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NOVEMBER 12, 2026 Volume 19 • Issue 21

New Hair Salon Opens in Wanamingo

Wanamingo native Jill Ofstie has opened shop in the Core 824 building formerly the Wanamingo School building. Jill grew up in Wanamingo and graduated from Kenyon Wanamingo High School. She loves the town and lives with her significant other, Zach, in the home she grew up in having purchased if from her parents.



Jill Ofstie

Jill attended Empire Beauty School in Eden Prairie and has been a hair stylist for nineteen years. She worked in Rochester until she had her first child in 2024. *(continued on page 8)*

Christmas Events are just Around the Corner

Thursday December 3rd will be Christmas in Wanamingo. There will be treats at local businesses and bring a non-perishable food item or cash donation to each participating business and get your card stamped. Completed cards will be drawn for cash prizes. 1st prize is $100.00. Stop by the Wanamingo Community Center to see the Santa carving collection. Santa will be at the Olmsted Medical Center at 217 Main Street. Stop between 5 and 7pm for a visit.

Saturday, December 5 from 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. downtown Kasson turns into a winter wonderland for the day! Families can snap photos with Santa, pose with our giant Yeti, and hop the trolley for stops all around town.



(continued on page 7)

A Door of Possibility



Jill Warner

By Jocelyn Aldrich

"Real estate is about people, possibilities, and helping someone take that next step," says Jill Warner, owner of Gold Door Realty in Kenyon. For Warner, these three things are the driving force of her mission at Gold Door Realty. Warner has a passion for understanding what is possible and helping clients see those possibilities. Warner says she started Gold Door Realty to "build a brokerage where personal service, honest advice, and hard work are at the center of everything we do." She notes, "buying or selling a home is a big deal, and people deserve someone who answers the phone, explains their options, and follows through." Warner's passion for the Kenyon area community can be seen in her work at Gold Door Realty and beyond the closing table.

Gold Door Realty employs fifteen agents and serves clients throughout Minnesota. Warner says learning how to support her agents, run Gold Door Realty, and manage her own client list is a full-time job.

(continued on page 6)

Clean Yard, Happy Home

By Cheri Roshon



Isaac Alan is a young Kenyon entrepreneur that I met through the Kenyon Farmer's Market. A naturally curious young lad, he visited me at my booth a few years ago and we began a friendship that has carried on through the years.

(continued on page 6)

Viking Meats & Grocery Now Open

Barney & Laura Nesseth officially took over ownership of the former Kenyon Market November 2nd. *(continued on page 7)*

Announcements

• **The Kenyon Area Historical Society is having their Annual Christmas Cookie Sale.** The event will take place on Saturday December 12, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at The Martin T. Gunderson House, 107 Gunderson Boulevard, Kenyon, MN. *(see pg. 15)*

(continued on page 3)

2026 General Election Results for Kenyon and Wanamingo

The Goodhue County Sheriff race was decided in favor of incumbent Marty Kelly. Kelly received 17,210 votes or 75% of the total ballots cast to his challenger Joshua Stehr with 5,451 votes or 24% of the total votes.

(continued on page 24)





Do You Have an Announcement? Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

GRATEFUL TO BE AN AMERICAN!

Happy Thanksgiving!



Thank you for your support in the 2026 General Election.
Keith Allen, Representative District 19A

Breakfast Served
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Monday & Tuesday: **Coffee & Cinnamon Rolls**
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5:00 pm | Seating and Formal Dinner

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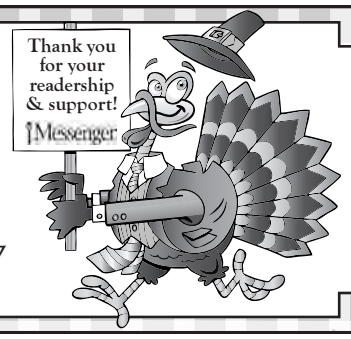
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10:00a.m. Coffee Time
10:30a.m. Worship Service

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Services at the Old Stone Church on the 4th Sunday of each month through the summer.
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E-mail your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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.

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Announcements

• **Hiawathaland Transit**: Service hours are 7:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. Call dispatch at 866-623-7505 Monday through Friday 6am-9pm and Saturday 7:00am-5:00pm. Visit threeriverscap.org for more information.

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

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

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

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SHOP LOCAL

A Battle Plan for the End Times



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

No food! Desolation! Bloodshed! Signs in the heavens! An evil ruler! Empty stores! Corruption! Civil war! These may be a few things you think of when it comes to the end times. However, what does the Bible say?

Last month I shared how I was going through some health complications and how I created a five-step spiritual battle plan to help me when I am faced with not feeling well. I mentioned how a person could make a battle plan for other things such as depression or marriage struggles, and I even mentioned making a plan for the end times.

A spiritual battle plan could be made up of (1) praise and worship, (2) specific verses for what you are facing, (3) truth statements and God statements, (4) the armor of God, and (5) thanksgiving. Let's incorporate these suggestions into a specific battle plan for the end times, but first let's learn some ways we can be prepared for the end of the age.

The number one way you can prepare for the end times is by having a relationship with Jesus. A relationship with Jesus first starts by accepting that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and asking the Lord to forgive you of your sins.

After you have accepted salvation in Jesus, then you get to know Him. You talk to Jesus as a friend. You share your whole life with Him—your struggles, your joys, your worries, everything. Nothing will surprise Jesus, my friends, just be real with Him. Read the Bible and dialogue to the Lord as you do so. Get your oil (see Matthew 25:1–10).

The next way you can prepare for the end of the age is to know the biblical narrative of the end times and not the secular one. How do you do this? You get your sweet nose in the Word of God. You study, digest, and dialogue with Jesus about the verses that talk on the end times. What verses talk on the end times, you may ask? Great question, I will get you started with some key terminology and Scriptures on this very thing.

Take the following vocabulary and verses slow. Look them up in your own Bible. As you look up these verses, also read before and after these Scriptures. This will take time. Ask Jesus to help expound these holy words and to give you revelation. Be gentle with yourself as you unpack these Scriptures. YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS. YOU ARE SMART!

Seven-Year Tribulation: I see the seven-year tribulation as the final seven years of the end times. Daniel uses the term week to describe the seven-year tribulation. Part of the Hebrew definition of week can mean seven years (see Daniel 9:27).

The Antichrist: An evil man that will rule, have fierce features, understand sinister schemes, be very powerful (but not by his own power), cause destruction, prosper, and be cunning, deceptive, and prideful (Daniel 8:23–25). He will have a deadly wound (Revelation 13). He will say that he is God in the temple of God (2 Thessalonians 2:4). He will do signs and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9). He will change time and law (Daniel 7:25). He will persecute the saints—Christians—(Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:7). Although he is evil at his core, I believe he will come off as grand, mighty, and even appear like a savior (see 2 Corinthians 11:14). He will rise against Jesus and be killed by Jesus (2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 19:20).

The False Prophet: This is the antichrist's "sidekick." He will push the mark of the beast and the image of the beast. He will do signs and wonders in the presence of the antichrist (Revelation 13:11–18, 19:20).

Covenant: The antichrist will make a covenant (peace treaty) with Israel and other nations (Daniel 9:27).

Harlot of Babylon: An evil religious and economic system (Revelation 17–18).

Ten-Nation Confederation: I see this as ten nations that will work together with the antichrist (see Daniel 7:7–8, 23–24; Revelation 13:1; Revelation 17).

Abomination of Desolation: At the halfway mark of the seven-year tribulation, the antichrist will break the covenant (peace treaty). He will bring an end to sacrifice and offerings (this means there will be a temple in Jerusalem). The antichrist will say he is God in the temple of God. An image of the beast (antichrist) will be set up.

The mandate to get the mark of the beast, worship the image of the beast, and follow the beast will be a part of the abomination of desolation, with strong emphasis on the image of the beast being set up (Matthew 24:15; Daniel 8:13, 9:27, 11:31, 12:11; Revelation 13). (From my perspective, the beast is the antichrist.)

Mark of the Beast: To be able to buy or sell, a mark—the name of the beast or the number of the beast's name—will be placed on the right hand or forehead of people. The false prophet will enforce the mark (Revelation 13:16–18). DO NOT GET THE MARK OF THE BEAST! If we are here, I believe the Lord will provide for us! (Revelation 14:9–13).

Image of the Beast: An image will be made of the beast. It appears that the image will breathe, speak, and cause as many as would not worship it to be killed. The false prophet will really enforce the image of the beast (Revelation 13:14–15). DO NOT WORSHIP THIS IMAGE! (Revelation 14:9–13).

To incorporate the knowledge we just gained and the five suggestions on what a spiritual battle plan can consist of, here is a proposed end-times battle plan.

End-Times Battle Plan

1. Praise and worship. If we are here when the end times are in full swing, praising the Lord will be of utmost importance. "Jesus, even though the world is chaotic, I trust your leadership. YOU are the King of kings and Lord of lords."

2. Specific verses for what you are facing. If we are present during the seven-year tribulation, we must read the verses mentioned earlier in the article and obey those words, not the world's ways and the antichrist's words. Get to know the above verses. Scriptures that bring comfort would include Joshua 1:9; Philippians 4:19; and Psalms 23 and 91.

3. Truth statements and God statements. If we are here during the end times, here are a couple of statements we can tell ourselves. "I will not get the mark of the beast. If the Lord provided manna for the Israelites, I believe He will provide for me and my family." "If I end up dying for my faith in Jesus, I will instantly be in heaven. Perhaps I will have an experience like Stephen" (see Acts 7:54–60).

4. Put on the armor of God. Please see Ephesians 6:10–17. If you live with other people during the end times, it would not hurt to declare and put this armor on together as a family (or with friends).

5. Thanksgiving. Even if we are here during the end of the age, a person can still find things to be appreciative for. "Jesus, thank you that I have you." "Lord, thank you that I can talk to you at any time of the day in my heart and no one can take that from me." "Thank you that you are coming back and before too long, this all will be done and over."

I know the end times can be a hefty subject to learn and hear about, but it is so very important to know about the things that will take place. Go grab a cup of joe, some tea, or a cold Mountain Dew and talk to Jesus about these things. He will guide, reassure, and teach you about the end times and how to get prepared.

—No fear, Ashley

STEPS TO FREEDOM

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Maurice Charles "Brownie" Goodman



Maurice Charles "Brownie" Goodman, age 88, of Wanamingo, passed away Thursday, October 29th, 2026 at Mayo Clinic Health Systems-Methodist Hospital in Rochester after a long complicated illness.

Brownie was born March 21st, 1938 near Douglas, MN, to parents, Glenn and Helen (Rossi) Goodman. He was the fourth of five children. Raised in the Rochester area, he attended class in a one- room schoolhouse until 6th grade and then went to Rochester Central High School, graduating with the class of 1956. He then married Roberta "Bobbie" Tawyea; the birth of four children completed their family. Brownie was a member of the Wanamingo Volunteer Fire Department beginning on April 2, of 1973 - retiring on September 1, 1994, concluding a 21 year- 5 month commitment of service to his community, Something he shared with his son, Scott. He and his family love to hunt, fish, camp, take rides on weekends to visit relatives and venture to the cabin at Red Lake. Brownie loved to garden and care for the land, helping neighbors and friends with chores or fieldwork... he was always willing to lend a hand.

Brownie and Bobbie were members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo since 1968. Many things can be said about being a farm kid through-and-through, which carried into his family. He was an example of a hard-working, dedicated, dependable, and gentle person; as well as a father who was always there. These were evident as the great legacy Brownie leaves for others to carry forward. Brownie was not one to make a fuss, a pretty regular guy... unless you didn't put something back in its place or made a mess. He would much rather take sweets, especially chocolate chip cookies over a bowl of chicken noodle soup. He was not a fan of heights or anything up high, but it didn't stop him if someone needed help.

Brownie is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Bobbie Goodman of Wanamingo; daughter, Susan Bodenhamer of Zumbrota; son, Scott (Jen) Goodman of Zumbrota; daughter-in-law, Teri Goodman of Wanamingo; grandchildren, Zebadiah Goodman of Wanamingo, Madilynn Goodman of Albert Lea and Nick Adamson of Zumbrota; special aunt, Elaine Kohrs of Lake City; sister-in-law, Mary Goodman of Zumbrota; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents, Brownie is preceded in death by his son, Christopher Goodman; daughter, JoAnn Goodman; son-in-law, Albert Bodenhamer; sisters, Margaret (Walton) Kyllo and Barbara Goodman; brothers, Willis (Eloise) Goodman and Kenneth Goodman.

A Memorial service was held on Saturday, November 7, 2026 at 11 am at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo with visitation one hour prior. Burial was in the Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please direct donations to Wanamingo Fire and Rescue or a charity of your choice.

Mahn Family Funeral Home - Larson Chapel in Zumbrota is entrusted with arrangements.

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Wishing You an Extra Helping of Happy

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Holly Thyme Craft Show

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Sundays: November 29, December 6, 13
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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!





Clean Yard, Happy Home

(continued from page 1)

Isaac was 9 years old when we met. He was full of questions, and I have always enjoyed his forthright and candid conversations. One day he announced that he was starting his own lawn care business. I asked him how he came up with that idea, and he replied, "I was asked by my neighbor if I would mow his lawn, and I accepted. I realized other neighbors might need my services, so I knocked on some doors and got a few more customers. In time, that led to doing fall cleanup and brush cutting, and this year I will be adding snow removal. I really do most anything that is outdoor work, except things I have to be older for."

Well, Isaac is now 12 years old and has accumulated 9 lawn mowers and a few other yard machines to work with. Only 2 of them are running right now, but he is learning about small engine repair, and knowing Isaac, he will get them up and running eventually!

This year he met another lawn care specialist, Denny who has been doing lawn care for over 70 years now, and is ready to hand over a few customers to him next year. His business has grown for the past few years, and he expects that growth will continue as he gets referrals from satisfied customers.

Some of the services he offers are mowing, leaf blowing, lawn clean up, garden cleanup (yes, weeding!!) and light bush and shrub trimming for that manicured look. This year he is adding snow removal, using both a shovel and a blower. He offers per time charges, or you can ask him about his seasonal contracts to save you a bit of cash! Being a local member of the Kenyon community, he has a great work ethic, and he offers free estimates to all. He can be reached at (507) 491-7946, and guarantees affordable pricing and promises great results.

I asked him why people should hire him, and he said, "I will do what they don't want to or can't do for themselves. This gives them more time to enjoy the summer, they get quality service at a price that makes sense without cutting corners, and I promise to be on time, every time. You can count on me!" Clean yards, happy homes..... that's the Isaac Promise!



A Door of Possibility

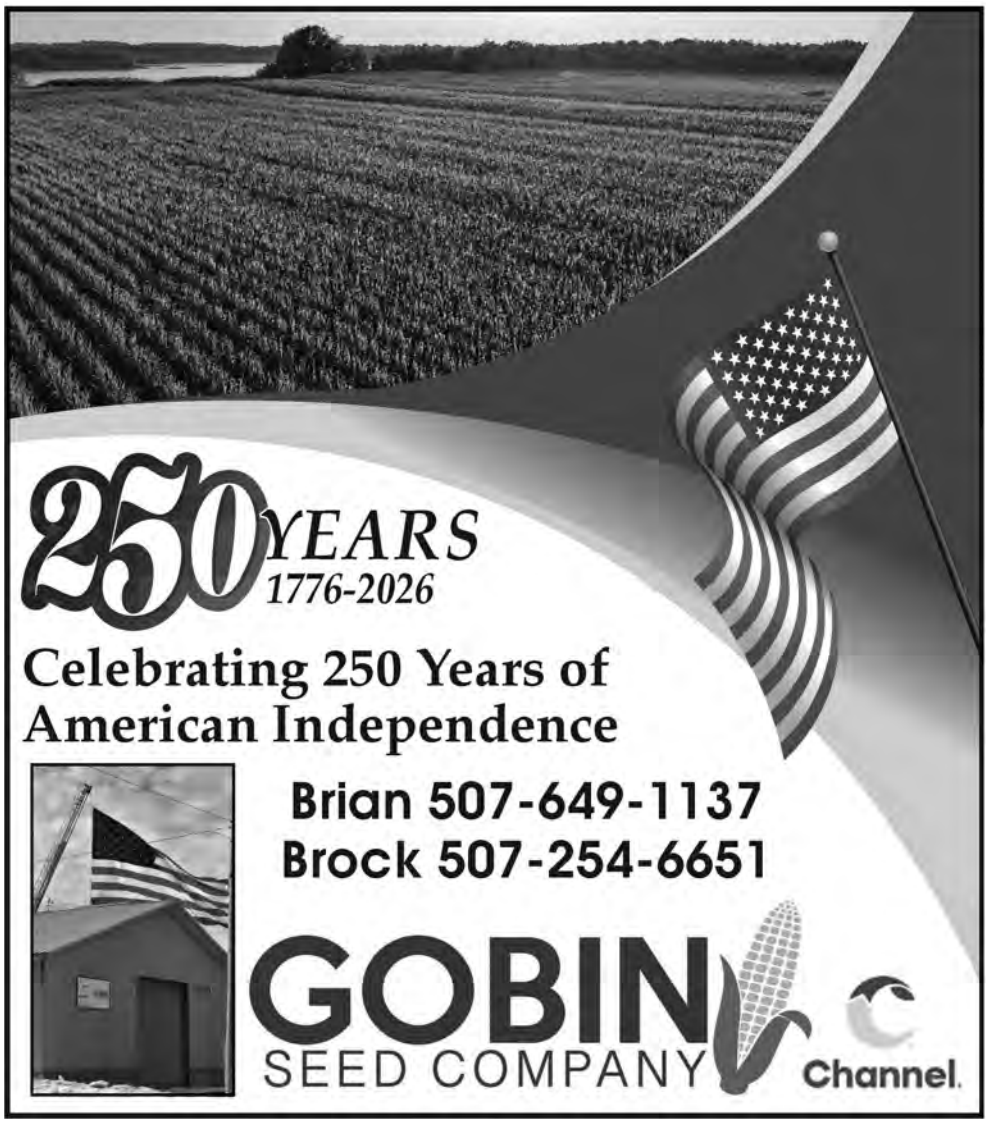
(continued from page 1)

But Warner says she is not afraid of hard work, and she is dedicated to keeping people first at Gold Door Realty. Warner says one of the things that makes Gold Door Realty unique is their commitment to explore various options with clients. She highlights, "sometimes buying or selling a property isn't the right next step. It's about putting people first, understanding what they need, and helping them find a direction that's a good fit. I believe having options is one of the best tools you can have. That might mean exploring a cash offer for a quick closing, making improvements before listing, keeping a property as a rental, or looking into whether an Airbnb could make sense. Each option comes with different costs, opportunities, and considerations, and I enjoy helping people work through those details." Each situation brings new challenges and possibilities. Warner says her team is dedicated to understanding the best fit for each client.

Warner loves connecting with individuals and helping make a difference. She understands that selling a property or facing changes is not always easy. Warner says, "real estate can be a joyful time, but it can also mean saying goodbye to a property that has been in a family for generations. With our own family being the fifth generation on our hobby farm, I understand that a property can hold much more than financial value. It holds memories, history, and a sense of belonging…being someone a family can lean on through that process is one of my biggest accomplishments. Some days that means working through options and handling the details. Other days it means sitting down over a cup of coffee, listening, and letting someone share their memories."

Whether it's selling a property, buying a new business location, or simply listening to a family tell their story, Jill Warner is committed to showing care and honesty in any situation. Her dedication to her community extends beyond the office as she loves to be involved locally. She says, "I want the Kenyon-Wanamingo community to know that Gold Door Realty is here to be a resource, even if buying or selling isn't on your radar…We're excited about our newly renovated Gold Door Realty office at 522 2nd Street in Kenyon! This is the second building we've renovated in town, and my hope is to keep bringing buildings back to life and help bring more businesses into our community." Warner is happy to discuss ideas and possibilities with the Kenyon community. She encourages the community to "stop in and see us at the new office—even if it's just to say hello or sit down for a cup of coffee. Sometimes a conversation is where a good idea starts!"





Christmas Events are just Around the Corner

(continued from page 1)

Kids can get their hands busy with holiday crafts and games, warm up with a cup of hot chocolate, decorate an ornament or enter our coloring contest, and keep an eye out for giveaway baskets along the way. It's a full day of holiday cheer, and every participating business helps make the magic happen.

Christmas in West Concord will be held on Saturday December 5th. The Bell Tower Center will have coffee, cocoa and hot cider starting at 9am. Check out the silent auction, festival of wreaths and the Christmas Program at 5pm. There will be a free community supper from 5:30 to 7pm. The American Legion will have fresh homemade doughnuts starting at 7am and there is a Christmas Marketplace at the Historical Society from 9am to 2:30pm with lunch served from 11am to 1pm.

On Saturday December 5th in Goodhue you can experience the Christkindlmarket German Christmas Market, featuring German food and beverages, children's activities, artisans, crafter and vendors, horse drawn rides and meet Santa and the Grinch from 11am to 3pm.

Thursday, December 10, from 5 to 7 p.m Kenyon businesses will be open for evening shopping and will hold prize drawings. Shoppers can also sign up at local businesses for the Kenyon Commercial Club's ham drawing. Santa will stroll through downtown and stop at State Farm for photos. The library will host its annual Candy Land event.

On Saturday, December 12 the Kenyon VFW will host a Sip and Shop featuring local vendors. The Kenyon Area Historical Society will hold its annual Bake Sale & Cookie Walk at the Gunderson House.

On Saturday, December 12th, Triton's Community Education joins with Dodge County's Salvation Army to bring sweets and treats to all the good boys and girls of all ages. There will be 3 hours of family fun to join in on, starting at 10 am and going until 1 pm.

You can park and enter through the Main Elementary Door. Here you will find horse drawn sleigh rides waiting to whisk you away, maybe even through some snow? There will be free pictures with Santa, and you can decorate cookies with the girl scouts. There will be crafts to make to bring home and hot cocoa to sip on while you do so.

And gift giving just got easier, too! Local vendors and crafters will have unique products on display for those hard to buy presents for, because these gifts are handmade and one of a kind! The winter wonderland will put you in a festive spirit for your holiday shopping pleasure as you peruse the colorful displays of gifts and sweets. As you can tell, the elves among us have outdone themselves again, so be sure to avoid the Christmas Last Minute Shopping Blues and find that special hand-crafted gift for everyone on your list.

Viking Meats & Grocery Now Open

(continued from page 1)

Barney explained that there were a few holes in the shelf inventory as they changed between suppliers in the transition.

"Were refilling things daily" Nesseth stated. "We are overwhelmed and grateful for everyones support during the transition."

Viking Meats and Grocery is open everyday from 7 AM - 8 PM.

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New Hair Salon Opens in Wanamingo

(continued from page 1)

She decided to set up shop in town to have a flexible schedule and be closer to her kids. She had her second child in May of this month.

She also wants to be part of the Wanamigo business community and serve the residents of her home town.

Jill operates a full-service salon and specializes in color and extensions, especially in blonde. She does cuts, brow waxes and men's haircuts. She sells Kevin Murphy and Moroccan Oil products. She plans to expand by adding boutique items like hair accessories and candles in the future.

Jill plans to stay in the community because she wants her kids, Ryan and Quinn, to grow up in a worry-free small town like she did. A town where everyone knows and looks out for each other. A place where they can play and go to the pool, something that is more difficult in larger cities. Her sister and nieces, parents and grandmother all live in town. Jill has joined local organizations because she wants to support and give back to the community.

Jill is open Tuesday thru Saturday from 9am to 4pm and until 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings. She is open on some Saturdays and by appointment as well. You can contact her at 507-358-6952 or make an appointment on her booking website @ jillofstie.glossgenius.com

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KENYON-WANAMINGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS of the WEEK



NOBLE KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK FOR OCTOBER 29, 2026

Front Row: Mabel Mlinar, KG, Mrs. Cheryl Dahl; Grayson Peterson, KG, Mrs. Mandi Kyllo-Lunde; Margaret Hagedorn, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Leon Reinardy, Gr. 2, Mrs. Tanya Short; Mabel Eggert, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Oscar Enberg, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Toby Edwards, Gr. 4, Mrs. Laura McAnally; Connor Foss, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing; Reyna Dressel, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Cooper Bauer, Gr. 3, Mrs. Rebekah Patterson



NOBLE KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK FOR NOVEMBER 6, 2026

Front Row: Aubree Woloszyk, KG, Mrs. Cheryl Dahl; Aubrey Lair, KG, Mrs. Mandi Kyllo-Lunde; Murphey Lurken, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Ulises Quintero Murillo, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Isabelle Johnson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Tanya Short; Lincoln Meyer, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Scarlett Baalson, Gr. 3, Mrs. Rebekah Patterson; Marissa Samlaska, Gr. 4, Mrs. Laura McAnally; Cecelia Jandro, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

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:

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

Kenyon-Wanamingo Volleyball



The Kenyon-Wanamingo volleyball team's season has come to an end in a hard fought 5 set match against Fillmore Central. Thank you to the families, community members, and other fans for supporting our team this season. Seniors- the impact you all have had on this program will be remembered. We look forward to following you and seeing everything that lies ahead of you.

Courtesy of Kenyon-Wanamingo Knights Volleyball

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!



Amelia Kispert

ZMKW Cross Country Team Finishes 8th at State



The boys ZMKW cross country team finished 8th at the State Meet. Caleb Kevan and Christian McCutcheon earned all state honors. A great end to a fantastic year.

Courtesy of ZMKW Cross Country

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.

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"



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

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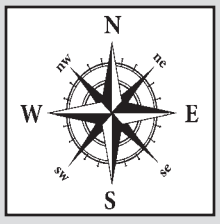
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

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.





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.

Patsy Cline Tribute Band at Grand Event Center in Northfield Nov. 14


Hanna Cesario

A Patsy Cline Tribute Featuring Hanna Cesario will be performing at the Grand Event Center in Northfield on Saturday, November 14 at 6:00 pm. The group features Mankato musician Hanna Cesario and a five-piece backing band.

Hanna formed the group as a reprisal of her lead role in A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline- a musical biography that was staged at the Kato Ballroom in early 2024. After the production finished, ongoing audience interest in her performance as Patsy compelled Hanna to continue the show by converting it into a tribute concert. "After we wrapped A Closer Walk, I was contacted to perform again but without the theater element. Forming the tribute band felt like the natural next step."

For Hanna, Patsy's legacy is more than just her music. "I've had a lot of fun studying her life and listening to her recordings. I think what she contributed to the music industry- especially as a woman in the era which she lived- is really impressive." She's also joined by five Mankato area musicians filling out the band. "Working with the band has been so great. They all offer so much talent to the performance and really capture the style and energy that Patsy's music calls for."

Tickets for the performance are $25.06 (taxes and fees included) and can be purchased at www.patsyclineatthegrand.eventbrite.com/



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Get Your Tickets for "Little Women"

By Mantorville Theatre

Our December show is "Little Women" adapted by Marisha Chamberlain, directed by Kami Sim. The show runs December 4-20: Shows will start at 7 pm on Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, & 18. Shows will start at 2 pm on Dec. 6, 13, 19, & 20. Shows are held at the Mantorville Opera House: 5 5th St. West, Mantorville, MN.

About the show

Under the guidance of their beloved mother, the four young March sisters – tempestuous Jo, motherly Meg, shy Beth and spoiled baby Amy – struggle to keep their family going while Father is away in the Civil War. In this beautifully dramatized version of the classic novel, even as turmoil, illness, and sibling rivalry cast their shadows, each girl strives to find her true self. Expanded to a full-length adaptation, Chamberlain's work brims with heart and passion.

Genre: Drama

This Little Women show is not the musical version.

Meet the cast

The March sisters:
Jo - Catherine Williamson
Meg - Anna Houston
Amy - Ellie Brasher
Beth - Lydia Tate
Understudy for March sisters - Stefanie Maas

The older members of the family
Hannah - Becca Messick
Marmee - Lindsay Herr
Aunt March - Cheryl Frarck
Father - Travis Dockter

The neighbors
Mr. Laurence - Carl Benson
Laurie - James N. Lee
Mr. Brooke - Drew Adams

Get your tickets

Adult tickets are $22, Senior/MTC member/Student tickets are $20. All seats are reserved. Visit our website to purchase your tickets:

https://www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com/tickets.html

Please reach out if you have any questions. The box office can be reached via email (MantorvilleTheatre@gmail.com) or phone (507-635-5420 - please leave a message). We can reserve tickets and you can pay for them at the door (with cash). The doors will open 30 minutes prior to show time.

We can't wait to see you there!



WILDWOOD

November events, happenings and goings on at WildWood!

315 Main Street | Nerstrand | WildWoodofNerstrand.com

Slow Flow Yoga Series
Mondays, November 16, 23, 30 - Chair yoga!
6:00pm | $15/class or $70 for all 4
Hosted by Faith of Wild Wellness
Show gratitude for your body and join Faith for a 45 minute slow flow yoga on Monday nights in November. Bring your mat, water bottle and get ready to get your sweat rolling. Must pre-register online; walk-ins welcome 10 minutes early to register online onsite.

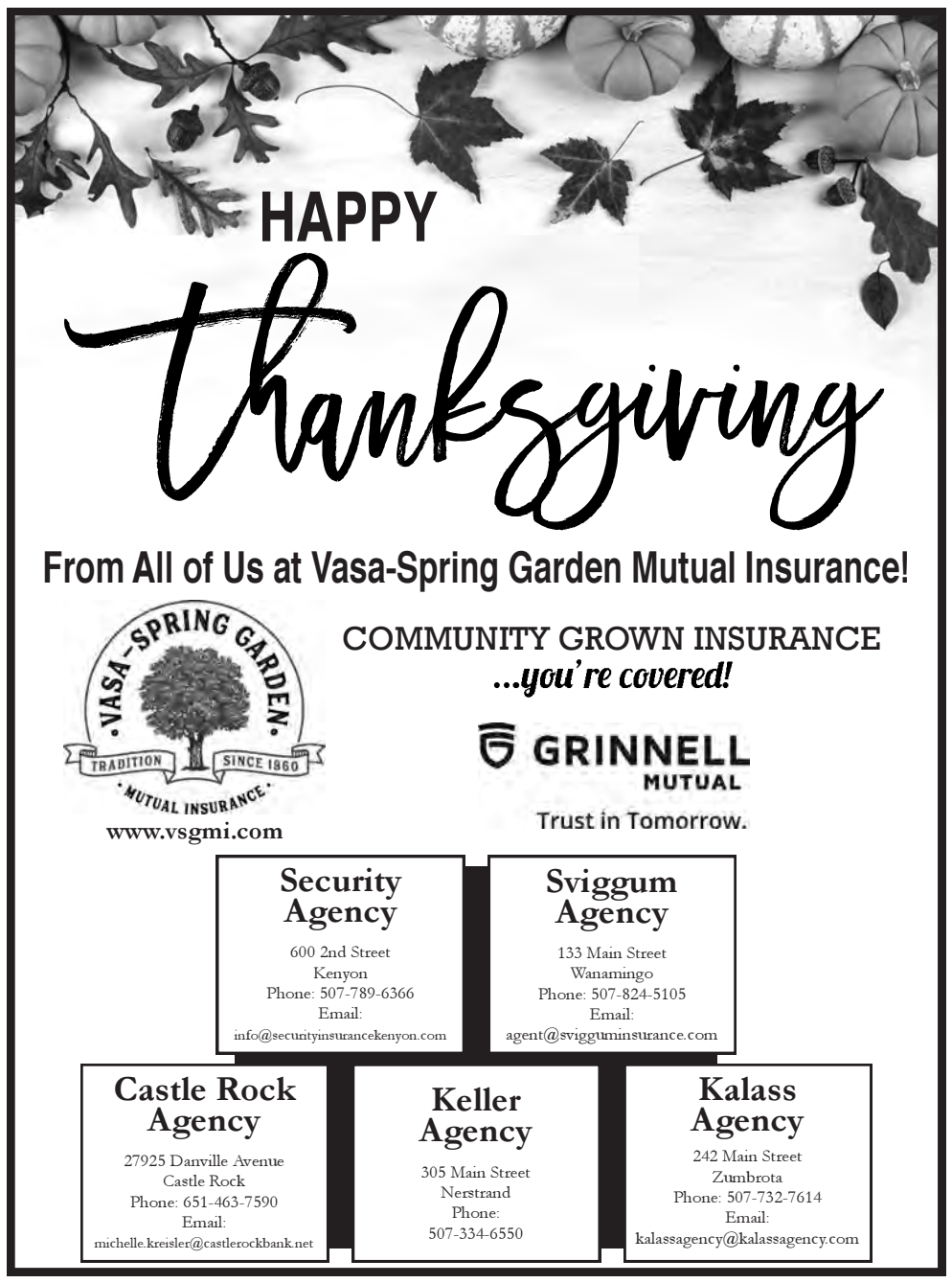
Women in Business Networking Group
Thursday, November 12 | 9am | no charge
Bring your own coffee and come mingle and learn about other women-owned/managed local businesses {or just come to meet and make some new lady friends!}.

Live Harp Rejuvenation Evening
Thursday, November 12 | 6:30-7:30pm | free-will donation
Hosted by Sarah Swan-McDonald
Escape the noise of daily life and relax during our Evening of Sound and Rejuvenation with live harp provided by Sarah Swan McDonald. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. so you can settle in and fill a cup with some warm tea before the harp music begins at 7:00 p.m. This is not a concert, but a 30-minute session of simple, quiet music designed to help you unwind. In this dimly lit space, you are invited to bring your own yoga mat, bolster, pillows, or blankets to create a comfortable spot on the floor. As the slow and meditative melodies fill the room, tension will dissolve and your mind will drift into stillness, leaving you feeling restored and refreshed. Admission is by free will donation, making this evening of rest accessible to everyone.

Sourdough 101
Saturday, November 14 | 11am-1:30pm | $95
Hosted by Ashley of Ten Acre Baker --THIS CLASS IS SOLD OUT--

Holiday Spruce Tip Planter Workshop
Sunday, November 22 | 2-4pm | $60/person
Hosted by Big Woods Christmas Tree Farm
Grab your favorite person and kick off the season together! Joins us for a cozy, casual workshop where you will craft a custom 12-inch winter spruce tip planter. Listening to holiday music while you create alongside your best friend, neighbor or family member -- it's the perfect was to get into the festive spirit and make something beautiful! All items provides, you just bring the holiday vibe. Limited space available, registration and prepayment required.

As always, WildWood is open for public and private rentals!
More information and event tickets available online at wildwoodofnerstrand.com/happenings





Thanksgiving reminds us how fortunate we are to be surrounded by such wonderful customers and neighbors.

Happy Thanksgiving From All of Us at Security State Bank of Kenyon

May it bring an abundance of good fortune to your home and loved ones.

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Annual Christmas Cookie Sale at The Martin T. Gunderson House December 12



The Kenyon Area Historical Society is having their Annual Christmas Cookie Sale. The event will take place on Saturday December 12, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at The Martin T. Gunderson House, 107 Gunderson Boulevard, Kenyon, MN

PREORDERS are available November 12-December 5, 2026, with pick up on December 12, 2026, by calling: Gwen Springer (507) 330-1804, Deb Aase (507) 456-4242 or Coralee Monroe (612) 756-4687, otherwise just come to the Gunderson House on Saturday morning and choose the cookies you'd like.

PRE-ORDER VARIETIES include: Decorated Sugar Cut-Out Cookies, Peanut Butter Kiss Cookies, Kringla, Russian Tea Cakes, Krumkake, Sanbakkel, Lefse, Rosettes, Spritz Cookies, Molasses Cookies and Scandinavian Almond Sticks.

There will be additional varieties of cookies and bakings available on Saturday, December 12 at the Gunderson House. Christmas Tins will be available to create a hostess gift. Visit us on Facebook @ Kenyon Area Historical Society for updates and additional information.

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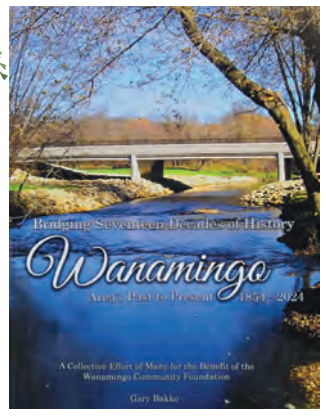
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A gift to you - *Bridging Seventeen Decades of History* - for your meaningful donation of $100 or more may be obtained at the Wanamingo City Office or the Security State Bank of Wanamingo.

The Wanamingo Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization that exists to improve the future of an entire community. It does this through uniting people and resources to address the community's most critical or persistent issues and produce significant, widely shared and lasting results.

Advertising space for this message donated in support of the Wanamingo Foundation by the Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger.



Celebrate With Us This Thanksgiving

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

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Dannielle Zielkie, APRN



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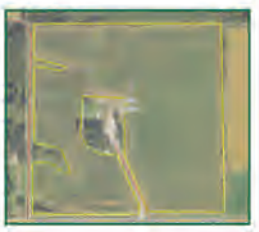
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ONLINE ONLY 35.14 ACRE RICE COUNTY
REAL ESTATE AUCTION FOR
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AUCTION LOCATION
46XX 270th Street East, Medford, MN
Bidding Opens: Sat, November 14, 2026 at 8:00 AM
Bidding Starts Closing: Mon, November 23, 2026 at 10:00 AM

An excellent opportunity to purchase a highly productive tract of southern Minnesota farmland located in Section 34 of Walcott Township, Rice County. This recently surveyed 35.14-acre farm features nearly 32 acres of cropland, strong productive soils and an extensive drain-tile system. Conveniently located along 270th Street East near Medford, this is a quality agricultural property well suited for farmers, investors or anyone looking to add productive acres to their land holdings.

Property Highlights
- 35.14 surveyed acres
- 31.89 acres of cropland according to the Rice County FSA Office
- More than 90% of the surveyed acreage is tillable
- 83.6 average Crop Productivity Index (CPI) with more than 87% of the soils carry a Productivity Index of 85 or higher
- 7,700+ feet of 4-inch and 5-inch drain tile with map
- FSA records show the tract does not contain a designated wetland
- Excellent access from 270th Street East
- Located in the SW ¼ of the SE ¼, Section 34, Township 109, Range 20, Walcott Township, Rice Coumty, MN
- 2026 real estate taxes to be paid by the Seller







Terms: $15,000.00 Earnest money down on day of auction, which is non-refundable earnest money if the buyer(s) fail to close on said property. The balance is due and payable in full to the sellers on or before December 29, 2026, at which that time the buyer(s) shall receive a clear and marketable title. Possession for shall be at the time of closing, unless agreed to in write with seller and buyer. All real estate is selling in AS-IS condition with no warranties or guarantees expressed or implied by the sellers or any of their agents. All real estate sells with no contingencies whatsoever. All real estate taxes due in the year 2026 shall be paid by the sellers. All bidders and buyers must have their finances in order prior to bidding on auction day.

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3-RING ONLINE AUCTION EVENT
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AUCTION LOCATION
930 Red Wing Ave., Kenyon, MN
Bidding Opens: Saturday, November 7, 2026 At 8:00 AM
Bidding Starts Closing: Sunday, November 15, 2026 At 3:00 PM

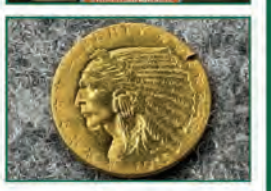
Coins, Silver & Gold - 600+ Lots
- American Silver Eagles; Morgan & Peace silver dollars; 1915 $2.50 Indian Head gold coin; silver proof sets; Walking Liberty & Franklin half dollars; collectible paper money

Farm Toys, Die-Cast & Collectibles - 500+ Lots
- John Deere, Case IH & New Holland collector farm toys; Ertl Precision & Prestige editions; American Muscle die-cast cars, including limited-edition Yenko Camaros; Scale Model Planes, G-Scale Trains, Red Wing stoneware, 12–20 gal. crocks; antiques, advertising collectibles, farm primitives, antique furniture & signed wildlife prints.

Equipment, Tools & Shipping Containers
- Bobcat 743 Skid Loader, New mini excavators; 20' & 40' shipping containers; skid loader attachments, including mulchers, stump grinders, tree pullers & buckets; Snap-On 75th Anniversary rolling toolbox; Snap-On & Mac tools; machinist tools, welders, air compressors & power tools.







Preview Dates: Nov. 13th 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Payment & Loadout Dates: Nov. 16th-18th 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Terms: This is an online only auction. Payment terms are Cash, Check, Credit Card, ACH/Wire Transfer. All Items Sell AS-IS, 10% Buyers Premium on all items capped at $1,000 Per Lot On All Items.









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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!

Got a Great Local News Story?

Tell us about it today!

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com



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.

Gardeners, Relax and Take Time to Read



By Lorrie Rugg
Master Gardener Coordinator,
Rice and Steele Counties

As our growing season is winding down and the garden chores keep getting checked off my list to get done I begin to think about another thing I really enjoy and that is reading. What do I love to read - a really good gardening book. So I did some research on what books are out there and should maybe be on my Christmas wishlist?

The best gardening books for our region are those that help us understand our climate, choose hardy plants, work with our soil and create gardens that can withstand whatever Minnesota weather throws at us. We have all experienced a late spring frost just when the apple trees or magnolias are just ready to bloom, or a summer when the rain just stops and we get very friendly with our garden hoses and an early frost that catches us off guard.

I hope that by doing a little reading this winter we all will be more prepared for next year's growing season.

Here are a few selections that sound like they would be worth reading.

The Northern Gardener: From apples to Zinnias by Mary Lahr Schier.

This book has over 150 years of Minnesota Gardening wisdom inside the cover. It includes practical advice, gardening traditions, hardy plants and stories about Minnesota horticulture.

Growing Perennials in Cold Climates - Mike Heger, John Whitman and Debbie Lonnee. This is a great reference for anyone who loves perennial gardening. It helps you choose the right plant for the right place.

Month-by-Month Gardening in Minnesota - Melinda Myers. This is a great book for knowing what to do and when to do it. We all struggle with timing because our weather can vary so much from year to year. What worked last year might not work this year.

Growing Shrubs and Small Trees in Cold Climates - Debie Lonnee, Nancy Rose, Don Selinger and John Whitman. This is a wonderful resource for choosing trees and shrubs that can withstand our Minnesota winters. It has a nice selection of varieties with attractive flowers, berries and year round interest..

I hope these books offer more than just instructions - they offer inspiration to try new things and the knowledge to make it be successful. It helps us to understand the relationship between our gardens and our Minnesota weather. It can save you years of trial and error.

I read the best advice for Minnesota gardeners is : Work with our climate rather than against it. We can make plans and have everything figured out, but

Mother Nature always has the final say. Every garden year is different and our climate is changing, so we need to change some of the ways we do things. One thing I love about gardening is - there is always something new to learn. It is an ongoing process.

I hope you find some of these books under your tree this Holiday season.,

Agritourism Exchange November 19th at Keepsake Cidery in Dundas

Agritourism Exchange
Thursday, November 19, 2026
1:00–5:00 p.m.
Keepsake Cidery, Dundas
$20/person

Join Minnesota's annual gathering of agritourism operators and the organizations that support them. Connect with fellow farm hosts, hear real-world experiences from experienced operators, participate in engaging discussions, and discover resources to help grow your agritourism business.

Whether you're just getting started or have years of experience, you'll leave with new ideas, valuable connections, and practical takeaways. Register at: https://extension.umn.edu/event/3rd-annual-agritourism-exchange.



Learn about Composting and Farm Conservation at Upcoming Webinar

Join the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization as they host the second session of the virtual learning series Land to Lake Lectures. Compost can improve soil biology, nutrient cycling, and overall soil health when paired with practices like cover crops and conservation tillage. Farmers Eric Polacek and Brad Hagen will share their composting approaches, how compost and compost extract affect soil biology, and what they're seeing in their fields. Discover how these complementary practices can work together to build healthier, more resilient soils.

The free webinar will be held on Tuesday, November 17, at 12:00 pm over the lunch hour. Register for the webinar at https://z.umn.edu/CompostontheFarm. The webinar will be video-recorded and posted on the CRWJPO's website at https://www.cannonriverwatershedmn.gov afterward for those who cannot attend.

The virtual learning sessions "Land to Lake Lectures" will continue throughout the fall and into the spring with a different topic each month over the lunch hour. Learn more about the webinar and previous topics at https://www.cannonriverwatershedmn.gov/events-1. For more information, contact Emmie Scheffler at (507) 332-5408 or Emmie.scheffler@riceswcd.org.



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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.*

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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.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. A free Strategy Call is available for you to ask your questions and begin to get some answers. Nutrition is designed for healing. Contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

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

Goodhue County Health & Human Services Employee Spotlight

Meet Katie Quinn

By Goodhue County Health and Human Services

Goodhue County, MN (November, 2026) - Goodhue County Health and Human Services (GCHHS) Employee Spotlights are an opportunity to inform and educate our residents on the many programs and services we offer while highlighting the HHS professionals who are the driving force behind the work.

Meet Katie Quinn, Social Services Supervisor for the Child and Family Team, overseeing intake assessment, outreach, and licensing—and our third GCHHS Employee Spotlight feature.

Katie began her career with Goodhue County in 1998 as the coordinator for the "Kids Handle with Care" program. In 1999, she moved into Social Services as a Child Protection Worker, beginning a long, impactful career serving children and families in Goodhue County.

What inspired you to pursue a career in health and human services and/or public service?

For Katie, the path into public service wasn't something planned, it was something that naturally unfolded as she followed her interests and opportunities. Katie earned a degree in Developmental Psychology and taught special education before moving to the Goodhue County Extension Office. At the Extension Office, she was the Kids: Handle with Care program coordinator; the program brought together community partners to provide positive parenting education and teach children and youth problem-solving skills.

One day, Katie came across an internal posting for a child protection worker position in social services, and she decided to apply. From there, her career in human services took shape. Katie shared that both her teaching role and her work at the Extension Office connected deeply with what she loved most: helping families, supporting children, and fostering safe, healthy growth. Her current role brings together all those experiences.

Katie noted that community involvement has always been part of her life. Growing up, her parents were very active in local events, especially amateur baseball in Red Wing. Stepping up to meet community needs felt natural. She describes her career path as something she "accidentally fell into", but one that fully aligns with her long-standing desire to help families and serve her community.

Who or what motivates you on challenging days in your role?

On challenging days, Katie finds motivation in the meaningful impact the work has on families, youth, and children. Katie shared that it is a privilege to be trusted during moments when people are at their most vulnerable, and it is deeply rewarding to support individuals as they strengthen their own voice and selfadvocacy. Witnessing families navigate difficult circumstances, build resilience, and reach important milestones is an experience Katie describes as truly priceless.

Katie also noted being inspired by her coworkers—the compassion, joy, and kindness they bring to their work create an environment that offers encouragement and reinforces why this work matters. Their dedication continually motivates Katie to show up with purpose, empathy, and commitment.

WHAT WE DO

What are some common misconceptions people have about your program?

At GCHHS, Katie truly values the commitment to meeting people where they are. Katie knows that government programs can feel overwhelming, and that public perception often focuses on the programs people find intimidating.

In Katie's work, HHS professionals want families to understand that child protection exists to help them succeed. Parents fundamentally want their children to thrive as responsible and respectful members of the community—even when barriers make that difficult. Katie is grateful to work for an agency that sees people for the wonderful human beings they are and provides support and opportunities for continued growth.

Although overcoming the stereotype of child protection as a family disruptor can be challenging, Katie has seen firsthand that disruption usually begins long before their team becomes involved, and being part of a family's reconciliation is truly meaningful. Katie's hope is that, by the time she retires, the community will view child protection not as an adversary but as a trusted resource.



Katie Quinn

LEARN MORE ABOUT US

Each month, we will be highlighting a different HHS professional across our department and the services/programs they provide to Goodhue County residents and communities.

For more information about our programs and services, contact us Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., by phone at 651-385-3200 or in person at 426 West Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066. Visit our webpage: goodhuecountymn.gov/hhs or our social media at Instagram: @goodhuecountyhhs and Facebook: www.facebook.com/gchhs/. For Employment Opportunities, visit https://goodhuecountymn.gov/employment/.

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Thank you



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

We appreciate your readership and support.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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Who Owns Main Street?



By Benya Kraus
President & CEO Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

Recently, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) partnered with Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) and Rural Voice to facilitate two important discussions in southern Minnesota. A question framed much of our recent Rural Voice event in Albert Lea: Who owns Main Street?

At first glance, the answer seems obvious. Main Street is owned by the people who own the buildings, the businesses and the property that line our downtowns. But as we listened to business owners, community leaders and residents from across southern Minnesota, it became clear that ownership is about far more than a deed or a storefront. Main Street is shaped and sustained by the people who invest themselves in a community every single day.

Consider the owner of a small boutique, the operator of a screen-printing company or the family running a local restaurant. Their work may be selling clothing, producing custom apparel or serving meals. But that is rarely the full extent of what they contribute. They are the people organizing downtown events. They sponsor youth sports teams. They donate gift cards for school fundraisers. They remember their customers' names, ask about a parent's health and become a mentor for a teenager's first job.

When we choose to support local businesses, we are purchasing far more than a product. We are investing in relationships. We are investing in a downtown that feels alive. We are investing in people who are helping build the civic and social fabric of our communities.

The challenge is that many of these community-building businesses are also among the most undercapitalized. During our conversations, we heard from owners operating on razor-thin margins. Many shared stories of working extraordinarily long days because they were hesitant to take on debt that could require putting their homes or personal assets at risk. Others knew they could grow if they purchased additional equipment or hired another employee, but lacked the resources and support necessary to take that next step.

This is where community banks play a critical role. Across southern Minnesota, local lenders continue to serve communities and businesses that might otherwise be overlooked by national banks. Yet even community banks are constrained with what support they can offer. Some businesses need additional flexibility to reflect the seasonality of their sales, or some added coaching to offload their tasks to another employee and think differently about their pricing strategy. Other businesses may be asset-light, so struggle to collateralize their loan. Or the owners may have had health bills go unpaid in the past, and so struggle with their credit score.

That is where Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation can help.

Our role is not to replace traditional lenders but to complement them. We serve as a gap funder, a coach, and a flexible, creative financing partner. We understand that many small businesses are trying to grow in an economy that often concentrates resources toward the largest companies while leaving small, locally owned enterprises with fewer options for the capital they need to succeed.



And it's not just businesses that struggle to get access to funding.

Despite making up 20% of the U.S. population, rural communities get only 3% of philanthropic funding. That's why we focus so much of our grantmaking on small, rural towns. Recently, SMIF awarded a new round of Small Town Grants to local projects working to strengthen quality of life and social connections.

In Mabel, the public library will launch a game night and Silver Screen Movies for Seniors, a free monthly movie and discussion program designed to reduce isolation and increase social engagement among older residents. The effort brings together the library, senior dining programs, assisted living providers, churches and civic organizations to create meaningful opportunities for community connection.

In Montgomery, 507 Food Share is partnering with Tri-City United Schools to establish a Weekend Backpack Nutrition Program for students. The initiative will provide food directly to children who need it, reducing barriers to access while preserving privacy and dignity for families.

And in Medford, the United Way of Steele County is leading a community planning effort focused on the future of the Medford Community Pool. More than a recreational facility, the pool serves as a gathering place and source of community pride. This project will engage residents in shaping a long-term vision for preserving an important community asset while strengthening local leadership and civic participation along the way.

So, who owns Main Street?

The answer is all of us.

And when we recognize, support and invest in the people who build community, we are helping ensure that our towns remain vibrant places not just for today, but for generations to come.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at benyak@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

Benya Kraus is the President & CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. Benya is the co-founder of Lead for America and served as the Network Advancement Director at Resource Rural.

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Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund

By Cheri Roshon

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

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

Give it to a Board member: Mike Alme, Gary Bakko, Susie Beulke, Michael Boulton, Lisa Johnson, Brent Leininger, Barney Nesseth, Jennifer Ohr, Patty Prigge, Larry VanDeWalker.

Go to our website: https://wanamingofoundation.org/donate

Scan our QR code:

IF YOU ARE A SENIOR 73 or older, and must do a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), consider donating directly to our Foundation--You WILL save on your taxes!

Thank you for supporting the Wanamingo area community and many thanks to those who have already and continue to donate. Check the website to see all the good things that the Foundation has done for our community!

Board OKs preliminary levy that includes more than $1.5M in cost shifts

By Rice County

In late September, the Rice County Board of Commissioners approved a preliminary 2027 levy and budget with the levy 8% higher than this year, largely due to funding shifts from the state and federal governments totaling more than $1.5 million.

Changes related to SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the federal program which provides food benefits to low-income families, will cost the county an additional $560,000 in 2027, according to county estimates. About 70% of that will come from an increase in the share of administrative costs (from 50% to 75%) required of the county. The remainder is a new obligation for the county beginning in October 2027: a percentage of the SNAP benefits it issues.

State cost shifts for long-term services and supports that take effect on July 1, 2027, are anticipated to add another $355,000 to next year's budget.

County officials have included an additional $600,000 in the budget following the August approval of new state rules that increase training and oversight for jail personnel. Sheriff Jesse Thomas says the new rules will require his office to hire five additional correctional officers.

The board also approved a preliminary 2027 levy for the Housing & Redevelopment Authority of $306,884. County Administrator Sara Folsted said the increase accounts for anticipated reductions in federal revenue.

Increased personnel, health care and fuel costs are also factored into the preliminary 2027 budget. Per state law, the levy can be decreased before being finalized in December, but it cannot be increased.

Although county staff, anticipating some of the funding shifts to mandated services, began looking at ways to cuts costs earlier this year, Folsted told the board Tuesday that that work continues.

"We know taxpayers are dealing with higher costs, particularly at the grocery store, the gas pump and for health care," said Board Chair Charlie Peters. "Anywhere we're able to cut – even a little bit – puts more money in residents' pockets."

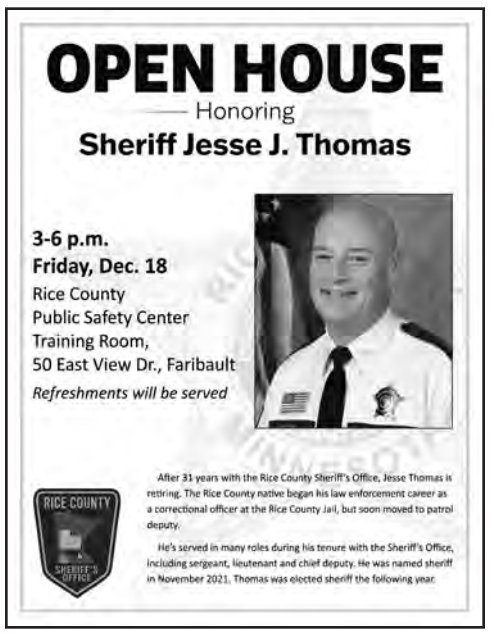
A public hearing on the preliminary levy is set for 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, 2026, in the Rice County Government Services Building, 320 Third St. NW, Faribault. Approval of the final 2027 levy and budget is expected during the Tuesday, Dec. 15 meeting.

Non-emergency Phone Number Changes with 911 Center Move

The Rice & Steele 911 Center moved into its new facility at 118 Third St. NW, Faribault on Nov. 4, 2026. With this move, the center's administrative/non-emergency/public phone number changed to 507-209-0380.

Current numbers will forward to the new number for 30 days following the move.

For emergencies, continue to call 911 as this change does not affect 911 service.



Change in Issuing Certified Records

Effective immediately, the Minnesota Department of Health Office of Vital Records (OVR) no longer approves the issuing of certified birth or death certificates to great-grandparents and great-grandchildren. Rice County has updated eligible requesters on the following form: Birth Certificate Request (PDF) at www.ricecountymn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2039/Birth-Certificate-Application-Form-by-Mail-PDF.

As the demand for historical records has increased, questions surfaced regarding the eligibility of "great-grand" requesters. A legal review by the Minnesota Department Health Office of Vital Records has determined great-grandparents and great-grandchildren are not eligible to receive certified birth or death certificates.

The relationships were previously listed as authorized requesters on the certified birth certificate request form but not on the death certificate form, though it has been common practice to issue certified death certificates to "great-grand" requesters. See Minnesota Statutes, Section 144.225, Subd. 7 for reference.

2026 General Election Results for Kenyon and Wanamingo

(continued from page 1)

In the Minnesota District 19 Senate race John Jasinski received 22,608 votes or 60% while Sam Powell received 14,924 votes or 40%. In the District 19A state representative race Keith Allen received 10,812 votes or 60% while the challenger Martha Brown received 7,313 votes or 40%. In the 20A state representative election incumbent Pam Altendorf received 11,622 votes or 54% to Heather Arndt's 9,962 or 46%. In the 20B state representative race Sara Bertschinger received 13,529 votes or 62% to Steve Holm with 8,083 votes or 37%.

In the Wanamingo city election mayor Ryan Holmes was unopposed and received 506 votes. The Wanamingo city council had two open seats with three candidates. Rebecca Haugen received 332 votes, Luke Nelson received 285 votes and Jacob Vredenburg came in with 220 votes.

In the Kenyon mayor's race there were three candidates. Diane ABarrett was elected with 473 votes or 55% of the total. Incumbent Donald Kirchman received 255 votes at 30% and Diana Tomlinson received 120 votes or 14%. The Kenyon city council had two open seats with three candidates and a special election with two open seats with three candidates. Sue Dodds received 565 votes or 40%, Ron Peterson received 432 votes or 30% and Michelle Kreisler received 393 votes or 28%. In the special election Kevin Maring received 616 votes or 47%, Deanna Gard received 473 votes or 36% and Jennifer Sweet received 223 votes or 17%.

The Kenyon Wanamingo School Board election had four openings and four candidates, Timothy LaCanne received 1705 votes, James Jarvis received 1671 votes, Stephanie Brezina received 1599 votes and Jeff Gearhart II received 1427 votes.

Sara Bertschinger Wins Minnesota House District 20B Seat

Pine Island community nurse pledges to champion accountable government, economic freedom, and family values



PINE ISLAND, Minn. - Nov. 4, 2026 - Sara Bertschinger of Pine Island has won election to the Minnesota House of Representatives in District 20B.

"I am so grateful to every voter, volunteer, friend, and family member who stood with this campaign and invested in the future of our district," Bertschinger said. "Your support, encouragement, prayers, and willingness to show up sustained this campaign and made this victory possible."

Bertschinger ran on three key priorities:

Economic opportunity and freedom

Family values

Government accountability

"My platform was built around accountable government, economic freedom, and family values," Bertschinger said. "Those principles do not end with an election, and I intend to carry these priorities forward."

With Minnesota potentially headed for another period of one-party control under a Democratic trifecta, Bertschinger emphasized the importance of legislative oversight and public participation. She pointed to the growth in state spending and taxes, the use of an $18 billion surplus, and the passage of partisan legislation during the last period of unified Democratic control.

"Accountability does not stop on Election Day," Bertschinger said. "In many ways, that is when it becomes even more important."

Bertschinger pledged to represent Southeastern Minnesota, keep communities informed about developing legislation, and ensure residents' voices are heard at the Capitol.

"We have seen before how public engagement and overwhelming constituent feedback can push back against policies that do not reflect the priorities of Minnesotans," Bertschinger said. "Your voice matters. Your opinions matter. And your willingness to speak up matters."

During the campaign, Bertschinger met voters at their doors, attended community gatherings, and hosted events throughout the district.

A community nurse and longtime member of the Pine Island area, Bertschinger lives on her family's centennial homestead. She has also been active as a citizen advocate for life, liberty, and the opportunity for every Minnesotan to succeed.

"I am thankful for this opportunity to represent the conservative values of our district," Bertschinger said. "Minnesota is an amazing state. The people here are hardworking, community-minded, and down-to-earth. I look forward to being a voice for my district and bringing rural values to St. Paul."

"Thank you for your trust, your encouragement, and the opportunity to represent our district," Bertschinger added. "I am thankful for this journey, proud of the people who made it possible, and committed to continuing the work ahead."

Proposed Minutes
Kenyon Regular City Council Meeting
October 13, 2026

Mayor Kirchmann called a regular meeting of the Kenyon City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council chambers, 709 2nd Street, on October 13, 2026.

The following members were present: Council Members Don Kirchmann, Deanna Gard, Kim Helgeson, Mary Bailey

Absent: Lee Sjolander

Also, present: City Administrator Scott Lehner, Engineer Derek Olinger, Attorney Scott Riggs, Administrative Assistant Holli Gudknecht, Heather Dewitz, Josh Johnson, Parker Burdorf, Blake Waltman, Jeff Sjoblom, Nate Craig, Barney Nesseth, Keith Allen, Billy Dyrdahl, Doug Henke, Diane Barrett, Barb Groth, Michelle Kreisler, Kelly Kreisler, Katie Orr, Peyton Temple, Dakota Temple, Ron Peterson, Todd Kieffer, Jeff Traxler, Alex Baraniak

Via Zoom: Jessi Sturtz, Macie Stevermer, Jean McGann

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Jeff Traxler stated that he thought tax abatement was an incentive for businesses that have done development or construction to increase the value of their property. He said two years ago his building was worth about $100,000 and he improved it to be worth $1.5 million. He came to the city and tried to get a tax abatement but was told he did not qualify. He did not think the grocery store should be considered for a tax abatement just because it is suffering financially. A lot of businesses are suffering, and this would not be fair to the other businesses.

Billy Dyrdahl stated he had reviewed the past ten years of city budgets and concluded the city has a spending problem. KMU has no spending problem-in fact, it makes money. As far as city jobs, lifelong employees are not being respected and valued. The administrator is paid too much and does too little. The city has way too much outsourced.

Minnesota State Representative Keith Allen provided an overview of the legislative session, including unfunded mandates affecting local governments, local control, school bus safety legislation, and the proposed constitutional amendment concerning school trust lands on the November ballot.

Katie Orr suggested gathering public input regarding community development and future development proposals. She asked the city council to add a question to the November ballot to see what citizens think about the new apartment building in town.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approval of hiring of Blake Waltman, Line Worker/Water Operator

Approval of hiring of Thomas Carlson, Part-time Liquor Store

Approval of hiring of Barbara Groth, Part-time Administrative Assistant

Approval of Mobile Merchant License for Taboo Tacos

Resolution 2026-36: Authorizing a Transfer from the General Fund (101 Fund) to the

EDA Fund (205 Fund) in the Amount of $5,000

Financials and Payment of check numbers, 78601 through 78712; 7638E through 7682E

City Council Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2026

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2026

Motion carried 4-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS/RECOGNITIONS/PROLAMATIONS

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Todd Kieffer – EDA Report

Kieffer updated the council on EDA projects that are being worked on including: Habitat for Humanity has found a qualified family, beautification of downtown, façade improvement projects and window murals, Small Business Development Center opportunities, Workforce Development Center offerings, and an update on ESMC.

Public Works

Nate Craig stated public works is scheduling two to three days a week to street sweep leaves in the fall. The rose bushes will be buried next week. They will be jetting the sewers this fall. Biosolids will be spread on the field soon. He will be ordering tree roses out of Ohio and see how they do here.

Jeff Sjoblom – Police Chief

Police Chief Sjoblom reported 179 calls for service during September. He stated there were six officers employed last year at this time versus three officers now. Misty England has resigned as a part-time officer.

Other

None

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

KMU Staffing Update

Administrator Lehner provided an update regarding staffing needs at KMU and the Public Works Department. The KMU supervisor and the public works worker positions will be posted by the end of the week.

Planning Commission

Administrator Lehner stated that John Cambronne resigned from the planning commission.

CMPAS Update

Administrator Lehner stated he had met with CMPAS on the electric needs at the business park. What the KMU Commission and city council thought was being done, was not happening. We do not have ample electricity to be brought to new business park. The needed transformer should have been ordered two years ago. The transformer was estimated to cost $1 million. Lots of deadlines have not been met. A future substation needs to be built and could cost $3 million to $5 million.

Work Sessions Before Council Meetings

Administrator Lehner stated it was decided to not have work sessions the week before the council meetings. Council members can come in one or two at a time on Monday or Tuesday before the council meeting to discuss what is coming up.

Fire Department

Administrator Lehner stated that two fire department candidates will be interviewed on Thursday night. They are trying to get back to full staff.

ENGINEERING

2025 Street & Utility Project

Engineer Olinger stated that the streets have been paved. The contractor has some final manhole adjustments and a brief list of punch list of repairs to be completed prior to the October 31st completion date. The majority of this pay application is for paving work and released retainage for completed punch list repairs.

2025 Street and Utility Improvements – Fitzgerald Excavating & Trucking - Pay Application No. 10

Pay request No.10 includes work completed through October 2, 2026.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Gard to approve pay application #10 to Fitzgerald Excavating in the amount of $78,668.19. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Trunk Highway 60 Utility Scoping Report

Engineer Olinger reviewed utility replacement options associated with MnDOT's anticipated Highway 60 pavement project, currently planned for approximately 2030. The Council discussed the cost of replacing utilities beneath the highway, with full replacement estimated to cost at least $3 million to $4 million.

Motion by Bailey seconded by Helgeson to accept the report and direct staff and the city engineer to continue planning activity with the city financial advisor and MnDOT involving partial utility replacement. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Kenyon Crossings Final Plat

Engineer Olinger stated that the final plat proposed to combine and revise two parcels of land in separate subdivisions (Kenyon Original Plat and S.A. Bullis' Second Addition to Kenyon and Rearrangement of Block 29 of Bullis' Second South Side Addition).

Resolution 2026-35: Approving Final Plat Kenyon Crossings

Motion by Kirchmann seconded by Bailey to adopt Resolution 2026-35. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Lead Service Line Replacement Project-Design Scope & Fee

Engineer Olinger reported that anticipated state funding assistance for lead and galvanized service line replacement had been reduced from previous expectations. Approximately forty service lines were estimated to require replacement, with an overall project cost of $1 million. The revised state funding program was expected to limit annual assistance to approximately $150,000. Further project planning will need to account for the revised funding availability.

LEGAL

OLD BUSINESS

2027 Proposed Enterprise Funds Budget

Jessi Sturtz of Abdo presented the proposed 2027 enterprise fund budgets for water, sewer, electric, and stormwater, along with a review of the General Fund budget and wage and benefit scenarios. The proposed 2027 tax levy increase remained $141,574, or 9.26%, over 2026. The Council discussed revenues, expenses, fund balances, debt service, and interest allocations among the utility funds. The electric fund's operating losses over the previous three years were discussed, along with adjustments intended to improve its financial position. The combined projected net revenue for the four enterprise funds was approximately $318,786.

NEW BUSINESS

2027 Budget Considerations

The Council continued its discussion of the 2027 budget. Mayor Kirchmann suggested eliminating Council compensation from the proposed 2027 budget. Employee wages were left unchanged from the existing budget proposal. Staff will continue reviewing potential budget adjustments and present updated information to the Council in November before final levy certification in December.

Motion by Gard seconded by Kirchmann to take away council pay for 2027. Motion carried 4-0-0.

(continued on page 26)



Kenyon City Council Meeting
(continued from page 25)

Tax Abatement – Grocery Store Assistance

Administrator Lehner stated he had a request for tax abatement assistance for the local grocery store from a potential buyer. The proposal involved $40,000 over five years, or $8,000 annually, and an estimated $5,000 fee to Northland Securities for preparation of the necessary financial documents.

The council discussed scheduling a public hearing to receive community feedback before making a final decision.

Motion by Kirchmann seconded by Gard to schedule a public hearing on the proposed grocery store tax abatement as soon as possible and authorize the city administrator to move forward with getting the supporting documents to make that happen. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Barney Nesseth expressed his disappointment with the council for not acting on this last month and again not this month. His decision to purchase the grocery store is pending on this.

Internal Loan Transfer

Administrator Lehner stated that KMU had recommended a loan of $350,000 from the electric fund to the EDA at an interest rate of 2% over a 10-year term. The loan would provide funding for the purchase of land south of town for future housing development.

Motion by Kirchmann seconded by Bailey to adopt Resolution 2026-37. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

KMU Meeting: Tuesday, October 20th @ 3:00 p.m.

EDA Meeting: Tuesday, October 27 @ 8 a.m.

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 10th @ 7 p.m.

Township Fire Contract Meeting: Tuesday, December 1st @ 6:00 p.m.

Truth in Taxation Public Meeting: Tuesday, December 1st @ 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL AND STAFF GENERAL COMMENTS

Administrator Lehner encouraged council members to talk to some employees if they wanted to know how things are going and the culture in the city. Also, with all the things going on in the city, he wanted the council to know that an employee that left a little while ago wants to come back to what is going on here. That really speaks to the culture we are trying to build in the city.

Council Member Gard asked about the possibility of scheduling meetings between regular City Council meetings to allow Council members additional opportunities to ask questions and receive clarification on agenda items and other city business.

Administrator Lehner explained that, rather than scheduling additional formal work sessions that would require Council members to attend another evening meeting, Council members could contact him on Mondays or Tuesdays after receiving and reviewing the Council packet. Individual meetings could then be arranged as needed to review agenda items, answer questions, and provide additional information before the regular Council meeting. The intent would be to ensure Council members have a better understanding of the information presented and are prepared for discussion and decision-making at the meeting.

Council members discussed the balance between having sufficient information before meetings and allowing each member to independently consider agenda items and make decisions. It was noted that additional information, public input, and discussion during the regular Council meeting can influence members' perspectives and decisions. The importance of collaboration and open communication was recognized, while acknowledging that such communication must occur within the requirements of the Open Meeting Law.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Bailey to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Holli Gudknecht, Deputy Clerk
Donald Kirchmann, Mayor

***

CITY OF WANAMINGO
City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, October 19, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
Wanamingo City Council Chambers – 401 Main Street
Wanamingo, MN

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.

PRESENT: Council: Eric Dierks, Rebecca Haugen, Ryan Holmes, and Stuart Ohr
City Administrator: Michael Boulton
Deputy Clerk: Laurie Musselman

ABSENT: Council: Jeremiah Flotterud

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Kennedy, Brandon Theobald – WHKS, Jacob Vredenburg, and Peter Grimsrud – Zumbrota News Record.

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

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

PRESENTERS:

A) Brad Kennedy reported on:

1) Jetted, with cutting head, the portion of the clay sanitary sewer lines that were not completed during the televising summer. To televise the lines, the contractor utilized a cutting head that is larger than the City sewer jetter cutting head. There would be no point in jetting with the City cutting head. The roots were removed this past summer in a larger diameter than the City cutting head.

2) Completed flushing all the hydrants throughout town

3) Hauled out and land apply biosolids from the WWTP.

4) Leaf vacuum and the street sweeper have been out getting leaves sucked off the streets.

5) Riverside Park well had pressure switch repaired by contractor.

6) Started winter preparation of buildings and equipment

7) Heater for swimming pool had main circuit board replaced by contractor.

8) Mowed and trimmed along MN TH 60 & MN TH 57 ditch and utility poles. Mowed at the WWTP, community garden, undeveloped lot boulevards, and other various areas around town.

B) Brandon Theobald - WHKS, reported on:

(continued on page 27)

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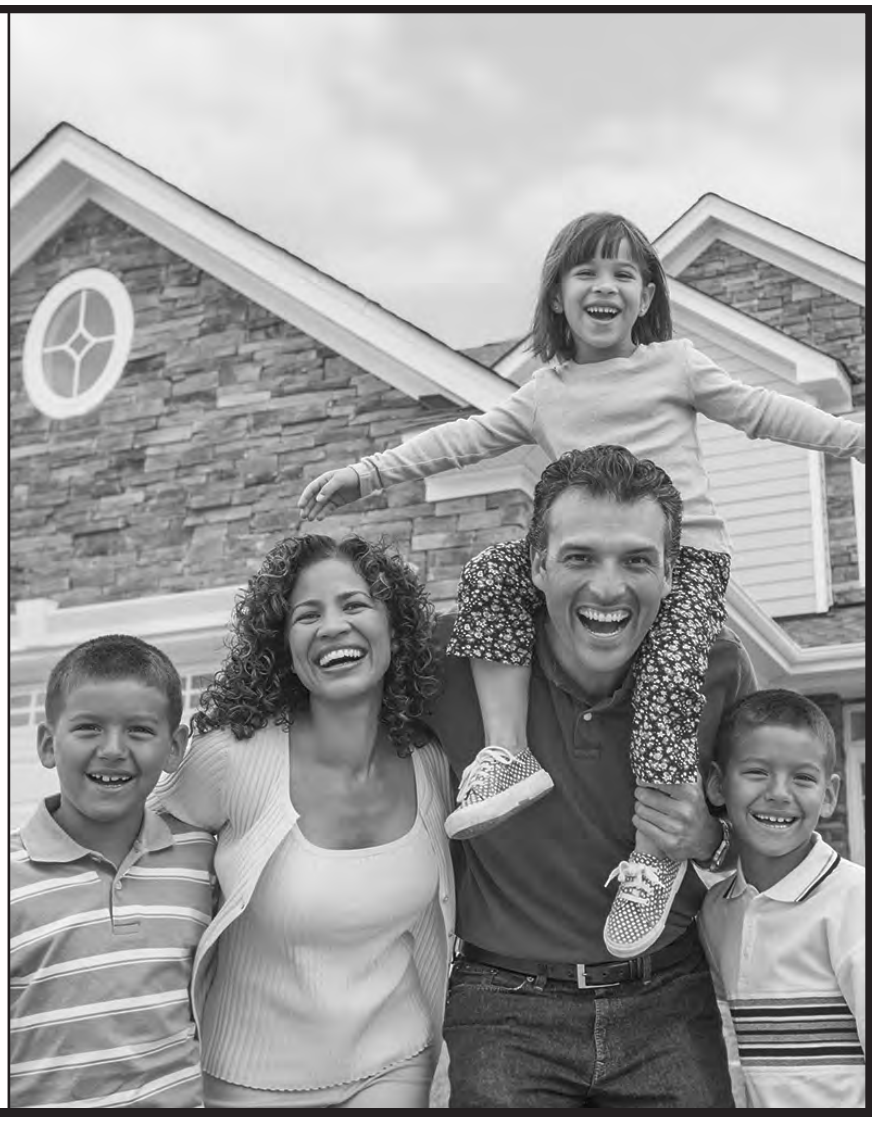
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Wanamingo City Council Meeting
(continued from page 26)

1) Presented on 2027 Sanitary Sewer and Alley Improvements Project Feasibility Report

2) Project is proposed to include special assessments for benefitting property owners.

3) Schedule includes receiving the engineer's feasibility report and ordering improvements hearing October 19th; a public hearing, order improvements, and authorize preparation of plans and specifications at the November 9th Council Meeting (Community Center); Neighborhood meeting on November 30th; present plans and specifications and authorize advertisement for bids March 8th; receive bids, and set amount to be assessed and order final assessments hear April 12th; hold final assessment hearing and award contract May 10th; begin construction Spring 2027 and complete construction Fall 2027.

4) Project includes replacing the sanitary sewer lines and manholes on the two North/South alleys running North-South – Approximately 185 feet East of TH 57, from approximately 225 feet south of Beverly to 2nd Street; Alley running North-South – Approximately 185 feet East of 2nd Avenue, from Beverly to approximately 280 feet north of 2nd Street. The work will include reconstructing mainly gravel alleys (one downtown commercial alley that is asphalt will again be paved with asphalt as part of the project) along with asphalt/curb/gutter/apron replacement at each street crossing.

5) The alleys in question have the worst ground water inflow and infiltration (I & I). Council has planned to reduce the amount of I & I as part of the long-term planning for the NZSSD regional wastewater treatment facility.

6) Plan to coordinate televising to check for potential I & I with questionable connections

7) The total engineer's estimate for the project is $1,482,000, which includes 18% engineering cost and 15% contingencies.

8) Proposed assessments would be $444,600 (30% of the project cost). This would be $4,631 per REU (Residential Equivalent Unit). The remaining portion of the project, $1,0374,000, will be paid through tax levy. The City plans to finance the project through the sale of bonds.

9) There were questions on REU – how to determine a couple of larger parcels or vacant parcels. These parcels could be calculated as 1.5 or 2 REU's. It is a question of special benefits and who benefits that will need to be ultimately decided by the Council.

Dierks asked if the special assessments could be calculated by average size of lot. If the average size is more than the parcel owner could pay more. Kennedy stated that this could be done through front property footage adjacent to the project. Theobald said that parcels differ in size and with the scope of the work being sanitary sewer (each parcel having one connection) it is easy to explain that everyone is in it together (equally benefit and equally assess). This calculation is easy for the Council to defend. Another option would be to have two assessment rates, one for residential and one for commercial parcels. Boulton stated that we can continue to have staff discussions and bring back a recommendation (if there are any) to the Council. Dierks stated that if a parcels or vacant parcel wishes to have two connections that they are charge two REU's. Theobald stated that it would be good to have a discussion with these parcel owners to determine the desire for any additional connections.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION:

26-062 = Certifying Delinquent Utility Bills and Other Services to the Goodhue County Auditor-Treasurer for the Collection with Real Estate Taxes in 2027: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Boulton stated that three properties are being considered for utilities certification, including two bank forfeitures. Mayor Holmes asked if there were any challenges to the certifications. No challenges were made. Passed 4-0-0.

26-063 = To Not Waive the Monetary Limits on Tort Liability Established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04: Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

26-064 = Accepting Land Donations from Dan McPherson of Biochar Infusions and Patricia McPherson: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Boulton stated that the roughly thirty-foot parcels were part of Emerald Valley Fifth Addition Re-Plat. The parcels were intended to be donated to the City for future walking path. Mayor Holmes thanked Dan McPherson and Patricia McPherson for the donation of land for the future walking path. Passed 4-0-0.

26-065 = Receiving Feasibility Report for 2027 Sanitary Sewer and Alley Improvements Project: Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Holmes stated that the Council was not going to stop the project. The ageing, nearly one-hundred-year-old, lines need to be replaced as the Council has seen the problem for years. Holmes added that the inflow and infiltration of ground water must be addressed before the new NZSSD treatment facility is built. Passed 5-0-0.

ORDINANCE #218 – An Ordinance Regulating Park Hours – 1st Reading - Administrator Boulton stated that there were concerns with late night park usage in Prairie Ridge Estates this summer. When reviewing the ordinance language regarding park hours there were vague names for Log House Park and North Park. The ordinance did not speak to other parks, such as Prairie Ridge Estates. Riverside Park will replace North Park and stay open until 11:00PM. Except for Riverside Park, all other parks (replacing Log House Park) shall be open from sunrise to sunset. This should make the park definition all encompassing for current and future parks. There is also a change to extending hours by the Council and notifying law enforcement rather than police department.

OLD BUSINESS:

*General Elections – November 3rd – Wanamingo Community Center 7:00AM-8:00PM

*Next City Council meeting on 11/9/2026 at Community Center

*All Councils (Goodhue, Pine Island, Wanamingo, and Zumbrota) meeting on 11/23/2026 at Zumbrota VFW at 6:00PM

Adjourn: At 7:39PM a motion to adjourn was made by Haugen and seconded by Ohr. Passed 4-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator

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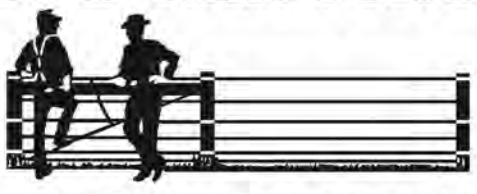
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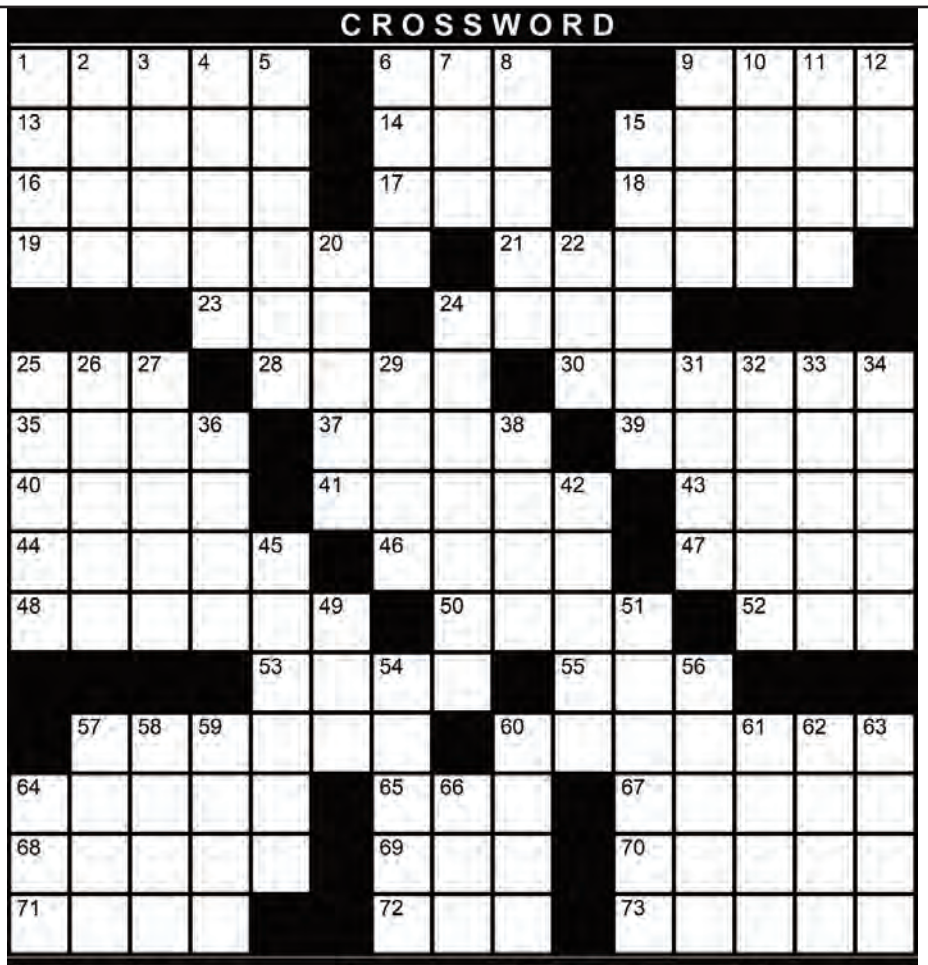
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1. "As the World Turns" and such
6. Hundredweight, acr.
9. Notable achievement
13. Keep a threat ____ ____, or away
14. Across, in verse
15. Jiggly dessert
16. Opposite of bow
17. Sch. grp.
18. Kidman's ex
19. *HomeExchange story, with The
21. *Rudolph's 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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4			6					9
			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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