been when they were children. He is looking forward to his son, Ayven (6) and daughter, Novah (3) spending a lot of time at the store. His wife, Elia is an emergency room registered nurse working in Hastings. They settled on the Vine Haven name as a reference to the vines covering the South side of the building. Kyle and Elia find the area peaceful and knew others also appreciate its beauty after seeing someone pose for their graduation picture there.

The Poncelets also chose the name Vine Haven to create an image of plants and greenery. They will stock a larger assortment of garden products and possibly live plants in the future. Dedicating an area to healthy living is also being planned. The family has moved to greener products and would like to offer things like toxin-free laundry detergent in refillable containers. The store's upper level—once home to a doctor's office and later, apartments—remains much untouched



Kyle Poncelet reopened Goodhue's hardware store after cleaning shelves, moving and updating displays and poly-coating the old wooden floor.

since the 1970's. It has served as storage space but holds potential for new use.

Vine Haven is an independent store not affiliated with any national hardware franchise. Working with the Orgill wholesale distribution company while transitioning from old inventory to new, Kyle can order smaller amounts than large chain stores while maintaining a fair price. Item barcodes are scanned and entered into a digital catalog to keep an accurate inventory. As the sole employee, Kyle is still going through this process but says, "Hardware is the perfect mix of bookwork and service". Kyle's affinity for bookkeeping comes from both his mother, who did the paperwork for C&G, and his grandfather, Frank, who turned down the opportunity to own the store in Bellechester in favor of a bookkeeping and tax service.

"Things lined up for me," Kyle says of the timing of the Althoff Hardware in Cannon Falls closure and online auction where he purchased paint mixing and color-matching equipment. Vine Haven will carry the usual nuts, bolts, plumbing supplies, paint, and tools and can also special order items. The

community is looking forward to the convenience of shopping locally and Kyle hopes they will remember to stop when it's not an emergency.

Building on his family's 90-year involvement in the hardware business, Kyle is focused on improvement. "This is my social life. I enjoy it {but} helping customers is my number one priority."

REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS: 7-5 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 7-3 Wednesday and 8-12 Saturday.

Store phone: 651-923-4591 email: kyle@vinehavenhardware.com Vine Haven Hardware on Facebook

A GRAND OPENING EVENT IS BEING PLANNED FOR MAY 2ND with extended Saturday hours of 7 AM-5 PM. The owner of Edge Pro Knife and Tool will be on hand doing blade sharpening. There will be special sales, prize drawings and refreshments. The Poncelets are working with The Depot and other businesses in town to create an event that promotes and supports the entire community. Watch the Facebook page for updates.

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Goodhue Area Historical Society Annual Meeting Features Treasures

(continued from page 1)

Betcher reported that things have been moved around in the museum creating a whole new look and making the space wheelchair accessible. The museum opens for the season on June 4th. An open house is planned for July 19th, earlier than most years due to the Wheat Trail Festival being held the following week. From an Agricultural history standpoint, it is interesting to note that in 1873 Red Wing was the number one wheat market in the world with a million bushels moving along Bellecreek's Wheat Trail.

Following the business portion of the gathering, Pastor Randall Kuznicki spoke on museum history and metal detector treasure

hunting. He lived in Goodhue for 32 years while serving St. Peter's congregation and although he no longer lives or serves in Goodhue, he continues to serve St. John's Minneola as he has since 1984.

Kuznicki recalled initiating the idea of an Agriculture museum after visiting others while on vacation. He approached Alvin Dicke and Len Lodermeier for general and financial support and the three men worked to make the society and museum a reality. The building opened in 1998 and a dedication was held on June 9, 2005. As the last surviving member of the founders, Kuznicki is impressed with what he describes as the museum's "remarkable strides the last few years".

Kuznicki's interest in history is not limited to the local museum. He also finds a connection to history as a metal detector hobbyist, or enthusiast—terms he prefers over treasure hunter. There are claims that two-thirds of the world's wealth is lost or hidden and there are many people who attempt to find a piece of that wealth. Kuznicki's interest is not about the monetary value, rarely selling what he finds, but about fresh air, exercise, and the story behind the treasures he finds. "Some of it is junk, some of it is not, but they're all pieces of history."

Kuznicki started metal detecting at age 14 but says, "Things like high school and girls



Randall Kuznicki visiting with GAHS annual meeting attendees.

got in the way", and it was several years later when he resumed the hobby. He started out with a basic metal detector, moving up to more sophisticated models. He describes today's detectors as mini-computers able to find certain metals and even identify an object still underground. Kuznicki currently owns about 10 different models, bringing four to the meeting.

Places where people congregate make good search areas. During his years in Goodhue, Kuznicki covered many people's yards, the park, and the ballfield. Holding up a tiny sterling belt buckle engraved with the initials, G.C.D., he shared the story of finding it 8 inches down in the backyard of former Goodhue merchant, George Carl Diercks. Another favorite Goodhue find is a new-looking 1912 Barber dime found outside St. Peter's church in the area a tent had been used during the 1912 church dedication celebration, leading him to believe it may have been dropped there that day.

Among the many coins in Kuznicki's collection are two Franklin Half Dollars. These coins are 90% silver and he says, "That's the only two I've ever found in 50 years of metal detecting and I found them both in Goodhue". He also found an 1890 dime four feet down when the streets were under construction in town.

With a keen interest in Civil War history and reenactment, Kuznicki counts a Civil War military breast plate among his most treasured finds. He came upon the artifact

while searching Howard Albers' farm near Zumbrota. Researching the name engraved on the plate, he discovered the owner, Nelson Holton, enlisted in Wisconsin before moving to the Zumbrota township farm. Kuznicki's reenactment involvement brought him to the same Wisconsin base and led him to write an article for the treasure hunting magazine, American Digger.

Like other enthusiasts, Kuznicki has been asked to help search for lost items such as wedding rings and items dropped while doing field work. They are often asked to locate property line markers and even assist law enforcement. One thing he doesn't feel treasure hunters get enough credit for is cleaning up, "We recycle a lot of trash".

Attendees were invited to take a closer look at Kuznicki's items on display and ask questions. He encouraged everyone to take an interest and uncover some history. "Do some digging, you never know what you're going to find."

The museum is open Thursdays and Sundays June thru September 1st 1-4 PM or by appointment. President Dave Betcher, 651-380-5123. Website, www.Goodhueareahistory.org on Facebook, Goodhue Area History Museum.

Zumbro Valley Treasure Hunters metal detecting club meets at Ascension Lutheran Church in Rochester the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM. Randall Kuznicki 651-380-1542.



Four of Kuznicki's metal detectors, including the first one he owned on the far right.



A collection of Kuznicki's treasures. Left center is the Civil War breast plate featured in an article he wrote for American Digger magazine pictured at the top.



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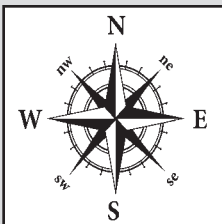
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Rocket Ship on the Tennessee River



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.

We live along the Tennessee River on the banks of Kentucky Lake. Kentucky Lake was formed in the 1940's when the Tennessee Valley Authority built a lock and dam to raise the Tennessee River to accommodate larger barges carrying coal, steel and bulk products on the river. The barge traffic travels all the way to Chattanooga. Where we live, the lake is about a mile wide. Lots of barge traffic and fishing boats. One of my favorite activities is to take the runabout on the river to experience life on the water. Every day we see something unusual. This last trip in the middle of March was no exception.

We were heading downstream to eat lunch at the Burger Barn at KenLake Marina, a little more than an hour down river. We noticed a white object a few miles ahead on the river and assumed it was one of the tug boats pushing a barge. The closer we got, the bigger it got. I have never seen an ocean-going vessel on the river. There are river cruise boats on the lake but not this large. As we passed the vessel I had to circle around and follow it, taking a closer look. There was an orange totally enclosed sea worthy lifeboat on each side of the ship. I knew this was no river boat. My wife looked up the name on the side and we were surprised to discover what it actually was.

The United Launch Alliance Rocket Ship is a 312' cargo vessel that transports space rocket components from the 1.6 million sq. ft. production facility in Decatur, Alabama to Cape Canaveral, Florida. It is 82' wide and 50' high with a draft of 15'. It weighs 9,500 tons and carries Atlas V, Delta VI and Vulcan Centaur boosters, second stages and payload



fairings in an environmentally controlled setting. The rockets are rolled in on semi-trailers through the 80' wide fold down ramp at the aft for the ship. It is the only United States flagged ship with the capability to transport rockets on both rivers and open ocean. It is powered by two General Motors G7A engines developing 4,000 horsepower each and four Caterpillar generator engines of 831 horsepower each to maintain the A/C for the cargo hold and a 371 horsepower emergency Caterpillar engine. The fuel capacity is 163,800 gallons of diesel.

The ship requires a crew of 16 to operate and has living quarters, dining area, helicopter pad, below deck machine shop and the most sophisticated computers and navigational system available. The officers are assigned four-hour shifts while on the river and eight hour shifts in the open sea, and two experienced river pilots come on board to guide the boat while inland. There is a cook and assistant to serve meals during the eight day/4,336 mile one-way trip from Decatur to Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. The

Rocket Ship has been in constant service since 1999 and a 356' sister ship has just been built and will enter service this spring.

Now more on the sophisticated navigation system. On August 7, 2001, the Rocket Ship ran aground on a sand bar on the Tennessee River and had to be freed by a tugboat. On January 26, 2012 the Rocket Ship struck the Eggnor's Ferry Bridge on the Tennessee River, which is about five miles from where we encountered the ship. The crew was operating in a recreational channel rather than the shipping channel at the time and destroyed a 322' section of the bridge. The pilot's failure to use all available navigational tools was found to be the cause of the accident, while ignoring two coast guard broadcasts and a radio call from a nearby ship. The bridge built in 1932 was scheduled for replacement and the incident sped up the schedule for the construction which was completed in 2016. Had we known all that, we might have given the Rocket Ship a wider berth when we passed by.

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A Minnesotan: Spring



By RosaLin Alcoser

They have returned. The harbingers of spring have been spotted. In other words the geese are back. As I am sure that I have mentioned in the past, geese and I do not get along.

Mostly because since I was a young child they have taken great delight in chasing me; well into adulthood. When I was in my late teens and was attending community college over in Rochester there were geese

that always hung around on campus. Those geese chased me just about every day for two years.

My mother thought I was exaggerating until one day she came in to the school when coming to get me. We were sharing a car at the time and while walking to the car I saw the geese coming and I asked her for the keys. Which she gave me right before I took off running with honking geese on my heels.

After that she believed me that geese had been chasing me about campus. Before anyone says 'well they wouldn't have chased you if you didn't run from them'. I did try that and you know what happened they swarmed me and hissed. Have you ever been bitten by a goose? Because I have and it hurts more than you would think.

With that being said as much as I dislike geese and will go out of my way to not go anywhere near them. I have learned one very important thing about them that adds a point in their favor. When they return in the spring it usually is a good sign that winter is over and it probably won't snow again until at least Halloween.

Farm Girl Chatter The Year of the Horse

By McKell Lemmerman

Let's take a break from cow talk for a moment and talk about something just as important around a farm—the year itself.

2026 is the Year of the Horse. If you have ever truly known a horse, that title carries a lot more meaning than most people realize.

Now, plenty of folks like to joke and call horses “hay burners.” To be fair they've earned the nickname over the years. Horses can eat like a fat kid in a candy store. You can give them a full square bale of hay at night, and by the next morning they will stare at you like they have been starving for three days. Nickering at you like as if they are asking “why is breakfast late?”.

But anyone who has ever really owned a horse understands them a lot more than hay-burning lawn ornaments.

Growing up, horses were where my imagination lived.

Long before I ever turned a key in a pickup, a horse was the first vehicle I ever got to drive. No gas pedal. No steering wheel. Definitely no insurance policy. Just a saddle, a set of reins, and the kind of confidence only a kid can have when they believe they've got everything under control. Looking back now, I'm pretty sure the horse was the one doing the driving most of the time. That's part of the magic of horses. They let you think you're in charge while quietly making sure you both make it back to the barn in one piece.

The truth is, the Year of the Horse represents exactly what horses have always been—powerhouses of strength, endurance, and heart. Long before tractors, combines, trucks, trains, and highways took over the countryside,

horses were the engines that built it. They pulled the plows that turned the soil, hauled wagons across rough country, and carried people farther than their own two feet could ever take them. They carried generals through the blood and gun smoke of wars, and Native Americans through their buffalo hunting expeditions.

They weren't just animals.

They were business partners, the best ones too, non-speaking.

When I was younger, my horses were my entire world. They were where worries disappeared and dreams ran free. On horseback, a simple pasture could become the open frontier. A fence line turned into a trail. A kid could become a cowboy chasing outlaws, playing cops and robbers, exploring new country, or racing the wind just because I could.

Horses have a funny way of teaching lessons along the way. They teach us humiliation. Nothing will knock your ego down faster than a 1,200-pound animal deciding your riding skills are not up to par, that you are better off learning from the ground that day. They teach patience too. Sometimes your adventure turns into twenty minutes of negotiating with a stubborn horse that has decided the gate you want to go through is suddenly the most terrifying object on earth. Lastly, they teach balance, usually the hard way.

Now, years later, horses still carry that same quiet magic.

Sure, nowadays there are side-by-sides, and every machine imaginable to get across a pasture. They're faster, easier, and a whole lot less stubborn. But none of them will ever replace the feeling of riding a horse down a trail you made yourself.

A machine takes you somewhere. A horse takes you on an adventure.

Some communities, like the Amish, still rely on horses as their everyday transportation, living much like people did generations ago. For others, like me, horses have become

something different. Their entertainment, therapy, adventure, and freedom all rolled into one.

Just go to a rodeo. That's where horsepower meets heart. Riders and horses working together in a dusty partnership that may only last a few seconds but carries a tradition that's centuries old.

When you're a kid, they're your escape. When you grow up, they become your reminder.

They remind you where you came from—dusty summer evenings, long rides with no destination, and a younger version of yourself who believed the world was as wide open as the pasture in front of you. Somewhere along the way life gets busier. Jobs, responsibilities, bills, and worries pile up higher than a winter hay shed.

Horses have a way of bringing you back to center.

There's a quiet moment that happens when you're riding—when the only sounds are hoofbeats, wind through the grass, and your own thoughts finally slow down. In those moments it's hard not to feel like there's something bigger at work. The truth is, horses teach faith in a way few things can.

When you climb into a saddle, you're putting your trust in something stronger than you. You guide the path, but ultimately you trust that horse to carry you safely down the trail.

Life with God can feel a lot like that ride.

So, if 2026 really is the Year of the Horse, maybe it's more than just a title.

Maybe it's a reminder.

A reminder of the strength God places in quiet things.

A reminder of the trust it takes to follow a path you can't always see.

And maybe most of all, a reminder that sometimes the best way to understand where you're going...is to saddle up and remember where you started.





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Goodhue Education Foundation (GEF) Spring Auction

The Goodhue Education Foundation (GEF) is pleased to announce our fundraising event scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd, 2026.

The Spring Auction will be held at the Goodhue Public School starting at 5:00 PM, immediately following the Prom Grand March. It will include a Silent Auction (5:00-6:30 PM), Live Auction (5:30 PM), Concessions and Activities for Kids ages PreK through 5th grade. All proceeds from the event directly support the staff and students at Goodhue Public School.

The purpose of the GEF is to provide financial support and enrichment to the students of Goodhue School above and beyond what is supported by education dollars. Our foundation is a tax exempt, non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization (EIN# 46-5760668). Our vision is to continue to enhance the pride and community support for the Goodhue School from our alumni, parents, community members, educators, and businesses.

The GEF collaborates with the district school board and school staff to find the best ways to help promote excellence for all students involved in Academics, Arts, Activities, and Athletics.

The Spring Auction and Community Celebration is our biggest fundraiser, and we continue to have great success year after year! THANK YOU to everyone that donated items TO the auction, donated AT the auction, and helped in ANY way to make the event a success. This is an exciting time for the GEF as we continue to be able to fund all grant requests received from the staff at Goodhue Public Schools and allow us to make significant contributions to our endowment fund thanks to fundraising events like these. Please consider donating items to the Live and Silent Auction for our upcoming event.



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Sports

Goodhue Wildcats Boys Basketball Season

(continued from page 1)

State championship game was Saturday March 28, and they faced the Minnehaha Academy Redhawks. Even though the Wildcats held a 30-28 lead at halftime the Redhawks were a formidable opponent and came back to dominate the second half. The final score was 81-69 and the Wildcats came home with the runner up title. The quote coach Halverson gave KTTC television was a tribute to the team. "Our boys never quit," Halverson said. "They will never quit. They're from Goodhue." Coach Halverson was awarded the Minnesota State Coach of the Year for 2026 for Class AA basketball.



Alex Loos photo by Chace Landsteiner



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Children's Blood Pressure On The Rise



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

The prevalence of high blood pressure (HBP) among children and youth has nearly doubled over the past two decades, rising from 3.4% in 2000 to 6.5% in 2020, according to The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health. Once considered an adult issue, HBP is now a growing concern in pediatric settings, classrooms, and playgrounds. This alarming trend raises questions about whether children are genuinely becoming sicker or if expanded diagnostic criteria are contributing to the surge. Factors such as changes in diet, sleep patterns, stress levels, physical activity, and environmental influences are believed to play a significant role in this increase.

A pivotal moment came in 2017 when the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) updated its blood pressure guidelines. These changes aligned adolescent thresholds with adult standards and simplified diagnostic categories, leading to millions of previously "healthy" teens being reclassified as at-risk or hypertensive. For younger children, the recalibration of percentiles using only normal-weight peers effectively lowered the thresholds for diagnosis. While these updates made it easier to identify HBP, they also expanded the number of children falling into elevated or hypertensive categories, sparking debate about the implications of this broader diagnostic net.

The rise in HBP among children is linked to a combination of medical and lifestyle factors. While some cases stem from underlying con-

ditions like kidney or heart problems, diabetes, or genetic predisposition, research highlights poor diets, obesity, physical inactivity, and sedentary lifestyles as primary drivers, particularly in older children. These lifestyle shifts, coupled with increased stress and environmental changes, have created a perfect storm for rising blood pressure levels. Despite this, prevention efforts often lag behind, with new medications frequently prioritized over strategies to address root causes and promote healthier habits.

High blood pressure in children, though often silent, poses significant long-term risks, including cardiovascular and kidney complications. The 2017 AAP guidelines replaced the term "prehypertension" with "elevated blood pressure" and adopted fixed adult cut-points for adolescents, simplifying diagnosis but also increasing the number of children classified as hypertensive. This underscores the urgent need for prevention-focused approaches, such as promoting balanced diets, regular physical activity, and stress management, to combat this growing health crisis and ensure better outcomes for future generations.

Resistance Training Shown To Improve Brain Function: -intensity resistance workouts have been shown to enhance cognitive function by improving reaction times without compromising accuracy. These exercises boost inhibitory control, working memory, and brain-processing speed, as evidenced by faster P3 latency signals. Such cognitive benefits are attributed to the brain's ability to update information more efficiently and coordinate attention-related networks effectively. This is particularly useful for tasks requiring focus, multitasking, or quick decision-making.

The cognitive improvements from resistance training are likely linked to temporary increases in systolic blood pressure during exercise. This enhances blood flow and neural efficiency, allowing the brain to process information faster and more effectively. These physiological changes make resistance workouts a powerful tool for sharpening mental acuity, especially when incorporated into daily routines. Even a single session can yield immediate benefits, making it a practical strategy for boosting mental performance on busy or demanding days.

Children and teenagers also experience cognitive gains from resistance training, with small but consistent improvements in cognition, classroom behavior, and academic performance. These benefits are particularly pronounced in youth with lower baseline

muscular fitness, highlighting the importance of strength training for overall development. For adults, maintaining 40 to 60 minutes of strength training weekly is optimal for longevity, as excessive lifting can diminish benefits and even negatively impact mortality outcomes. Whether you're looking to en-

hance cognitive function, improve physical health, or support long-term well-being, resistance training proves to be a versatile and effective solution.

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

Cancer



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

Like many of you, I have had friends and relatives diagnosed with cancer and have walked with them through their journeys of chemotherapy, radiation treatments, surgery and the loss of life. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the USA, exceeded only by heart disease. In December of 1971, President Nixon signed into law the National Cancer Act declaring a "war on cancer." The estimated deaths from cancer in the United States in 1970 was 330,000 as reported in the Cancer Statistics report of 1970. Compare that to 618,120 estimated cancer deaths in 2025 according to the Cancer Facts and Figures report of 2025. On the American Cancer Society website, the article headline states 1 in 3 Americans will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. In research compiled by Provectus, 1.5% of the population in 1971 lived with cancer. Compare that to roughly 5.4% of the population that is living with cancer in 2026. This "war on cancer" does not seem to be making significant advances. After all these years, why have we not seen more progress towards a solution to cancer? What options can be considered?

Since 1971, billions of dollars have been spent researching various types of cancer and the possible treatments to eliminate them. Chemotherapies have been developed that target weak points of cancer cells but can also weaken healthy cells resulting in a loss of stamina and vigor during treatment. Radiation treatments have been developed that can target cancer cells with laser precision but can also cause damage to nearby healthy cells. Surgery can remove cancer tumors but does not get to the cause of why the cancer growth started in the first place. An entire industry has been developed around the treatment and care of cancer without significant change in stopping cancer. The cause of cancer does not seem to be identified by this industry.

Cancer is a global problem, not just an American problem. The International Agency for Research on Cancer has developed a database collecting information

from 185 centers around the world to understand the global severity of cancer. A 2020 report using this database identified breast cancer and lung cancer as the most common around the world followed by colon and prostate cancer. From the year-by-year data collected, many researchers are predicting the number of cancer cases to nearly double by 2040.

Nature Medicine journal published an article in February of 2026 using the same database to determine what factors are contributing to these increased cancer rates. The researchers found that 44% of cancers were associated with lifestyle factors that could be modified. The lifestyle factors most clearly associated with cancer were smoking, infections, and alcohol. Smoking and alcohol are clearly personal choices that when reduced help improve health and the immune system resulting in reduced infections.

A healthy immune system is an important key to fighting cancer cells. According to Dr. Thomas Seyfried, research into cancer cells has been focusing on the genetics of cancer and not on the how cancer cells process energy. In his 2012 book, "Cancer as a Metabolic Disease," Dr. Seyfried outlines how targeting the energy process of cancer cells may help us to finally identify solutions to conquer cancer. Stated another way, the standard American diet with an abundance of seed oils, refined flour, and sweeteners produces an energy pathway that promotes excess weight and cancer growth. A healthy immune system is promoted with fresh, whole foods prepared without preservatives. A healthy immune system will generate a healthy weight, reduce inflammation, and help eliminate cancer cells.

On Saturday, May 2, there is an opportunity to learn more about holistic cancer treatment at the Northfield Holistic Health Summit. This annual event brings together community members to listen to local professional health practitioners, meet health vendors, and enjoy a delicious catered lunch. The theme this year is "Cancer and Immune Health," with seven practitioners, 20 vendors, and many attendees. For more information on the agenda and tickets, check out the web page <https://www.nutritionproportion.net/healthsummit> or scan the QR code with this article.

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

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



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Ann Traxler
Attorney

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A little something sweet

By Jocelyn Aldrich

For Diana Bishop, a little treat can make a world of difference. Baking treats for family and friends helped Bishop to recognize how much joy a little treat can bring. In March of 2026, her business, Sweet Puff Pop's, began. Bishop says, "I started by making treats for small gatherings and celebrations, and over time I realized how much joy homemade desserts can bring to people." With some encouragement from family and friends, she decided to start a cottage food business and

spread joy to others with her treats.

Bishop says, "Seeing people smile when they try something I made inspired me to turn my passion into a small business."

Sweet Puff Pop's specializes in cake pops and other hand-dipped treats. Bishop decided to specialize in these sweet treats because she says, "whenever I brought cake pops to gatherings, they were always the first dessert to disappear."

Cake pops offer so much opportunity for Bishop to display her creativity. Bishop especially loves that each order can be unique. She says, "I love helping people celebrate birthdays, weddings, baby showers, and other

special moments with custom treats." When asked what she enjoys the most about having her own business, Bishop replied, "what I enjoy most is the creativity and the connection with customers. Every cake pop is homemade and crafted with care. I focus on fresh ingredients, attention to detail, customizing flavors and designs to match each event or celebration."

Bishop loves serving the local community, but she will also deliver her sweet treats. Sweet Puff Pop's serves customers in Rochester and the Twin Cities. Sweet Puff Pop's will also deliver within a 20-mile radius of Mazeppa. Bishop can cater to events farther away with an additional delivery fee.

Bishop wishes to express her gratitude to her community for their continued support of her and Sweet Puff Pop's. She says, "supporting local businesses helps entrepreneurs turn their passions into something meaningful, and I'm excited to continue sharing Sweet Puff Pop's with more people and making celebrations sweeter." To learn more about Sweet Puff Pop's and support a local business, follow Sweet Puff Pop's on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. Orders can be placed online through Bakesy.



Diana Bishop



A Century of Family Owned Plumbing & Heating Company



Submitted

Harkins Plumbing and Heating was established in April 1919 by Frank Brettschneider and in 1923 moved to 108 S Lakeshore Dr in Lake City. In 1930 "Brett" needed help so he contacted his brother-in-law Ray Harkins, a plumber in St. Paul. Ray, his wife Lottie and son Larry moved to Lake City permanently. Larry Harkins began working in the business in 1940. He and his wife Virginia bought the business from his uncle Brett in 1953. Larry's son Tom began working in 1971. In 1985 Tom and Margie Harkins bought the business from Larry. Larry's son Jim started working in 1981 and Jim and Rhonda Harkins purchased the business from Jim's brother Tom in 1997. The business moved to its current location at 1255 N 7th St in Lake City in 2004.

On 1/1/26, Jim and Rhonda's daughter and son in law, Baxter and Emmy O'Reilly purchased the business. The team now consists of Baxter O'Reilly with 6 years of experience, Jim Harkins with 45 yrs of experience, Dave Glomski with 23 years of experience, Gavin Roosen with 4 years of experience, and new hire this year, Danny Keller.

Jim and Rhonda Harkins feel fortunate to be able to continue the business by passing it on to family.

Baxter O'Reilly feels that it's an honor to be able to carry on the family business and uphold the values that have been passed down through generations of owners and employees past and present. Baxter feels that he is lucky to have 107 years of expertise and knowledge on his side.

Baxter is looking to modernize and be efficient in all aspects. He looks to focus on the customer's experience and tailor all jobs to the best of their ability to ensure that their customers feel appreciated and well taken care of.

Harkins Plumbing and Heating offers financing on any job over \$1000.

Services they provide are: new construction; residential, commercial and agricultural, water heaters, water softeners, iron filters, remodels, all water treatment, heating, gas lines.

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Rep. Steven Jacob

DISTRICT 20B

NEWS



Hello from the State Capitol,

Car tab fees are on the rise, and people are getting very frustrated by the escalating costs.

Last week, I learned from a driver that it will cost her more than \$800 to put new tabs on her three-year-old Jeep. Across the border in Wisconsin, tabs for her Jeep would cost \$85.

The Minnesota House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee recently debated legislation that would bring Minnesota's vehicle tab fees back to pre-2023 levels. In 2023, Governor Walz and a Democrat-led legislature changed the vehicle tab fee formula and effectively raised rates by 20%.

The bill debated by the committee would have dropped the rates on both newer and older vehicles. Doing so would have provided nearly \$1 billion in tax relief to drivers.

All Republicans on the committee supported the measure. All Democrats voted against it.

NONSENSICAL COLLECTOR CAR PLATE RESTRICTIONS PROPOSED

Speaking of vehicles, the state representative who talked of quintupling vehicle tab costs now is taking aim at people who own collector cars. Her legislation would prohibit the car owner from driving that vehicle unless it was during daylight hours on the weekends.

Talk about restricting freedom.

As the owner of a collector car myself, know I am strongly opposed to this measure. I fear it's a ploy to force owners to buy regular plates and pay more to enjoy driving them.

BANNING ATV'S ON STATE LAND?

A bill is moving forward in the Minnesota

Senate that would ban motorized vehicles on state owned land, meaning such things as prohibiting ATV's from traveling on currently designated trails.

I believe one of the best ways to get kids off electronics is to have them safely drive ATV's and enjoy nature. Minnesota already has hundreds of thousands of acres that are completely protected from any motorized vehicle. Once again, politicians – many of whom have never sat on an ATV much less driven one – are looking to take away the rights of the law abiding. This is a solution in search of a problem, and a bad one at that.

IMPORTANT ANTI-FRAUD MEASURE FINALLY MOVES FORWARD

At long last, a plan to create an independent Office of the Inspector General (OIG) that would investigate fraud in our state was approved in the House State Government Finance Committee this week. The legislation would give the OIG real investigative powers and enforcement authority, and most importantly, would not be controlled by the Governor's Office.

CLARIFYING "KICKBACK" FOR HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Last week I signed onto legislation that defines what a "kickback" is for the Department of Human Services. You may recall DHS ignored countless fraud cases because it claimed it couldn't respond to kickback crimes. The nonpartisan Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) blew that claim out of the water, finding that not only has it had both

state and federal authority to handle kickback claims, but also the DUTY to investigate.

Despite this, several lawmakers are taking nothing to chance, and want it specifically spelled out in state law that DHS must investigate kickback complaints. The fact that the legislature needs to even address this is beyond disappointing.

VISITORS GALORE!

I'm not joking when I say thousands of people came to the State Capitol this week, and it's so good to see. Whether it was school groups, the Minnesota Farm Bureau, or local housing advocates, it's nice to visit with area residents and hear what's important to them.

As with most spending items, from schools to nursing homes and everywhere in between,

my goal is to not go to taxpayers for more money, but to ensure rural Minnesota is getting its fair share of what is already available. Far too often, the funds flow freely in the inner cities where similar organizations in Greater Minnesota struggle. I work hard every day to make sure our towns and townships aren't being left behind.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

Have a good weekend,
Steve

OFFICE OF COUNTY ASSESSOR

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

GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the _____ 23RD _____ day of _____ APRIL _____ at _____ 4:00 o'clock _____ PM _____, has been fixed as the date for the meeting of the Board of Appeal and Equalization in your CITY for said year. LOCATION: BELLECHESTER COMMUNITY CENTER

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

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

Jason Augustine
Goodhue County Assessor
Goodhue County Assessor's Office

Goodhue County, Minnesota

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Republican Delegates Pack Lake City Venue as Senate District 20 Holds Endorsing Convention

Lake City, Minn. — Nearly 170 delegates from across Senate District 20 filled the Wild Wings Plaza event space on Saturday for an endorsing convention that marked both a transition and a turning point for the district's legislative landscape. The gathering brought together precinct leaders and local residents for several hours of speeches, procedural votes, and discussions about the district's political future.

The convention honored Sen. Steve Draskowski, who has represented the area in the Minnesota Legislature for nearly two decades. Draskowski will retire at the end of his current term. His decision created an open Senate seat.

Delegates unanimously endorsed Rep. Steve Jacob for the Senate District 20 seat. Jacob, who currently serves in the Minnesota House, was uncontested. His endorsement shifts the

district's legislative lineup and begins a new chapter for the Senate seat held by Draskowski.

The convention also addressed endorsements for the district's two-House seats. Rep. Pam Altendorf secured the endorsement for House District 20A, while Sara Bertschinger received the endorsement for House District 20B. Altendorf was also uncontested. Sara Bertschinger was endorsed following the delegates hearing from the candidates before casting their votes.

Throughout the day, the atmosphere inside Wild Wings Plaza reflected a mix of routine party business and the significance of a generational shift. Delegates lined up to register, chatted in small groups between sessions, and filled the hall for speeches. Volunteers managed credentials, staffed tables, and kept the proceedings moving as the convention worked through its agenda.

In addition to endorsements, delegates heard reports from party officers, updates on the current legislative session, and information about the upcoming election cycle. The strong turnout highlighted the level of engagement among local party members heading into a competitive election season.

With endorsements now finalized, candidates will begin preparing for the next phase of the campaign, which includes outreach across the district's communities and participation in the statewide primary and general election cycles.



Michael "Hutch" Hutchinson to Run as Independent Candidate for Minnesota House District 20B

U.S. Army Veteran Pledges to Serve Constituents Over Parties

ZUMBROTA, Minn. - Minnesota State House candidate Michael "Hutch" Hutchinson will run for office in District 20b as an independent. Hutch, who was the district's DFL candidate in 2024, cited a combination of constituent concerns and issues with the direction of the Democratic party in Washington, D.C. as reasons for the decision.

"During his 1796 farewell address, George Washington warned us about the dangers of dividing politics into parties," Hutch said. "In his words, 'they are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.'"

In an age where the 'cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled' among the ultra-rich have exploited our government to hoard their money and interests while eroding people's faith in the institutions meant to serve us all, Washington's words have never rung truer."

Driven by a belief that government should represent its people and reflect their will, and not answer solely to those with unfettered access to money and power, Hutch looks forward to serving the people of District 20B and the State of Minnesota without having to worry about also serving a political party and billionaire mega-donors.

"I believe that by running as an independent, I am making it clear that when elected, I will honor my duty to serve all my constituents, and make a priority of building a better district, state, and country for everyone," Hutch said.

About Michael Hutchinson

Hutch is a U.S. Army veteran living in Zumbrota with his wife, pets and plants. An ardent patriot and lover of his country, Hutch knows our government should be doing more to serve all of us. When not trying to make the world better through charity and service, Hutch is an avid fan of history who enjoys gaming when it's cold and the outdoors when it's not. As part of his initiative to meet everyone in his district so they can be heard, Hutch is planning events in all 18 towns and 30 townships that make up District 20b.



Michael Hutchinson

Sara Bertschinger Endorsed as Republican Candidate for Minnesota House District 20B

Lake City, MN — The Republican Party has officially endorsed Sara Bertschinger as its candidate for Minnesota House District 20B, marking a significant step in the 2026 election cycle. Bertschinger enters the race with a platform centered on strengthening public trust, expanding personal freedom, and ensuring opportunities for every Minnesotan.

Bertschinger's campaign emphasizes several core priorities:

- **Fraud Prevention:** Advocating for stronger safeguards to protect taxpayer dollars and ensure government accountability.
- **Election Integrity:** Supporting policies that reinforce transparency and confidence in Minnesota's electoral process.
- **Life:** Upholding values that reflect her long-standing commitment to protecting life.
- **Liberty:** Championing individual freedoms and limiting government overreach.
- **Opportunity:** Promoting economic growth, educational access, and pathways for families and businesses to thrive.

"I'm honored to receive the Republican endorsement and to stand with the people of District 20B," Bertschinger said in a statement. The grassroots endorsement is vital to the election process. The Republican Delegates are responsible for vetting candidates and giving their endorsement to the person they believe best represents the district and the Republican Platform. Sara pledged to the convention Delegates to be a Representative "who will work tirelessly to protect their freedoms, safeguard their hard-earned tax dollars, and expand opportunities for future generations."

The campaign will focus on meeting voters across the district, listening to their concerns, and outlining Bertschinger's vision for a more accountable, transparent, and opportunity-driven Minnesota.

About Sara Bertschinger Sara Bertschinger is a community-minded leader with a record of public service. She is a Registered Nurse and has been married to her husband for 10 years. Sara lives on a family farm in rural Pine Island. She is committed to representing the values and priorities of the residents of House District 20B.



Sara Bertschinger

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**Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**

Call the meeting to order at 6:00. Meeting is recorded, and the recordings belong to the City of Bellechester.

Pledge to the flag

Mayor Jody Gordon opened the regular city council meeting at 6:00.

Roll call was taken: The council in attendance: Mayor Jody Gordon, Council member Mark Gerken, Jake Gilsdorf, Rich Majerus, and Nick Keller as well as City Clerk Lisa Redepenning and Treasurer Kyle McKeown. Absent was City Engineer Matt Mohs. Also present was Eugene Betcher and Deputy Sullivan from GCSO.

Approve or Amend of Agenda – Motion was made by Mark Gerken with a 2nd by Nick Keller to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes of the January 21, 2026 meeting were reviewed and motion was made by Mark Gerken with a second by Nick Keller to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Bills were reviewed with a motion by Rich Majerus with a second by Nick Keller to approve and pay the bills as presented along with the additional invoice from Lake City Disposal. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Snow Removal Management – BC Court – discussion on snow removal. Mark took a look and had an idea of possibly removing the chain link part to affect the snow drifting. Maybe leaving a few rows of plantings in the field was also suggested.

- Update on Consideration of Requested Use of Remaining Grant Funds – lawn mower and GPS were approved by RD. Bids on the

ramp and steps are still coming in. We will need a definite plan with quotes. More work will be done on this.

- Use of Reserves – Mazeppa bank will offer the same CD rate as was done for the ambulance. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Nick Keller to transfer \$350,000 to savings account. Motion carried.

- Law Enforcement Contract Expectations - Tabled

- Community Center Plans - Tabled

- City Attorney – St. Charles attorney information was presented - Mark Mickow. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Jake Gilsdorf to approve the appointing of Mark Mickow as city attorney. Motion carried.

New business:

- Contribution to Messenger – Motion was made by Mark Gerken with a 2nd by Jake Gilsdorf to approve a donation of \$275 to the Messenger. Motion carried.

- Building Permit – McGovern – Motion was made by Mark with a 2nd by Nick Keller to approve the building permit as presented. Motion carried.

- Eugene Betcher – Raffle Request – trap shooting raffle request for drawing at Tavern on 5/16. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Nick Keller to approve the request. Motion carried.

- Goodhue High School Software Raffle Request by Jaycees – Motion was made by Nick Keller with a 2nd by Mark Gerken to approve the Jaycees raffle at the Tavern.

- Summer Mowing – Morgan can continue but we will need a back up - Lexy Majerus. Motion was made by Nick Keller with a 2nd

by Jake Gilsdorf.

- Motion was made by Jake Gilsdorf with a 2nd by Rich Majerus to renew insurance as is checking on meters and lining if it needs to be added. Motion carried.

Engineer Report – None

Clerk Report – None

Treasurer Report – Kyle inquired on billing software setup to enable off site setup. Motion was made by Nick Keller with a 2nd by Jake Gilsdorf to approve this charge. Motion carried.

Water/Wastewater/Facility Report – there was 1 frozen water meter town. An extra 1.5”meter will be ordered to have as a spare. Swapped out a valve and connection at the well house. South well will be shut

down briefly for a leak in the pipe. Flow meter at ponds were calibrated. We are good until August and September.

Mayor Concerns: Tree trimming over road concern was discussed.

Council Concerns: Filling of fire trucks concern was discussed.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Mark Gerken with a second by Rick Majerus to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:53. Motion carried.

Closed Meeting Request – Personnel – *no motions, open/close time or summary provided*

Submitted by Lisa Redepenning – City Clerk

Advocating for Productivity Over Politics



Rep. Pam Altendorf (R)
District: 20A

Heading into the session and knowing that this was a huge election year in Minnesota with every statewide office being on the 2026 ballot, I predicted this year’s session was going to be high on theater, and low on productivity.

Minnesota’s elected Democrats are not disappointing on that prediction.

I believe Minnesotans expect us to run government more like a business: not wasting time, not wasting taxpayer money, and working efficiently. This is how I was raised. My background of growing up on a farm was no nonsense. Work needed to be done. Optimizing time in my sales business also proved to be the key to success as the opposite equates to lost revenue and low productivity.

That’s what makes this session so frustrating to date: the political theater and House Democrats’ reluctance to focus on logical fixes. There are many issues we all agree on and that should be approved of by a nearly unanimous vote. But, for political reasons, these good governance bills sit in limbo.

To prove this point, I offer the following three examples:

First, there is federal tax conformity, which happens normally with little to no opposition. The federal government approved a pass-through entity tax allowing small and medium sized business owners to receive a deduction on their federal taxes. They save thousands of dollars, and

it doesn’t cost Minnesota a dime. Yet Democrats, to date, refuse to sign off on it because President Trump’s name is on it. This alone is currently preventing our business owners from receiving a tax credit.

Then we have another tax credit – up to \$1700 – that would allow Minnesota taxpayers to donate money to a public or private school. This \$1,700 would be returned to you as a dollar-for-dollar tax credit when you file your income taxes. It’s no loss to you, no cost to the state of Minnesota and a significant gain for your favorite school. I call that a win-win-win!

However, while the Democrats were OK with passing more than 65 mostly unfunded mandates on our local schools – resulting in many school districts asking property taxpayers for increased levies to cover these mandates – they don’t want public schools to take advantage of an unexpected funding source. This does not make any financial sense.

Finally, and what I think is one of the most atrocious derelictions of duty that spans across both Democrat and Republican administrations, there is the failure to upgrade the technology which operates our welfare programs in Minnesota.

Currently, Minnesota’s systems are using software developed in the 1980’s. Would any business run like this? Absolutely not!

This is so unsettling to me. The systems we are asking our employees to use can’t even utilize basic Excel capabilities. This means county staff literally must use a separate calculator for tabulation and then manually enter the data into the program.

Outdated technology leads to high error rates and wastes time while rolling out the welcome mat to fraudsters as they are undetected within the system.

As your state representative, I am working towards prioritizing better business practices and ensuring your dollars are going where they can be most efficiently spent. It is an honor to serve you in St. Paul, and you have my word that I will never stand for this level of incompetence in our state government.

I value the people of our state. I value how hard they work. I value their time and money which is entrusted to state legislators to spend in the most effective way. This is why I will continue to be your voice advocating for common sense legislation that emphasizes productivity over these tiresome political shenanigans.

Goodhue County will not pursue shotgun only deer hunting ordinance

Red Wing, Minn. — The Board of Commissioners has decided not to introduce an ordinance to maintain the shotgun only firearms restriction for deer hunting in the Goodhue County. Beginning with the 2026 hunting season, and consistent with state regulations, hunters in Goodhue County will be permitted to use any legal rifle or shotgun for deer hunting where firearms hunting is allowed.

During the 2025 legislative session, the Minnesota Legislature eliminated the southeast shotgun only zone for deer hunting. Under the new law, counties may choose to pass an ordinance to remain shotgun only. After discussing the issue at their annual planning workshop in February, the Goodhue County Board determined that it would allow the change to stand, which has the support of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The DNR has stated it has no safety or wildlife management concerns with the elimination of the shotgun zone and supports counties making decisions that best fit their communities. Updated statewide information will be available on the DNR’s website and in the 2026 hunting regulations publications.

2026 SWIMMING LESSON SCHEDULE

GOODHUE POOL

Session 1: June 1 - 12

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

Session 2: June 15 – 26

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

Session 3: July 6 – 17

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

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