Goodhue-Bellechester Messenger

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From Cows to Couples

Barn weddings example of how shifting agribusiness options keep farms thriving

BELLECHESTER - In the 1800s when settlers moved west to claim land in the Mid-west, they poured their hearts and souls into their new homes and the farmland they were built on. The farming industry has changed significantly over the decades since these homesteads were established.

Now, in the 21st century, the families who are fortunate enough to still own their ancestor's farms are adapting to new ways of thriving. Pizza farms, micro gardens, pop-up shops, and other creative uses for family farms are becoming more visible as agriculture trends shift. One particularly intriguing use for old barns is offering them as wedding venues.



The Calvin Strauss family farm in Wabasha County has one of those barns.

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Community Help Network Seeks Volunteers and Donations for Holiday Meals

Community Help Network is seeking volunteers and donations for its fourth year of providing Thanksgiving baskets to neighbors in the Goodhue and Mazeppa areas.

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Announcements

• Veterans Day Program at Goodhue School Friday, November 6 at 9:00a.m. in Gym #1. Open to the public, please use door #5.

• Change of Council Meeting Schedule for November and December & Meeting Notice: Due to holidays, there will be 1 City Council meeting on November 18th and December 16th @ 6:00. Meeting schedule will resume in January, 2027.

There will be a Special Council Meeting on November 10, 2026 @ 6:00 at City Hall for the purpose of certifying general election results for the city.

There will be a council work session immediately following the special meeting on November 10.

Notice of Council Quorum

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a quorum of Goodhue City Councilmembers may be present at the North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District joint council meeting, taking place on November 23rd at 6:00 at the Zumbrota VFW. The address is 25 E 1st St, Zumbrota. Each of the member city councils will be discussing and receiving an update on the sanitary sewer district project. Public is welcome to attend this meeting.

• Belvidere Happy-Go-Luckies 4-H Club (usually) meets the first Monday of each month at 7p.m. at St. Peter's Church, rural Goodhue. New members are always welcome! Contact club leader Michelle Benrud at 651-923-5247 for more information.

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Members of the Red Wing American Legion and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon organization presented Bill Hermann with several gifts and thanked him for his military service on September 15th.

Bill Hermann Honored for Military Service

By Beth Brekke

Well-known Wanamingo resident and area businessman, Wilfred "Bill" Hermann was honored on September 15th for his military service.

The We Honor Veterans pinning ceremony is a joint program of the Hiawatha Valley Family Beyond the Yellow Ribbon community and Mayo Clinic Hospice. The recognition program was held at Bill's Goodhue Living apartment where he has lived since June.

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Christmas Cookie Drop Fundraiser Brings Holiday Treats to Goodhue

Community Express and Courier Services invites the community to celebrate the season with its "12 Days of Christmas Treats from the North Pole" fundraiser.

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Pine Island Data Center Settlement

(ABC 6 News) — A settlement has been reached in the Pine Island data center lawsuit case, according to a joint release from the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Google, and Ryan Companies.

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Join Us for a
Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet
Thursday, November 26 • Serving 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
(Bar Open Later)
Serving Turkey or Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Cranberries, Vegetable, and Choice of Salads
~ Appetizers Available ~
$24.99 per person • Kids 12 & under $9.99, Kids 4 & under Free
TAKE OUT DINNERS AVAILABLE! Order yours by November 22
RESERVATIONS STRONGLY SUGGESTED: CALL 507-645-9992
The Fireside
37540 Goodhue Avenue, Dennison, MN
Hours: Wed. & Thurs. 11:00AM-8:30PM; Fri. & Sat. 11:00AM-9:30PM; Sun. 9:00AM-8:00PM
Bar Open Later
www.firesidelounge.net

Announcements

• Hiawatha Valley Genealogy Society meets Tuesday, November 10, 10 am at the Goodhue County History Center, 1166 Oak St., Red Wing. Cousins, Kay Schwartau and Janet Daley will talk about revising the "Schwartau Family Chronicle" originally published in 1976. The updated book contains 37 life stories with photos and a kinship report. Learn about new research discoveries they found while working on the project. Your first meeting is complimentary.

• Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Bellechester, Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Goodhue, Pine Island, Kenyon, Wabasha 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. Please contact Three Rivers at 507-316-0610 or email: oas@threeriverscap.org

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

Pastors Corner

Thanksgiving: Counting the Big and Little Blessings

By Pastor Robbin Robbert
St. John's Lutheran Church, rural Goodhue

As Thanksgiving approaches, perhaps it is time to take a moment and consider just how much we have to be thankful for. Sometimes we hesitate to take all our wants and concerns to God because we think they are too small or insignificant. After all, how can we bother God with our everyday worries when there are wars, cancer, suffering, and death in the world? But our heavenly Father is never too busy for us. He cares about the big things in our lives, and He cares about the little things, too. No concern is too small, no prayer too ordinary, and no burden too insignificant to bring before Him. We are His children, and He invites us to bring everything to Him in prayer.

Sometimes, when we have been through a difficult time, we become so anxious to return to our normal routines that we forget to stop and give thanks to the One who carried us through. When the test results are good, the surgery is over, the loved one is recovering, the storm has passed, or the problem has finally been resolved, we breathe a sigh of relief and move on. But before rushing back into the busyness of life, shouldn't we pause and thank God? He has heard our prayers, strengthened us in our worries, comforted us in our fears, and sometimes answered our prayers in ways we never expected. Let us not be so eager to put our troubles behind us that we forget the One who walked with us through them.

The elections are over. Whatever our political opinions or disappointments may be, perhaps we can all agree that it is time to turn our attention away from grumbling about what we think is wrong and start counting the many things God has done right. We can be thankful for family and friends, neighbors who care, a warm home, food on the table, the beauty of creation, and the simple gift of another day. We can give thanks for the blessings we often take for granted: a conversation, a child's laughter, a beautiful sunrise, a helping hand, or the peace that comes from knowing we are not alone. These everyday blessings are little foretastes of heaven, reminders of the goodness and grace that God showers upon us.

This Thanksgiving, let us remember that gratitude is more than a holiday tradition or a prayer before the meal. It is a way of looking at life through the eyes of faith. We will never have everything exactly the way we want it, and life will always bring its share of disappointments and unanswered questions. But we have a Father who loves us, a Savior who gave His life for us, and the sure promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ. As Psalm 107:1 reminds us, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever!" May we spend less time counting what we think God has not done to our satisfaction and more time counting the blessings He has given us, both big and small. Happy Thanksgiving!

"1 When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.
Refrain:
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.
2 Are you ever burdened with a load of care?

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Goodhue-Bellechester Messenger

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HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Thomas McCabe • www.holytrinitygoodhue.org
211 4th St. N., Goodhue • 923-4472
Parish Office Hours, Mon.: 9:00AM - 2:00PM
(Holy Trinity Parish Office has sacramental records for St. Mary, Bellechester, and St. Columbkill, Belle Creek, since merger in 2013).
Sat.: 4:45PM - 5:20PM Confession, 5:30PM Holy Mass (Sunday vigil)
Tues.: 8:00AM Holy Mass
Wed.: 8:00AM Holy Mass, 9:00AM - 2:00PM Eucharistic Adoration
Rosary said 25 minutes before Holy Mass
All are WELCOME! But receiving Holy Communion are for those who are of age and practicing the Catholic faith.
We practice because we are not yet perfect!

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Thomas McCabe • www.holytrinitygoodhue.org
221 Chester Avenue • 923-4472
(Holy Trinity Parish Office has sacramental records for St. Mary, Bellechester, and St. Columbkill, Belle Creek, since merger in 2013).
Sun.: 8:15AM - 8:35AM Confession, 8:30AM, Holy Mass
Mon.: 8:00AM Holy Mass, 6:30PM - 9:00PM Eucharistic Adoration
Rosary said 25 minutes before Holy Mass
All are WELCOME! But receiving Holy Communion are for those who are of age and practicing the Catholic faith.
We practice because we are not yet perfect!

ST. COLUMBKILL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Thomas McCabe • www.holytrinitygoodhue.org
County Road 47, Goodhue • 923-4472
(Holy Trinity Parish Office has sacramental records for St. Mary, Bellechester,and St. Columbkill, Belle Creek, since merger in 2013).
Sun.:10:00AM Holy Mass
Thurs.: 8:00AM Eucharistic Adoration/Confession, 9:00AM Holy Mass
Rosary said 25 minutes before Holy Mass
All are WELCOME! But receiving Holy Communion are for those who are of age and practicing the Catholic faith.
We practice because we are not yet perfect!

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

Pastor Martin Weigand
39774 Co. 4 Blvd., Goodhue • 651-923-4624
gracelutheranchurch@gmail.com • www.gracestpeters.org
Sunday Morning Worship 8:30a.m. with communion on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.
Sunday School at 9:30a.m., Sunday Bible Study at 9:45a.m., Confirmation Class 5:45 on Wednesday at St Peter's.
8:30a.m. Quilting and Bible Study on Wednesday at St Peter's, and 10:30a.m. Midweek Bible Study on Thursday at St Peter's.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Pioneer and Perfecter of Faith

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.
— Hebrews 12:1-2

Our reading today invites us to reflect on the life of faith as a race marked out for us.

And who has gone before us to mark it out? Jesus, the pioneer (or trailblazer) of faith.

He did it all, providing this great gift for us. He paved the way when we were so lost in our sin that we were like dead people walking in darkness (Isaiah 9:2; Ephesians 2:1-5). He made us alive to faith. He justified us, he sanctified us, and he sustains us through every trial. Jesus lights the way for us, and he will bring us safely through to where he is. As the apostle Paul describes it in Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

Some Bible translations describe Jesus' role here as the "author and finisher" of faith, and that reminds me of some treasured gifts that grace our family's home. My mother-inlaw and late sister-in-law gifted us with beautiful, handmade quilts. They "authored" these treasures, designing them on graph paper, choosing colors, cutting pieces of fabric, and quilting them together. They also "finished" these artworks beautifully, down to the last binding stitch. I benefit from these gifts of grace, resting under someone else's finished work.

In our life of faith, we depend on Jesus' accomplished work. From start to finish, we can fix our eyes on him, following his lead and relying on his guidance and finished work every step of the way.

Pioneer and Perfecter of faith, where would we be without you? Lead and guide us, Lord, and may we rest in you. Amen.

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN (WELS)

Pastor Randall Kuznicki
Minneola Twp. Co. Rd. 7, rural Zumbrota
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.; Communion 3rd Sunday
Sunday School and Bible Studies (Adult & Teen) 11:00a.m.

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD

Pastor Steven Frentz
28961 365th St., Goodhue
651-923-4438
Email: stpeter@sleepyeyetel.net
9:30a.m. Sunday School
10:30a.m. Worship

E-mail your church announcements, schedule to the Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

MINNEOLA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Judy Thompson-Reitz
www.minneolalutheranchurch.com
13628 Cty. 50 Blvd., Goodhue
Office line: (507) 218-7177 Pastoral Care: 507-218-9063
Sunday School (first two Sundays of month) 9:30a.m.
Worship at 9:00a.m. (Communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays)

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

Pastor Robbin Robbert
36620 Co. 4 Blvd., Goodhue • 651-923-4773
Sunday 9:00am Worship
Communion offred on the 2nd & 4th Sundays.

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

Pastor Eric Hanson • www.stlukegoodhue.org
37750 County 6 Blvd., Goodhue, MN 55027
Email: office@stlukegoodhue.org • 651-998-7106
8:30a.m. Sunday School; 9:30a.m. Sunday Worship
6:45p.m. Wednesday Worship

ST. PETER'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

Pastor Martin Weigand
702 West Third Ave., Goodhue, MN • 715-441-5086
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45a.m. with communion on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.
Sunday School at 9:30a.m. at Grace.
Sunday Bible Study at 9:30a.m.,
Confirmation Class 5:45p.m. on Wednesday,
8:30a.m. Quilting and Bible Study on Wednesday, and 10:30a.m. Midweek Bible Class on Thursday.

LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor: David Krinke, Email: pastordavid@landslutheran.org
Pastor: Nikki Rockne, Email: pastornikki@landslutheran.org
P O Box 225/16640 Hwy 60 Blvd, Zumbrota, MN
(507) 732-5482
Web Site: www.landslutheran.org
Facebook: Lands Lutheran Church
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

St. Luke Church Launches CarePortal to Help Meet Local Needs of Children and Families

GOODHUE, MN — St. Luke Church in Goodhue, along with community members, is launching a new outreach opportunity designed to help local children and families facing real and immediate needs.

St. Luke will serve as the anchor church for CarePortal in the Goodhue/Bellechester area, providing a starting point for connecting local needs with people who are ready to help. While St. Luke is helping lead the effort, CarePortal is intended to be a community-wide opportunity. Churches, organizations, businesses, families, and individuals throughout the surrounding area are invited to be part of the effort.

Through CarePortal, St. Luke, will be connected with needs identified by local child-serving professionals and community organizations. These requests may involve practical needs such as food, clothing, household items, transportation assistance, or other resources that can make a meaningful difference for a child or family.

"CarePortal provides practical avenues for St. Luke's friends, members, and community partners to 'serve the least of these,' as Jesus calls us to in Matthew 25," said Pastor Eric Hason of St. Luke Church.

CarePortal provides a way for churches and community members to respond when a need arises, bringing people and resources together to help families experience practical support and care. Rather than simply learning about community needs, responders can choose how to help based on their time, abilities, and resources.

The initiative reflects the desire of the Goodhue/Bellechester community to live out Jesus' call to care for our neighbors. The group's guiding phrase for CarePortal is "See a Need. Share the Care."

"We know there are families in our community facing challenges that may not always be visible," said Team Leads and Community Partners Char von Knobelsdorff and Teresa Buck. "CarePortal gives us a way to come alongside them and say, 'You're not alone. We can help.'"

St. Luke introduced CarePortal to the congregation on 10/25/2026, sharing information about how members and others in the community can participate. Those interested in learning more or responding to future needs can sign up through https://system.careportal.org/register

Whether through a church, business, organization, family, or as an individual, people throughout the surrounding area are welcome to become part of the CarePortal effort and help respond when needs arise in our community.

About CarePortal

CarePortal connects local churches and community organizations with opportunities to respond to the needs of children and families. Through the CarePortal network, child-serving professionals can identify needs and connect those needs with people and organizations willing to help. Learn more about CarePortal at careportal.org.

Pastors Corner

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Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?

Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,

And you will be singing as the days go by. [Refrain]

3 When you look at others with their lands and gold,

Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;

Count your many blessings, money cannot buy

Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high. [Refrain]

4 So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,

Do not be discouraged, God is over all;

Count your many blessings, angels will attend,

Help and comfort give you to your journey's end. [Refrain]"

GOODHUE CHRISTMAS
ENJOY THE HAPPINESS
GOODHUE
Christkindlmarkt
GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 2026

9 AM - 2 PM	BLOOMS ON BROADWAY - CHECK OUT THE VARIETY OF PORCH POTS, POINSETTIAS AND CENTERPIECES
9 AM - NOON	HOME TOURS GET YOUR TICKETS AT J HILL PROMOTIONS & THE GOODHUE DEPOT
10 AM - 1 PM	WORK OUT 24/7 - FREE GYM USE (MUST BE 18)
10 AM	LANA HUEMANN REAL ESTATE - LET LANA HELP WRAP UP YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS - FREE WRAPPING PAPER (ONE PER HOUSEHOLD) WHILE SUPPLIES LAST - 207 N 2ND STREET
11 AM - 2 PM	MEET SANTA - THE 3RD PLACE PHOTOS WITH "THE GRINCH" VINE HAVEN HARDWARE
11 AM - 3 PM	GERMAN MARKET - DOWNTOWN (SEE OTHER SIDE) HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES - DOWNTOWN 2ND STREET PUB - HOT GLÜHWEIN WINE, HOT SPICED APPLE RUM & BAVARIAN PRETZEL & CHEESE. MERAKI MED SPA - IV THERAPY, WELLNESS SHOTS & BOTOX CORNER BAR - FOOD N DRINK SPECIALS, CRAFTS, BAKED GOODS AND KID ACTIVITIES HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM APPLE CIDER & COOKIES - 105 4TH AVE J HILL SHOWROOM & GIFTS LIMITED-EDITION GOODHUE HOLIDAY ORNAMENT, HOLIDAY ITEMS & SPECIALS
1 PM - 3 PM	BODY SOUL - 5-MINUTE SEATED CHAIR MASSAGES
4 PM	LIONS MEAT RAFFLE - 2ND STREET PUB
NEW EVENT	
5:30 PM	MAGICAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTED PARADE FOR SIGN-UP, CONTACT 651-380-8370

JAYCEES CHRISTMAS TREE SALES
THE GOODHUE DEPOT PARKING LOT

Happy Fall!
Time to look ahead to the Holidays!
Order fresh flower centerpieces for Thanksgiving and Poinsettias for Christmas.
Stop in or give Beth a call!
Blooms on Broadway
Floral & Gift Shop
Cut Flowers • Plants • Landscape • Bridal & Gifts
www.bloomsonbroadway.com
Open Tues. through Fri. 10-5; Sat. 9-Noon
201 N. Broadway, Goodhue • 651-923-4380

Celebrate Recovery
A COMMUNITY OF HOPE
A Christian 12 Step Program
Join us on Sundays at South Troy Church
We meet Sundays at 5 pm
South Troy Wesleyan Church
56817 Highway 63 Zumbro Falls, MN
Schedule for meetings:
• Supper at 5:00 pm
• Large group meeting: 5:45 - 6:30 pm
• Small group meeting: 6:30 - 7:00 pm
Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find healing for your hurts, hang-ups and habits.
Begin your journey today!

Shear Enhancement
Come In for Your Thanksgiving Haircut
Sending warm wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving to you and yours!
Meagan Jaeger
Open Mon. through Fri.
Sat. by Appointment
201 N. Broadway, Goodhue
651-923-4850

Thinking of Our
FRIENDS & CUSTOMERS AT THANKSGIVING
As we gear up for another Thanksgiving, we're thankful to be celebrating it with the customers and friends who have made our year so special.
ROYAL AUTO SERVICE
Shell
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:00 • 111 3rd Ave., Goodhue • 651-923-4525

Obituaries

Karen Marie Puppe

Karen Marie Puppe, age 81 of Goodhue, died on Tuesday evening, October 6, 2026 at Mayo Clinic Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin.



Karen was born on February 18, 1945 in Red Wing, the daughter of Raymond and Marion (Benidt) Augustine. She graduated from Goodhue High School in 1963 and later received her degree in Food and Nutrition from Mankato State University in 1967.

Karen married Gerald E. Puppe on May 4, 1968 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Goodhue. Together they raised three children on their rural Goodhue farm, where Karen was a homemaker and worked the farm with Gerald. She later was a teller with the Goodhue Bank (now First Farmers and Merchants). Free time found Karen and Gerald dancing at the Skyline Ballroom, Red Wing. Karen was practical to a fault and treasured her simple life in their country home. She wouldn't change a thing!

She enjoyed being outdoors, especially on the farm, where she loved to feed the calves and tend to her flowers. Karen enjoyed singing and being part of the church choir at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. During quiet times at home, Karen found enjoyment in games of Solitaire and Sudoku and putting together puzzles.

Above all, her joy in life was her grandchildren. She loved making cookies, especially Christmas cookies, with them. She will be missed and loved always.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Gerald; children, David (Jess) Puppe, Paula Puppe, and Sara (Dusty) Gold; grandchildren, Payton, Preston, Carter, Madeline, Jaxson, Michaela, Connor, Morgan, Addison, Emma, and Briahna; great-grandson, Henry; brother, Robert (Carlene) Augustine; sister-in-law, Barbara Augustine; brother-in-law, Lyle Puppe; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ray and Marion Augustine; parents-in-law, Carl and Celia Puppe; and brother, Jim Augustine.

Visitation was held at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Goodhue on Sunday, Oct. 11 from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. A memorial service was at church on Monday, Oct. 12 at 11:00 am, with visitation from 10:00 am - 11:00 am. This service was live-streamed by St. Peter's Church here Monday, October 12 at 11 am: Karen Puppe service. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery, Goodhue.

Active urn bearer was David Puppe.

Harlin Walter Reese



Harlin Walter Reese, 96, of Goodhue, formerly of Oradell, New Jersey, died Friday, October 9, 2026 at Goodhue Living Community.

He was born March 18, 1930 in Goodhue to Arthur and Amanda (Lohmeyer) Reese. He grew up in Goodhue and graduated from Goodhue High School in 1947. After graduation he attended Dunwoody Institute where he learned a trade. He went onto become a very skilled carpenter and woodworker. He enlisted in the U.S. Army where in was stationed in New Jersey. While there, he met his wife Dorothy and the couple was married in 1955. After a brief stay in Goodhue, the couple returned to Oradell to raise their family.

Harlin owned and operated his own carpentry and cabinetry business over the years. He owned Wood Artisans and Norwood Kitchens for many years. He and his family loved playing cards. He had a sixth sense when it came to card games and he was a formidable Bridge and Pinochle player, as well a coveted Euchre partner. He loved farming – Goodhue was always close to his heart. He substituted his tractor for a John Deere ride-on lawnmower. In Oradell he satisfied his green thumb with an incredible garden.

Most of all Harlin loved his family. He was very proud of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and looked forward to family gatherings. He lived his faith. His prerogative was always whatever he could do to help others. He spent years raising funds and his own hammer to remodel and improve his home churches in both Paramus and Goodhue. His sense of humor and selfless nature made him a fantastic role model. He was an angel here on earth among friends and family.

He is survived by his daughters; Barbara (Ron) Radomski of Macungie, Pennsylvania, Deborah Vanzo of Manalapan, New Jersey, and Laurie (Jeff) Mason of River Edge, New Jersey; daughter-in-law, Kelly Reese of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; 8 grandchildren, Christopher (Dnaielle) Radomski, Kevin (Jordan) Vanzo, Sharon Radomski, Cheryl (Tim) Straut, Ryan (Claire) Mason, Kenny Mason, Trevor Reese, and Curtis Reese; and six great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by is wife Dorothy in 2005; son Robert Reese; 5 brothers, Arthur, Donald, Laverne, Hilbert, and John Reese; son-in-law, Peter Vanzo; his close friend Betty Johnson; and his parents.

A funeral service was at 12 p.m. noon at St. Lukes Lutheran Church in Goodhue. Rev. Eric Hanson officiated. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at church. Following his services in Minnesota, services will be held at Church of the Savior Lutheran in Paramus, New Jersey and burial will be at George Washington Cemetery, also in Paramus. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com

Donald John Amandus Reese



Donald John Amandus Reese, passed away at Goodhue Living Center, on Monday, October 12, 2026, at the age of 100, surrounded by family.

Donald was born in Goodhue Township, Minnesota, on September 15, 1926 to Arthur Sr. and Amanda (Lohmeyer) Reese. He was one of 6 sons. Donald was baptized, confirmed and a lifelong member of St. John's Lutheran Church, rural Goodhue. He attended St John's Lutheran School. Donald joined the US Army in October of 1950, where he proudly served.

On June 28, 1952, Donald was united in marriage to Lila Mehrkens at St John's Church, Bear Valley, MN. They were blessed with 8 children. Farming was Donald's life. Donald enjoyed attending auctions and collecting antiques. He also had a passion for horses and John Deere tractors. Donald and Lila went to many polka dances. They also enjoyed bowling, traveling and playing cards.

Donald's legacy to others can simply be said in three words: Faith, Family and Farming.

Donald is survived by his loving wife of 74 years, Lila Reese of Goodhue; children, Kathleen (Jeff) Ofstie of Goodhue, Diane Reese (Thomas) of Lakeland Shores, Susan (Mike) Landry of Kenyon, David (Lori) Reese of Goodhue, Daniel (Bonnie) Reese of Goodhue, Dale (Lorraine) Reese of Goodhue, Cindy (Bill) Cordes of Red Wing and Jodi (Jeff) Whitcomb of Zumbrota; 29 grandchildren; 50 great-grandchildren; 5 great-great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Donna Reese, Betty Mehrkens and Joyce Larson; many nieces; nephews; other relatives and friends. In addition to his parents, Donald is preceded in death by his brothers, Arthur Jr. (Velva Mae), Laverne (Lenea), Harlin (Dorothy), Hilbert (Bernie) and John Reese.

On Saturday, October 17, 2026 the Funeral Service was at 12 noon at St. John's Lutheran Church, rural Goodhue. Rev. Robbin Robbert officiated. Visitation was two hours prior to the service at the church starting at 10am. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the St. John's Lutheran Church or School.

Mahn Family Funeral Home – Bodelson Chapel, Red Wing, is entrusted with arrangements. www.MahnFamilyFuneralHome.com

Tina Marie Heise

Tina Marie Heise, 51, of Goodhue, MN, passed away on Sunday, October 11, 2026 at her home, after a long illness.



Tina was born on June 20, 1975, to Daniel & Debra (Riess) Simmons in Rochester, MN. She did many different things during her life. She started cleaning houses at an early age, was a Foster Mom for 5 children, owned and operated a Gallery and Gifts, that was full of photography she did herself. Jewelry, she made herself and other things she thought were unique. She was very passionate and very creative about everything she ever did in her life, her kids, family, friends, husband, and business. Tina tried to do the right thing, tried to help anyone in a difficult situation, no matter who it was. She was the most forgiving, loving, caring, and giving person anyone could have met. Tina made friends everywhere she went. She will be sadly missed by all that loved her.

She married Mark Heise on December 21, 2006. Tina had a great sense of humor, loved to laugh, and hang out with her husband and her pets.

Tina is revived by her loving husband, Mark; sons, Reiss (Hailey Stodola) Musty, Aiden Musty; daughter, Brittany (Kyle Graner) White; step-daughter, Sarah (Neji) Schneider; grandchildren, Louie Musty, Madelyn White, Kale & Evan Schneider; parents, Dan & Jan Simmons; sisters, Amanda & Audrea Simmons; nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Debra Simmons.

My favorite thing about Tina, was whether she was happy, sad or mad, she let me know everyday of our life together that she really loved be back. - Her loving husband, Mark

John Henry Buck, Jr.

John Henry Buck, Jr., age 88, of Zumbrota, passed away peacefully on October 7, 2026 at his home, surrounded by his family. He was born on March 22, 1938 to John and Rosalie (Puppe) Buck. He was baptized and confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church. He graduated from Zumbrota High School, class of 1956. On April 12, 1958, he married Nancy Berg and the couple raised three children.



John devoted most of his adult life to farming, milking cows, raising crops, cattle and hogs. He also delivered for MoorMan's Feed for 19 years and worked for NAPA in Zumbrota for 10 years.

In his free time, he enjoyed hunting and golfing. John also like to entertain and spend time with his friends. He was a fan of card games and made the occasional trip to Treasure Island. He enjoyed singing and often sang to his grandchildren. He was a kind, thoughtful man who truly enjoyed his life.

He will be missed by many, including his children, Candice (Clancy) Trenda of Hastings, Terry (Kelli) Buck of Zumbrota, and Renae (Joel) Wolf of Mankato; nine grandchildren, Adam, Lindsey (Tyler) and Nathan Trenda, Ashlen (Travis) Kauffman, Kaitlen (Spencer) Ellingson and Rianne Buck, Stacy (Jesse) Courrier, Travis Robinson and Linnea Wolf; 10 great-grandchildren; special friend, Dee Knutson; and siblings, Berdell Gadient and Joan Moldenhauer.

He is preceded in death by brothers, Luverne, Cyrus, and Darold Buck; sister, Ardel Flynn; and his parents.

A memorial service will be 11 a.m., Thursday, October 15, 2026 at Christ Lutheran Church in Zumbrota with Rev. Robbin Robberts officiating. Visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service at church. Burial to follow at Zumbrota Cemetery. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com

We're online!
www.goodhuemn.com

Gwendolyn "Gwen" Rebecca Stehr



Gwendolyn "Gwen" Rebecca Stehr, nee Scharpen of Zumbrota, MN was called home to her Lord on 10/7/2026. She was 83 years old. She was born April 9, 1943 to Henry Arthur Scharpen and Phyllis Rebecca Scharpen, nee Vieths in Red Wing, MN. Gwen was baptized, confirmed and married at St. John's Lutheran Church in rural Goodhue, MN. A 1961 graduate of Goodhue High School, and Miller Hospital School of Nursing in St. Paul, MN in 1963. She then went to work as an LPN at Red Wing City Hospital, Methodist Hospital in Rochester, MN and Zumbrota Community Hospital in Zumbrota, MN. She married Ralph E. Stehr on February 16, 1963 and was married 52 years. She worked as a dental assistant/secretary for Dr. Dols of Goodhue for 8 years and then as church secretary for United Redeemer Church until retiring in 2004. She enjoyed family gatherings, attending grandchildren's events as they grew up, decorating for holidays, flower gardening and lawn mowing. She worked on committees at church, sang in the choir, worked at the Horticulture Department at the Goodhue County Fair and as an election judge for township and city elections. She was a 4-H leader for the Goodhue Gesundheits for a number of years. She helped organize the first meeting of the Cross Country Gals Homemaker group that continued for over 50 years, and also served on the committee for the first Goodhue High School All-Night graduation party in 1984. She enjoyed working on family genealogy and scrapbooking.

She is survived by her daughter, Kimberly Erickson (Kelly) Bolin of Mazeppa and son Mark (Lisa) Stehr of Goodhue. Grandchildren: Jordan Erickson (Michaela Oelkers) of Baldwin, WI; Matthew Stehr of Red Wing; Tyler (Emilee) Stehr of Winthrop, MN; Joey (Cody) Miller of Red Wing. Great Grandchildren: Jolee, Emryn, Reese and Ezekiel Stehr and Tucker Miller. Sisters-in-law: Arlene Scharpen, Karen Stehr, Elizabeth Stehr, Mary Jane Swee and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Phyllis Scharpen, husband Ralph Stehr, brother Virgil Scharpen, Niece Gayle (Scharpen) Krause, brothers-in-law Roger Stehr, Richard Stehr and David Swee and a nephew, Jon Stehr.

Pallbearers (Grandchildren): Jordan Erickson, Matthew and Tyler Stehr, Joey Miller and Ben and Peyton Bolin.

Funeral service was at 3 p.m. Sunday, October 18, 2026 at Christ Lutheran Church, Zumbrota. Visitation began at 1 p.m. until the time of the service at the church. Burial took place in the Zumbrota Cemetery. A reception and meal followed the service at the new dome Christ Lutheran School, 1050 Jefferson Drive. Memorials are preferred to Christ Lutheran Church or School.

Arrangements handled by Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel.

Jason James Wallerich



Jason James Wallerich, 46, of Goodhue, passed away unexpectedly following a farm-related accident on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at Mayo Clinic Hospital in Cannon Falls. He was born on October 27, 1979, to Jim and Debbie (Moyer) Wallerich in Lake City, Minnesota.

Jason met his wife, Molly, in 2013, and the two were married in 2016. Together, they built a beautiful life and were blessed with five wonderful children: Landon, Marybeth, Truett, Huckley, and Joelle. Jason's family was his whole world, and nothing brought him more happiness than being a husband and dad. He loved making memories with his family, whether it was heading up north, playing ball, spending time outdoors, and often going out to the farm to fire up the dirt bikes and four-wheelers for the kids. He especially loved giving the kids tractor rides and pulling them behind the snowmobile. These simple moments together were some of his most treasured times.

Jason had a deep love for farming and took great pride in his work. He was an incredibly hard worker who believed in showing up, getting the job done, and giving everything his best. Farming was more than just work to Jason; it was a way he could honor the Lord.

Jason's greatest legacy is the love he leaves behind in his wife and five children. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all those whose lives he touched. Though his time with them was far too short, the memories he created, the lessons he taught, and the love he gave will live on forever.

Jason is survived by his loving wife, Molly; five children, Landon, Marybeth, Truett, Huckley, and Joelle; his parents, Jim and Debbie Wallerich; his parents-in-law, Bruce and Becky Benrud; his sisters, Angela (Corey) Eischens and Brittany (Marc) Huneke; his brother-in-law, Brad Benrud; his grandparents, Jim and Mary Wallerich; six nieces and nephews, Seth, Allie, Katelyn, Aribella, Otillie, and Anton; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Benrud; his grandparents Joanne and Herbert Moyer, his grandparents-in-law, Audrey and Lester Benrud, Eugene and Alvina Balow, and Mary Lou Ahlers.

A funeral service was held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Zumbrota. Visitation was held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and for one hour prior to the service. Burial took place at Zion Lutheran Cemetery in rural Goodhue.

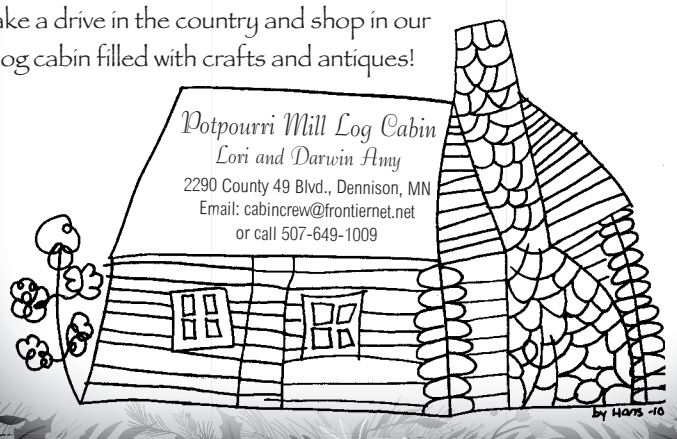
Arrangements are entrusted to Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel, in Zumbrota.

Holly Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: November 28, December 5, 12
Sundays: November 29, December 6, 13
Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

Call 507-649-1009 to set up other dates and times to shop in our cabin.

Take a drive in the country and shop in our log cabin filled with crafts and antiques!



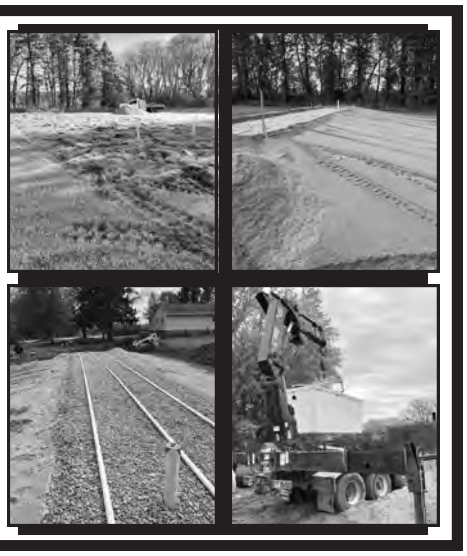
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From Cows to Couples

(continued from page 1)

Built in 1869, Cal has spent the past few years transforming their barn from being used as a home for dairy cattle into a charming and welcoming site for couples to say their "I dos" as Red Silo Events.

Just as the original Strauss family members did when they homesteaded this land, Cal and his family have spent countless hours planning the improvements and then tearing out livestock equipment, sawing, sanding, painting, building, decorating and doing everything needed to see this transformation evolve. "Turning this old barn into a place for weddings has been a labor of love," Strauss said. His background in construction and farming work ethic have been instrumental in seeing these changes occur. "Friends and family members have helped build benches, paint signs, create a Facebook page and website and take care of so many details that have made this dream possible," he added.

In 2025, the family dedicated to Red Silo Events officially expanded with Cal's marriage to Tracy which, of course, took place at Red Silo Events. He said, "Moving forward together, we've been able to start hosting weddings." By touring Red Silo Events, it's easy to see why this charming and historic wedding venue is a comfortable and quaint setting for a bride and groom to gather their families and friends to celebrate their big day.

When asked about the name of this unique wedding venue, Strauss pointed out the original red brick silo attached to the barn as one of the only remaining like it still standing in the area. Although couples can plan an outdoor ceremony under an ivy-covered arbor with rolling hills in the background or an indoor ceremony surrounded by warm glowing lights and barnwood, the red brick silo offers a picturesque back-drop. According to Strauss, "We wanted to create an affordable place where people could come to celebrate events and make new memories."

Red Silo Events is also available for hosting family gatherings, proms and corporate events. More information can be found at redsiloeventsmn.com.







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Community Express and Courier Services Launches Nonprofit Transportation Service

Community Express and Courier Services, a new 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is helping people in Goodhue and surrounding communities meet their transportation needs. Its mission is to provide reliable, affordable transportation for medical appointments and everyday activities.

Services include wheelchair transportation and rides to medical appointments, physical therapy, dialysis treatments and hospital discharges, as well as grooming appointments, airport shuttles, and trips to the bank and grocery store.

Access to transportation helps people maintain their independence, keep appointments and stay connected to their communities. Community Express and Courier Services aims to make those essential trips easier for local residents.

The organization is seeking volunteers with fresh ideas, paid drivers and people interested in supporting its work in other roles. Whether you have time, skills or ideas to share, Community Express and Courier Services welcomes hearing what you have to offer. Apply online at CommunityExpress.net.

Community donations help support this mission. Donations are tracked by the donor's ZIP code so funds support transportation needs in the donor's local area.

The organization has also launched its "12 Days of Christmas Treats from the North Pole" holiday fundraiser. Visit CommunityExpress.net or follow Community Express and Courier Services on Facebook for treat selections and ordering information.

Please plan ahead for your accessible transportation needs this holiday season, and book as soon as possible. Elderly people and people who use wheelchairs are too often forgotten when holiday plans are made. Community Express and Courier Services can help with transportation to and from holiday festivities, so please call early to arrange your ride.

For information about transportation services, opportunities to get involved, donations or the holiday fundraiser, visit CommunityExpress.net or find Community Express and Courier Services on Facebook.

For any questions, call Nancy at 715-216-6058.



Christmas Cookie Drop Fundraiser Brings Holiday Treats to Goodhue

(continued from page 1)

Visit CommunityExpress.net or follow Community Express and Courier Services on Facebook to see the treats and find ordering information. Orders must be placed by November 20, 2026.

Orders will be available for pickup at JHill Promotions on December 5, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., during the Goodhue Christkindlmarkt German Christmas Market. Some holiday treat trays will also be available that day.

The fundraiser features cookies, fudge, truffles and other seasonal favorites—perfect for holiday gatherings, sharing with friends or giving as gifts.

Proceeds support Community Express and Courier Services, helping provide reliable, affordable transportation in Goodhue and surrounding communities. Donations are tracked by the donor's ZIP code so funds support transportation needs in the donor's local area.

While picking up their treats, visitors can shop JHill Promotions' limited edition Goodhue holiday ornaments, along with other holiday items and specials.

For questions or assistance ordering, call Nancy at 715-216-6058.

Website: CommunityExpress.net

Facebook: Community Express and Courier Services

Community Help Network Seeks Volunteers and Donations for Holiday Meals

(continued from page 1)

The nonprofit organization, run entirely by volunteers, typically prepares 100 baskets to help local households enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

The Goodhue and Mazeppa Lions Clubs and Kohlnhofer Farms have stepped up to support this year's Thanksgiving baskets. Thanks to additional support from Kohlnhofer Farms, Community Help Network will also be able to provide a Christmas dinner this year.

Thanksgiving baskets will be prepared at St. Peter's in Goodhue on November 21 and distributed that same day. Christmas dinners will be prepared at St. Peter's in Goodhue on December 19 and distributed that same day. Volunteers should arrive at 8 a.m. on both dates.

More donations are needed to complete the holiday meals, including the extra fixings—and, of course, the pie. Volunteers are also needed to help with the effort.

Community Help Network helps local residents meet their needs, with 100% of donations spent helping someone in the donor's community.

Thank you to everyone coming together to help neighbors enjoy a holiday meal. Your time, donations and support make this effort possible.

To volunteer, contribute or learn more, call Nancy at 715-216-6058.

Share Your Good News!

Submit your engagement, wedding or birth announcement

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Klein Trucking expands in Mazeppa

Klein Trucking recently purchased Turbo's Repair in Mazeppa. Corey Klein bought the business in June of 2026 from his brother when Jason decided to sell and invest his time in Axle Surgeons/Xpress lane that he also owned in downtown Mazeppa. Jason Klein started Turbo's Repair in this location in Oct 2004.

Corey Klein started trucking in 2015 and continues to grow the business every year. He grew up on the farm working with his dad and riding in the trucks and it became a passion of his. He started driving semi and expanded to owner/operators and company drivers, when Jason decided to sell Turbo's Repair he made the decision to purchase the business and expand from trucking to trucking and repair. Cory has maintained the same staff, adding a Receptionist/bookkeeper to the team. Klein Trucking and repair is offering the same services with more services being added.

Klein Trucking hauls locally and regionally. They have flatbed trailers: hauling wood, metal, shingles and more. Currently they have 15 trucks on the road, and are hiring company and owner operators.

Klein Trucking is not just trucking; they are a full diesel repair shop, with mobile service as well. General Diesel repair shop specializing in heavy duty truck and semis, from oil changes, brakes, clutches, hoses, DOT inspections, alternators, motors: and everything in between. The shop employs 4 full-time employees (our shop staff has not changed, we just added a Receptionist/bookkeeper) and 1 part-time high school student. They also have owner operators and company drivers.

If you need it hauled or fixed, big or small, they do it all. Klein Trucking (and Repair) offers monthly specials, oil change punch cards (11 diesel oil changes, get one free), we also have gift cards available: and in December we are hold a month-long Open House/watch for more details.



Pine Island Data Center Settlement

(continued from page 1)

The agreement comes after the MCEA filed the lawsuit, arguing a more thorough environmental review needed to be conducted on the project.

The city of Pine Island held a closed meeting on Wednesday, to discuss what was pending litigation. In that meeting Aubree Derksen, a resident of Pine Island said an attorney speak on behalf of the residents opposed to the data center to ensure their calls were heard during the closed session.

"Because we had representation we had a seat at the table," Derksen said. "We were in the room when these conversations were happening and we got to shape what it looked like."

Back in May, a Goodhue County judge issued a temporary restraining order to prevent construction on the project.

According to the release, as part of the settlement, the proposed data center will be the first in Minnesota to undergo a new state environmental review process.

Under the agreement, MCEA will dismiss the lawsuit, and Google and Ryan Companies will undergo a new Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). That worksheet will be submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for review.

The parties have agreed to propose that the MPCA's study will cover a detailed analysis of how the data center proposal would affect a wide range of environmental and community concerns, including water and energy impacts, noise, and light pollution.

Ryan and Google have also agreed to develop a plan to mitigate those effects, which will be presented to the MPCA and the City of Pine Island.

Pine Island residents, other government agencies, and all Minnesotans will have a chance to review and comment on the new study and mitigation during a proposed extended 60-day comment period.

If the MPCA decides that the EAW and mitigation plan are adequate, they will be returned to the Pine Island City Council, which will then gather final public comments and vote on the proposed mitigation plan.

There can be no construction on project until the MPCA and city approve of the plan.

MCEA CEO Kathryn Hoffman released the following statement on the settlement:

"For too long, AI data center proposals in Minnesota have been shrouded in secrecy. This settlement brings transparency, democracy, and proper oversight back into the process, and provides Pine Island residents with critical information about how this proposal stands to impact their community and our shared natural resources," said Kathryn Hoffman, CEO of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA), the plaintiff in the case. "Going forward, we will continue to monitor the process and review the information as it's released."

Pine Island resident Aubree Derksen, a member of the Stop the Pine Island Data Center group also released a statement:

"My neighbors and I deserve to have a say in something that could completely transform our community and way of life, but so far we've been denied that at every turn of this process," said Pine Island resident and Stop the Pine Island Data Center member Aubree Derksen. "Today, we take a long overdue first step toward righting that wrong."

Peter Fitzgerald, the senior vice president of Ryan Companies, released the following statement:

"Ryan Companies is pleased the lawsuit has been settled. Over the last three years, Ryan has built lasting relationships with the Pine Island community to deliver clear community benefits alongside a project that meets and exceeds the state's highest standards.

"The settlement confirms that previous city approvals remain valid and we welcome the additional review by the MPCA. We believe this is a best-in-class project that has the potential to become the national standard for responsible data center development. In addition to the commitments made to the community and school, the project is investing in Minnesota's grid with a historic clean energy investment. We are also limiting water use with a closed loop system that protects our water resources. We are now adding enhanced review and municipal protections with this agreement."

Luke Hellier, the public affairs manager for Google, also released a statement on the settlement:

"Google is pleased to reach a constructive resolution that allows Project Skyway to move forward in Pine Island," said Luke Hellier, Public Affairs Manager, Google. "The goal has always been to build world-class infrastructure while serving as a responsible neighbor and resource steward. This agreement ensures the project meets robust environmental standards while delivering local economic benefits. Google appreciates the collaborative work with Ryan Companies, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, and the City of Pine Island to secure a sustainable path forward."



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Bill Hermann Honored for Military Service

(continued from page 1)

Bill grew up in Zumbro Falls and married Jeanne on September 5, 1952. When the Army sent Bill to serve in Germany, Jeanne said, "I'm going too". The couple lived there from 1954 to 1955 when they came back to Minnesota and moved to Lake City. In 1959 they relocated to Wanamingo and founded Hermann Implement, the John Deere dealership which they ran for the next 36 years.

Bill was a member of the Wanamingo Fire Department and Lion's Club and he and Jeanne were active members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Their son, Wayne (Bonnie) was born in Germany, followed by daughters, Debra (Gregg) Erickson and Lori (Todd) Greseth when they returned to Minnesota. The family now includes 9 grandchildren and 13 greatgrandchildren, although Jeanne passed away in 2009.

Three members of the Red Wing American Legion and the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon organization, and Pam Roe, a social worker with Mayo Hospice, joined Wayne, Bonnie, Debra and Gregg at Bill's apartment to present him with a special military recognition certificate and other gifts.

Roe began by saying, "It's our honor to gather today to present Bill with this certificate of appreciation from the United States Army. It says, 'We pay special tribute to you for your military service to America and for advancing the universal hope of freedom and liberty for all.'"

An Army veteran placed a special pin with the Army and American flags on Bill's collar and said, "Looks good!"

Roe continued the presentation saying, "Thank you for your service to our nation, thank you for the sacrifices you made, and your willingness to serve our country. You endured hardships and were willing to risk your life to maintain our freedoms and on behalf of the Mayo Clinic staff and volunteers, the Veterans Administration, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and our local legion, we want to thank you, and please accept our sincere gratitude. When you see that pin, know that your service to the nation is deeply appreciated and we thank you."



Wayne and Bonnie Hermann and Debra and Gregg Erickson attended a We Honor Veterans pinning program for Wayne and Debra's dad, Wilfred "Bill" Hermann of Wanamingo.

With each presentation, Bill responded with a quiet, mystified but thankful, "Oh boy". He later made sure that the certificate was displayed prominently in his room for everyone to see.

In addition to the certificate and pin, Roe and the veterans gifted Bill some commemorative coins. "This is called an honor coin," Roe began. "The Mayo brothers were actually service members, so our appreciation from the Mayo Clinic goes right from the very roots of our organization. So this is a special coin that says, 'Dedicated to the American soldier by William and Charles H. Mayo'". A coin given by the servicemen shows the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon logo with all the military branches on the back, including the Space Force. Another one says, "Thank you for your service".

The last gift Roe handed Bill was a red, white and blue pillow case from the Evening Star Quilting Guild of Red Wing. They included a note saying they are, "honored to present this pillow case to thank you for all you have done to protect our freedom. Gratitude and appreciation have been sewn into every stitch".

Bill, a bit emotional, acknowledged his gifts and visitors saying, "I appreciate you. That was quite a time. Shooting people, I just didn't believe in that." He may not have agreed with the tactics, but he served his country proudly.

Bill shared stories of his time in the service. "I still remember the day my two brothers took me down to Wabasha to get into the Army. One thing they said was, 'anytime there's an officer around, salute him.' I thought, 'Well, why is he so much better?' I found out in a hurry!" He described the vaccination process for going overseas as walking through a line and taking a painful shot in each arm, "But, I lived".

Bill spoke of his job in the military. "I wanted to be a mechanic, I thought that would be good." Then he was told, "You excelled in math in the test that you took and we have a better job for you … with that job, you'll always be at least 20 miles behind where they're firing and you'll always be in where it's warm because you'll be in a van or something and it will be clean." "I said, 'I'll take that job!'"

Before leaving, the servicemen declared, "We want to give you a salute". The gesture was returned by Bill and the group sang a verse of My Country 'Tis of Thee.

Roe again thanked Bill for his service and he responded by saying, "It was good, I guess. I came back alive. Here I am!"



Congratulations, Girls Soccer - Section Champs



Courtesy of Goodhue Public Schools



Courtesy of Goodhue Public Schools

10 Wins!



Variety , this is the only 2nd time in soccer school history they've had 10 wins! They beat PI/ZM haven't done that in 8 years. Although we did have home field advantage, we got knocked out in the 1st round. It went into double overtime and double shot outs, it was wild! We are so proud of them and all for their hard work and dedication to this sport. A heartfelt Thank You to our coaches Cam, Tim, Joel, & Nate! - *Submitted*





Courtesy of Goodhue Public Schools

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Thoresons Receive Sesquicentennial Farm Award

By Beth Brekke

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) Century and Sesquicentennial Farm Programs recognize Minnesota families who have owned and operated their farms for at least 100 or 150 years. To date, over 11,000 family farms have received the Century Farm honor, while 681 have been honored with the Sesquicentennial Farm recognition. Goodhue County boasts the most Minnesota sesquicentennial farms at 64. An online database featuring all award recipients is available at www.fbmn.org.

According to the MFBF website, Minnesota's agricultural strength has endured because of the resilience and commitment of multi-generational, family-owned farms. In 2026 the MFBF proudly honored 58 sesquicentennial family farms whose legacy spans at least 150 years. James and Taryn Thoreson's 160 Acre farm in Roscoe Township is one of those newly recognized properties.

The Thoresons received their award at a recognition program on Thursday August 13th at the Goodhue County Fair in Zumbrota. Farm Bureau member, Craig Nord opened the program with an explanation of the award criteria. Established in 2008, the Sesquicentennial Farm award celebrates family farms who have sustained continuous ownership for at least 150 years, are 50 acres or larger, and are currently involved in agricultural production.



The Thoreson family of Zumbrota received the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation Sesquicentennial Farm Award during the Goodhue County Fair. (L-R) James, Taryn, Karoline (4), Blake, Emily and Kaleb (2) Thoreson

Honorees will receive a commemorative certificate signed by Governor Tim Walz, Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner, Thom Petersen and MFBF President, Dan Glessing. They also receive an outdoor sign signifying the Sesquicentennial Farm recognition. A display inside the Minnesota Farm Bureau building during the 2026 Minnesota State Fair featured all Sesquicentennial and Century farms.

Farm Bureau member, Tim Mack of Zumbrota introduced the Thoreson family as neighbors and friends. James, Taryn, and their son, Blake took the stage and shared some farm history beginning with James' great-grandfather, Otto Thoreson who purchased 160 acres for $38.00 per acre. He started with dairy cows, horses and grain, calling his property Maple Grove Stock Farm.

James' grandfather, Leonard "Benny" Thoreson took over the farm in 1914. Benny milked cows and raised pigs, chickens, and purebred Oxford sheep in the 1930s. "We always had sheep on the farm," said James, whose father, Otto C. Thoreson took over the operation in 1956.

"The farm has a strong Norwegian heritage," James wrote on the award application. "My father was the second generation born right on the farm in the old house. He spoke Norwegian as his first language, not learning English until he started country school at 5 or 6 years old." Otto continued with sheep and dairy until 1968 when he sold the milking herd and started raising beef cows.

When James married Taryn in 1981, they started a partnership and sold the beef cattle. "We went straight into sheep and expanded that. We grow corn, soybeans, hay and oats. In 2017 we started Thoreson Sheep Farm LLC with our son, Blake".

James credited Blake and his wife, Emily and their children, Karoline and Kaleb (who also attended the event) for always being out helping on the farm. "I was just thinking, one of us has gotten up every day in the morning for the last 150 years and did chores."

Tim Mack congratulated the family and closed the program saying, "That's quite an accomplishment, not many farms stay in the family for 150 years. Like you say, you've got livestock, so someone's gotten up in the morning for 150 years"

Platinum Tractor Expands Business





Twenty-nine year old Nolan Diller is the owner of a tractor sales and equipment rental business in Rural Goodhue County. He grew up on a dairy farm in Missouri with eight brothers. His dad bought and sold equipment on the side to supplement farm income.

Because of that, Nolan quickly took an interest in mechanics and agricultural equipment. He came to the Goodhue County area because of a job offered at local mechanic shop and really like the area and decided to stay.

In 2022, started his own business of buying and selling tractors out of a rented farm shop close to Mazeppa. The business slowly grew from there, and they are still full-time buying and selling tractors under the business name Platinum Tractor LLC.

In October 2024, he married to Michelle and in 2026 They had their first little son, Kaden. They were able to purchase their property and shop here in October 2025. This enables him to work right beside his home while they raise a family!

Platinum Tractor LLC ships tractors as far as California, Pennsylvania, Texas, and everywhere in between. They even shipped one piece of equipment to the country of Egypt. Tractor sales were slow in 2024 so in 2025 he launched a sideline business named Diamond Rental LLC. Both businesses are run out of the same shop. This has proved to be a very successful decision and he is enjoying connecting with and serving the local community.

Nolan mostly work by himself, but recently hired a young man who is working part-time. His name is Gareth. The rental equipment consists of a broad range of common equipment. Mini excavators, track, skid loaders, Scissor Lifts, towable boom lifts, stump grinder, mini skid loaders, a full row of attachments for skid loaders, including trenchers and Post hole augers, trailers, and more. They are continually adding equipment as customers ask for items.

The website for the Tractor sales is platinumtractor.com. They are planning to launch a website in 2027 for the Rental business under diamondrentalmn.com. The rates for manlifts range from $200-$300 a day depending what size you rent and skid loaders range from $220-$350 per day depend depending on the size. Nolan sums up his business motto stating, " I believe that God has blessed us very much over the years and I want to extend that blessing to our local community by offering equipment at reasonable prices for years to come! My business motto is 'serving God by serving others'."

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State Horse and Dog Shows Results

Submitted by Aly Kloeckner and Amanda Gebhart, Goodhue County 4-H Extension Educators

State Horse Show Results

Congratulations to our horse participants who competed at the State Horse Show September 18th-21st. Charli Gjemse (Zumbrota) competed in Barrels, Jumping Figure 8 and Key Race. Jaeda Johnson (Cannon Falls) competed in Hunt Seat Pleasure, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Showmanship and Western Pleasure. Audrina Meyer (Lake City) competed in Hunt Seat Pleasure, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Showmanship, Trail, Western Pleasure and Western Horsemanship. Tenley Lexvold (Zumbrota) participated in Horseless Horse and the Horse Training Project. Kinsley Ronningen (Rochester) competed in Hunt Seat Pleasure, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Showmanship, Western Pleasure and Western Horsemanship. Carlee Vath (Zumbrota) participated in Ranch Pleasure, Poles, Barrels, Jumping Figure 8 and Key Race. What a great effort ladies!

State Dog Show Results

Every September, 4-H'ers and their dogs compete in agility, obedience, showmanship and rally. This two-day event takes place at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. This year the dog show took place on September 26th and 27th 2026. Goodhue County had 5 youth representatives at the event this year! Youth trained with their dogs all summer and earned their advancement at the Goodhue County Dog Show held at the Cannon Valley Fairgrounds in July. Adelaide Anderson (Cannon Falls) competed in Agility and Jumpers, earning a Champion in Agility. Amelia Kispert (Kenyon) competed in Jumpers, Agility, Obedience, Rally and Showmanship, earning a Champion in Agility, Rally and Showmanship. Cody Roschen (Red Wing) participated in Showmanship. Willow Whalen (Red Wing) participated in Agility, Jumpers, Obedience and Rally. Lilith White (Red Wing) participated in Rally. Congratulations to these youth on their accomplishments!



Jaeda Johnson



Kinsley Ronningen



Amelia Kispert



Cody Roschen



Lilith White

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Goodhue County 4-H Members Participate in State Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational

Submitted by Aly Kloeckner and Amanda Gebhart, Goodhue County 4-H Extension Educators

Goodhue County 4-H Members Participate in State Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational.

The Minnesota 4-H State Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational was held in Alexandria September 11-13, 2026. 734 youth from 58 counties participated in the following events with 1,971 entries:

Archery
3-D Archery
BB gun
Standard Air Rifle
3 Position Air Rifle
Air Pistol
.22 Rifle
Muzzleloading
Trap
Silhouette
Wildlife Calling
Skillathon
Cast Iron Cooking

Youth had the opportunity to showcase the skills they learned throughout the past year, having spent a minimum of 15 hours working with a trained instructor in their discipline of interest and 8 hours of wildlife education. Each county also planned and implemented a conservation project at the local level. These projects were brought to the event and judged as a group.

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program began in the 1980s and has grown to more than 5,000 youth members and over 1,000 adult leaders. Adults can become certified discipline instructors by attending a weekend workshop and instructing youth in their local community.

This year Goodhue County had 20 youth attend. Participants included:



Abby



Reed



Reese



Rilynn



Karsten and Patrick



Campfire cooking

Haley Betcher - Zumbrota Busy Bees
Amalia Dicke - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Malory Dicke - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Weston Dicke - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Sawyer Gesme - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Amber Hackert - Goodhue Gesundheits
Caleb Hackert - Goodhue Gesundheits
Natalie Hackert - Goodhue Gesundheits
Reed Holz - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Reese Holz - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Lucas Poylio - Burnside Pluckies
Karsten Romfo - Goodhue Gesundheits
Callie Schmidt - Burnside Pluckies
Rilynn Smith - Burnside Pluckies
Blake Stark - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Charlie Thoms - Goodhue Gesundheits
Etta Thoms - Goodhue Gesundheits
Patrick Thoms - Goodhue Gesundheits
Abigail Tipton - Belle Creek Peppy Peppers
Colton Winsor - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors

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Farm Girl Chatter

Fall Harvest: The Season of Thankfulness

By McKell Lemmerman



The month of gratitude, the beauty of the changing seasons, and the reminder to appreciate the little things in life.

The time when slowing down doesn't mean just sitting back and relaxing but recognizing the equipment on the roads. To take your time when you get "stuck" behind them and can't hurry around. Remember that is someone's loved one driving that machinery.

There is something special about being in a combine when it works its way through a field at sunset. The corn stands tall before it, and behind it lies a clean path of harvested rows. Dust hangs in the air, catching the last golden rays of sunlight. The tractor pulling the grain cart follows close behind, ready to catch every bushel before the combine tank fills. It is like a coordinated dance with perfect timing, trust, and with every person knowing their part.



Harvest does not always follow a convenient schedule. Sometimes supper is brought to the field, sometimes sleep gets pushed back, and sometimes the only time to rest is when the machinery needs fixing or Mother Nature starts the sprinkler system.

I find myself looking toward the fields. The bright lights of tractors and combines shine across the dark countryside like a football stadium in the middle of nowhere.

Maybe this is what thankfulness looks like in the farming world. It is not always sitting quietly with a list of things to be grateful for. It is standing along a gravel road, watching the lights move through a field long after dark. It is bringing a meal or a nice cold beverage to someone who has been working since sunrise. It is appreciating a good crop, a dependable machine, a helping hand, or another beautiful sunset at the end of a long day.

It is simply remembering the people behind it all.

Thank you, farmers!

Corn Drive is Complete



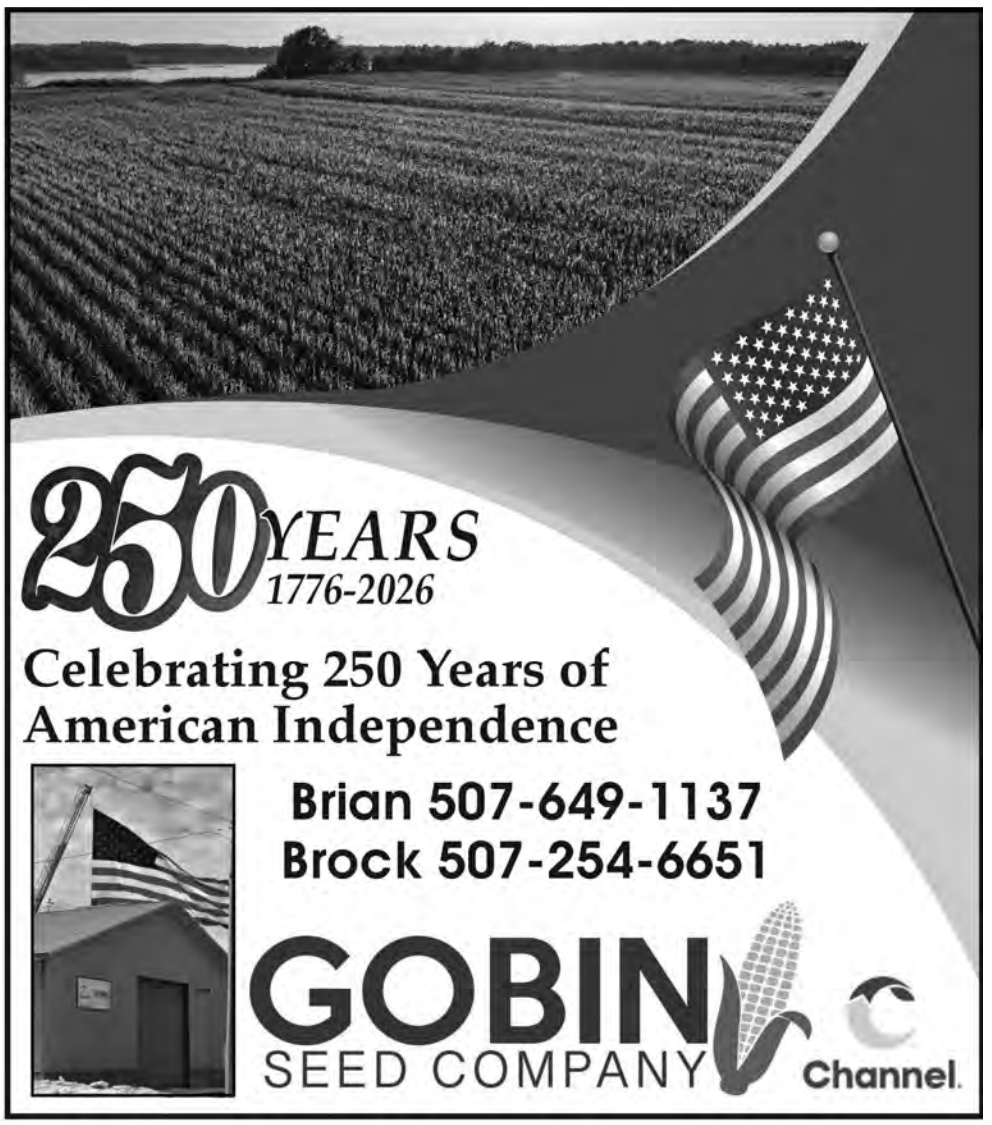
We are proud of our members for their work collecting corn donations to support Goodhue FFA and True Friends Camp Courage!

A HUGE thank you to our local farmers and community for their incredible generosity and continued support.

We are beyond grateful to be part of such an amazing community!

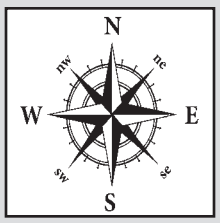
Courtesy of Goodhue FFA





Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Caterpillars, Cables and Days Gone By



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Here he relates his adventures and recollections including relocating to the state of Tennessee after he turned sixty years old.

As I was digging a plot of land this spring for planting, I turned up a large heavy-duty cable looped and both ends. It was about six feet long, made from ½" steel wire rope and had two clamps on each end with a metal thimble protecting the loop. It was quite rusty but I had no doubt what it was for. I remembered it even thought it had been buried for over sixty years. That is one of the advantages of still living on the farm one was born on. The mere sight of an item can rekindle a memory long thought forgotten. And this cable was a connecting link to times in the early 1960's.

It was a cable that my dad made for pulling things with his Caterpillar. I still have the heavy duty vise my dad used to secure the clamps to the cable when it was made in his shop. It probably slipped off the dozer when he was operating it. And laid in the soil until I unearthed it sixty years later.

As a kid I lived and breathed anything that took place on the farm. Equipment held a sacred place in my mind. It was the backbone of the farm. Enabled a mere man to perform tasks impossible to a human on their own. That was the D2 Caterpillar. A marvel of machinery in my mind. My young mind absorbed all the information my dad related to me about the attributes of this wonderful crawler. I can still feel what that black seat felt like and see the steering levers and hear the pony motor fire to life when he pulled the rope which had to be wound around the engine pully.

The Caterpillar D2 was built from 1938 until 1957. It was the smallest tracked tractor the company built. A 33 horsepower, four-cylinder diesel engine, with five forward speeds and one reverse gear. It had a gasoline pony motor to start it. Weighing in at 8,000 pounds with 12" wide tracks it could outpull a tractor. Many of these were sold for farming applications and my dad used it to pull a three bottom molboard plow.

He also had a blade mounted on the dozer and used it to move lots of dirt around the farm. There is still an earthen dam he built to catch runoff from the barnyard. It has long since filled in with silt but I recall who built



it every time I see the square plateau that did what the designer built it for many years ago. He widened out the cartway which gave us access down the limestone bluff at the backside of the farm.

My neighbor told me one time that he was helping his dad take down a silo by their barn on a Sunday morning. A common way of removing a concrete stave silo is to break out the staves at the bottom of the silo on the side you want it to fall. When enough staves are gone it should fall in that direction. In their case it fell in the wrong way and blocked the entrance of the barn so the dairy cows couldn't get back in. He was only fifteen years old but he had worked for my dad and grandfather, and knew how to run the dozer. My dad was gone that day, and over the protestation of his father, he started the Caterpillar and brought it over to move the concrete debris away from the barn and save the day.

Thank you

From all of us at the Goodhue-Bellechester Messenger, best wishes for a beautiful Thanksgiving!

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A Minnesotan:

Deer Season



By RosaLin Alcoser

Growing up in rural Minnesota fall always brought around many a man's favorite time of the year. Hunting season.

November usually brought around my lest favorite time of the year as a child. Firearm season. Which was my least favorite because my mother would keep us inside for nearly an entire month because of it. As an adult who's handled a firearm I get it, as a child I understood the why of it all but I didn't like it.

Now I have never actually hunted. However, as a teenager and young adult I did participate in part of hunting season. Mainly because grandpa used me as a spare deer and turkey scout at times or on occasion took me to follow a blood trail during bow season. Outside of that and the rare occurrence of helping of cleaning a



deer I've never hunted.

Although I did get an eight point buck back in the Fall of 2019 when it ran in front of my Subaru.

I was driving home in rural Minnesota late at night when I had just turned onto the road from the main county highway when I saw the car in the other lane flash their headlights at me. Which made me wonder if my high beams were on, they were not. What they were trying to warn me about was that they had seen the doe run across the road and a buck was likely behind it.

Thankfully I was going under 40 miles per hour — so I came out of this fine— because all of a sudden a 300 lbs monster of a buck was smashing in the front end of my car. It was the end of both the buck and of my Subaru.

That deer was made into jerked afterwards and I was told he was not delicious.

So while I have never and probably will never actually hunt I have gotten a deer. And quite an impressive one at that.

Why Our Forefathers Were Much Healthier



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

For most of human history, people didn't have to think much about staying healthy. Good health was simply a byproduct of how they lived. Our ancestors ate nutrient-dense whole foods, moved their bodies all day long, and lived in step with the natural world around them. There were no calorie counters, step trackers, or shelves of supplements, because their surroundings gave their bodies what they needed. Today, many of us struggle with low energy, sluggish metabolism, and chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, even with more health information at our fingertips than ever before. Looking back at how past generations lived can give us a practical roadmap for feeling better now.

Traditional diets looked very different from what fills most grocery carts today. Families valued the whole animal, not just lean cuts like chicken breasts or tenderloins. Organ meats were common in cookbooks from the 1700s through the early 1900s, and bones were simmered into broths rich in collagen and amino acids that support the gut, joints, and skin. Saturated fats from butter and animal sources were welcomed rather than feared, and some researchers now question the mid-century push to replace them with seed oils. Carbohydrates were part of the picture too, but they came from root vegetables, seasonal fruits, and whole grains that were soaked or fermented for easier digestion. Vegetables were usually roasted, steamed, or stewed, and meals followed a simple rhythm of three nourishing plates a day, all made from scratch. Industrialization changed that, bringing refined sugars, seed oils, and packaged convenience foods that are high in calories but low in real nutrition.

Movement was also built into everyday life. Farming, construction, and manufacturing demanded hours of physical effort, and that steady activity helped keep metabolism humming. Research shows that Americans' resting metabolic rate has dropped about 6% since 1820, and the energy demands of the average job have fallen by roughly 25% since 1870. Desk jobs and labor-saving devices have shifted us toward long hours of sitting, which takes a toll on metabolic health, posture, and mobility. We've also lost much of our time outdoors, which once helped people make plenty of vitamin D and gave the immune system a boost. Studies link time in green spaces to lower inflammation and stronger immune activity.

Our ancestors also lived without the steady stream of synthetic chemicals we face today. Their food wasn't sprayed with modern pesticides, their water didn't carry microplastics or pharmaceutical residues, and their homes weren't filled with plastics and chemical-laden products. Today, compounds like BPA, phthalates, and PFAS are nearly impossible to avoid, and they have been linked to metabolic, reproductive, and developmental concerns. Some researchers also raise questions about certain food additives, noting that excess iron from fortified processed foods may contribute to iron overload and that high fluoride exposure has been studied for possible effects on the thyroid and nervous system. Cutting back on unnecessary toxins where you can is a simple, meaningful step toward lightening your body's load.

Finally, sleep once followed the sun. Morning daylight helped people wake up naturally, and as evening fell, warm firelight and candlelight let melatonin rise so the body could rest and repair. Full-spectrum sunlight, including near-infrared light, also supported healthy mitochondria, the tiny energy producers inside your cells. Now, blue light from screens and bright indoor lighting keeps us wired late into the night, throwing off our internal clocks and hormone balance. Some research suggests that constant exposure to electromagnetic fields from phones and Wi-Fi may also interfere with deep sleep. The goal isn't to live in the past. It's to borrow these time-tested habits, like getting morning sunlight, eating real food, moving more, and winding down when it gets dark, so you and your family can rebuild the energy and resilience that used to be normal.

Microplastics showing up in birds lungs! Microplastics are tiny bits of plastic smaller than 5 millimeters, and they really are everywhere. They're in the water we drink, the food we eat and the air we breathe. Because they're so small, they can slip past the body's natural defenses and settle into our tissues, including our lungs. A 2025 study made this crystal clear. Researchers examined the lungs of 56 birds from 51 different species and found plastic particles in every single sample, averaging about 221 particles per species. Birds are often an early warning sign for problems in our environment, so these findings strongly suggest that we're breathing in the same contamination. In fact, earlier research has already found microplastics in human lung tissue, including particles from common plastics like polypropylene and PET, the material used in many drink bottles.

What concerns me most is what happens once these particles get inside us. Microplastics and the chemicals they carry have been linked to hormone disruption, which can affect metabolism, fertility, mood and thyroid function. Your immune system also treats these particles as invaders, which can lead to chronic inflammation. They've been tied to oxidative stress, which damages cells and drains energy, and to gut damage that weakens digestion and immune balance. Even more troubling, the smallest particles, called nanoplastics, have been shown to cross the placenta and the blood-brain barrier. That means they can reach a developing baby and the brain itself. If you're pregnant, trying to conceive or raising little ones, this is worth paying close attention to. The good news is that a few simple changes at home can make a real difference over time. Start by switching to reusable cloth or canvas bags instead of plastic ones. Store your food in glass or stainless steel containers, especially anything you plan to heat. Cut back on single-use plastics like straws, plastic cutlery and disposable water bottles. When it's time to replace things around the house, choose natural materials like wood, bamboo, cotton, wool or ceramic. Finally, improve your indoor air by opening windows, dusting and vacuuming often, and running an air purifier with a HEPA filter. You don't have to do it all at once. Every small step helps lower your plastic load and supports a healthier body for you and your family.

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



Stretching Your Grocery Budget



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

As we move into the winter months here in Minnesota, we prepare for colder days and winter storms by stocking our shelves and cupboards. But food costs are rising and budgets are getting tighter, so we need to give priority to the foods that are essential for sustaining health. Higher gasoline prices also affect the budget and may mean fewer trips to the grocery store. Many rural food pantries across southern Minnesota have reduced access or closed entirely as their resources have been restricted.

Beginning in November, colds and flu increase steadily across the country. This yearly cycle has become so routine that many people expect to get sick and treat it as unavoidable. But each of us also has a remarkable immune system, the built-in defense process that keeps us alive by constantly guarding against germs and invaders. We should understand how it works and how to support it.

White blood cells are the “troops” on the front line of your immune system. Just as the military has different branches, there are many types of white blood cells, and each has a specific job. And like our service members, these cells need food to keep doing their jobs well. When key nutrients run short, the cells can’t perform at their best. To keep your front line”troops” in top condition this winter, make sure they are getting what they need.

Three nutrients to prioritize

Vitamin C helps white blood cells eliminate bacteria and germs, and it is one of the least expensive vitamins on the market. Good food sources include bell peppers, broccoli, kiwi, whole oranges, and strawberries. I recommend whole oranges over orange juice because of the juice’s high sugar content.

Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin essential for balanced cell activity. It can enter the nucleus of a cell and help turn important processes on and off. Food sources include cod liver oil, goose liver, salmon, sardines, and whole eggs. I prefer these whole foods to fortified products. Vitamin D is especially important for Minnesotans during the winter months with limited sunshine. You can find more resources at www.grassrootshealth.net.

Zinc is an essential mineral for a strong immune system, and it is also needed to build the proteins that fight bacteria. The best food sources are beef, lamb, lentils, pepitas (pumpkin seeds), and cashews. If you don’t eat these foods regularly, a 15 mg zinc tablet per day is another option.

Go easy on the sweets

Sugar is known as an energy source, but it doesn’t help immune cells get more work done. A 1973 study observed that white blood cells exposed to glucose slowed down and stayed sluggish for up to five hours. As you move into the holiday season, pay attention to how often you are having treats and how your body responds. A glass of water will do more for your immune system than another candy.

You only get one body in this lifetime. Make sure you take good care of it and do not wear it out sooner than necessary.

As a nutrition specialist, I can help you learn how to strengthen your immune system using the whole foods and vitamins your body needs. Finding the resources for true health can be located right in your local grocery store.

(continued on page 19)

Goodhue City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall ~ September 23, 2026 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Chris Schmit, Council Members Michael Brunkhorst, Katie Kurtti, Jeannine Nagel, Eric Brandt

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Lisa Redepenning, City Administrator, Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk, Jesse Luhman, Deputy Markegard #130 - GCSO, Rebekah Luhman, Brynn Frederick and Nora Frederick of the Goodhue Gesundheits 4-H Club

Remote: None

Call to Order

Mayor Schmit called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approve or amend Agenda

An addition of Resolution 26-15 Approving the 2027 Preliminary Levy was added to the end of the agenda.

Motion to approve amended agenda made by Brunkhorst, seconded by Brandt, motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of Consent Agenda

• Motion to approve the bills (Check #040890-040899 totaling $4,772.05)

• Motion to approve the September 9, 2026, City Council Work Meeting Minutes

• Approval of $0 utility threshold amount

Members of the local Goodhue Gesundheits 4-H club presented a proposal to create and maintain a pollinator garden or flower path at Cranson Park. Ideas the club has include planting perennial plants with assistance from

• Approval of new meeting dates in November and December (November 18 and December 16)

• Approval of the Garbage contract with LRS

• Approval of CIP Proposal from ISG

• Approval of 2027 Preliminary Levy at 10%

Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 5-0-0.

Old Business
Update on Manor Emergency Shelter/Plan

The Council reviewed their requested email communication correspondence concerning the emergency shelter plan for residents at the mobile home park. Council was pleased with staff due diligence. After staff met with the County Emergency Manager, it was confirmed that the county does not have enforcement authority for this matter, while the city's role is to review and approve it. No updated plan or response has been received from the property owners or their attorney. Council agreed to continue documenting its efforts and to review any proposal received.

New Business
Goodhue Gesundheits 4-H Club- Pollination Garden/Path at Cranson Park Inquiry

A member connected to a nursery. Members are still determining the garden's location, design, maintenance and watering responsibilities. Council strongly supported the project and suggested contacting Prairie Restoration, MN DNR, nurseries and other potential donors. Public Works may be able to assist with woodchips. Mayor Schmit encouraged them to keep the council informed of their progress.

Choose Canvassing meeting date between November 9th and November 13th

A Canvassing meeting must be scheduled within 10 days of the election. A motion was made by Brandt to approved November 10 at 6:00 p.m. for the post-election canvassing meeting, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 5-0-0.

Request for approval of Goodhue Jaycee's Application for Temporary Liquor License on December 5, 2026.

An application was received from the Jaycee's for a temporary liquor license for December 5th. Staff confirmed serving time was 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and are serving German beer and wine as in previous years. A motion was made by Nagel, to approve the Jaycee's temporary liquor license for December 5th, seconded by Brandt, motion carried 5-0-0.

Resolution 26-15 Approving the 2027 Preliminary Levy

A motion was made by Brandt, to approve Resolution 26-15 approving the 2027 Preliminary Levy, seconded by Kurtti, motion carried 5-0-0.

Committee Updates

Gas committee did not have a September meeting and October meeting may be held on the 12th due to member availability.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. made by Council Member Brandt, seconded by Kurtti, motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/
City Clerk

***

Goodhue City Council Work Meeting Minutes
City Hall ~ October 14, 2026 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Chris Schmit, Council Members Michael Brunkhorst, Katie Kurtti, Jeannine Nagel, and Eric Brandt

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Lisa Redepenning, City Administrator, Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk, Jason Mandelkow, Public Works Director,

Remote: None

Call to Order

Mayor Schmit called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approve or amend Agenda

No additions to the Agenda. Mayor asked to change order of items by switching GCSO Use of City Hall with the Water Bill Refund. Motion to approve amended agenda, made by Brunkhorst, seconded by Kurtti, motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the September 23, 2026, council meeting minutes made by Brandt seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made to approve the bills by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 5-0-0.

Old Business
2027 Preliminary Budget

Council continues to review the preliminary 2027 budget. Mayor announced that the Gas Commission approved that they would pay 50% of the gas for the pool heat next year. Council member Brandt asked for the Gas Commission quarterly budget report. He also stated that the commission's quarterly report needs to be filed with the City Clerk as stated in the Commission's bylaws. Kurtti asked that the bylaws for the Gas Commission be available for them to review at the next meeting. Mayor Schmit will get the bylaws for the members to review.

Council member Nagel asked why the payroll amount was so much less this year than last year. Administrator Redepenning explained that the original coding for PERA, FICA, and Federal and State withholding that was deducted for employee and employer, was all going under employer expense inflating the salary totals. The amounts have now been separated correctly.

Health insurance and PFML figures were updated using confirmed rates. Safety training expenses were placed in the operating technology/training account because the expenditure was not originally budgeted.

Council considered whether snow-removal funding should increase because fuel and contractor bids may rise.

Staff believed the $15,000 allocation was reasonable, with some material potentially purchased this year and carried into the next budget remaining open for revisions before final adoption in December.

The levy increase of 10% would be estimated excess of $53,038. Alternatives include $26,265 for a 5% levy increase and $15,956 with a 3% increase and about $493 with no levy increase. Members noted that existing debt makes a zero-percent increase impractical.

Update on Manor Emergency Shelter/Plan
No follow up was received.

New Business
GCSO Use of City Hall

Mayor Schmit met with the Sheriff's office since the last meeting. He gave a recap of past events to new members. The Council discussed restoring Goodhue County Sheriff's Office workspace in City Hall, including access to an office, restroom, and garage space as needed. Past concerns involved cleanliness and use of shared space. Council supported moving forward with clear expectations, protecting confidential city records, and allowing winter vehicle access to the garage. Staff will redesign the copy-room/counter area to create an office space with a target of January 1, 2027. Item will be placed on consent agenda for approval at the next meeting.

2027 Fee Schedule

The 2027 fee schedule was deferred until next month, with a possible commercial sewer rate to be considered.

Outdoor Warning Siren Maintenance

The city will investigate maintenance or inspection options for its outdoor warning siren,

(continued on page 20)

Stretching Your Grocery Budget

(continued from page 18)

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





Goodhue City Council Work Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 19)

including costs and legal responsibilities.

Farm Lease Renewals

Farm leases were approved to renew at existing terms. The staff clarified that the farmland is not certified as organic and is subject to best nitrogen-management practices. Lease renewals will be on consent agenda for the next meeting.

Water Bill Refund

A $799.06 water bill refund was approved, for a malfunctioning meter/reading equipment, and will be on the consent agenda for the next meeting.

Committee Updates

Public Works Update

Snow removal bids will be advertised. Street patching is expected to continue as weather permits. Funding came through for replacement of galvanized service lines at 19 homes and there will be exploratory potholing at approximately 40 locations.

Council supported seeking a used replacement pickup using remaining plow-truck funds and sale proceeds from the auctioned dump truck. Item to be added to consent agenda for the next meeting. The MDH is working on the next round of funding for galvanized or copper line replacement.

At 7:02 Member Nagel left the meeting.

At 7:03 Member Nagel returned to the meeting.

Gas Commission Update

Currently there is no interest in the open position.

Administrator Update

The city received a request from a fourth-grade teacher in Goodhue, asking to get a tour of City Hall and someone to speak about roles and responsibilities of elected and appointed leaders. At this time the teacher has arranged for Pam Altendorf to speak at Goodhue school, and Eric Brandt will meet them to tour City Hall and answer questions.

The League of Minnesota Cities let us know that we did not have and do not qualify now for "No Fault Sewer Backup Insurance". This is an insurance that pays even if it is not our fault. The city has never had it and does not need to have this. The consent was to leave as is and do not get the insurance.

City Clerk Update

The $35 NSF charge caused by an incorrect bank account number on the autopay request form, rather than insufficient funds, will be adjusted from customer's account. No fees were incurred to the city for this. Clerk Luhman suggests the NSF fee structure details be addressed in future fee-schedule language. This adjustment will also be on the consent agenda for the next meeting.

Council Comments

None

Mayor Comments

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:24 p.m. by Council Member Brunkhorst, seconded by Kurtti, motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/
City Clerk

Help Keep Our Sewer System Flowing!

By City of Goodhue

During routine sewer maintenance this summer, the City discovered an unusually high amount of grease buildup in our sewer lines. This buildup is causing blockages, can contribute to sewer backups, and making it difficult to inspect our lines with camera equipment. The City has already had to clean the same line again, resulting in additional and unexpected expenses.

Grease, fats, and cooking oils can solidify inside pipes, creating clogs that restrict wastewater flow and lead to costly repairs.

Please help protect our sewer system by following these simple steps:

Allow grease, fats, and oils to cool and solidify in a can or jar.

Dispose of the container in your regular trash.

Never pour grease, fats, or oils down the sink or toilet.

A little effort from everyone can help prevent blockages, reduce costly maintenance, and keep our sewer system flowing properly.

Thank you for doing your part!

City of Goodhue - Call for Quotes
Snow Removal

The City Council of Goodhue, MN will receive sealed quotes at the City Clerk's Office prior to 4:00 p.m. December 2, 2026. The following equipment for snow removal to be used from December 2, 2026, to December 2, 2027, is listed below. The quote shall specify the cost per hour, and the type and capacity of the equipment to be with the operator supplied for the following aspects of snow removal from the City of Goodhue.

Blower/Loader for snow removal.
Motor grader or dump struck with front plow & wing attachment-Included horsepower, age & equipment capacity
Dump trucks for snow hauling – Include capacity
Skid steer (by the hour rent only)
All owners of equipment must submit bills within 30 days of snow removal & must have presented all previous bills for past work to be eligible to do future city work.

All owners of equipment hired by the city shall have on file at the City Clerk's office a certificate of insurance covering liability of said owner and a certificate of worker's compensation insurance covering employees. The City has the right to refuse any or all quotes.

Lori Luhman, City Clerk

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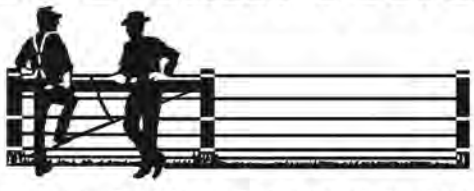
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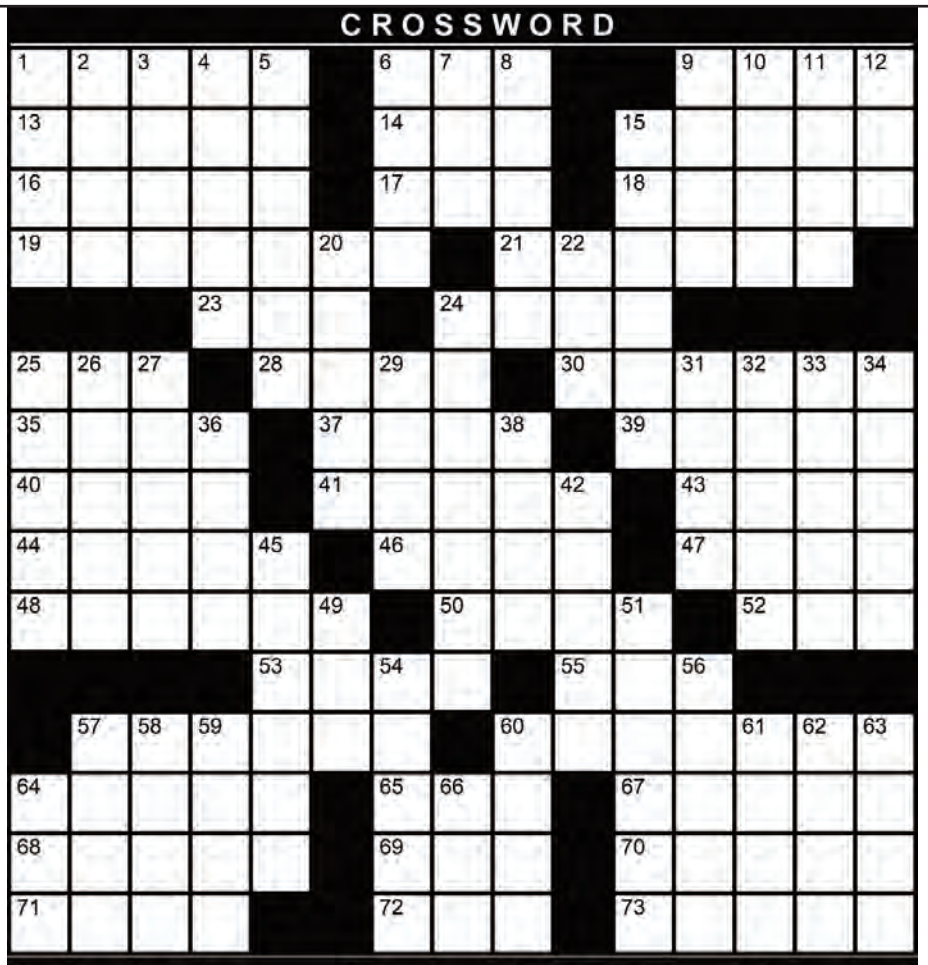
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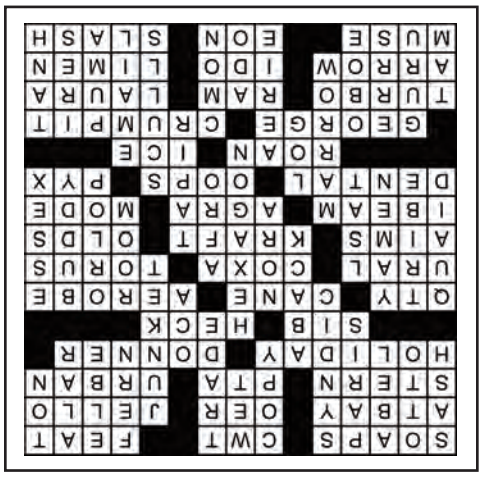
THEME: HOLIDAY MOVIES

ACROSS
1. "As the World Turns" and such
6. Hundredweight, acr.
9. Notable achievement
13. Keep a threat ____ ____, or away
14. Across, in verse
15. Jiggly dessert
16. Opposite of bow
17. Sch. grp.
18. Kidman's ex
19. *HomeExchange story, with The
21. *Rudolph's father
23. *Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
24. "Dickens!"
25. Quantity, acr.
28. *"Candy ____ Lane" starring Eddie Murphy
30. Opposite of anaerobe
35. Russian mountain range
37. Coxae, sing.
39. Tori, sing.
40. Goals
41. Famous Mac & Cheese manufacturer
43. One of auto pioneers
44. Letter-shaped girder
46. Home to Taj Mahal
47. A la _____, with ice cream
48. Relating to teeth
50. "My bad"
52. Eucharist vessel
53. Multicolored horse
55. NHL court
57. *Bailey of Bedford Falls
60. *Mount ____, Grinch's home
64. Supercharger
65. Ewe's mate
67. Alice Halsey on "Little House on the Prairie"
68. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
69. Knot-tying vow (2 words)
70. Sensory threshold, in psychology
71. Artist's inspiration
72. Bajillion years
73. Guns N' Roses lead guitarist

DOWN
1. "Away to the window I flew like a flash, ... and threw up the ____"
2. "Beetle Bailey" pooch
3. Cain's brother
4. *The McCallisters' travel destination
5. Trustee
6. Printer button
7. *Harry and Marv, a.k.a. the ____ Bandits
8. Pro move
9. Shade-loving plant
10. Hamburg river
11. Winglike
12. Freight weight
15. Official work trip
20. Taken where?
22. South American tuber
24. Six-sided polygon
25. *Cousin Eddie actor
26. Human social group
27. Mandarin's headquarters
29. *Luther Krank's wife
31. Living space
32. Lowest deck
33. *Will Ferrell's famous holiday role
34. English county
36. Future J.D.'s hurdle
38. Like Bob Ross' do
42. Short-trunked ungulate
45. Bone filler
49. Yule treat
51. Type of racing boat, pl.
54. Nest for an eagle
56. Not your grandmother's mail?
57. Spiritual leader
58. Makes a mistake
59. Double reed woodwind
60. Slangy "Follow me!"
61. Cat on a shoe
62. Wraths
63. Hyperbolic tangent
64. _____ o' shanter
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare

SUDOKU ANSWERS

5	7	6	4	8	2	1	9	3
4	8	3	5	1	9	7	6	2
2	1	9	6	3	7	4	5	8
1	2	4	7	9	3	5	8	6
7	9	5	8	6	4	3	2	1
3	6	8	1	2	5	9	4	7
6	4	7	3	5	8	2	1	9
8	3	2	9	4	1	6	7	5
9	5	1	2	7	6	8	3	4



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			1	4		2		
	1	2		5				
					1		6	3
	2		4		8		9	
6	8		3					
				3		9	1	
		7		1	5			
3					4			5

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

Goodhue Lions Presents Check to the Goodhue Fire Department



In October, the Goodhue Lions presented the Goodhue Fire Department with a $29,000 check to start upgrading their radios.





