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MAY 28, 2026

Volume 23 • Issue 5

250th Birthday Celebration

The Nerstrand Women's Club invites everyone to the Nerstrand City Park on June 24 at 6 PM to celebrate our country's 250th birthday.



The club is welcoming the Faribault Fun Little Band to share a variety of patriotic and fun music for the evening.

The women's club will be serving treats to all!

This is a free event and everyone is welcome!

38th Annual Friendship Wagon Train June 20-27, 2026

The volunteers of the 2026 Friendship Wagon Train will assemble at the fairgrounds in Cannon Falls, MN, on Friday, June 19. This dedicated group of individuals will be on their annual mission to raise funds for



Nerstrand City Council Opening

The City of Nerstrand has a council seat opening, due to John Harris stepping down from his seat last month, as his employment took him to working for Olmsted County.

(continued on page 27)

Special Olympics Minnesota, traveling every day June 20 through June 26, with the final ceremony being held in New Richland, MN, on the morning of June 27. The public is invited to come out to see them as they pass

through the countryside, stop and visit with them at breaks and lunches, and if you have extra time, come to visit them at their evening camps.

(continued on page 10)

Announcements

• **Goodhue County Breakfast on the Farm, June 5th from 7 am to 11 am at Bombay Dairy, 6045 Highway 60 Blvd, Kenyon.** Hosting is the Lexvold Family - Wayne and Donna, Nathan and Kaitlin, and Mitchel and Mallory. Email: Bombaydairy95@gmail.com. Phone 507-330-6237.

• **Save the date: Red Cross Blood Drive July 15 from 12-6 at Vang Church.**

• **Dennison City Council meetings** are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

• **Wednesday Wear, Nerstrand United Methodist Church hours are Wednesdays 1 - 5 and Saturdays 9 - 12.** Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys and books. All things are free with donations accepted. Come and see what we have!

(continued on page 2)

Cash & Diamond Show Coming to Dennison in June



For fans young and old, if you have ever been to Breezy Point Resort, or enjoyed the Fall Event at The Fireside Lounge in Dennison, you have seen Doug Allen Nash and His tribute to the legends Johnny Cash and Neil Diamond.

The popular Vegas Style Tribute Show returns to Dennison, June 20th, Fathers Day weekend.

Plus, this summers show will take it up a notch as Doug takes the stage with his LIVE BAND. In addition to the tribute show, the band will stay around after the tribute show for a couple sets of music for your listening and dancing pleasure. (www.dougallennash.com)

(continued on page 10)

Penny Isaacson Honored

Penny Isaacson was honored at Nerstrand School during their annual celebration, recognizing her years of dedication to school and to the community of Nerstrand.



(additional pictures on page 6)

Pictured above: Nevada Embretson giving flowers to Penny Isaacson

CLASS OF 2026

Congratulations!

From All of Us at The Fireside!

May your graduation be a foundation for a lifetime of success and happiness.

37540 Goodhue Avenue, Dennison, MN 55018

Kitchen Hours:

Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 AM-8:30 PM

Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM-9:30 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM-8:00 PM

Bar Open Later

507-645-9992 • www.firesidelounge.net

We're celebrating you, graduates!

Congratulations on this milestone achievement and all of the accomplishments you've worked for along the way.

Enjoy your special day!

12989 Dennison Blvd. S, Dennison • 507-645-2890

HOURS: Monday-Friday 6am-8pm

Saturday & Sunday 7am-8pm

24 Hour Pay at Pump

Announcements

(continued from page 1)

• **The Hiawatha Valley Genealogy Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Goodhue County History Center, 1166 Oak St., Red Wing, MN.** The society welcomes participants of all ages and genders who are interested in discovering, researching, or expanding their knowledge of their family's ancestors. Whether you are just beginning or have years of experience, the group offers a supportive environment to help you build your genealogy skills and connect with others who share your interest. Your first meeting is complimentary!

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

• **The Nerstrand City Council** meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at the Nerstrand City Hall. Office hours are: Wednesdays 9:30-11:30a.m. and Thursdays 6:00-8:00p.m. Other times available per request, 507-332-8000.

• **Warsaw Township Meeting** is held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Warsaw Township Hall. Meeting time is 6:00p.m.

• **The Wheeling Township meeting** will be held on the second Monday of each month at 8:00p.m. at the Wheeling Township Hall. Contact Rebecca Vergin, Township Clerk.

Do you have an announcement?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Graduates, Trust God! - He's Got You!

By John Todor, Pastor

It's that time of the year again - caps are tossed into the air, cameras flash with proud smiles, and graduates stand at the edge of a brand-new journey. Graduation is more than a ceremony; it marks a season of change, transition, and new beginnings. Our graduates are stepping into a season of constant change, where new experiences, opportunities, and challenges will shape their path ahead.

I would like to remind you dear friends, that in a constantly changing world there is one unchanging reality - God does not change! As one chapter closes and another begins, the same God who's been faithful to you all those years, promises to remain faithful and true as you step forward into an unknown future.

The Bible says in Hebrews 13:8 that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

That means that the same Jesus who went about healing and teaching and preaching and ministering, the Jesus that opened blind eyes, the Jesus who reached out to the sinful in compassion and the Jesus who reached out to the hurting and lifted up the fallen, that Jesus is alive.

Here are 3 things about Jesus that are meant

to encourage our graduates and us all, no matter what stage in life we may be:

I. HIS PURPOSE IS UNCHANGEABLE

What is Christ's main purpose in the world today? The same that it was when He came into this world. Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly". Somebody said that life begins at forty. I believe that Life begins at Calvary. When you come to know Jesus Christ as your Savior then you have a real purpose in life. He came that you might have LIFE - a life that is eternal (John 3:16).

II. HIS POWER IS STILL AVAILABLE

In Ephesians 1:19 Paul said, "I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great His power is to help those who believe Him." As the school year comes to an end and you students prepare to step into a new chapter of life, I pray you will find comfort in knowing that Christ's power is still available to you. The same strength, wisdom, and guidance that carried you through late nights, difficult moments, and seasons of growth will continue to lead you into the future. Though classrooms, routines, and familiar faces may change, Christ remains constant. In every decision, uncertainty, and opportunity ahead, you can be sure that His presence will go before you and His power will sustain you for whatever lies ahead.

III. HIS PROMISES ARE STILL RELIABLE

Because He lives, His promises are still reliable. The world around you may shift, plans may change, and the future may not always unfold the way you expect, but God's Word remains steady and unchanging. His promises of guidance, peace, strength, and provision

are just as true today as they have always been. When fear, doubt, or uncertainty arise, graduates, trust God and rest assured that He will never fail you. He is faithful to walk beside you through every challenge and every new opportunity, reminding you that your future is secure in His hands, and He will never let go of you.

I will leave you now with the words of one of my favorite hymns, not before wanting to mention the fact that we are all cheering for you and praying for God's best.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow

Because He lives, all fear is gone

Because I know He holds the future

And life is worth the living, just because He lives.

July 13th-16th

Vacation Bible school 2026

Welcoming Good Earth village

A Fun & Faith-Filled Experience for Children

9AM-3PM DAILY

LOCATION: FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH KENYON

SAVE THE DATE!

MORE INFO TO COME!

- For children that have completed 1 year of Pre-k through 5th grade
- Retainer fee \$50 to reserve your spot (will be returned, if you attend camp)
- Sponsored by Dale, First, Holden, GOL and Vang Lutheran Churches

All kids welcome!

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY Whew!

Timothy has . . . brought good news about your faith and love. — 1 Thessalonians 3:6

Paul was overjoyed! He had sent his disciple, Timothy, back to the city of Thessalonica to check on the church they had recently planted there. And Timothy had returned with amazing news!

First, the background: Paul had spent only a short time in Thessalonica, establishing a community of Christ-followers, before an angry mob opposed to the gospel chased him off. Paul knew the deep challenges that the new Christians faced there in his absence, living in a culture that was deeply opposed to Christianity. He wouldn't have been surprised if everyone had gone back to their former ways of life in Judaism or Greek tradition.

But Timothy came back with a report that the new Christians in Thessalonica were standing firm despite the challenges. They remained full of faith in Jesus. They even longed to see Paul again!

That doesn't happen by accident. The God who raised Jesus from the dead also brought these people to life in him, and he kept them there. You might say that every standing-firm, new Christian was an ongoing resurrection story, a new creation, proof that God was up to something big: the renewal of all creation.

If anyone is in Christ, as Paul says in 2 Corinthians, there is a new creation. The old has gone. The new has come!

Lord, all of us who are new creations in Christ are glad to have your resurrection power at work in us. Thank you! The old is going away and the new is coming. Help us to see and rejoice. Amen.

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

713 Division St S, Northfield, MN 55057

Contact Us: hello@northfieldcc.org

<https://www.northfieldcc.org/>

10:30 am Worship Service (10:00 am in summer)

9:15am Sunday School

LUTHERAN

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

Website: www.dennisonvang.org
Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com
One service in May at Dennison.
Sunday, May 31st: Vang 9:00 am

Gol Lutheran

Joe Jorgensen, Pastor

507-838-2100

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Grace Lutheran, Nerstrand

Dwaine Sutherland, Pastor; Mike Ahrens S.A.M.

Service 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran

9:00a.m. Sunday School

10:00a.m. Coffee Time 10:30a.m. Worship Service

Hegre Lutheran

Pastor Chris Brekke

Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

Moland Lutheran 507-456-4242

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

First Ev. Lutheran, Kenyon

David J. Chatelaine, Pastor

Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC

Shannon Bauer, Pastor

24289 Cty. 24 Blvd., Cannon Falls

Sunday Worship at 9:00a.m. followed by fellowship.

Thursday Bible Study at 9:00a.m.



METHODIST

Nerstrand United Methodist

Gary Liker, Pastor

507-330-0025

Worship 9:00a.m.

Stanton United Methodist

Rev. Tom Countryman

Church Phone 507-321-3598

Worship 10:15a.m.

ST. JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Wheeling Township) 19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault

Gary Liker, Pastor

507-330-0025

www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info

Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

NEW LIFE CHURCH

525 Beverly St., Wanamingo

9:00a.m. Sunday School for all ages;

10:00a.m. Worship Service

7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

HOLDEN AND DALE LUTHERAN CHURCHES, ELCA

Pastor Dustin Haider

507-789-6677

holdendalesecretary@gmail.com

Holden: 6949 County 30 Blvd, Kenyon

Dale: 9210 County 12 Blvd, Kenyon

www.holdenlutheranchurch.org

Holden Lutheran Church on Facebook

Worship Services

May 31: Dale 9:30

June 7: Holden 9:30

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



Mainstreet Publishing

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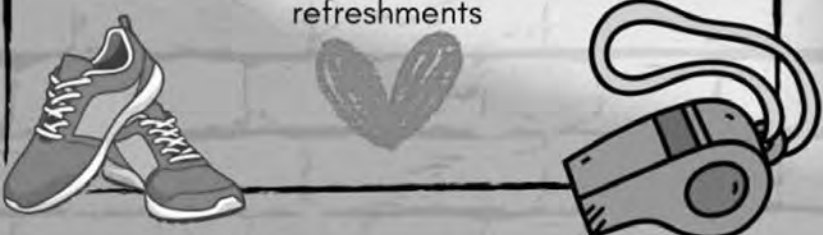
or call 507-649-3327

THE NERSTRAND COMMUNITY
is invited to celebrate

*Carmen Bonde's
Retirement*

May
Friday 29 3:00- 5:00pm
2026

Please join us in the Nerstrand
Elementary gym for light
refreshments



First Communion Celebrated at Grace Lutheran in Nerstrand



Wonderful day in May at Grace! These young people received their 1st Communion. Congratulations! Courtesy of Grace Lutheran Church

WE'RE ONLINE!

www.dennisonmn.com • www.nerstrandmn.com

We Wish You a Happy Graduation & a Bright Future

We hope your graduation is the start of many more great things to come. ***Congratulations!***

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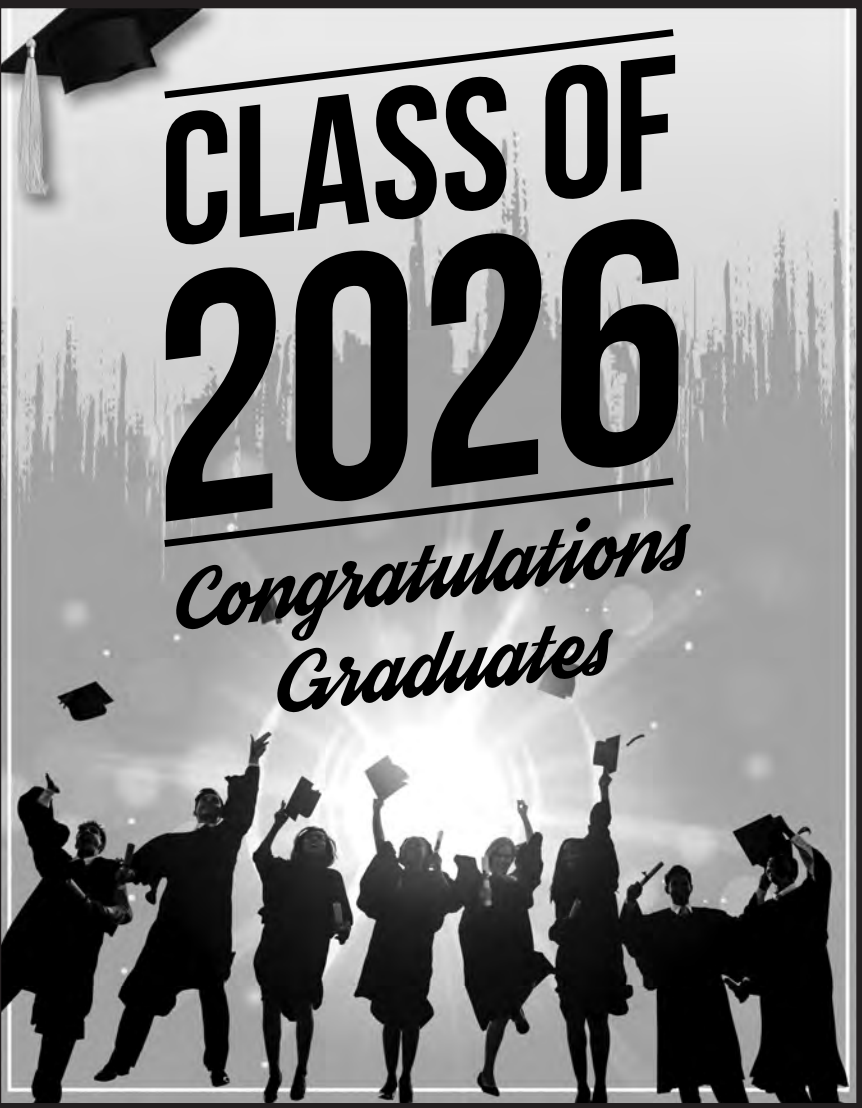
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Chrystine Ladeen Eggum

Chrystine L. Eggum, age 64, passed away on Monday, April 20, 2026, at her home in Dennison, MN, surrounded by family after a long battle with early-onset Alzheimer's. 'Chrys' was born in Iola, KS, on June 26, 1961, the daughter of Donald and Lydia (Phillips) Paddock. The family

relocated to Dennison for Donald's teaching career and Chrys graduated from Northfield High School; she attended Faibault Vo-Tech for secretarial school.

Chrys was united in marriage to Clyde Eggum on January 10, 1981, at the Dennison Lutheran Church. The couple honeymooned in Florida and the weather still managed to be cold; they traveled to Hawaii for their 25th anniversary and the climate was much better to the extent that she didn't want to come back home. They raised two boys on the family farm in Dennison and were very active as parents. Chrys and Clyde loved to travel by motorcycle to local fairs and go to Arizona and California to see family and friends. Chrys crocheted hats for babies and donated them to the local hospitals.

Chrys was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She had a wonderful sense of humor, loved to read, and was an all-in, all-kind person. Her proudest achievement was to be a wonderful, kind and funny mother and grandmother; she was able to dance at both of her sons weddings and appreciated every moment spent with her granddaughter, Kaia. She volunteered her time every year at the Dennison Days kids carnival as well as the famous Vang Lutheran Church lutefisk dinner.

Chrystine is survived by her husband of 45 years, Clyde Eggum; her boys, Andrew (Jenn) Eggum and Joseph (Dena Jensen) Eggum; granddaughter, Kaia Eggum; brother, Mark (Sandy) Paddock; nephews, Erick and Adam Paddock; as well as other extended family and many friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Irene; in-laws, Obert and Alice Eggum.

A Funeral Service for Chrystine was held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, April 28, at the Vang Lutheran Church. Visitation was held on Monday, April 27, from 4-7 PM at the Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home in Northfield as well as one hour prior to the service on Tuesday at church from 10-11 AM. Interment was held at Vang Lutheran Cemetery. Arrangements are with the Bierman, Benson, & Langehough Funeral Home. www.northfieldfuneral.com

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Vang Cemetery, Vang Lutheran Church, Dennison Lutheran Church or donors' choice.

Thank you to Mayo Hospice and Cannon Falls Respite Care.

Chad Mitchell Davidson

Chad M. Davidson, age 52, passed away at his home in Dundas on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Chad was born on October 9, 1973, in Faribault, the son of Ray and Nina (Wright) Davidson.

Chad "Hooch" lived his life fully and with intention, making sure that the

people he loved always knew how much they meant to him. He had a way of carrying joy wherever he went, rarely without a smile, especially when he was working on the racecar or restoring old buildings, two of the things that he was extremely proud of and brought joy to his life.

He had a natural ability to light up a room, not just with his presence, but with the way he made others feel seen, valued, and important. Chad didn't just care about people, he showed it, consistently and wholeheartedly.

He will be remembered for his warmth, his passion, and the genuine connections he built with those around him. His love and energy leave a lasting impact that will not be forgotten.

Chad is survived by his wife, Katie Nystuen; children, Mason, Conner, & Sydney; mom, Nina Davidson; sister, Shari (Rick) Malecha; nephew, Nathan; Aunt Peg and Aunt Coney; as well as his other extended family and countless friends that Chad considered to be his own family. He was preceded in death by his father, Ray Davidson; grandma, Rosetta Wright.

A Celebration of Chad's Life was held from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Sunday, April 26th at the Bierman, Benson, & Langehough Funeral Home of Northfield. www.northfieldfuneral.com

Daniel Joseph Stadler

Dan (Daniel) J. Stadler, 82, Northfield, MN passed away on April 23, 2026. Dan was born in Faribault, MN on April 11, 1944 to Frank and Phyllis (Vailencour) Stadler. He attended Sacred Heart and Bethlehem Academy in Faribault.

Dan spent most of his career at Carleton College (27 years) as Director of Custodial Services and Project Manager. He was in his happy place as project manager overseeing repair of various houses on the campus and interacting with the faculty, staff and students. He was their "go-to" guy if they really needed something done. Dan had a love for car repair and restoration even when a young man. He had several collector cars during his lifetime with

a '46 Mercury being his favorite or maybe it was the '34 Ford or maybe the '64 Thunderbird.

He will be remembered for his belief in repairing rather than replacing—a car, a snowblower, a toaster all could be repaired (sometimes taking days). The boys would say "Dad, we can buy a new one for \$5" but still he worked until it was usable. His garage was a hardware store—he invited people to shop there before going to Menards.

Dan was a very proud dad but was especially proud of his grandchildren's successes and families.

Survived by his wife, Linda (Niebur), children Jim (Resa), Corey (Darla), Brett, Jay (Tina), Abi, Dani (Jim), Denys (Tony) and many, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren and his brothers Larry (Judy), Wesley, Mark (Lisa) and sister, Janet. Preceded in death by son Daniel Joseph Jr., brothers, Russ and Butch, and sister Elaine, son-in-law Danny Malecha and his parents.

Donations may be directed to the Northfield Community Action Center or a charity of your choice.

A visitation in celebration of Dan's life was held from 3-7 PM, Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home in Northfield.

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

Jodi Lynn Grundhoefer

Jodi Lynn Grundhoefer, 58, of Northfield, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, on Monday, April 27, 2026.

Jodi was born on October 27, 1967, in Northfield to Fred and Gloria (Woodward) Wroblewski. She was raised in Dennison alongside

her older brother, Danny, and younger brother, David. Jodi graduated from Northfield High School and, in 1988, welcomed her beloved daughter, Tawnie, who remained the center of her world.

Jodi began working at the Reub N Stein in 1994, where she became a familiar and friendly face to many for years until its closing. In 2017, she began working at Carleton College with Bon Appétit Catering, where

she continued to do what she loved—caring for and connecting with people—until illness forced her to step away in March of this year.

In May 1994, Jodi met Joe Grundhoefer while serving his father, Marv, at the bar at the Northfield Golf Course—a meeting that would change her life. They were married in July 1996 and built a life filled with love, laughter, and cherished traditions. Together, they enjoyed trips to Key West, summer vacations on Gull Lake, and simple joys like cruising in their Mustang, playing tennis, and pickleball.

Jodi had a gift for making people feel welcome and cared for. Known as the "hostess with the mostest," she made sure no one ever left her home hungry or without a drink in hand. Her door was always open, especially to her grandchildren, who brought her immense joy. She loved spoiling them and creating special memories, often taking them on shopping trips and spending as much time with them as she could. She even sometimes let them win when playing games.

She is survived by her husband, Joe; daughter, Tawnie Valek of Northfield; step-children, Mark (Karly) of North Oaks, Nick (Becca) of Northfield, Landy (Michelle) of Zephyrhills, FL, and Jojo of Richfield; grandchildren, Kaia, Magnolia, Levon, Dean, Dawson, Bailee, Rylee, Fynlee, Layla, Cohen, Thea, and Waylon; brothers, Danny, David, Freddy and Michael; father, Fred (Sarah) Wroblewski of Bullhead City, AZ; step-father, Dan Storlie of Dennison; and Tawnie's close friend, like a daughter to Jodi, Jackie Purvis of Northfield. She was preceded in death by her mother, Gloria, and father and mother-in-law, Marv and Jackie.

Jodi's family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Mayo Hospice, Hospice Aide Connie, Becca Grundhoefer, Liz Sandberg, Jackie Purvis, Dan Storlie, and Mary Langan for their compassionate care and support.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 11 AM, Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at the Church of St. Dominic in Northfield. Visitation was from 3-7 PM on Tuesday, May 5, at Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home in Northfield, and continued one hour prior to Mass at the church. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery in Northfield following Mass. A reception followed the interment at Northfield Golf Club.

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

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Sharon “Shari” Buchta

Sharon “Shari” Buchta, 82, of Dennison, passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, with her loving family by her side. A memorial service was held at 11 am on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Vang Lutheran Church Cemetery, rural Dennison with a luncheon to follow. Shari was laid to rest at Vang Lutheran Church Cemetery. Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon has been entrusted with arrangements.



Franklin Delano Peterson

Franklin Delano Peterson of Kenyon, MN, passed away peacefully on May 10, 2026, at Cannon Rivers Assisted Living at the age of 93. He was born to John and Myrtle Peterson on November 11, 1932, in Maple Ridge Township near Braham, Minnesota. He was one of eleven children. In his words, “They were poor but never hungry.”



He attended country school through the eighth grade and graduated from Braham High School in 1950, having joined the Air National Guard unit in Cambridge the previous fall. His studies at Augsburg College were cut short when his unit was activated into the U.S. Air Force on May 1, 1951, and he was stationed in Kirksville, Missouri. Following his service, he returned home and enrolled at St. Cloud State University in December 1952 to study business. He graduated in the spring of 1955 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, accepted a position with Farmers Insurance Group, and enrolled at William Mitchell Law School while continuing to work full-time.

Frank married Beverly Ann Crabb on August 2, 1958, in Minneapolis, MN, after meeting on a blind date. He passed the bar exam in 1962 and opened his law practice in Kenyon the following year, where they raised their three children: Heidi, Durk, and Heather. They shared 57 years of marriage filled with an active social life and extensive travel around the world, including trips to Austria, Scandinavia, Germany, France, Switzerland, Jerusalem, Spain, Ireland, Tanzania, England, and Hawaii. He lovingly joked, “We only had one fight, but it lasted 57 years.”

Frank practiced law for 59 years, retiring in 2022 at the age of 89. He became an active and engaged member of the community from the moment he moved to town, serving in numerous organizations, including Sons of Norway, Lions Club, Commercial Club, American Legion, Legion Baseball team, Senior Citizen Housing Unit, Kenyon Development Corporation, Kenyon School Board, First Lutheran Church, Goodhue County Republicans, the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite,

and Osman Shrine. He held leadership positions in many of these organizations and felt a strong calling to serve his community. If he was not in the law office during the day or attending a meeting in the evening, he could often be found having coffee with friends while discussing politics and solving the world's problems. Although he rarely sat still, when he did, he enjoyed a good book and preferred those focused on history.

Frank had a great sense of humor and was especially fond of The Far Side comics. He spent many joyful hours in wig and makeup with the Cannon Valley Shrine Club as “Franklee,” delighting parade crowds while driving his dune buggy, complete with his painted likeness on the hood.

Frank also loved spending time outdoors. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, golfing, mowing the lawn, walking in the woods, growing apples, playing outside with the dogs, and attending local sporting events.

He was proud of how his upbringing shaped his life in a family and community that emphasized hard work, strong values, good behavior, and a solid foundation in his faith in God. He took great satisfaction in passing those values on to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and was proud to say that all of them are above average. In the words of Garrison Keillor, “The women are strong, and the men are good-looking.”

Frank is survived by his children: Heidi (Harris) Haugen of Kenyon; Durk (Deidre) Peterson of Benbrook, Texas; and Heather (Joe) Tousignant of Kenyon. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Anders (Adriana) Haugen; Morgan Anderson, widow of the late Karl Haugen; Mikkel (Gabbi) Haugen; Laura (Joe) Meola; Eric Peterson; Cole (Carly) Tousignant; and Hannah (Drew) Jennings, as well as twelve great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters, Delyte Robertson and Ione Maxwell, numerous nieces and nephews, and special friend Doris Walker.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly; his parents, John and Myrtle Peterson; his siblings, Myrlin “Kelly” Peterson, Duane “Duke” Peterson, Virginia Schleicher, Myron “Mike” Peterson, Dale “Red” Peterson, Betty Jane Lutterman, Janet Erbstoesser, and Joanne Reese; and his grandson, Karl Haugen.

In place of flowers, memorials may be directed to the K-W Education Foundation, First Lutheran Church, or the Osman Shrine Auxiliary.

A funeral service was held at 11 am on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at First Lutheran Church in Kenyon. Pastor DJ Chatelaine officiated. A visitation was held from 5 pm to 7 pm on Friday, May 22, at Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon with a Masonic service at 7 pm. An additional visitation was held from 10 am until the time of service. Interment was held at the Kenyon Cemetery with full military honors. A luncheon followed the burial from noon to 2 pm at the Kenyon VFW.

Mary Jane Goertz

Mary Goertz died Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at the Reflections Care Center in Northfield, Minnesota at the age of 101. A lifelong resident of the Northfield area, she witnessed a century of profound change with grace, love, and a cheerful heart. Mary began her working career at Malt-O-Meal, then served at the counter at Quality Bakery for several years before hiring on at the Montgomery Ward store in Northfield where she worked for many years. Vibrant and adventurous she became a snowbird after retirement, wintering for 30 years in Bonita Springs, Florida.



She is survived by her five children, Jane Skluzacek (Jerry), Judy Clements, Jim Peroutka, Larry Peroutka, and Shirley Peroutka (Ron Riegert); her nine grandchildren, Lisa Skluzacek, Steve Skluzacek, Aaron Clements, Brent Clements, Cody Peroutka, Josh Dale, Tristan Peroutka-Bigus, Nathan Peroutka-Bigus, and Alex Peroutka-Barcia; five great grandchildren and a great-great grandchild; numerous nieces and nephews; and many, many devoted friends both in Northfield and Florida. She is predeceased by her three sisters (Laura Finger, Eula Trip, Verna Haines) and five brothers (Everette Hamann, Lester Hamann, Maynard Hamann, Milton Hamann, Kenneth Hamann) and her long-term loving partner Ed Miller as well as former husbands Joe Peroutka, Eon Tufte and Ervin Goertz. Mary was cherished by all who knew and loved her. She will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held at the United Methodist Church in Northfield, Minnesota, on Friday June 5th, 10:00am-11:00am visitation, 11:00am memorial service followed by a casual lunch at the church.

Dorothy Ann Pumper

Dorothy Ann Pumper, age 92, of Northfield, passed away on Friday, April 17, 2026, at Apple Valley Village Health Care Center.



Dorothy was born on June 15, 1933, on the family farm in Webster Township to Frank and Lillian (Valek) Malecha. She attended Rosary School and graduated from Northfield High School. In her youth, she met her neighbor, Joseph Pumper, and the two were united in marriage on May 6, 1952, at Annunciation Catholic Church. They made their home in Webster for a short time before moving to Northfield, and in the 1960s, they purchased a farm south of town, where they raised their family.

Dorothy was a devoted wife, mother, and homemaker. She found joy in cooking and

baking, creating handmade rugs for her family, and caring for her nine children.

She was a longtime and dedicated member of St. Dominic’s Catholic Church, where she played an integral role in parish life. Dorothy generously coordinated funeral lunches and provided comfort and care to families during times of loss.

Dorothy and Joe enjoyed traveling together and were faithful supporters of the Dundas Dukes baseball team. As their family grew, they took great pride in attending their grandchildren’s activities, and in later years, Dorothy cherished time spent with her great-grandchildren.

Dorothy is survived by her children, Colleen (Tom) Weaver of Wisconsin Dells, Daniel of Northfield, Joel (Jeanne) of Northfield, Corrine (Fred) Beumer of Cannon Falls, Kaylene (Phillip) Little of Faribault, Keith (Nina) of Northfield, Laurie (Lance) Snedrud of Northfield and Jeffrey (Shari) of Owatonna; 23 grandkids; 42 great-grandkids; daughter-in-law, Donna of Northfield; siblings, Adeline Malecha of Lonsdale, Sister Francette Malecha of Shakopee, Jane Shriver of Montgomery, Judy Voracek of Lakeville, Francis "Butch" (Barb) Malecha of Northfield; and brother-in-law, Elmer (Ramona) Pumper of Northfield. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph; son, Craig; daughter-in-law, Nancy; grandson, Andrew; and siblings, David Malecha, Larry Malecha and Michael Malecha.

Memorials may be made to St. Dominic School in Northfield.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 10:30 AM, Friday, April 24, 2026, at the Church of St. Dominic in Northfield. Visitation was from 3-7 PM, Thursday, April 23, 2026, at Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home in Northfield, and continued one hour prior to mass at the church. A reception followed mass at the church. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Northfield.

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

Russell Raymond Franek

Russell Raymond Franek, age 44, passed away at his home in Northfield on Saturday, May 23, 2026.



Mass of Christian Burial for Russ will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, May 30 at the Church of St. Patrick in Shieldsville. Visitation will be held from 3-7 PM on Friday, May 29 at the Bierman, Benson, & Langehough Funeral Home of Northfield as well as one hour prior to Mass at church from 9-10 AM on Saturday. Russ will be laid to rest at the St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery.

Arrangements are with the Bierman, Benson, & Langehough Funeral Home. www.northfieldfuneral.com

(Full obituary was not available at press time. Visit www.northfieldfuneral.com for details.)



Neveda Embretson, Oliver Remmey, Cullen Kuntz, and Miller Needham with Woodland students on the risers



Olivia Lassahn and Hayden Hubmer and Woodland (grades 4/5) students on the risers



Bri Melford (music teacher) and the Woodland students wrote the original song about Penny. Below is the song that they wrote.

CHORUS

*Penny is the best, Penny is the best
We love when she reads to us
Penny is the best, Penny is the best
Let us tell you a story all about Penny
She was born in Owatonna in 1944
Didn't have much money, but love meant more.*

*Dad worked hard as a police man
Mom worked at the hospital, a helping hand*

*Older brother by her side,
Younger siblings she helped guide.
When her parents worked till late,
Penny learned to carry the weight.*

CHORUS

*Her backyard touched the fairground lights,
Summer sounds on July nights.
She and her brother would climb up high,
Onto the roof beneath the sky.
Grandstand shows they watched for free,
Just two kids and a memory.*

*She thought her name was strange somehow,
Kids would tease but she laughs now.*

*Small-town trust and open doors,
That's the kind of world she knew before.
She'll tell you parents once were strict,
But love was steady, strong, and quick.*

CHORUS

*Owatonna High — she loved those halls,
Made new friends between the walls.*

*At sixteen she was on her feet,
Hospital halls and a steady beat.
Then she got a job at the movie theater
Weekend nights folks greeted her
Tearing tickets with a smile,
Her popcorn was the best by far
She met her love — a party night,
Something simple, something right.*

*Small-town wedding, roses long,
Two hundred guests and joyful songs.
She stitched her wedding dress with care,
Ribbon sandwiches, cake to share*

CHORUS

*She married David, with her pride
Forty-nine years side by side.
Hard work lived in every day,
Farm equipment sales — their way.
Two boys, two girls, her pride and cheer,
Raised with steady hands each year.*

*Penny and David traveled the world
Saw the sites and always learned
Now grandchildren make her life feel new
Great-grandchildren bring joy too.*

*She reads us books, we gather near,
Every word brings warmth and cheer.
Our school welcomes her every Wednesday,*

"Keep it up!" we always say.

CHORUS

*Penny is the best, Penny is the best
We love when she reads to us
Penny is the best, Penny is the best
That's our story all about Penny*

Congratulation to the Class of 2026!



Field Day in Faribault



Our small but mighty 5th Graders crushed 5th Grade Field Day in Faribault. 7-1st places; 1-2nd place; 2-3rd places; 2- 4th places. *Courtesy of Nerstrand School*





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Nerstrand Fire & Rescue Training

Courtesy of Nerstrand Fire & Rescue

In May, members of Nerstrand Fire & Rescue spent the evening training and serving our community.

Crews worked on relay pumping operations, hose deployment, and reviewing preplanned response operations at the school to help ensure we are prepared when seconds matter. We also trained using new school mapping in-

formation provided for all Rice County schools through a state grant. These updated maps help first responders quickly identify classrooms, access points, utility shutoffs, and other critical information during emergencies.

Training like this helps improve water supply operations, coordination, communication, and overall response efficiency.

Before wrapping up for the night, firefighters also spent time giving back by cleaning off the playground and 4-square area so the kids could come back to a cleaner and safer place to play.

We're proud to serve a community that continually supports us — and proud of the firefighters who volunteer their time to keep training, improving, and helping wherever needed.



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Nonprofit Hosts Restoration Event in Nerstrand Big Woods, Supporting Home of Federally Endangered Flower

On May 9th, Great River Greening welcomed volunteers to lend a hand in restoring

Nerstrand Big Woods State Park, home to the federally-endangered Dwarf Trout Lily, which is only found in two other Minnesota counties. 23 volunteers pulled twelve 42-gallon bags of invasive garlic mustard, helping to make space for establishing native plant communities.

The 'Big Woods' that this state park is named for are remnants of old growth hardwood forests. This essential ecosystem is threatened by invasive species like garlic mustard which can outcompete native plants, like the Dwarf Trout Lily.

Nerstrand Big Woods State Park is one of many areas in the region that are endangered by aggressive invasive species. Great River Greening is also hosting an event in nearby Seha Wildlife Management Area at the end of this month, working with volunteers to plant native species in public lands previously overrun by woody invasives. Opportunities to get involved can be found at <https://www.greatrivergreening.org/events-calendar-sign-up>.

Thank you to our funder, the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), and our partner, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

ABOUT GREAT RIVER GREENING

Great River Greening is a nonprofit dedicated to delivering nature-based climate solutions through land restoration. Our mission is to inspire, engage, and lead local communities in the conservation and care of the land and water that sustain us. To learn more, visit www.greatrivergreening.org.

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Ann Traxler
Attorney

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38th Annual Friendship Wagon Train June 20-27

(continued from page 1)

Souvenir hats and t-shirts will be available

Cash & Diamond Show Coming to Dennison in June

(continued from page 1)

It is in this production, Nash includes one of his own songs "June" co-written and co-produced with Jeff Silverman in Nashville, TN. Engineering mix by Grammy Award Winners John Carter Cash and Chuck Turner at Cash Cabin Studio in Hendersonville, TN.

Further details will be posted soon, but mark your calendars for Saturday June 20th. Show-time is 7 PM in Dennison.

to purchase from the wagon train's Peddler Wagon at lunch stops, evening stops, and before they depart town each morning.

In Cannon Falls, they will be camped at the Cannon Valley Fair Association grounds on Friday evening, June 19.

Day 1 (Sat, June 20), will take them from Cannon Falls to Stanton for lunch stop then on to the Transburg farm outside of Northfield.

Day 2 they will travel from the Transburg farm to Nerstrand (lunch) to Kenyon.

Day 3 will be from Kenyon to West Concord (lunch) on to Dodge Center.

Day 4 (Tues, June 23) will be a layover day in Dodge Center, where rides on a wagon(s) will be available to the public during the day.

Day 5 will take them from Dodge Center to Claremont (lunch) to the fairgrounds in Owatonna.

Day 6 will be from Owatonna to Meriden (lunch) to the fairgrounds in Waseca.

On Day 7 (the final travel day) they will depart Waseca going to Wilton (lunch) and then on to New Richland.

On Sat, June 27, a representative from Special Olympics Minnesota will meet them in New Richland, and the group will present to them the donations they collected through the week.

Groups along the route who will be helping them by preparing and serving meals are

many—Lions Clubs from Cannon Falls, Dennison, Kenyon/Wanamingo, Dodge Center, Owatonna, Waseca, and New Richland; Churches from Nerstrand, Claremont, Meriden and Wilton; American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion from West Concord and Dodge Center, FFA groups, 4H Clubs, and individuals.

Any individuals, groups, clubs, businesses who would like to make a donation to Special Olympics may do so anywhere along our route. If you want to mail a donation, or if you want more information about the Friendship Wagon Train, feel free to contact Monica or John Davis at 507-365-8064. All donations are tax deductible.

Holden Community Park Accepting Reservations

The Holden Community Park is now accepting reservations. This is a gathering place for families, community groups, celebrations, family and class reunions and meetings. The park is open from June 1 – September 30 and is located just west of the Holden Lutheran Church on Co Rd 30, Kenyon.

The park building is equipped with AC, refrigerator, stove, microwave and indoor bathrooms. Folding tables and chairs which are available for use within the facility. Picnic tables, playground equipment and a fire pit are also located just outside the back entrance. A prayer path also winds through the woods.

Please contact Collins Voxland if you would like to reserve the building.
(507-785-0343 or voxmancollins72@gmail.com)



38th Annual Friendship Wagon Train



June 20 – June 27, 2026

- Volunteers raising money for Minnesota Special Olympics
- 100% of donations collected are given directly to Minnesota Special Olympics
- T-shirts and hats will be for sale from the Wagon Train's Peddler Wagon
- Come see the wagons and animals and visit with the wagontrainers
- Any donation, large or small, is greatly appreciated
- For more information, contact **Monica or John Davis,**
507-696-1418 (cell),
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(June 19 – Assembly in Cannon Falls, MN)

Day 1 – Saturday, June 20
Cannon Falls to Stanton (lunch)
To Herman Transburg Farm

Day 2 – Sunday, June 21
Transburg Farm to Nerstrand (lunch)
To Kenyon

Day 3 – Monday, June 22
Kenyon to West Concord (lunch)
To Dodge Center

Day 4 – Tuesday, June 23
LAYOVER DAY – Dodge Center, MN
AUCTION

Day 5 – Wednesday, June 24
Dodge Center to Claremont (lunch)
To Owatonna

Day 6 – Thursday, June 25
Owatonna to Meriden (lunch)
To Waseca

Day 7 – Friday, June 26
Waseca to Wilton (lunch)
To New Richland

Day 8 – Saturday, June 27
Final Ceremony – New Richland, MN

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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Knot Forgotten



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 can remember as a young kid when feed came in feed bags. Big burlap bags, some were softer cotton bags, and we brought live-stock feed home from the feed elevator in them. Sometimes I would get to see them fill-

ing the bags with fresh ground feed. The feed came out of a hopper with a slide gate and the man would wrap the top of the bag around the opening and open the slide and the bag would fill with feed, along with the fragrance of grain and molasses wafting out all over. Then he would wrap the top of the bag together and wrap a twine around and pull it tight. It was secure. They would throw it in the back of the truck and stack them high.

My dad would stack them in the feed room in the barn. I couldn't lift the bag, but I could open it and fill a pail to feed it to the live-stock. One day I built some pallets out of 2 x 4's to stack the feed on. My dad commented that it seemed like a waste of effort. The bags were just as good on the floor. One day when I got home from school, he handed me a \$20 bill and thanked me for building the pallets. Seems like a water pipe leak had flooded the feed room that day. Those pallets saved a lot of feed.

Some of the bags were pre-filled and they had stitching across the top. There was a way to open them. My dad did it so simply. He just found the right string and pulled it and magically the string came apart. It looked so easy. I think it was really algebra because I never got it. It was necessary to open it properly as not to damage the bag. These were valuable and we returned them to the elevator each week to be refilled. I usually resorted to cutting the string with my jack knife until I got the right one or completely removed the offending string holding the top closed. That trick would not be handed down because I could never master it.

I have come across some of these colorful

bags around the farm. They bring back memories. A trip to the feed store was always exciting for an 8 year-old farm boy. I remember the jingles on KDHL radio for the feed companies. The Checkerboard song still rings in my mind. Purina Feeds were popular back in the 1960's. Now bags are easier. They have a tab one can pull and usually directions on how to open it quickly. And bags are paper or plastic and you dispose of them after the first use.

I remember my mom telling me about how housewives would clean the soft cotton bags and make clothes out of them. Feed companies during the depression would dye the bags colorful patterns. I don't imagine the burlap bags were used for clothing. I found a white bag used for oats with a picture of a stallion on it when I was young. It had escaped the mice in the granary and was in great shape. My mom sewed a drawstring in the top and I used it as a gym bag at school.

Another knot I was never good at tying was baler twine. Rolls of baler twine had to be connected every time they were replaced. I was too young to lift bales so I drove the tractor and my neighbor Walt loaded the wagons. He would lift the new twine roll into the compartment on the baler and fish the end out of the center and tie them together. If it wasn't done right, it would jam when going through the knottor on the baler. He made it look so simple. Many years later when I was in charge, I discovered it was not as easy as it looked.



A Minnesotan: May



By RosaLin Alcoser

Spring has finally sprung in Minnesota. Which means it's finally the point in the year when all Minnesotans emerge from the safety of our homes, where we endured the winter, and finally go outside to enjoy the good weather months. The thing that always wows me at this time of year is how suddenly green everything gets over night.

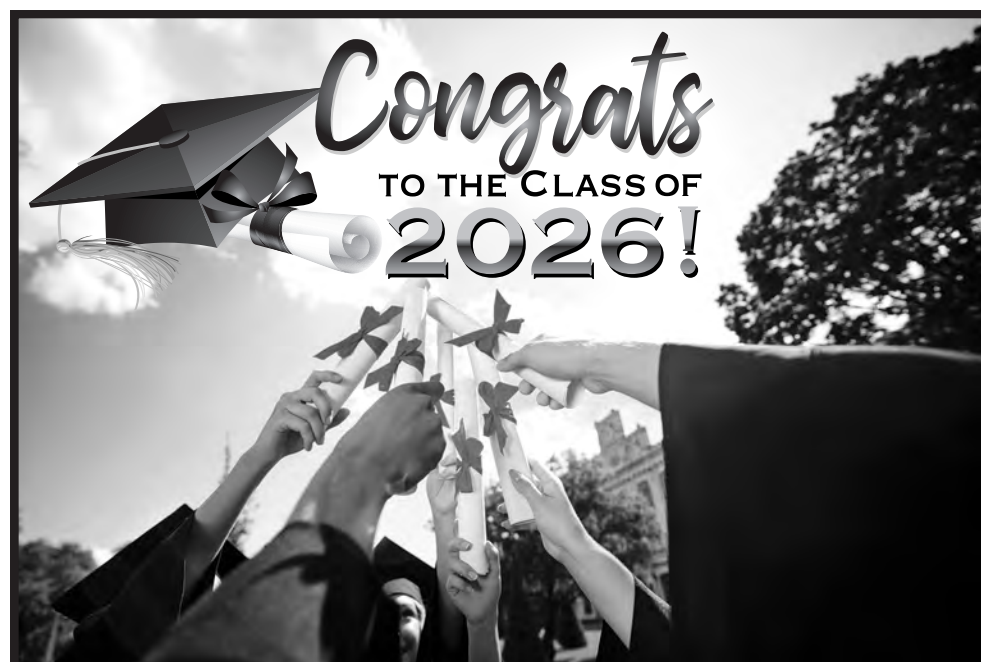
As someone who is not from Minnesota, but has lived most of their life here it is different then other places I have lived before. When I was attending college in the Ozarks the world would gradually become green somewhere between mid February

and mid March. When things that are not quite blooming here yet, such as tulips and daffodils are starting to come out. Whereas every year living in Minnesota I feel like we can go straight from the heart of winter to full on green some years.

And as we all know when that happens just depends on the year. I remember back in 2012 I went to junior prom the same weekend as Mothers day and we had a May blizzard that same weekend.

There are two things I still vividly remember about that May weekend in 2012. The first thing being my mother being woefully upset that it had snowed in May; despite that it was not the first year of us living here that it had done this. The second was that my prom date's mom had us stand in front of a dormant lilac bush in the snow, with no coats on in 30 degrees, for pictures. With the reasoning that it had been in bloom that weekend the year before and it was where she had planned to take the pictures. Needless to say we were cold.

My friends who went that same weekend remember having a snowball fight in formal wear and I remember being cold in front of a dead bush. At the end of the day it is still one of my favorite childhood memories where it snowed in May. Partly due to the fact that I'm able to tell it to people who haven't lived here long enough to know that this has happened.



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Olivar Breyer



Holly Carlstrom



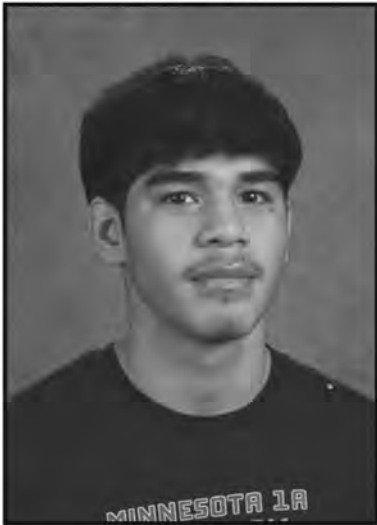
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Chloe Carrick



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Andre Cortez



Benjamin Dierks



Jayden Dudley



Elizabeth Dunlap



Congratulations to the
class of **2026**

**Wishing every one of this year's graduates
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Keep up the great work!

Todd Greseth *Goodhue County District 3 Commissioner*



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**Sunday, May 31
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Class Flower: White Rose



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Graduates



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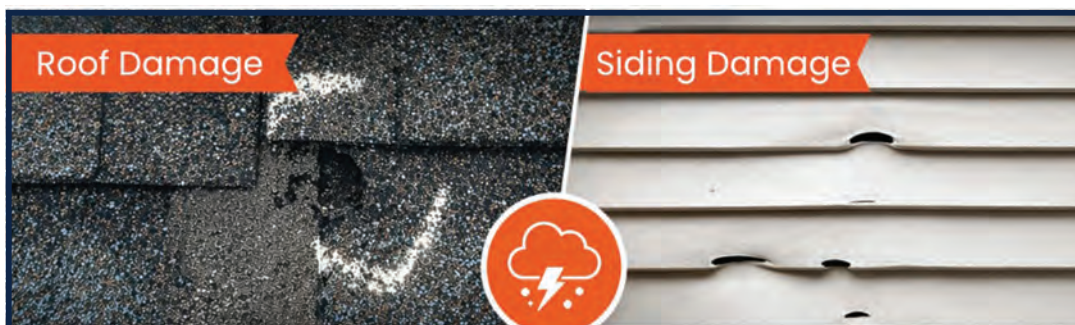
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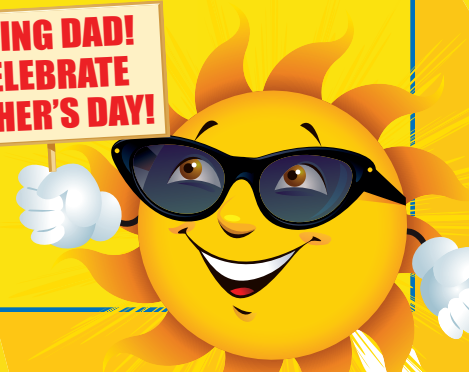


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Big shout out to Steve and Jodi from Shepherd's Way Farm for hosting some of our aged leaders and sheep project members tonight. They shared so much wonderful information about their sheep dairy, explained the cheese making process and let us end with a cheese and milk sampling. Thank you! *Courtesy of Rice County 4-H*





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Broad Coalition Puts Spotlight on Farmer Suicide Prevention

Stress in farm country leads to increased suicide rates

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is teaming up with a broad coalition of farm, food, and commodity organizations to support a statewide Farm Suicide Prevention Campaign.

The campaign, which kicked off during May's Mental Health Awareness Month, looks to highlight the realities farmers experience and provide resources to those in need.

Currently, farmers are facing financial challenges that have people recalling the farm crisis of the 1980s. These pressures, coupled with farmer suicide rates estimated to be 3.5 times higher than the general population, underscores the need to talk more openly about stress and mental health in agriculture.

"We're all hearing increasing reports of farmers in stress who have taken, or may be thinking of taking their own lives, and we're all concerned about them," said Agriculture

Commissioner Thom Petersen. "We are humbled by the immediate and generous response from our partners who have contributed \$47,500 so far to this suicide prevention campaign."

To date, campaign contributors include: Minnesota Cattlemen's Association, Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council, Minnesota Foundation for Agriculture, Minnesota Grocers Association, Minnesota Pork Producers Association, Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council, Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers, Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council, Second Harvest Heartland.

Messages talk about the higher-than-average risk of suicide that farmers and ranchers face and ways farmers who are struggling can seek effective, nonjudgemental help – such as calling or texting 988 or reaching out to the Minnesota Farm and Rural Helpline at 833-600-2670. The campaign also offers tips to family members and others who are concerned, but don't quite know how to help.

"Getting help if you have anxiety, depression, or suicidal thoughts is really no different than going to the doctor about heart trouble or high blood sugar," said Worth,

who serves on the advisory group and speaks openly about his own battle with depression. "We've got to let people know that getting help helps."

Organizations or businesses looking to support the campaign efforts can contact MDA's

Meg Moynihan at meg.moynihan@state.mn.us.

Additional agricultural mental health, stress, financial resources, and other information are available at www.mnfarmstress.com.

Join us for U of MN Strategic Farming: Field Notes!

Crop producers and agricultural professionals face a host of challenges, especially in these economically challenging times, including pest issues, agronomic concerns, and soil fertility questions. The U of MN Extension Strategic Farming program addresses your crop-related concerns through information-packed, research-based, informal discussions with specialists in the field. It's also your chance to ask questions directly to Extension experts.

Strategic Farming: Field Notes features live weekly online interactive discussions on cropping issues as they arise throughout the growing season. The 2026 season kicked-off Wednesday, May 13, and will continue through August on Wednesday mornings from 8 to 8:30 a.m. Topics will be announced each week based on needs throughout the season, and will include issues related to soil fertility, agronomics, pest management, cover crops, equipment, and more.

You need to register only once for the season at z.umn.edu/FN2026. You can attend any or all of the sessions.

Can't make a live session? No problem. Each session will be recorded and posted shortly after the live program <https://strategicfarming.transistor.fm>. You can also listen to the session through your favorite podcast-streaming service. Recordings and resources from the winter's Strategic Farming: Let's Talk Crops Series are also available at z.umn.edu/strategic-farming.

There is no cost to join the Strategic Farming series thanks to generous support from the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council and the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council.

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NH+C's Purchase of Allina Moves Forward; Providers Moving to NH+C Announced

Courtesy of KYMN Radio News

Northfield's health care landscape is set for a significant shift as Northfield Hospital + Clinics (NH+C) moves forward with its purchase of the Allina Health Northfield Clinic from Allina Health, marking a collaborative effort aimed at strengthening local access to care.

The two organizations have finalized approval of the agreement, with a full transition expected by September 2026. Located on Jefferson Road, the clinic will continue operating in the same space under NH+C's independent system, minimizing disruption for patients while expanding locally governed services.

Patients currently receiving care at the clinic will be contacted directly by their clinicians with details about the transition. Appointment scheduling with clinicians making the move will begin in August, with visits available starting in late September.

As part of the agreement, approximately 30 clinicians will join NH+C, along with clinic

staff who will remain in their roles. The transition includes providers in Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Mental Health, and Sports Medicine—key service areas that support comprehensive, community-based care. KYMN has the full list of clinicians who are transferring to NH+C in the written version of this story on our website at kymnradio.net. According to a hospital spokesperson, this is the full list for Family Medicine, Mental Health, Pediatric Medicine and Sports Medicine. Specialty care is still in discussion as plans take shape.

NH+C President and CEO Zander Abbott said in a statement issued by his organization that the acquisition represents an opportunity to unify primary care services within Northfield while keeping care local. He emphasized that the move reinforces NH+C's long-term commitment to delivering high-quality care across all stages of life.

Leaders at Allina Health echoed the collaborative intent behind the agreement. Bill Evans, Chief Medical Group Operations Officer, noted that partnerships like this are increasingly essential in modern health care, allowing organizations to better allocate resources while ensuring patients maintain access to both local primary care and specialized services.

The new NH+C Jefferson Road Clinic is expected to serve as a cornerstone of this coordinated, patient-centered approach.

The medical providers who will be joining NH+C as announced in the statement:

Family Medicine - Cynthia Baumgartner, MD; Michael Burgdorf, MD; Tamara Detert,

DO; Richard Goodwin, MD; Jenny Hart, PA-C; Robyn Hegland, MD; Kyle Hoffert, MD; Abby Kershaw, PA-C; Bobbi Livengood, MD; Mark Labenski, MD; Megan Malecha, PA-C; Saul McBroom, MD; Bridget McLeran, PA-C; Katherine Rogers, MD; Jane Runzheimer, MD; Adei Shaqra, DO; Siri Shaqra, DO; Heather Stortz, DO; Erin Traxler, DO; William Votel, MD

Mental Health - Martha Barck, CNP; Shannon D'Alonzo, MD; Christine Geddicke, LICSW; Bill Hoekstra, PsyD LP; Marc Kelliny, MD; Meghann Malecha, DNP, PMHNP-BC; Kimberly Szajner, PsyD LP; Jaime Wiebe, LICSW

Pediatric Medicine - Heidi Kram, MD; Sports Medicine; Scott Koehler, MD

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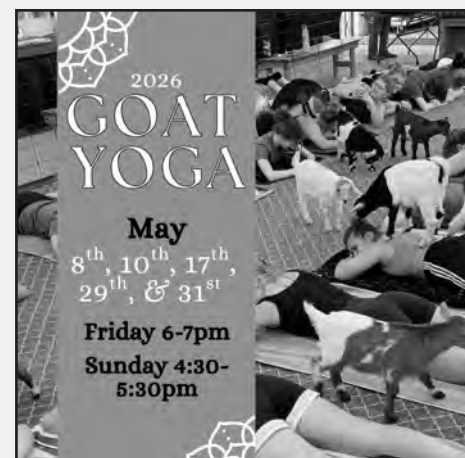
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<https://www.windywillowfarmadventure.com/upcoming-events>

Windy Willow Farm is located at 9748 110th St E, Northfield

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Rice County Launches New Home Safety Initiative to Prevent Falls

Courtesy of KYMN Radio News

Rice County is rolling out a new fall prevention initiative aimed at helping older adults stay safe—and stay in their homes—by offering voluntary home safety assessments following certain emergency calls.

The program is a partnership between Rice County Public Health, Northfield Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Northfield Hospital + Clinics. It is modeled after a similar effort in Rochester that Northfield EMS Chief Brian Edwards said significantly reduced repeat emergency calls for falls.

Falls are one of the most common reasons EMS crews are called, according to Edwards. Last year alone, EMS responded to 554 fall-related calls across its service area, which spans parts of four counties. The average patient age was 74, and in 20% of those cases, the individual was not transported to the hospital.

"Often, people just need help getting back into a chair or bed," he said. "But a fall is a red flag. It tells us there may be risks in the home that could be addressed."

Under the new program, when EMS responds to a fall and the patient is not transported, crews can offer a referral to Rice County Public Health. With the patient's consent, public health staff will arrange a home visit by trained volunteers to conduct a safety assessment. The visits are not inspections, Edwards emphasized, but supportive conversations focused on reducing fall risks.

Occupational therapist Jessica Solberg of Northfield Hospital + Clinics helped train about 20 volunteers for the program. She said falls are extremely common, with roughly one in four adults over 65 experiencing a fall each year.

"In health care, we define a fall as anytime you end up on the ground when you didn't plan to be there," Solberg said. "And once someone falls, it can be a turning point that leads to disability or loss of independence."

Volunteers look for common hazards such as loose rugs, poor lighting, and high-risk bathroom setups. Simple changes—like installing grab bars, adding a shower chair, or improving lighting—can make a major difference. The assessments also include general safety checks, such as smoke detector batteries.

The program's ultimate goal, Solberg said, is to help older adults age in place safely. Rice County Public Health will oversee case management and help connect participants with community resources, grants or low-cost solutions when changes are needed.

For residents concerned about a loved one, contact Amy Ernste Caron, the Long Term Care Unit Supervisor at Rice County Public Health: 507-332-5922.

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Hunger and GLP-1



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

America is a country filled with many contradictory challenges. While there are many in this country who are not sure where their next meal will come from, there are also millions who are overweight or obese. More than 30% of the population in the United States is obese, but excess weight does not mean nutrition needs are being met. An individual can be overweight and be under nourished. Vitamin and mineral deficiencies are commonly found as the root cause of health challenges among those who are overweight. Hunger can be a signal that the body is looking for more nutrients, but the convenient foods and snacks do not provide those nutrients. A common contradiction for many Americans is excess calories while missing essential nutrients.

When the human body is fed nutrient rich foods that commonly grow in the garden and on grass pastures, satisfaction signals are created with the production of glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1). This protein signal is made in the human body by cells in the colon that respond to gut bacteria that are thriving on the nutrient rich food. These nutrient rich foods include: onions, asparagus, chicory, Jerusalem artichoke, green bananas, sauerkraut, kimchi, broccoli, turnip greens, carrots and beans. These foods contain fiber that the human body does not digest, but bacteria love. As the bacteria feed on the fiber from these foods, the bacteria produce butyrate, which is an essential fatty acid to support the health of the colon. A specific group of cells in the colon called L-cells respond to the increased butyrate and produce GLP-1, which signals satisfaction to the rest of the body.

There has been increasing popularity in medications that mimic the GLP-1 signal. These medications produce the signal that reduces hunger and results in a decreased desire to eat. These medications were first developed to aid those managing diabetes but have now become popular as a weight loss method as well. However, the original hunger signals that were suggesting nutrient deficiencies are now being ignored because of the artificial GLP-1 signal from the medication. The person may be losing weight and increasing nutrient deficiencies as well.

A report in the February 2026 issue of Clinical Nutrition presented recent cases of brain damage resulting from a depletion of Vitamin B1 following the use of GLP-1 medication. Thirteen cases were found in the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System. All cases re-

ported significant digestive issues related to taking the medication. While the digestive issues are a well-known side effect with GLP-1 medication, the nerve damage in the brain was a surprise. The damage was the result of significantly lower Vitamin B1 intake because of decreased hunger promoted by the medication.

Within clinical practice, I have seen many clients who are using GLP-1 medications continue to struggle with adopting healthy lifestyle choices that would promote satisfaction naturally. When nutrient rich foods are made a priority for each meal, natural GLP-1 will be produced and greater balance achieved. Without healthy lifestyle choices, a lifelong dependence on medication is the outcome. GLP-1 medications were designed as a lifestyle drug to be used for the rest of an individual's life. The current research reports are beginning to show the negative results.

A healthy weight is the result of healthy choices. A supportive community is needed to help make these healthy choices become a lifestyle. I have written in previous articles about healthy weight and continue to provide

resources to support healthy lifestyle choices that can help you reach your health goals. 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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Well Testing Project Helps Residents Identify Arsenic in Drinking Water



Dr. Dominika Jegen M.D., M.A., CCFP(EM), FCFP, DABFM

A new initiative is offering free well water testing to residents in southern Minnesota to detect arsenic contamination and improve drinking water safety.

Arsenic is an element found in rocks and soil across Minnesota. When dissolved into groundwater, it can impact the safety of drinking water, increasing the risk of cancer and other health concerns such as cardiovascular and respiratory disease, reduced intelli-

gence in children, and skin problems.

"Drinking safe water, to me, means something very simple but very important: Water that people can use every day without unknowingly harming their health," said Dr. Dominika Jegen, a family physician at Mayo Clinic who is partnering with the nonprofit Freshwater on the Rural Health and Drinking Water project.

Funded by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the project offers free arsenic testing to residents of Rice, Steele, Freeborn, Waseca, Faribault, Blue Earth, Watonwan and Martin counties by visiting this site: <https://gosimplelab.com/store/rhadw>. Freshwater recently mailed postcards to more than 4,000 residents in this area with information on how to order free well water testing kits. Participants will receive confidential test results with follow up guidance on interpreting the results and what next steps to take.

Why well testing is important in rural areas As a family physician, Dr. Jegen thinks about drinking water the same way she thinks about preventive care. "I think about both immediate safety – like preventing infections – and long-term health," she said. "Many water contaminants don't cause symptoms right away but can contribute to serious illnesses years later."

She emphasized that certain groups are especially at risk. "For children, pregnant patients, and older adults, that safety becomes even more critical because they are more vulnerable to the effects of contaminants."

About 10 percent of private wells in Minnesota have elevated arsenic, although certain counties have higher percentages including Faribault (28 percent), Blue Earth

IS YOUR WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

FREE arsenic testing for private wells.

Arsenic is a toxic element found in Minnesota's soil and rock, and it can dissolve into well water without any change in taste, smell or color.

If you have a well, the only way to know your water is safe is to test it.



Why Test?

- About 10 percent of private wells in Minnesota have elevated arsenic.
- Long-term exposure increases the risk of:
 - Certain cancers
 - Heart and lung disease
 - Developmental impacts (such as low IQ) in children
 - Premature birth or pregnancy loss

Order your FREE test today at gosimplelab.com/store/rhadw

- Includes prepaid shipping both ways.
- Reliable, certified lab results.
- Easy to follow instructions and guidance.

As part of the Rural Health and Drinking water project, Freshwater recently mailed postcards to more than 4,000 households in southern Minnesota with information on how to order free well water testing kits. The kits offer free, confidential arsenic testing for residents of Rice, Steele, Freeborn, Waseca, Faribault, Blue Earth, Watonwan and Martin counties.

(27 percent) and Waseca (20 percent). Arsenic testing became mandatory for new wells in 2008, meaning wells built before then are at a higher risk. It is tasteless and odorless, so testing is the only way to know if well water is safe to drink.

Dr. Jegen's research has shown that many well owners are not overly concerned about their drinking water, and many don't test regularly, even when they have children at home. The solution, she stressed, starts with

information, not fear. "It's not about causing alarm – it's about giving people information so they can make simple, effective changes if needed."

About Freshwater

Freshwater is a Minnesota-based nonprofit organization that works to inspire and empower people to value and protect water. Since 1968, Freshwater has used science to engage communities on how to equitably improve water today and for future generations.

Class of 2026

Best wishes to all of the dedicated seniors who are celebrating their graduation this year!



Congratulations to Cannon Falls & Randolph Classes of 2026, and especially Olivia Gergen!



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Farm Girl Chatter April Rain Brings Muddy Boots

By McKell Lemmerman

Spring doesn't politely show up on a farm—it kicks the door in with thunder and says "IM HOME". One day it's kind of winter, kind of not, kind of hot and the next you're standing outside watching lightning crack across the sky while wondering if you left something important out in the rain. More than likely you left the windows down in your vehicle letting the seats in your car get a much-needed drink.

April rain doesn't just fall, it commits. It turns every road, pasture, and "shortcut" into a full-body workout. You step outside think-



ing you're going to get one quick chore done, and next thing you know you're 6 inches shorter in the swamp. Walking becomes less of a stride and more of a slow, dramatic peel with every step. If you don't lose a boot at least once, were you even outside?

And then there's that smell—fresh green grass finally coming back to life.

The storms themselves are something else. Lightning flashing like you are getting your picture taken every 15 seconds, thunder booming like a toddler playing with a drum set, and the wind doing whatever it wants per usual. You stand there counting seconds between lightning and thunder debating if you should run or just accept your fate.

Meanwhile, the animals act like spring is the best thing that's ever happened to them. Cattle start moving around more, calves get the zoomies like they've been cooped up all winter, and the horses feeling like they have



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Spring isn't neat, and it definitely isn't easy. It's early morning sunrise, longer days, and mud everywhere. But it also means things are growing again, animals are thriving, and life is picking back up—just like you picking up your boot for the third time in one day to scrape the mud off even if your boots will never be clean again.

The month starts off with April Fools' Day, but the real fools are the ones who spend the whole month playing in the mud right?



ALL THE BEST TODAY & ALWAYS

*Happy Graduation and
Congratulations to the Class of 2026!*



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Laura Freeberg (laura@freebergins.com)
Geri Geiken (geri@freebergins.com)

Review Set to Begin Later this Year, Last through 2028 **Redetermining Ditch Benefits Could Impact Unaware Property Owners**

By Rice County

A comprehensive review of Rice County rural agricultural drainage ditches and land affected by them, approved last week by the Board of Commissioners, will determine which properties currently benefit from the ditches and how to equitably divide the cost to maintain them.

This review, part of what's known as a redetermination of benefits, is expected to impact about 30% of the total acreage of Rice

County and hundreds of property owners, many who haven't previously been listed as benefitting and who may not realize their land lies within a county drainage ditch watershed, an area that drains water into a ditch.

Like a number of other Minnesota counties, Rice County has been inconsistent in redetermining benefits. But with decades of development and changes to land and its value since its ditches have undergone redetermination, a Ditch Fund in the red and new a full-time ditch manager to keep ditches in good order, county leaders decided it was time.

Ditches were first introduced in Minnesota in the late 19th century following years of heavy rains that made fields untillable for months. By digging deep ditches and laying clay piping called tiles, landowners could manage how excess water moved, allowing previously inaccessible land to be used for farming.

By the mid-1980s, about 20% of Minnesota land was drained by tile systems.

State law requires public ditches to be managed and repaired when necessary by a county drainage authority, which in Rice County is made up of its county commissioners. Cost for upkeep and repair are assessed to the benefitting properties based on the benefit received.



Ditch Manager Jarett Spitzack inspects a county drainage ditch in July 2024. Viewers have been hired to review public county ditches to equitable assessment of benefits.

Viewers, hired to review the ditches and determine which properties are benefitting, will begin work later this year. The county's 23 ditches have been divided into four groups; seven ditches in the southwest part of the county will be viewed first. The final group is expected to be viewed in summer 2028.

Once all ditches in a group have been viewed, a report regarding each ditch will be sent to all benefitting parcels. A landowner

meeting is then held to discuss the report's findings and answer landowners' questions.

Only after the report is adopted by the Drainage Authority will benefitting property owners be assessed.

More information about drainage ditches and the redetermination of benefits can be found at <https://bit.ly/RiceCo-DrainageDitches>.

File by June 2nd to Run for SWCD Supervisor

People concerned about water quality and soil health in Rice County should consider filing by June 2, 2026, to run for the position of supervisor of the Rice Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

"SWCD supervisors play a vital role in addressing many of the natural resource concerns facing our community, including wetland protection, water quality, soil erosion, and habitat restoration," said Gene Kuntz, District Supervisor with the Rice Soil and Water Conservation District. "Serving as a supervisor gives local residents the opportunity to help guide conservation efforts and have a direct voice in how we care for our natural resources," he added.

SWCDs are special-purpose units of government that manage and direct conservation programs, such as the State Cost-Share Program and the ReInvest in Minnesota (RIM) Wetland Program. An elected board of supervisors governs each of Minnesota's 88 SWCDs.

This year, the Rice SWCD has two supervisor positions up for election. SWCD candidates appear on the ballot for the general election, which will take place on November 3, 2026. Candidates are elected county-wide but must reside in one of the nomination districts up for election. These include District 3 (Townships of Cannon City, Wheeling, Walcott, and Richland) and District 5 (City of Faribault). SWCD supervisors serve four-year terms.

SWCD supervisors meet monthly to discuss the business of the SWCD, including state grant allocations to landowners, district conservation priorities, coordination with other local units of government and state agencies, and legislative priorities. Supervisors do not receive a salary, although they do receive compensation for attending meetings and are reimbursed for expenses.

Those interested in running for supervisor should file at the Rice County Property Tax and Elections office from May 19 through June 2, 2026. Additional information about the Rice SWCD can be found online at www.riceswcd.org or by calling the office at 507-332-5408.

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Colleague's Hearty Endorsement Earns Johnson Statewide Award

By Rice County

It took just three words for Nicole Christensen to describe her coworker, Barb Johnson: Excellence, professionalism and positivity.

That full-throated endorsement from Christensen helped earn the Community Correc-

tions administrative assistant the Support Excellence Award during last month's Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties Statewide Support Staff Conference.

"Barb consistently goes above and beyond in everything she does. Her standard of excellence is not just a goal -- it is her norm. She approaches her work with dedication, precision and pride, ensuring that every task is completed thoughtfully, and ensures everyone feels heard and understood. Her clarity and transparency strengthen our team and foster trust across our office."

Johnson, who began at Rice County in summer 2023 and was promoted the following year, said she had no idea of the nomination. But as the conference speaker began describing the winner and Christensen pulled out her phone to record the announcement, Johnson became suspicious.

"It was a nice surprise," said Johnson, who clearly prefers to stay out of the spotlight.

"But we're all a team," she said of her Community Corrections support staff colleagues, Christensen and Danielle McDermott. "I can't do what I do without the help and support of everybody else."

It's not just her technical skills that make Johnson so outstanding. In her nomination, Christensen called Johnson "the heart of our workplace culture" by encouraging positivity, uplifting those around her, endearing herself to colleagues by bringing in treats and knowing just how to bring a smile to people's faces.

"She is solution oriented and can always find a way to solve the problem. Her daily contributions make a lasting impact on our team, and she is more than deserving of this recognition," wrote Christensen.

Community Corrections Manager Angela Brewer seconded Christensen's comments, saying, "We all appreciate Barb's hard work, support and kindness at Corrections. We are so thankful for her and proud of her accomplishment."



Barb Johnson

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County allows rifles for 2026 deer season

By Rice County

A new state law that allows counties to decide whether to remain a shotgun-only zone or allow rifles during deer season is causing confusion among the region's hunters.

The Rice County Board of Commissioners, earlier this year, agreed to follow the new law, allowing rifles as well as shotguns during deer season.

Commissioner Charlie Peters said the board's position was to follow the new law and make adjustments next year if necessary.

The decision to change the law was largely due to the growing deer population and concerns about chronic wasting disease, a contagious neurological disease for which there is no treatment. The disease is fatal and often takes years before symptoms appear, allowing infection to spread unabated, especially during milder winters. By the time CWD is detected, a single deer could easily infect dozens upon dozens of other animals in the region.

The shotgun-only zone, which lay in the southern and western parts of the state, was implemented in the 1940s to help increase the deer population. At the time, shotguns had a shorter range than rifles and required hunters to get closer to an animal.

Data from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources shows an 8% increase in deer harvested in central and southeast Minnesota in 2025 compared to the prior year. The regions' 2025 harvest was 11% higher than the five-year average.

Of the 14,000 CWD samples taken in 2025 statewide, 117 were found to have the disease. Most came from the southeast regions, according to the DNR.

The Rice County Board of Commissioners can revert to shotgun only in any subsequent year but would need to hold a public hearing in order to do so.



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Rice County Sheriff's Office Urges Boaters, ATV Riders to Put Safety First as Summer Nears

Courtesy of KYMN Radio News

As warmer temperatures arrive and fishing opener weekend approaches, the Rice County Sheriff's Office is preparing for another busy summer on the water and on local trails. Sheriff's Captain Nathan Budin, who oversees the county's water patrol and dive team, said recent activity on area lakes is an important reminder for residents to stay alert and prepared as recreational seasons begin.

In May, deputies deployed navigational buoys on lakes throughout the county. Budin emphasized that the markers are meant to signal potential hazards such as sandbars or submerged objects, not just a single danger point. Water levels can change quickly, he noted, making previously safe routes risky just days later.

While most boaters act responsibly, the sheriff's office still responds to breakdowns or minor incidents a few times each month.



Rivers remain the most dangerous waterways, Budin said, particularly because of debris known as "strainers," including logs left behind by severe storms.

Budin strongly encouraged boaters to wear their life jackets at all times, especially non-inflatable models when traveling rivers.

The department has also upgraded its river rescue capabilities with a newer, shaft-driven boat designed to safely maneuver over rocks and logs. Training with the new vessel is ongoing, and the older boat has been transferred to the City of Faribault, keeping resources local.

In addition to water safety, the sheriff's office is expanding ATV education and enforcement. Grant funding is being used for youth ATV certification classes and expanded patrol hours, including enforcement focused on alcohol-related offenses. Budin said the goal is visibility and prevention as side-by-side vehicles become increasingly popular.

Budin also highlighted upcoming observances, including National Correctional Officers Week and National Police Week, encouraging residents to recognize the service and sacrifices of law enforcement personnel across Rice County.

Filing for County, State and Federal Offices Opened May 19

By Rice County

The race to November's general election officially began Tuesday, May 19 with the opening of the initial filing period. Filing for county, state and federal offices began at 8 a.m. May 19 and ends at 5 p.m., Tuesday, June 2.

Filing offices will be closed Monday, May 25, 2026, in observance of Memorial Day.

Candidates for federal offices must file at the Office of the Secretary of State, State Veterans Services Building, 20 W 12th St., St. Paul, MN 55155. Filing for state offices can be done at the Office of the Secretary of State or with the county auditor of the county in which the candidate resides. In Rice County, that office is at the Government Services Building, 320 Third St. NW, Faribault.

Candidates may file in person or by mail, if the filing is received during the filing period. Candidates who will be absent from the state during the filing period and meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 204B.09 (1a), may arrange to file during the week immediately preceding the candidate's absence.

FEDERAL OFFICES

One United States Senator

One United States Representative for District 1

One United States Representative for District 2

STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

One State Senator for District 19

One State Senator for District 22

One State Senator for District 58

One State Representative for District 19A

One State Representative for District 22B

One State Representative for District 58A

One State Representative for District 58B

STATE EXECUTIVE OFFICES

One Governor and Lieutenant Governor

One Secretary of State

One State Auditor

One Attorney General

JUDICIAL OFFICES

Candidates for judicial office may file either with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State or with the County Auditor in the county where the candidate resides. A candidate filing for the Minnesota Court of Appeals seats that has been designated for one of the congressional districts must reside in that district.

Supreme Court

One Associate Justice for Seat 1 (Sarah E. Hennesy)

One Associate Justice for Seat 2 (Theodora Karin Gaitas)

One Associate Justice for Seat 4 (Paul C. Thissen)

Court of Appeals

Appellate offices are elected statewide. Where designated, candidates must reside in the congressional district listed for at least one year.

One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 1 (Elizabeth G. Bentley)

One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 7 (Rachel Bond) 5th Congressional District

One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 13 (Jeanne M. Cochran)

One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 15 (Kevin G. Ross) 3rd Congressional District

One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 18 (JaPaul Harris)

Third Judicial District

One Third District Court Judge for Seat 4 (Jacob C. Allen)

One Third District Court Judge for Seat 6 (Karen R. Duncan)

One Third District Court Judge for Seat 7 (Dwight Luhmann)

One Third District Court Judge for Seat 15 (Erin Lindhart Felten)

One Third District Court Judge for Seat 17 (Christopher A. Neisen)

RICE COUNTY OFFICES

Candidates for the following offices file with the Property Tax & Elections Director at the Elections Department at the Rice County Government Services Building, 320 Third St. NW, Faribault, MN 55021.

One County Commissioner for Commissioner District 3

One County Commissioner for Commissioner District 4

One County Sheriff

One County Attorney

One Supervisor for Soil & Water Conservation District 3

One Supervisor for Soil & Water Conservation District 5

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Bree Morgan 3:00 PM

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CITY OF NERSTRAND, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

APR 14th, 2026

7:00p.m.

221 Main Street, Nerstrand

1. Call to Order/Pledge Allegiance

2. Roll Call: Karla Ingersoll, Todd Evavold, Betty Voge and Pam Caron are present. John Harris is absent.

3. Public Hearing: N/A

4. Public Forum:

5. Consent Agenda

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

A.Regular Meeting Minutes of March 10th, 2026

B.Committee Updates

C.Payment of Claims

Betty made a motion to accept the consent agenda Karla seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

6. Staff Reports

Clerks- No notices were sent out. 1 payment plan paid in full. 1 still making payments. Thank you cards for donations. Fire Department has moved to using Microsoft forms for their time sheets. This will dramatically reduce the time the clerks need to calculate hours for Fire Dept. What is the topic for this month's work session? Policy and procedures,

Hearing Officers, and Ordinance Review.

Clerks had also requested the purchase of Copilot. An AI software from Microsoft to help aid the clerk. A motion was made by Karla and seconded by Pam and all approved.

The clerks received notification that John Harris has resigned from council effective 13 April 2026. A motion was made by Karla and seconded by Pam and approved by all to accept his resignation. A resolution was requested for the may meeting to announce and start the process to fill this vacancy.

In addition to John leaving Council, his wife Amy Harris also submitted her resignation to leave the Zoning Committee. A motion was made by Betty and seconded by Pam and all voted to approve.

We would like to thank this family for their time and dedication to the City of Nerstrand. We appreciate all that you have done and wish you the best in your future adventures.

PW Director- Steve presented the estimate to council to re-establish the water connections to the business that suffered the water main break this winter. The bid is \$6200 and is necessary.

He and Jacob meet with the Mn Rural Water to discuss upcoming projects that we have been working on with Bollig.

Discussed water tower location and land owner he may need to reach out to to see if we may be able to locate the new structure on their property.

7. Ordinances

A. Tobacco Ordinance-Updates

The city will need to retain two Hearing Officers in the event that there is a violation.

They will be the ones to look over the evidence and determine if there was indeed a violation and penalty is warranted. Work session will put together a job posting and what the potential pay may be.

B. Alcohol Ordinance-Updates

The city has made progress with the Sunday sale, and it is with the lawyer. But recent applications have identified changes that need to be made to the ordinance specifically in regard to insurance requests and line of credit.

C. Ordinance to City Council-Updates

This ordinance is scheduled for public hearing that will be with the May meeting.

8. Resolutions

A. A resolution accepting the donation from Northfield Hospital and Clinics

A motion was made by Betty and seconded by Pam and all approved.

B. A resolution accepting a donation from Dennison Lions

A motion was made by Karla and seconded by Pam and all approved.

C. A resolution adopting the City of Nerstrand Official Emblem

A motion was made by Betty and seconded by Karla and all approved.

D. A resolution accepting the certificate for license approval

A motion was made by Karla and seconded by Betty and all approved.

E. A resolution granting Wildwood temporary grandfathering of previously scheduled events until April City Council meeting

A motion was made by Pam and seconded by Karla and all approved.

F. A resolution directing the city clerk and deputy clerk to track work hours by category

A motion was made by Karla and seconded by Betty and all approved.

Nerstrand City Council Opening

(continued from page 1)

The council will appoint a Nerstrand resident to fill out Johns term, and is seeking a resident that is willing to help fill this seat. If you are a resident of the City of Nerstrand, and have an interest in the future of your community, please reach out to the City Office. The council hopes to fill this vacancy as soon as possible, to help ensure the residents of the city are well represented.

9. New Business

A. Introduction of Lawyer-Andrew Teide GDO Law from White Bear Lake came as a meet and greet to council and residents. With all the ongoing ordinance updates it was nice to have Andrew take the time to attend and see how our council runs and meet the members.

B. John Harris-Nerstrand IT and Telephone- John Harris touched on this briefly but with his resignation informed council he would be sending things to Karla to take over.

C. Food Truck Application-RBar- A motion was made by Karla and seconded by Todd and all voted to approve.

D. Alcohol Application-Wildwoods- Wildwoods applied for the Annual Consumption and Display License. A motion was made by Karla and seconded by Betty and all voted in favor of approving.

E. Spring Clean by CSG- Todd will green-light CSG to begin the Spring clean up work around the city.

F. Work Session\Meeting Reschedule- May work session is rescheduled to May 19th due to conflict in schedule.

G. Paint for City Hall Grant- Sent confirmation that the painting would indeed be done by volunteers and this should ensure us receiving the award! If you would like to volunteer to help paint City Hall please email the clerks at cityclerknerstrand@gmail.com.

H. USDA loan progressing forward waiting Bollig's next steps- This update was rolled into Steve's. Steve is taking the lead and contacting Bollig to determine first steps. He has also read through some of the documentation and had questions. Awaiting further support from Bollig.

10. Unfinished Business

A.Snow Removal Bid Request Review- Time frame, shoveling, sand/salt, and spring cleanup- We are breaking this into two bids. One for Plowing and another for shoveling. The plowing bid is ready but we will be needing to create a shoveling bid. Clerks will work with Steve to get this completed.

B. Changes to the Map per Zoning- Zoning Committee members absent from meeting. Did not discuss.

C. Park Electrical Trenching- There are some trenches around the park this is for electrical to be run. To be completed within the week.

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Betty and seconded by Karla and all approved.

Next City Council Meeting is scheduled for May 12th, at Nerstrand City Hall.

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City of Dennison
Meeting Minutes
April 2nd, 2026

The April Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Flaten on Thursday, April 2nd, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Caleb Voight, Heidi Cooke, Nichole Schloesser, and clerk Jessica Page. Councilor Diane Ruddle was unable to attend.

Councilor Schloesser moved to approve the February meeting minutes. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0. Councilor Voight moved to approve the March meeting minutes. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0. Councilor Cooke moved to approve the March special meeting minutes. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 4:0.

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

Sheriff: Deputy Dennison days in August ask deputies to watch traffic on 9 with speeding. Deputy did not have anything to bring to the council. Noise ordinance.

Old Business/Committee Reports/Building Permits:

Administrative Issues:

1. **Opus and billing issues.** A meeting between Jessica, Heidi and Opus officials haven't taken place yet, and the mayor isn't aware of a proposed meeting before the regular council meeting in April. The mayor and clerk have had further discussions about billing errors, slow response times from Opus and complaints from the community. The mayor is proposing further action/options for the council to consider: 1). Ask the clerk to do a deep dive/thorough examination of several properties/users in town that have reported billing issues the last year. This would require Jessica to spend 2 or 3 days of her time, totally separate from her usual duties, to complete this work. The City would ask Opus to provide all billing information to examine for any errors. If the council wants Jessica to do the audit/examination, then the mayor would recommend paying Jessica extra for this work. The mayor would like a report provided to the council by the May council meeting. 2.) Other options. The council doesn't want to continue with Opus. There would need to be a transition period if the council wants to go this route. The City could investigate other companies that do the same kind of work as far as billing. The City could also go back to having the clerk do the billing.

To sum things up the mayor says: “Opus needs to do way better. The billing errors have been unacceptable. The slow response times by Opus have been unacceptable. The extra amount of time Jessica has to spend to respond to answer citizens questions/Opus is unacceptable. As a city, we need to trust that the expected revenue will be collected in an accurate manner. With the future infrastructure improvements coming down the road, the users of our system will be expected to pay more. Any missed revenue or inaccurate billing will only place a greater burden on the users/citizens in town.”

Due to trying to get items ready for the RD application during the month of June, Councilor Cooke will contact Opus with a couple of issues, and then work to meet during May

with Heidi, Jess and Opus representatives. (Home sales, garbage fuel surcharges, people not getting charged for months that were missed for billing. Late meter readings from jess, missed email?)

Todd Greseth County is working on the budget, but it’s going to be tough. Recommendations to cut higher positions that equal 2 entry level positions. Pine Island Data center is moving along.

2. **Discussion on the new Nerstrand Rescue Vehicle and basing it at the Dennison Fire Station/City Shop.** The fire chief says the Nerstrand Fire Department recently acquired a SUV to use for rescue responses. Joe came to the city council meeting last December and discussed the plans for the SUV then. Joe believes there is sufficient room in the garage right now without moving anything. He said the goal is to use the vehicle for all calls providing a quick response to assess the scene for fire calls and establish command. It will also provide a safer response for medicals and other incidents along the roadway. Finally, he said, it will be utilized for firefighters to use for meetings and training. Joe is also requesting a donation to the department of \$955 for the printing/decals and installation. He would expect the vehicle to be in service within a month. Nate has expressed concerns with this arrangement, and would like to be able to move vehicles around if he needs space to work on something.

Caleb and Heidi went through the maintenance shed. They felt there Isn’t enough room with two big vehicles in there. If the City got a vehicle or a lawn mower, there wouldn’t be any room for it. Can’t c a r r y anything out the door with two vehicles in there. Consensus is that there is not enough room in the building for two fire vehicles.

Donations for signage for vehicles. Talk about it next month. Are Lions contributing anything?

3. **The mayor contacted the Minnesota Department of Health after our special meeting on March 24th with Bollig Engineering and asked the question whether the Compliance Agreement would still be valid if Radium/Gross Alpha levels go down?** Their response: “Once a system is in violation, that violation remains open and ongoing until a letter from MDH informs the system that they have “Returned to Compliance.” So, if results drop: The Compliance

Agreement is still binding, the violation is still active, and there are still public notice requirements.” The mayor informed Bollig Engineering, and the city council was forwarded the email from MDH.

4. **Data Center discussion.** Should the City pass a moratorium ordinance? Consider adding new language to our Zoning Ordinance. Find a sample moratorium ordinance and see what they look like. Heidi will look for one. Apple Valley or Farmington??

The Mayor thought smaller ones might be okay for Dennison, but not the ones with multiple buildings, etc.

5. **City wide Clean Up day is going to be May 2nd, from 9-11 AM.** Items will be collected in the open lot owned by Paul Nygaard north off of Goodhue County Road 9. Fliers will be disturbed around town and also information published in the Mainstreet Messenger, as well as posted on the notice board.

6. **Continued discussion regarding Ordinance 32.** The work session meeting from March 24th, the city council agreed to add new firearms language from Texas and the City Resolution pertaining to official military honors, passed in January of 2026. Ordinance32 (Disorderly Conduct/Discharging Weapons/Vagrants/Fast driving and Resisting Officers/Assault and Battery) would be repealed and replaced with Ordinance 90, Discharging of Firearms in the City Limits. The final version is not ready to review. Any changes or additions before we set a public hearing time?

7. **Approve street sweeping from Terpstra Companies for \$1850.** Price is double due to large amount of loose chip rock from winter sanding on the City Streets. Councilor Schloesser move to approve the street

sweeping at \$1850. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 4:0.

8. **Tentative pickup dates are April 16 or 17.** Council agreed to keep roughly 5 of each for the City. City Residents can get up to 5 trees. If all residents who want trees have gotten them and there are leftovers, residents can have additional tree, and folks outside the city limits can also get trees.

9. **Invitation to Roundtable meeting with Brad Finstad on April 10 from 10-12 in Pine Island.** Mayor Flaten will attend. Clerk to respond to invite.

10. **Invitation to testify at the Capital Investment Committee meeting on April 9th at 10:15.** Mayor Flaten is planning on attending.

11. **Back Pay for Jess and Nate for 2025 and Jan of 2026 are included in this month’s paychecks.**

Citizens Issues:

Mayors Issues:

Utilities: MRWA Conference: What is new.

Cameraing and jetting should be done. Empire is who has done it before.

Jetting is a maintenance type thing. Using the camera isn’t maintenance, and is expensive to do it. The jetter that the City has is weak and not very effective.

Eval for Nate next month.

Update from Nate:

Councilor Schloesser moved to pay the bills. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

Mayor Flaten moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Voight second. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Regular meeting is Thursday, May 7th at 7:00 pm.

2026 Goodhue County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates		
Tuesday, May 5	Kenyon Goodhue Co. Shop 1005 Hwy 60	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday, May 19	Wanamingo Casey's - Hwy. 60	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday, June 30	Zumbrota Park-N-Ride Parking lot	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday, July 7	Pine Island Pine Island High School	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday, July 14	Goodhue Community Center	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday, July 21	Cannon Falls Lake Byllesby Park	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

COMPLETE HHW INFO ONLINE: <http://www.co.goodhue.mn.us>
HHW HOTLINE: 651-385-3107

We will NO LONGER be collecting Fluorescent Bulbs at the Hazardous Waste Collections. The Goodhue County Recycling Center accepts fluorescent bulbs Monday-Friday, year-round. We are very sorry for the inconvenience.

A Household Hazardous Waste drop-off is available at the Goodhue County Recycling Center in Red Wing, from the first Monday in May through the last Friday in October. Hours of operation for the drop-off will be Monday through Friday (except holidays), from 8am until 3pm. Please utilize the drop-off as much as possible to prevent large crowds at the collection events listed above. There is a 20 gallon per person per day limit at the Red Wing drop-off. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Goodhue County Recycling Center is located at 3745 Highway 61 N in Red Wing (across Highway 61 from the Red Wing Shoe Factory).

2026 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Do's and Don'ts

DO BRING:

Paint/Stain/Thinner Etc.-
Bring unusable paint products to the collection.

Pesticides/Herbicides (Non-Agricultural, Non-Commercial Grade) -
Products designed to kill weeds, bugs, rodents, mold and fungus.

Automotive Products-
Bad gas, cleaners, anti-freeze, fuels, grease, lead-acid batteries.

Household Products-
Drain opener, strong cleaners, spot removers, adhesives, acids & bases.

Exotic Batteries-
Ni-Cad rechargeable, Button, Lithium, Mercury, other unusual batteries.

Mercury Devices-
Thermometers, thermostats, mercury switches.

Aerosol Cans-
Partial or plugged pressurized spray cans of all types. Empty, depressurized cans can be disposed of in trash.

Please limit quantities to 20 gallons per person per event, as space is limited at collections.

DO NOT BRING:

Business or Agricultural Hazardous Wastes-
Business wastes will be refused. Businesses should contact the Olmsted County Hazardous Waste Facility at 507-328-7078.

Electronics-
City of Red Wing Waste Campus 651-385-3658

Prescription Drugs-
Contact: Goodhue County Law Enforcement Center 651-385-3155

Empty Containers-
If a container is empty and dry, it is no longer hazardous. Recycle or dispose of in trash.

Fluorescent Tubes-
Bring them to the Goodhue County Recycling Center.

Non-Hazardous Products-
Soaps, regular light bulbs, broken glass or ceramics, recyclables, trash.

Waste Oil, Oil Filters-
Engine oils and filters can be recycled through local sources.

Medical Wastes/Sharps-
Contact your local clinic or hospital for disposal information.

Explosives and Ammunition-
Contact local law enforcement on their non-emergency number.

Appliances- No appliances.

Solar Panels- No solar panels.

For safety, place waste products in a box when transporting
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ACROSS

1. Ionic and Corinthian predecessor

6. Good times

9. Al fodder

13. Offer two cents

14. Doctor Dolittle, e.g.

15. Interior designer's concern

16. Not fiction, pl.

17. Big head

18. Fear-inspiring

19. "Good Times" mom

21. "The Sopranos" mom

23. Possessive pronoun

24. Gumbo pod

25. Protrude

28. Catcher's catcher

30. *Marvelous Midge Maisel's first name

35. "Metamorphoses" poet

37. Chows down

39. Millionaire maker

40. Time for eggnog

41. Sure sign of fire

43. "Frasier" actress Gilpin

44. TSA PreCheck alternative

46. Mosque V.I.P.

47. Arabian bigwig

48. Received salary

50. At the apex

52. Masseuse's office

53. "Where the Red ____ Grows"

55. Likewise

57. "Arrested Development" mom

61. "Fresh off the Boat" mom

65. Circumvent

66. French vineyard

68. Open disrespect

69. Dewey Decimal System, e.g.

70. 252-gallon cask

71. Cause anxiety (2 words)

72. Back talk

73. Extra point

74. Vanish without this
- DOWN

1. Take of a hat, e.g.

2. Traditional October birthstone

3. Puerto follower

4. Opening, colloquially

5. #55 on periodic table

6. Part of an eye

7. "Married with Children" mom

8. Investor's asset

9. Hold as a conviction

10. Unit of land often featuring a home

11. Load sixteen tons, e.g.

12. Geometry calculation

15. Divert from course

20. Between washes and styles

22. Casino's pull

24. Foot rest

25. "Stranger Things" mom

26. Throat dangler

27. Mosaic artist

29. "Friday Night Lights" mom

31. Tug-of-War gear

32. List entries

33. Like anchor aweigh

34. "Schitt's Creek" mom

36. Martin of Rat Pack

38. 3-handed card game

42. Bring character to life

45. Response to stimulus

49. Ctrl+Alt+_____

51. Lemony cream dessert

54. Right-hand page

56. Academy Award

57. Orchid garlands

58. Forearm bone

59. Cow chow, pl.

60. "Beware the ____ of March"

61. "The Handmaid's Tale" mom

62. Letter before kappa

63. Nile dweller, for short

64. Writer Rice

67. ____-D.M.C.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS								

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



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