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SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

Volume 19 • Issue 18

My Happy Place celebrates 10 Years in Business



Sara Hartzell

My Happy Place gift boutique in Zum-brota is marking 10 years in business on Saturday, September 26 with an open house celebration. *(continued on page 8)*

A New Season: KW School Board Candidates Up for Election

With a new election season in full swing, many changes are on the horizon. Candidates are running for many offices this season, including the KW School Board. *The Messenger* recently was able to hear from each of the four candidates running for a seat on the KW School Board. Here is what each member had to say about some of their hopes and goals for the future of the KW School District. *(continued on page 5)*



James Jarvis



L.J. (Jeff) Gearhart



Stephanie Brezina

Congratulations to our K-W 2026 King Oliver Bauer and Queen Peytyn Feyereisn



Highway 56 and Goodhue County Road 9 convert to four-way stop September 21

DENNISON, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Transportation converted the intersection of Highway 56 and Goodhue County Road 9 into a four-way stop on Sept. 21 as a way to reduce vehicle crashes.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the MnDOT sign shop installed signs for the new four-way stop, which include signs in advance of the intersection warning of the stop ahead as well as other temporary signs that will warn of the changes. *(continued on page 11)*

Announcements

• Gol Lutheran Church Harvest Luncheon will be held Sunday, October 18, 2026. Serving will be from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The menu will include homemade vegetable beef & barley soup, barbecues, calico beans, potato salad, pie, coffee and milk. Take outs are also available by calling or texting Julie at (507)491-3505. There will also be a silent auction. Gol Church is located 1 mile west of Kenyon at 1500 Hwy. 60 Blvd. Everyone welcome. *(continued on page 3)*

NEWS SPLASH

By Cheri Roshon

I have to say, the best part about living in a small town is the way people care about the amenities the town has to offer. I could give many examples, but I think you know what I mean. I am happy to say that our pool in Wanamingo is still a viable part of our community, even after 50 years or so have gone by. *(continued on page 9)*

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Class of '76 Reunion

By Cheri Roshon

On August 29th the Wanamingo class of 1976 held its 50th reunion. They believe that this was the biggest class in Wanamingo history. For starters, the reunion participants met at the school and had a tour from Larry Grove,

and saw how much can change in 50 years. Thanks, Larry! Well, look in the mirror and you will see that in 50 years a lot can change! In any case, pictures were taken on the lawn, and a lot of people showed up. The person who came the farthest was Gayle Johnson from California, Greg Hellickson came from Nevada, and Amy Brown from Nebraska.

If you are a native Wanamingan, you will know that the class that will celebrate their 50th reunion is also proud to sponsor a float in the 4th of July parade, and quite a few classmates had fun with that honor as well. At 4:30, they gathered at the Covered Bridge in Zumbrota for a meal and a night of memories and reminiscing. They were asked to answer questions from a sheet of random questions, and there were winners in each



category. All in all, it was a well put together evening of fun and memories. Thirty one classmates showed up. Most were in the class photo, and 2 came late and missed the photo shoot. They are Leo Nesseth and Todd Hugstad. The rest you will see in the class photo. Seven classmates have passed away and there was a special memorial table set up in their honor. Of course all the classmates weren't in attendance, but you can bet they were talked about, too. Thirty six of the class graduates still live in Minnesota, some still in Wanamingo. So, looking at the pictures and the big smiles on everyone's faces, I would have to say a good time was had by all!

CRAFT SALE

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Announcements

• Dale Lutheran Church Fall Festival will be held Sunday, November 8, 2026. Serving will be from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. The menu will include pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, pie, coffee and milk. Take outs are also available by calling Helen (507)789-6229 or Sharon (507)838-8572. Take out orders are also welcome on the day of the luncheon. There will also be a bake sale, quilt raffle and crafts for sale. Dale Church is located 6 miles east of Kenyon on County Rd. #12. Everyone welcome.

• 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 three-riverscap.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

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

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309 Forest Street, Kenyon • 507-789-5261
website: flckenyon.org
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GOL LUTHERAN

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Sunday Worship 10:30a.m.

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Facebook: calvarychapelnorthfield-jesus saves
Website: calvarynorthfield.org
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Service time is 10:00 with lunch following.

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

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Pastor Dustin Haider
507-789-6677
holdendalsecretary@gmail.com
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Dale: 9210 County 12 Blvd, Kenyon
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Worship Services
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October 4:
Dale 9:00a.m.; Holden 11:00a.m.

MOLAND CHURCH

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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
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Contact the church for more information.

Raymond "Ray" Howard Sands

Raymond "Ray" Howard Sands, 95, of Kenyon, died on Monday, September 14, 2026, at his home with his daughters by his side.

Ray Sands, a life-long musician, farmer, was born January 9, 1931, on his family's 200-acre dairy farm near Kenyon, Minnesota. He was a third-generation farmer and was one of four children born to Charles "Charley" and Florence Sands.

Ray learned to milk cows by hand at the age of five and began playing the accordion at age nine. By the time he was 11, he was performing alongside his siblings in the family band. Ray attended country school and farmed alongside his father on the family farm, milking cows, raising turkeys and planting and harvesting crops in the field. He took over the farming operation after his father's passing, continuing the dairy herd until he retired from milking in 2009.

After graduating from Wanamingo High School in 1949, Ray was invited to play accordion with a municipal band in Zumbrota to help raise money for a new hospital. That experience helped lead to the formation of the Polka Dots, who went on to become a successful old-time polka band that toured throughout Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. In 1963, Ray was asked to lead the band and continued doing so until their final performance in August 2022.

On December 12, 1970, Ray was united in marriage to Susan (Fossum) Sands at Holden Lutheran Church. Together, they shared a life centered around family, music, farming, and their community. They had two daughters, Kristy and Heidi, who performed with them at numerous venues.

Ray performed with the band for more than seven decades, bringing the happiness of polka music to festivals, fairs, nursing homes, conventions, dance halls, and community celebrations. He recorded several albums and CDs with the Polka Dots and the Ray Sands Combo, including milestone recordings commemorating the band's 40th, 50th, 60th, and 70th anniversaries. He also helped make mu-

sical history when the Polka Dots became the first old-time band to record an LP with their signature song, "The Ping Pong Polka." Throughout his remarkable career, Ray performed internationally at polka festivals in Austria, Norway, Denmark and Sweden, appeared on nationally syndicated polka shows and was featured on Prairie Home Companion and a movie called "His Neighbor Phil." The band also played at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Southwest Polka Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ray received numerous honors for his contributions to polka music and his community. In 2000, he was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. He was named Kenyon's Rose Fest Parade Grand Marshal and Kenyon's Citizen of the Year in 2009, and in 2020, he was selected as Goodhue County Citizen of the Year.

Ray's greatest legacy was the joy he brought to others through his music. For more than 70 years, he rarely turned down a request to perform, continuing to share his talent with audiences of all ages. Whether playing for a crowded dance hall, a community celebration, or a nursing home gathering, Ray understood the simple power of music to bring people together and create lasting memories.

His dedication to music, family, farming, and his community made him a beloved figure whose influence will continue for generations. Ray will be remembered for a life filled with music, hard work, generosity, and a genuine love for the people around him.

He is survived by his daughters, Kristyn (and Matt) Jacobson of Kenyon, Heidi (and Mikkel) Gusenius of Minnetrista; grandchildren, Bryan and Colin Jacobson, Rylan and Marika Gusenius; brother-in-law, Robert Fossum and his nieces.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Susan Sands; parents, Charley and Florence Sands; brothers, Wilbur and Duane Sands, and his sister, Doris Nodland.

Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home, Kenyon on Friday, September 18, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Funeral services were held on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Aspelund with a visitation starting at 10:00 AM. Interment was in the Emmanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Aspelund.

Joyce Sanford Fredrickson

Joyce Sanford Fredrickson, 95, of Wanamingo, MN, passed away Sunday, September 13, 2026, at Samaritan Bethany in Rochester, MN.

He was born on March 7, 1931, in Faribault, MN, to Joseph and Selma (Grothe) Fredrickson, one of nine children. They were raised on the family farm in rural Wanamingo. Joyce worked on multiple farms in his teenage years.

Joyce met Colleen Johnson at the Trianon Ballroom south of Pine Island... he took one look at her and said, "she's the one"! Joyce served in the U.S. Army for two years and was a Korean War veteran. Following his service, Joyce and Colleen were married September 1953. They went on to raise seven children in a remodeled schoolhouse (that Joyce attended as a child) in rural Wanamingo.

He worked at Mann Construction as a shovel operator in Red Wing, at Prairie Island Nuclear Plant as a carpenter's assistant, and then started Fredrickson Plumbing, which he owned and operated with his son, Dale, until

he retired at the age of 77. Joyce is fondly remembered as having "the gift of gab" and he could strike up a conversation with anyone! He was a man of great faith. Joyce served as the Superintendent of the Minneola Sunday School, helped start church in Dodge Center, taught bible study to inmates for many years at the Goodhue County Jail, and went on mission trips with Bible Lutheran Church to Mexico. In the early 60's he was instrumental in building a ski jump on Lund's Hill.

Joyce enjoyed being outside, whether it was in his garden, hobby farm, or sunporch. He also enjoyed visiting Treasure Island for brunch (and the occasional slots), birdwatching, and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his children, Julie and Rhonda (Dave) of Rochester, Dale of Wanamingo, Jill (Randy) of Hillsboro, OR, and Kay (Eddie) of Ridge Manor, FL; 10 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; three sisters; and one brother. He was preceded in death by his wife Colleen, four siblings, and two children, Cindy and Fred.

Memorial Service will be held at 2pm Friday, September 25, 2026, at Mahn Family Funeral Home-Larson Chapel, in Zumbrota, MN, with Reverend Judy Thompson-Reitz officiating. Private burial at Minneola Lutheran Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to donor's choice in Joyce's honor.

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A New Season: KW School Board Candidates Up for Election

(continued from page 1)

The Messenger: *How have you been involved with the KW Schools, and what made you decide to run for the school board?*

James Jarvis: I am running for a third term after serving eight years on the Kenyon-Wanamingo School Board.

During that time, we have had to make painful decisions in response to declining enrollment, including closing the Wanamingo elementary school and reducing teaching, maintenance, and administrative positions. These decisions have not been easy, but my focus remains on putting the district on solid financial footing while minimizing the impact on our outstanding students.

L.J (Jeff) Gearhart: My wife and I have two children enrolled in Kenyon - Wanamingo Public Schools. Our family's connection to the district began four years ago with Knight Kids at the former Wanamingo Elementary School, and we have been invested in the schools ever since. As a parent, I want to help ensure that every student has access to a strong education, caring educators, and opportunities that prepare them for the future. Kenyon -Wanamingo was built by two communities coming together, and I believe its future depends on continuing to make decisions that respect and serve both Kenyon and Wanamingo. I am running for the school board because I want to bring that experience - and my perspective as a parent - to the district. My goal is to support students and staff, strengthen communication with families and the community, and help Kenyon-Wanamingo remain a school system in which both communities can take pride.

Stephanie Brezina: I am a mom of three wonderful boys, Jace, Lucas, and Finnley, and the Kenyon-Wanamingo School District has been an important part of our family's lives. My oldest son, Lucas, graduated with the Class of 2022. My son Jace is currently a freshman and is involved in football, wrestling, baseball, and track and field. My youngest son, Finnley, is entering fourth grade and is also involved in sports. My passion for working with and advocating for young people started well before my childcare career. I graduated with a degree in Law Enforcement in 2011, and I always knew that my main focus would be working with juveniles. That path eventually led me to where I am today. For the past 16 years, I have operated a childcare business in Kenyon, where I have had the privilege of caring for more than 100 children from our community. Those experiences have given me a unique perspective on children, families, safety, development, and the importance of creating an environment where kids feel supported and have the opportunity to succeed. I decided to run for school board be-

cause I want to be part of something bigger than myself. I see this as an opportunity to try something new, give back to the community that has given so much to my family, and use the experience I have gained through law enforcement, childcare, and raising my own children to make a positive impact on our schools and community.

Tim LaCanne: I am a graduate of Kenyon High School, and both of my sons have attended KW schools. I'm running in an effort to help maintain the many excellent qualities our school system already demonstrates, and hopefully come up with ways to improve it as well.

The Messenger: *What do you appreciate about the KW Schools system?*

Jarvis: I appreciate the outstanding students, dedicated teachers and staff, and supportive families and community members who make Kenyon-Wanamingo Schools special. Their commitment, resilience, and school pride motivate me to continue serving the district and working toward a strong and sustainable future.

Gearhart: What I appreciate most about Kenyon - Wanamingo Schools is the strong sense of community. Our children began their experience with Knight Kids at the former Wanamingo Elementary School, and from the beginning, our family felt welcomed and supported by caring educators and staff. KW offers the personal connections of a smaller school district, where students are known as individuals and families can build meaningful relationships with teachers and staff. I also value the opportunities students receive through academics, athletics, activities, and community programs.

Brezina: One of the things I appreciate most about KW Schools is the sense of community. Our schools are an important part of what makes Kenyon-Wanamingo a great place to raise a family. I appreciate the opportunities our students have to participate not only in academics, but also in athletics, activities, and other programs that help them develop confidence, responsibility, teamwork, and leadership. I also appreciate the teachers, staff, coaches, and administrators who invest so much time and energy into our children. Having spent 16 years caring for children myself, I understand how much patience, dedication, and commitment it takes to work with kids every day.

LaCanne: I very much appreciate the hard work and dedication of everyone I've ever interacted with at KW. Without exception, everyone at KW seems to put the best interests of the students at the forefront of their efforts, which is admirable.

The Messenger: *What are the top three issues you wish to address should you become a member of the board?*

Jarvis: My top priorities are getting the district out of debt, rebuilding our general fund balance to a healthy level above 10%, and stabilizing and ultimately increasing student enrollment. Achieving these goals will require difficult decisions, new ideas, and continued cooperation among the board, staff, families, and community. I also want to continue looking for every opportunity to improve our schools without losing sight of what matters most: our students.

Gearhart: 1) Student success and educational opportunity. Every decision should

begin with what best supports our students. I want to protect strong academics while ensuring students have access to career and technical education, arts, athletics, activities, and the skills they will need after graduation. Supporting and retaining quality teachers and staff must also remain central to that work.

2) Financial stability and responsible long-term planning. Declining enrollment has already required the district to make difficult decisions, including closing the Wanamingo elementary site. The board must be transparent about the district's financial position, carefully evaluate spending, and plan beyond the next budget cycle. My focus would be protecting classroom resources while ensuring the district remains financially sustainable for future generations.

3) Communication, trust, and community unity. Kenyon-Wanamingo was formed by bringing two school districts and communities together. Families and residents in both Kenyon and Wanamingo deserve to feel heard, informed, and represented. I would work to improve communication, encourage meaningful public input, and clearly explain the facts and reasoning behind major board decisions - even when those decisions are difficult.

Brezina: 1) Student success and educational opportunities.

I want to make sure every student has the opportunity and support they need to succeed, regardless of their interests, abilities, or future goals. That includes strong academics as well as opportunities in athletics, activities, trades, technology, and other areas.

2) Communication and community involvement.

I believe good communication between the school, parents, students, staff, and community is extremely important. I want to help make sure parents and community members feel heard and understand how and why important decisions are being made.

3) Responsible use of resources.

I believe the district has a responsibility to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars while continuing to provide students with a quality education. I would work to understand the financial decisions being made, ask questions, and look for ways to balance fiscal responsibility with the needs of our students and staff.

LaCanne: 1) Finances. I don't think it is a secret that KW has struggled a bit with funding issues in the past, progress has been made, but I think the primary goal of everyone involved should be to get the district into the most stable financial position possible.

2) Excellence. Ensuring that the KW district doesn't provide an average educational experience for its students, but provides an exceptional experience.

3) Growth. KW schools have a lot to offer families and students - we should look at new ways of making KW even more appealing to families when they are deciding where to send their kids for education.

The Messenger: *What should the KW community know about you?*

Jarvis: I live in Wanamingo and have three children attending school in the KW district, so the success of our schools is very important to me. Although closing the Wanamingo school was an extremely difficult decision, I care deeply about both Kenyon and Wanamingo and believe we are one united

district. I am proud of KW, and I want people to know that our schools continue to thrive and accomplish great things for our students. I am hardworking, caring, and committed to doing what is best for our students and the district. I take my responsibilities seriously, carefully consider the facts, and am willing to make difficult decisions when necessary.

Gearhart: Professionally, my career has spanned business administration, food and hospitality operations, human resources, healthcare, and innovation. I have experience leading teams, managing complex projects, evaluating investments, improving systems, and developing long-term strategies. These experiences have taught me to listen carefully, ask thoughtful questions, use data responsibly, and consider how every decision affects people, resources, and the future. Most importantly, I am a parent who is personally invested in the future of KW Schools. I care deeply about the education our children - and every child in the district - receive. I want the community to know that I will approach this role with an open mind, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to making thoughtful decisions that serve students, staff, families, and both of our communities.

Brezina: I am someone who genuinely cares about children and this community. I graduated with a degree in Law Enforcement in 2011, always knowing that I wanted my work to have a focus on juveniles and helping young people. I have since spent the past 16 years making childcare my career and have had the privilege of caring for more than 100 children in our community. I am also a mom who is actively involved in my children's lives. I understand both the parent perspective and the responsibility that comes with making decisions that affect children and families. I am not running because I think I have all the answers. I am running because I am willing to listen, learn, ask questions, have difficult conversations when necessary, and work toward what I believe is best for our students and our community.

LaCanne: Not that athletics are, or should be, the primary goal of a school system, but they are nonetheless important. Anyone that knows me will already know that I would be exceptionally happy if the KW wrestling program won another state team championship.

The Messenger: *How long have you been a member of the KW community? What drives you to make a difference in this community by serving on the school board?*

Jarvis: I have been part of the KW community since 2014. My wife, children, and the friendships I have made here inspire me to help make our community an even better place. I feel called to serve, and serving on the school board is the best way I know to give back and make a positive difference for our students, families, and both communities.

Gearhart: I have been married to my wife for 10 years, and we are proud parents of two children, ages five and six, who attend Kenyon-Wanamingo Schools. Our family moved from Kentucky to Wanamingo during the winter of 2018-2019, and for the past seven years, we have been proud to call this community home. My family are who first motivated me to become more involved, but my commitment extends to every student and family in the district.

(continued on page 8)

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Selected Varieties

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Selected Varieties

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Ea.



Oscar Mayer
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Selected Varieties

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Chicken Helper 4.7 - 7.5 Oz.
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12 Oz.

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Chicken & Dumplings
20 Oz.

\$349
Ea.



Libby's
Vegetables
14.5 - 15.25 Oz.
Selected Varieties

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Ea.



V8
Juice
46 Oz.
Selected Varieties

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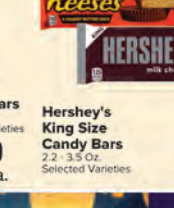
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Family Size
Ritz or Honey Maid
Graham Crackers
17.8 - 20.5 Oz.
Selected Varieties

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Dinty Moore
Beef Stew or
Chicken & Dumplings
20 Oz.

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Selected Varieties

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Quaker
Chewy Bars
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Selected Varieties

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6 Pc. 4 Oz.
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Soy Sauce
15 Oz.

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La Choy
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Noodles
9 Oz.

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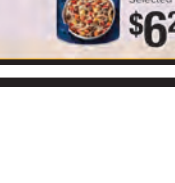
La Choy
Asian Sauce
14.4 - 15 Oz.
Selected Varieties

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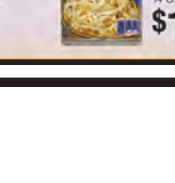
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Soy Sauce
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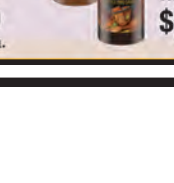
La Choy
Sliced Water
Chestnuts
8 Oz.
Selected Varieties

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Ea.



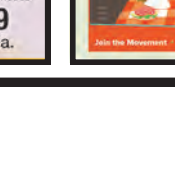
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Ea.

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September 25, 2026



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Noodles
9 Oz.

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Asian Sauce
14.4 - 15 Oz.
Selected Varieties

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Ea.



La Choy
Soy Sauce
12 Oz.

\$179
Ea.



La Choy
Sliced Water
Chestnuts
8 Oz.
Selected Varieties

99¢
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La Choy
Bi Pack
42 - 43.5 Oz.
Selected Varieties

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Ea.



La Choy
Bean Sprouts
14 Oz.

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Marinades
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Due to supply uncertainty, some ad items may be out of stock. We are unable to provide rainchecks at this time. We apologize for any inconvenience. *All items shown may not be available in all stores, some regional differences may occur. We reserve the right to correct printing errors, set limits and/or refuse sales to commercial/wholesale customers.

My Happy Place celebrates 10 Years in Business

(continued from page 1)

Owned by Sara Hartzell, the store offers a unique selection of new merchandise, curated

vintage finds, handmade treasures, and gently used items.

As a crafter herself, Hartzell has always wanted to operate a store that helped local crafters sell their wares. The store carries a variety of items made by area crafters including goat's milk soap and body cream, jewelry, greeting cards, soy wax candles and melts, microwave bowl holders and potholders, hand towels, dish cloths and scrubbies, corn comfort bags, magnets and tree jewelry, and décor.

In addition to handmade products, My Happy Place also carries a curated selection

of vintage merchandise. Many consignors are downsizing their household goods, often including some great vintage pieces. Their families do not want mom's or grandma's treasures. The store offers them an opportunity to sell their items and get those treasures into the hands of others who will enjoy them. Hartzell says, "Reselling vintage and gently used items allows our customers to purchase at reasonable prices and keeps perfectly good treasures out of landfills. Our vintage collectibles are sold at very reasonable prices too."

When Covid hit, the store began to sell gently used jigsaw puzzles to entertain people while we were all stuck at home. They now carry a large selection of puzzles of all types and sizes at great prices.

The store is always looking to add unique product lines. Currently, two of the most popular are their Blind Date with a Book section and the Jewelry Mystery Bags. Blind Date books are wrapped with clues about the plot and genre and include some added treats for the reader. They are very popular as pre-wrapped gifts. Jewelry Mystery Bags contain unsold jewelry pieces directly from the sales floor. At 10% of their estimated value, they are popular with all ages. Plans are in the works to offer Mystery Boxes as well.

Crafters and sellers consign their merchandise through the store and receive a percentage of the price of each item sold. In return, the store makes sure items are ready for sale. All merchandise is cleaned and displayed to best highlight unique features. The store maintains an active presence on Facebook and posts photos of items on a daily basis.

Since Hartzell is a Pharmacy Technician a couple of doors down from the store, she has a staff of two that manage daily operations. Janet Hanke handles all consignment intakes and does a great deal of research on all vintage merchandise to price items so shoppers get great values and consignors receive rea-



sonable compensation for their treasures. She also handles social media and back office tasks. Hanke has worked at the store since the day it opened.

My Happy Place is fortunate to have a display designer who creates our amazing merchandise displays. Denise Robertson has consigned with My Happy Place since the store opened. After retiring from Mayo Clinic five years ago, she joined the staff and quickly showed her talents as a designer. Hartzell is involved in design and display as well and, of course, makes all business decisions. They are a team that works well together and has a great time doing it.

My Happy Place is located at 392 W Main Street in Zumbrota. Hours through October are Wednesday 10-5, Thursday and Friday 11-6 and Saturday 10-4. Beginning November 9, the store will add Mondays and Tuesdays 10-5 through the end of the year. You can find them online on Facebook by searching My Happy Place Zumbrota.

Over the past 10 years, My Happy Place has evolved into a location known for offering something for everyone. The store works hard to keep prices reasonable so that anyone can find the perfect gift. Come visit soon!

A New Season: KW School Board Candidates Up for Election

(continued from page 5)

My wife and I have made Wanamingo our home, and we want to contribute to the community that has welcomed and supported our family. I am driven by the opportunity to help shape a strong and sustainable future for Kenyon-Wanamingo Schools.

The decisions made today will affect educational opportunities, district finances, and the relationship between our two communities for years to come. I want to bring a parent's perspective, my professional experience, and a willingness to listen and work collaboratively. Serving on the school board would be my opportunity to give back, support our students and staff, and help ensure KW remains a school system our entire community can be proud of.

Brezina: I have been part of the Kenyon community for many years, and I have been caring for children in Kenyon for the past 16 years. During that time, I have built relationships with many families and have had the opportunity to watch children in our community grow and move through the school system. My background has always centered around young people. When I graduated with my Law Enforcement degree in 2011, I knew I wanted my focus to be on juveniles. That passion continued through my years of childcare and through raising my own three boys. What drives me now is the opportunity to take everything I have learned—from law enforcement, childcare, parenting, and being a member of this community—and use it to help make a difference for our schools and our students. I have spent much of my life caring for individual children. I see serving on the school board as an opportunity to take that same commitment to caring for children and use it to help make a difference for our entire school community.

LaCanne: My parents bought our family farm west of Kenyon when I was 5 years old. Other than attending college in St. Cloud, I have always resided in Kenyon, so I've basically been a member of the KW community all my life. My main motivation for serving on the board is to help ensure the school remains viable and offers the best educational experience for all students involved.

The Messenger: What do you see as the roles and responsibilities of the school board? How do you plan to address those responsibilities?

Jarvis: The school board's role is to review

district policies, provide oversight, and ensure that we are responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. I plan to carefully evaluate how the district spends its money, ask thoughtful questions, and support decisions that strengthen our financial position without compromising our students' ability to learn. My goal is to balance fiscal responsibility with providing every student a high-quality education.

Gearhart: The school board's primary responsibility is governance. It establishes the district's vision and policies, approves the budget, sets measurable goals, and monitors the district's academic and financial performance. The board must also ensure that the district follows applicable laws and uses public resources responsibly. I would address these responsibilities by coming prepared, reviewing information carefully, asking thoughtful questions, and considering both data and community input before making decisions. I would pursue the training required of Minnesota board members, respect the appropriate chain of command, and work collaboratively with other board members and district leadership. Even when opinions differ, I would conduct myself respectfully and support clear communication about the board's decisions and the reasoning behind them. Above all, I would remain accountable to the entire district - not one group or one community - and keep the long-term interests of KW students at the center of every decision.

Brezina: I believe the school board's primary responsibility is to provide leadership and oversight for the district while keeping students at the center of its decisions. The board needs to establish responsible policies, provide appropriate oversight of district finances, support the superintendent and staff, and make decisions that serve the long-term interests of students and the community. I would approach the position by listening first. I believe board members need to hear from students, parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and community members. I would come prepared, ask questions, look at the information and facts, and make decisions based on what is best for the district rather than any one individual or group. I also believe it is important for board members to work together respectfully, even when there are disagreements.

(continued on page 9)

Meet your 2026 Champion All American Dairy Show FFA Judging Team!



Team 1st Overall, 2nd Reasons, 1st Jerseys, 1st Guernseys
Hanna Gudknecht- 1st Overall,
2nd Reasons, 1st Guernseys, 1st Jerseys
Ben Scheffler- 2nd Overall
Cora Foss- 8th Overall, 9th Reasons

Thank you to coaches Maizie and Tony Scheffler for coaching the team and to the community for the donations to make this trip possible!

A New Season: KW School Board
Candidates Up for Election

(continued from page 8)

Good governance requires being willing to listen to different perspectives and work toward solutions.

LaCanne: As mentioned above, the primary role of the school board should be to assist the school administrators in providing the best possible educational experience for all of KW’s students, while also practicing fiscal responsibility to the greatest extent possible.

The Messenger: *Anything else you want the KW Community to know?*

Jarvis: I look forward to continuing my service on the school board. Although difficult work remains, I believe KW is headed in the right direction. I am confident that we can build a stronger and more sustainable future for our students, staff, families, and communities.

Gearhart: Kenyon - Wanamingo Schools have a proud history shaped by generations of students, educators, families, and community members. My own family became part of that history when our children began their education at the former Wanamingo Elementary School. Preserving the past means honoring the people, traditions, and experiences that built KW. Our history provides a foundation for making thoughtful decisions about the district’s future. I want to help KW by learning from the past, listening to both communities, and planning responsibly for the students who will follow – continue building a future for our children in which both Kenyon and Wanamingo can take pride.

Brezina: I am excited about the possibility of serving the Kenyon-Wanamingo community in a new way. I have spent 16 years caring for children, raising my three boys, being involved in their school and activities, and building relationships with families throughout our community. I feel this is the right time to take what I have learned and give back in a different capacity. My education in law enforcement, my focus on juveniles, my 16 years in childcare, and my experience as a mother have all shaped how I view the needs of children and families. I am a regular mom who cares deeply about our kids and our community. I want our students to feel supported, our parents to feel heard, our staff to feel valued, and our community to feel proud of our schools. I am willing to listen, willing to learn, and willing to put in the work. Most importantly, I want to help make decisions that give the next generation of Kenyon-Wanamingo students the best opportunities possible.

NEWS
SPLASH

(continued from page 1)

A few years back, the Wanamingo pool turned 50. John Tiller and I sat at his computer and went over many pictures of the men who worked to make it happen. At that time it was just a dream coming true. The men did the physical labor, but in my article I also named many of the events and fundraisers that went into making that dream come true. A community working together to make the dream a reality. Small town stuff!

Another thing about small towns is, people appreciate the things the town has to offer, like the pool. When you see what a \$110.00 a year membership offers you, I think you will be pleasantly surprised. One thing I didn't know that is offered is the Water Aerobics classes held Monday through Friday at 8:30 am, and Monday through Thursday at 7pm. What a great way to start or end your day! In fact, our pool opened on June 2nd, a week before others in the area, and continued on even after the other pools closed, until August 30th. The lifeguards, Olivia, Hadley and Naomi are the instructors in the aerobics class, so you know you are in good hands. In

fact, the picture you see of the pool is actually 23 members of the water aerobics class (nick-named The Water Lillies) the last week they were open. A well used benefit of our town!

I think I speak for many pool go-ers when I say thanks to Jake Wieme, pool manager, and his staff for doing a great job of running the pool this year. The bath houses are always clean and stocked, and the maintenance crew keeps things running smoothly. Also thanks to the City Administration for their part in caring for the pool and its members. It really does take a village working together to make good things happen! The pool is open to all, so consider checking it out for next year. And in conclusion, Thanks to all who have supported this dream for the past 50 plus years!

One of the ways this service continues is the use of funds acquired through the organization started a few years ago called SMIF. Southern Minnesota Initiative Association. You can find out more about them on their website, or under Wanamingo Foundation at <https://wanamingofoundation.org/donate/>. Also, Give To The Max Days happens every November, this year from the 12th to the 19th, and you can make a donation to the pool fund anytime within that time frame that is matched by SMIF. There are many ways to make your money work not only for you, but for your community..... but that's for another article! AND, you can also purchase a pool membership for next season, and make some new friends!



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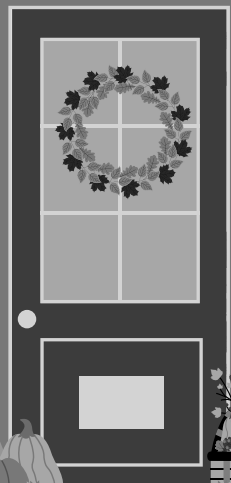
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Highway 56 and Goodhue County Road 9 Converted to four-way stop Sept. 21

(continued from page 1)

On Tuesday, MnDOT maintenance crews installed raised medians at all four legs of the intersection to provide additional awareness to approaching motorists that the intersection requires a stop.

Traffic at the intersection was temporarily changed earlier this summer during a construction project on Highway 56 south of the intersection. A detour of Highway 56 forced vehicles to slow at the intersection because of the detour to the south.

Previously, Highway 56 had thru traffic and County Road 9 had stops. However, the intersection saw a spike in crashes in 2025. A short time later, MnDOT and Goodhue County implemented some immediate changes to help drivers better recognize and understand the intersection, which included:

Larger sized stop signs on County Road 9 for enhanced visibility. "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" signs were also installed to provide additional notice to County Road 9 drivers.

STOP AHEAD and stop bars were repainted on eastbound and westbound CR 9 to provide enhanced pavement marking guidance to drivers.

Transverse rumble strips were installed on eastbound and westbound County Road 9 to alert approaching drivers of the intersection.

Vegetation was cleared in the southwest and southeast corners near Highway 56 and County Road 9 to further lengthen sightlines.

The crash details were analyzed and MnDOT led discussions with law enforcement, first responders and others to develop additional plans for changes to reduce crashes. The four-way stop was developed from these discussions.



MN DOT installed new signage on Highway 56 and County Road 9 east of Dennison on Monday September 21st, 2026 converting the intersection to a four-way stop.

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: McBroom Chiropractic

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

APPLICANT(S): Name:
Laura McBroom

Address: 225 Third Ave
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