

KENYON • WANAMINGO Messenger

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JULY 23, 2026

Volume 19 • Issue 14

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.

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.

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 returns along with The Classic Car Show and Kids Pedal Pull.

(continued on page 8)

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 for more information.

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

The Larson Log Cabin story

By Cheri Roshon

Someone once told me that people who live near places others want to visit rarely take the time to go to these places. I am talking about Disneyland, and Dollywood, places like that. So, it is no wonder to me that I have been living here for about 4 1/2 years and have seen but never investigated the Larson Log Cabin on Main Street in Wanamingo. Well, I looked it up in a few different places and found some very interesting facts that I would like to share with you all.

The stories I found are about the same, with

a few discrepancies.

It begins with a man called Lars E. Larson. Some say his son Edward was ailing, and some say it was Lars himself that moved from Chicago to the Wanamingo area for his own health. In either case, Mr. Larson travelled to Wanamingo, which was inhabited mainly by Norwegians who had immigrated here from Norway to seek a brighter future. My family was among these travelers, which sparks my interest in the history of this town. But I digress.

So, Lars Larson moved to this area and built



the cabin we are talking about in about 1856.
(continued on page 3)

Grocery Store Shares Challenges with Council. Looking for Options



At the July 14th meeting of the Kenyon City Council, owners of The Kenyon Market discussed the challenges that the store is having. Economic forces are stretching the profit margin too thin for the store to continue operating as it is. Owners are looking for options, including potential new local ownership, and asked the council for input. The grocery store has seen a 10% drop in sales since the dollar store opened in town. That reduction in business greatly affects the bottom line. The Market employs 18-20 people and commended their staff, but continued, that the situation has become a very serious issue, and decisions need to be made sooner than later. The owners discussed local ownership is a key point to future success. The store offers fresh meat and produce, something the dollar store doesn't offer. In addition without a local full service grocery store in town, those without reliable transportation lose their access to fresh food. People that move to town look at a grocery store as an important part of a community. While some complain that big box stores in large communities offer lower prices, a trip out of town costs more time and fuel negating all of the perceived savings.

(continued on page 5)

School Board Member Election 2026

**NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR
ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 2172
(KENYON-WANAMINGO
PUBLIC SCHOOLS)
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 2172 shall begin on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, and shall close at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026.

The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. At that election, four (4) members will be elected to the School Board for terms of four (4) years each.

(continued on page 4)

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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.

The Lord is My Shepherd!

By Pastor John Todor

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul;...” Psalm 23:1-3

I remember that one of the first Bible passages that I had the privilege of memorizing as a child, was Psalm 23.

In Psalm 23, David compares the Lord to a shepherd who lovingly tends his flock. Through this passage, we learn that Jehovah God – the all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-

present God, tenderly cares for those who belong to Him.

Very briefly, I would like to point out to you a few things about God, our wonderful Shepherd. It is my hope and prayer that as you ponder upon these things, God's Word will be a great encouragement to you.

• The Lord is a Personal Shepherd. David wrote: “The Lord is my shepherd”.

(continued on page 3)

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.

DENNISON LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor Dwaine Sutherland Office: 507-645-6042
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Website: www.dennisonvang.org
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Rob Edwards, Pastor
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507-824-2307
www.emmanuelaflc.org
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9:00a.m. Sunday School
10:00a.m. Coffee Time
10:30a.m. Worship Service

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website: flckenyon.org
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1st Tuesday each month

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Website: calvarynorthfield.org
Sundays 1:00 pm

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www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info
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Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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Pastor: David Krinke
Email: pastordavid@landslutheran.org
Pastor: Nikki Rockne
Email: pastornikki@landslutheran.org
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Pastor Dustin Haider
507-789-6677
holdendalesecretary@gmail.com
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Dale: 9210 County 12 Blvd, Kenyon
www.holdenlutheranchurch.org
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Holden Lutheran Church on Facebook
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August 2: Holden 9:30

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The Larson Log Cabin story

(continued from page 1)

He built the cabin in Section 22, presumably in Old Wanamingo, the site which is about 1 mile from where the town is now. The history books hint to the fact that the town moved to be closer to the railroad that was being constructed between Red Wing and Faribault. He thought the fresh air that he would be breathing as a farmer would improve his health. Shortly after he moved here, his 14-year-old daughter Anna joined him to help care for him, but within a year of her arrival, Lars died. Again I lost the trail of the family, but I am assuming that after Lars died, Anna moved back to Chicago, leaving the cabin behind. It is not known whether anyone else inhabited the cabin in the years to come.

That same year Anna, now 15, met her Sunday School teacher, Horatio Spafford. He was 29 and a successful Chicago lawyer. They were married in 1861. In the 10 years that fol-

lowed, they had 4 daughters. Here is where it gets a little confusing. Anna and her girls were travelling by ship to somewhere not listed in my search and met with tragedy when the boat they were on, called the Ville du Haure collided with an English sailing ship on its way to Europe in 1873. Anna survived by hanging on to a floating piece of the wreckage, but her daughters were lost at sea. Horatio had remained at home with his business while Anna and her daughters were travelling and received this tragic cable from herSaved Alone.

During his voyage to be with his grieving wife, Horatio wrote the words to the song now displayed outside the cabin that was moved to town, It Is Well With My Soul. Three years later, Phillip Bliss wrote the music for the words that comforted a heart-broken father. This song is now displayed at the cabin in a handmade plexiglass case outside of the cabin that Lars Larson built, long before his granddaughters were drowned at sea.

The cabin was moved from its building site to its current location in 1974 as a true memorial to all community pioneers. The people of Wanamingo made the cabin solid after years of wear, and now keep it up by the goodness of the volunteers in town. And what happened to Anna and Horatio? They lost almost all of their assets in the Great

Chicago Fire, and moved to Jerusalem and started the Jerusalem Colony, which began as an orphanage and today is a hotel. They had a son, Horatio Spafford Jr. but he died by the age of 4. They also had a daughter, Bertha Spafford, and some of her descendants are still involved with the hotel.

I would like to thank LaRae Heimerl for contacting me with a little more info on the log cabin. She said, "I was around 9 years old when my mother Laura Perrett was a member of the Goodhue County Historical Society in 1976, when we celebrated our country's bicentennial. Our neighbors were tearing down their old house to build a new house around 1974. That's when they discovered the kitchen of the old house was actually the single room log cabin, and a previous owner had just built around it to make the house larger over the years. Because of this discovery, a plan was made and fundraising began to disassemble the cabin, marking each piece, and reconstruct it next to the water tower where it is today." Well, the water tower may be gone, but the log cabin



remains to remind us of our pioneering ancestors who started the town we live in today!

So, there you have it, as best as I could find the facts. As in most historical pieces, there are always more than one version of the facts, so I am not saying this is the gospel truth, but a fun dive into a historical piece of our town!

The Lord is My Shepherd!

(continued from page 2)

One of the amazing things about the God of the Bible is that He is not a distant, unapproachable God, but a God that can be known in a personal way. Relationship and fellowship with God is possible through His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

• The Lord is a Providing Shepherd. Psalm 23:2: "He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters." This also reminds me of Apostle Paul's words in Philippians 4:19 "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

I would like to encourage you to take a few moments today and thank Him for His spiritual, physical, material, and emotional provision. He is worthy of our praise!

• The Lord is a Protecting Shepherd. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me;" Psalm 23:4

Everyone goes through valleys, or low points in life. We may face sorrow, heartache, doubt, or other kinds of adversity, but God's Word reminds us that we should not be afraid. The constant presence of our Shepherd provides the assurance we need to always feel safe. If we walk obediently before Him, He will bring good out of the hardships we endure "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

God bless you dear readers!

Hope you all have a wonderful summer, trusting the good Lord – the Good Shepherd!

Kevin and Julie Underdahl

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Get Fit

By Cheri Roshon LMT

Why do we always gain weight over the winter? Well here's the surprising truth: winter weight gain has very little to do with willpower, and almost everything to do with being out of sync. In fact, the most common causes of winter weight have nothing to do with food!

The real reasons are that during the winter you experience 3 major changes. 1) less sunlight, 2) your circadian rhythm (your internal clock) shifts, and 3) your gut microbiome changes.

All together, these 3 factors quietly slow your metabolism, increase cravings, and encourage fat storage. Sunlight isn't just for producing vitamin D, it also keeps your metabolism working properly. When your eyes and skin get morning light, it tells your body to wake up, burn energy, and keep everything running on time. This includes your appetite, digestion, and fat burning for energy. But in the winter when it's darker for longer and you stay mostly indoors, your body can get confused and start storing energy instead of burning fat. That's why it is easier to feel groggy, snacky and sluggish this time of year, even if you are eating the same way. So, how do we change this?

As soon as you wake up, expose yourself to 10 minutes of natural light, outdoors-- even if it's cloudy. This is proven to reset your body's circadian rhythm. Doing so supports your metabolism, appetite control and energy all day long. I promise you won't freeze to death in 10 minutes. This will also help you to sleep better at night.

One of the most common mistakes we make in the winter is eating later as the days grow shorter. With less morning light and more evening darkness, your body's internal clock can shift. You may feel more alert at night, and less hungry in the morning, which can push your meals to later in the day. But since your body is designed to digest food earlier in the day when your metabolism is the most active, eating late throws off your blood sugar, triggers inflammation, and can disrupt fat burning overnight. Try to finish eating 3 hours before going to bed, or try to establish an "eating window", say from 9 to 5. This gives your body plenty of time to digest the food before

going to bed,

Your gut bacteria shifts seasonally. That's why cravings are more intense. In winter it shifts to bacteria that crave sugar, hold calories and trigger more fat storage. That's why cravings surge...because your "bugs" are demanding fuel. So, feed those bugs with polyphenols like extra virgin olive oil, dark chocolate, pomegranate and green teas. Give them quality prebiotics such as leafy greens, jicama, artichokes and leeks. Add fermented foods such as sauerkraut, kimchi, and goat or sheep yogurt. Of course, a good probiotic will help to support your gut, too. You see, when you keep your gut bugs happy, cravings calm down, and weight loss gets a lot easier.

To recap, weight gain isn't about "eating too much". It's about light exposure, meal timing, and gut health. In this way, your body returns to balance. No extreme diets required. Simple! Get more light exposure, eat earlier, and feed your gut the good stuff! And remember, cold isn't the enemy, inactivity is. Even though you may rather curl up with a book or binge watch your favorite shows, one of the best ways to fight winter weight is to take a brisk 10 minute walk after meals. This "exercise snack" helps your muscles soak up sugar from your blood before it gets stored as fat, boosts digestion, improves your mood and gives you more energy for the rest of the day. So, now that the weather is warmer, start a new routine now so when the next winter arrives, you will have begun a new habit to carry you through the season better equipped to stay slim!!



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School Board Member Election 2026

(continued from page 1)

Affidavits of Candidacy are available in the District Office, 400 Sixth Street, Kenyon, Minnesota 55946. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same primary or next ensuing general election.

The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on July 28, 2026.

Please enter Door 5 or call 507-789-7001 with questions.

Here is the link to the candidate filing packet on the Secretary of State website: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/election-administration-campaigns/become-a-candidate/campaign-filing-packet/>

Thinking of Running for School Board? Check out this page and video links from MSBA:

<https://mnmsba.org/membership/running-for-school-board/>



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Grocery Store Shares Challenges with Council. Looking for Options

(continued from page 1)

The market is operated by owners that have experience in operations and have successfully done so in Kenyon and other communities.

They have made many recent investments and upgrades to the coolers and equipment in the past few years as well, however the economic tide has changed very fast in the past 6 months. The hope is to look at all available options and ways to keep the market in business. The current owners want to work with potential new owners to make the store a con-

tinued viable business and increase the margins to make it profitable. Ownership is willing to help with potential financing options and operational support. All options are on the table. An additional challenge for them is the fact they travel from near Rochester, restating Local Ownership will be an important aspect in the future of the hometown grocery store. All that said, without community support, the future is unclear. Conversations will continue and council suggested the EDA meet with the owners to discuss the issue further.

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DENNISON DAYS

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SATURDAY FOOD STANDS OPEN AT 11AM!

August 7 & 8, 2026

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 KICK OFF

Biggest Dip and Pie Eating Contest Cash Prizes!

Sign up at Cattlemen's Saloon

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



SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

PROBUILT BOB
Welcomes
Shane Martin
7:00PM
Presented by Cattlemen's Saloon, Fireside Lounge, Sapphire Cocktail Lounge



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

\$300.00 Prize for Best Parade Entry!
Call 507-645-9992

Dennison Lions Club DENNISON DAYS RAFFLE

1st Prize: \$500 Cash
2nd Prize: \$200 Cash
3rd Prize: \$100 Cash
4th Prize: \$50 Cash

Drawing held at 10:00p.m. at the Fireside Lounge

Need not be present to win.
Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees.
SPONSORED BY DENNISON LIONS CLUB
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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.
Presented by ProBuilt Construction and Fireside Lounge & Supper Club

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If we missed your name,
please accept our apology.
Your support is appreciated.

For updated info. go to www.dennisondays.org

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

(continued from page 1)

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!

The full schedule is on page 7 and also posted at www.dennisondays.org.

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Thursday, August 13th • 6:30pm

TRACTOR PULL: Adults \$12, under 12 \$7,
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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: DAY CARE DAY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13: GOODHUE COUNTY AG DAY

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Wednesday, August 12
CATEGORY 5
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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