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July 16, 2026

Volume 23 • Issue 7

Randolph Schools Accepting Open Enrollment Applications

Randolph Schools are officially accepting applications for all grades for the school year of 2026-2027. If your family is new to the area or live outside the district and interested in open enrollment at Randolph Public Schools, reach out to the school today and begin the process. Full contact information is available on the school website www.randolph.k12.mn.us

Early applications allow the district to plan staffing, class sizes and resources for the coming year.



Ameriikan Poijat Brass Band to Play at Randolph History Center

The Finnish American Brass Band AMERI-IKAN POIJAT (Boys of America) has scheduled a series of concerts in the region around Northfield, Minnesota this summer. The

Finnish ethnic brass band will visit Randolph, Nerstrand, Northfield, Owatonna, and New Prague during the last week of July.

(continued on page 4)

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.

(continued on page 13)



Announcements

• **Randolph Community Food Shelf**, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 289595 Randolph Blvd, Randolph, MN. 507-263-9182. Randolph MN Area Food Shelf. Monthly Food Shelf Hours: 1st Tuesday 8-9:30am. 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays 4:30-6:30pm. Randolph Community Food Shelf is for anyone in need within the Randolph School District (Randolph, Stanton, Hampton, New Trier areas). We are here to help! Please pull around to the Southwest corner door for easy loading of your items.

• **Mark your calendar! 2026 Dennison Days August 7 & 8!**

Do you have an announcement?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com



file photo

58th Annual Chicken BBQ & Street Dance August 15th

The annual Randolph-Hampton Fire Department Chicken BBQ is Saturday August 15th, 2026.

Serving from 3 PM to 8 PM, this annual fundraiser supports the fire department. Raffle tickets are also available for purchase with the drawing taking place at 9 PM.

Be sure to mark your calendar for this annual community event!

Two-Year Anniversary of Missing Randolph Woman

Courtesy of Dakota
County Sheriff's Office

July 6 marked 2 years since Nicole "Nikki" Anderson went missing after walking out the door of her home in Randolph, Minnesota.

Since her disappearance, investigators from the Dakota County Sheriff's Office in collaboration with federal, state, and local partners — have worked tirelessly to locate Nikki.

(continued on page 4)



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Upcoming Events... July 4th & 5th - CLOSED | July 21 - Cornhole League (Register your team now!)

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Difficulties of the Secret Place: Depression



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

Sun sets which mirrors the haunt
Heavy eyes fall and lay on cloud
Thunder roars to lock His sound

I eat some Bread
Ticks later
I sleep

Bricks on chest, awakens me

I curl, toss, and turn
Midnight dark, please let me be
I don't count sheep, I slowly eat the Lamb
Clocks deferred
I slumber again

No need for a beep, I awaken with choked thought

Coal trains of cycling want to keep me bought

Toes on cold, but I am told
Renew, so that is what I do
I'm better

Noonday starts to set
And wrestling matches begin
With me, with them, with the opposite of Him

Up and down and all around
But We eventually win

I breathe
With braids of blue hopefulness

Sun sets with familiar downturn
I cave and start it all again

No comment, just know
Some of the most bright eyed
Stumble, coil, and hide as they lay on their side

Don't worry though, not all days are like this
Just some
And today was one

The last few months we have been talking about the Secret Place and more recently the difficulties of it.

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 Secret Place is by far the best place to enter and live, however, various struggles, distractions, and even depression can try and keep you locked out from it.

Depression could be holding you back from the Secret Place. No one really understands that dark pit unless they have gone through it. It's like this black cloud that creeps in or can suddenly appear. Sometimes the darkness is pressed upon the chest, or it's just all around. However it comes, it's not fun. Often isolation can descend and feelings of loneliness and being stuck can arise. It is easy to just go to bed, curl up in the corner, and even feed the torment. However, if you can fight through the part of depression that wants to keep you from talking and sitting with the Lord, the darkness can lift.

When I say "sit" with the Lord, in this context, what I mean is a person wants to spend time with Jesus in the midst of the internal anguish. We are to share our cries, screams, fears, and whatever else we are going through with Jesus. I know you may think, I don't want to spend time with Him when I feel that way, or The pain is too deep. I don't want to think or talk about it. I hear you, but if you can move past those thoughts and spend time with Jesus, I am fully convinced that He will help you.

When I get hit with depression (yes, I get hit), I go to the Lord. Sometimes I am spiritually crawling as I lean into Jesus, but I get there. I often can't pray in my head at this time; it is too hard to focus, so I will type or journal my prayers. Sometimes the prayers are just a word or two. If I write my prayers, even the words on the pages look weary as I at times drag the letters, words, and sentences down as I share my heart to the Lord. At times, I will draw my feelings to the Lord and it brings such healing. Poetry, as just shown, helps me process too.

Sometimes I can't even journal or draw. In those cases, I cry to the Lord and read Psalm 91 out loud.

Regardless of how thick the depression is, I make myself read that Psalm and the depression lifts every time. After I pray, draw, journal, and/or cry to Jesus, as well as read Psalm 91, I feel better. I am filled with the Lord's validation, direction, peace, and love. Sometimes it takes a while to come up and out, but Jesus and I eventually get there.

Solution:

- Don't let the depression keep you from the Lord. Go to Him, even if all you can get out is the name Jesus.

- Put worship music on.

- Read Psalm 91 out loud.

- Understand that the depression could be spiritual warfare. Put on the armor of God as mentioned in March's article.

- Pour your heart to the Lord by the means of crying out to Him, praying, journaling, and/or doing art. Perhaps it's even writing a song, poem, or another form of expressing your feelings to Him. Let Him love you back.

- Text a friend or someone else to pray for you. If you do not know anyone who can pray for you (yet), know Jesus is praying for you (Hebrews 7:25). Jesus, if there is someone reading this and they do not know of anyone who would come alongside of them and pray with them, please send a Christian friend their way. Yes and amen.

- Try to get outside. Breathe in some fresh air from God's creation.

- Do self-care of some kind. This could be a bubble bath, going fishing, or getting yourself a special treat.

- Take five deep breaths and exhale. Be ever so kind and gentle to yourself as you do this.

- Know it will pass; it will not stay this heavy forever (Psalm 126 and 1 Kings 19:4–8).

If you struggle with depression, you are not alone. Do not let it keep you from the Secret Place. Go share to the Lord your heart. You are seen, you are loved, and you are going to make it.

Your friend, Ashley

Randolph Community Food Shelf

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
28595 Randolph Blvd.
Randolph, MN 55065
(507) 263-9182

randolphcommunityfoodshelf@gmail.com
www.stmarkrandolph.com

Facebook: Randolph MN Area Food Shelf

Monthly Food Shelf Hours:
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2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays 4:30-6:30 pm

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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Fragility of the Powerful

No sooner are [rulers] planted . . . no sooner do they take root . . . than he blows on them and they wither; and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. — Isaiah 40:24

The powerful people of this world tend to think they are strong and mighty, but they are fragile. They think they have the control of history in their hands, but they do not. Their stability is provisional. Their strength is temporary. Their wealth is volatile.

Their fragility contrasts with the omnipotence of God. Their instability contrasts with the eternity of God. Political rulers are fragile and temporary, but God is all-powerful and permanent. Scripture says people "are like a breath; their days are like a fleeting shadow" (Psalm 144:4), but God is unshakably the same "from everlasting to everlasting" (Psalm 90:2).

God controls the nations. He raises up kingdoms and overthrows them. He gives politicians and other leaders positions of power and takes them down. Compared to the Lord, rulers on the earth are barely planted and rooted before they wither. All it takes is a breath from the Almighty to blow them away like chaff.

Rulers who try to defy God do not prevail. The arrogant may try to stand against the righteous God, but they will only be swept away.

Put your trust in God, our only true refuge and strength!
Almighty God, teach us not to trust in fragile human power but in your eternal strength. Humble the proud and uphold the faithful, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

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Ellen Barbara Braun



Ellen loved wildflowers. Maybe it was because they never asked to be noticed. They simply bloomed where they were planted, making the world brighter for everyone who passed by. In many ways, Ellen lived the same way. She had a gift

for making people feel important. Whether you had known her for years or had just met her, she welcomed you with a smile that put you at ease, listened with genuine interest, laughed easily, and left you feeling better than when you arrived. Like the wildflowers she loved, she brought beauty and quiet strength wherever life planted her.

Ellen Barbara Braun, 41, of Hampton, Minnesota, was called home to the Lord on Thursday, July 2, 2026, 12 days after being diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. She

passed away peacefully, surrounded by the everlasting love of her family.

Born and raised on a farm in the south Hamptons, Ellen carried that hardworking spirit throughout her life. She graduated from Randolph High School in 2003 before earning her bachelor's degree from Augsburg College. She was smart and incredibly organized, which helped her build a career in accounting with Lockheed Martin, Mosaic Apartments, Early Bird Electric, and Supporting Strategies. Perhaps her most pivotal work was her time as a bartender at the Black Stallion where she met Timmy Braun. After more than a few requests, her phone number was finally shared, and the rest became a beautiful love story. They were married on April 5, 2008, celebrating their wedding where it all began.

Anyone who knew Ellen, knew her smile. Bright and contagious, it was often the first thing people noticed and the last thing they forgot. She loved to laugh, dance, and never missed an opportunity to have a good time with the people she loved.

She always poured herself into everything she did and was the person everyone could count on. Through every hardship and challenge, she leaned on her quiet faith and led with courage and unwavering strength. The steady, resilient way she lived, taught everyone who loved her how to do the same.

Above all else, Ellen was devoted to her family. Nothing brought her greater joy than being with Tim, Kyle, and Owen; her love for them shaped every decision and was the

foundation of the farm she and Tim built together. She loved watching her boys operate equipment and learn the ropes of farm life - pitching in and taking pride in their collective work.

Ellen was preceded in death by her son, Junior (Timothy Braun II); her grandparents, Harry and Bernice Schaffer; and Glenn and Jean Mulvihill. She leaves behind her loving husband of 18 years, Timothy Braun; her sons, Kyle and Owen Braun; her parents, Tim and Susan Mulvihill; her favorite sister, Erin (Kent) Erdahl; her brothers, Andy (Angie) Mulvihill and Tony (Sam) Mulvihill; In-laws, Teddy and Craig Braun; Jenny Braun (Alvin Armstrong), Matt Braun and Amanda (Aaron) Armstrong; countless aunts, uncles, cousin comrades; and her beloved nieces and nephews - Charlie, Joe, Louie, Adeline, Ella, Drew, Arlo, and Elias.

May Ellen now travel gentler roads surrounded by perfect peace. Like the wildflowers she loved, may the kindness she shared so freely continue to grow in the lives of everyone she touched. Until we meet again, thank you, Ellen, for making each of us feel seen, loved, and at home.

Ellen's Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 25th from 4:30-9:00 pm. All are welcome to join us at Glenhaven Events - 1595 220th St E, Farmington, MN 55024. All gifts will go toward creating a memorial in Ellen's name at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. A private interment will be held at St. Mathias Catholic Cemetery in Hampton, MN.



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Ameriikan
Poijat Brass
Band
to Play at
Randolph
History Center

(continued from page 1)

Ameriikan Poijat, with players based in Minnesota, has traveled widely, with perform-

Two-Year Anniversary
of Missing Randolph
Woman

(continued from page 1)

Our commitment remains unwavering. We will not rest until we find her and bring answers to her family. We continue to urge anyone with information, no matter how small, to come forward. If you know something, say something. All tips can remain anonymous. TIP LINE: Visit Dakota County Sheriff's Office Facebook page for more information.

ances is most Midwestern states, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Massachusetts, Canada, and Finland. "Poijat" has released six CD recordings and publishes some of its performance sheet music for others to play. The event will take place at Randolph History Center on Wednesday, July 29 at 7:00p.m. Bring a folding chair. Poijat's program will consist of a mixture of concert pieces and old-time dance music, and American music observing the 250th Anniversary. There is no admission fee, but donations will be received. The concert will last about one hour and 15 minutes. Ameriikan Poijat (Boys of America), Finnish American Brass Septet, was founded in 1990. They've been asked to play performances in some rather unusual settings, such as in an ice arena, in fishing boats on the Finnish Perhojoki river, on a raft in an abandoned mine, at Finnish border defense installations, at a McDonnell-Douglas military aircraft plant, in a Wisconsin cow pasture, on a Florida beach, at an instrument museum, in a barn, and in a one room schoolhouse. It's not that they have exclusively sought out bizarre venues, but a seven-piece group is very mobile, and the Finnish brass music they celebrate seems to have drawn them off the beaten path at times. Made up of Minnesota musicians, some of Finnish descent, they have been sharing the charm of the old Finnish brass band music and have also performed the newer compositions for septet that have proliferated recently. Their main inspi-

ration has been from brass playing colleagues and friends in Finland who have also been keeping the tradition alive and generously sharing their experience with us about this music. The Finnish brass septet repertoire is meaningful ethnic art and has an inherent musicality that is attractive to many listeners. The ensemble has made regular appearances in Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin, especially in Finnish American communities in the north. During this time a new repertoire has been commissioned by Poijat, enriching the programming. Over the passage of many years since Ameriikan Poijat began to play together, the musical inflec-

tions and nuances that create their style have continued to change and develop. They have been presenting music in concerts, at ethnic festivals, in regional tours, and at music conferences, recreating authentic social dance music along with concert repertoire from a bygone era. "Poijat" was formed in Northfield, Minnesota by leader Paul Niemistö and made its first concert tour to a Finnish festival in Florida the next spring, and then made its first trip to Finland in 1992 for the Finnish 75th anniversary. Poijat has returned to Finland several times since, helping celebrate the Finnish Centennial in 2017, and touring again in 2025.

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ANDERSON

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

REWARD UP TO
\$50,000

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



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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, and the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, which is a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Funding administered by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

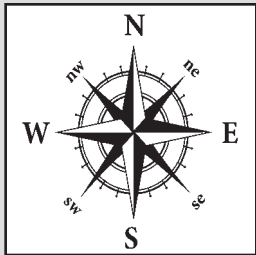
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

June Vacation



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.

June is a time lots of people take vacations. I came back to Minnesota early this spring on business and planned on heading right back to Tennessee to relax a bit longer. Right back turned into eleven weeks. So, a few days into June I was heading south again.

A lot had changed. The winter wheat harvest was complete and the corn crop had tasseled, silked and was way over my head. I fertilized the lawn before I left. The June rains had made use of the nitrogen in the fertilizer and

my neighbor John had been mowing the grass almost weekly. I had to weed whip the dog run to knock back 2' of Switchgrass before letting the dogs in. They found an Armadillo carcass in the yard so they were entertained. I was standing in sandals cutting grass so the dogs wouldn't find any snakes. I figured I would shred a copperhead with the weed whacker before he could strike me.

Not having to deal with farm chores allows me to sleep late every morning. I kind of like it. I had a number of small projects to do around the cabin. Enough to stay busy but not get exhausted. We planned to spend the nice days on the river and rest up on the other ones.

Sundays are the same routine. Go to church and stop for groceries at the Piggly Wiggly on the way home. The first week was VBS at Big Rock Baptist Church. They had the assembly hall decorated with lights and posters, the staff had matching t-shirts and there were three inflatable bounce houses outside for the Sunday night kick-off. The kids got up and sang while dancing to songs, VBS is a big exciting thing in Tennessee. They had a record of over 160 attend the Wednesday evening session this year. Church is never boring in Tennessee.

I went in to the Sirloin Stockade one evening for steak. Not much beats a buffet with ribeye. The nice kids working the counter gave me the senior discount without even asking. One great thing about the youth in Tennessee, is how friendly and helpful they are. Everyone is "ma'am" or "sir" and they will take time to stop to carry on a pleasant conversation with anyone.



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In the evening I sit on the porch and watch the sun set in the western sky, with a dog on each side of me. I look out over the trees to the Tennessee River and soak in the beauty. The crescent moon is hanging in the horizon with three planets lined up. They say they are Venus, Jupiter and Mercury. I see fireflies rising into the night sky like sparks from a camp fire. I doze off and the dogs are sound asleep on the cushion beside me.

I think about coming through Tennessee as a child in the mid 1960's with my parents. Never dreamed I would live down here someday. I remembered the Appalachian Mountains, Civil War battle sites, stories about Daniel Boone, and other explorers

who lived down here two centuries ago. Wondered about how rugged the wilderness was back then. Imagined what the Cherokee, Chickasaw and Shawnee Indians life was like in those days.

It is summer in Tennessee, every day hit 85 degrees. Air conditioning is a wonderful thing. Had to be unbearable in a teepee or a log cabin in the old days. But I enjoy it now. And being in the boat on the river on a hot day is much more bearable than almost anywhere else. The cool river breeze and a Bimini boat top make it a perfect day. As I head back, I experience the one certain shock. Gas was \$3.35 when we left Tennessee, \$3.85 back here in Minnesota.



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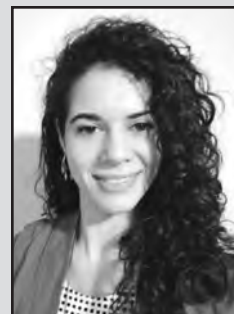


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A Minnesotan: Hotdish



By RosaLin Alcoser

If I had to name one food that is distinctly Minnesotan I would say Hotdish. Then I would probably go on to explain that it's usually meat, with canned or frozen vegetables, combined with a can of soup and often topped with some sort of potato—the one I've seen the most is tater-tots. Now depending on your region of Minnesota is the real determiner of the salt and pepper ratio in the dish. However, that is really

what makes up the dish.

The most common one I've had is the tater-tot hotdish, but I do know that there are other kinds of hotdish.

After all there must be since there are competitions on who makes the best hotdish.

My family never makes hotdishes. No, for us is something that we only had if someone else had made it and it was at church. Since we are Minnesota transplants we did not make hotdish nor had we heard about it until we moved here. However, my husband is a born and raised true Minnesotan. He and his family are Minnesotans who make and consume hotdish.

In fact my husband loves hotdish to the point that he desperately wants to go to Oronoco to get a flight of hotdish. When I told him that I had seen it on a menu while there without him two years ago he wanted to have a flight of four types of hotdish desperately. The only problem is every time he's been down in the area since it's been a Monday and they've been closed. At some point we will be there when it's open and hopefully it's still on the menu.

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Farm Girl Chatter Hayfields, Lake Days, and 250 Years of America

By McKell Lemmerman

There comes a point every summer when farmers start dreaming about two things: rain for the crops and a cold drink at the lake. Unfortunately, those two things rarely seem to

happen on the same day.

Hay season is in full swing, and there is something special about the smell of fresh-cut hay drifting across the countryside. It is one of those scents that instantly says "summer." Unless, of course, you are on your tenth load of the day, covered in dust, sweat, and wondering why every field suddenly looks twice as big as it did yesterday.

The days start early and end late. Tractors hum across the fields, wagons fill up, and weather apps get checked more often than the mail. Nothing gets a farmer moving faster than seeing a rain cloud pop up on the radar when there are still ten acres laying on the ground.

By the time the last bale is stacked, the only thing greener than the hayfield is the thought of heading to the cabin. There is something magical about trading the tractor seat for a pontoon seat. The sound of machinery is re-



placed by loons calling across the lake, and instead of watching weather forecasts for hay, we're checking them to see if it's warm enough to jump off the dock.

This summer feels a little more special as America celebrates its 250th anniversary. For generations, farming families have helped build this country through hard work, perseverance, and commitment to the land. While fireworks and celebrations mark the occasion, many farmers will be celebrating in their own way—finishing chores, making hay, and gathering with family and friends at the lake after a long day's work.

Of course, no farmer truly takes a vacation. Somewhere between fishing, swimming, and enjoying a sunset, someone is always looking at the future radar for the next projects to do when they arrive home.

Still, those lake days remind us why we work so hard. The smell of fresh-cut hay, the satisfaction of a field baled before the rain, and a weekend spent at the cabin with family and friends are some of the best parts of summer. It's all about balance—working hard enough to appreciate the break and relaxing just enough to be ready to do it all again next

week.

As we celebrate 250 years of America, here's to the farmers who keep it running, the families who keep us grounded, the troops who made the sacrifice, and the lake days that remind us to slow down and enjoy what we have. Because even the hardest-working farmers need a day to smell something besides diesel fuel and dust.

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Right to Repair settlement reached with John Deere

ST. PAUL — A settlement announced yesterday between the Federal Trade Commission and attorneys general in Minnesota, Illinois, Arizona, Michigan and Wisconsin is a good step forward in the effort to ensure farmers have a competitive market for the repair of farm equipment.

The suit alleged that John Deere's policy of withholding diagnostic equipment and other necessary information from owners of John Deere equipment prohibited them from making their own equipment repairs and was a violation of the Sherman Act and constituted an unfair and deceptive trade practice.

The settlement requires John Deere to make repair resources available to farmers and independent repair technicians that are equivalent to the resources provided to John Deere dealers. It also spells out some of the functionality those resources must have. In addition, if John Deere releases any new repair resources, it would need to make those available to farmers and independent repair technicians once 50 percent of authorized John Deere dealerships have access. The terms of the settlement are in place for 10 years and

will be enforced by the FTC and the five states included in the suit.

"Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) members have worked for Right to Repair legislation for farm equipment for a number of years because when they buy equipment, they believe they should be able to repair it themselves or take it to the repair technician of their choice," said MFU President Gary Wertish. "We thank Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison and his staff for bringing this suit and working to gain this improvement for Minnesota's family farmers. MFU will continue to work for expansion of the Digital Fair Repair Act in Minnesota to cover farm equipment."

About Minnesota Farmers Union

Minnesota Farmers Union works to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life of family farmers and ranchers and rural communities. MFU is a nonprofit membership-based organization. Membership is open to everyone. Learn more and join at www.mfu.org and follow MFU on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

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Minnesota Farmers See Seven Straight Years of Higher Profits

Water-quality certified farms report higher net income than non-certified counterparts

Farmers enrolled in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) continue to show stronger and more reliable profitability than non-certified

farms, according to new data from the Minnesota State Agricultural Centers of Excellence. The findings reinforce a clear, long-term trend: For the seventh consecutive year, MAWQCP-certified farms reported higher gross cash farm income and higher net farm income than comparable non-certified operations.

The 2026 Influence of Intensified Environmental Practices on Farm Profitability study analyzed financial and production data from farms participating in the Minnesota State Farm Business Management program. The results show that efficient input use, diversified cropping systems, and conservation practices that reduce risk and improve long-term productivity all contribute to stronger financial performance. These approaches help stabilize yields, build resilience, and support more consistent profitability over time.

In 2025, certified farms earned an average net income of just more than \$197,500, compared to \$129,400 for non-certified farms. Median net income followed the same pattern, demonstrating that the financial advantage holds across farm sizes and sectors.

“Seven years of data make one thing unmistakably clear: conservation is a long-term profitability strategy. Certified farms aren’t just seeing better results in good years — they’re holding strong in the tough ones, too,” said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. “That kind of steady, repeatable return is invaluable in today’s farm economy. I strongly encourage Minnesota farmers to explore certification and see how this program can strengthen both their operation and the natural resources we all depend on.”

Keith Olander, executive director of Ag-Centric and Agricultural Partnerships, noted the resilience of certified farms during a chal-

lenging year. “Row crop producers faced real financial pressure in 2025, yet water-quality certified farms continued to come out ahead. Livestock operations in particular saw notable gains. The management approach required for certification continues to translate into stronger financial performance year after year.”

MAWQCP began as a Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) initiative to protect water quality statewide. Since launching statewide in 2016 with Clean Water Fund support, the program has enrolled more than 1.25 million acres across 1,800-plus certified farms. Those farms have implemented conservation practices that prevent more than 1.25 million pounds of nitrogen, 60,500 tons of sediment, and 78,000 pounds of phosphorus from entering Minnesota waters each year.

Certification starts with a one-on-one, field-by-field review conducted by local conservation experts who walk the operation with the farmer to identify potential water-quality risks. Together, they develop a customized conservation plan that fits the farm’s goals and addresses those risks with practical, effective solutions.

Farmers receive priority access to technical and financial assistance to complete any needed improvements. Once all risks are resolved, the farm is certified and granted 10 years of regulatory certainty, recognizing it as fully in compliance with Minnesota’s water-quality laws.

Farmers and landowners interested in learning more about MAWQCP or enrolling in the program can contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District or visit MyLandMyLegacy.com.



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Community Foundations



By Benya Kraus
President & CEO Southern
Minnesota Initiative
Foundation

In a world that often asks us to be in a hurry, Wendell Berry — a Kentuckian farmer poet — asks us to slow down and to pay attention. “We have the world to live in on the condition that we will take good care of it,” he writes in one of his essays. “But to take good care of it, we have to know it. And to know it and to be willing to take care of it, we have to love it.”

In my role, I’m often asked what we can do

to inspire the next generation of local leadership to get involved in community life. The University of Minnesota Extension reports that in our rural communities, 1 in 9 adults must serve in a formal civic or nonprofit role to keep the community operating. That means serving in roles like your city council and economic development authority boards, nonprofit boards, county commissions — and close to our heart at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), your Community Foundation boards. As our region’s population ages, there is increased pressure for the next generation to carry the previous generation’s legacy of service.

But what calls us to serve?

As Wendell Berry reminds us, the answer is love.

When I speak with our most active Community Foundation board members about why they serve, they often tell me about the neighbors who helped their family through a difficult time. About the coach or teacher who saw their potential before they found it for themselves. About a parent who dragged them to every church pancake breakfast or food drive as a kid, forced away from an afternoon of solitude at home with the cartoons and made to encounter their neighbors in real life, face to face. Their love for place flows out of the experiences of knowing their neighbors — and being known in return.

At SMIF, we are the backbone support to

35 small town Community Foundations. Practically, they are 35 volunteer boards who raise money locally in order to fund the things that grow, beautify and serve the needs of the people who live in their community today and for generations to come. In Berry’s eyes, these Community Foundation board members are people who are committed to “truly looking at” their community. They are people who pour their time and attention to noticing who lives in their towns, where they spend their time and what struggles they may be experiencing. They notice when families can’t afford a summer pool pass, which downtown alleys have the potential to be revitalized with seating and murals, which fairground barns need an upgrade. They help a community focus their attention to these things, too, and through that knowledge, offer opportunities for people to care in real, practical ways.

Yes, as Wendell Berry says — to know a place and to care for it requires love. But at the same time, knowing a place and caring for it also makes you fall in love with it.

Perhaps that is the greatest purpose of our Community Foundations: to invite your neighbors to fall in love with their places, over and over again.

To learn more about the Community Foundation in your area, visit smifoundation.org/affiliatefunds or contact Alissa Oeltjenbruns at alissao@smifoundation.org.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at benyak@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.



Community Foundation members gather for the annual Spring Mixer.

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To the Editor:

May freedom ring loud and clear.

This July we celebrate two hundred and fifty years of Freedom! During this month we don’t just light sparklers. But rather across our state we are lighting that old flame of Freedom! Liberty! and Patriotism! Here in Minnesota, we know the value of hard work and aren’t afraid to show up to lend a helping hand. We continue to live out the American Spirit. Our country was made a reality by those who dared to dream, work and sacrifice for a better tomorrow, and that’s how we keep our State and Country free.

It’s time to take our country back. Back for faith, family, freedom, hard work, and honest conversation. Back to the simple truth that our rights come from God, not from government; and that We the People are responsible for what we leave to the next generation.

So let’s stand tall, fly our flag, speak with courage and teach our kids to love this land. We can’t do everything but we all must do something! Our Country’s future is in our hands. It only takes a spark of courage in truth to ignite a wave of patriotism! Let’s live out the American Spirit!

God bless Minnesota. God bless the United States of America. And may freedom ring today and every day!

Sara Bertschinger
Pine Island MN

**Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of The Messenger.*



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Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation seeks applications for Economic Development Grants

Applications due August 10 at 4 p.m.

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is currently accepting applications for its Economic Development Grant program. Requests of up to \$10,000 will be considered. The Economic Development Grant supports projects that strengthen local business activity, promote steady economic growth across

SMIF's 20-county region and Native nation, encourage innovation, job creation, and broader access to opportunity. The program supports organizations that provide direct services to help people start or expand small businesses, and that create welcoming environments where more residents can participate in southern Minnesota's business support network. While all communities in SMIF's region will be considered, preference is given to organizations or projects serving communities with populations under 10,000. "As entrepreneurs across our region seek support for starting or expanding small businesses, we want to ensure they have the systems and resources to move their ideas forward," shared Mary Athey, SMIF vice president of entrepreneurship. "Creating a strong economy isn't just about the first step, it's having the scaffolding to help small businesses become long-lasting cornerstones of



the community." In 2026, this grant is open to IRS-designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Other IRS-designated 501(c) organizations and informal/grassroots organizations can apply with a 501(c)(3) organization as their fiscal host. In 2027, this grant will be open to units/agencies of government and public institutions. Applications are due to SMIF by August 10, 2026 at 4 p.m. For the application and guidelines, visit smifoundation.org/economicgrants or contact Jennifer Heien, entrepreneurship administrative coordinator, at 507-214-7040 or jenniferh@smifoundation.org. SMIF works to catalyze entrepreneurial activity within the region and has played a strong role in growing local business by supporting entrepreneurship since 1986. In addition to the Economic Development Grants, SMIF provides early-stage investments, traditional loans, micro loans, technical assistance, peer networks and business trainings to achieve the vision of creating economic prosperity and community vitality in southern Minnesota.

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Randolph School
Now Accepting Applications
in all grades, K-12,
for the school year 2026-2027!

Our school is officially accepting applications for all grades K-12. Families can begin the enrollment process now to secure a spot for their child.

Who should apply?

- Incoming kindergarten students
- New families moving into the district
- Families interested in open enrollment

How to apply:

- Complete an enrollment application (found on our website at www.randolph.k12.mn.us)
- Submit required documents
- Contact the school office if you need assistance or have questions

Need More Information?
Our office is here to help with any questions about kindergarten, enrollment or required documents.

Contact:
Grades K-6 -Jill Wille at willej@district195.org
OR
507-645-4773, ext.201
Grades 7-12:
Samantha Stoker at stokers@district195.org
OR
507-645-4773, ext. 202

Early applications enable us to plan staffing, class sizes, and resources effectively — so we encourage families to apply as soon as possible.



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August 7 & 8, 2026

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Cash Prizes!
Sign up at Cattlemen's Saloon

LIVE MUSIC
BOB Welcomes
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7-11PM
Presented by Cattlemen's Saloon, Fireside Lounge, Sapphire Cocktail Lounge



SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

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All You Can Eat
PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Includes Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage & Beverages
SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
8:00 AM to 11:00 AM



SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
CLASSIC CAR SHOW
8:00 AM
Trophies at 1:00PM
TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL
10:00 AM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
KIDS PEDAL TRACTOR PULL
10:00 AM

BE IN THE PARADE
SATURDAY at 1:30 PM!
A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade
(Ages 12 & under)
Sign up at 12:00 p.m.
South Main Street
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1st Prize: \$500 Cash
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Need not be present to win.
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Saturday Schedule of Events

- 8-11a.m.

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast Under Mainstreet tent
Hosted by Nerstrand-Dennison Fire Dept., and Dennison Community Church. \$12 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 & under, 3 & under FREE. Includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, juice, milk
- 8a.m.

Farmers Market Downtown
Citywide Garage Sales
Classic Car Show on Mainstreet Presented by Clutchmen Car Club. Registration \$10.
Trophies at 1p.m. Contact Jason Aldorfer 612-203-4172
- 8:30a.m.

Euchre at Fireside Lounge For information, contact Jen Eggum 507-649-0602
- 9:00a.m.

Scavenger Hunt - \$100 Cash Prize! Meet and sign up at the tent. Hunt will begin at 9am.
- 10a.m.

Truck & Tractor Pull on the Hill For more information contact Dave Remme 507-649-0710
Kids Pedal Tractor Pull on Mainstreet (At Mainstreet Intersection) Sign up begins at 9:30a.m.
- 11a.m.

Food Stands Open
- Noon

Kids Bingo Under the tent. Presented by Dennison Lions. Ages 3-11
Costume Kickball Tournament Hosted by Cattlemen's Saloon. Sign up at Cattlemen's Saloon
- 1:00p.m.

Car Show Trophies Awarded
- 1-3p.m.

Kids Carnival
- 1:30p.m.

Parade Downtown - A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade (Ages 12 & Under)
\$300.00 Prize for Best Parade Entry! Sign up at Noon. South Mainstreet. Call 507-645-9992
- 2:30p.m.

Cattlemen's Saloon Bags Tournament - Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place!
Sign up at Cattlemen's or call 507-782-9061
- 4:00p.m.

Power Tool, Gift Card & Purse Bingo Presented by Dennison Lions & Fireside Lounge
- 6:30p.m.

Keg Toss - 100% Payout! \$5/throw Across from Fireside Lounge
- 7:00p.m.-12a.m.

Live Music - Shane Martin 18+ event. No Cover Charge. 21 to drink.
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For updated info. go to www.dennisondays.org

4 Holistic Health Tips Worth Bringing Into Your Life!



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

I have been around the wellness world long enough to remember when "holistic health" sounded like something only the granola crowd talked about. These days? It is everywhere, and honestly, I love that! We have circled back to ideas our grandparents seemed to know instinctively, only now we have the science to back them up. Below are four tips I keep coming back to, both for myself and for the patients and friends I care about. Pull up a chair. Let's talk health like the fellow enthusiasts we are.

Start From the Inside Out: Your Gut Knows More Than You Think

I'll be honest with you. For years, I treated

my stomach like an afterthought, something that only mattered when it growled or grumbled. Then I started paying attention, and what a difference it made. Your gut is often called your "second brain," and there's real truth to that. Trillions of tiny bacteria live in your digestive system, and they influence everything from your mood to your immune system to how much energy you have to get through the day.

The good news is that supporting your gut doesn't require anything fancy. Start by adding more fiber-rich, whole foods to your plate. Think leafy greens, beans, oats, and colorful vegetables. Fermented foods like yogurt, kimchi, and sauerkraut bring in beneficial bacteria that help keep everything balanced. I like to tell people that every meal is a chance to either feed the good bacteria or starve them. Small, consistent choices add up faster than you'd expect.

Here's the part that ties beautifully into chiropractic and whole-body wellness: when your gut is happy, your whole system tends to follow. Many people notice less inflammation, steadier energy, and even better sleep once they clean up their gut health. It is all connected, and your body works best when each piece is supported. So if you've been ignoring your digestion, consider this your gentle nudge to start listening.

Make Peace With Your Nervous System

This one is close to my heart. So many of us walk around in a constant state of low-grade stress, and we barely notice it anymore. Tight shoulders, shallow breathing, a racing mind at bedtime. Sound familiar? Your nervous system is running the show behind the scenes,

and when it's stuck in "fight or flight" mode, your whole body pays the price.

The beautiful thing is that you have more control over this than you realize. Simple practices can shift your body out of stress mode and into rest-and-repair mode. Try slow, deep breathing where your exhale is longer than your inhale. Even a few minutes can calm a frazzled mind. A short walk outdoors, a warm bath, or simply unplugging from your phone for an hour can work wonders too. These aren't luxuries. They're maintenance for the system that controls everything.

This is also where chiropractic care fits in so naturally. Your spine houses and protects

your nervous system, and gentle, personalized adjustments can help your body communicate more clearly with itself. I've watched patients soften and exhale right there on the table, like their bodies finally got permission to relax. When your nervous system feels safe, healing happens. It's not magic, it's just how we're built.

Treat Sleep Like the Foundation It Truly Is

I remember a time when running on little sleep felt like a badge of honor. We bragged about it. What a mistake that was. Sleep isn't downtime, it's when your body does its most important repair work. Muscles recover, your brain clears out the day's clutter, and your

(continued on page 13)

August events, happenings and goings on at WildWood!

315 Main Street | Nerstrand

Barre Classes w/Greta

Thursdays in August {6, 13, 20, 27} | 6:30pm | \$12/class or pre-pay \$40 for all four

Barre incorporates aspects of ballet into a fitness class, but don't worry- you do not need to be a ballerina to do these classes, promise. Simply wear clothes you feel comfortable moving around in and bring water, barre socks (if you have them) and your beautiful self and settle in to enjoy this 50 minute class.

Women's Networking Group - Casual Coffee
Tuesday, August 11 | 9am | no charge

Are you a small business owner and want to spread the word about your business? Maybe you just want to promote the company you work for. Come on down! Bring your own coffee and settle in for a very casual meetup with like-minded women looking to further business connections. Bring some business cards and feel free to invite your girlfriends!

Intro to Garment Sewing Class

Sunday, August 30 | noon-6pm | \$99 includes hands-on instruction, material & pattern

Join us to learn how to make a summer garment that fits your unique and beautiful shape! Geared toward beginning garmentmakers, we'll cover every aspect of sewing clothes from start to finish ñ including how to measure, adjust, grade, cut and sew with soft t-shirt knit fabric.

More event information and registration available at

wildwoodofnerstrand.com/happenings.
Please let us know if you have an idea for something you'd like to experience, learn or do here in Nerstrand.
WildWood is always available for private rentals and parties; scope out the website for more info!

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AUGUST 7 at 1:30 PM

A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade
(Ages 12 & under)

\$300 FOR BEST PARADE ENTRY!



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 507-645-9992

4 Holistic Health Tips Worth Bringing Into Your Life!

(continued from page 12)

nervous system resets. Skimp on it, and you feel the effects in everything from your mood to your aches and pains.

If your sleep has been rough, start with the basics. Keep a consistent bedtime, even on weekends, so your body knows what to expect. Dim the lights in the evening and put the screens away at least an hour before bed. Your bedroom should be cool, dark, and quiet, almost like a little cave built for rest. These changes sound simple, and they are, but they make a genuine difference over time.

I'd also encourage you to think about how you sleep, not just how long. The right pillow and a supportive mattress matter more than most people realize, especially if you wake up stiff or sore. Poor sleeping posture can pull your spine out of alignment night after night. If you're waking up hurting, that's worth a conversation with your chiropractor. Good sleep and a healthy spine go hand in hand, and

addressing both can change how you feel from the moment you open your eyes.

Keep Moving, Because Motion Is Medicine

Here's something I say all the time: your body was made to move. We've engineered so much movement out of modern life, sitting at desks, scrolling on couches, driving everywhere. And our bodies feel it. Stiffness, weakness, and nagging pain often trace back to one simple culprit, which is that we just aren't moving enough or in enough variety.

The fix doesn't mean you need to become a marathon runner overnight. In fact, I'd argue that gentle, consistent mobility work beats the occasional intense workout for most people. Stretch in the morning. Take walking breaks during your workday. Try yoga, swimming, or simply playing with your kids on the floor. The goal is to move your joints through their full range often, because joints that don't move tend to get stuck, and stuck joints lead to discomfort down the road.

This is where I get a little passionate, so bear with me.

When your joints move well, your whole body functions better.

Chiropractic adjustments can help restore motion to areas that have become fixated, and pairing that care with daily movement gives you the best of both worlds. Think of it as a partnership between you and your body. You keep things moving, your chiropractor helps keep things aligned, and together you

build a body that feels good for years to come.

None of these tips require a complete life overhaul. That's the beauty of holistic health, it's the small, steady choices that build into something powerful. Pick one to start with

this week. Your body has been waiting for you to pay attention, and trust me, it'll thank you for it.

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

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

(continued from page 1)

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.

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

A full schedule of events will take place Saturday.

Kicking off the days will be the annual pan-

cake 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.

1st Prize
\$500!



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DENNISON DAYS RAFFLE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026

Buy a Raffle Ticket from
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or Heritage Bank in Dennison
for \$5.00 for your chance to win!

Grand Prize \$500.00 Cash!

2nd Prize - \$250 Cash • 3rd Prize - \$100 Cash

Plus Many Additional Prizes from Local Area Businesses

Raffle Drawing held at 10p.m. at the Fireside Lounge. Need not be present to win. Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees.
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Food Noise



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

Does it seem like you are always thinking about food? You want to focus on other things and you know that constantly grazing contributes to excess weight and health issues, but you cannot seem to help yourself. This is the description of “food noise.” There seems to be a constant nagging in your mind for more food even when you really do not have a need for it. In recent years, thousands have been turning to medication to help reduce this “food noise,” but the results of the medication have some concerning side effects, as I wrote about last month. With every medication there is a natural alternative when you look more closely at what is happening. “Food noise” can be reduced naturally when you rebuild your eating habits.

The key to reducing “food noise” is to understand how your body generates fullness and satisfaction signals and then how to in-

crease those signals. There are at least three significant areas to change in order to increase satisfaction with your meals – timing, protein, and fiber. Focusing on these three areas has helped thousands of individuals to improve their quality of life and reduce the distraction of “food noise.” So, let’s take a look at these three areas.

Timing – refers to the importance of a routine. We are creatures of habit. Habits are what help us get through the day. Food noise can be related to some negative habits that have formed over the years and need to be changed. However, simply determining to eat at specific times and not between meals is easier said than done. Ideally, you will focus on three meals a day with at least four and a half hours between meals. In a 2022 national survey asking health practitioners about their eating habits, those doctors and nurses who ate three meals a day with no snacks between meals had a lower risk of death and lower heart disease risk than those who snacked throughout the day or those who did intermittent fasting. The timing and consistency of eating was important, but this would not be possible to maintain without the next two areas of protein and fiber.

Protein – is an essential component for every meal of the day. Your digestion process responds with satisfaction signals when protein is eaten in the first bites. Notice the first foods placed on the table at a restaurant – chips, bread, salad, drinks – all carbohydrates, very tasty, but no protein. Notice the trend of the ketogenic diet or the Atkins diet that promote high intake of protein and many people lose weight. The satisfaction signals

are greatly increased with protein and the food noise decreases. The Atkins or ketogenic plan is not a balanced diet but demonstrates the power of protein to reduce the food noise. A healthy protein portion should be selected for breakfast to help start the day on a positive trend. Eggs, full fat Greek yogurt, full fat cottage cheese, smoked salmon, or chicken sausage are just some examples of protein options for breakfast. Replace the cold cereal, muffin, pop tart, or fruit juice with a protein for breakfast and you will begin to move toward a routine that will stimulate satisfaction.

Fiber – is another essential component that promotes satisfaction and reduces food noise. Quality fiber at each meal is provided through fresh vegetables and fruits. Lettuce and cabbage may seem to have little nutrition value but much of the benefit comes from the fiber in these foods. Fiber is undigestible to humans but becomes a feast for the bacteria in our intestines. When the bacteria in the colon feast on fiber, they produce fatty acids that feed the colon cells lining the large intestine. The colon cells produce glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1) which signals satisfaction to your brain and reduces food noise. Americans are recommended to consume at least 35 grams of fiber each day. Great choices for increasing daily fiber intake include apples, pears, berries, avocados, broccoli, carrots, cabbage, brussels sprouts, artichoke, black beans, navy beans, lentils, and squash. As you increase fiber intake with each meal, you will achieve a greater signal of fullness that will sustain you for hours.

When you select a protein for each meal and

a fiber source to go with that protein you are beginning to construct a healthy meal that will satisfy your body needs for hours. As you build these quality meals, you will be able to start reducing snacks and separating your meals up to five hours. As you build this daily routine, begin to drink water between meals which will help to make sure you are well hydrated, which will also reduce snacking signals.

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

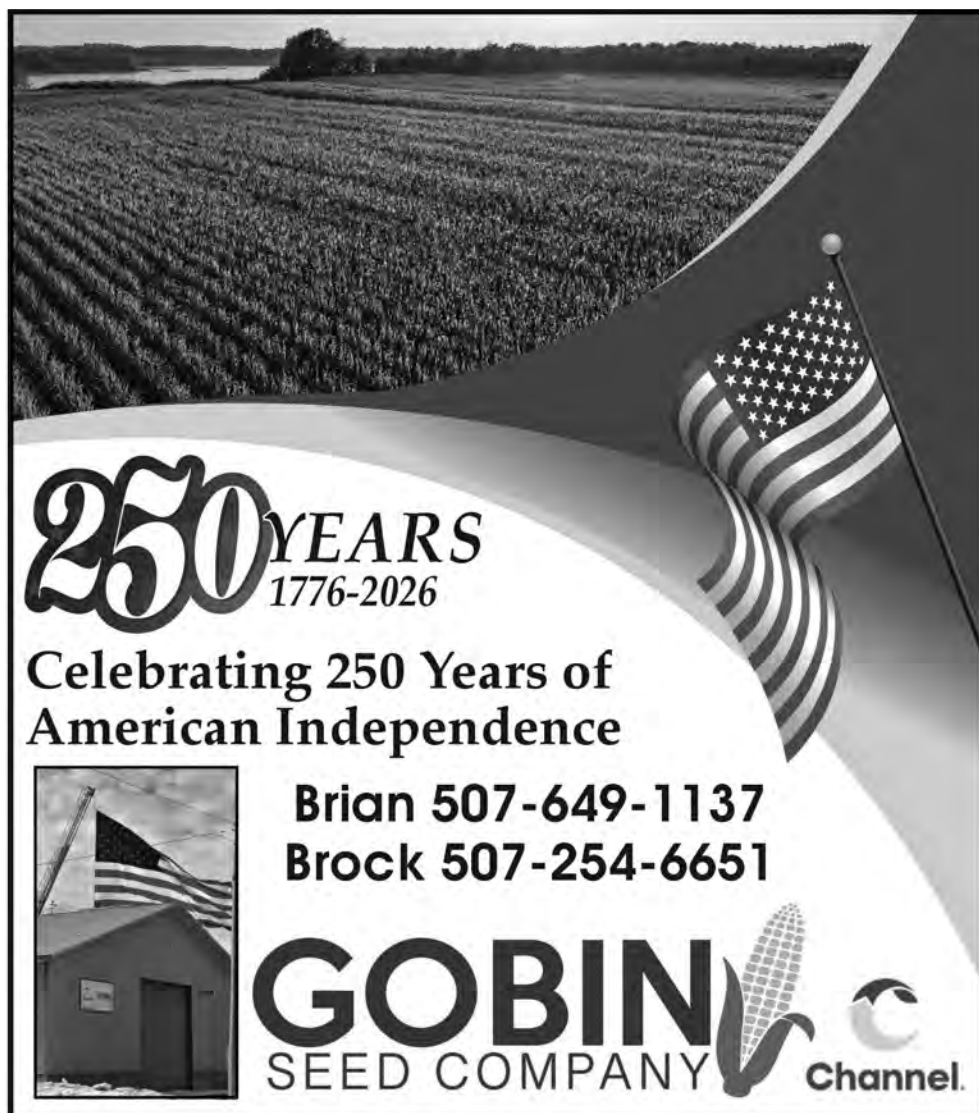
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Randolph May 13, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Call to order:

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

Roll Call:

Present were Mayor Marie Jacob

Council Members Tony Price, Randy Ferguson and Keith Sande, Treasurer Sandy Nicolai and Clerk Mary Haro.

Also, in attendance was Bolton & Menk engineer, Matt Blazer and legal counsel Greta Bjerkness of Kennedy & Graven.

Approval of Agenda:

There was one item added to the agenda - Chris Sande fence permit. Motion to approve the agenda with the addition was made by Jacob and seconded by Price.

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

Public Comments:

None

Prior Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the April 8, 2026 regular council meeting minutes was made by Price, seconded by Ferguson.

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

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

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

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

Old Business

Building Inspector

We looked at his contract from 2020 and thought it was a good time to review it. He noted that he never increased his fees since

he has been with us. It was indicated that we need to do our due diligence when there is a contract involved. This came up because of the decking permit from a homeowner. Mark explained the project. He noted that it was rental property so it needed to be done by a licensed contractor who failed to pull a permit. He received a call that work was being done without permits and the foreman showed him pictures that they had to redeck the roof because of some rotting wood. When you change the structure, you need a permit. They had the roof almost completed when he showed up. Mark could have put a stop order on the project but didn't.

Abandoned Vehicles & Public Nuisance

Mayor Jacob would like us to go through our ordinance on public nuisance and update it but she feels it should be a work session. We need to be clear on our actions on this ordinance. We may have to do one meeting in June and another in July. We will have a work session at our next meeting and start at 6 pm to discuss this further.

Delinquent Water Bills

Greta created a memorandum of what we can do regarding homeowners who do not pay their water bills. Sandy did hand deliver some of the delinquent bills and they set up payment plans. Everyone has made progress except for one of them. They are just paying a minimum but we will see if they stick to it. We could always assess them or we could disconnect their water if we wanted to do that. Greta did note that if we do not assess their property taxes and if they were ever to sell, we may not be able to recoup the amount owed. We cannot go after the new owners for the unpaid invoices. We will wait

a few months and see if they are paying their past due invoices.

City Emails

Clerk Haro discussed with Midco regarding setting up separate email addresses for each council member. She was told it will cost \$1 per month for each separate email address. Clerk Haro was given the go ahead to have them create separate emails for each councilmember. She will let everyone know once it is completed and what their email address is and we will update the website with the new email addresses.

New Business

Dakota County Deputy

He indicated that there has been wire thefts from irrigation systems. Land owners who have these systems should regularly check their systems and report any damage or suspicious activity. He said if you see anything suspicious, call it in. There is a new Minnesota school bus stop arm violation law. Starting March 27th, drivers must stop at least 20 feet away from the school bus when the bus's red lights are flashing. Must remain stopped until the red lights are no longer flashing. The stop arm does not need to be extended for this to be a violation.

He noted the Spring/Summer curfew times of - Ages under 12 Sunday - Thursday - 9 pm to 5 am Friday - Saturday - 10 pm to 5 am Ages 12 - 14 Sunday - Thursday - 10 pm to 5 am 2 Friday - Saturday - 11 pm to 5 am Ages 15 - 17 Sunday - Thursday - 11 pm to 5 am Friday - Saturday - midnight to 5 am

We asked if we could get a speed trailer by the railroad tracks heading west into town. Randolph Trailblazers

Bob Romanowski and Tom Larson asked if the City would again sponsor the Randolph Trailblazers for the 26-27 season. The DNR requires them to use a government entity to funnel the money through. This is an in and out for the funds. A motion to approve Resolution No. 26-04 Authorizing Sponsorship of Snowmobile Trails by Randolph Trailblazers for the 2026-2027 season was made by Haro, seconded by Price.

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

R Bar Special Event

Ashley and Nate Icaza came before the board with an application for a special event they will be holding on Saturday, May 16th. The road will be closed between Divers Path and Distad Path from 8 am until sometime in the evening. They did get permission from Dakota County for the road closure. There will be a barbeque competition, bean bag competition and two live bands, one at 1:30 and the other at 6 pm. Mayor Jacob made a motion to approve the special event permit for the Blues, Brews and Barbeque for the R Bar, seconded by Price.

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

Resolution Regarding Speed Study

Mayor Jacob noted that she received a notice from Dakota County regarding they will be doing a speed study on County Road 88 by the school. They did an informal speed study and indicated the average speed was 30 mph which helps them to go to the state for them to do a speed study. Even if they don't get the speed limit lowered, they can put in for a school zone. They want the city's support for the speed study. Motion to ap-

prove Resolution 26-02 for Dakota County in Support of the Authorization of the Commissioner of Transportation to Perform an Engineering and Traffic Investigation to Determine the Reasonable and Safe Speed Limit was made by Price, seconded by Ferguson.

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

Resolution Regarding Comprehensive Plan

Clerk Haro noted we qualify for a grant from the Met Council to assist us with the 2050 Comprehensive Plan. Motion to approve Resolution 26-07 Authorizing Participation in the Met Council's Small Communities Planning Program for Assistance with Preparation of the 2050 Comprehensive Plan was made by Jacob, seconded by Haro.

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

Water Tower Aerator

Mayor Jacob discussed that she received some complaints about the noise from the water tower and it was asked if the aerator could be shut off for the summer. We had received some information previously that we should have it running all the time to prevent the sediment from settling at the bottom of the water tower but that was misunderstood. The consensus is that we will tell Bryce to shut it off for the summer and we will start it back up in the fall.

Randolph Fire Department

Mayor Jacob made a motion to approve Resolution No. 26-05 authorizing the Road Closure of 292nd Street between Divers Path and Distad Path from 12 p.m. on August 15 until 1 a.m. on August 16; for the Randolph/Hampton Fire District Annual Chicken Barbeque, seconded by Haro.

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

Clerk Haro made a motion to approve Resolution No. 26-06 authorizing a One Day Gambling permit for the Randolph/Hampton Fire District Annual Chicken Barbeque, seconded by Price. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

It was noted that the Fire Department should apply for a Special Event Permit which we will put on the June agenda to approve.

Sande gave an update on the work to be done on the back wall and indicated that it will hopefully be started soon and we will be installing steel siding over the block.

Mayor Jacob talked to Chief Opelt regarding doing a controlled burn of the grass by where we will be putting in the holding ponds. They are looking into that and may use it as a training session for the firemen.

Fence Permit for Chris Sande

Keith Sande on behalf of Chris Sande indicated he would like to install a fence between his property at 4210 292nd Street and adjoining property owned by Laura Nelson at 4220 292nd Street. Since it is not going to be over 6 feet he just has to apply for a permit from the city. The set backs are 2 feet from the property line but he would like to put it on the property line. He needs to get written proof from the property owner to put it on the property line.

Sewer Project

It was discussed that no one is watering the sod right now as the contract indicated they should be watering it. (continued on page 16)



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RANDOLPH CITY COUNCIL

(continued from page 15)

Matt is going to do a walk through to look at the sod see if any of it needs to be replaced. He indicated that the sod warranty is up at the end of May. Any area that was seeded will to be reseeded. NGE made a request for an extra \$2 per cubic yard which adds up to a large amount for the amount of earth work that is left. They are not giving us factual evidence for the numbers presented. B&M did an assumption and came up with \$.16 - \$.20 a yard. They will keep working on this to keep it moving. NGE's reasoning is the length went up 2-1/2 4 times of the 719 feet of haul needed. They indicated they have 6 months left of work, which is on the conservative side. We will continue to push back on getting them to agree to the change work order. It was noted that MnDOT has to review the evidence that they provided for their claim and it is almost guaranteed it will not be approved. They want us to mediate the delay claim which we should think about but are not in favor of it right now. We do have approximately \$280,000 left in contingencies. At this point we are too far apart in the amount in the change order. If they don't start by June, we need to think about doing something. Matt will keep working on it and if we have to, we will have a special meeting before our next meeting. We have to look at if they are in violation of the contract. We are wondering why they will not get started on the holding ponds.

Council Member Reports

Since Mark was in attendance at our meeting, Mayor Jacob asked about the question from the Historical Society concerning the R Bar and Ordinance No. 155.22(D)(5) as they

think there should be a fence installed on the patio. Since this was not put on the agenda this is not an actionable item. Mark indicated if it was a condition of the liquor license then it would be issued through the state but because the deck is not over 30 inches off the ground, it does not require a fence. Mark also noted there is an easement through the driveway so you can't put a fence up. It was asked if it is a written easement and yes it one that is recorded with Dakota County. The ordinance indicates "Shall be located in a controlled or cordoned area with at least one opening to an acceptable pedestrian walk. When a liquor license is involved, an enclosure is required and the enclosure shall not be interrupted; access shall be only through the principal building." They need to have access to their garbage receptacles. Our legal counsel indicated they should apply for a conditional use permit. It was also noted that the Historical Society choose to build their building closer to the R Bar and that they need to work together. It was also noted that because of the age of the R Bar building that it may fall under as being a historical building and could be looked into.

Councilmembers Sande and Price were contacted regarding the need for gravel to fill in gaps by Doesdel's on Davisson and also in the cu-de-sac in Duncan Court by Paavola's. If NGE does not start working, we will contact Otte Excavating to have them fill the holes in with gravel.

It was also noted about the telephone cable in the park that runs through trees, on the ground, etc. Clerk Haro will contact Centurylink to discuss this with them to bury the line. Ferguson noted that he attended the wa-

tershed meeting and they talked about the quarry in Waterford Township. They, as an organization, sent a letter supporting the Township.

Clerk Haro noted that she applied for a Center Point Energy grant to replace the batteries in the weather/emergency siren. She also had a meeting with TextMyGov which is a system that sends out notices to everyone in the community when needed such as an emergency. The cost is approximately \$2,000 per year and we would need to commit to a 3-year contract. It was asked if we could combine this system with Randolph Township. If we decide to move forward with this, the company would present at a future meeting. She also talked about the speed bumps that we were going to install by the softball fields and talked about the cons against it - we decided not to install them this year.

Marie and Keith are going to drive around and look at trees on city properties and make notes. Marie asked what our responsibility is for trees in the right of way. We are responsible for 10-15 feet from the edge of the road. If it is along a county road, we should check with the county; however, it only needs to be removed if it is a hazard. What determines if it is a hazard, if power lines are in the area, if it could fall on a house. Dakota County does have a park department that can assist with determining if a tree should come down on the county roads, or we could hire a private tree company to have them looked at.

Mayor Jacob purchased paint and supplies for the senior class to paint the fire hydrants in town. It cost approximately \$200 and we have some paint left which we could paint the picnic tables. A big Thank You to the Senior Class for painting the hydrants.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ferguson, seconded by Price, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. All voting in favor, none opposed, motion passed 5:0.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Haro

Randolph June 3, 2026 Special Council Meeting Minutes

Call to order:

The special Randolph City Council meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Mayor Marie Jacob.

Roll Call:

Present were Mayor Marie Jacob

Council Members Tony Price, Randy Ferguson and Keith Sande and Clerk Mary Haro.

Also, in attendance was Bolton & Menk engineer, Matt Blazer and legal counsel Greta Bjerkness of Kennedy & Graven.

We closed the open meeting to go into a closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05.

Adjournment

Jacob made a motion to adjourn the special meeting, seconded by Price. All voting in favor, none opposed, meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Haro

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Wednesday, August 12th • 7pm

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Thursday, August 13th • 6:30pm

TRACTOR PULL: Adults \$12, under 12 \$7,
Pit Passes \$30 - available in person at the pit gates

Friday, August 14th • 7pm

FRIDAY NIGHT AUTOCROSS: Adults \$17, under 12 \$12,
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Saturday, August 15th • 5pm

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Wednesday, August 12
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6:00-10:00 PM



Thursday, August 13
RYAN SULLIVAN
6:00-10:00 PM



Friday, August 14
GEORGE'S CONCERTINA BAND
2:30-6:30 PM
OLD COUNTRY BOYS
7:30-11:30 PM



Saturday, August 15
FOSTER GRAND
8:30 PM-12:30 AM



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