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JUNE 11, 2026

Volume 19 • Issue 11

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.

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Announcements

- Red Cross Blood Drive - July 15th from 12-6pm at Vang Church.
- Good Earth Village Day Camp will be July 13-26 with Holden, Dale and First.

Visit <https://goodearthvillage.org/fle-kenyon> to sign up.

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

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

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Kenyon Sportsman's Club Inc. Celebrates 50 Years

By Jocelyn Aldrich

The Kenyon Sportsman's Club Inc is celebrating its 50th anniversary this month. The KSCI was founded in 1976. It was originally

named the Kenyon Rod & Gun Club, but it was later renamed to its current name. In 1982, the club continued to grow as the founding members built the clubhouse. Jason Prondzinski, a member of the KSCI, comments that at that time, the club was heavily invested in planting trees and building bird and wood duck houses. Today, the KSCI is

focused more on investing in the next generation. Prondzinski says, "We have now changed gears and have become more focused on youth and training and supporting the youth of our communities." The KSCI holds many youth events throughout the year, including firearm safety instruction, KW High School trap shooting, and this year, the KSCI successfully hosted the first-ever youth turkey hunting contest.

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180 Hydration Comes to Wanamingo!

By Cheri Roshon

I always love to be the one who gets to tell you that we have a new business in town!

(continued on page 7)

180 HYDRATION

Creative Crawl

By Cheri Roshon

Join us for the first annual Creative Crawl in Zumbrota and surrounding areas!! Some very creative minds have decided to put together a fun shopping experience where you can purchase unique one of a kind items for yourself and others.

(continued on page 7)

Minnesota Newspaper Association Welcomes The Messenger Newspapers

At its April 2026 Board of Directors Meeting, the Minnesota Newspaper Association, one of the oldest state newspaper associations in the U.S., approved and welcomed The Dodge County Messenger and Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger Newspapers to its statewide industry association membership. The Minnesota Newspaper Association was founded February 20, 1867 in St. Paul, fewer than 9 years after Minnesota achieved statehood.

(continued on page 8)



Flowers in Bloom

By Jocelyn Aldrich

For many of us, spring is not official without a trip to the flower greenhouse. But Mary Bailey specializes in flowers all year round. Bailey, owner of Mary's Rustic Rose, says that her journey in the floral industry began when she was 18 years old. She began working in floral shops, and she has continued to enjoy the work because of the flexible schedule and the opportunity for her to express her creativity.

(continued on page 11)

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Difficulties of the Secret Place



By Ashley Dudek,
founder of Isaiah Ministries, bringing
Biblical teaching to help overcome
life's everyday challenges.
www.isaiahministries.cc

Announcements

• **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 55066.** 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!

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

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

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

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

Emotions got the best of me, yet again. Thoughts that I do not want echo in my mind repeatedly. Rumination has reared its ugly head. Annoyed eyes. Loose words spilling out. Jealousy. Comparing. Lost temper with hubby. Angry with self. These are just a few ways I am messy. The greatest thing for me to do in the midst of these "messes" is to go to the Secret Place, but at times that is easier said than done.

The best things for us can sometimes be the

hardest things to do. The last two months I have discussed the topic of the Secret Place and the benefits of it. If you missed those articles or want a quick review, here you go:

The Secret Place is partially your one-on-one time with Jesus, with your Bible and perhaps journal out, and at a much deeper level, it is a life that remains in the hiddenness of the Lord. It means you dwell, abide, and stay in all of Jesus's promises, truths, direction, and love for you—no matter what. You talk

to Him at your inner core, and you do not stop.

The benefits of the Secret Place are limitless! A few of them include working through conflict, overcoming fear, healing from trauma, and learning the Father's love. Last month we discussed how the Lord can guide, speak to, and protect us in the Secret Place as well.

(continued on page 3)

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Fight the Good Mental Fight

I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin. . . . — Romans 7:22-23

It is hard to overstate how much our minds are like battlefields. This is true for all believers in Christ, including the apostle Paul, who describes his own struggles in our text for today.

In this passage Paul says that one set of thoughts in his mind is turned toward God and aims to do good. The other set of thoughts, however, is turned toward evil and wants to sin. Paul thanks God in Christ that he is indeed saved. But in the very next verse he recognizes that he is still of two minds; he is a slave to God's law at the same time that he is a slave to sin. In verse 24 Paul seems to despair of living in this sort of spiritual duplicity. "What a wretched man I am!" he says.

In this way Paul expresses the frustrating way the Christian life goes—we are pulled one way and tugged the other by opposing powers within us. Though we are truly and irrevocably saved through the blood of Jesus Christ, we are at the same time slaves to our sinful old selves.

Thus we are in constant battle. Who will rule our heart and mind today? Who will rule our thinking about our work, marriage, or politics? The inner thoughts that we barely even notice may really be spiritual combat.

Though the battle rages on, we can ultimately say, with Paul, "Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

O God, you have freed us from the curse of sin and death. But we need your power in our minds each day. Guide us to live by your Spirit. Amen.

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/167136242800>
June 14: Vang 9:00 a.m.; Dennison Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.; Dennison Worship 10:30 a.m.
June 21: Vang 9:00 a.m.
June 28: Vang 9:00 a.m.

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www.emmanuelafllc.org
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9:00a.m. Sunday School
10:00a.m. Coffee Time
10:30a.m. Worship Service

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309 Forest Street, Kenyon
507-789-5261
website: flkenyon.org
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Sunday Worship 10:30a.m.

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Website: calvarynorthfield.org
Sundays 1:00 pm

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www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info
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Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the
Kenyon Wanamingo Messenger at:
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302 Bullis Street, Kenyon
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Worship Services
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June 21: Holden Park Service 10:30a.m.
June 28: Dale 9:30a.m.
July 5: Holden 9:30 a.m.

MOLAND CHURCH

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Worship 9:00 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

KENYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Difficulties of the Secret Place

(continued from page 2)

Even though the Secret Place is the best thing for us, guess what? It can be one of the hardest things to actually enter into and stay in. There are numerous reasons why the Secret Place can be difficult, such as distractions, emotional or physical pain, lack of motivation, not feeling the Lord, not knowing what to say or do with Jesus, not being sure how to read the Bible, depression, or as alluded to earlier, feeling too messy to enter into the presence of the Lord.

In this article and the articles to come, I am going to address various difficulties of the Secret Place and some solutions around them. Go grab a cup of joe or some tea, and if you feel a little too messy for Jesus, by the time you are done with this article, you will have realized you are not, and I bet you will even be motivated to go talk to the big guy upstairs!

Some may feel that they have messed up so badly they cannot enter into conversation with Jesus.

Oh, my friend, if you believe this, you are mistaken. The Lord will take you in no matter what you have done. Did you know that the majority of the Bible is written about and even by people that messed up? That is right, A

LOT of the people in the Bible screwed up—and screwed up bad!

I will give you one scenario of a man named David. David made an “oopsies” by committing adultery. Then he had the husband of the woman he committed adultery with killed. Yep. You can read the full story in 2 Samuel 11–12. What is amazing, though, is that he repented (see Psalm 51) and was known as a man after God’s heart (see Acts 13:22). He was a man after God’s heart not based on performance (things he did or did not do) but because of his personal relationship and adoration with God. Another person in the Bible that made some pretty big errors was Paul. Prior to Paul becoming a follower of Jesus, he even persecuted Christians!

Studying about these men’s lives could be a good thing to do in the Secret Place and will probably make you not feel so bad about the things you have done wrong. Neither of these men let their identity fall under their “mess-ups,” but they knew they were sons of God and were loved by Him; therefore, they talked to the Lord and kept talking to Him. They remained in the Secret Place.

If you believe that you are too messed-up to spend time in the presence of the Lord, that is one FAT LIE from the enemy. I think this verse might help you out a little too. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

As you read 1 John 1:9 above, do you see the word all? That means no matter what you have done or said, if you repent, you are forgiven! Don’t let shame keep you away. Come out from the bushes as Adam and Eve did,

and let Father God clothe you with love and compassion. Understand your identity in Him and remain hidden in those truths.

Perhaps you are asking yourself, “But what if I am in the midst of making mistakes, sinning, and messing up?” The same principle holds true: go running to the Lord in the midst of the screwups. Any good parent would want their child to go to them when they are struggling, right?! What makes our heavenly Father any different? Again, do not let shame keep you away. Go talk to Jesus about whatever it is you’re struggling with. Ask Him the roots to why you are doing what you are doing, strategy to overcome it, and strength in the midst of it. Another comforting verse to help you not feel so alone is “For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do” (Romans 7:15).

Solution:

- If you have repented for your sins, know **YOU ARE FORGIVEN!**

- If you have sinned and not yet repented, then I would suggest you do. Remember, in a nutshell, repenting is telling the Lord you are sorry, and turning away from whatever it is you did.

- If you feel shame or guilt, I would recommend looking up various verses on forgiveness. Read them over and over. Renew your mind to the fact that you are clean. Yes, **YOU ARE CLEAN.** What a beautiful gift! You can look up verses by doing a simple internet search or even looking in the back of your Bible at the concordance (most Bibles have this). I’ll get the ball rolling by giving you a few Scriptures on forgiveness right now that

you can go look up: Isaiah 1:18, Psalm 86:5, and Colossians 1:13–14. Understand that condemnation is not of God either. Here are a couple verses around this topic as well: Romans 8:1 and 1 John 3:20.

4. If you are still feeling stuck in shame or guilt, I would also encourage you to talk with the Lord about these feelings. Sit down, go for a walk or a drive, or whatever it is, and pour out your heart to Him. The other day I messed up bad. Like if it was a test, I would have gotten an F minus. I would have been so embarrassed if anyone heard how I spoke to and treated my husband. Geez! I was completely in the wrong. I felt so ashamed and was starting to spiral down into that dark pit of self-anger and even depression. Therefore, I went to the Lord and we talked about it. All of my anger “toward my husband” was not even about him. It was rooted in trauma from my past, not feeling physically good, my cup being drained, and what I believe to have been some spiritual warfare too. Talking with the Lord is so good. There is a reason why I did what I did. There is a reason why you did what you did or are doing what you are doing; the Lord will show it to you. He will do this with kindness and love; you need to just give Him a chance.

5. Understand your identity in Christ. You are **NOT YOUR MISTAKES.** You are a child of God, redeemed, strong, and a conqueror! You can look up verses on identity in Christ by doing a simple internet search as well. The first part of the book of Ephesians is loaded with them.

You are **NOT** too messy for Jesus. I promise. You are loved. — Ashley

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www.kenyonmn.net

www.wanamingomn.com

E-mail: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Published in cooperation with
Mainstreet Publishing Minnesota, Inc.
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Celebration of Life for Wally Caron

**June 27th from 1:00-4:00 p.m.
at the Kenyon VFW**

Wally passed away on Christmas Day due to a farm accident. Rochelle and Jessica would like to invite all friends and family to join them on June 27th from 1-4p.m. at the Kenyon VFW to celebrate Wally's life. There will be a short service honoring Wally's time in the service at 2p.m. right outside the VFW.

**Bring your stories as we remember a great man
who left us too soon.**



Norma Jean Clark

Norma Jean Clark, age 90, of Kenyon, died on June 1, 2026 surrounded by her family.



Funeral services were held at the Boldt Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Faribault, on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 2 p.m. Reverend Dr. Daren Fllinck officiated.

Interment was at the Kenyon Cemetery.

Visitation was held at the Boldt Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Faribault, for one hour prior to the service on Tuesday.

Norma Jean, daughter of Norman and Ethel (Greseth) Ersland was born on March 13, 1936 Goodhue. She graduated from Kenyon High School and married Wayne Pierce Clark. She was formerly employed by the Kenyon Sunset Home and enjoyed cooking and completing outside chores.

Survivors include her five children, Steven (and Susan) Clark of Rifle, CO, Michael (and Jeanne) Clark of Springdale, AR, Timothy Clark of Kenyon, Daniel (and Tannis) Clark of Glenwood, IA, James (and Leighanne) Clark of West Concord; 17 grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren; siblings Lois Stumpf, Joan (Alan Heggedahl) Eckblad, David "Pete" (Carol) Ersland, Don Ersland.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Wayne; three siblings, Bob, Dale and Paul Ersland.

Visit boldtfuneralhome.com for more information and the guestbook.

SueAnn Marie Collinge

I was born to Ralph and Anita (Matter) Senjem on August 9, 1947, in Rochester, MN. I grew up on a farm with a lot of love and family around me and I learned values that I embraced as an adult.



I graduated from Hayfield High School in 1965 and attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa (loved Luther but could not find a major). I graduated from the University of Minnesota in Home Economics Education and taught Home Economics in Kenyon, MN for 25 years. Loved the students and teaching, not the politics.

I married Virgil Helgeson in 1973 and he died in 1988 at age 46. Virgil was the most generous man I ever knew. In 1992 I married Al Collinge. Al is the kindest man I have ever met. I also inherited his large and wonderful family. Al and I moved to Plant City, Florida, for 16 years before we retired again and moved back to Rochester. While in Florida God called me to ministry. Following seminary, I was rostered in the ELCA as an AIM (Associate Ministry) on July 13, 2004, and served at Apostles Lutheran for almost 10 years before retiring again. I really enjoyed the people and ministry. We returned to Rochester in 2013.

I was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in

May of 2016. With exercise, I remained active and 'normal' for over 3 years. With PD, exercise is medicine! PD still progresses slowly; however, it eventually caught up with me. I refused to be defined by this disease. I remained very active and social. I died of PSP [Progressive Supranuclear Palsy] an atypical form of PD, on May 19, 2026.

I was preceded in death by my parents, 3 infant brothers (Dennis, Dallas, and Steven), 4 aunts (Hilda Paape, Beata Junke, Eileen Senjem, DeLores Fredrickson), 2 uncles (Gerhardt "Rusty" Matter and Arnold Matter), brother-in-law (Mark Staples), 2 nephews (Michael and Randy Staples), and great-nephew (Paul Staples).

Surviving are husband Al Collinge, two sisters, Jeanne Staples and LaDonna (Bryan) Olson; 1 nephew and 1 niece: Jon (Holly) Staples and Teresa Staples, 7 great nieces and nephews and 14 great-great-nieces and nephews, and 2 great-great, great nephews, Al's daughters Teresa (John) Lodermeier, Ellie (John) Halverson and Denise (Jeff) Green; 11 step-grandchildren Justin (Kate) Lodermeier, Tara (Brian) Hofschulte, Ryan (Maria) Lodermeier, Brayden (Chasity) Lodermeier, Elyse Lodermeier, Kamren (Alexa) Lodermeier; Jennifer (Mike) Goncalves, Angela (Chris) Canales, Olivia (Gabriel) Escude; Zachary (Margaret Anne) Green, Michael (Gianna) Green; 10 step-greatgrandchildren; Taylor, Cadence, Mason, Carter, Caden, Keagan, Addison, Owen, Liam, and Isabelle.

The service will be at Bethel Lutheran in Rochester on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 11:00 am, with visitation beginning at 10:00 am. Interment will be at Bethel Lutheran Church Columbarium.

I would like to thank Al and Maria for being such wonderful advocates for me, Dr. Young and the team at Mayo who cared for me, and the nurses, caregivers and staff, at Aviva Riverbend, Zumbrota Health Services, and St. Croix Hospice. You were appreciated.

All are invited to stay for lunch which immediately follows the service. Have fun! Tell stories! Laugh a lot!

William Louis Van Epps

William "Billy" L. Van Epps, 85, of Wanamingo, died on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, surrounded by his loving family. He was born June 1, 1940, in Winner, SD, the son of William and Elsie (Armbruster) Van Epps. From an



early age, Billy lived with an impairment that impacted his life, but he never let that stop him. Billy was a dedicated worker, on both the family farm and as a farm hand on his Uncle Elmer and Aunt Mary's cattle ranch, driving tractors through the fields, disking the soil and fertilizing, raking hay, and milking cows. He spent half of every year with his Uncle Elmer and Aunt Mary until a year before Elmer's passing. Billy also worked at a recycling center in Winner, SD and later in Kasson after moving to Minnesota, where he

worked with machinery and sorted materials.

There were numerous activities that brightened Billy's day, whether it was Twins baseball, playing cards, turtle hunting, dancing to the Chicken Dance, playing guitar while singing, and sleeping outside (camping). There are not many people that Billy met that don't have a keychain or placemat made by him in his spare time. Billy's impairment didn't discourage him as he also enjoyed riding horses through the RideAbility Program and had played on the Miracle League Baseball Team. When Billy moved to Kenyon, the community embraced him, the Kenyon Veteran Color Guard made him a honorary member and police chief Lee had brought Billy under his wing, presenting him with his own uniform and "badge".

He always saw the positive and good in the world and the people he met; his gentle soul and enthusiastic nature are what his family will miss most. Billy was always a friend and a protector, especially of little kids. He took great pride in how he rocked the babies and cared for the children in his life.

Billy resided with Riverview Services from 2019, until the time of his passing. During that time, he formed a special bond with his housemates, who became his best friends. Together, they enjoyed going out to eat, bowling, shopping, and sharing countless laughs. Billy also attended Hillcrest Center, where he spent time with peers and participated in many of his favorite activities. He especially loved the annual Carnival, where he enthusiastically played games, and Prom, where he could always be found dancing the day away. One of Billy's favorite daily routines was helping staff by getting the mail each day. Known for his playful spirit and sense of humor, Billy was a favorite among many staff members and had a special way of keeping everyone on their toes.

He is survived by his brother, Ralph (and Cindy) Van Epps of Kenyon; brother-in-law, Ed New (and friend, Jody); nieces and nephews, Todd (and Teresa) Van Epps, Scott (and Sarah) Van Epps, Faye (and Joy Fott) Heinis, Julie (and Dan) Keils, and John (and Robin) New; great-nieces and nephews, Michelle (and Christopher) Aggen, Daniel (and Alexandra) Van Epps, Katherine Van Epps (and Jake Dreifort), William Van Epps (fiancé, Grace), Sophia New, Cynthia (and Dalvin) Smith, Chelsy (and Jon) Urreta, and Trevor Keils; six great-great nieces and nephews, and numerous cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Mary New.

A memorial service will be held at 3pm on Friday, June 12, 2026, at Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon with a visitation from 2pm until the time of service.

John B. Rice

John B. Rice, age 84 of Kenyon, MN formerly of Faribault, MN passed away on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at his home.



John Bruce, the son of Carroll and Francies (Tibbils), was born on April 13, 1942 in Detroit Lakes, MN. John grew up in

Detroit Lakes and graduated from Detroit Lakes High School with the Class of 1960. He attended Moorhead State University before enlisting in the Army National Guard. After his time with the National Guard, John worked for Crown Cork & Seal for 27 years. He was united in marriage to the love of his life, Sandra Siegfried on November 29, 1976 in Mason City, IA. When he wasn't working, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, going to their cabin up north, traveling to Texas, being an amateur radio operator, and spending time with his family. He was also a part of SkyWarn in Faribault and volunteered at Roosevelt Elementary School following his retirement.

John is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sandy; daughters, Dawn (John) Delaske, Lora (Burt) West, Lynn (Tony) Branch, Lisa (Ambrose) DeGidio, Leslie Rice (Scott), and Leah (Steve) Oren; grandchildren, Cassie (Adam), John (Lauren), Nicole, Katherain, Nathan (Kaylyn), Breanne, Anthony, Andrew, Kjersten, and Parker; great-grandchildren, Sophie, Rex, Zaiden, Emry, Thea, Caspian, and Rowan; sister, Ann Blue; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial visitation was held on Monday, June 1, 2026 from 4:30 to 6:30 P.M. at the Parker Kohl Funeral Home. Military Honors were provided by the Rice County Central Veteran's Association prior to the visitation.

Funeral arrangements are being completed by the Parker Kohl Funeral Home & Crematory.

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Bernhard "Pete" Ellingson

Bernhard "Pete" Ellingson, 94, of Northfield, died on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at Three Links Care Center in Northfield. Pete was born on November 3, 1931, in Waseca, the son of Arthur and Valborg (Johnson) Ellingson. Pete grew up in the Hope area where his father purchased and operated the Hope Bank for many years, inspiring his son's future endeavors. Pete graduated from Owatonna High School



and attended Minnesota School of Business for two years. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1951, and served on the USS Diamond Head (AE 19) during the Korean Conflict. During his service, Pete was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal, and the Navy Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged in 1955. Following his discharge, Pete attended banking school in Chicago and then began working at the Security State Bank in Kenyon as a bank teller and janitor (stoking the furnace at night). During his 44-year career at the Security State Bank, Pete mastered many positions, eventually retiring from President/CEO and Chairman of the Board

On December 28, 1951, Pete married Jeanne Hammel in Owatonna. The couple had three children: Debora, Wanda, and Jeffry. Pete and Jeanne divorced in 1993. On January 10, 1997, Pete married Margaret Kleese and shared 25 years of marriage and adventures before her passing in 2022. Some of their adventures included: Hawaii, Golf Shores Alabama, Cruise on Columbia River and a trip to Norway which Pete enjoyed because of his proud Norwegian heritage.

Pete made several other trips to northern Canada and even crossed the Arctic Circle twice with his dear friend and skilled pilot, Bill Mosbeck. As a classic car enthusiast, Pete travelled and participated in numerous car shows including an event to Alaska. There were also several years of fishing/hunting trips and business ventures with his group of close friends including: Doc Bohan, Cyrus Midje, Rudy Kispert and Joel Puckett. In later years, he made good friends with residents and staff at St. Benedictine with having a great friendship with Victor. Pete was active in the Kenyon community as a member of the VFW, American Legion, various car clubs,

the Country Club, and the Commercial Club. Pete's professional organizations included the Minnesota Bankers Association, Independent Community Bank Association, and Goodhue County Bankers. Pete was a member of the First Lutheran Church of Kenyon where he was a board member and Sunday school teacher.

A great interest of Pete's was spending time with family. Many fishing trips at the cabin, children and grandchildren's events and family gatherings. Taking a special interest in their individual experiences.

Pete is survived by his children, Debora Ellingson, Wanda (Wayne) Eisenhuth, and Jeffry (Kim) Ellingson; stepsons: Greg (Angie) Kleese, Doug (Mary) Kleese, and Tom (Hilary) Kleese; grandchildren, Andrew, Brianna, Audra, Hannah, Alyssa, Samantha, and Monica; and ten great-grandchildren, Alexis, Hunter, Zoe, Jaxon, Kiana, Huxley, Andrew, Kyleigh, Marissa and Evelyn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, his sister, Beverly (Hugh) Rockwood; great-granddaughter, Vivian Samlaska.

A memorial service will be held at 11 am on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at First Lutheran Church in Kenyon with Pastor D.J. Chate-laine officiating. A visitation will be held from 5 pm to 7 pm on Friday, June 12, 2026, at First Lutheran Church in Kenyon with an additional visitation from 10 am until the time of service. Interment will be at the Kenyon Cemetery with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Kenyon-Wanamingo School District in his memory.

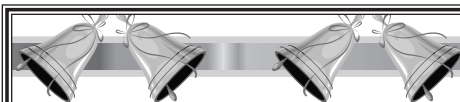
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New Picnic Shelters Coming to Depot Park Through Community Partnership

Submitted

The City of Kenyon is excited to announce the addition of two new picnic shelters at Depot Park, made possible through a strong partnership of grants, local organizations, the school district, and volunteers.

In October 2025, the City of Kenyon was awarded a \$10,000 matching grant through the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) Small Town Grant program. To help bring the project to life, the Kenyon Firemen's Charitable Gambling Fund generously provided a 50 percent match, turning an important park improvement from an idea into reality.

The timing of these new shelters could not be more important. With the recent onset of Emerald Ash Borer, Depot Park has lost 16 trees, dramatically reducing natural shade throughout the park. What was once abundant has now become a valued and much-needed feature for families, visitors, and community events.

Special recognition goes to Doug Thompson, lead teacher for the Kenyon-Wanamingo Construction Program, and Wayne Ehrich, Kenyon Public Works Director, for their critical leadership in developing the original plan and working collaboratively through its completion.

Thanks are also acknowledged for Nate Craig and Brian Mork, Kenyon Public Works employees, who also provided much-needed support in the project.

A unique aspect of this project is that the shelters were built by students in the Kenyon-Wanamingo School District Construction Program, offering students valuable hands-on

learning experiences while making a lasting impact in the community.

Like many outdoor construction projects, the work encountered a few challenges. Due to unfortunate weather delays, the student team was unable to fully complete the shelters before the close of the school calendar. Fortunately, Kenyon is once again benefiting from the generosity of volunteers. The skilled volunteer team currently working on the local Habitat for Humanity home has graciously agreed to assist in completing the final roof phase of each shelter once the Habitat home is completed.

The addition of the picnic shelters represents more than just a park improvement—it is part of a broader vision for Depot Park and community recreation in Kenyon. This is just one of many updates we are hopeful of seeing within the next five years. The City will continue seeking funding through regional, state, and federal grants while also relying on strong local volunteer support.

Looking ahead, the City's Parks and Trails Committee, Economic Development Authority (EDA), and City Council remain committed to keeping park improvements a priority through ongoing planning and budgeting efforts. Due to funding restraints, the grand plan for Depot Park will need to be a phased-in process. Additional phases will consist of ADA accessibility to the Depot building with an approved access ramp. Sidewalks will need to be widened to allow for ease of access from the parking lot to the building and to each picnic shelter. Also, included is a .2 mile walking trail around the park, ADA improvements to the playground with a couple of new pieces of equipment providing enjoyment for all children, and the addition of 2 pickleball courts.

Simply put, this grant helped get the ball rolling—and the City of Kenyon is committed to keeping that momentum moving for years to come.



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180 Hydration Comes to Wanamingo!

(continued from page 1)

Especially when a local Wanamingan is opening it up. Joan Quam has always been interested in many aspects of health, and has taken that interest and turned it into a business.

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Joan was an original Bulldog, and she and her husband Grant grew up in Wanamingo, and continue to live here. If you know Joan, you know her passion for caregiving is contagious! I asked her how she got into the medical aspect of care, and she answered, "I developed a passion for caregiving when I became a Nursing Assistant at a local nursing home as a teenager. I went on to receive my LPN/RN license, and built on those nursing skills working in a clinical setting along with a Medical Surgical setting, same day Surgical Center, and the Emergency Department where I am now. I also have my Master of Nursing, in which I have taught nursing students at the college as well, in a clinical setting." Well, I'd say that she has a lot of training in various fields, and she lights up when she talks about it.

She became interested in Hydration Therapy when her daughter became ill, and was given hydration IV therapy and benefited greatly from her sessions.

So, what is hydration therapy? Obviously there are many issues that can be helped by administering vitamins and other remedies through an IV, because the infusion goes right into the blood, bypassing the stomach where much can be broken down and lost. So basically, you sit in a comfortable chair while Joan hooks you up to an IV drip containing what your body needs, and you enjoy about an hour of quiet time, while your solution goes through your body. Some of the benefits are 100% absorption, immune support, a boost in energy levels, fast treatment for dehydration, faster recovery, improved performance and beauty benefits. And how do

you know which therapy your body needs? Joan has a form for you to fill out, describing your symptoms, and she passes it on to a Chief Medical Officer, a Doctor of Pharmacy and a Minnesota Doctor team. They break it down to what the client (you) needs, and Joan puts it in your IV to infuse your body with exactly what you need to recover.

And what are some of the choices you have? Infusions are used in many different situations. Athletic recovery improves athletic performance and decreases recovery time. Hangover relief replenishes your cells and improves symptoms like headache, nausea, pain & fatigue, or you can use it in advance! Immune Boost has vitamins and minerals to reduce symptoms when you feel like you may be coming down with something before it gets worse, and helps you get back to feeling good again. There is one called Meyer's Cocktail which is John Meyer's special blend of vitamins, minerals and amino acids. This one boosts energy, reduces inflammation, and supports overall health and wellness. Migraine Relief is an anti-inflammatory infusion with blends of vitamins and minerals that focus on relief of the pain & symptoms associated with migraine headaches. There are more add-ons like vitamin boosters, Toradol, Zofran, Glutathione and more. Also ask Joan about the

Shot Bar which consists of B-12, the Skinny Shot, Energy Boost and many more!

Joan says, "I believe cost and accessibility are 2 large barriers for people trying to meet their health needs. Through 180 Hydration, appointments are readily available, and one can go to the website at 180Hydration.com and book your infusions conveniently and the costs are similar to a hair appointment rather than a luxury vacation!" The infusion session lasts about 1 hour, and the effects are long lasting. Everyone's body is unique, and the client gets to determine what they need. Most clients don't feel anything as the solution goes into their body, and they just relax and enjoy the process. If a client is recovering from an illness, one or two sessions are sufficient. Others deal with chronic illness and choose to use it as a part of their therapeutic program. All treatments are supervised under a medical team.

So, there you have it! Therapy that is affordable, and local! You will find Joan at All The Buzz in Wanamingo, at 308 Main Street. Or you can get ahold of Joan at 180hydration@gmail.com and ask your questions, or go to her website at 180hydration.com to see more about this alternative therapy.

Welcome Joan! We are excited to see what you have to offer us all!

Creative Crawl

(continued from page 1)

This is a fun shopping experience where you travel around the Zumbrota area to different homes, studios and shops to purchase handcrafted, unique and one of a kind items. There will be 50 vendors spread out over 10 locations. And remember, Father's Day is June 21st this year, so you will be sure to find something for Dad as you browse through the goodies that are being prepared as we speak!

June 18th, 19th and 20th are the dates, and there will be crafters all over the area selling their wares. You can pick up a map in a few places around town, or refer to the one posted here. The hours are Thursday and Friday from 9am to 6pm, and Saturday from 9am to 3 pm. My Happy Place will have a stand outside the store with maps to follow, and also have a delightful stained glass artist, Courtney Forland onsite on Saturday the 20th outside the store. Inside you will find many items from our local crafters. Nature's Grind, right behind Dairy Queen, will have maps inside starting at 7 am on Thursday, as well as extended hours while the event is going on. Be sure to grab a bite to eat as well as some fancy drinks to power you through your shopping experience! Old Soul Boutique on Main Street will have maps as well.

Some of the items you will find are candles, greeting cards, crocheted and sewn items, stained glass, jewelry, soaps, lotions, pottery, decor and more! Support your local crafters in this fun and unique way, and bring your family and friends and make it a great weekend for all involved. We are looking forward to seeing you out and about!



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Minnesota Newspaper Association Welcomes The Messenger Newspapers

(continued from page 1)

MNA remains one of the oldest and largest state newspaper associations in the United States. As a 501 (c)(6) nonprofit trade organization, MNA continues its mission supporting the newspaper industry, promoting a high standard of conduct and professional ethics in the business of newspaper publishing.

The Kenyon/Wanamingo Messenger began as two separate newspapers nearly twenty years ago. The Wanamingo Messenger started as a monthly newspaper to provide the com-

munity with news and an identity after losing the Wanamingo Progress in September of 1991 when it was purchased and merged with the Zumbrota News. The Kenyon Messenger started up about ten years later and the two Messengers were combined as one in May of 2024 to compliment and reflect the connection the two towns have through the Kenyon/Wanamingo school district.

Mainstreet Publishing distributes the Dodge County Messenger on a weekly schedule as a newspaper qualified to meet the requirements for publishing legal notices and postings in the state of Minnesota. With our experience in that market we moved to begin publishing the Kenyon/Wanamingo Messenger twice each month to enable the newspaper to fill the need for legal publications and postings in Goodhue County.

Both the publisher and the editor are lifelong community members who have been in business in the area in various ventures and have a combined sixty years of experience in the newspaper industry.

Terry Campbell, Editor of the Messenger papers commented, "We so appreciate the support of our area businesses and new sub-

scribers that support The Messenger." Campbell continued, "We have been blessed to see continued growth with The Messenger. As many small towns lost and have continued to lose their hometown papers, the Messenger Newspapers were founded over 25 years ago and have worked to adapt and serve our smaller hometowns." A lifetime resident, businessman and farmer, Campbell continued, "We work every day to adapt our newspaper operations to allow us to continue to meet the needs of our readers, businesses and government offices in the county. Technology allows us to combine many of the behind-the-scenes processes to put together a

paper that used to be done in separate offices in each town. Small town newspapers have been assimilated into larger publications and have lost the identity of the small town community. It may seem old fashioned to print and mail a newspaper, especially with other on-line resources available today, but in the world of misinformation and opinion-based reporting, hometown newspapers can continue to help communities stay informed and connected." Campbell concluded, "We will continue to do just that and are honored to now be a part of the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the resources they provide to the industry."

Kenyon Sportsman's Club Inc. Celebrates 50 Years

(continued from page 1)

The KSCI clubhouse regularly offers pistol shooting, trap shooting, and gun safety classes that are open to the public. Prondzinski says, "scheduled pistol shoots...are every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month through the summer and early fall. Scheduled trap shoots...are every 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesday of the month through the summer and early fall.

Funding for these events is made possible through memberships and a yearly raffle held by the KSCI.

Prondzinski states that the mission of the KSCI is "to develop opportunities for the enjoyment of the greater outdoors as an essential part of the character building and the spiritual and physical development of our people; to encourage the protection of our natural resources and to cooperate with other like-minded organizations." Prondzinski enjoys being a part of the KSCI as it has had a positive impact on his life. He says, "I get to meet people that I would never have known and some that have become good friends of mine... [and] the camaraderie of the group is a good time."

To celebrate 50 years of camaraderie and community involvement, the KSCI invites the community to attend its 50th anniversary celebration on June 20th, 2026. The event will be a great opportunity to learn more about the KSCI, meet new people, and have a chance to win some great prizes. Hamburgers, hot dogs, dessert, and more will be provided. The celebration begins at noon with a time of open shooting until 4 pm. Family time will run from 4 pm-9 pm and will have activities for all ages, including bounce houses, Mōlkky, and yard games.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the KSCI, Prondzinski says, "anyone can get a membership by attending a meeting or setting up an appointment on a Saturday to get through an orientation. Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 PM, and membership is \$75 for the first year and \$50 every year after as long as you renew by [the] March meeting." The Kenyon Sportsman's Club Inc is located at 44954 10th Ave, Kenyon. For additional information about the KSCI, you can also contact Jason Prondzinski by email at Jason.Prondzinski@istatetruck.com.

Farm Girl Chatter Sweet Summertime

By McKell Lemmerman

You can always tell when summertime officially hits farm country. The gravel roads get dusty, the tractors start multiplying like rabbits, and every farmer suddenly develops a degree in weather forecasting. One little cloud rolls in and there's already three guys standing outside saying, "looks like rain coming."

Summer on the farm is a different kind of beautiful. The fields turn bright green almost overnight, fresh grass starts growing faster than anyone can keep up with, and the countryside finally wakes up after another long Minnesota winter. There's something about hearing thunder roll through the hills while rain taps on the shed roof that makes everything feel alive again.

The livestock knows it, too. They spend their days belly-deep in fresh grass at what can only be described as an all-you-can-eat gourmet buffet. Honestly, some of them look so relaxed you'd think they booked a spa weekend.

Then there are babies. Calves, foals, kids, lambs—whatever kind of critter you raise—summer is when they discover speed. One

minute they're peacefully standing next to mom, and the next they're sprinting laps around the pasture.

This is also the season of everyone's favorite insect, yep the fly. The livestock stand in the middle of the field acting majestic until a fly lands on them and suddenly, they're performing karate moves.

As the days go on, the farmers are out there sweating through three shirts a day; sweat dripping into places no sweat should ever be. Everyone smells faint of sunscreen and diesel fuel.

Summer evenings make it all worth it though. Sitting outside after chores are done with a cold drink in hand, listening to the frogs sing from the ditch while the sun drops behind the fields. Friends stop by unannounced; lawn chairs magically appear from garages, and conversations last longer.

There's peace in those moments. Just a sweet summertime and the simple kind of happiness you can only find out in the country.



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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

What is in a Name?



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 wonder how many people dislike their name? An Internet search claims 16% of the population of the United States wish they had been given a different name. I do know some

who have changed their name when the were old enough to do so. As a child I would have happily done just that.

As a child I was not happy with my name. I hated it. Everyone I knew with that name was a girl. Believe me, an eight-year-old boy in 1965 did not want a girl's name.

I was the third child so the novelty of naming a kid was over. I was "baby boy" when I came home from the hospital. I was also the middle child. They didn't even bother to give me a middle name. They had things going on. My mom had two kids already, which I imagine my grandma was watching while she was in the hospital. By the way, I was a cheap child. My mom saved the hospital bill when I was born. It was \$98.00.

My dad had just built a new hog barn and was farrowing the group of sows the night I was born. He told me it was a hot July and the temperature was about 100 degrees in the farrowing barn that night.

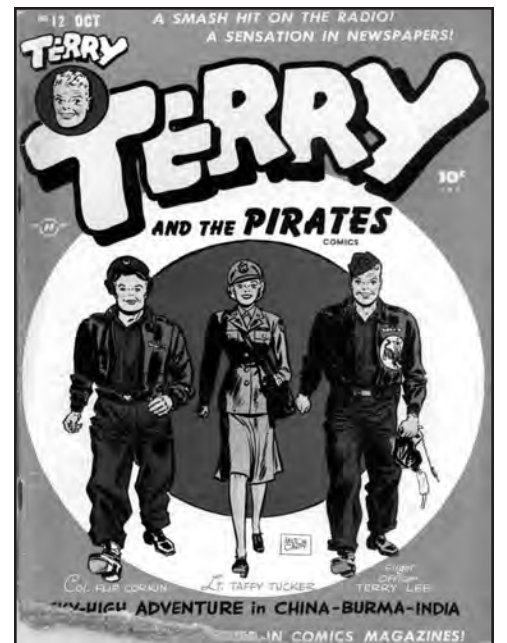
My mom said I was kind of a hefty baby and already had curly hair when I was born. The nurses nick-named me Gorgeous George after a pro wrestler in the 1950's. George Raymond Wagner (Gorgeous George), was quite a celebrity and turned pro wrestling into the showmanship sport it has become today. Muhammed Ali patterned his flamboyant boxing ring antics after Gorgeous George.

A few days after I came home from the hospital I still was "baby boy". It was time for decisions. Years ago, my dad told me how I got my name. It came to him as he read the newspaper while eating breakfast one morning.

There was a comic strip in the newspaper called "Terry and the Pirates." It was very

popular and was in syndication from 1934 to 1973. It was created by Milton Caniff about an adventurous American boy, Terry Lee, who went on adventures in the far east starting with searching for a lost gold mine in China. With the outbreak of World War 2, he joined the United States Army as a pilot. Milton Caniff was very patriotic and the series then became almost exclusively about World War II with much action centering on a U.S. Army base in China. He even provided a spin off for the Stars & Stripes military newspaper. The cartoon series did win the first cartoonist of the year award in 1946 from the National Cartoonist Society.

So, it seems I was named after a cartoon character. My parents would call me Terry Lee, but the middle name was never official. I would have rather been just Lee. I guess it could have been worse. I have got used to it as time passed. Funny how when one gets older, what is important changes.



A Minnesotan: The Woods



By RosaLin Alcoser

contrast if I really just want to be out of the city and back in the woods again we have so many options for doing that as well.

Especially for people who like to hike. I grew up just walking about in the woods, which I now know is basically what hiking is, because it was something to do and it was fun. It was rural Minnesota in the mid to late 2000s going outside to play in the woods is just what we did. And if rural Minnesotan kids don't do that any more they should because it's fun. Now that I live in the city I have become a person who likes to hike, because frankly going outside into the woods is still fun.

About a half hour south west of Cannon Falls is Nerstrand Big Woods State Park. This park is home to the endangered Dwarf Trout Lily, which as we learned from a park ranger only grows in three counties in Minnesota. Funnily enough I did recognize this flower from being a child in one of three counties and I'm fairly certain that I probably picked it at somepoint- so oops.

Aside from being home to an endangered plant, Nerstrand Big Woods State Park is just a beautiful park with so many paths to walk. So if you are someone who likes to go walking in the woods and either doesn't have woods in your back yard or wants different woods to walk in. I would highly recommend going there to walk and to see the Dwarf Trout Lily.

One of the best things about living in Minnesota is how absolutely beautiful our summers are. By far our state has some of the best summer weather- mostly because we don't get baked alive all summer long- but also some of the most lush greenery I've ever seen.

We also have some of the best parks to spend the summers in, on both the city and state level. As someone who grew up in rural Minnesota and now lives in the twin cities I really do appreciate how wonderful the parks are in this state. Since if I want to be in a heavily wooded area for about a half hour to an hour I can easily do that within walking distance from my home. In

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38th Annual Friendship Wagon Train June 20-27

(continued from page 1)

This dedicated group of individuals will be on their annual mission to raise funds for 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. Souvenir hats and t-shirts will be available 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.

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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),
507-951-0762 (cell),
507-365-8064

**Special
Olympics
Minnesota**



(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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Flowers in Bloom

(continued from page 1)

Bailey says, "I am an artist, and I love plants and flowers, so designing is something I really enjoy and [it] came naturally to me." In addition to her own artistic designs, Bailey also gained knowledge from Judy Smith, owner of Judy's Floral Design in Northfield. Today, Bailey says, "I have found my own style and learned new methods over time, but I still occasionally call her [Judy] with questions about different or new situations. It's good to know others in the business or to have mentors."

But Bailey's career did not begin in the floral industry. After graduating from art school, she became an art teacher. However, Bailey reflects on that season, saying, "the job was very unsatisfying. The kids were great, and having a classroom was great, but working for the school system was really disappointing in many aspects. Art was not taken very seriously; the pay wasn't great, and there was always a threat that my job was on the chopping block. It was summer, and my teaching position had been cut to part-time right at the end of the year." That summer, Bailey worked with Judy Smith again, and Smith encouraged Bailey to start up her own floral business. In 2013, that is exactly what Bailey

did.

Bailey says, "having a business in Kenyon has been a great way for me to do something I love while raising a family and building connections within my community. I have gotten to know so many people, and the support for my business and family is just a priceless gift." While owning Mary's Rustic Rose has been a great blessing, it still presents challenges. Like any business, Bailey needs to manage many behind-the-scenes details. Bailey reflects, "I have had people tell me that they 'want a flower shop after they retire' or that they 'would love to play with flowers all day.' Playing with flowers is the fun part, but there is ordering, cleaning (lots of cleaning), chopping, pricing, delivering, hauling, wrapping, and constantly repairing. [It's] like owning another house, but with more going on. When it's busy, you are constantly running."

Bailey encourages everyone to "support your local businesses as much as you can." Bailey says, "I always have some things on hand, but I'm not a big box store, and I don't carry everything all the time. BUT if you give me a heads up, I can very often find what you're looking for. We get product in multiple times a week, so sometimes it's just a matter of a day or two. Call ahead or send a message, and I will do my best to get you what you need." So, whether you are planning a wedding, a funeral, or just want to add some floral color to your porch, Mary's Rustic Rose is eager to help make your floral designs a reality.

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Goodhue County Home Study Spring Festival—America Celebrates 250 Years

By Beth Brekke

Women of the Goodhue County Home Study groups gathered at New Life Church in Wanamingo on May 4th for their annual spring festival. Festival chairperson and Home Study president, Patty Kempf welcomed members and guests. Secretary, Sharon Rechtzigel led the pledge and creed ahead of the noon lunch catered by Area 57 Cafe.

Tables were decorated with red, white and

blue centerpieces, honoring the day's "250th Anniversary of America" theme. Donated by each local group, the centerpieces were later given away as door prizes. Keeping with the theme, the afternoon program featured Civil War Living History Reenactor, Marie McNamara.

When the Civil War began in 1861, people expected it to last about three months, not four years. With the men gone to war, women's rolls changed.

Women went to work in shops and offices and had to run farms. Marie's presentation focused on what the home-front was like during the Civil War. "What do I think about with my family at home? What are the basics that they need? They need food, clothing, and they need shelter." Women of the 1860s focused on the same things.

Grocery stores may have been some distance from home but canned food products were a useful new invention. Holding up and describing some of the many items in her display, Marie noted that women have always liked pretty things, including decorative plates and glassware.

McNamara likes to say she "brings the museum to you". Dressed in full 19th century costume, including bonnet and gloves, she says, "It takes as long to get dressed as it does to take all of the boxes (of display items) to the car". Long skirts and layers were the style of the time. "You have to put on a pair



Marie McNamara in full 1860s costume presents Civil War history at the Goodhue County Home Study Group Spring Festival on May 4th. She is a long-time active participant in the Third Regiment of Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Co. C Civil War Living History Reenactors, attending special events and doing presentations several times each year.



A 1/3 scale replica of the 29x17 flag sewn by women supporting the Union troops in 1862.

of drawers and then you put on a chemise because that protects your dress from oils. And then you put your corset on. I've got a corset on. That was a big protective measure to hold yourself together plus support these hoops. I've got hoops on," she said motioning to her waist. "I've got two petticoats on. You didn't want the ribs of your hoops to show so you wore petticoats." In the winter when the women went out to milk cows and feed livestock they might wear a shorter skirt, a wool

petticoat and heavy socks.

McNamara showed other fashions of the era and explained how sewing machines were just becoming available and were one of the first 'buy-on-time' items. Women could group together and share one machine in a sewing club.

Dress material went up from 75 cents to \$35/yard during the war. "The inflation was terrible for homemakers."

(continued on page 13)

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Goodhue County Home Study Spring Festival—America Celebrates 250 Years

(continued from page 12)

The price of other basic necessities like flour rose from \$6/barrel to \$1000/barrel. Coffee beans rose from 35 cents/pound to \$60. Due to a Confederate blockade, the Southern states were not able to buy coffee at all so substituted things like ground acorns, chicory and roasted barley.

Women were nurses, spies, and soldiers but the great majority were at home taking care of the house, farm and family. Nothing they did was easy. "They were heating with wood and they would have the kids help a lot." Women made soap and candles. "We were not in the industrial revolution—they did a lot from scratch"

The women knit socks and gloves, and sent letters and photographs to the men that had gone to war for so much longer than ex-



A few Civil War era artifacts and reproductions in Marie McNamara's collection.

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pected. Many of those men never returned home. During the 150th anniversary of the war (2011-2015), a project to find and refurbish the graves of Minnesota men killed in combat was initiated. Only 22 bodies had been returned as most were buried in the South near the combat sight.

Lastly, McNamara shared the story of how a group of women supported the soldiers by creating the largest Union flag. 1862 was the worst year of the Civil War for the Union troops. "The patriotism ran so high with the women," McNamara said, telling how they had a 110-foot flagpole erected by Reads Landing in Wabasha County to display their wool and cotton flag. At 29 feet long and 17 feet tall it is too large to be kept on display but can be seen by appointment at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. A 1/3 scale replica made in 2016 is on display at the Wabash County Historical Society Museum in Reads Landing.

The event concluded with a medley of patriotic songs sung by Tom Ersland of Kenyon.

For more information on Goodhue County Home Study, including upcoming trips to the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre and the Granite Falls Casino and stops in South Dakota, contact Patty Kempf at 507-208-3409.

For information on Civil War Living History Reenactment, events, presentations and rates, contact Marie McNamara at 651-301-5410 or Randal Kuznicki at 651-380-1542.



Tom Ersland sang several patriotic songs for the women attending the Spring Festival, ending with a group sing-a-long of God Bless America.

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2026 Goodhue County Dairy Princesses

L to R: Hannah Gudknecht of Wanamingo, Chloe Sjoquist of Cannon Falls and Leetta O'Reilly of Goodhue.
Missing: Goodhue County Dairy Princess Jenna O'Reilly of Goodhue



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2026 Goodhue County Dairy Princesses

L to R: Hannah Gudknecht of Wanamingo, Chloe Sjoquist of Cannon Falls
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A Summer Staple

By Jocelyn Aldrich

For several generations, Ginny's Drive-In has been a staple in the West Concord community. Known for their amazing burgers and tasty ice cream, Ginny's has been serving the West Concord community since May of 1980. For many in the West Concord area, summer just isn't "summer" until Ginny's Drive-In is open for business.

Virginia "Ginny" and Bob Sindle founded Ginny's Drive-In. Ginny was a mother, wife, and the office manager at the West Concord Enterprise. Bob was the West Concord Police Chief. Ginny's Drive-In began because the Sindle family recognized that the nearest drive-in restaurant was 10 miles away.

They also wanted to have a local restaurant that was open during the evenings in the summer months. They decided to lease the building that is now Ginny's. The building was formerly Ken's Drive-In from 1964-65 and later Phyl's Drive-In from 1966-67. When the Sindle family leased the building, remodeling was desperately needed. Restoring the building and purchasing the needed equipment was

truly a family and community effort. Local contractors labored and supplied materials, and Bob worked diligently to order the necessary equipment. Finally, through the trials and the dedication, Ginny's opened on schedule. On Thursday, May 8, 1980, Ginny's Drive-In was open for business. Running the Drive-In was a family effort. Bob helped get the Drive-In running in the morning. The Sindle children, Linda and Danny, also worked at the Drive-In, and Ginny helped oversee the daily operations. In addition, other local women helped to fill in the shifts.

Nearly 50 years later, Ginny's Drive-In is still providing tasty summer treats to the West Concord community. In 2015, Lynn Nelson and her partner took over the Drive-In. Lynn later bought out her partner and is now committed to continuing the Ginny's Drive-In legacy. Lynn enjoys running Ginny's because of the people she gets to engage with and the food she gets to have a hand in making. The Concord Meat Locker provides Ginny's with their signature hamburger patties, keeping the burgers locally sourced and fresh. Lynn says she enjoys the unique aspect of owning the Drive-In because they are so rare now.

Ginny's Drive-In provides more than just juicy burgers and tasty ice cream. Each Wednesday from 4-7 pm, a small farmers' market is available for the community. The farmer's market provides access to fresh produce and unique crafts each week. Ginny's Drive-In has also been known to host several car shows throughout the years, as well as a family movie night. Stay tuned for upcoming events on the Ginny's Drive-In Facebook page, and don't forget to share their posts with your friends and family.



Ginny Sindle when Ginny's first opened

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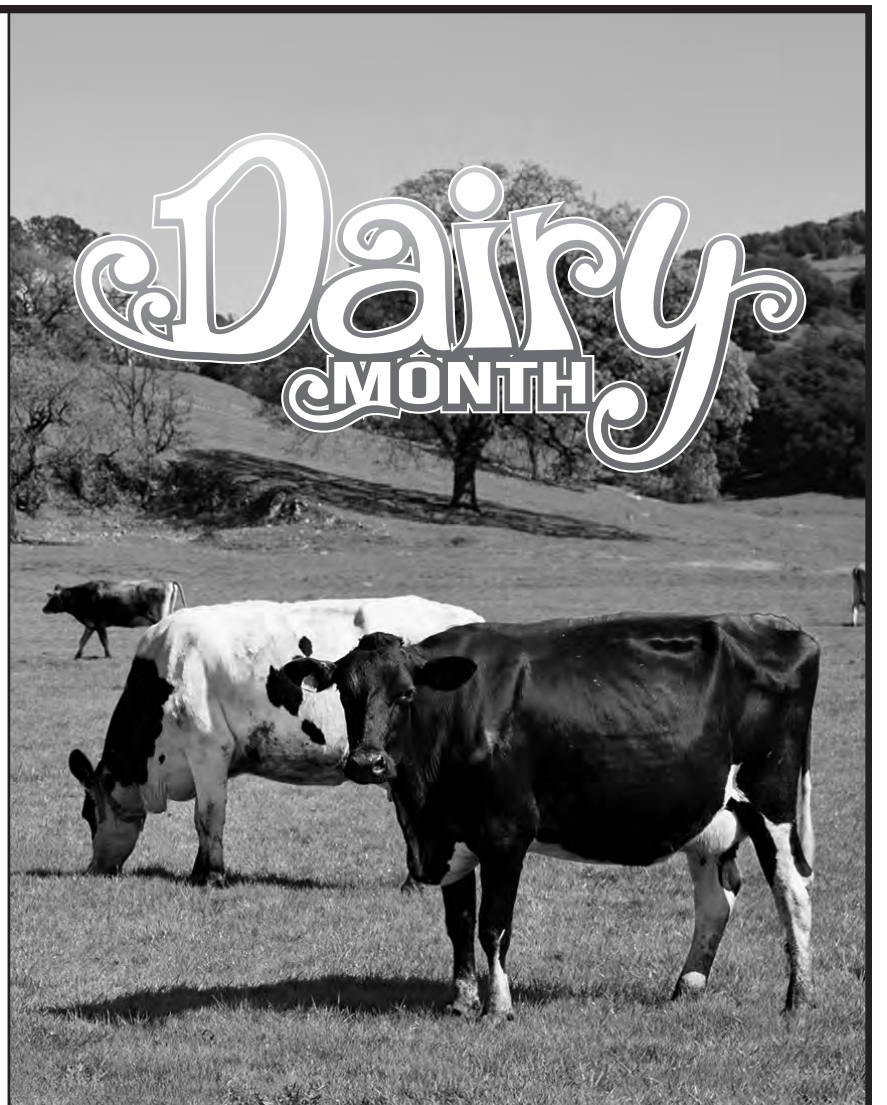
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Sitting Too Much May Lead to an Early Demise



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Do you sit a lot? I have spent a lot of time reviewing patient habits, and one thing I always share with our community is that we often underestimate the quiet habits that shape our health. You might think that going to the gym every morning and getting your sweat in is enough to protect your heart, but recent data tells a different story. If you sit for more than 10.6 hours a day, your risk of heart failure jumps by 45%, and the risk of cardiovascular death increases by 62%. What really stands out is that this happens even to people who exercise regularly, meaning that a morning workout simply does not undo the damage of sitting at a desk for the rest of the day. To understand why this happens, we have to look at what sitting does to the body on a functional level. Prolonged sitting severely impairs your blood circulation, causing blood to pool in your legs and making your heart work much harder than it needs to. On top of that, remaining still for hours decreases your body's insulin sensitivity and significantly reduces mitochondrial activity, sending your cell's energy factories into a low-power state. Over time, these combined factors cause chronic inflammation and do real damage to your cardiovascular health. The good news I want to pass along is that breaking up this sedentary time is entirely in your control and makes an immediate difference. You do not need a drastic lifestyle overhaul to protect

your heart. Studies show that simply reallocating 30 minutes of sitting time to light activity lowers your risk of heart failure by 7%. Regular movement spread consistently throughout your day is absolutely necessary to protect your heart health and keep your metabolic function running exactly how it should.

We can tackle this together by building better rhythms into our daily lives. Simple, everyday strategies like making sure you stand up for just 10 minutes every single hour can completely reset your metabolism and restore your circulation. Finding small ways to integrate more walking into your routine, whether that means pacing during a phone call or taking a quick stroll after lunch, will significantly lower your cardiovascular risks. It is not about perfection; it is about keeping your body in motion and taking care of the heart that works so hard for you.

Sciatica Information: For those that know me, you know I am deeply passionate about helping people understand their bodies and overcome discomfort. Sciatica can hit incredibly hard, stemming from the irritation of your sciatic nerve—the long, powerful nerve running from your lower back down to your foot. When this nerve gets compressed or irritated, it causes sharp, shooting pain, numbness, or a tingling sensation that makes even the simplest daily movements feel like a monumental challenge. The majority of sciatic symptoms come from a pelvic imbalance. Chiropractic care realigns the pelvic joints and relaxes the muscles that irritate the sciatic nerve.

When that sudden bolt of pain strikes, your first instinct is usually to stop moving and rest in bed, but I always tell our community that movement—not prolonged rest—is the true key to your recovery. Staying still actually allows the tissues around the nerve to tighten up even more. By keeping your body moving, you increase crucial blood flow to the area, reduce lingering inflammation, and actively help your nervous system heal much faster than it would if you just stayed on the couch.

You do not need to push through grueling workouts when the pain is intense; instead, you want to focus on gentle, deliberate activities that relieve pressure and prevent stiffness. Short, comfortable walks and swimming are fantastic ways to keep your spine mobile without adding unnecessary stress. Incorporating simple, targeted stretches right at home—like a gentle knee-to-chest stretch or a prone, cobra-style press-

up—can work wonders for decompressing the lower spine and coaxing that irritated nerve to settle down during frustrating flare-ups.

Once you get the immediate pain under control, keeping that sciatica from returning relies heavily on the daily habits we practice. It is extremely important to pay attention to your core foundation by strengthening the muscles in your hips and midsection, which take the heavy lifting off your lower back so your spine isn't overloaded. Limiting how long you sit, correcting your posture so you aren't slouching, and supporting your spine properly with the right pillows while you sleep are simple adjustments that drastically reduce the daily compression on your spinal discs. Periodic spinal pelvic adjustments are

essential for keeping the condition from coming back.

I want to reassure you that while this condition is frustrating, your body is fully capable of healing, and most people recover fully within just a few weeks. The secret is staying consistent with your activity and strategically using a wrapped ice pack during the first few days to calm the initial inflammation, before switching to comforting heat to relax those tight muscles. By staying active and making these mindful lifestyle choices, you are building a strong, resilient spine that is ready to help you get back to enjoying your everyday life pain-free.

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

Fermented Foods



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

There is a myth that has been promoted for decades that bacteria are the source of most of our health problems. The suggested thought is that a bacteria free environment will be a healthy environment. The action step has been promotion of antibacteria wipes and hand gels, antibiotic medications, and sterile foods. However, we have not seen a great improvement in health among our communities with these action steps.

The truth is that there are more bacteria cells than human cells living within and on any human body. Our body is outnumbered by millions of bacteria cells that live in community with our body. Most of these bacteria help promote health and fight off the germs that want to cause trouble. I describe the importance of your bacteria community similar to riding a bus. When you get on the bus and see all your friends in the seats, you know this is going to be a great trip. If you get on the bus and see some rowdy thugs, you will not have a great trip. Your goal is to make sure all the bacteria riding with you are friends who want to support you.

There are many probiotic supplement products on the market today. My general recommendation is to look for 1) a product that contains ten to twelve different bacteria names on the ingredient list, 2) a product that is stored in the refrigerator, and 3) a product with at least 25 billion colony forming units (CFU) per capsule. This capsule should be taken in the evening before bed to allow the bacteria to move

through the intestines without a rush of food around.

Probiotic rich foods are an excellent way to regularly support quality bacteria friends for your daily trip. Some of these foods include: sauerkraut, kimchi, kefir, kombucha, yogurt, and cheese. Most any vegetable can be fermented in a simple process in the kitchen. The fermentation process will produce a soured vegetable product similar to pickling but without the vinegar. The vegetable and liquid brine will be rich with bacteria that will stimulate healthy digestion, improved energy, mental clarity, and healthy skin.

A 2021 article in the Stanford Medicine News described a recent 10-week study comparing a high fiber diet with a fermented food diet. At the conclusion of the study, those individuals in the fermented food group had lowered inflammation to nineteen different measures. The participants in the high fiber diet did not see a decrease in any of the nineteen measures. By regularly consuming bacteria rich foods, the "friends on the bus" kept the problems away.

Sources you can access to learn more about fermentation and healthy fermented foods include: www.cuttingedgecultures.com - an online resource providing starter cultures and education, www.culturedfoodlife.com - a website with articles, videos, recipes, and starter cultures for sale. Sandor Katz has a well-known book called, "Wild Fermentation," and Dr. William Davis authored, "Super Gut." These sources will start you towards a healthier lifestyle based on quality fermented foods.

Health 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

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Understanding the Culture of Cannabis Language

By Goodhue County Health and Human Services

Imagine you are at a gathering, and you hear a community member say, "I'm going out back to tend to the flowers because I like gardening." It could be this person is an avid gardener, or it could be they are planning to consume cannabis. Cannabis goes by many names such as marijuana, weed, kush, flower, hash chronic, pot, or dope.

Street names or slang is also used for different cannabis product types, their strength, quantity, method of use and the feeling of use. References to brownies, treats or medicated snacks speaks to the use of cannabis edibles. Wax, shatter, budder, crumble, or sugar describes the texture of cannabis concentrate.

Use of slang may show up in conversations, texts, or social media. Another example would be "Zaza and Zip are coming over at 710," which translates into an ounce of high-end oil or dabs being available. While many professionals prefer "cannabis," older and social terms remain common.

Weed/Pot/Ganja: Common nicknames for the plant.

Dank: Slang for high-quality, potent, and pungent cannabis.

Kief: The sticky, powdery crystals (trichomes) that fall off the flower; often collected at the bottom of a Grinder.

420: Universal code for cannabis culture and the "holiday" celebrated on April 20.

710: A newer code specifically for oils and concentrates (the numbers spell "OIL" upside down).

The use of cannabis slang can be an indicator of use or dependence especially when used in secrecy, at high frequency, and when used to downplay harm or avoid questions. Slang use may also show up along with changes in routine, mood, sleep, or motivation.

"The culture cannabis use may include obvious or hidden use of slang, clothing, stash containers, and references from popular culture," notes Chris Weis of Mower County Health and Human Services. "It's valuable to learn the language and culture of cannabis so that you can talk with your loved ones about it."

It's valuable to learn the language of cannabis so that you can talk with your loved ones about it. Speaking of Cannabis can help you to learn more about cannabis and how to start a conversation about it.

The Speaking of Cannabis initiative is supported by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Health's Health Improvement Bureau and is featured as part of the Preferred Business sponsored content program. Local residents can find more information by visiting Goodhue County Health and Human Services.

Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue,



Courtesy of the Regional Cannabis Communication Campaign

Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona counties are partnering to inform adults through the website, speakingofcannabis.org.

This activity is made possible by a grant from the Cannabis and Substance Use Pre-

vention program of the Minnesota Department of Health Health Improvement Bureau.

The Southeast Regional Cannabis Communication Campaign is part of the sponsored content program called Spotlight.

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11 Counties Unite to Inform Adults About Cannabis

By Ella Slade

Across southeast Minnesota, public health educators wanted parents and caregivers to know that the conversation about cannabis can start early and grow over time.

The Regional Cannabis Communication Campaign was created with that goal and is supported by the Cannabis Substance Use Prevention (CSUP) program, a key initiative funded by the Minnesota Department of Health. This program provides grants to local health departments and Tribal health departments to support crucial prevention, education, and policy work related to cannabis and other substance use.

The 11-county partnership was formed to maximize the grant's impact. When all 11 counties deliver the same message, consistency builds trust. This unity strengthens credibility by ensuring residents are less likely to receive conflicting information. The coordinated approach also achieves greater reach and impact, amplifying visibility as people are more likely to notice and remember a message encountered repeatedly across different channels and locations.

"It's essential that we share information in ways that genuinely reach our communities. The Speaking of Cannabis campaign helps us connect with the individuals who most need to hear our message--cannabis has changed, and understanding the risks is more important than ever," said Grace Pint, Rice County Public Health (her role).

Regional tools and shared messages make it easier for local health departments to reach families, as the collaboration ensures a more efficient use of local resources. Pooling efforts reduces duplicated work, lowers costs, and allows smaller counties to benefit from shared expertise. By aligning their messages



Staff from all 11 counties pose in Rochester April 14 with window clings for the Speaking of Cannabis campaign.

and focusing on facts, the campaign also helps reduce the risk of misinformation.

"Local public health staff wear many hats," said Bri Ceaser, public health educator with Houston County. "We are assessing which issues are affecting our communities, like mental health or substance use, and then work with our partners to address those needs using the funding we have."

Ceaser added that these grants also come with important requirements, including following best practices, creating a work plan, and reporting results.

"But in many smaller counties, one health educator might be juggling five or six different projects at the same time," Ceaser said. "That's why this regional collaboration is such a clear benefit to all of our residents. We could share the workload and not have to reinvent the wheel."

The Speaking of Cannabis initiative is supported by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Health's Health Improvement Bureau and is featured as part of the Pre-

ferred Business sponsored content program. Local residents can find more information by visiting Goodhue County Health and Human Services.

Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona counties are partnering to inform adults through the website speakingofcannabis.org.

This activity is made possible by a grant from the Cannabis and Substance Use Prevention program of the Minnesota Department of Health's Health Improvement Bureau.

The Regional Cannabis Communication Campaign is part of the sponsored content program called Spotlight.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Medallion Hunt | First clue drops
 5pm | **Pickle Ball Tourn.** | Heritage Park | \$30/team
 7pm | **Pool Games** | Goodhue Pool

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

7pm | **Bar Olympics** | 2nd St Pub
 5-7pm | **Volunteer Kickoff Party** | Corner Bar

7:00pm GATE | 8:00pm MUSIC
 GA \$25 PRE-SALE & AT GATE
 VIP \$60 PRE-SALE & AT GATE

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

8am reg. | **Udder Run** | Front of GHS | \$20/ea adv or \$25/ea day of
 8am-1pm | **Car & Tractor Show** | St. Peters Church
 8:30-11:30am | **Burrito Breakfast & Quilt Show** | St. Peters Church
 8:45-10am reg. | **Road Rally** | Goodhue C-Store | \$5/person
 9am | **Volleyball Tourn., Co-ed** | Rosie Park | \$30/team
 9am-3pm | **Craft and Vendor Market** | Lion's Community Center
 10am-Gone | **Minnow Shirts** | 2nd St Pub
 10am | **3-on-3 Basketball, 11yr** | GHS Gym 1 & 2 | \$100/Team
 10am-12pm | **Kids Bounce Party, Toddler ONLY** | GHS Gym 3

6:00pm GATE | 6:30pm MUSIC
 GA \$50 UNTIL 5/15 | \$60 5/15+ & AT GATE
 VIP \$110 UNTIL 5/15 | \$130 5/15+

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FRIDAY, JUNE 12

1pm | **Pedal Tractor Pull** | Broadway/2nd Ave
 4-7pm | **Sharp Sound DJ** | 2nd St Pub
 4-7pm | **Kids Bounce Party, 12yr** | GHS Gym 3
 6pm | **Miss Goodhue** | GHS Gym 1 | \$5/Person
 7pm | **Street Dance** | N 2nd St.

POP ROCKS

Fire at the Falls

11am-1pm | **Touch A Truck** | GHS Parking Lot
 11am reg. | **Bean Bag Tourn.** | Rosie Park | \$40/team
 12pm-2pm | **Kids Bounce Party, 12yr** | GHS Gym 3
 1pm | **Bingo** | Fire Hall
 1-4pm | **Gopher State Garden Tractor Pull** | 3rd Ave
 1-3pm | **Emma Marie Live** | 2nd St Pub
 3-6pm | **Ron Bublitiz Live** | Corner Bar
 3-7pm | **360 Photo Booth** | Food Court
 4-7pm | **Hayden Ashworth Live** | 2nd St Pub
 6pm | **Street Dance** | N 2nd St.
 10pm | **Fireworks** | Rosie Park

2-5pm | **Hayden Ashworth Live** | Corner Bar
 2-5pm | **Tim Emmons Live** | 2nd St Pub
 2:30pm | **Fire Dept. Water Fight** | Fire Dept.
 4:30pm | **Monty's Traveling Reptile Show** | Rosie Park Pavillion

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Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol



Question: Like most people I travel everyday for work and I know that construction season is upon us. Can you write about getting people to understand the zipper merge? I still see a lot of people that can't seem to figure this out.

Answer: The zipper merge is a driving strategy that requires drivers to change their mindset about merging. Traditionally, drivers have been taught to merge early when a lane is ending. Early merging leads to longer backups, more crashes and road rage incidents.

Zipper merge procedure

- When you see the "lane closed ahead" sign and traffic is backing up, stay in your current lane until the point of merge.
- Take turns with other drivers to safely and smoothly merge into the remaining lane.
- When traffic is heavy and slow, it is safer to remain in your current lane until the point where traffic can take turns merging orderly.

Benefits of the zipper merge

- Reduces the difference in speeds between two lanes, making lane changes easier and safer.
- Reduces the overall length of traffic backups by up to 40 percent.
- Reduces congestion at freeway interchanges, especially in metropolitan areas.
- Creates a sense of fairness when all lanes are moving at the same speed.
- Reduces incidents of road rage.

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The Convention Hall and the Kitchen Table

By David Schultz,
Minneapolis Times

When Minnesota's two major parties gathered at their endorsing conventions the last week of May, the activists in the room were not a cross section of the state. They were the most committed, the most ideological, and the most willing to give up a spring weekend to argue about platform planks. That is exactly why the positions they crafted drift away from where the average Minnesotan actually stands. I recently built an index of the median Minnesota voter, scoring twelve contested issues on a zero to one hundred scale from recent polling, where zero is the most conservative position and one hundred the most progressive. The median voter lands at about 60: modestly left of center, but nowhere near either party's base.

That median Minnesotan is easy to describe. This is someone who believes abortion should stay legal, supports same sex marriage and nondiscrimination protections, backs legal cannabis, wants higher taxes on the wealthiest earners and a strong safety net, and supports the transition to clean energy. At the same time, this voter feels real strain from the cost of groceries, gas, and housing, treats illegal immigration as a genuine concern, wants both effective policing and police accountability without anything resembling defunding, prizes the Boundary Waters enough to resist copper nickel mining nearby, and is genuinely unsure about the most contested transgender policies. In short, progressive on rights and the environment, anxious but progressive on taxes and spending, and stubbornly centrist on the law and order and identity questions where the state is most evenly split. The full index is below.

The Median Voter Index

Scores run 0 (most conservative pole of each question) to 100 (most progressive). 50 marks the genuine center. The composite is the average of the twelve issue scores, each drawn from recent scientific polling.

Neither party speaks to that whole person. The Minnesota DFL, scored the same way, comes in around 80. On the issues where Minnesota leans liberal, the party is directionally right but simply louder, holding the position the majority already holds and pushing it further. Its 2023 to 2024 trifecta delivered a generation of policy in a single biennium: codified abortion rights, legal cannabis, a 2040 carbon free electricity standard, expanded background checks and a red flag law, free school meals, paid leave. Much of that tracked majority sentiment. But the party also ran ahead of the median on the harder questions, pressing the most expansive transgender policies, a sweeping new government health insurance option, and a reform posture

on policing that the average voter never embraced. When you govern from 80 in a state whose center sits at 60, you win the big statewide races and then watch your legislative majorities evaporate. The 67 to 67 tie in the Minnesota House after 2024 is what a 20 point gap looks like in practice.

The Republican Party of Minnesota has the opposite and far larger problem. Scored against the same median, the MNGOP comes in at roughly 23. That is not 20 points from the center. It is about 37 points, nearly twice the DFL's distance, and it sits on the wrong side of issue after issue where Minnesotans have made up their minds. The party's platform calls for overturning the state and federal decisions protecting abortion, eliminating abortion funding, accommodating religious refusals of service to gay and lesbian customers, opposing recreational cannabis, and rolling back the clean energy mandate. Each of those positions puts the party against a clear Minnesota majority. A voter at 60 looking at a party at 23 does not see a reasonable alternative with different priorities. They see a party arguing about things the state settled years ago. The table and chart below place all three side by side.

The Parties Against the Median

Figure 1. Position of the median voter, the DFL, and the MNGOP on each issue (0 = conservative, 100 = progressive).

This is the real explanation for a statistic that ought to alarm Republican strategists: no Republican has won a statewide election in Minnesota in roughly two decades. It is the longest such drought of any state in the country. The standard excuses, candidate quality, national headwinds, the metro's growth, all contain some truth, but they miss the structural fact. You cannot win a state from 37 points out. The median voter is reachable for Republicans on exactly two dimensions, and they are not small ones. On taxes and spending, the average Minnesotan's genuine sensitivity to cost of living and personal tax burden gives the party a real opening. On immigration, the median voter's concern about illegal immigration aligns more with Republican framing than with the DFL's expansive posture on benefits and licenses. A party disciplined enough to lead with affordability and border concerns while quietly setting aside its losing fights on abortion, marriage, and climate could compete. The convention delegates will not let it.

And that is the deeper point, the one that applies to both parties. The endorsing convention is a machine for amplifying the base and punishing the center. DFL activists pull their party toward 80; Republican activists pull theirs toward 23 or lower. Neither group is built to ask what the voter at 60 actually wants, because that voter is not in the room and rarely shows up to a caucus. The result is two parties whose official platforms are documents written for the faithful, not the electorate. The median Minnesotan, offered a choice between a party 20 points to the left and a party 37 points to the right, does what the data shows: leans reliably Democratic at the top of the ticket, because that is the shorter distance, while keeping the Legislature close and refusing to hand either side a durable mandate.

There is a lesson here that neither convention wants to hear. Minnesota is not a deeply

progressive state, nor a closet conservative one. It is a center left state with a pragmatic streak, protective of rights and the environment, worried about its wallet, and impatient with extremes. The party that figures out how to govern from 60 instead of campaigning from its base will dominate Minnesota politics for a generation. So far, the DFL has come closer by accident of proximity, and the GOP has not come close at all. Until the activists who write the platforms make peace with the voters who decide the elections, the gap between the convention hall and the kitchen table will keep deciding who wins.

A Note on the Numbers

The median voter scores are coded from recent scientific polling: the MinnPost/Embold Research statewide polls, the Star Tribune/MPR News/KARE 11 Minnesota Poll, the PRRI American Values Atlas, Data for Progress polling on the 2040 clean energy law, and related sources, with a large but nonscientific Minnesota House State Fair poll used only as directional context. The party scores are coded from the Minnesota DFL Action Agenda and the party's 2023 to 2024 governing record, and from the Republican Party of Minnesota platform and recent legislative positions. The platform language reflects the most recently adopted MNGOP platform, supplemented by current legislative priorities. All scores place majority and plurality positions onto a common 0 to 100 scale and are intended as a transparent, revisable framework rather than a definitive measurement.

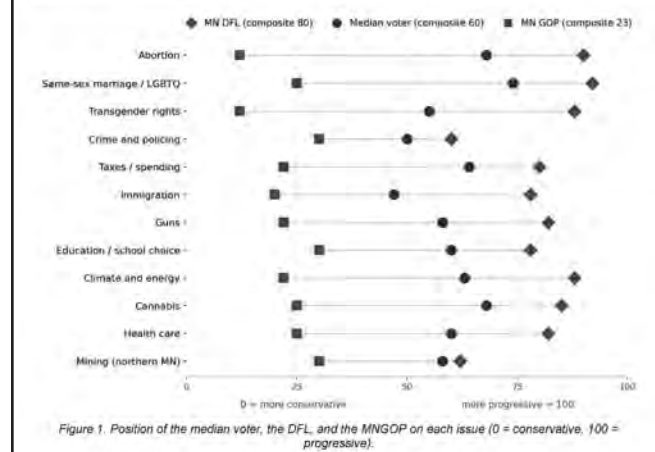
Issue	Score	Median Minnesotan position
Reproductive rights / abortion	68	Legal in most but not all cases; majority for constitutional protection
Same-sex marriage / LGBTQ rights	74	Strong support for marriage and nondiscrimination
Transgender rights	55	Backs general equality; split on contested specifics
Crime and policing	50	Wants both accountability and effective policing; no defunding
Taxes / spending for the poor	64	Tax the wealthy, fund the safety net, cost-sensitive
Immigration	47	Concerned about illegal immigration; moderate on enforcement
Guns	58	Moderate regulation, not bans; strong ownership culture

Issue	Score	Median Minnesotan position
Education / school choice	60	Opposes vouchers, funds public schools; quality anxiety
Climate and energy	63	Backs 2040 carbon-free standard; cost-sensitive
Cannabis	68	Supports legal recreational cannabis with regulation
Health care	60	Affordable access and public programs; split on new option
Mining (northern MN)	58	Protective of Boundary Waters; framing- and region-dependent
Composite index	60	Center-left of true center, socially liberal, economically progressive but cost-sensitive

The Parties Against the Median

Issue	Median	DFL	MNGOP	Closer
Abortion	68	90	12	DFL

Issue	Median	DFL	MNGOP	Closer
Same-sex marriage / LGBTQ	74	92	25	DFL
Transgender rights	55	88	12	DFL
Crime and policing	50	60	30	DFL
Taxes / spending	64	80	22	DFL
Immigration	47	78	20	MNGOP
Guns	58	82	22	DFL
Education / school choice	60	78	30	DFL
Climate and energy	63	88	22	DFL
Cannabis	68	85	25	DFL
Health care	60	82	25	DFL
Mining (northern MN)	58	62	30	DFL
Composite	60	80	23	DFL



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Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds Small Cities Development Program State of Minnesota

June 5, 2026

City of Wanamingo

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(507)824-2477

Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (651)565-2638 x 221

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or about June 16, 2026, the City of Wanamingo will request the Business and Community Development Division (BCD), Small Cities Development Program, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), to release federal funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 98-181) for the following proj-

ect:

The Wanamingo Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Project will occur within the city limits of Wanamingo, Minnesota. The project is limited to a budget of \$360,000.00, of which \$345,000.00 is provided through the Small Cities Development Program by Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Funds will be used for owner-occupied rehabilitation and administrative work with the goals of 12 units.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act Requirements per 24 CFR 58.35(a) rehabilitation of buildings and improvements when the following apply: For residential buildings with 1 to 4 units (either owner or rental), the unit density is not increased beyond 4 units, the land use is not changed and the footprint of the building is not increased in a floodplain or in a wetland. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) respecting this project has been made by the City of Wanamingo that documents the environmental review of the project. This ERR is on file at the address above and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00AM to 4:00PM and between the hours of 8:00AM and 12:00PM on Fridays.

In accordance with 24 CFR Part 58.15, a tiered review process has been structured for the rehabilitation, whereby some environmental laws and authorities have been reviewed for the target area and other applicable laws and authorities will be complied with, when participating properties

have been identified and projects are ripe for review. Specifically, the target area has been studied and compliance with the following laws and authorities has been established: Airport Hazards as the closest civilian airport is over 90,000 feet away and the nearest military airport is 226,000 feet away; Coastal Barrier Resources as the nearest CBRS zone is 167 miles north; Clean Air as eligible projects will not be new construction or lead to land conversion and the project area is not within a nonattainment zone; Coastal Zone Management as the nearest coastal zone to the City of Wanamingo is on Lake Superior, roughly 160 miles north; Farmlands Protection as there are no farmlands within the project area and all projects are rehabilitations which will not allow for conversion of farmland; Noise Abatement and Control as there are no noise generator within the vicinity of the project; Sole source aquifers as the project area is not located on a sole source aquifer; Wild and Scenic Rivers as the project area is not within proximity to a wild or scenic river.

Compliance with the following laws and authorities will take place once properties within the target area have been identified, but prior to the commitment of funds: Flood Insurance, Contamination and Toxic Substances, Endangered Species, Explosive and Flammable Hazards, Floodplain Management, Historic Preservation, and Wetlands Protection.

Compliance documentation on the aforementioned laws and authorities will be in each individual property file, and copies will be available, once established, at, Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority's office at 134 East Second Street, Wabasha, MN 55981 Monday to Thursday, 9:00AM to 3:00PM and Fridays 9:00AM to 11:00AM.

Public Comments on Request to Release Funds

Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Wanamingo at 401 Main Street, Wanamingo, Minnesota 55983 Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00AM to 4:00PM and between the hours of 8:00AM and 12:00PM on Fridays. All comments received by June 15, 2026, will be considered by the City of Wanamingo prior to submission of a Request for Release of Funds.

In addition, pursuant to the National His-

toric Preservation Act, comments on the identification and treatment of historic properties in the project area are welcome.

Environmental Certification

The City of Wanamingo will undertake the project described above with Block Grant funds from DEED, under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The City of Wanamingo is certifying to DEED that the City of Wanamingo and Mayor Ryan Holme, in his official capacity as Mayor, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that with approval, the City of Wanamingo may use the Block Grant funds, and DEED and HUD will have satisfied their responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

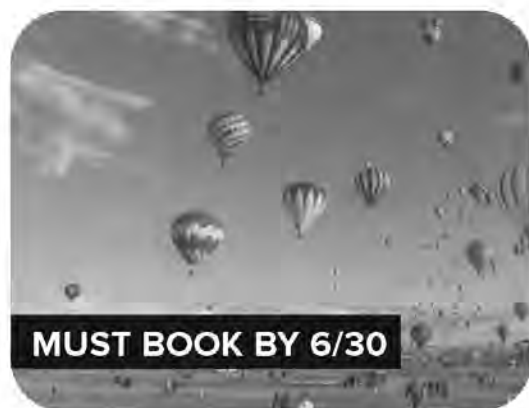
Objections to Release of Funds

DEED BCD will accept objections to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification for a period of eighteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only for one of the following reasons: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the Chief Executive Officer or other officer of the grantee approved by BCD; (b) that the grantee's ERR for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process; (c) the grant recipient has incurred costs not authorized at 24 CFR Part 58.22 before approval of a release of funds by BCD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 24 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58.76), and may be addressed to Manager, Small Cities Development Program, MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development, Business and Community Development Division, Great Northern Building, 180 East 5th Street, Suite 1200, St. Paul, MN 55101-1351. Potential objectors should contact DEED at 651-259-7449 to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Ryan Holmes

Mayor of Wanamingo



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Legislative Update

Dear friends and neighbors,

The 2026 legislative session came down to the final hours at the Capitol. With a tied House and a narrow one-seat Senate majority, neither party controlled the agenda outright. Every outcome required negotiation, compromise, and constant scrutiny.

That balance of power shaped the entire session. It also meant something simple but important: many of the tax increases and government expansions proposed this year did not become law due to Republicans holding the line, and many proposals for tax cuts and other affordability measures did not pass due to Democrats standing in the way. This is unfortunately just the reality of the tied House, and I am happy to break down the outcomes for you here.

Keeping Focus on Tax Relief

With no single party in full control, Republicans were able to secure targeted tax relief for Minnesotans who are feeling the pressure of higher costs. The property tax refund was expanded to provide additional, one-time relief for homeowners. Vehicle tab fees were also reduced on a one-time basis to help ease

the burden on drivers.

These changes may not solve every challenge, but they provide real relief and would not have been included if Democrats had full control of state government. We also supported efforts to modernize county IT systems to improve efficiency and reduce waste. All of these changes put together will help relieve everyday pressure and costs on taxpayers, even if just for a year. Without a tie in the House and Republicans standing strong, these things would not have happened.

Accountability and Fraud

This session also addressed ongoing concerns about fraud in state government. The Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, the creation of an independent Office of the Inspector General. This new office has law enforcement authority and is designed to operate outside of the Governor's control to ensure independent investigations of fraud and misuse of public funds. It is a step forward, but accountability depends on results, not just structure. We will keep an eye on the progress of this office and determine if additional action is needed to address the fraud crisis moving forward.

What Was Blocked

A number of proposals that would have in-

Sam Powell Announces Campaign for Minnesota Senate District 19

Faribault, MN — Faribault resident Sam Powell announced his candidacy for Minnesota Senate District 19 as a member of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party.

Powell's candidacy completes the DFL legislative team in District 19, joining House District 19A candidate Martha Brown of Faribault and House District 19B candidate Zack Meyman of Waseca. Together, the three candidates will work to bring strong representation and practical solutions to communities throughout parts of Rice, Waseca, Steele, and Goodhue Counties.

"As an advocate for our communities, I am running for Senate District 19 because I believe every family deserves the opportunity to thrive," said Powell. "Our region needs leadership focused on strengthening local schools, supporting working families, expanding economic opportunities, and ensuring that rural Minnesota continues to have a strong voice at the Capitol."

Powell said his campaign will focus on issues important to residents across the district, including affordable healthcare, quality public education, economic development, infrastructure investments, and support for local businesses and farmers.

With the addition of Powell's campaign, the DFL now has a full slate of legislative candidates in Senate District 19. Martha Brown is seeking election in House District 19A, while Zack Meyman is running in House District 19B.

"Our communities are strongest when we work together," Powell said. "I'm excited to join Martha Brown and Zack Meyman in building a campaign that listens to voters, addresses local concerns, and delivers results for the people of Senate District 19."

Powell plans to spend the coming months meeting with residents throughout the district, listening to their priorities, and sharing his vision for a stronger future for southern Minnesota.

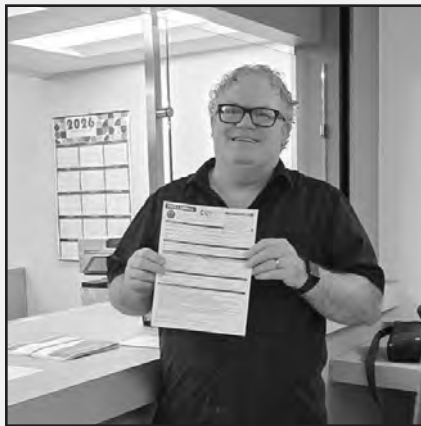
For more information about the campaign, or to get involved, contact:

[Contact Name] Paula Person, SD19 Chair

[Phone Number] 5073382189

[Email Address] dflsd19@gmail.com

[Website] www.sd19dfl.com



MINNESOTA HOUSE GOP

Session Wins

Property Tax Relief

Real relief for homeowners facing property tax increases.

Medicaid Work Requirements

Combating fraud and creating long-term savings.

Car Tab Relief

Driving down the costs to operate your vehicle.

Statewide Office of Inspector General

Independent watchdog to investigate fraud with full law enforcement authority.

Medicaid Eligibility Verification

Ensuring taxpayer benefits go to those who truly qualify.

100% Tax on Fraudsters

Making sure those who steal from taxpayers, pay back what they stole.

Help for Rural and Critical Access Hospitals

Making sure hospitals in communities across Greater Minnesota stay open.

Funding for Roads, Bridges, Water Infrastructure

Keeping our roads, bridges, and drinking water safe.

County Systems Upgrades to Combat Fraud

Modernizing outdated systems to improve oversight and safeguard taxpayer dollars.

School Safety

Mental health funding and tools to protect students.

DEMOCRAT PROPOSALS STOPPED

Tax Increases

Stopped billions in New Taxes on Minnesota Families and Businesses

Car Tab Fees Increases

Stopped Democrats from increasing your car tab fees 5X.

Mandates on Schools, Employers, Counties, & More.

Prevented hundreds of mandates from taking effect that would have driven property taxes and the cost of living higher.

Climate Supertax

Blocked costly Democrat legislation projected to raise family costs by \$35,000.

creased costs for Minnesotans were stopped. These included a new top income tax bracket, a broad wealth tax affecting farms and businesses, and increases in vehicle registration fees. We also opposed proposals that raised serious constitutional concerns, including sweeping gun control measures that would have impacted law-abiding gun owners and recreational shooters, such as high-school trap athletes.

Another horrible DFL proposal that we were able to stop was a costly climate supertax that would have taxed Minnesota families \$35,000 over 5 years. This proposal was supposed to get back at oil and gas companies for "climate change" that they have caused since 1995. I spoke about the negative impacts that this would have when it came up on the floor a few weeks ago. You can watch my comments here.

It is important to recognize the things that Democrats would have rammed through if they had full control: sweeping gun control, increased taxes (i.e. climate supertax), and no accountability for fraud. I am proud of the work that we accomplished under such unique and difficult circumstances.

Looking Ahead

Do You Have an Announcement?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

The session is complete, but the priorities remain unchanged: protect taxpayers, strengthen accountability, and defend constitutional rights.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve as your voice here in St. Paul this term. I look forward to continuing the work for our great district, region, and the state of Minnesota. Thank you for your trust in me and for your feedback and opinions. Please reach out if there is anything I can do for you or help you with!

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**CITY OF WANAMINGO
City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
Wanamingo City Council Chambers – 401
Main Street
Wanamingo, MN**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.

PRESENT: Council: Ryan Holmes, Eric Dierks, Jeremiah Flotterud, Rebecca Haugen, and Stuart Ohr

City Administrator: Michael Boulton

Deputy Clerk: Laurie Musselman

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Kennedy, Brandon Theobald – WHKS, Peter Grimsrud – Zumbrota News-Record, Dan McPherson, Kali Lenz - CohnReznick, and Goodhue County Deputy Jordan Markegard.

ADOPT AGENDA: Ohr motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Dierks motioned, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

A) Brad Kennedy reported on:

1) Flushed all the hydrants throughout town

2) All the clay sanitary sewer mains were jetted

3) Rented grinder/grader attachment for front end mini pay loader to dig up alleys and grade them out to remove potholes

4) New brackets and banners installed on Main Street light poles

5) Main drive replaced at Well House #3. The well was offline for over a month

6) Automatic Systems assisted in setting up Well #2 to run without the water tower. The system was well programmed to run on pressure.

7) Salt/Sand Shed pressure washed and sealed. Salt was put back in the shed today.

8) Riverside Park – park shelter open, water is on for season, and volleyball nets up.

9) Street sweeper air conditioning compressor has been replaced. The goal is to sweep streets on Thursdays.

10) Prairie Ridge Estates 5th Addition – the concrete curb and gutter was installed over this past weekend

11) Emerald Valley Phase 2 – underground work complete and road is rocked

B) Kali Lenz of CohnReznick reported on:

1) Smith Schafer merged with CohnReznick at the end of 2025. Rochester office and staff stay the same. Staff is learning no programs and procedures to conduct audit in the Cohn-Reznick format.

2) Conducted a presentation of the 2025 Wanamingo City Audit

3) No large (State or Federal) single audit required for 2025

4) There is limited segregation of duties in the small office – yearly recommendation for small staff communities. This is not possible with a small office staff.

5) The audit completion letter showed no disagreements with management

6) Paid down \$487,000 of debt in 2025

7) Medical Center automatic payment was taken out after January 1, 2026. No bond payment reflecting in 2025. There could be two payments made in 2026 or a future year.

8) The general fund showed a \$10,501 deficit in 2025 and has a \$582,028 balance. This will decrease the reserve balance from

58% to 50%. There was unplanned capital spending on mini front end pay loader. Property tax levy is 61% of the general, LGA is 16% of the general fund, why other revenue sources such as charges for services, other governmental aid, fines, and miscellaneous account for the rest of the general fund revenue. General Fund expenditures – 16% general government, 27% public safety, 40% public works, and 17% culture and recreation. There were revenues of roughly \$95,000 from investments that were spread out among the general, capital, bond, and enterprise funds. Water Fund showed a decrease in cash from \$60,670 to -\$58,768 at the end of 2024. The funds were spent down as part of 2022 Utility Improvements project along with were line repairs. Sewer Fund showed an increase in cash of \$93,086 while having \$787,450 in cash at the end of 2025.

9) Recommend keeping an eye on water and sewer billing rates so that they keep up with operational costs and future capital needs.

Holmes asked if the City is keeping up with utility rates. Lenz stated that it depends on needs and expenses for the current and future years of the City. Lenz stated that the water fund fell behind due to completing the large capital project (unforeseen State required project expenses) along with unanticipated water leak repairs. Lenz stated that the fund should be back into a positive balance in the next couple of years.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION:

26-025 = Accepting the 2025 Wanamingo Audit: Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. Flotterud expressed frustration with the General Fund showing only a \$10,000 deficit. Flotterud stated that the \$87,000 front end pay loader was not planned for purchase in 2025 but occurred due to past skid loader proposed lease more than doubling. Flotterud stated that the General Fund would have had a \$77,000 surplus. Flotterud also had concerns about the remaining balance in bond payment funds that were transferred to the general fund after being paid off (\$37,191 – Fund 306 and \$12,460 – Fund 331). Boulton stated that the Council agreed to pull back part of the street capital budget (roughly \$20,000) for street maintenance when deciding to purchase a front end pay loader. Boulton stated that the Council had already budgeted \$6,500 toward the lease that was not renewed for the skid loader that went toward the front end pay loader purchase. Boulton stated that the Council approved a budget with a \$30,675 General Fund surplus to build the balance. Boulton stated that bond funds should have a small residual, but that Fund 306 was too high. Flotterud agreed that retired bond funds should have a slight surplus but was disappointed in the amount left in Fund 306. Flotterud stated that he would have advocated for a lower 2025 property tax levy if he knew that Fund 306 would have ended with a significant balance. Flotterud stated his disagreement with the General Fund reserve balance policy and that the City should have less reserves. Ohr stated that the City ended 2025 in good financial shape and that budgeting only gets you so far until the actual bills come due. Passed 5-0-0.

26-028 = Accepting 2025 Yearly Driver's License Checks for City Employees: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Ohr. Boulton stated that there were no concerns from staff, fire department, Council, or EDA members' licenses (anyone that might drive a City vehicle). Passed 5-0-0.

26-029 = Setting Swimming Pool Fees and Schedule for the 2026 Season: Haugen moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that Jake Wieme, pool manager, could not attend the meeting to provide an update to the Council. Boulton stated that the pool is scheduled to open June 1st. Sixteen guards have been offered positions for the season. Thirteen guards are returning from 2025 while three of the guards are new. City of Zumbrota pool will not be open in 2026 due to construction of a new pool. Session I of swimming lessons will be June 8th-18th while session II will be June 29th-July 9th. Lessons will be limited to five students per session. There are expected to be four staff with formal WSI (Water Safety Instructor) training. The lifeguard in-service day is scheduled for May 29th. The seasonal employee safety training is scheduled for June 8th. There are no recommended changes to the swimming pool fee schedule. Passed 5-0-0.

26-030 = Authorizing a Temporary Liquor License for the Wanamingo Fire Relief Association July 3rd Dance: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Passed 5-0-0.

26-031 = Approving Pay Request No. 2 For TK Contracting on Emerald Valley 2 Subdivision: Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Theobald stated that the utility work is complete, the road is rocked, and the concrete work for the curb and gutter is coming. The project is 68%. The total pay estimate is \$171,862.60. Theobald stated that the new plat is ready to sign and record. Passed 5-0-0.

26-032 = Approving a Professional Service Agreement Between the City of Wanamingo and WHKS for the Purposes of Design, Bid, and Construction Phase Engineering Service for Lead and Galvanized Water Service Line Replacement: Flotterud moved to approve, seconded by Dierks. Theobald stated that the removal of lead in water lines action plan started with the Flint, Michigan issues in 2024. Th Federal government required all governments to inventory and identify water service line materials, looking for lead and galvanized pipes. The City of Wanamingo identified potentially ten galvanized (no lead) services. The City applied and received up to a \$250,000 grant from Minnesota Public Facilities Authority to remove and replace the galvanized services. Construction would occur in 2026/2027. Theobald stated that this work nationwide and the SE MN has too much work for the number of contractors to complete in one year. Theobald stated that WHKS is working on template agreements between the City and homeowners with galvanized lines. The agreements would lay out responsibility and warranty period for the work. Ohr asked if the service lines would be completed through boring. Theobald stated that they would more than likely be completed through pipe burst, potholing

points in between the watermain and house. Theobald stated that the City would bring in a plumber for pipe connection work and concrete floor repairs in house basements. Flotterud asked if homeowners could opt out. Theobald stated that homeowners could opt out but would be required to sign off on an agreement as a waiver to the City. Theobald stated that this would then trigger a disclosure at point of sale for the property of a potential lead/galvanized water service line. Passed 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Administrator Boulton provided an investment of funds memo. The City of Wanamingo has a CD (Certificate of Deposit), created in 2025 with \$109,884.76, that yielded a 4.5% interest for 12 months. Rates have decreased from 2025 to 2026. The City was able to shop around for interest rates to push Security State Bank to match a 12-month 3.75% CD.

The matured CD is now worth \$114,550.44. The new CD, through Security State Bank, is a 12-month special rate CD for 3.75%. This will net \$4,295.64 in interest in the next 12 months.

The interest earned will be accounted for under most fund accounts, including the general fund. These investments should leave plenty of funds for cash flow in checking. The checking account, new CD's, the current CD, and money market funds diversify the City investments.

Boulton, Theobald, and Holmes provided an update on the Emerald Valley stormwater ponds and piping easement negotiation with Randy and Trish Amundson. Theobald stated that a meeting is scheduled for May 12th after weeks of scheduling. Holmes and Theobald will be attending the meeting to discuss the request for easements. Theobald stated that the rough area needed is 1.2 acres for the two north stormwater ponds and 15' piping to the North Zumbro River. The City has been working in good faith toward an agreement for an easement. Theobald stated that City has explored condemnation with an attorney from Kennedy & Graven. Condemnation carries appraisal, attorney, and eventual settlement costs. There could be attorney costs involved for the property owner in the condemnation process. Making a deal is in the best interest of both parties to keep costs down. The City has a \$5,000 offer on the table for the easements. Ohr stated that he was not inclined to offer more than \$5,000 for easements and unwilling to purchase land. Flotterud shared his concerns with Amundson's unwilling to counteroffer and only shared vague statements of City purchasing land. Flotterud stated that the Council has no use for land. Flotterud asked if land could be developed. Boulton stated one small portion on the north side could be developed but the property lacks access (one 20' easement) and that it could only benefit if McPherson's would replat area for roadway access. Theobald stated that this would be a costly process compared to value of lots. Flotterud wonders if Amundson's understand what the City is asking and that the City can proceed with condemnation to obtain the easement if a reasonable agreement is not reached. Holmes

(continued on page 28)

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- © StatePoint Media
- THEME: GREETINGS
- ACROSS
1. Shapeless masses

6. RFK's brother

9. German card game

13. "The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" author

14. Ancient Chinese dynasty

15. Top of a steeple

16. Ice house

17. Not outs

18. Gustatory sensation

19. *What's cooking, good ____?"

21. *Greeting aimed at a king

23. Like a fox

24. Easy run

25. "Harper Valley ____"

28. Off-limits

30. Daryl Hannah/Tom Hanks movie

35. Snaky swimmers

37. Coal unit

39. Vigorous fight

40. Done before dealing

41. Walk leisurely

43. Like certain food trend

44. Raccoon's South American cousin

46. Dano or Rudd, e.g.

47. Deep-red variety of chalcedony

48. Straying, as in baseball

50. FBI agent, slangily

52. It's the limit?

53. Alex Honnold's "Free ____"

55. Long Island iced ____

57. *Military greeting

60. *____ greetings, in December

64. Last test

65. Had a meal

67. Ilya Rozanov to Shane Hollander, e.g.

68. Take puppy from a pound

69. Hemingway's "____ Whom the Bell Tolls"

70. Bodily swelling

71. Hibernation stations

72. Pampering spot

73. Extend subscription

- DOWN
1. Leave without farewell, slangily

2. Kids' construction set

3. Capital of Norway

4. Amazon offerings, originally

5. Spoiled, in U.K.

6. Nest material

7. Even, poetically

8. 70s dance joint

9. Capone's shoe cover

10. *Twice-done greeting move, in Italy

11. Creative

12. PGA peg

15. Bacterial throat infections

20. Spiral-horned antelope

22. FedEx competitor

24. Lower back pain, in the olden days

25. *Salaam, in English

26. Operatic voice

27. Hitching post?

29. *Bro fist motion

31. Smaller in amount

32. Road-tripping guide

33. Baby carrier?

34. *Cowboy's greeting

36. Bristle

38. Little Jack Horner's treat

42. Fill with happy spirit

45. Injury's painful partner

49. Toddler

51. Closer

54. Toronto Maple ____

56. Comment to the audience

57. Fries, e.g.

58. At another time, to Romeo or Juliet

59. Swimming lengths

60. Doris Day's "Que ____..."

61. Kitchen appliance

62. Given at birth

63. Cabbage dish

64. Temporary craze

66. *"____ of the morning!"

4	8	6	3	1	9	7	5	2
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