



KENYON • WANAMINGO Messenger

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OCTOBER 29, 2026

Volume 19 • Issue 20

Halloween on Main

By Cheri Roshon

How many small towns have not one but 2 Halloween parties plus a whole bunch of fun going on for the whole family? Well, the only one I know in that category is our own Wanamingo!



(continued on page 8)

3rd Annual Makers Market at Wildwood of Nerstrand Saturday, November 7 from 9am-1pm

Open to the public!

Boasting festive Christmas Market vibes nestled in a quaint small town setting.

(continued on page 8)

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. (continued on page 2)

Two Candidates on Ballot for District 19A State House Seat

Keith Allen, District 19A Representative

1. Tell me more about your experience as a MN representative. What made you decide to run again?

Kenyon City Council calls special session for Thursday October 29, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Kenyon City Council has scheduled a special meeting for October 29th. One main agenda item of interest to many residents is the discussion regarding the Business Park involving the application for of the cannabis growing company and the issues regarding electrical service.

(continued on page 4)

Serving the people of District 19A in the Minnesota House of Representatives has been one of the greatest honors of my life. It has also been an incredible learning experience. When I first ran for office, I made a commitment to listen to the people I represent, work across party lines when possible, and bring some common sense to St. Paul. Those are the same principles that guide me today.

Coming from a background in agriculture and small business, I've always believed that the government should be accountable to the people it serves. During my first term, I've had the opportunity to work on legislation involving school bus safety, agriculture, higher education, consumer protections, and government accountability.



Keith Allen



Martha Brown

I've also learned that some of the most meaningful work happens outside the Capitol.

(continued on page 4)

Christmas in Wanamingo

By Cheri Roshon

Santa Claus is coming to town! All the good boys and girls of all ages will be pleased to see what's going on in Wanamingo! On Thursday, December 3rd, it is the Wanamingo Commercial Club's presentation of Christmas in Wanamingo.

(continued on page 3)



Fall Craft Show

Take a drive to Kenyon this fall for the 53rd annual craft sale and you will find hand crafted gift ideas from a hundred vendors on display for your fall decorating or gifting needs. Every year they have scarecrows on display and it is worth the drive just to see what artist's come up with. You can vote for your favorite scarecrow. The sale is open the next three weekends, Thursday through Sunday from 10am to 7pm. They are located just a mile north of Kenyon on Highway 56 at 45986 Hwy 56. The items are restocked often so you will always have a great shopping experience.



Dennison Lions Turkey Bingo November 21 - 5 PM



An annual tradition continues this year the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 21st. New this year will be a time change to 5 PM at Dennison City Hall. (continued on page 3)

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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 three-riverscap.org for more information.

• **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@three-riverscap.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?
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hometownmessenger@gmail.com



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anniversary or
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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
Rural Dennison
Weekly Sunday Service 9:00a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
301 2nd Avenue, Wanamingo • 824-2155

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.emmanuelafcl.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
srobertsds@frontiernet.net
Facebook: [calvarychapelnorthfieldjesus](https://www.facebook.com/calvarychapelnorthfieldjesus) saves
Website: calvarynorthfield.org
Sundays 1:00 pm

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Wheeling Twp) 19086 Jacob Avenue, Faribault
Gary Liker, Pastor • 651-280-0150
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

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Jesus, Name Above All Names
God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. . . . — Philippians 2:9-10

There are a lot of big names out there: Zuckerberg, Apple, Xi, Trump, Oprah, AI. Does our world rise or fall with these names?

Or how about some names closer to home: Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, ALS, Down Syndrome? Or what about labels that society might apply to us: divorced, disabled, addicted, infertile, fired, foreclosed, forgotten, paroled? Do any of these have the power to make or break us?

No. Our reading today proclaims that no name, whether it carries princely power or brings us problems or roadblocks, is greater than Jesus— not even light years close.

None of those names went down low, “taking the very nature of a servant” and “becoming obedient to death” to raise us up. None of those died on a cross to give us new life.

Jesus is the only One whom God gave the name greater than any other name. He is the only One we should bow to. We can take him more seriously than any other name or label, for he himself is God, and he rules over all things.

This month, let's reflect on the various names of Jesus and what they show us about him. Each one reveals something marvelous and matchless about Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom every knee and power and threat will bow, “to the glory of God the Father.” We are in his hands, and he puts all things in their place.

Thank you, Jesus, for all you have done to give us new life and faith in the power of your name. May we honor your name above every name. Amen.



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Kenyon, Minnesota 55946
507-789-6123 Toll Free 1-888-789-6123
Visit our website: ssbkenyon.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](http://WorshipServices)
Nov 1: Dale 9:00, Holden 11:00
Nov 1:
All Saints Dinner Holden 12-2, 4:30-6:30

MOLAND CHURCH
507-4564242 • 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.

Christmas in Wanamingo

(continued from page 1)

The Commercial Club puts this on every year using the funds obtained from dues paid

by the businesses that operate here, and benefit from this connection.

The fun begins with treats that will be offered from 4pm to 5pm in the Industrial Park where Jake's Liquor Store, Decker Power and Zumbro Valley Landscaping reside. Stop in and say hello, and see what they have in store for you.

Then it is on to the Main Street businesses from 5pm to 7pm. Once again, treats will be served, and there are other events for the whole family to enjoy!

Stop in at the Wanamingo Community Cen-

ter to see the Santa carving collection. From 5-7pm visit with Santa at the Olmsted Medical Center at 217 Main Street. Sit in his lap and whisper in his ear what you want for Christmas this year.

There will be a Fundraiser for this year's fireworks in July. It is \$5 per entry for a beautiful large rendition of our beloved water tower. Donations will be taken from now until Christmas at Security State Bank on Main Street. Really, they are beautiful, and everyone should have one!!!

There will be drawings for local gift cards, too! 1st prize is \$100.00, 2nd prize is \$50.00 and 3rd prize is \$25.00. You MUST bring in

a non perishable food item or cash donation and receive a card at any business. You also MUST have 10 different business stamps to qualify for the drawing. Once you have collected 10 or more stamps on your card, get it to the drawing box at the bank and give it a kiss for luck before you drop it in the box. The official drawing will be held the next day, and the winner will be notified.

As you walk the street, chat with friends and neighbors, enjoy the treats from the businesses, and remember the reason for the season, please also think of all the people who may not be as fortunate as you are, and consider a donation to the Salvation Army to make someone else's Christmas a brighter one. Wishing you all a very Happy Holiday Season!!

Dennison Lions Turkey Bingo November 21 5 PM

(continued from page 1)
Funds raised during the event will support the Lions Club community support and events.

The club has heard over the years, as the holiday season is busier, an earlier time might allow more to attend the annual community event. The Dennison Lions Club is a non-profit 501 C 3 Organization serving the area.

Do You Have an Announcement?

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

CRAFT SALE

55th Annual 100 Ladies and Gentlemen Craft Sale 2026

October 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31
November 1, 5, 6, 7, 8

10a.m. to 7p.m./Closing at 5p.m. last day • (507) 789-6223

Curt & Marlene Morrow Residence
45986 Hwy. 56, Kenyon, MN 55946

Join the Fun! Vote for your Favorite Scarecrow!

RESTOCKED DAILY! FREE Admittance

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TURKEY BINGO

EVERYONE'S INVITED!

Saturday, November 21 5:00 PM

Dennison City Hall \$10.00/card

With Your Non-Perishable Food Shelf Donation

(15.00/card without food shelf donation)

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.

Holden Lutheran Church

All Saints Dinner

Sunday, November 1, 2026

Dine In: 12-2 and 4:30-6:30

Meat Balls and Gravy* Pulsa
Scalloped Potatoes * Buttered Carrots
Cranberry Relish * Lefse * Fruit Soup
Rommegrot * Bakings

Cost: \$20/meal • Dine-in: Children 5-12 \$10, 4 and Under Free
Delivery available upon request.
Cash or check only, Holden WELCA
Address: 6949 Co 30 Blvd, Northeast of Kenyon

To Go Meals are available but reservations for these meals are preferred.
Call (507) 789-6677
Email: holdendinner@gmail.com

Get Moved In This Fall Before Winter Sets In!

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chrismallery@edinarealty.com

Two Candidates on Ballot for District 19A State House Seat

(continued from page 1)

It's sitting down with local officials, visiting businesses, talking with families, and helping constituents navigate challenges involving state government.

I decided to run again because there's still work to be done. Minnesota faces some serious challenges involving affordability, government spending, and public trust. I believe the experience I've gained during my first term will help me continue addressing those issues while making sure the people of District 19A have a voice at the Capitol.

2. What are some of the positive things you have seen happen for the District 19A area since you have been a representative? Should you be re-elected, what are the three issues you want to address or continue to address?

One of the most encouraging things I've seen is the commitment our communities have to improving themselves. Whether it's local businesses investing in their communities, cities working to address housing and infrastructure needs, or schools and community organizations finding creative ways to serve families, there's a tremendous amount of good happening throughout District 19A.

At the Legislature, I've been pleased to work on issues that have a direct impact on our communities, including school bus safety, agricultural opportunities, and efforts to improve government accountability. If re-elected, my three priorities will continue to be affordability, accountability, and strengthening our rural communities.

Affordability: Families, farmers, and small businesses are feeling the pressure of rising costs. We need to examine the taxes, regulations, and government mandates that contribute to those expenses and find ways to make Minnesota more affordable.

Accountability: Minnesotans deserve to know their tax dollars are being spent responsibly. I've supported efforts to strengthen independent oversight, improve fraud prevention, and make state government more transparent. We need to continue that work.

Strengthening rural communities: Our communities need reliable infrastructure, quality schools, accessible health care, and opportunities for businesses to grow. I want to continue focusing on rural roads and bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure, housing affordability, and the long-term sustainability of rural health care.

These aren't simply legislative issues. They affect the everyday lives of the people I represent.

3. Tell me a little bit more about your background. What makes you passionate about District 19A?

I'm a lifelong Minnesotan, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, a fourth-generation farmer, a small business owner, a husband, and a father of two children who attend our local public schools.

My wife, Morgan, and I live near Kenyon,

where we've raised our family and operated our agricultural business. I've spent much of my life working in agriculture, including crop production, livestock, and the seed business. Those experiences taught me the importance of hard work, personal responsibility, and understanding the consequences of the decisions we make.

What makes me passionate about District 19A is the people. We have hardworking families, farmers, small business owners, educators, first responders, and community volunteers who care deeply about where they live. I know firsthand what it's like to operate a business, manage expenses, deal with regulations, and raise a family in rural Minnesota. When I walk into the Capitol, I don't forget where I came from or the people who sent me there. I believe our rural communities deserve to be heard and respected, and I take that responsibility seriously.

4. What do you believe you have to offer District 19A as the representative?

I bring a combination of real-world experience, an understanding of rural Minnesota, and legislative experience. Before serving in the House, I spent years running a small business, working in agriculture, and dealing with many of the same challenges families and employers face today. That experience gives me a practical perspective when considering legislation. I also believe one of my strengths is my willingness to listen and work with people, even when we don't agree on everything. During my first term, I've worked with legislators from both political parties to advance legislation and address issues affecting Minnesotans. I don't believe every good idea belongs to one political party, and I don't believe every disagreement needs to become a political fight. My responsibility is to represent the people of District 19A, ask difficult questions, understand the consequences of legislation, and make decisions I believe are in their best interests.

5. What do you believe are the responsibilities of a MN representative? How do you plan to approach these responsibilities?

I believe a state representative has three fundamental responsibilities: listen to the people, be a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars, and make decisions that serve the long-term interests of the district and the state.

Representing people means more than showing up at the Capitol and casting votes. It means being accessible, attending local meetings, visiting businesses and schools, and understanding the challenges facing our communities. It also means doing your homework. Before voting on legislation, I believe it's important to understand what a bill actually does, how much it costs, and what unintended consequences it might create. Having served on several legislative committees, I've seen firsthand how decisions made in St. Paul can affect local governments, businesses, schools, and families. I also believe elected officials have a responsibility to explain their decisions, even when those decisions aren't popular. Public service should never be about personal recognition or political gamesmanship. It's about earning the trust of the people you represent and remembering that the seat belongs to them, not the person occupying it.

6. What are some of the issues the District 19A community should be aware of? What can we do to support our area?

One of the biggest challenges facing our district is maintaining strong rural communities while dealing with increasing costs and changing economic conditions. Our schools, hospitals, businesses, and local governments are all facing financial pressures.

Housing affordability is another growing concern. We need to make it easier for young families and workers to find housing in our communities without creating unnecessary costs for local taxpayers.

Infrastructure is equally important. Many communities face significant expenses related to roads, bridges, wastewater treatment, and drinking water systems.

We also need to pay attention to the impact state regulations and mandates have on small businesses, agriculture, and local governments.

But I believe the most important thing people can do is stay involved. Attend a city council or school board meeting. Support local businesses. Volunteer with community organizations. Reach out to your elected officials and share your concerns. Some of the most useful information I receive as a legislator comes directly from conversations with people who are dealing with these issues every day. Good government starts with informed and engaged citizens.

7. Anything else you would like The Messenger to know?

I want people to know how grateful I am for the opportunity to serve District 19A. When I first ran for office, I knew there would be disagreements and difficult decisions. That's part of representative government. But I've always believed we have far more in common than what divides us. Most people want the same basic things: safe communities, good schools, affordable living, opportunities for their children, and a government they can trust.

I also believe we have a responsibility to the next generation. My children are growing up here, just like so many other families' children. The decisions we make today will help determine the opportunities available to them tomorrow. That's something I think about every time I walk onto the House floor.

At the end of the day, I didn't run for office because I wanted a title. I ran because I wanted to make a difference for the communities that have given my family so much. And regardless of anyone's political affiliation, my door is always open to the people of District 19A.

It's an honor to represent this district, and it's a responsibility I will never take for granted.

Martha Brown

1. Tell me more about your journey to running for representative. Why did you decide to run for District 19A this term?

I've always had an interest in running for office, and when I came to Faribault, I knew this was a place where I could make a real difference. Like a lot of people, I've watched us work harder and harder while falling farther behind because of policies and practices that have put corporate profits ahead of people for decades. I finally got fed up enough with a billionaire-driven economy that leaves working people in the dust and decided to get off the couch and do something about it—to work for changing the broken systems that aren't working for most Minnesotans. Plus - if we don't take back our democracy now, we may lose it altogether.

2. Should you be elected, what are three issues you would like to prioritize?

1) Economic fairness. To me, economic fairness means making sure the economy works for everyone—not just those at the top. That includes revamping our tax system so corporations and the wealthiest Minnesotans pay their fair share; making healthcare accessible and affordable for all; raising wages; and strengthening unions and collective bargaining.

2) Affordable housing. Too many working people, young families, and seniors are struggling to find or keep housing they can actually afford. We need to expand housing options and make sure people who work in our communities can afford to live here, as well as address the rising property taxes on seniors living on a fixed income.

3) Protecting Minnesota's resources and environment. Clean water, healthy soil, and our natural resources are essential to our communities, farms, and economy. We need to protect them while making thoughtful decisions about development and growth - especially when it comes to data centers and mining near the sacred Boundary Waters.

Of course, there are more than three. My district has many needs, and there is a lot of work to be done.

3. Tell me more about your background. What makes you passionate about District 19A?

I grew up in Millcreek, Pennsylvania, and left home when I was 18. Since then, I've lived in five states, but I never really felt like any of them were home. When I moved to Faribault, something clicked. I knew I had found my home.

I fell in love with Faribault and the surrounding communities—the wonderful people, the farms, the nature centers and parks, great restaurants, interesting small businesses, and water everywhere.

Rural Minnesota is a place where I can get involved and make a difference in my community. I've gotten involved with our schools, Rotary Club, the Paradise Center for the Arts, Buckham Memorial Library, the HOPE Center, IRIS, and local governments.

(continued on page 5)

Kenyon City Council calls special session for Thursday October 29, 2026 at 5:00 PM

(continued from page 1)

Questions pertaining to the expense of a larger transformer to service the power needs of the proposed business have been circulating in the community and on social media sites. Council was informed recently that Central Municipal Power Agency and Services representatives have told the city that there will need to be a new power transformer, which will cost upwards of one million dollars, and has recommended an electrical substation, with a price tag of three to five million dollars. Various sources, which, at press time, The Messenger was unable to verify, are now disputing these numbers and various project and staff timelines. Either way, these expenditures will directly impact the residents of Kenyon. Residents are encouraged to attend the council meeting.

Two Candidates on Ballot for District 19A State House Seat

(continued from page 4)

I'm pretty much everywhere! And that's what makes me passionate about District 19A.

I'm not just running for this community—I'm part of it.

4. What do you believe you have to offer District 19A as the representative?

I bring multiple perspectives and a big toolbox of skills to the job. I've lived in five states, traveled internationally, and worked with people and communities from a lot of different backgrounds. Those experiences have taught me to listen, ask questions, look at the evidence, and not assume there's only one way to solve a problem.

I also bring passion, honesty, integrity, and

a strong moral compass. I care deeply about fairness and justice, and I believe there are times when you simply have to stand up for what is right.

Most of all, I care about people. I'm not running to be a politician—I'm running to be a good representative. I believe we should make decisions with people, not for them. If a policy is going to affect farmers, teachers, parents, small businesses, seniors, or working families, I want to hear from them before that policy becomes law. I'll invite them to the table, combine what I hear with the best available evidence, and work with the community to find solutions that make lives better.

5. What are the responsibilities of a MN Representative? How do you plan to approach these responsibilities?

A Minnesota Representative has a lot of responsibilities: listening to constituents, helping develop and evaluate legislation, serving on committees, making decisions about the state budget, voting on laws, and making sure the people of the district have a voice at the Capitol.

I would approach those responsibilities the same way I approach my other work: listen, learn, evaluate, act, and improve. I want to understand an issue before I decide how to address it. That means looking at the evidence, talking with experts, and—most importantly—talking with the people who will actually be affected by a policy. I believe we should make decisions with people, not for them.

I also believe a representative's responsibility doesn't end when the Legislature adjourns. I will stay connected to District 19A, be accessible to constituents, and keep listening. And if something we've done isn't working, we should be willing to acknowledge it, learn from it, and make it better.

My job would be to represent the people of this district—not a political party, not special interests, and not whoever happens to have the loudest voice at the Capitol.

6. What are some of the issues the District 19A community should be aware of? What can we do to support our area?

I think District 19A needs to be prepared for some difficult years ahead. Federal funding

cuts have already resulted in thousands of Minnesota's children losing their SNAP benefits, and millions of Americans have lost their health insurance. These problems cannot be fixed easily or quickly. We need to be honest with people about that: things may get worse before they get better - and the old band-aid approach will not work. We need a systems overhaul - and it's going to take time.

Our first priority has to be keeping people housed, fed, healthy, and employed. But I also know that the organizations we depend on to help people—food shelves, nonprofits, counties, schools, and local governments—are going to be under even more pressure than they are now.

To get through this, we ALL need to come together and move beyond the racist and political divisions that have poisoned us. We are human beings living in the same communities. We need to look out for our neighbors—all of them.

If we can work together, support the organizations doing this work, share resources, and make sure people don't fall through the cracks, we can get through this difficult period. And I hope we come out the other side stronger, smarter, and more connected as a community.

7. Anything else you would like The Messenger to know?

One thing I'd like people to know about me is that I'm a creative person. I'm a professional musician, and musicians think differently—we listen, improvise, see patterns, and sometimes have to make a completely different way to get from where we are to where we need to be. I've never met a boundary I didn't push - musically or otherwise.

I also tend to look at things from the 30,000-foot level. Although I'll be assigned to specific committees, I'll work expansively, because our problems don't fit neatly into committee boxes. We need to take a systems approach.

That means asking some basic questions about how state government works. Can departments work together more effectively? Are there opportunities to consolidate functions? Where can we make processes more efficient? What technology needs to be upgraded? How do we make sure our systems are secure?

We also need to take a hard look at unfunded mandates. If something we required counties or schools to do isn't working as planned, let's evaluate it and change it - or end it. And if the state wants a new program or service, we shouldn't expect already-struggling counties to pick up the bill.

Minnesota has made mistakes. We need to be willing to acknowledge them, learn from them, and do better. With taxes already placing too much pressure on working people and retirees, we have a responsibility to take efficiency seriously and make sure we're getting the most from every dollar.

And that's why we need creative people like me who can think outside the box and ask, "Why can't we? What needs to happen so that we CAN?" I have no interest in the status quo. There are ways we can make state government—and Minnesota—better, healthier, and more prosperous, and I want to be a part of making that happen.

KENYON-WANAMINGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS of the WEEK



NOBLE KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK FOR OCTOBER 9, 2026

Front Row: Ava Hendricks, KG, Mrs. Cheryl Dahl; Salvador Giuliani, KG, Mrs. Mandi Kylo-Lunde; Colbie Sellers, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Mason Bauernfeind, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Ruby Eggert, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Vivian Bartlett, Gr. 2, Mrs. Tanya Short; Lydia Meyer, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Violet Sjoblom, Gr. 3, Mrs. Sandy Bohaty; Wyatt Ross, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing; Neil Ellingsberg, Gr. 4, Mrs. Laura McAnally



NOBLE KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK FOR OCTOBER 23, 2026

Front Row: Raina Christen, KG, Mrs. Cheryl Dahl; Jaquereni Fontes Arvayo, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; River Prondzinski, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Caleb Yunker, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Renata Serna Aguilar, Gr. 2, Mrs. Tanya Short; Ava Cline, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Caden Fortsch, Gr. 3, Mrs. Rebekah Patterson; Camilla Ortega, Gr. 4, Mrs. Laura McAnally; Robert Moyer, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

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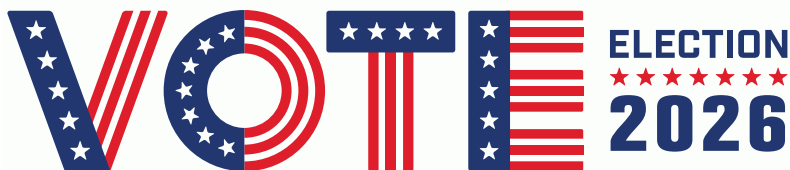




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Thank You!

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On behalf of my family and all our staff, present and past, here at Kenyon Market, we ThankYou for your support over the years.

Although this is a bittersweet moment, it has been an honor to serve the people of Kenyon and to continue the hometown grocery we took over from Fred's.

We are grateful Barney and Laura Nesseth continue to invest in the future of Kenyon & Wanamingo and will write the next chapter of Kenyon's hometown grocery store.

Again, ThankYou for your past patronage.

Pete Wagner

We are excited to be a part of the future of Kenyon's hometown meat market and grocery. We thank you for your support as we take ownership of the store in November. We hope you will join as we work to build on the legacy of our hometown market, with plans for added product selection and services to serve our hometowns for many years to come. Watch our social media and The Messenger for news and updates about Viking Meats & Grocery. We will be closed November 2nd for inventory.

Barney & Laura Nesseth

Halloween on Main

(continued from page 1)

Halloween on Main Street is an annual event sponsored by the Wanamingo Commercial Club, and they would like to invite you all to the festivities. On Friday, October 30th

3rd Annual Makers Market at Wildwood of Nerstrand Saturday, November 7 from 9am-1pm

(continued from page 1)

Peruse indoor and outdoor talented creators, bakers, woodsmen and metal twisters, candle makers and chocolate swirlers, crafters and inventors, tasty food vendors, live music and more!

Wildwood is located at 315 Main Street, Nerstrand.

from 4:30pm to 5:30 pm the businesses on Main Street will be giving out candy to the ghouls and goblins roaming around, and the princesses and dragons, too! All are welcome, of course, to wander the street, chat with their neighbors, take pictures of the costumed participants. If you get some good pictures, feel free to send them to the Messenger for a follow up to the event! Free hot dogs, chips and water will also be available at The Security State Bank between 4:30 and 5:30, so dress up in your costume and enjoy the fun!

On October 31st JB's Tavern will be having a Halloween party you won't want to miss! Come and celebrate the holiday dressed to impress, because there will be a costume contest going on, with judging at 10pm. You can participate in Horror Movie Trivia at 7 pm, and DJ Kaptain Karaoke starts after the Trivia Contest. Be prepared to dance to the

Monster Mash!

Jake's Hometown Liquor will also be providing more spooky fun at the Liquor store that evening, so be sure to follow them on Facebook to find out what happenings will be

featured there as well! Knowing Jake and the crew, a good time will be had by all!

So get out and about and have a lot of fun! Hope to see you there!

Got a Great Local News Story?

Tell us about it today!

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

WILDWOOD

Late October & November events, happenings and goings on at WildWood!

315 Main Street | Nerstrand | WildWoodofNerstrand.com

Barre Class : October Series

Thursday, October 29 | 6:30pm | \$12 for one class or \$40 for all four Hosted by Barre w/Greta

If you love movement, you will love this full body workout! This fitness class incorporates ballet into a 50 minute workout to improve your strength and flexibility! All materials provided — come to one or come to all!! Must pre-register online.

Halloween Cookie Decorating Class {adult/child}

Friday, October 30 | 6-8pm | \$45/ticket

Hosted by Kari of Sweet Q's Cookie Co.

Bring your little ghouls and gremlins this Halloween Eve to learn to decorate cookies with royal icing, with Kari of Sweet Q's Cookie Co.! Come and decorate your very own Halloween-themed cookies to the tune of all your favorite spooky tunes. Halloween costumes encouraged! Everything you need to learn some basic skills to decorate with royal icing will be provided. (All baking and icing prep included in the class will be done for you.) This class is geared toward kids and their adult caregivers or loved ones and is perfect for anyone from beginners looking to enhance their skills to professionals looking to just have a good time! This class is open to individuals of all ages. Participants under the age of 10 must have a ticket *and* be accompanied by an adult ticket-holder. Must pre-pay; details on the website.

Slow Flow Yoga Series

Mondays, November 9, 16, 23, 30 - Chair yoga!

6:00pm | \$15/class or \$70 for all 4

Hosted by Faith of Wild Wellness

Show gratitude for your body and join Faith for a 45 minute slow flow yoga on Monday nights in November. Bring your mat, water bottle and get ready to get your sweat rolling. Must pre-register online; walk-ins welcome 10 minutes early to register online onsite.

3rd Annual Makers Market

Saturday, November 7 | 9am-1pm | Open to the public!

Boasting festive Christmas Market vibes nestled in a quaint small town setting. Peruse indoor and outdoor talented creators, bakers, woodsmen and metal twisters, candle makers and chocolate swirlers, crafters and inventors, tasty food vendors, live music and more!

Women in Business Networking Group

Thursday, November 12 | 9am | no charge

Bring your own coffee and come mingle and learn about other women-owned/managed local businesses {or just come to meet and make some new lady friends!}.

Live Harp Rejuvenation Evening

Thursday, November 12 | 6:30-7:30pm | free-will donation

Hosted by Sarah Swan-McDonald

Escape the noise of daily life and relax during our Evening of Sound and Rejuvenation with live harp provided by Sarah Swan McDonald. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. so you can settle in and fill a cup with some warm tea before the harp music begins at 7:00 p.m. This is not a concert, but a 30-minute session of simple, quiet music designed to help you unwind. In this dimly lit space, you are invited to bring your own yoga mat, bolster, pillows, or blankets to create a comfortable spot on the floor. As the slow and meditative melodies fill the room, tension will dissolve and your mind will drift into stillness, leaving you feeling restored and refreshed. Admission is by free will donation, making this evening of rest accessible to everyone.

Sourdough 101

Saturday, November 14 | 11am-1:30pm | \$95

Hosted by Ashley of Ten Acre Baker --THIS CLASS IS SOLD OUT--

Holiday Spruce Tip Planter Workshop

Sunday, November 22 | 2-4pm | \$60/person

Hosted by Big Woods Christmas Tree Farm

Grab your favorite person and kick off the season together! Join us for a cozy, casual workshop where you will craft a custom 12-inch winter spruce tip planter. Listening to holiday music while you create alongside your best friend, neighbor or family member -- it's the perfect way to get into the festive spirit and make something beautiful! All items provided, you just bring the holiday vibe. Limited space available, registration and prepayment required.

As always, WildWood is open for public and private rentals!

More information and event tickets available online at

wildwoodofnerstrand.com/happenings

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HALLOWEEN ON MAIN STREET

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Friday, October 30TH from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

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Dress up in your costume and enjoy the fun!

Want more spooky fun on Halloween Night?

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Meet the Water Lillies



They are the water aerobics gals at the Wanamingo Pool. These women and several more come often to the pool. They hail from Wanamingo as well as Goodhue, Zumbrota and out in the country. Please think about getting a pool membership in 2027 and make new friends and get fit! Seasonal membership is only \$110.00!

Commissioner Corner



Todd Greseth
Goodhue County
Commissioner
District 3

Hello everyone, sorry it has been several months since my last commissioners corner. We did set our preliminary levy at 6.6% increase over last years budget. We have until the end of the year to hopefully find some more options to lower this rate. We have 2 commissioners that have served our county for 12 years. Jason Majerus and Brad Anderson both have chosen to not run again in this election. I want to thank them for their service to Goodhue County. Minnesota counties are having to deal with mandates coming down from the state. The majority of these mandates are unfunded, meaning they passed a bill and are making us come up with the money to fund these. This is usually through property tax increases. The counties are regulated by the DOR the department of revenue, they set the guidelines for our property tax rates. We struggle with increasing rates knowing it is dollars out of the pockets of our citizens. Please get out and vote on November 3rd this is a very important election. Knowing the fraud that is happening in Minnesota, we need to elect the people that we feel will do something to help and change what has happened over the last several years. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Todd Greseth, District 3 Commissioner

Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund

By Cheri Roshon

Give to the Max Day is November 19th. And, would you consider a donation to our Wanamingo Community Foundation through SMIF --Southern MN Initiative Fund? It's simple to do! With gifts of \$100 donations or more, you will receive our gift of Wanamingo Area Past to Present book.

Mail it to P O Box 224W, Wanamingo, MN 55983,

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

**To the Editor:
A Fight For Our Democracy**

Beginning with a religion of hate for Christians and Jews, New York City's socialist mayor, Zohran Mamdani, declared, "We will prove that there is no problem too large for government to solve, and no concern too small for it to care about." When you couple this with another radical socialist and ally of Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, who said, "All within the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state," you can appreciate the fact that the late President Ronald Reagan was right when he said, "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the government, and I'm here to help'" (See Decision: The Evangelical Voice For today, October 2026).

As we look at what is happening across America, there should be little doubt as to what the Democrat Party has in store for us if they are able to prevail in the upcoming mid-term elections. While it is true that there are Democrats who will tell you that this behavior does not represent the party, it does not change the fact that what is happening 'right before our eyes' has a purpose that has been in the planning stages for decades: the destruction of the United States of America. Unless we can stop it, it is coming for your children; your grandchildren; and for you. If you do not believe me, just look to Europe and what has happened to places like England and France.

Wake up people!

Their names are Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Abdul El-Sayed, Zohran Mamdani, Hassan Piker, and Bernie Sanders. Like a cancer that is finding its way into our towns, cities, and neighborhoods, their calls are to "defund the police," "end support for God's chosen people, Israel," "take over public ownership of utilities, banks, major industries, and private businesses" and "open up the borders and permit everyone who crosses over to vote." But there is more....

In Minnesota, they are Amy Klobuchar and her 100% voting record on the killing of our babies and her support for turning boys into girls and girls into boys. They are Kieth Ellison and the damage he did by looking the other way when the State of Minnesota was being ripped off by his Muslim brothers and sisters to the tune of billions of dollars. They are our Secretary of State, Steve Simon, and State Auditor, Zack Filipovich, for being part of Tim Walz's team of destruction. But there is more....

Her name is Peggy Flanagan. As Tim Walz's right hand lieutenant governor, she not only

"cut" her eye teeth working for her progressive "hero," the late Paul Wellstone, but she knew exactly what was happening under the leadership of a governor who almost destroyed the state. And if that is not enough, she not only received assistance from Bernie Sanders in her campaign for the United States Senate, but she denounced Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip as genocide, called for the abolishment of ICE, and championed the support of Medicare for everyone. Ladies and gentlemen, having Margaret "Peggy" Flanagan representing Minnesota in Congress, after what she and her boss did to us, would be like giving a gun to the enemy. For lack of a better vernacular, this woman is a danger to America.

So what is the point? What is the bottom-

line? It is namely this: until the Democrat Party stops killing our babies; until the Democrat Party stops supporting homosexuality and the mutilation of our children through gender altering surgery; until the Democrat Party is willing to stand up to a culture that is trying to destroy America and the State of Minnesota through theft and intimidation (See Europe); until the Democrat Party no longer supports Democratic Socialism but stands on the infallible Word of God, you are lying to yourself if you claim to be a Christian and, yet, continue to vote for a party whose mantra has become death and destruction across America. The Battle For Your Soul (Turning Points)!

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