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SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Volume 19 • Issue 17

Chuck Schwartau Named to NACAA Hall of Fame



Hall of Fame Presentation: JJ Jones, NACAA President, Chuck Schwartau, Carol Schwartau

At the 2026 national meeting of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Chuck Schwartau, Goodhue, MN, was one of four members nationwide named to the association's Hall of Fame.

During his 38 years with University of MN Extension, Chuck served various roles.

(continued on page 11)

Announcements

• **Pillow Cleaning Thursday, September 10 at Kenyon VFW from 7a.m.-3p.m.** Wednesday, Sept. 9th evening drop off 5-8p.m. Sponsored by Kenyon Lions.

(continued on page 3)

Kenyon Fall Fest Next Month

Look for the Kenyon Fall Fest coming up next month on October 10th. There will be something for everyone to enjoy so come out to have fun and support the local businesses which are working together to bring this autumn fun to town.

There will be a color run for the athletic crowd, a foam party and magic show for the

kids. Vendors will offer crafts and gift items, horse and wagon rides, a pumpkin giveaway, pie eating contest, wine and cider tasting and a Kenyon-Wanamingo Education Foundation hog roast.

Keep the date in mind and look for more information in the next Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger.



Kenyon-Wanamingo's new school staff of 2026-2027!



Front Row: Madeline Schultz - Ag Teacher, Cristina Saucedo - MS Math Teacher, Casiana Sas - M/HS Choir, Liz Burt - Paraprofessional, Pam Bennewitz - ML Teacher. **Back Row:** Alex Drieslein - HS Math Teacher, Owen Dailey - M/HS Band Teacher, Marschall Harrison - Paraprofessional, Tiffany Trosin - Paraprofessional

Hemp Maze Open Near Zumbrota



The Hemp Maze is open on Highway 52 between Zumbrota and Pine Island. The address is 47385 Hwy 52 Blvd, Zumbrota. The Hemp Maze is a fun walk through a field of hemp, much of which is ten feet tall. They get the plants to grow that tall by adding supplemental lighting during two months during the summer to trick the plant into continual growing.

(continued on page 9)

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ESTIMATES!**

How Do I Start Reading the Bible?



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

Beep. Buzz. Beep. Buzz. Jack's phone alarm goes off, and the vibrating of it makes the phone push right off the nightstand. The phone plonks down on a stack of dirty laundry. The early 5:30 a.m. rise did not bother

him like every other morning, because this morning it was his birthday. Even though Jack is in his mid-twenties, he still gets excited for this special day.

Jack rolls out of bed, grabs some leftover pizza from the fridge for breakfast, does a quick shave, walks the dog, drops off the rent check, and heads to work. A couple times throughout his workday he becomes almost like a child as he thinks, "I wonder what Mom got me for my birthday?! I can't wait to have her chicken alfredo and that German chocolate cake that oozes over with frosting!"

Jack sits down to have lunch with his coworkers, and his sister from Alabama texts, "Happy birthday, brother! Jesus loves you!" Jack smirks as he thinks, "Jesus, whatever." He texts back, "Thanks, Susie, I love you!" Another text rolls in from Mom. "Hi sweetie, Happy Birthday! So happy that God gave me YOU for my son!" He rolls his eyes, yet with kind fingertips Jack replies, "Thanks, Mom. Can't wait to see you!"

Jack's shift ends, and with an eager hop he gets into his car and makes his way to his mom's. As Nirvana plays over his dusty speakers, Jack starts to think about his father, who passed from suicide when Jack was just ten years old. "I wonder what it would have been like if he was still here . . ." Jack's heart

sinks as he takes the last few drags from his cigarette. The smell of those Marlboros always reminds him of his dad. He pulls into his childhood driveway, and his mom is practically jumping off the deck with joy. Jack's excitement returns as quick as a heartbeat.

Jack smiles, turns down Cobain, and quickly pops a mint. He knows his mom dislikes his music and is not very fond of him still smoking. This does not bother Jack,

though. He knows his mom has his best interests at heart.

Dinner comes and passes; it is scrumptious as always. Then comes the birthday gift. Jack's inner child is definitely front and center as he grabs the bright blue gift bag that has way too many ribbons of dark blue and bright white.

(continued on page 4)

Everyone's Invited to our

TURKEY DINNER

Sunday, November 1st
at Dennison Lutheran Church
Serving 11:00am-1:00pm

Menu:
Turkey Roast,
Dressing,
Mashed Potatoes,
Corn, and Pies

Adults \$15.00 • Children \$5.00
Children Under 5 Years Free

Take Out Available
Call Ahead or Text
Your To Go Orders
507-645-6042

Proceeds will support the Kenyon Area Food Shelf and Dennison Church Outreach.

LET'S CELEBRATE

90th BIRTHDAY PARTY!

HONORING

Ronald Amundson

Sunday, September 27th
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Wanamingo Community Center
Wanamingo, MN

Beverages & desserts
WILL BE SERVED!

Come help us celebrate Ron.

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www.espkings.com

Show Time Saturday, October 10 at 7:00 PM
at Sapphire Event Room and Cocktail Lounge
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Enjoy dinner at The Fireside, then step next door for the show!

Call today to reserve your show seat or make your dinner reservation!
507-645-9992

SHOW TICKET PRICE **\$25.00** + Tax

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www.firesidelounge.net

LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE - RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!



1st & 3rd Thursdays through October 1st 4:00-7:00 PM

First Evangelical Lutheran Church - 309 Forest Street, Kenyon

~ Hosted by Kenyon Park & Rec ~

Announcements

• **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 threeriverscap.org for more information.

• **The Hiawatha Valley Genealogy Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Goodhue County History Center, 1166 Oak St., Red Wing, MN 55066.** The society welcomes participants of all ages and genders who are interested in discovering, researching, or expanding their knowledge of their family's ancestors. Whether you are just beginning or have years of experience, the group offers a supportive environment to help you build your genealogy skills and connect with others who share your interest. Your first meeting is complimentary!

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

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

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

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



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**For advertising information, contact
Journey Parsons at (507) 384-1521
or Terry Campbell at (507) 951-7417.**

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Heart Command

*I would not have known what
coveting really was if the law had not
said, "You shall not covet."
— Romans 7:7*

Most people agree that the commandments we have been discussing lately—about promoting justice, honesty, respect for others and their property, and more—offer clear, practical boundaries for living together in society. Guidelines like these are found in all kinds of societies around the world.

We might even think, like many of God's people in ancient Israel did, that keeping these commands is possible. But the law doesn't satisfy God's requirements for our hearts. The apostle Paul painfully realized this when he wrestled with the darkness in his own heart. Though he thought he had been able to keep these commandments through his actions, he was cut to the heart when he read, "You shall not covet." God commands that we show love not only through our actions but also with our hearts. By this standard, we are all guilty of failing to love others.

Thankfully, our heart problem can be solved. "While we were still sinners," Paul writes in Romans 5:8, "Christ died for us." Jesus is the only one who could ever satisfy the demands of God's law for perfect obedience and love. And since we are forgiven through Jesus' sacrifice for our sake, the Holy Spirit gives us new hearts directed toward loving God and our neighbors.

Our new life in Christ moves us beyond mere outward obedience. By trusting Jesus, our restless hearts find true satisfaction in him alone, so that we can truly love others.

*Jesus, thank you for rescuing us. By
your Spirit, fill our hearts so that we
can love others as you have loved us.
Amen.*



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DENNISON LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor Dwaine Sutherland Office: 507-645-6042
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN 55018
Website: www.dennisonvang.org

VANG LUTHERAN CHURCH

507-789-5186 • www.dennisonvang.org
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WANAMINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

130 West 3rd St., Wanamingo • 824-2457
www.TrinityWanamingo.org

ASPELUND EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Rob Edwards, Pastor
42957 County 1 Blvd, Kenyon • 507-824-2307
www.emmanuelaflc.org
8:30a.m. Prayer Time
9:00a.m. Sunday School
10:00a.m. Coffee Time
10:30a.m. Worship Service

FIRST EV. LUTHERAN

D.J. Chatelaine, Pastor
309 Forest Street, Kenyon • 507-789-5261
website: fickenyon.org
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.;
Noon-1:00p.m. Open Prayer Time,
1st Tuesday each month

GOL LUTHERAN

Joe Jorgensen, Pastor • 507-838-2100
Sunday Worship 10:30a.m.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NERSTRAND

Dwaine Sutherland, Pastor; Mike Ahrens S.A.M.
Service 9am. Coffee hour follows @ 10 am
Sunday School 10:15 am

STORDAHL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Pastor Kathleen Lowery
15049 Cty. 12 Blvd., Zumbrota • 732-5711
Sundays 10:30 a.m. Worship

GOSPEL OF LIFE FAMILY CHURCH

Pastor Steve Roberts
2140 Highway 3 South, Northfield • 507-259-2644
srobertsdl@frontiernet.net
Facebook: [calvarychapelnorthfield-jesus saves](https://www.facebook.com/calvarychapelnorthfield-jesus-saves)
Website: calvarynorthfield.org
Sundays 1:00 pm

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Wheeling Twp) 19086 Jacob Avenue, Faribault
Gary Liker, Pastor • 507-330-0025
www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info
Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

HAUGE LUTHERAN

Larry Grove, Pastor • 507-271-9761
302 Bullis Street, Kenyon
Sunday Worship 10:00a.m. with lunch following
Services at the Old Stone Church on the 4th Sunday of
each month through the summer.
Service time is 10:00 with lunch following.

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

LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH

P O Box 225/16640 Hwy 60 Blvd
Zumbrota, MN 55992-5105
(507) 732-5482

Web Site: www.landslutheran.org
Facebook: Lands Lutheran Church

Pastor: David Krinke

Email: pastordavid@landslutheran.org

Pastor: Nikki Rockne

Email: pastornikki@landslutheran.org

Sunday mornings:

8:30a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
& on Facebook; 9:30a.m. Sunday School;
10:30a.m. Traditional Worship Service
& on Facebook

Wednesday Evenings: 6:15p.m. Confirmation;
6:15p.m. Worship & on Facebook
7:00p.m. Adult Study

HOLDEN AND DALE LUTHERAN CHURCHES, ELCA

Pastor Dustin Haider

507-789-6677

holdendalesecretary@gmail.com

Holden: 6949 County 30 Blvd, Kenyon

Dale: 9210 County 12 Blvd, Kenyon

www.holdenlutheranchurch.org

Holden/Dale on Facebook

Holden Lutheran Church on Facebook

Worship Services

September 13: Holden 9:00a.m.; Dale 11:00a.m.

September 20: Dale 9:00a.m.; Holden 11:00a.m.

September 27: Holden 9:00a.m.; Dale 11:00a.m.

October 4: Dale 9:00a.m.; Holden 11:00a.m.

MOLAND CHURCH

507-456-4242 • Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.

NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Gary Liker, Pastor, 12 Maple Street

507-330-0025

Worship 9:00 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Reverend Daren Flinck

429 4th Street, Kenyon • 507-951-1271

Worship 9:30 a.m.

KENYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

651-283-5754 • Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Sunday Worship 9:30a.m., Live stream on Yahoo

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Cory Rohlfing • Deacon Newell McGee

108 Bullis St., Kenyon

Sunday Mass 8:00a.m.; Wednesday Mass 5:00p.m.

NEW LIFE CHURCH

Pastor Vince Derr

525 Beverly St, Wanamingo

Phone - 507-824-3019

WWW.NLCWANAMINGO.ORG

(Online Services also available)

OFFICE@NLCWANAMINGO.ORG

Sunday School for preschool - adult 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Services 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Available)

New Life Kids (K- 6th) Wednesdays 6 - 7:15 pm

Youth Group (7th- 12th grade)

Two Sunday evenings per month

Women's ministry, Men's ministry and more.

Contact the church for more information.

How Do I Start Reading the Bible?

(continued from page 2)

He breaks through the packaging and unwraps the gift.

Jack knows instantly what this is. He pulls deep down into the core of his being to grab his happy voice and looks up, saying, "Wow, Mom, a Bible," with the fakest smile on his face. Jack thinks in the back of his mind, "What the heck am I going to do with this?" He doesn't let the annoying gift bother him, though. He and his mom then have some of that warm cake with vanilla ice cream as they watch the golden sun set.

As Jack got home and stepped into his apartment, he greeted his sweet dog and put that blue bag (with the Bible in it) on a high shelf in his hallway closet. He never took it down. Five years went by, and his sweet mother passed. He came home from the funeral to the same apartment, with every possible feeling floating in his inner being.

He took off his suit coat and pulled open the closet. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw the bright blue bag from five birthdays ago. He took a step back not only with his feet but his mind too. He stood up on his tiptoes, reached far back with his hands, and pulled forward that gift bag.

Tears welled in his eyes as he grabbed the leather-bound Bible. His mother had inscribed his name in the lower left corner; Jack never noticed that until this day. Jack made his way to his small dining room table and opened the Good Book.

A letter was inside the Bible, another thing Jack had not seen. He opened the cream envelope and read the note inside:

Sweet Jack,
My lovely boy who I love more than anything in the whole world (aside from Susan), you are the most talented young man full of compassion, love, kindness, and joy. I know there have been a few hiccups along the way in your life, but nothing is too big for God. Nothing.

Jesus loves you, Jack. He loves you more than you will ever know. He is not mad at you. I am obviously not mad at you. Dad was not

mad at you either. And with what happened with your dad, that was not on Jesus, my sweet son. That was Dad's free will. No shame, no guilt.

The words in the Book that is in the midst of you right now, Jack, are life-giving. If you take time to know Jesus and His Word (the Bible), it will radically transform you. Jesus changes everything.

I know you so well that I realize it might be years before you actually read this letter and potentially the Bible. If you do choose to pick up this beautiful Book, here's a little guidance in how to start reading it.

Where do you start reading the Bible? Read the book of John and read some of the Psalms simultaneously. Perhaps one chapter of John and one Psalm a day.

What happens if something you read does not make sense? A lot of things will not make sense right away. This is okay! Take your questions and turn that into studying the Bible. Get your hands on a good commentary; that will help.

What if you skip a whole bunch of days reading the Bible? No worries! Just pick up where you left off. Jesus is not legalistic.

Can you talk to Jesus? YES! Tell Jesus everything on your heart, including the things you read about in the Bible. Tell Him all the things that excite, confuse, and even make you upset. Do not hold anything back from Him.

Will Jesus speak to you back? YES! When Jesus speaks, He will speak with the Bible or the principles of the Word. The more you are in the Bible, the more confident you will be of His voice. Also, Jesus will speak with the

tone of the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). He will never speak with condemnation, guilt, or shame.

What if you do not feel Jesus? You may not always feel the Lord, but that does not mean He is not there. Trust the Bible and what it says, not your feelings.

What kinds of things does the Bible say? The Bible says so many things! Here are a few of my favorites:

You are loved: Ephesians 3:14-19

When you make a big oopsie (aka sin): 1 John 1:9

When you are sad: Psalm 34

When you are angry: Genesis 4:6-7

Needing guidance: Isaiah 55

Needing reassurance: Joshua 1:9

You can have salvation through Jesus: Romans 10:9-10

With love, Mom.

Jack, with continued watery eyes, kissed his mother's note. He started reading John 1 and Psalm 1 that very night and has never stopped reading the Bible. If you are not sure where to start in the Bible, just like Jack, do what his mom says. These words from Jack's mom can be for you too. My sweet friends, Jesus loves you more than you will ever know. Blessings, Ashley

The VFW Auxiliary Presents
BINGO
@ THE KENYON VFW
SATURDAY SEPT 12TH
5PM - 7PM
BURGER BASKETS
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DRAWING:
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
AT 7:00 PM
During the Oktoberfest Celebration
at the Kenyon VFW
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

LANDS
"Through You I See..."
Join us for worship in person or
on Facebook.
The fall schedule begins on
September 13th.
8:30 Praise Service
9:30 Treat Time
10:30 Traditional Worship
Lands Lutheran Church
16680 Hwy 60 Blvd, Zumbrota MN 55992



Hegre's Annual Fall Swedish Meatball Supper
~ Take out and curbside pickup orders only ~
Wednesday, September 23rd 2026 serving 4pm -7:00pm
Menu includes: Swedish Meatballs, Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Cole Slaw, Corn, Cranberries, Dinner Roll & Apple Dessert
Cost: \$18 per meal (all meals are adult sizes). Cash or checks only.
Call or text orders are recommended by Friday, September 18th to guarantee meals.
Please include name, number of meals and time of pick up.
Drive up meals available the day of the supper until food is gone.
Picnic tables outside for anyone to use.
Please stay in line until reaching the cashier on the east side of the church.
Call or text orders to Beth at 507-330-4996. Quilt Raffle available!
Hegre Church 51939 Hwy. 56 Blvd, Kenyon, MN
hegrechurch@yahoo.com
Hegre Church Congregation thanks you all in advance for your continues support!

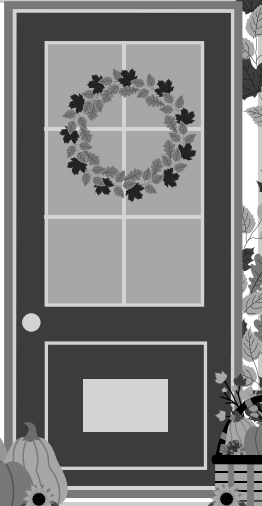


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FOR SALE: CUSTOM MADE NEW PILLOWS & DOWN COMFORTERS
Thursday, September 10th at Kenyon VFW from 7:00 AM-3:00 PM
Wednesday, September 9th Evening Drop Off 5:00 PM-8:00 PM
Sponsored by: Kenyon Lions
Groups interested in details for sponsoring this service contact:
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Gladys L. Gale

Gladys L. Gale, age 98 of Faribault, MN, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at Ivy Hill Senior Living in Faribault.

Gladys Lorraine, the daughter of Haaken and Borghild (Schenald) Vold was born on March 31, 1928 in Kenyon, MN. She attended West Concord High School and graduated with the class of 1946. On September 19, 1948 she was united in marriage to George D. Gale in Wanamingo, MN. George preceded her in death on October 25, 2015. Gladys worked at the Paul Bunyan store for a short time and then was a sales clerk at Brett's Department Store. She enjoyed gardening, dancing, entertaining and spending time at their home in Tucson, AZ.

She is survived by her daughter, Cheryl (Keith) Radel; by grandsons, Brandon Finnegan and Dustin Finnegan; great grandchildren, Isaac Finnegan, Tim Finnegan and Hanna Finnegan; by son-in-law, Randy Finnegan and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Haaken and Borghild Vold, husband, George D. Gale, daughter, Nancy Finnegan and by five brothers, Raymond Vold, Hilton (Audrey) Vold, Arvel (Orene) Vold, Arland (Pearl) Vold

and LeRoy (Linda) Vold.

Memorial services was held on Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. at the Parker Kohl Funeral Home & Crematory of Faribault. Bernadette Tatge, Pastoral Minister, officiated.

Visitation was held at the Parker Kohl Funeral Home & Crematory on Thursday morning from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Mary Jane (Syverson) Shelstad

Mary Jane (Syverson) Shelstad, of



Wanamingo, was born on October 18, 1941. She was the second of seven children born to Kenneth L. and Ingeborg (Erickson) Syverson. As Mary Jane grew up, her family would travel north each summer in their wood-paneled station wagon to spend time in Detroit Lakes, MN visiting her maternal grandparents, aunts/uncles, and cousins, and they thoroughly enjoyed family time at the lake. She also helped her Dad at his hardware store in Wanamingo, Syverson Hardware. As a teenager, Mary Jane also helped to take care of her younger siblings, which even included bringing her little sisters on dates that she went on. Mary Jane was crowned Homecoming Queen and then went on to graduate with

the Wanamingo High School Class of 1959. Mary Jane attended Luther College in Decorah, IA. She then married John J. (Smoke) Shelstad on September 15, 1962. They first lived in Rochester, MN where they both worked, but later they moved to Wanamingo, and it was there that they raised their family. They had two daughters, Tracy and Lisa. Mary Jane's work career included working for Dr. William Walter's Family Practice Office as a medical transcriptionist (on a typewriter at that time) for over 25 years! After Dr. Walter retired, she then worked for Dr. Thomas Aug's Dental Office as a receptionist. In retirement, Mary Jane enjoyed spending time with her granddaughters, Kristin and Kari Boyum as she attended their school and athletic events, and also countless 4-H pig shows!!! She also enjoyed walking every morning with her two friends, Elaine Froyum and Pat Opfer. She was an avid Bridge card game player with her many friends for the 50 plus years that she played!!! Mary Jane and Smoke also had many vacations with friends/neighbors that took them to South Dakota pheasant hunting, and traveling around the US.

the Wanamingo High School Class of 1959.

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Mary Jane's work career included working for Dr. William Walter's Family Practice Office as a medical transcriptionist (on a typewriter at that time) for over 25 years! After Dr. Walter retired, she then worked for Dr. Thomas Aug's Dental Office as a receptionist. In retirement, Mary Jane enjoyed spending time with her granddaughters, Kristin and Kari Boyum as she attended their school and athletic events, and also countless 4-H pig shows!!! She also enjoyed walking every morning with her two friends, Elaine Froyum and Pat Opfer. She was an avid Bridge card game player with her many friends for the 50 plus years that she played!!! Mary Jane and Smoke also had many vacations with friends/neighbors that took them to South Dakota pheasant hunting, and traveling around the US.

Mary Jane is survived by her two daughters—Tracy (Steve) Boyum, and Lisa (Scott) Shelstad-Ladwig; her two granddaughters—Kristin Samuelson and Kari (Brad) Froyum; her two bonus granddaughters—LeeAnn and Brooklyn Ladwig; her four great-grandchildren—Will and Luke Samuelson and Knox and Everly Froyum, with another great grandchild coming in November 2026. Everly is Mary Jane's namesake with her name being Everly Jane. She is further sur-

vived by her siblings Kenneth L. (Jane) Syverson, Jr., Henry (Marlene) Syverson, Martha (Ted) Gehrking, and Maren (Joe) Barone, and her sister-in-law, Marlene Shelstad. She has many nieces and nephews that knew her as "Aunt Mary" from both sides of the family.

Mary Jane was preceded in death by her husband John (Smoke) Shelstad in 2014, an infant son in 1963, her parents, two sisters Marie and Margaret, her godchild Marit Gillard, her mother-in-law Estella Shelstad, and her in-laws Terrance Shelstad, Genevieve and John Robbins, and William Shelstad. She also lost her dear friend Rita Stockmo in 2006.

The family would like to thank Madonna Summit in Byron and Madonna Towers in Rochester for their care and attention to Mary as she lived out her last years here on earth.

Mary Jane was a daughter, sister, niece, cousin, friend, wife, daughter-in-law, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and finally a great-grandmother (also known as "GG") throughout her life!! Blessed be the memory of Mary Jane Shelstad!!!

Visitation took place 5-7 p.m. Friday, August 28, 2026, at the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel in Zumbrota, MN. Funeral was held 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 29, 2026, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo, MN. Rev. Dave Sorenson officiated. Burial followed the service at Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo. Arrangements by Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel.

(obituaries continued on page 6)

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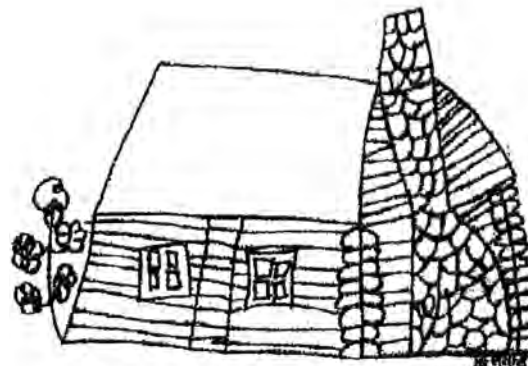
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Harriet Wiederholt

Harriet Wiederholt, a cornerstone of the Miesville community and the beloved matriarch of the Wiederholt family, passed away peacefully on Tuesday evening, August 25, 2026, at the age of 102. A woman of unshakeable faith, profound kindness, and fierce work ethic, Harriet leaves behind a legacy beautifully woven into her family she loved unconditionally.

Born at home in Douglas Township on August 21, 1924, to John and Jeanette (Schaffer) Weber, Harriet Catherine was raised on a 120-acre farm. Though she quickly discovered that farm work "wasn't fit for girls" and resolved early on to build a life in town, her rural upbringing instilled in her a lifelong resilience. Academically gifted, she graduated from Hastings High School at just 16 years old, followed by attending the Minneapolis Business College, where she furthered her business knowledge that would be invaluable in her career.

Harriet's natural aptitude for business and leadership came to define her adult life. Alongside her beloved husband, Sylvester "Cy" Wiederholt, whom she married on June 6, 1946, they laid the foundation for Wiederholt's Supper Club in Miesville, Minnesota. Following Cy's untimely passing, Harriet proved her incredible strength by managing and operating three thriving local businesses started by Cy: the Supper Club, Vendrite, a 600-machine vending operation, and some Red Wing Shoe Stores.

For decades, she has been the iconic face and heart of Wiederholt's Supper Club. Positioned at the front door, she greeted generations of guests with an authentic smile, making every diner feel like a member of her own family. Her fierce work ethic was never bound by age; she took immense pride in her work and led by example, eventually passing the restaurant down to her sons, John and Charlie; John and Charlie later passed along the business to Charlie's son and daughter-in-law, Jesse and Becky Wiederholt. Seeing the restaurant remain in the family gave Harriet great pride and comfort.

Harriet's life was deeply rooted in her

Catholic faith and the daily practice of the Rosary. It was this unwavering faith that gave her the strength to navigate profound personal losses, accepting the deaths of her husband Cy, her sons George and Gary, her grandchildren Kelly and Jenny and her son-in-law Gordy Sanders with grace, holding onto the belief that all things rest in God's plan.

Though a tireless businesswoman, family always came first. Her home was famously transformed into a magical "Winter Wonderland" every Christmas, a tradition her grandchildren and great-grandchildren will always treasure. Harriet was also known for her calm composure at the card table, her sharp instincts, her talent as a left-handed golfer and bowler, her exceptional home-cooked meals, and her quiet, non-judgmental acceptance of everyone she encountered.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Cy; sons, George and Gary; siblings, Bernard, Jerry, Alberta Horsch, John "Jack", Jim, and Ann McGree; granddaughters, Kelly Kochendorfer and Jenny Wiederholt-Pine; and by her son-in-law, Gordy Sanders.

Harriet is survived by her loving children, Jan (Bob), Charlie (Cheryl), John (Missy), Paul (Tammy), along with a large, adoring family of grandchildren, Jay (Bradley), Cory (Ami), Jesse (Becky), Lindsay (Chris), Hallie (Betsy), Talli (Joe) and great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends who will forever carry her lessons of kindness, humility, and hard work.

Mass of Christian Burial was held 10:30 a.m. Friday, September 4, 2026, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Miesville. Father Andrew Brinkman and Father Michael Tix concelebrated. Interment followed in the parish cemetery.

Family and friends were cordially invited to a visitation from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday evening, and for one hour prior to Mass on Friday morning, all at the church.

In lieu of flowers, Harriet's family requests memorials be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church or to Hastings Health and Senior Living in Hastings in memory of Harriet.

Arrangements are being completed by Starkson Family Life Celebration Chapel of Hastings.

Alison Kay Story Friedrich

Alison Kay Story Friedrich, age 70, of Kenyon, passed away on August 14, 2026. She was in the comfort of her home and surrounded by those she loved. Alison Kay Story was born on March 10, 1956 in Harvey, Illinois to John and Joann (Howard) Story. She was the

eldest of 3 children. She was raised and educated in Omaha, Nebraska, graduating with the Burke High School class of 1974. She earned a bachelor's degree and worked toward her Master's while attending Argosy, Gonzaga and Colorado Northwestern University - fostering her love for psychology and special education. She had an overall thirst for knowledge and was truly a lifetime learner.

Alison was united in marriage with Paul Rahmann on May 14, 1983. Their union gave them their two sons Jonathan and Christopher. Later they were divorced. Alison raised two sons and enjoyed many things in her life. The outdoors brought her camping, boating and fishing; while indoors, the kitchen was one of her happy places- canning, baking and cooking. Alison was united in marriage with Ronald Friedrich on Alison's 50th birthday, March 10, 2006, and they shared 20 years together. They took the opportunity to camp and travel to campgrounds near vineyards and breweries that suited each of their desires. Community service as a Red Cross blood drive coordinator and a volunteer with Three Rivers Community Action, aiding oth-

ers in getting to appointments, was something she did for years. She also sewed beautifully and knitted as well. The role of Mrs. Claus to Ron's Santa was a special thing they did together and made memories for many in the community.

Alison is survived by her husband, Ron of Kenyon; sons, Jonathan (Jamie) Rahmann of Louisville KY; and Chris (Kylie) Rahmann of Taylorsville KY; Ron's children, Justine (Michael) Boulton of Wanamingo and Ryan (Claudia) Friedrich of Bavaria, Germany; grandchildren, Tyler (Karessa Mills) Krzeszewski, Samantha (Jason Leppert) Rahmann, Chloe (Jacob Allen) Rahmann, Olivia, Evan & Mason Rahmann; great-grandson, Ripley Krzeszewski; Ron's grandchildren, Elizabeth & Victoria Boulton and Rorik & Amelia Friedrich; sisters, Sandra (Scott) Danitz of Highlands Ranch, CO and Cynthia (Barry Werner) Story of Lafayette, CO; cherished nieces, nephews other relatives and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents and grandparents.

A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, August 22, 2026 at 11 AM at Minneola Lutheran Church, rural Goodhue. Visitation was one hour prior. Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel - Zumbrota is entrusted with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred.

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Dolly Parton

"Global icon and humanitarian, Dolly Parton, known to the world as a beloved singer, songwriter, philanthropist, actress, playwright, and author died peacefully August 25, 2026 in Nashville, Tennessee. She was 80 years old.



Dolly is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 59 years Carl Thomas Dean (1942 – 2025), her mother Avie Lee Caroline Owens (1923 – 2003), and father, Robert Lee Parton, Sr. (1921 – 2000).

A rhinestone life that shone bright enough for the world to see, Dolly will forever stand as an inspiration not only through her timeless music and prolific songwriting, but also her wit, warmth, and kindness that made us all feel like family. Dolly Parton's legacy is one of love, compas-

sion, and resilience. With a seven-decade career, she inspired multiple generations of artists and fans with her music and an unwavering commitment to making the world a better place. Her songs will continue to resonate with people of all ages, and her philanthropic work will have a lasting impact.

At Dolly's request, a small, private service was held for immediate family. Dolly's fans and friends from around the world are encouraged to pay tribute to Dolly on social media by tagging @DollyParton or by leaving a message at www.dollyparton.com

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library at www.imaginationlibrary.com"

Credit: Dolly Parton Social Media

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Gary David "Cecil" Hutton

Gary David "Cecil" Hutton, 74, of rural Kenyon, died Monday, August 24, 2026, at his home.



Cecil was born February 18, 1952, to Cecil and Marian Hutton in Northfield, Minnesota. He grew up on the family dairy farm near Little Prairie, Dundas.

Cecil grew up doing chores and milking cows from an early age with his parents and five brothers. He was active in the Full O'Pep 4H club showing dairy cattle and he wrestled in high school.

Cecil attended Dundas and Northfield schools, graduating in 1970, and from there he attended two years of college at the U of M. Summer jobs driving spray trucks for AgriHelicopters in Owatonna led him to work towards his pilot's license. He traveled to Oklahoma to get his pilot's training at Allied Helicopters in Tulsa. From there, he sprayed crops by helicopter for 34 years. Cecil was a talented and hard working pilot who loved flying over the countryside. He often said, "You know there is a God when you see the beauty of nature from the air."

Cecil married Robin Shimpach on October 10, 1981, after meeting her in a cornfield. They lived in Cherry Grove Township for four years and then moved to the Flom Brother's Farm in Sogn Valley. Here they raised three children, Neil (New Zealand), Vincent (Oregon), Tamsen (Minneapolis). Cecil was so

proud of his children, and encouraged them in music, education and sports.

On the 40 acre farm, Cecil planted thousands of trees, beginning in the spring of 1986. He put in two dams, three ponds, a ball field, and many miles of fence for the horses. His goal was to have a wildlife refuge, which became a reality. He was awarded the Outstanding Woodland Manager by the Goodhue County Soil and Conservation District. The last few years he was delighted to have a pair of kingfishers nest by his ponds. Cecil was so proud of his farm.

Cecil loved bluegrass music, George Strait, Reba McIntire and barbershop music. He loved to sing, and was a tenor in his family's barbershop quartet, "Dad and His Lads". He sang with his dad, the "Real" Cecil, and brothers Duane and Darrell. Cecil loved to listen to St. Olaf and Concordia concerts online. College sports were another favorite weekend activity, he'd watch online when he couldn't get to the games.

Talking and visiting with anyone and everyone he met was a favorite pastime. From the nurses and doctors at the hospital, to the farmers, grocery checkout workers, to people he just met, he loved to ask them questions and find out all about their life histories if he could.

In the last 10 years, Cecil struggled with his health. He tried to stay positive, and kept up with his mowing and upkeep on the farm the best he could. For years he had a giant garden up on the hill where he grew beautiful, huge vegetables that he sold at the Farmer's Markets in Cannon Falls and Dennison. He loved to feed the birds and planted some perennials

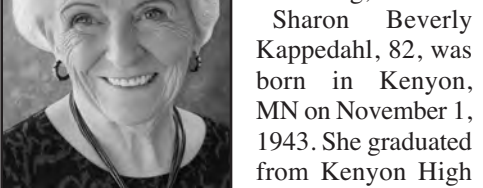
down by his shed, where he had a feeding station he could see from his office.

Cecil is survived by his wife, Robin; sons, Neil (Charlotte), Vincent; daughter, Tamsen; grandchildren, Stella and Jules; brothers, Duane (Linda), Lynn (Dawn), Brian (Pam) and many nieces and nephews. Cecil was preceded in death by his parents, Marian and Cecil and brothers, Darrell and Paul.

A Memorial Service will be held 2:00 PM, Saturday, September 12, 2026, at Holden Lutheran Church in Kenyon. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church.

Sharon Kappedahl

Sharon Kappedahl, of Randolph, MN passed away Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at Valentine's Assisted living in Red Wing, MN.



Sharon Beverly Kappedahl, 82, was born in Kenyon, MN on November 1, 1943. She graduated from Kenyon High School and married the love of her life, Orvin Kappedahl, in 1961. Together, they raised their four children in rural Randolph and operated a family business, "Orv's Refrigeration," until retirement. The couple wintered several years in Texas where they enjoyed playing music and making friends.

Sharon is survived by son Clay (Mina) Kappedahl of Lakeville, grandchildren Sam

and Noelle; daughter Lynn (Kerry) Quam of Eden Prairie, grandchildren Austin, Layne, and Jenae; daughter, Jodi Kappedahl of Yakutat, AK; and daughter Missy (Jed) Post of rural Goodhue, with grandchildren, Cayden, Levi, Rylan, Asher, Leona, and Walton. Nieces and nephews: Charleen (Pete) Volkert, Rhonda Liberty, and Brett Neseth.

Sharon was proud of her children and grandchildren, delighting in their visits and phone calls and residing with daughter Missy and her family when living independently was not possible. Sharon was a resident of Valentines Assisted Living in Redwing in her last days.

During her life, Sharon loved people and made friends wherever she went. She enjoyed playing guitar, making floral arrangements, baking and decorating cakes and a variety of Christmas cookies to share with others.

In her last days, Sharon said the most important thing about life is "knowing Jesus." She was an active member at St. Marks Lutheran Church in Randolph and attended Grace Lutheran Church in Goodhue. She is preceded in death by husband Orv, her parents, Benjamin and Gladys Neseth; and siblings, Bernard (sister-in-law, Julie) and Gary Neseth.

Visitation will be held on September 11th, 12:00-1:30pm at St. Marks Lutheran Church 28595 Randolph Blvd, Randolph, MN. A graveside memorial service will follow at 2:00pm, at Little Cannon Cemetery in rural Nerstrand. After the service, we will return to St. Marks for fellowship and reception.



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Farm Girl Chatter Behind the ears, Keeping Cattle in the Landscape

By McKell Lemmerman



There's something about learning life from behind the ears of a horse that you can't learn anywhere else.

There's no steering wheel, gas pedal, or button you can push to make a horse do exactly what you want. You have to learn to

communicate. You have to learn how to feel. You have to learn when to ask and when to simply let the horse do its job.

And then there's cattle.

Working cattle from horseback is an art. It isn't simply sitting in a saddle and steering. You have to understand the horse underneath you and the cattle in front of you. You learn how a cow moves, where they want to go, and how your horse needs to position itself to move them there.

A shift of your weight.
A turn of the reins.
A change in your horse's feet.
Sometimes, it's nothing more than putting yourself in the right place at the right time.

Your body controls the horse, and your horse helps control the cattle.

That is where the magic is.

Ranch rodeos, sorting, penning, cutting, and roping have carried pieces of that old Western way of life into today. The equipment may have changed, and the work may look different, but the partnership between horse, rider, and cattle remains.

There is grit in it.

There is patience in it.

And there is a whole lot of humility.

A good horse will teach you that you don't know as much as you think you do. A good cow will humble you even faster.

But that's why I keep coming back.

Because horses aren't just about riding. They're about learning a language without words. They're about trusting something with a mind of its own. They're about getting dusty, getting frustrated, making mistakes, climbing back on, and trying again.

They're about carrying forward a piece of the West that could easily be forgotten.



So, as the combines get ready for another harvest and the fields begin to turn, I find myself appreciating both sides of agriculture—the modern machinery that keeps our farms moving forward and the horses that remind us where we came from.

Maybe that's why, when someone asks me "Why horses?", I don't have just one answer.

Because no matter how much the world changes, there will always be something worth learning in the saddle.

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Hemp Maze Open Near Zumbrota

(continued from page 1)

Lights on photosensitive plants keep the plants from maturing. This in turn keeps the plants focusing on growth. These fiber plants will grow 12-15 feet tall by the end of September. It takes at least ten minutes to navigate the hemp maze. There is also 13 hole disc golf course. Pet are welcome if kept on leash. The maze paths were cut in prior to the August 22nd open, and the cut plants are left laying on the path to provide material to walk on. The store on the farm sells and promotes a variety of hemp products.

Hemp is the oldest agricultural crop on our planet, one that has long been used by a number of great civilizations. It is misunderstood and almost always mistaken for cannabis. In a quote from an article published in Popular Mechanics in 1938: "American farmers are promised a new cash crop and it will provide thousands of jobs for American workers throughout the land." Hemp was once claimed the New Billion-Dollar Crop. With such an extremely wide range of potential applications. Still, it took the government not even a year after this publication to pass harsh restrictions on cannabis and hemp that essentially buried the entire industry down in the ground. For almost a century, hemp has been forgotten and stigmatized due to the sea of misconceptions spread by the Reefer Madness propaganda.

Hemp is one of the oldest crops cultivated by humans. It was once praised for having thousands of different applications. Considering that, it seems beyond reason that it didn't even take 100 years for hemp and marijuana opponents to completely destroy the agricultural heritage of the United States. Fortunately, with the passing of the Industrial Hemp Act in 2014 (also known as the Farm Bill), U.S. farmers have been granted the right to cultivate hemp again in the country after 77 years of harsh prohibition. As the awareness and U.S. hemp supplies continue to grow, the plant will, sooner or later, cause the snowball effect, and innovation will only go further.

Today, the vast majority of people assume that hemp is the same thing as marijuana. While these two are, indeed, connected, they are distinct cousins. Sadly, modern society has never got the chance to experience the incredible benefits that come with using hemp. Fortunately, as times are changing, more and more people become aware of how hemp can improve the quality of our lives.

During World War II, the US government was in great need of more raw material to make solid, durable ropes. This material had been severely limited during their battle with Japan. This is when the government came up with a campaign named "Hemp For Victory", encouraging US farmers to start cultivating hemp to support the United States in the war. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) even promoted a public commercial to underline the benefits of hemp as an industrial material.

There is a huge promise in using hemp for building homes in the future. Hemp concrete, or hempcrete, offers plenty of benefits, including amazing thermodynamic insulation, being hypoallergenic, and absorbing CO2 as it ages. As a result, hempcrete becomes stronger over time, unlike mainstream materials, let alone the reduction of your carbon footprint.

When it comes to durability and construction, hempcrete homes produce zero construction waste. It turns out even more huge when you consider that 55% of the world's energy consumption is associated with construction waste.

Unlike other cars, you don't need to buy a new vehicle to start using hemp biofuel, because it can be used in cars that used to run on regular oil. Thomas B. Reed, a chemical engineer at Colorado School of Mines, has stated that an acre of hemp can produce as much as a thousand gallons of gasoline. It's no wonder that the industry experts estimate that this sustainable fuel will sooner or later put regular oil out of business.

Hemp is actually a decent clothing material, superior to its counterparts in almost every aspect. As much as we prefer cotton over other mainstream clothing materials, we cannot be indifferent towards its water insensitivity. It requires 50% more water to grow than hemp, not to mention that it uses 25% of the world's pesticides. Hemp, on the other hand, requires no use of pesticides.

Hemp extracts consist of cannabinoids found in the leaves of hemp. CBD, short for Cannabidiol, is one of the better-researched compounds, with a plethora of documented health benefits. The patent held by the US Health and Human Services says:

"Cannabinoids have been found to have antioxidant properties, unrelated to NMDA receptor antagonism. This newfound property makes cannabinoids useful in the treatment and prophylaxis of a wide variety of oxidation-associated diseases, such as ischemic, age-related, inflammatory, and autoimmune diseases. Cannabinoids are found to have particular application as neuroprotectants, for example in limiting neurological damage following ischemic insults, such as stroke and trauma, or in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and HIV dementia."

When you clean up your soil with conventional crops, such as soy, corn, or wheat, you need to come to terms with the fact that they will deplete the nutrition of your soil, causing it to dry out and eventually erode. Hemp is much different than its more commonly used counterparts. Its deep roots help stabilize the soil structure, not to mention that they also naturally shade out weeds. Growing 6-16 ft tall in 110 days, hemp can be a natural solution for farmers who don't want to use costly and toxic herbicides. As the plant absorbs heavy-metal pollutants from soil, it is, slowly but surely, purifying the earth.

2026 Goodhue County Farm Family of the Year

REDWOOD FALLS — Families and growers from across Minnesota were represented as the University of Minnesota honored them in the 2026 Farm Family of the Year ceremony Thursday, August 6, at the annual Minnesota Farmfest near Redwood Falls. The event was held on the Gilfillan Estate in the Wick Buildings Farmfest Center.

Collectively, the selected families cover a wide spectrum of farming, from traditional crops and livestock to community-based ventures and operations producing an array of fruit, vegetables and flowers. They were selected by local University of Minnesota Extension committees based on the honorees' demonstrated commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture.

"This year's Farm Families of the Year reflect the impressive strength — and incredible variety — of agriculture in our state," said Extension Dean Bev Durgan. "The University of Minnesota is proud to honor these families and their innovation and dedication to Minnesota agriculture."

Goodhue County

Representing Goodhue County this year is Cannon Valley Ranch at 14495 390th Street in Goodhue. The ranch was founded in 1984 by Bruce and LeeAnn Waugh who both grew up on farms and shared a passion for building a family farming operation of their own. In

2001, they relocated to their current ranch location and transitioned from a commercial cow-calf operation to an Angus seedstock enterprise. The Waughs raised three children on the farm and have four grandchildren.

Today, Cannon Valley Ranch markets Angus genetics to customers across the United States. In 2018, the family made the decision to add a ranch-to-table direct beef marketing business featuring premium Angus and Akaushi Wagyu beef. They have also hosted "Taste of the Ranch" nights once a month, July through October, featuring live music, wagon ride tours of the property, and beverages.

The couple and their son Taylor Waugh are the owner-operators of the ranch. Taylor manages the cow herd and daily cattle operations. Son Aaron oversees beef marketing and meat business operations while also assisting with cattle and ranch activities. Their daughter Lindsay and her husband ranch in North Dakota, where they are raising their four children.

The Waugh family is deeply committed to agriculture and community involvement. They have been active participants and supporters of both 4-H and FFA for many years. LeeAnn served on the Minnesota Beef Council Board of Directors while Bruce held leadership positions as president of the Minnesota Angus Association and the Three Rivers Cattlemen's Association.

Cannon Valley Ranch is also dedicated to conservation and agricultural education. The ranch has hosted tours and educational programs in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ag in the Classroom, and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. In recognition of their stewardship efforts, Cannon Valley Ranch was named the Goodhue County Conservation Farm of the Year in 2025.





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Chuck Schwartau Named to NACAA Hall of Fame

(continued from page 1)

For about 15 years, Chuck was one of the few Extension Educators in the country who focused on dairy labor management. As a result,

Chuck has been an invited speaker at several regional, national, and international conferences and written articles and recurring columns in over a dozen ag publications in the U.S. and other countries.

He was instrumental in developing the Farm Beginnings® program to help young farmers get started with practical knowledge of ag production and management (utilized now by at least fourteen states).

Use of tools he helped develop to assess a dairy's management, grew into the MN Dairy Initiative. Chuck organized more than fifty dairy farm advisory teams in his region, and he helped write and teach an extensive 12-hour dairy labor management curriculum.

Chuck's survey of all Minnesota dairies with over 150 cows was instrumental in developing labor management programs.



Chuck Schwartau speaking to NACAA banquet following Hall of Fame presentation

Chuck wrote and delivered a farm safety program emphasizing dairy farms and worked with University of Wisconsin-River Falls on a similar program for Wisconsin. The program was delivered to over two hundred farm units and morphed into a similar program for pork producers and certified custom manure applicators.

Chuck also wrote parts of a UMN beef correspondence course, reaching four Midwestern States, and conducted extensive research among dairy farm families in a four-county area about stresses on the dairy farm. He also worked with farm mediation, managing initiation of over two hundred requests for mediation by creditors and following through with over one hundred farms that requested mediation.

Chuck was a NACAA National Search for

Excellence presenter four times, and had 3 National finalists, 6 Regional finalists, and forty-four state-winning communications entries.

Chuck's service to NACAA is extensive, serving as the National Treasurer, NC-Regional Director, NC Region and National Communications Committee Chair, NACAA representative to the Education Foundation Board of Trustees, NACAA Education Foundation Trustee (currently), NACAA representative and NACAA program chair for JCEP's Galaxy III, and Chair of Joint Council of Extension Professional's Galaxy IV in Pittsburg, PA (2013). He served as President of Minnesota Association of Extension Ag Professionals, consistently attended NACAA Annual Meeting /Professional Improvement Conferences, and was a NACAA Achievement Award (1989) and Distinguished Service Award (1994) recipient.

Chuck's humanitarian activities are extensive. Of note, Chuck was elected as a lifetime member to the MN State Agricultural Society (MN State Fair), a prestigious honor in recognition of his over 50 years of work with the fair.

He has served on numerous community advisory boards and committees, often in leadership positions. Among those are several terms on the church council for First Lutheran Church, Red Wing, 32 years on the Goodhue County Fair board of directors and over 40 years of multiple positions working at the Minnesota State Fair.

Over his 38-year career with the Extension Service, Chuck served in Dakota, Winona, Wabasha, and Goodhue Counties plus the Rochester Regional Office as a livestock educator and Regional Extension Director.



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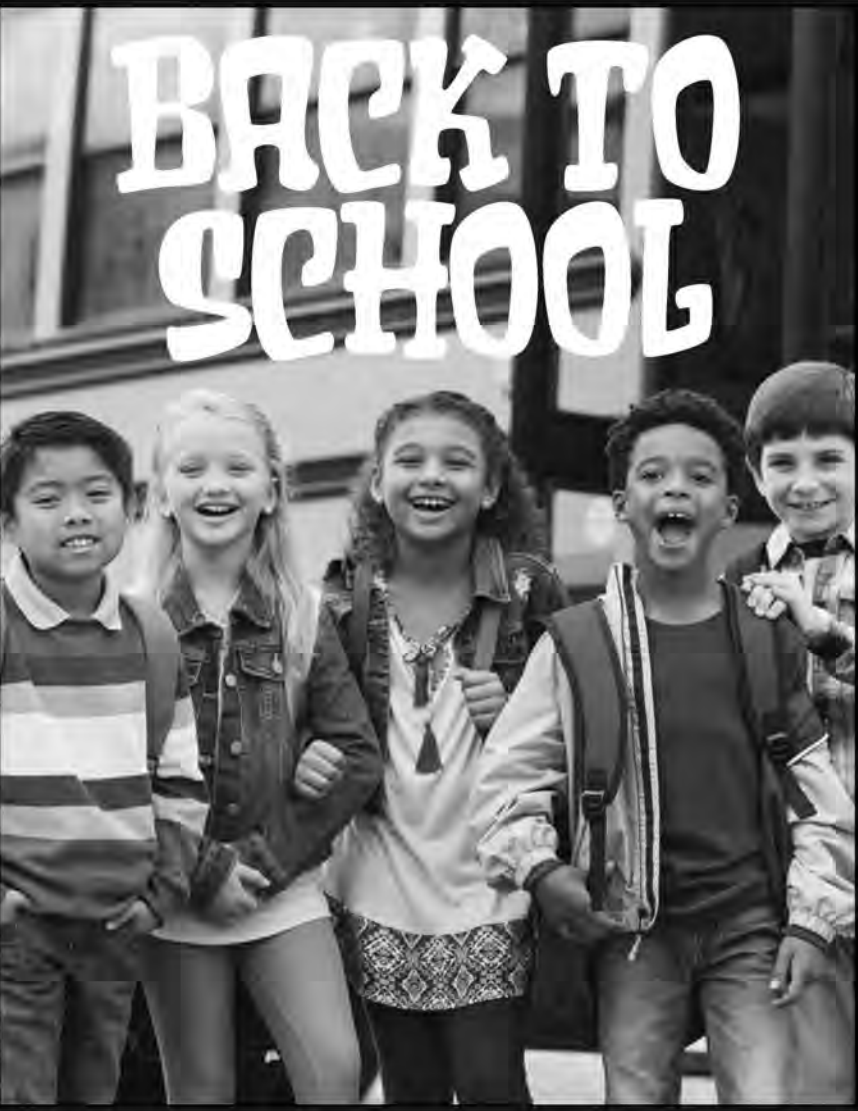
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Rose Fest

September 10, 2026

- KENYON-WANAMINGO MESSENGER -

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Front row left to right - Little Miss Rose Fest: Adeline Strand, Emma Quam, Isabelle Johnson. Back Row left to right - Junior Ambassador Haddie Breyer, Senior Ambassador Sydney Ehrich, Miss Rose Fest Maddie Quam, Junior Ambassador Page Buchal, Junior Ambassador Kaidence Johnson



Front row left to right: Little Miss Rose Fest: Emma Quam, Isabelle Johnson, Adeline Strand. Back row left to right: Junior Ambassador Haddie Breyer, Page Buchal, Senior Ambassador Sydney Ehrich, Miss Rose Fest Maddie Quam, Junior Ambassador Kaidence Johnson

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2026 Big Woods Run September 26

An organized run through the Big Woods State Park is happening again this year! St John's United Church of Christ is once again planning the Big Woods Run, a race that was first run in 1996.

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Saturday, September 26, 2026 is the date to pull on your running shoes and enjoy this scenic trek. The Big Woods should be in prime color for the runners and spectators.

The schedule of events includes a half marathon, 10k, 5k and a Kids Fun Run. The half marathon will take runners through beautiful wooded scenery with challenging hills. The 10k and 5k runners will enjoy a fairly flat wooded trail course. The half marathon and 10k races begin at 9:00am at St John's UCC, 19086 Jacobs Ave, Faribault. 5k runners will take a shuttle bus from the church to the starting line in the middle of the park. 5k runners must be on the bus no later than 8:40am. Kids Fun Run begins at the church at 10:30am. Runners can register online at www.finalstretch.com. Race day registration is 7:15am-8:45am at the church.

Proceeds from the Big Woods Run are donated to local charities. Over \$150,000 has been distributed in the 30 years of the event!

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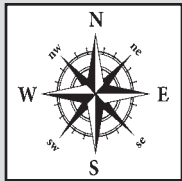
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Observations in a Hospital Cafeteria



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.

A year ago, I had an hour to pass waiting for someone at St. Mary's Hospital. I was looking for something to do while they had a test and

took the occasion to walk to the patient and visitor cafeteria for lunch. As I sat there with my sandwich and a drink I observed others in the room. It was a rather sobering hour of reflection. A hospital does not catch you at the best in your day.

A family with three teenage kids was sitting by the wall. They were all focused on talking and eating and sort of ignoring the one child, a boy in his late teens. He just sat there lost in thought not touching his food. The rest seem oblivious to his plight. I sensed that his mind was in a much darker place than his family was aware of. A young person should be filled with plans and dreams of the future and not staring down the dark tunnel of hopelessness.

A woman in her early thirties was sitting all alone at a small round table. She looked haggard and worried and seemed to be shouldering her sadness all by herself. There was a look of trepidation and fear etched in her face. The whole food thing was more of a distraction than a necessity, one was supposed to do it whether you were hungry or not. At noon you found food and then tried to tell your body to consume it because it was needed. Even if your body didn't want it or was ready to reject it.

A couple that looked to be in their sixties were sitting right behind me. While moving a chair to get more comfortable, the man bumped into me and said he was sorry. Then we struck up a conversation. He had been a working man all his life and a diagnosis had brought him to Rochester. They had exhausted all the remedies that the medical community had to offer, and he was resigned to the fate he was facing. His concern was



more of how his wife would fare in the future without him. He didn't show any bitterness or remorse for the health problem that he was facing, but just a practical factual assessment of the situation. What was interesting was that he wanted to talk to me about Jesus. He didn't believe that his life was particularly worth holding on to, but that there was something better awaiting him. He wanted to be sure his wife was cared for after he was gone and also share the comfort that he felt about where he was going.

The fourth couple sat at a small table to the left of me and I deduced that they were an old farm couple. He wore a seed corn hat and she was in a farm wife's house dress. They were finishing the meal and she was concerned that the extra packets of condiments were not wasted but taken home for a future

use. A practical woman, being sure that nothing was wasted even though her body was wasting away from something she had no control of. He was uncomfortable in the surroundings, unsure of what he was going to do without her company in the future and completely helpless in the current situation.

I felt a sense of somberness looking around because I had lived through these age groups in my life. I had stopped at this cafeteria to pass an hour of time during my busy day and now I was witnessing four lives possibly watching what little time they had left slip through the hour glass of life. It is good to look at others through a different lens and feel empathy for what they may be going through. And take the time and effort to be kind because you never know what their life may actually be like.

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A Minnesotan: Pumpkin Spice Monsters



By RosaLin Alcoser

The longer I live in the Cities I have become more and more aware of what my husband likes to call the pumpkin spice monsters. A pumpkin spice monster is one who goes crazy for pumpkin spice as soon as it is out and consumes as much as is humanly possible before it goes out for the season or the store runs out.

I have probably noticed this due to the fact that I am now around more coffee shop and large box stores than I was in my younger days. Due to the amount of spe-

cialty seasonal items coming in pumpkin spice that should not come in pumpkin spice that have been made in recent years. I am happy to report that so far I have not seen any pumpkin spice soap, cat products, or trash bags this year. It could still happen, but it hasn't yet.

I do enjoy pumpkin spice in my coffee or in a baked good. I just rather have it in the fall and not before Labor Day when they come out. However, with that being said I do typically get one when it first comes out to guarantee that I get one from the coffee shop. Since the pumpkin spice monsters exist and it might not still be there when I'm ready to enjoy it in mid September. Once that happens I make a small batch of pumpkin spice syrup at home for coffee and call it a day.

This year I got one from Caribou on the first day it was out. In the middle of August. I walked in at 8 AM on a Thursday and the store was crazy busy with people ordering pumpkin spice coffee drinks in such profuse. To the point that one of the people working behind the counter looked me dead in the eye and said "people gotta have their pumpkin! Pumpkin! Pumpkin! Pumpkin!" with the franticness of someone over run by a title wave of people.

Now all there is for me to do at least, is wait until mid to late September to see if there is any left or if the pumpkin spice monsters have consumed it all before October this year. In which case I will buy a can of pumpkin and make it myself.

An Inconvenient Study



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

Science is a powerful tool. A tool can be used for good, or it can be used improperly, which can result in significant harm. True science is the observation of causes and reactions in a controlled setting, or in a setting carefully described to understand probable cause. We have grown up in the age of science. We are familiar with the idea of looking for clues as we watch our favorite detective shows and murder mysteries on TV. However, many of us do not take the time to look for clues ourselves, but we trust others to tell us what the evidence is. There is no shame in asking questions. When evidence is presented, questions should be asked, just like questions are

asked in TV shows. When it comes to science and your body, you need to be the one to ask the questions.

Questions have been asked for many years regarding the effectiveness of vaccinations. To evaluate the evidence, the United States government established the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) (<https://vaers.hhs.gov/>) in 1990 as a database for reporting adverse events directly related to a vaccination. Since 1990, more than 2.5 million adverse events have been reported. This number of adverse events certainly justify asking questions, but how to answer those questions is more challenging.

The gold standard, or “ideal” situation, for scientific study is to have a control group and a test group. In asking the question, “Is this vaccine safe to give to a child?” – how do you have a control group and a test group? Would a parent volunteer their child to be the test subject of an untested substance? Typically, the answer is “no.” So, how do we evaluate the safety of a vaccine? Since vaccines have been around for more than 50 years, there are records that can help bring clarity to this question. Those documents are now becoming part of public record.

A new documentary titled “An Inconvenient Study,” (available on YouTube) presents the recent history of an important research project designed to evaluate the safety of childhood vaccinations. The study completed by the Henry Ford Health Systems of Michigan reviewed the health history of 18,000 children. Sixteen thousand were vaccinated and two thousand were unvaccinated. The results showed a 250% increased

risk of chronic health problems among vaccinated children compared to unvaccinated children. The complete study was published on the US Senate website by Senator Ron Johnson because the original researchers were not willing to publish the results. This documentary provides access to the resources for each of us to be able to ask more questions.

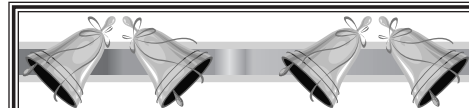
In a follow-up podcast (<https://www.westonaprice.org/podcast/>) #555, Del Bigtree noted there are additional studies that have been done that show increased risk related to vaccinations. A 2017 science article authored by Mawson evaluated vaccinated vs. unvaccinated children in Mississippi and found increased rates of chronic illness among the vaccinated. Another study authored by Lyons-Weiler in 2020 looked at children in Oregon and those who were vaccinated had more doctor visits and illness compared to those unvaccinated. Another 2020 study authored by Hooker and Miller observed increased risk for asthma, ear infections, or developmental delay with increased number of vaccinations received. Science is providing an answer to the question, “Is this vaccine safe to give to a child?” The answer raises even more questions and a lot of intense emotions.

Another important question to ask is, “What additional ways can I help my child have a strong immune system and be as healthy as possible?” Nutrition is designed to support a healthy body. The immune system cannot do its job without the right vitamins and minerals. A vaccination never provides vitamins and minerals to help the

immune system get stronger. When you feed the body what it needs to grow strong and respond quickly, then you will have less illness and chronic disease. While this article focused on the impact of vaccinations on children, the same question must be asked about vaccinations at any age. There is no shame in asking questions.

As a nutrition specialist, I can help you learn how to strengthen your immune system using the whole foods and vitamins your body needs. Finding the resources for true health can be located right in your local grocery store. Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. A No Charge Consultation is available for you to ask your questions and begin to get some answers. Nutrition is designed for healing. Contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net.

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



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Eat Sauerkraut for Good Health!



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

The Wonders of Sauerkraut: When it comes to supporting your body from the inside out, sauerkraut is one of those humble foods that quietly does a lot of good. Its biggest gift lives in raw, unpasteurized versions, which are loaded with live probiotics. These friendly bacteria help balance your gut flora, and that matters more than most people realize. The fermentation process also breaks down fibers and natural sugars, so your body can absorb nutrients far more easily. Add in the active enzymes that support your gastrointestinal function, and you have a food that genuinely helps digestion run smoothly. On top of that, sauerkraut delivers a solid dose of vitamin C, vita-

min K1, and iron, giving your body real nutritional value with every bite. Since a healthy gut microbiome strengthens your natural barrier against harmful pathogens, this simple fermented cabbage becomes a quiet ally for your immune defenses too. And here is the part I love: it offers plenty of dietary fiber with very few calories, so you get all these benefits without the guilt.

The good news does not stop at digestion and immunity. Sauerkraut contains vitamin K2, which plays a fascinating role in directing calcium into your bones rather than letting it settle into soft arterial tissues, supporting both bone strength and heart wellness. It also delivers antioxidants that help combat cellular damage and reduce inflammation, something anyone focused on holistic health can appreciate. If you want to enjoy the full range of these advantages, reach for the refrigerated, unpasteurized options, since those preserve the live probiotic cultures that pasteurized versions lose. Just keep one thing in mind: fermented cabbage can be high in sodium, so enjoy it thoughtfully as part of your overall wellness routine. A little goes a long way toward feeling your best!

Chiropractic care for neck and back pain: If you have been living with neck or back pain, you already know how much it can steal from your day. Chiropractic care offers a natural path to relief by focusing on the root of the problem rather than just masking it. When the bones of your spine become stuck or shift out of their proper position, they can irritate nearby nerves and create real discomfort. Through gentle, precise adjustments, a chiropractor helps guide those joints back into alignment. Many patients feel a notice-

able difference after just a few visits, and the beauty of it is that your body does much of the healing on its own once the pressure is eased.

Pain relief is wonderful, but the real gift is getting your life back in motion. When your spine is aligned and your joints move the way they should, everyday activities become easier, whether that is picking up your kids, hitting the gym, or simply turning your head to check your blind spot while driving. Over time, consistent care helps restore mobility and supports long-term function, so you are not just feeling better today but building a stronger foundation for the years ahead. Think of it like tuning an instrument: small, regular adjustments keep everything working in harmony, helping you stay active and comfortable.

What draws so many people to chiropractic care is that it is a safe, drug-free approach that treats you as a whole person, not just a set of symptoms. Instead of reaching for medication that only covers up the pain, chiropractic focuses on helping your body heal naturally and function at its best. Your care can include posture guidance, stretches, and wellness habits that prevent problems from creeping back in. Suitable for all ages and gentle enough for the whole family, this holistic approach is about more than easing neck and back pain today. It is about supporting your overall wellness and keeping you feeling your best for the long run.

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

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Phone: 507-732-7614
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kalassagency@kalassagency.com

CITY OF WANAMINGO
City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2026,
7:00 P.M.

Wanamingo City Council
Chambers – 401 Main
Street

Wanamingo, MN

CALL TO ORDER:
Mayor Holmes.

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

City Administrator:
Michael Boulton

Deputy Clerk: Laure Mus-
selman

ABSENT: Jeremiah Flot-
terud

ALSO PRESENT: Brad
Kennedy, Peter Grimsrud –
Zumbrota News-Record,
State Representative Keith
Allen, and Jacob Vredenburg.

ADOPT AGENDA: Hau-
gen motioned to adopt the
agenda, seconded by Dierks.
Passed 4-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:
Ohr motioned, seconded by
Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

A) Brad Kennedy re-
ported on:

1) Working with two main-
tenance staff since end of
June. It has been hectic keep-
ing up with day-to-day tasks.
Have not been working on
many special projects.

2) Rented water valve exer-
cising machine from Min-
nesota Rural Water.
Exercised most of the hy-
drant vales. Identified a few
standpipes for hydrant valves
that need to be repaired.

3) Concrete replacements
were completed to the catch
basins on the corner of Bev-
erly Street and Nelson Drive,
on Railroad Street near the
locker, and at the Street Shop
building.

4) We able to sweep streets
for the first time in a month,
due to being short staffed.

5) Burnt brush pile. Mead
Johnson production was shut
down for a few weeks. They
asked to burn the pile during
shut down to save on the cost
of removal of the pile

6) Homestead Restoration
completed the repairs to the
Nature Trail walking bridge
ramp.

7) Mowed along MN TH 60
& MN TH 57 ditch and util-

ity poles. Mowed at the
WWTP, community garden,
undeveloped lot boulevards,
and other various areas
around town.

Holmes thanked Jacob Vre-
denburg of Homestead
Restoration for the great
work that he and his staff did
in the repairs to the Nature
Trail pedestrian walking
bridge ramp. Vredenburg
stated that it was a fun project
and that he appreciated being
able to take the project on.

B) State Representative
Keith Allen reported on:

1) The State Bonding Bill
included \$12 million for the
North Zumbro Sanitary
Sewer District. The original
House bonding bill language
did not include funding for
NZSSD. The original Senate
version included funding lan-
guage for the NZSSD. Allan
had to fight behind the scenes
to get Seante equivalent fund-
ing included in the final ver-
sion of the bonding bill.

2) Wastewater treatment
and fresh/drinking water is a
priority at the legislature dur-
ing the next bonding bill.
The lack of funding for

wastewater treatment and
fresh/drinking water is slow-
ing growth in greater Min-
nesota.

3) Republicans held the line
on new taxes during the past
legislative session

4) The State House of Rep-
resentative was tied during
the past session (2025-2026),
which only occurred one
other time in Minnesota His-
tory (1979-1980).

5) Worked effectively last
session with twelve co-au-
thored and four authored bills
passed. To do this in a tied
House you need to work to-

gether.

6) Voted to keep local con-
trol on zoning. There was a
lot of discussion for the State
to require local governments
to change zoning to reduce
housing cost and ease regula-
tions. Allen heard from local
governments that they did not
want the State to intervene
for several reasons, including
significant short-term and
long-term cost to local gov-
ernment infrastructure.

7) Will continue to research
and push for solutions to
housing pricing if re-elected
next session.

8) Thank you for bringing
vocal support to the legisla-
ture for the North Zumbro
Sanitary Sewer District.
Your vocal in person support
played a critical role in secur-
ing bonding bill funds.

Holmes thanked Allen for
his support for the North
Zumbro Sanitary Sewer Dis-
trict support for the bonding
bill. Holmes said that it was
great the Allen has been all
over the district.

(continued on page 21)

City of Wanamingo Awarded \$345,000 for
Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
through the Small Cities Development Program

The City of Wanamingo has received \$345,000 in Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) funding through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). The funding will support improvements to 12 owner-occupied homes within the city limits.

The program is available to eligible Wanamingo residents who meet established income guidelines. Assistance will be provided in the form of a 7-year forgivable loan, and qualified homeowners will be served on a first-come, first-served basis.

Eligible improvements may include:

- Health and safety improvements
- Energy efficiency upgrades
- Accessibility modifications

Homeowners interested in learning more about the program, reviewing eligibility requirements, or submitting an application should contact:

Jayden Kane

Grant Administrator, SEMMCHRA

Phone: (651) 565-2638 ext. 213 Email: jkane@semmchra.org

This program is offered in accordance with Equal Housing Opportunity requirements.

Nuvera Announces Fiber Internet Expansion
Project in Goodhue County

New Ulm, MN – Nuvera is expanding its fiber internet network in Goodhue County, bringing high-speed internet to 304 previously unserved and underserved homes and businesses.

The project is supported by \$3.21 million in Federal Community Project Funding championed by U.S. Rep. Angie Craig, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar and U.S. Sen. Tina Smith. A map of the construction area can be found at nuvera.net/construction/updates.

The expansion continues Nuvera’s commitment to extending reliable, high-speed broadband to rural communities and helping close the digital divide in the areas it serves.

"Reliable, high-speed internet is no longer a luxury—it's essential to how our communities live, work, and learn," said Nuvera CEO/President Glenn Zerbe. "We're proud to help minimize the digital divide community by community and deliver affordable gigabit broadband to more residents and businesses in Goodhue County."

Fiber internet offers customers symmetrical upload and download speeds, a dedicated connection that won't slow down during peak usage, and 99% reliability. These advantages support everything from remote work and online learning to running a modern business.

If customers have questions, they can contact Nuvera at 844.354.4111 or go to Nuvera.net for more information.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

To the Editor:

What caused the Big Bang?

By Bob Duncan

Because the Big Bang has never been proven to have happened, the question is moot.

or

The Big Bang was caused by teenage boys having a flatulence contest, and someone lit a match.

To the Editor:

The meaning of life

aka

Why are we here?

By Bob Duncan

I’ve been working on the age-old question for two days now, and I think I’ve pretty much figured out this meaning of life thing...aka WHY are we here? Quick examples: What are the meanings of lightning bugs, trees and salamanders. What is the meaning of planets Earth and Mars?

People erroneously flip flop the two words, “meaning” and “purpose”, miss-thinking the two are the same. They are not. This switch-a-roo has ignited campfire debates for eons. It’s not uncommon for discussions to continue long after the embers aren’t.

According to God, not son Jesus but the Big Guy himself spoke in Genesis 1-28 “Be fruitful and multiply.” ...that is definitely a purpose, not a meaning.

Whether you harken to a god, to Darwin or to sports gurus matters not because you are now aware of the difference between meaning and purpose.

There is no “cosmic” meaning of life.

The purpose of life is to perpetuate the species.

NOTE: Adjacent and extremely pertinent to the original question, “we”

I propose, for your next discussion at a campfire...

“There is no meaning of anything.”

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WANAMINGO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(continued from page 20)

Allen said that it is important to be close to the people to hear their pressing needs and then represent those needs at the legislature.

NEW BUSINESS: RESOLUTION:

26-046 = Approving Professional Service Agreement with Nagell Appraisal Incorporated: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Boulton stated that the appraisal was for the stormwater easements needed in Emerald Valley. The appraisals should be completed in the coming weeks. Passed 4-0-0.

26-047 = Certifying Proposed Tax levy for 2027: Haugen moved to approve, seconded by Dierks. Boulton reminded the Council that once the proposed 2027 tax levy is certified that it cannot be raised. Boulton stated that the Council will consider a final 2027 tax levy in December that can be equal to or lower than the proposed tax levy. Boulton stated that the 4.8% proposed levy increase is from \$1,230,000 to \$1,289,000. Boulton stated the new Dollar General store has a taxable value of \$956,000 in 2025. This would bring in roughly \$39,000 (slightly less than half City portion) in property taxes (0.041). The former Wanamingo school will become a taxable property with a taxable value of roughly \$1.63 million. This would bring in roughly \$60,000 (slightly less than half City portion) in property taxes (0.041). Several commercial projects took place in 2025 adding to taxable value including Mead Johnson new affluent building and other renovations, Jake's Hometown liquor renovation. New construction within the community over the last year (8 new taxable homes in 2025) should aid with the increase to the taxable market value increase. The new construction should more than offset roughly the proposed levy increase (5.75% of the proposed 4.80% increase). There is potential for a decrease in the City tax rate from 2026 to 2027. Administrator Boulton shared concerns with continued inflation and meeting capital needs while balancing property

taxes from rising too quickly. Boulton stated that the proposed levy increase helps to cover cost increases from wages, health insurance, public safety (police, fire, and ambulance), audit, attorney, computer & software, electric, park contracted services, and proposed 2027 Roadway and Utility Improvements Project. Passed 4-0-0.

26-048 = Adopting a Proposed Budget for 2027: Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Dierks. Boulton stated that the proposed 2027 general fund budget is \$1,136,543. Passed 4-0-0.

26-049 = Setting Date for Public Hearing and Continuation for 2027 Budget Adoption: Haugen moved to approve, seconded by Dierks. Boulton stated that the Public Hearing is scheduled for December 14th at 7:00PM. Passed 4-0-0.

26-050 = Approval to Transfer Up to \$38,741.00 from Operating Reserve to SEMMCHRA for 2026 Projected Vacancy, Marketing, and Capital Expenses: Haugen moved to approve, seconded by Ohr. Boulton stated that \$38,741 is from operating loss and capital purchases. Boulton stated that the City is levying \$25,000 in 2026 which would bring the \$50,000 reserve to \$36,259 in August 2026. Boulton stated that the City would be levying \$25,000 in 2027 which will cover 2026 operating loss and additional capital needs while bringing the \$50,000 back in line. Passed 4-0-0.

26-052 = Approving a Mowing Service Contract Extension with Lunde Lawn Care: Haugen moved to approve, seconded by Dierks. Boulton stated that the three-year contract extension is for \$1,000/week in 2027, \$1,100/week in 2028, and \$1,200 in 2028. The quote is in line with other local quote for cost. Passed 4-0-0.

26-053 = Approving a Snow Removal Service Contract Extension with Jason's Sewer Sucking & Excavating: Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. Boulton stated that the contract minimum of \$14,000/year remains the same. The hourly rate for each piece of equipment slightly increased but remains in line with local industry standards. Passed 4-0-0.

26-054 = Delegating Authority and Administrative Responsibility to Implement WCA as the LGA Within Legal Boundaries of Wanamingo to Goodhue County: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Ohr. Boulton stated that Goodhue County Soil and Water requested designation resolutions from each jurisdiction for their records. Goodhue County Soil and Water already conducts such work on behalf of the City. However, the State requires approved resolutions for each jurisdiction to be on file for Goodhue County Soil & Water (audit requirement). Passed 4-0-0.

26-055 = Receiving Bids and Awarding Low Bid for the Lead Water Service Line Replacement Project: Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. The lowest bidder was Levanen Underground for \$169,960. Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) had a maximum allotted for the grant of \$250,000. Boulton stated that the Council will consider approval of a resolution/agreement with MN PFA at the September City Council meeting. Passed 4-0-0.

ORDINANCE #217 – An Ordinance to Administer and regulate the Public Right-Of-Way in the Public Interest, and to Provide for the Issuance and Regulation of Right-Of-Way Permits – First Reading – Boulton stated that the City lacks specific ordinance language to govern private utilities that are not covered by Franchise Agreements for right-of-way work. The City Attorney utilized the League of Minnesota Cities sample ordinance language to put together the draft ordinance. The City has been working with BevComm on enforcement details while they install fiberoptics lines throughout Wanamingo. BevComm will be covered by the new ordinance. Boulton stated that this is a first draft of the ordinance. Boulton stated that it will more than likely have changes before the 2nd Reading/Public Hearing at the September 14th Wanamingo City Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Administrator Boulton provided a memo on Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan. The Fund 210 - Revolving Fund Loan was cre-

ated in October 2005 with \$45,000. The fund was created by the City Council in conjunction with the EDA. The \$45,000 was originally moved from the general fund to the newly created Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan. The Revolving Fund Loan was intended to assist small business creation and expansion with short-term (gap) financing. Each loan initiated with an application process, required collateral, and if approved a loan agreement (recorded at Goodhue County).

The fund made one loan for \$42,000 in October 2005. The loan was paid off in 2018. The original ten-year loan payback took thirteen, including gaps in payments. After working with the borrower, dropping significant interest, and modifying terms of agreement the original agreement payments resumed. At the end of 2025 the fund has \$62,570 cash balance.

The 210 Fund has not been utilized since 2018 but remains an economic development tool for the Wanamingo City Council & EDA. The City received \$100,000 in State Funds to create Fund 211 – MIF Revolving Loan. The funds were part of a larger 2018 loan for the Maple Island Creamery warehouse expansion in 2018. The City received \$100,000 when the loan was paid back to the State in 2022. The MIF Revolving Loan funds have specific State regulations and processes to how it can be utilized. The 211 Fund cannot be dissolved and can only be utilized for revolving fund loans.

The Council has discussed dissolving Fund 210 - Revolving Fund Loan several times over the last two years. The original Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan has a redundancy since the City received \$100,000 to create Fund 211 – MIF Revolving Fund Loan. The Council has had discussions on placing the remaining \$62,570 in the general fund or utilizing the balance on capital expenditures. No formal vote has taken place as there was no consensus for a course of action. City staff has recommended involving the EDA in any discussion regarding the use or dissolving of the 210 – Revolving Fund Loan.

The revolving fund loans are tools of economic development for the EDA to attract and maintain businesses.

At the July budget meeting staff were instructed by the City Council to place Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan on the EDA agenda for discussion on the future of the Fund. The EDA should discuss their thoughts on potential future use of 210 – Revolving Fund Loan. Boulton stated that the Council does not intend that the EDA decide at the August meeting.

The EDA can discuss and place the item on a future meeting (December) agenda. The goal would be to have a recommended course of action by the time of audit field work for the 2026 audit in February. If a recommendation to dissolve occurs by both the Council and EDA (potentially January 2027) the 2026 Financials (Audit) would transfer the funds to the approved destination. If there is no consensus the 210 – Revolving Fund Loan would remain as is.

Boulton stated most of the members of the EDA were unaware of Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan. The EDA would like to review the policies for the 210 – Revolving Fund Loan and Fund 211 – MIF Revolving Fund Loan. The plan is to review the policies for Fund 210 and Fund 211 to compare at the December EDA meeting. The consensus of the EDA was that if Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan could be utilized in the future that the Council should not dissolve the fund and transfer the money to another fund.

The candidate filing period for 2026 Wanamingo elections of Mayor (elect one) and City Council (elect two) ran from July 14th – July 28th. Ryan Holmes filed for Mayor while Rebecca Haugen, Jacob Vredenburg, and Luke William Nelson filed for City Council. These names will appear on the November 3rd General Election ballot.

*Next City Council meeting on 9/14/2026.

Adjourn: At 7:35 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Ohr and seconded by Haugen. Passed 4-0-0. Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator

City of Wanamingo Regular EDA Meeting Monday August 12, 2026 6:00 P.M.

Wanamingo City Council Chambers 401 Main Street Wanamingo MN

PRESENT: Brian Gudknecht, Rebecca Haugen, Ryan Holmes, Jim Kittelson, Amy McDonald, and Josh Schaefer

ABSENT: Annette Fritz **ALSO PRESENT:** Michael Boulton, Laurie Musselman, and Peter Grimrud.

Brian Gudknecht called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Amy McDonald was administered the oath of office by EDA director Boulton.

ADOPT AGENDA: Schaefer motioned, seconded by Kittelson to adopt. Approved 6-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Haugen motioned, seconded by Kittelson to approve. Approved 6-0-0.

PRESENTERS: None **NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution 26-05 - Adopting a Proposed Budget for the Wanamingo EDA Accounts for the Fiscal Year of 2027. Kittelson moved to approve, seconded by McDonald. Boulton provided an update of 2027 proposed changes to the income and expenses for account numbers 251, 331, and 604. Discussion took place on the budgetary needs of the EDA in conjunction with the proposed 2027 City Levy. A detailed preliminary 2027 City of Wanamingo budget memo, that included the EDA accounts, was presented by Administrator Boulton. Boulton stated that the EDA fund had an \$18,753 balance at the end of 2025. The 2026 budget should show a slight, \$3,000 surplus.

The 2027 budget for the EDA fund has another planned \$3,000 to \$4,000 surplus that increases the fund balance. Boulton stated that the goal was to get to a \$25,000 fund balance in the EDA fund. Boulton stated that the EDA fund carried a negative balance for several years. Boulton stated that this gave a small tool to the EDA to promote development.

(continued on page 22)

WANAMINGO EDA MEETING

(continued from page 21)

Boulton stated that future budgets will plan to be closer to \$0 surplus unless the fund balance is spent. Passed 6-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Administrator Boulton provided a memo on Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan. The Fund 210 - Revolving Fund Loan was created in October 2005 with \$45,000. The fund was created by the City Council in conjunction with the EDA. The \$45,000 was originally moved from the general fund to the newly created Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan. The Revolving Fund Loan was intended to assist small business creation and expansion with short-term (gap) financing. Each loan initiated with an application process, required collateral, and if approved a loan agreement (recorded at Goodhue County).

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The original Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan has a redundancy since the City

received \$100,000 to create Fund 211 – MIF Revolving Fund Loan. The Council has had discussions on placing the remaining \$62,570 in the general fund or utilizing the balance on capital expenditures. No formal vote has taken place as there was no consensus for a course of action. City staff has recommended involving the EDA in any discussion regarding the use or dissolving of the 210 – Revolving Fund Loan. The revolving fund loans are tools of economic development for the EDA to attract and maintain businesses.

At the July budget meeting staff were instructed by the City Council to place Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan on the EDA agenda for discussion on the future of the Fund. The EDA should discuss their thoughts on potential future use of 210 – Revolving Fund Loan. Boulton stated that the Council does not intend that the EDA decide at the August meeting.

The EDA can discuss and place the item on a future meeting (December) agenda. The goal would be to have a recommended course of action by the time of audit field

work for the 2026 audit in February. If a recommendation to dissolve occurs by both the Council and EDA (potentially January 2027) the 2026 Financials (Audit) would transfer the funds to the approved destination. If there is no consensus the 210 – Revolving Fund Loan would remain as is.

Holmes stated that the Council has been concerned that the funds are not being utilized. Kittelson stated that the fund was set up for small business start-up/expansion stop gap financing. The revolving fund loan is a tool for economic development as a short-term loan for small businesses. The point of the loan is to be paid back to the City/EDA to be reutilized. Gudknecht asked who knows about the revolving fund loan to be able to utilize it. Schaefer said it would be nice to publicize the availability of the loan. Kittelson stated that the amount of available funds was never intended to advertise for general use, but to utilize assisting businesses as a last financing resort. Kittelson stated that Fund 211 –

MIF Revolving Fund Loan has restrictions for use that Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan does not have. Kittelson said the State placed the restrictions on Fund 211 – MIF Revolving Fund Loan while the City/EDA make the rules for use on Fund 210 Revolving Fund Loan. Holmes stated that there may be a way to utilize Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan in conjunction with Fund 211 - MIF Revolving Fund Loan. Schaefer asked to see the applications and policies for Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan and Fund 211 – MIF Revolving Fund Loan to compare at the December EDA meeting. The consensus of the EDA was that if Fund 210 – Revolving Fund Loan could be utilized in the future that the Council should not dissolve the fund and transfer the money to another fund.

There being no further business Schaefer made a motion seconded by Kittelson to adjourn the EDA meeting at 6:18PM. Approved 6-0-0. Brian Gudknecht, President Michael Boulton, Director

KENYON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 6, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council Meeting was duly held in the City Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. on the 6th day of August 2026. The meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Bailey.

The following members were present: Council Members Lee Sjolander, Mary Bailey, Deanna Gard, Kim Helgeson

Absent: Don Kirchmann

Also, present: City Administrator Scott Lehner, Engineer Derek Olinger, Administrative Assistant Holli Gudknecht, Wayne Ehrlich, Heather Dewitz, Doug Henke, Jerry Houghlum, Billy Dyrda

Via Zoom: Jessi Sturtz

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Doug Henke asked, “Do you know how many lots are available for sale in Kenyon today?”

(continued on page 23)

2026 Minnesota

Renaissance Festival

Family 4 Pack

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Lois J.

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KENYON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(continued from page 22)

According to Realtor Chris Mallery there are eight. He stated that when he was mayor, he asked the KMU commission for a two-million-dollar loan to purchase land for development and they were in favor of that. It is now two years later and still no progress has been made. He was asking the Council to get this moving forward.

Jerry Houghlum, KMU Chairman, agreed that the KMU Commission was in favor of this loan and that more lots are needed in town to get people here.

Administrator Lehner stated that a preliminary plat and a draft purchase agreement have been done.

ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Sjolander seconded by Helgeson to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Helgeson second by Gard to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes:

Approve Rose Fest Events: Street Dance Permit – Municipal Liquor Store, Parade Route, Street Closures, Car Show

Financials and Payment of check numbers, 78423 through 78494; 7510E through 7566E

Minutes of July 14, 2026

Motion carried 4-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS/
PUBLIC HEARINGS/
RECOGNITIONS/
PRO-LAMATIONS

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Police Department
Staffing Update

Lehner stated that the police officer position is still posted until filled. There are no applicants at this point. The police chief and full-time officer are both currently on vacation. Part-time officers are filling in.

KMU Staffing/John Lee
Update

Lehner stated that he had received John Lee's resignation. His last day will be August 14. Potentially, a job offer will be made to an applicant from the first round of interviews.

Administrative Assistant-
Rachel Goven Update

Lehner stated that Rachel Goven resigned effective August 7, 2026 due to a family job relocation. The position is posted with a deadline of August 25.

Rose Fest Update

Lehner stated that the new Rose Fest banner was put up on Tuesday. The last Rose Fest meeting will be on Monday, August 17.

Department Head Reporting

Lehner stated that he would like some department heads to give an in-person update at the council meetings starting in September. The council was agreeable with this.

Rebound Investors Meeting

Rebound held a very informational investors meeting last night. They are looking for three million dollars from investors.

ENGINEERING
2025 Street & Utility Project

Engineer Olinger stated that this pay estimate includes primarily sanitary sewer lining, grouting and manhole rehabilitation. The contractor will be back in town over the next several weeks to complete various punch list repairs.

Doug Henke reported some issues with the gas company putting their line in. Engineer Olinger was aware of some of these issues and will be working with the gas company to do repairs.

2025 Street and Utility Improvements – Fitzgerald
Excavating & Trucking -
Pay Application No. 8

Pay request No. 8 includes work completed through July 17, 2026.

Motion by Sjolander seconded by Helgeson to approve pay application #8 to Fitzgerald Excavating in the amount of \$95,954.75. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Kenyon Crossings Development
Applications
Preliminary Plat Variance
Staff Reports and Draft
Resolutions

Kenyon Crossings – Application
Materials-Plans

Engineer Olinger updated the council on the Kenyon Crossings development applications. The planning commission held public hearings on the variances and preliminary plat on August 4. They tabled these variances and the replat until the developer submits supplemental

materials.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Gard to extend the review period to a maximum of 120 days for these three variances and preliminary plat. Motion carried 4-0-0.

LEGAL

Lot Split: Gerald Bartel

Resolution 2026-29: Approving Minor Subdivision - Lot Split Application –PID 66.180.0052 Gerald Bartel

Attorney Riggs stated that Gerald Bartel, was seeking approval to split PID# 66.180.0052. The split section would be sold to the neighbor located in the center of this parcel.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Helgeson to adopt Resolution 2026-29 approving the minor subdivision for Gerald Bartel. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Lot Combination: Chad
Bauer

Resolution 2026-30: Approving Lot
Combination Chad Bauer

Attorney Riggs stated that Chad Bauer was seeking approval to combine the split from Gerald Bartel with his parcel 66.180.0053 to better fit a septic on his property.

Motion by Helgeson second by Gard to adopt Resolution 2026-30 granting approval for a lot combination for Chad Bauer. Motion carried 4-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS
2027 Budget Update

Jessi Sturtz from Abdo reviewed the second draft of the 2027 budget. The proposed 2027 budget increase started at 19.5% but is now down to 10.34% by eliminating some pool, streets, and police department items. Administrator Lehner suggested approving the preliminary levy at 10.34% in September. Some numbers are still pending, and adjustments will be

made accordingly when these are received. A work session with department heads will be scheduled in October for working the levy down further if needed. The final levy is due by the end of December.

NEW BUSINESS
2026 2nd Quarter Report -
Abdo

Jessi Sturtz from Abdo reviewed the second quarter 2026 financial report.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to accept the second quarter financial report.

Motion carried 4-0-0.

Schedule of Upcoming
Meetings

KMU Meeting: Tuesday, August 18th @ 3:00 p.m.

EDA Meeting: Tuesday, August 25th @ 8 a.m.

Planning Commission meeting: Tuesday, September 1st @ 6:00 pm

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 8th @ 7 p.m.

COUNCIL AND STAFF
GENERAL COMMENTS

Council Member Sjolander thanked everyone who helped put on National Night Out.

Council Member Gard questioned how people find out when meetings are scheduled. The response was, it is posted at city hall and on the city website.

Administrator Lehner stated he was asked a few months ago what it would take to update the old police building. He has been working with L&M on getting quotes. He also thanked the Rose Fest committee for all their work.

Council Member Helgeson thanked everyone for supporting the Farmer's Market and she invited everyone to come out and enjoy Rose Fest.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Holli Gudknecht, Deputy Clerk
Mary Bailey, Acting Mayor

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Secretary of State
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Chapter 333

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ASSUMED NAME: McBroom Chiropractic

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 225 Third Ave
Wanamingo, MN 55983

APPLICANT(S): Name: Laura McBroom

Address: 225 Third Ave
Wanamingo, MN 55983

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SIGNED BY: Laura McBroom, D.C.

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THEME: SOLAR SYSTEM

ACROSS

1. Ancient Peruvian

5. Hit the slopes

8. Bro or sis

11. Thomas the Engine's warning

12. *Sun, e.g.

13. Twist and distort

15. Carpenter's groove

16. *Jupiter's inner "ring"

17. MC Hammer's "2 ____ 2 Quit"

18. *It makes up the majority of Jupiter's mass

20. Narrative poem

21. "When ____ Cry" by Prince

22. Louisville Slugger

23. Chase

26. Puffy cloud

30. Nurses' org.

31. Frozen drink

34. Ricci of fashion

35. Same as climate

37. Buddy Holly's "Peggy ____"

38. Knight's breastplate

39. Flying toy

40. a.k.a. pennant

42. Possesses

43. Appetizer

45. Like certain pine

47. Large edible mushroom

48. ____-Arts, or fine arts

50. Disparaging remark

52. *The largest moon in the Solar System

55. *Jupiter's Great Red Spot

56. Up it in poker

57. Exclamation of disgust

59. Famous diarist Samuel ____

60. Like decorated cake

61. Reply from a tunnel

62. Tarzan's adoptive dad

63. Neither here ____ there

64. Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, acr.

DOWN

1. It would

2. Master of ark

3. Buffalo Bill's last name

4. In conflict (2 words)

5. Coach-and-four

6. Type of leaf cabbage, pl.

7. *Reason for Mars' redness

8. Kind of palm

9. Author Murdoch

10. Sandwich with acronym name

12. Snow mover

13. Flash of light

14. *Farthest planet from sun in our Solar System

19. Make awake

22. Opposite of vend

23. Gets ready for a trip

24. Dark

25. Indian restaurant yogurt staple

26. ____ Zhen in "Fist of Fury"

27. *The Solar System spans roughly 1.6 ____-years

28. Uniate church member

29. Impudent

32. ____-friendly

33. *Center of the Solar System

36. *The smallest planet

38. Per ____, or yearly

40. Vigor

41. Approved

44. 4 years for a U.S. President, pl.

46. Daisies

48. Bench in Mexico

49. Larger key on the right

50. Pas in ballet

51. Between trot and gallop

52. Effect of pain?

53. Mussolini, with II

54. Not counterfeit

55. Relaxation location

58. Ornamental pond dweller

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

WHEN THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS, ONE TEAM HAS YOU COVERED.

From emergency cleanup to complete reconstruction.

A fire. A burst pipe. Storm damage. Mold.

When your home or business is damaged, you don't need the stress of coordinating multiple contractors.



ServiceMaster by Ayotte provides immediate emergency mitigation services:

-  **Water Extraction & Drying**
-  **Fire & Smoke Cleanup**
-  **Mold Remediation**
-  **Contents Cleaning & Restoration**



Once your property is ready, ProBuilt Construction restores what was damaged:

-  **Roofing & Siding**
-  **Windows & Doors**
-  **Interior Reconstruction**
-  **Decks & Exterior Repairs**

**COMMERCIAL
& RESIDENTIAL
REBUILDING**

ONE CALL. ONE COORDINATED TEAM.

ONE GOAL: RESTORING YOUR PROPERTY AND YOUR PEACE OF MIND.

That's why ServiceMaster by Ayotte and ProBuilt Construction LLC work together.

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**GUIDING YOU
FROM CRISIS TO
RESOLUTION**

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