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## Celebrating Fun: Local Bunco Club reaches 20 years



By Jocelyn Aldrich

When Kathy Theel and Pat Irrthum retired, they both found themselves wanting, as Kathy put it, “something to do in the afternoon.”

So, the ladies decided to start their very own Bunco club in the Kenyon-Wanamingo community.

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## Wanamingo July 4th Celebration

Don't miss the Independence Day celebration in Wanamingo this summer. The fun kicks off with Blondie's Butcher Shop Rib Feed on Wednesday July 1st from 4 to 9pm. On Friday July 3rd the Wanamingo Fire Department will have their annual picnic and dance with live music. The Wendinger Polka Band will be playing from 6 to 8pm and Whiskey Stone plays from 9pm to 1am.

Saturday July 4th there will be a pancake

breakfast at Mineola Lutheran Church from 7 to 10am. The Classic Car Show will be held on Main Street starting at 9am. There will be food vendors, yard games, bounce houses, face painting and Buck Stop Olympics starting at 10am and continuing until 5pm on Main Street. A silent auction will be held at the community center, horseshoe tournament at Riverside Park and open swim at the Wanamingo Pool from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

## The Old Country Boys and Shane Martin to Headline Dennison Days August 7 & 8, 2026



Summer festival season is in full swing as area communities continue to celebrate their summer events and festivals.

Dennison Days takes place this year Friday and Saturday, August 7 & 8, 2026.

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The Lion's Club will be serving hotdogs, sundaes and cotton candy at 2nd Shift from 12:30 to 4pm.

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## Announcements

• **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](http://threeiverscap.org) for more information.

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Do you have an announcement?

Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)



Courtesy of K-W Track and Field

## Overcoming Hurdles: KW-G Track Team Celebrates a Successful Season

By Jocelyn Aldrich

The Kenyon-Wanamingo-Goodhue (KW-G) Track Team has finished for the season. This season was a record for the books. They crushed multiple records, overcame challenges, and finished the season with a highly anticipated trip to the Minnesota State competitions in June.

Six members of the KW-G Track Team competed at the State competition.

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## 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.

## A Pattern for Passing on the Faith: Lessons from Psalm 78:1-8

By Pastor Johannes Marsland

“Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to

teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.” (Psalm 78:1-8, ESV)

(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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## Wanamingo July 4th Celebration

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A Grand Parade will be held at 2:30pm Saturday. Following the parade there will be live music on the patio at J. B.'s Tavern and a bean bag Tournament. The Fire Department will hold their water fire in front of the Fire Hall at 4pm. A firework display is planned at dusk. Sunday July 5th the outdoor worship service will be held at Riverside Park. The 7th annual Putt Putt Classic will be held at the Fire Hall with a noon start and 11am registration.

## A Pattern for Passing on the Faith

(continued from page 2)

In Psalm 78, the psalmist Asaph issues a solemn charge to God's people. It is a divine imperative to pass the faith to the next generation. Failure in this task risks producing another "stubborn and rebellious generation" whose hearts wander from the Lord. Success produces God's blessings not only on the generation that follows Him but upon the whole land.

Asaph teaches a practical method for fulfilling this most important of callings. Notice the deliberate order he follows in the Psalm:

1. First, share the testimony.

Asaph begins by calling attention to what has been "heard and known," personal and generational experiences of God's faithfulness: "things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us" (v. 3). He commits not to hide these from the children but to proclaim "the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done" (v. 4).

A testimony is powerful because it is personal and credible. It answers the question, "What has God done in your life (or in the life of His people)?" It is not abstract theology but lived reality containing stories of deliverance, provision, mercy, and divine power. In sharing the faith with a new generation and with people who do not yet know God, this remains the essential starting point. Before quoting verses or outlining doctrines, share the stories of God authentically. People are often drawn first by authentic stories of transformation, not polished arguments.

2. \*\*Follow with a Story (Parable) That Illustrates Principles

Asaph declares, "I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old" (v. 2). The remainder of Psalm 78 unfolds as a historical narrative, a parable-like retelling of Israel's wilderness rebellions, God's repeated acts of rescue, and the people's forgetfulness. These "dark sayings" show the folly of unbelief, the patience of God, and the danger of a divided heart.

Put yourself in the stories, live them and experience them anew. This makes the truth memorable and relatable both to you and to those you share them with. Jesus would later master this same method, teaching profound kingdom realities through everyday stories. When witnessing to the lost, this step is crucial. After sharing your personal testimony, connect it to broader biblical stories or illustrations that reveal God's character and our human need. A well-chosen story or analogy bridges the gap between "what happened to you" and "what this means about God and life." It invites the listener to see themselves in the narrative and grasp deeper truths.

3. Conclude with the Law (Clear Commands and Expectations)

Only after testimony and parable does Asaph reference the established "testimony" and "law" in Israel (v. 5). God commanded the fathers to teach these things so future generations would "set their hope in God... keep his commandments" (vv. 6-7).

The law here represents God's clear revelation—His standards, promises, and instructions. It flows naturally from the stories and is grounded in the character and deeds of God already recounted. In evangelism, this corresponds to presenting the gospel call: repentance, faith in Christ, and obedience to His Word. Prematurely hammering rules or doctrines without relational context or illustrative stories often leads to resistance or even open hostility. But when rooted in testimony and parable, the call to respond carries weight and urgency. It moves the heart from curiosity to conviction.

Applying the Pattern in Witnessing Today

This three-fold pattern Testimony → Parable/Story → Law is a God-ordained model for reaching the lost and discipling believers. It mirrors how the gospel itself comes to us: God's people testify to what they have seen and heard; the Scriptures unfold the grand story of redemption (with Jesus as the ultimate parable of grace); and we are called to repent and believe, walking in obedience.

-In personal conversations: Begin with your story. Move to a biblical illustration (the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, or the Exodus). End with the clear invitation to trust Christ and follow Him.

-In family and church settings: Intentionally tell the next generation both your stories and the Bible's stories. Ground them in Scripture's commands so they "set their hope in God."

-In a forgetful culture: Like ancient Israel, we live among people prone to stubbornness and rebellion. Our task is urgent: proclaim the glorious deeds so the coming generation does not repeat the failures of the past.

May we, like Asaph, resolve: "We will not hide them from their children." As we follow this pattern, we participate in God's generational work of building a faithful people who remember, believe, and obey.

## OBITUARY

### Virginia Faye Hegseth

Virginia was born in Ithaca NY on October 25, 1930. She resided in Mirij India during her early years with her medical missionary parents. In 1946 they moved to Sarnia Ontario and later to Princeton NJ where she graduated from High School. She attended Macalester College in Saint Paul MN where she met and married her husband, Merton A Hegseth in 1952. Virginia and Merton lived at various locations and in 1965 they settled in Northfield MN. Merton passed away in 1993. Virginia ran her photography business (Virginia's Photography) from 1980 to 1995. In 1998 Virginia moved to Saddlebrooke AZ where she resided until she passed away at the age of 95 on June 15, 2026.



She was preceded in death by her husband Merton A Hegseth, her parents, Dr. L Bruce and Jeanne Carruthers, and her brother Dr. Bruce Carruthers. She is survived by her three children, Jean Hegseth of Saddlebrooke AZ, Paul (Pamela) Hegseth of Kenyon, MN, and Dr. John (Susan) Hegseth of Louisville KY, 4 grandchildren (Juliane, Emily, Gregory and Andreas), 4 great grandchildren, and her sister Dr. Mary Carruthers of New York, NY.

She will be interred beside her husband in Oakland Cemetery, Northfield MN.

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## Celebrating Fun: Local Bunco Club reaches 20 years

(continued from page 1)

20 years later, the group is made up of retired ladies who all gather every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at members' homes or a local community space to dedicate a few hours to this beloved dice game. For the ladies, it's more than just a time to enjoy some snacks, play a game, or win some prizes; it's a time to be intentional with community. The KW Bunco Club celebrates 20 years in September.

The basic gist of Bunco is that it is a dice game, and an exhilarating one at that. The game is played in pairs with four people per table.

A game of Bunco is typically played with twelve players. A head table begins and ends each round by ringing a bell. Each round corresponds to a different number on the three dice that players need to roll to collect points. When the head table reaches a total of 21 points, the bell is rung, and the round is up. If a pair of players wins that round, they move



up to the next table; if the pair loses that round, they go down a table. The pair of players wins a round based on the shared points that they earned in that round. When players move to a different table, they switch seats, so they have a different partner. When all rounds are completed, points are tallied, and the player with the most overall points wins the game.

Throughout the years, the club has seen many changes. Some of the members of the Bunco Club have passed away or moved on. Other members are snowbirds, which can make the game a little trickier to play in the wintertime with the missing players. However, the KW Bunco Club has a reserve list of players who are willing to fill in should the need arise.

The club serves as an example that no matter what stage of life you are in, it's important to be intentional in seeking out community and commit to staying active.

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## Overcoming Hurdles: KW-G Track Team Celebrates a Successful Season

(continued from page 1)

The student athletes included Mali Quam, Noel Hernandez, Jorja Wagner, Ayva Marklevits, Mari O'Connor, and Audrey Haugen. Mali Quam placed 11th in the 100 hurdles competition and 10th in the 300 hurdles competition. Noel Hernandez placed 12th in the

100 m dash. The relay team placed 2nd at State in the 4x800 relay. The relay team put in a hard run for 1st place, just shy of 0.5 seconds from claiming the title. The relay members included Audrey Haugen, Jorja Wagner, Ayva Marklevits, and Mari O'Connor. Not only did the relay team place at the State level, but they also set a new school record by 4 seconds with a new standing time of 9:33.35. Head Coach Jeff Wibben reflects on the success of reaching the State level, saying, "It is hard to get out of Section 1A track; it is an extremely competitive section, probably one of the hardest ones to advance from in the State. So sending multiple kids and events to State is saying something, and we have been doing it for quite some time."

In addition to the State competition successes, Head Coach Wibben and Assistant Coach Rachel Cline reflect on impactful highlights that happened throughout the season. The KW-G Team faced three major challenges this year, including cold, windy weather, the health of the players, and some injuries, which put strain on the team. Despite these challenges, the KW-G Track Team persevered and continued to focus on giving the sport their all. Assistant Coach Cline reflects on the challenges by saying, "the weather wasn't great, and we had some meets canceled and ran in some cold weather. But despite these things, the boys 4x200 relay broke the school record 3 times (Seth Nystuen, Colten Lohman, Seth Aldorfer, and Noel Hernandez), Mali Quam broke the school record in the 300 hurdles 3 times, Emma Koncur broke the school record in the

discus 3 times, Andre Cortez broke the school record in the 800, and the girls 4x800 relay (Jorja Wagner, Ayva Marklevits, Mari O'Connor and Audrey Haugen) broke the school record twice. We have had so many athletes improve from the start of the season to the end, athletes who were out for the first time ever and were parts of the record-breaking teams (Seth Nystuen and Jorja Wagner), hurdlers who improved their form a ton, and just lots of improvement in everything."

Assistant Coach Cline has served as a track coach for the KW-G team for 18 years. She echoes the sentiment, saying, "as a teacher to the majority of these athletes, it's fun building that connection with them outside of the classroom, and just watching them succeed and improve is one of the best feelings."

Coach Wibben has served as Head Coach for over 20 years. He greatly enjoys being able to work with the students and witness their progress each season. Coach Wibben also served as a teacher in the KW district before he retired. For him, working with the students, not only as a former teacher but also as the track coach, presents a special opportunity. He says, "I love the kids who come out for the sport, it is not the flashiest or the hardest hitting, but it helps develop an overall athlete. These kids are so much fun to be around, both at meets and practice. They are some of the best students I know, and getting to know them outside of the classroom is one of the best experiences a teacher can have."

Looking forward to the next season, both Coach Wibben and Cline are excited to im-

plement new goals. They are both eager to continue to help the track program grow and continue to break records. This means not only helping students find the right fit for them on the team, but also engaging younger students and inviting more athletes to join the team. Coach Wibben highlights three further goals for the upcoming season:

1) Challenge all of our athletes to be the best person/runner they can be.

2) Upgrade our facility with more / newer equipment and add field event locations.

3) Host more home meets.

With these goals in mind, the KW-G track team is eager to see what the next season will bring.

Both Coach Wibben and Coach Cline are proud of the effort and dedication each athlete has put into this season. Coach Wibben says, "Our kids, both the KW and Goodhue athletes, help make this one of the best sports to coach. They show up, work hard, and help each other out all of the time. They are a fun group to be around, which is why I am still coaching after retiring from teaching. A few may make it to State, but the whole team can celebrate with them because they had a hand in that success." Coach Cline echoes her praise of the team by saying, "everyone who is part of the KW-G track and field team has something to be proud of! These kids have worked so hard! Even if they didn't make it to State, they all show improvement and dedication." This season truly gave the coaches, athletes, and the community something to celebrate.



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# Wanamingo 4<sup>th</sup> of July

**Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Blondies Butcher Shop - Rib Feed – 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.**

**Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>**



**Fire Department Picnic & Dance**

**6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Wendinger Polka Band**

**“Whiskey Stone” starts at 9 p.m. – 1 a.m.**

Sponsored by Wanamingo Firefighters Relief Association

**Jake's Hometown Liquor – SALES & EVENTS!**

SNOW CONES FOR THE KIDDOS!

Yard games for all ages! Stay tuned for times!

ALL DAY JULY 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

Happy Hour & Food trucks!

Red, white & blue sale on beer, liquor, & seltzers.

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

Karaoke with *Kaptain Karaoke* - begins after parade until fireworks start!

El Samurai food truck!

Keep eye out on

Jake's Hometown Facebook page  
for sales, events, & times!

**Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*\* NORTH MAIN STREET – ALL DAY \*\*\***

(Sponsored by Wanamingo Commercial Club)

**9 a.m. – 1 p.m. ALL CLASSICS' CAR SHOW on Main Street – Prize drawings every hour!**



**Available from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Food Vendors \* Yard Games \* Bounce Houses**



**10 a.m. Face Painting – The Party Lady LLC**

**10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Kaptain Karaoke for ALL ages**

**10:30 a.m. - Buck Stop Kids Olympics**



**SACK RACES – THREE-LEGGED RACES – RELAY RACES – WATER BALLOON TOSS – RING TOSS**

Age brackets for the races: 5 – 9 years old & 10 - 13 years old

**Other local events on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**

**7 a.m. – 10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast (Minneola Lutheran Church)**

**Featuring Zumbrota Band at Community Center**

**10 a.m. Horseshoe Tournament at Riverside Park**

**11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Silent Auction at Community Center (Wanamingo Lutheran Church)**

**\*\* Please note ANYONE can donate items for the silent auction\*\***

**\*\*\*Lion's Club will offer Snow Cones during the silent auction\*\*\***

**11:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. FREE Open Swim at Wanamingo Pool**

**12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Hotdogs, Sundaes, Cotton Candy at 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift (Lion's Club)**

**Grand Parade – 2:30 p.m.** (participants gather 1:30 p.m. at AG Partners)

**Following the Parade**

**JB's TAVERN is hosting the following events: Live music on the patio**

**Bean Bag Tournament – draw for partners - \$10 entry (100% payback)**

**Keg Toss – Men's & Women's Division – Free entry!**

**4 p.m. Fire Department water-fight at Fire Hall**

Check out the other events throughout town!

**Fireworks at Dusk**

**Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>**

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Wanamingo Putt Putt Classic**

11 a.m. registration & 12 p.m. shotgun start at the Wanamingo Fire Hall

**Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>**

**9 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Riverside Park**

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## Kenyon Habitat house still available

Reprinted from Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity

In Kenyon, a new Habitat home located at 716 Washington St., two blocks from Kenyon-Wanamingo High School, is nearing completion thanks to the efforts of Rochester Build Crew volunteers and students from the K-W school's construction classes.

The home, a three-bedroom slab-on-grade design with a two-car garage, is part of an innovative program where students gain hands-on building experience while helping meet real housing needs.

However, the home does not yet have a family selected to purchase and move in — creating a unique opportunity for an eligible household to step into the program and become a homeowner.

A unique partnership between community volunteers, students and Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity is helping address the need for affordable housing in Goodhue County — while also creating a rare opportunity for a future homeowner in Kenyon.

The nonprofit organization, founded in 1993, works to bring people together to build safe, stable and affordable housing. Guided by its mission of putting faith into action, Habitat has helped more than 60 families achieve homeownership and continues to expand its impact across the county.

The collaboration between Habitat and local schools has proven to be a win for everyone involved. Students work daily on construction projects, learning everything from framing and roofing to installing windows and siding. Local contractors assist with specialized work, ensuring quality construction while exposing students to career pathways in the trades.

Beyond skill-building, the program strengthens the community by increasing the supply of affordable workforce housing.

Habitat offers a path to homeownership designed to be affordable and sustainable for working families. Applicants must meet several key criteria:

- Demonstrate a need for safe, affordable housing.
- Show the ability to pay a mortgage.
- Commit to helping build their home through "sweat equity."

In Goodhue County, Habitat generally serves households earning between 30% and 80% of the area median income. This baseline is determined annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and varies based on household size and county. The guidelines help ensure affordable housing opportunities are directed toward households with moderate to lower incomes who may not otherwise qualify for traditional homeownership opportunities.

Current Goodhue County guidelines can be viewed online through the department's website.

Monthly housing costs — including mortgage, taxes and insurance — are structured to remain affordable, typically capped at about 29% of household income.

Homes are sold at appraised value, but financing is uniquely structured. Habitat often combines a lower-interest mortgage with additional zero-interest or deferred loans and no down payments, significantly reducing upfront costs and monthly payments.

### Long-Term Benefits for Families

This model creates long-term financial stability for homeowners. Families build equity over time while benefiting from:

- Affordable monthly payments that fit their budget.
- Low- or no-interest or deferred loans, reducing the financial burden.
- Equity growth, offering a stepping stone to future financial security.
- Stability for children and families, includ-



ing consistent housing and community roots.

Additionally, Habitat maintains a right of first refusal if a homeowner chooses to sell, ensuring the home remains affordable for future families and preserving community impact.

### A Call to the Community

As the Kenyon home nears completion, Habitat is seeking qualified applicants ready to take the next step toward homeownership. At the same time, volunteers are always needed to help finish homes and support future projects.

Those interested in applying or learning more about the program are encouraged to contact Bob Hawley, executive director of Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity, at 507-251-7470 or by email at bobhawley@gchabitat.org.

For one local family, this unfinished house represents more than walls and a roof — it's a chance to build a future.

## The Old Country Boys and Shane Martin to Headline Dennison Days August 7 & 8, 2026

(continued from page 1)

Final Events are being scheduled at presstime, but we do know there is a great line up of music this year, including Friday Nights Headliner, THE OLD COUNTRY BOYS. Friday evening events will also include The Biggest Dip Contest, a Pie Eating Contest, and more, Hosted by Cattlemens Saloon and The Lions. Details will be posted soon!

Watch the Dennison Days website and Facebook pages in the coming days for entry details and event information!

A full schedule of events will take place Saturday.

Kicking off the days will be the annual pancake breakfast, hosted by the Nerstrand Fire Department and Dennison Church along with the medallion hunt. The Farmers Market is scheduled to return along with The Classic Car Show and Kids Pedal Pull. The Truck and Tractor Pull, Parade, Bingo and more are part of the days line up. Music from Shane Martin will return this year to wrap up the days events Saturday Night!

Also watch for any updates on the website and on Facebook! All the details will be posted at [www.dennisondays.org](http://www.dennisondays.org) soon.

## Got a Great Local News Story?

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