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## Announcements

### Christmas Drawing

Enter to win a holiday gift collection including gift cards to local restaurants, an 8 pack of festive cupcakes from Flour Child Creations and a \$25 gift certificate to Country Goods! (see ad on page 14)



Wanamingo  
Messenger

REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR  
VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTION

Keep the Messenger coming!  
Thank you for your support!

• **American Red Cross Blood Drive:** 12/29/2021: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Community Center, 401 Main St., Wanamingo.

• **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. VVHG 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 Paul Rugg 507-824-3306, Gary Floan at 507-732-7740, or Larry Van De Walker at 507-421-4674.

• **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 [threeiverscap.org](http://threeiverscap.org) for more information.

## Lacey's Kitchen & Cocktails Now Open in Kenyon

Lacey's Kitchen and Cocktails, the brainchild of Head Chef Steve Lacey and businesswoman/G.M. Heather Thram, opened in November at what was formerly Schweich's. Located at 632 2nd Street, Lacey's is now serving new American cuisine; steaks, salmon, pasta, meatloaf, pork loin, salads, sandwiches and appetizers.

On the day we visited, during the Christmas in Kenyon Celebration, we were greeted by a beautiful holiday tree in the lobby and

friendly, energetic wait staff. I was happy to see the decor had mellowed a little from when Lawrence Schweich owned it. They kept that impressive, glorious, bar up-front and the walk up to the Hostess podium is impressive. Feels like you're really going into a 5-star place.

We were shown to the back, where a happy multi-generation family of 7 was just finishing their dinner and a table of ladies sat chatting comfortably over their dessert.

General Manager Heather Thram - Mom of 5 kids - points out that petite portions of regular meals appeal to seniors and children, and are often healthier options.

(continued on page 6)



**Chef Steve Lacey**

## Christmas in Wanamingo



Santa appeared at Christmas in Wanamingo last Thursday

## All Seasons Food Shelf to Move to New Location this Month



All Season Food Shelf serves residents in Kenyon, Wanamingo, Dennison, Nerstrand and West Concord. We are open Monday 2-5pm, Thursday 12-3pm and Saturday 9am-12pm. Anyone who needs food is eligible for our services. Customers who are unable to pick up their order can designate someone to pick up their order for them.

Anyone who needs services can call 507-789-6162. During business hours staff will be able to assist the customer.

(continued on page 6)

Merry Christmas & Many Thanks to All!

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## Genesis: The Beginning



By Pastor Colin Rueter,  
New Life Church

Let's start with our journey into God's word! I pray this encourages, helps, and guides you as you dive into the Bible. Each month I will present another book of the Bible in listed order not chronological, give context and outline, and practical application for us today. If you find yourself in need of a Bible, please reach out to me. To help if you haven't read your bible before, I will be quoting verses as needed with their 'address'. So, for Genesis 1:1, the first "1" is for chapter reference, the second "1" is for the verse within that chapter. Let's get in God's word!

Genesis (/ˈjɛnəsəs/) noun  
• the origin or mode of formation of something.

We will start with the book of Genesis. While this book does not have a stated author, tradition attributes this book to Moses. There is no conclusive reason to deny the Mosaic authorship of Genesis. With this authorship confidently assumed, we can conclude that this text was probably written around 1420 B.C. between the time of the Exodus of the Is-

raelites out of Egypt and Moses' death. It will seem as though there are assumptions with this text for authorship and date. With many ancient texts, religious or not, archeology and additional manuscripts are used to confirm and be confident in conclusions made for author and date written.

This first book begins with a profound statement, "In the beginning, God..." (Genesis 1:1). This assumes God exists and always has existed. If I could summarize this first book, it is about God creating the world and everything in it as He begins to work out His plan with choosing a special people to be called His own. Most of the major doctrines in the Bible are introduced in some form in Genesis. Along with the fall of man, God's promise of salvation or redemption is recorded (Gen. 3:15). The first two chapters describe how God created all things starting with the whole universe down to the littlest ant by speaking: "God said...and it was so" (Gen. 1:6-7,9,11,14-15). It must be noted that human beings received a special handling by God as He breathed life into mankind to bring man to life, and from man's rib, woman was formed (Gen. 2:7, 21-22). These first two people, Adam and Eve, were placed within a Garden, Paradise, to live in perfection and fellowship with God. In Genesis 3, we see them fall into rebellion (sin) by listening to a crafty serpent and disobeying God (Gen 3:1-7). This rebellion throws the whole of creation into a moral freefall leading to the choosing of Noah and his family to build an ark before God floods the entire world (Gen. 6-7). After the earth "resets" by repopulation, that God chooses a man, Abram (later named Abraham), to be the patriarch of a specially blessed people - later called Israel - to be the

means of God bringing about the salvation mentioned in chapter three (Gen. 12, 15). This choosing of Abraham was simply because he believed in God and counted that belief (faith) to him as righteousness. Patriarchal history records the lives of four great men: Abraham (Gen. 12-25:8); Isaac (Gen. 21:1-35-29); Jacob (Gen. 25:21-50:14); and Joseph (Gen. 30:22-50:26). Genesis concludes with the story of Joseph, through a miraculous chain of events, ruling in Egypt. We see that these events may have been meant for evil, but God meant them for good (Gen. 50:20).

So what? Why does all of this matter? The overriding theme of Genesis is God's eternal existence and His creation of the world. God is, always was, and always will be, ruling over all. At a very basic level, this book answers the question, "Where did I come from?" and "What is my purpose?" This book shows us that all people, regardless of culture, nationality or language, are accountable to the Creator. But because of sin, introduced into the world at the Fall, we are separated from Him. Then through one people, Israel, God's redemptive plan for mankind was revealed and made available to all. We rejoice in that plan. Since God created the universe, the earth, and every living

being, we can trust Him to handle the concerns in our lives. God can take a hopeless situation and do amazing things if we will trust and obey in faith. Terrible and unjust things may happen in our lives, as with Joseph, but God will always bring about a greater good if we have faith in Him and His sovereign plan. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

I pray this encourages you as you read from Genesis this month, looking to celebrate Christmas as a time to reflect on God fulfilling His promise to bring a Savior through a humble birth in a manger. Next month, we will look at the Book of Exodus. Blessings and grace!

E-mail your engagement,  
marriage or  
birth announcement to the  
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### NEW LIFE CHURCH

Pat McBride, Pastor • 525 Beverly St., Wanamingo  
507-824-3019  
10 a.m. Worship Service.  
Free nursery for infants through age 3.  
Sunday School for all ages 9 a.m.  
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### TRINITY LUTHERAN

Pastor Christopher Culuris  
301 2nd Avenue, Wanamingo  
824-2155

### WANAMINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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

December 12: 10:30a.m. Worship; Sunday School Program;  
6:00p.m. Family Fun Night at Holden  
December 16: 7:00p.m. Book Club at Holden  
December 19: 9:45a.m. Sunday School;  
10:30a.m. Worship with Holy Communion;  
11:30a.m.-12:30p.m. Community Meal  
December 24: 4:00p.m. Christmas Eve Service  
December 26: 10:30a.m. Worship

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

### AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

#### Thank You, Lord!

*Scripture Reading — 2 Samuel 7:18-29*  
*"Do as you promised, so that your name will be great forever." — 2 Samuel 7:25-26*

In the book *A Grace Revealed* Jerry Sittser tells about the tragic deaths of his wife, mother, and daughter in an auto accident. He wondered what could come out of such a horrific ordeal. He settled on redemption as the word that brought him hope: "[God] wants the harsh conditions [of life] to shape us and eventually the whole world into something extraordinarily beautiful. Redemption promises to transform, so completely."

David endured family squabbles, death threats, and many military battles before he experienced a time of rest and peace as Israel's second king. Through it all, he knew "the Lord was with him." And now the Lord had made a promise that his kingdom would endure and his throne would be established forever. The king knew he had to obey God's Word and seek to follow God's will, reminding his people every step of the way. David knew that Israel was "the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself and to make a name for himself." God was working to make something out of David's life and out of this nation for his good purposes all the nations.

Similarly, we are never beyond the redemptive work of David's descendant Jesus in his desire to make something out of us today.

**Prayer**  
*Lord, may I trust your redemptive work of always pruning, encouraging, and molding me to serve your good purposes. In Christ's name, Amen.*

### LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. at Everson Park

### MINNEOLA LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Pastor Hannah Bergstrom de Leon  
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### ASPELUND EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Pastor Martin Horn  
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Jointly served with Hauge Lutheran, Kenyon

### STORDAHL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Pastor Kathleen Lowery  
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www.gospeloflifechurch.org



## Lucille Mildred Ronningen

Lucille Mildred Ronningen joined her loving husband in the arms of our Heavenly Father on October 14, 2021, in her home of 46 years, surrounded by family and loved ones.

Lucille Mildred Syverson was born August 27, 1923. She was born and raised in Cherry Grove Township. She attended country school at District 146. In 1944, she married Kenneth Ronningen. She worked alongside her husband on their dairy and crop farm until they retired and built their dream home in 1975. Kenneth died January 16, 2000.

Lucille loved her beautiful flower gardens, which were featured in many photography settings, newspapers, and magazines. She took pride in her home and yard and they were always immaculate. Most important to Lucille was family. She never missed a birthday or holiday. She made many Christmas Eve dinners and baked many holiday treats. Lucille and Kenneth loved to travel and went on may bus trips all over the United States and Canada with a unique group of traveling friends.

She was a faithful member of Lands Lutheran Church, lifelong member and supporter of the DFL, Farmers Union, Garden Club.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herman and Edeth Syverson, infant son, hus-

band Kenneth, and sister-in-law Betty Syverson.

Survived by son Kelly (Joann) Ronningen, and grandchildren Renae (Rodney) Streich, Karen Jones, Kurtis (Alli) Ronningen, great grandchildren Stella Streich, Knute Ronningen, Aislynn Ronningen, and Matilda Jones, brother, Charles Syverson nieces and nephews.

A private burial was attended by family. A celebration of life may be held at a later time. Memorials may be sent to Lands Lutheran Church Cemetery, and Friends of St. Rose (<http://www.friendsofstrose.org/>)

Arrangements were made by Rochester Cremation services. Condolences may be left at [rochestercremationservicesmn.com](http://rochestercremationservicesmn.com)

## Beatrice Adeline Tollefson

Beatrice Adeline Tollefson, 89, formerly of Kenyon, MN, died Oct. 26, 2021, in Burnsville, MN.

Beatrice "Bea" Holte was born November 22, 1931, and grew up in Blair, WI. After graduation, she met widower Lynn Tollefson, and his daughter, Diane. They married March 8, 1952, and welcomed two more daughters, Susan and Vicki, to their family. After settling in Kenyon, Bea enjoyed selling Avon and Christmas Around the World, but was especially proud of her work as a buyer at Foldcraft Co. In 1989, Dahlen



Jewelry and Mr. T's Beahive, Lynn and Bea's dream business, became reality in downtown Kenyon. "Retirement" consisted of traveling to auctions in search of treasures and running the store. Bea loved making connections with local and "passing-through" customers, and antique enthusiasts. After Lynn's death, she maintained the store for five years before moving to the Northfield Retirement Community, in Northfield, MN, which she lovingly called home for four years. Bea loved her husband of 60 years, their family, and the life they built, together. She loved playing Bridge, sewing, dancing, auctions, antiques, bargains, coincidences and telling stories.

Survived by daughters Diane (Roger) Randall, Susan Tollefson and Vicki (David) Lind; granddaughters Kimberly (Joel) Boulanger and Koni (Jason) Hudak; great-grandchildren Jackson, Maddy, Jake, Katie, Jenna, Megan, and Tabitha; brother Douglas (Marlene) Holte; sister-in-law Elsie (Jerry) Narveson; and nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by husband Lynn Tollefson; granddaughter Becky Randall; sister and husband Anita and Ron Wemple; brother-in-law and wife David and Peggy Tollefson.

Family memorial service was at 2:30 PM, Saturday, October 30, 2021, at Castle Rock Valley Cemetery, Farmington, MN.

Arrangements by Bierman Funeral Home and Crematory. [biermanfuneralhome.com](http://biermanfuneralhome.com).

## Eunice Stenbakken

Eunice Stenbakken, 91, of Kenyon, passed away Tuesday, November 23, due to complications with pneumonia, having tested negative for Covid-19 two days prior.

She was born in Pine City, May 21, 1930. "Euny," to her friends, graduated from West Concord High School in 1948. She was married to the late Edwin Koberstein in 1950 and later married to Marlin Stenbakken on October 30, 1970.

Euny worked for the Northfield Hospital for 43 years. She worked in several departments over that time, from nursing to house-keeping and custodial. She was well known for her diligence and dedication to her work. These were qualities witnessed first-hand by family members that worked alongside her in the later years of her career.

Euny was host to many years of cherished family holiday celebrations (sometimes including lively card games). She especially shined her love to her nine great-grandchildren.

Euny is survived by sisters Elaine Bucsho and Lola Babcock, son, Ronald Koberstein, and her daughters, Sandra (Greg) Amundson and Julie (Jack) Hartin, her grandchildren, Paul, Tim, Sherri (Raye), Brandy (Edward), Benjamin, Emily (Nick), and Andy, and her great-grandchildren, Tyler, Allison, Austin, Ian, Brayden, Gabriel, Berk, Lucas, and Mila.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Birdge and Julia Babcock, her first husband, Edwin Koberstein, second husband, Marlin Stenbakken, daughter-in-law, Donna Kober-

stein, granddaughter, Amy Hartin, and nine brothers and sisters: Bud, Ole, George, Irene, Mary, Pearl, David, Bev, Evelyn.

A funeral service was held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at Grace Lutheran Church in Nerstrand with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Grant Aaseng officiated. Interment was in Valley Grove Cemetery in Wheeling Township.

## Alice Irene Berg

Alice Irene Berg, 86, of Wanamingo, passed on November 2, 2021 at Mayo Hospital in Mankato MN.

Alice was born on January 3, 1935 in Nerstrand, MN to George and Claribel (Prestrude) Kispert.

She graduated from Kenyon High School in 1953 and shortly after met Duane Berg. Duane and Alice were married on October 15, 1955 and raised four children in Wanamingo, MN.

Alice worked various jobs in her lifetime. She worked at Wanamingo Schools as a playground Aide and a cross walk guard, she spent some time running an in-home daycare and worked at the daycare in Trinity Lutheran church in Wanamingo, Wannacare. She enjoyed watching the kids she had at the daycares grow up as that gave her great pride. Alice also worked at Riverview Manor in Wanamingo, working nights and helping the residents there. She always enjoyed seeing the residents for many years after she was done as they would walk her home. Her favorite "job" was her family". Alice was everything family, whether it was watching a sporting event, attending a concert, or a Labor Day Weekend bocce Tournament at the lake. If a child, grandchild, or great grandchild had an event, Alice wanted to be there. She was always there with the biggest smile. Alice treated her family with her famous cheese ball, awesome brownies and melt in your mouth caramel bars. Every family event had at least one of these for everyone to enjoy.


She is survived by her husband, Duane; children, Beverly (Steve) Wolf, Jill (Reed) Kvittem, James (Debra) Berg; grandchildren, Nicole Donlon, Michelle Winter, Tara Hogy, Taylor Kvittem, Brett Kvittem, AmandaJo Berg, Edel Berg, Tia Minter, Ashley Urevig, Bailey Berg, Alivia Berg; 11 great-grandchildren; sister, Jean Overby; and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; son, Bruce Berg; son-in-law, Tom Johnson; brother Gerald Kispert, and sister, Claire Kispert

Visitation was held on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Mahn Family Funeral home-Larson Chapel in Zumbrota, MN.

Memorial service was held Wednesday Dec. 8, 2021 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo at 11 a.m. Inurnment immediately followed the service.






## Merry Christmas

As we gear up for another Christmas, we're happy and grateful to be celebrating it with the customers and friends who have made our year so special. We appreciate your trust in us, and we're proud to serve this community.

*Best Wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



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## Charles (Charlie) Henry Vangness

Charles (Charlie) Henry Vangness Passed away peacefully at Mayo Clinic Hospital-St. Marys Campus in Rochester, MN on November 27, 2021 at the age of 89 after a very recent diagnosis of stage four cancer.

Born April 26th 1932 to Henry and Myrtle (Pearson) in Roseglen Township, North Dakota. The family moved to Goodhue County, Belle Creek township around 1935 to the family farm which was settled by Charlie's Grandfather in 1879. Charlie purchased the farm from his parents in the mid 1960's, he lived on and farmed this land and resided there with his wife Janice until his last days. Charlie was a devout Christian and life-long member of Minneola Lutheran Church, he was confirmed there in 1946 and later was a Sunday School Teacher for several years and served on many committees. Charlie attended Husevold country school and graduated from Wanamingo High School in 1950.

In 1954 he spent one year on the Great Lakes as a Merchant Seaman aboard the Joshua A. Hatfield. Around this time he also worked odd jobs in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area. Later he returned to the family farm where he farmed with his younger brother Vernie for many years. Charlie also milked dairy cows until 1993. He never truly retired, as he worked many years working for

Peterson Turkey Farm in Cannon Falls and finally "retired" about three years ago. Hardest working man you'd ever meet but claimed to have hardly worked a day in his life because he always enjoyed what he did.

Around 1966 he met Janice Norgren at the Schlieff's Little City Ballroom in Inver Grove Heights. They were married in St. Johns Lutheran Church in Elizabeth, MN on March 31st 1967. They had twin girls, Kim and Kelly on March 19th 1968 and another girl, Karen on February 3rd 1973. His girls helped on the farm in most everyway and looked forward to all the trips to town in the purple Chevy pick-up.

Charlie was a busy man and hardly ever sat still except to read the newspaper and to visit with friends and family while sitting on the deck. He loved to fish, trips to deer camp and family road trip vacations and driving his 4-wheeler. Charlie was an avid beekeeper for over 40 years and had a large "customer" base. He spent a lot of time in his woodshop. He liked old time country and western music as well as a good polka band and dancing with his wife. He was a big Minnesota sports fan of the Vikings, Gophers and Twins. He read the newspaper and watched the news daily. He always kept an eye on the weather daily. He drank milk and coffee every day and ate horseradish, honey and butterscotch pudding and like any good Norwegian he ate a lot of lutefisk and lefse (maybe a secret to his longevity).

Charlie had an uncanny gift for remembering people and names without hardly a moment's hesitation even if 50 years had passed since he had seen or spoken to them

Truly what bought Charlie the most joy were his grandkids. They were each treated very special, and he lived to see them compete or participate in their activities. He would amaze them with his ability to wiggle his ears, one at a time or both at the same time

Survived by his wife Janice of 54 years; three daughters, Kelly (Kyle) Wallaker, Kim (Ronny) Thompson and Karen (Mike) Allen; five grandchildren, Luke and Ava Wallaker, Ivan Thompson and Easton and Hailey Blissenbach; brothers, Arvid (Barb) Vangness and Vernon (Linda) Vangness; many nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by his parents Henry and Myrtle Vangness, Sisters Arlene Struck, Clarice Cardinal and Doris Kylo. Brother-

in-Laws Norm Struck, Eli Cardinal and Maurice Kylo.

Memorials are suggested to Minneola Lutheran Church or Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The memorial service will be 11 a.m. Saturday, December 4, at Minneola Lutheran Church (13628 County 50 Blvd, Goodhue, MN) with Pastor Hannah Bergstrom de Leon officiating. Visitation will be 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, December 3 at Mahn Family Funeral Home-Larson Chapel in Zumbrota, and one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorials are suggested to Minneola Lutheran Church or Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The full obituary may be viewed at mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com.



\* \* \* Merry \* \* \*

**CHRISTMAS**

\* Happy New Year \*

\* \* \* \* \*

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we put the finishing touches on 2021, we'd like to express our sincere gratitude for putting your trust in us. We can't think of a better place to celebrate the holiday season and a new beginning as we ring in 2022.

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# REJOICE!

May the grace of God's love shine down on you this season.  
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## Lacey's Kitchen & Cocktails Now Open in Kenyon

(continued from page 1)

Head Chef Steve Lacey has been in the Hospitality and Food and Beverage industry for 37 years. A 1992 graduate of Culinary School in Vermont, Lacey discovered his passion as a teen-ager. For the busy father of 3 - one of whom was working the day we visited - Golf Clubs and large-scale events catering have been his livelihood ever since.

I ordered a hot tea and Hubs ordered a soda while we looked at the menu. We were happy to see a number of clearly marked Gluten Free options, including a Tandoori Chicken Salad - which we hardly ever see! There was a Jambalaya; which could be served spicy or regular! I am a stickler for beautifully presented fresh food and good food-handling practices and I was happy to see everything at Lacey's was top notch.

We opened with the artichoke dip and opted for the pita chips. (\$8) We could have chosen kettle or tortilla chips, but we are trying to watch our Gluten intake. Not sure if Pita Chips have any less Gluten than the alternatives, but it seemed tastier. The wait time for the Appy to arrive was good and the atmosphere was pleasant. The place is very clean and warmly decorated in pecan colored wood with comfortable seating. We did not mind chatting over our drinks and snacks. Drinks being brought to other diners looked amazing.

The entree arrived promptly. I opted for the Veggie burger - a blend of quinoa, corn, black beans and brown rice with pickles and fried onions (\$11) on a Gluten Free bun (add \$2)

At this point I am compelled to mention the condiments. I over-ordered. I just absently asked for Mayo, Mustard, and Ketchup. Lettuce and Tomato. I guess that's what I normally get on a burger? I expected the kitchen to just brush on a little. I was surprised when everything was delivered in a small soupcon as a separate plate for dinner. Charming, but not what I was expecting and way more than I needed. It felt wasteful on my part. I didn't

want to take it home and I felt bad leaving so much. I'd choose differently next time. Truthfully, I didn't need all that extra stuff. The lettuce was crisp, had a lovely color and was very fresh. Onions were caramelized nicely. Just some mayo would have done the job. The bun was fresh, soft and yummy. And Gluten Free! Yay!

I opted for the sweet potato tots (another delightful surprise!!) as my side dish. Maybe it's just my newly-acquired Minnesota palette but the Chipotle Mayo had a bit of a kick to it. Portions were plentiful.

Hubs ordered the Wagyu Burger with fries. (\$12) I tasted the Wagyu beef and it did not disappoint. Cooked exactly as ordered on a soft potato bun.

Even though we had not finished our lunches, we decided to have dessert. Life is short. I ordered the Sticky Toffee Cake (\$6) We ended up taking most of it home. It was excellent warmed up with some ice cream in front of the TV later that evening.

As I polish off the other half of my Veggie burger while writing this, I must grudgingly acknowledge that if both of us eat at Subway, it's over \$30 bucks. Which seems absurd to me and it's not just the price; In comparison, at Lacey's we had an Appy, 2 burgers, drinks plus dessert and the bill was \$43 before tip. So NOW, that \$30 at Subway seems REALLY absurd. Assuming we order 2 entrees at Lacey's...we're out the door for LESS than the sandwich shop. No brainer.

The relaxing vibe, a chance to slow down

and just look around for a minute, the menu offerings, food handling, presentation, portions, cleanliness and friendly, eager service were great. We absolutely will return to Lacey's. I plan on trying Nona's Pasta with the Rosemary cream sauce, the Gyro salad, the Traditional Wedge and also the Tandoori Chicken salads,

I look forward to delicious Sunday meals after church; Heaven knows we have needed a nice, reliable place to go in Kenyon for a long-time. As the wife of a hard-working farmer, good food is of utmost importance. I need it fast and I need it good. Bonus points if the place is pretty and the staff is pleasant.

I personally am hoping for an Eggs Benedict option on Sundays, but we'll see what the Chef has plans for going forward.

No word on the units upstairs -- which is the question everyone always asks -- except that they are currently rented.

The restaurant is open the back half of the week beginning on Wednesday at 11 a.m. Their telephone number is: 507-623-1173 Reservations are recommended. There is a lunch menu and a dinner menu; not all meals are served at all times. Call ahead.

More details can be found at [www.laceyskc.com](http://www.laceyskc.com)

## All Seasons Food Shelf to Move to New Location this Month

(continued from page 1)

If a customer calls outside of business hours they can leave a message and staff will get back to them on our next business day. We offer no-contact shopping; staff takes the grocery order over the phone, bags the groceries and places them outside for the customer to put in their vehicle.

Our new location has a private entrance off of the alley behind the All Seasons Thrift Store. The easiest way to get there is to turn up the alley behind the All Seasons Thrift Store. We are located halfway down the alley on the left. Our signs have not yet been installed but, once they are, will make it easier for community members to find us. We will be moving to our new location the last week of December. The new address is 516 2nd

Street, Kenyon.

Our inventory comes from a combination of donations from the community, orders from the Channel One Food Bank and shopping at our local grocery store. I have found our community to be extremely generous in helping to fill any empty spots on our shelves, freezers and refrigerators. We use monetary donations to buy non-perishable foods such as milk, eggs, cheese, cuts of beef, chicken and fresh produce outside of gardening season. We stock nonperishables like beans, canned vegetables, canned fruit, baking ingredients, cereal, pasta, rice, etc. We also have personal care products: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, mouth wash.



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As another holiday season comes rolling in, we'd like to share our best wishes and gratitude with all of the folks who have helped make our year so special.



*We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas!*

<p><b>HUSQVARNA® ST 227</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 stage thrower</li> <li>• 27" width</li> <li>• Power steering</li> <li>• LED headlights</li> </ul> <p><b>\$1099.99</b></p>	<p><b>HUSQVARNA® ST 230</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 stage thrower</li> <li>• 30" width</li> <li>• Power steering</li> <li>• LED headlights</li> <li>• Oversized heavy tread tires</li> </ul> <p><b>\$1299.99</b></p>
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WISHING YOU

*Happy Holidays*

AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR

*May this season bring you many happy moments, safe and joyful reunions, and enough cheer to last all year!*

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# Christmas in Wanamingo



Security State Bank of Wanamingo staff serving visitors Thursday evening



The friendly staff at Area 57



Bell ringers collecting donations on Main Street



Delicious cake served at Swiggum Ins Agency



Blue Harbor Boutique owners



Santa meeting the little ones at Wanamingo Mutual Ins



Treats at the WorkOut 24/7



Festive Christmas lights outside Security State Bank of Wanamingo





**K-W Noble Knights of the Week  
for November 12, 2021**

**Front Row:** Hudson Prondzinski, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Tucker Westlund, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Charlie Baker, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Ariel Ordalen, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Abby Lerfald, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky. **Back Row:** Aubriannah Imgrund, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Evelyn Nystuen, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Colton Hanson, Gr. 4, Ms. Jen Subra; MaKaydee Konop, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



**K-W Noble Knights of the Week for November 19, 2021**

**Front Row:** Eleanor Johnson, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; David Aguilar Garcia, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Gretta Haugen, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Hunter Aronson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. **Back Row:** Charlie Boyum, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Logan Schmitz, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Hayden Brown, Gr. 4, Ms. Jen Subra; Randy Gomez Hernandez, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

## Holly Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: November 27 & December 4, 11  
Sundays: November 28 & December 5, 12  
Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

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

COVID 19 Plan: People should follow the 6 foot Social Distancing Guidelines.  
We prefer people wear a face mask while inside buildings.  
\* If you prefer to set up a private time to shop in our cabin, please call.

**Potpourri Mill Log Cabin**  
Lori and Darwin Amy  
2290 County 49 Blvd., Dennison, MN  
Email: cabincrew@frontiernet.net  
or call 507-649-1009

**DIRECTIONS FROM KENYON:** Go north on Hwy. 56 for 7 miles, then turn west on County 49 Blvd. Go 1/2 mile. Our cabin is right before Vang Lutheran Church.

**FROM NORTHFIELD:** Go east on Hwy. 246 to Dennison, continue east out of Dennison 3 miles, take a right on Hwy. 56 south for 2 long miles. Take a right heading west on Cty. 49 Blvd., go 1/2 mile. Our cabin is right before Vang Lutheran Church.



**K-W Noble Knights of the Week  
for December 3, 2021**

**Front Row:** Roman Johnson, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Nathan Barraza, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Isabelle Hanson, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Adrian Moreno, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Brooklyn Arnold, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. **Back Row:** Keeton Luedtke, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Arwyn Sweet, Gr. 2, Ms. Val Ashland; Alan Moreno, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Hunter Taylor, Gr. 4, Ms. Jen Subra; Stella Mandujano, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

## DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA?

**Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)**



**Southern Minnesota**

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- MAZEPPA-ZUMBRO FALLS MESSENGER • RANDOLPH-HAMPTON-CASTLE ROCK MESSENGER • STEELE COUNTY TIMES •
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For more information on these auctions call (507) 684-2955 or visit [www.hollandauction.com](http://www.hollandauction.com)

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There's no limit! Give the gift of Fireside this year, and get a FREE MEAL or two for yourself!  
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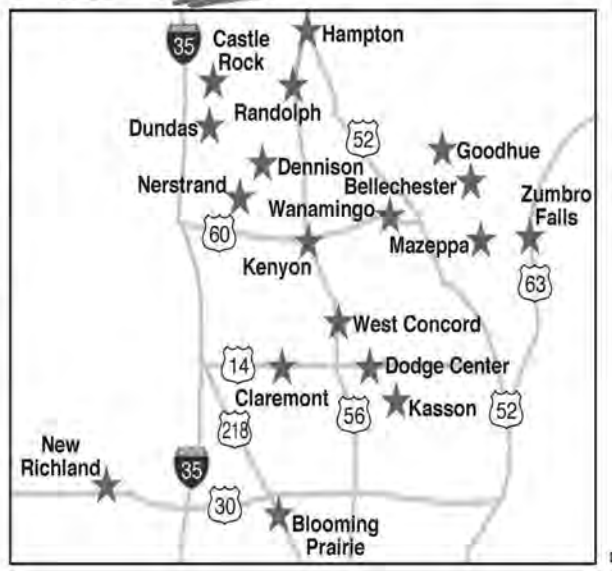
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**Golden Link**  
Southern Minnesota



## Family Fun for All at Dakota City December 11 & 12

Dakota City, located on the Dakota County Fairgrounds in Farmington, will once again host its annual CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE event December 11 & 12. Last year, due to covid restrictions, a drive through event was held, hosting over 6000 people. This year the event is live once again, with many of the buildings open to once again enjoy in person.

Visitors of all ages can take a step back in time to the early 1900's era rural Dakota County Village, and experience the sights and sounds of living history and Christmas past. The Village buildings will be illuminated inside and out throughout the village. Activities planned for this years event include the horse drawn trolley, taking guests thru the streets of the village. Visitors can walk thru the village, with many of the buildings open and heated with real wood-fired burning stoves to help take the chill off. Kids are encouraged to write a letter to Santa at home, and bring it to mail box at the Village Post office. If they include a self addressed stamped envelope, St. Nick will even get them a reply! Santa will be in the Depot greeting the kids so Par-

ents and Grandparents can come take pictures with Santa for those that want to. There will be some cooking in the Harris House. Caroling and music will fill the air inside and outside the church. The Minnesota Fire Engine Club will have several fire trucks on display near the fire barn. The Drug Store will be open with treats and food for sale, including hot dogs, soda, hot cocoa, and Old Fashioned 1919 Root Beer. ( Credit Cards are not accepted, so bring some good old fashioned CASH! ) There will be the PUTZ house display at the bank building, and parents can help the kids make old fashioned craft ornaments and decorations in the old school house. Everyone can experience a more simple life and this bygone holiday era. At press time, Dakota City reminds everyone there are volunteer opportunities available during this event, and year 'round at the village. Check the website at [www.dakotacity.org](http://www.dakotacity.org) for more information

Dakota City was established at The Dakota County Fairgrounds in 1978, and is a 1900's era agricultural village and museum. 22 buildings, including an operational blacksmith shop, newspaper office, train depot, barber shop, family home and more represent the business and rural social life of a rural early 1900's community. Dakota City is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that strives to preserve rural heritage and connects, through education and interpretation, current generations to life and agricultural heritage of the early twentieth century. Updated schedules and information are available at

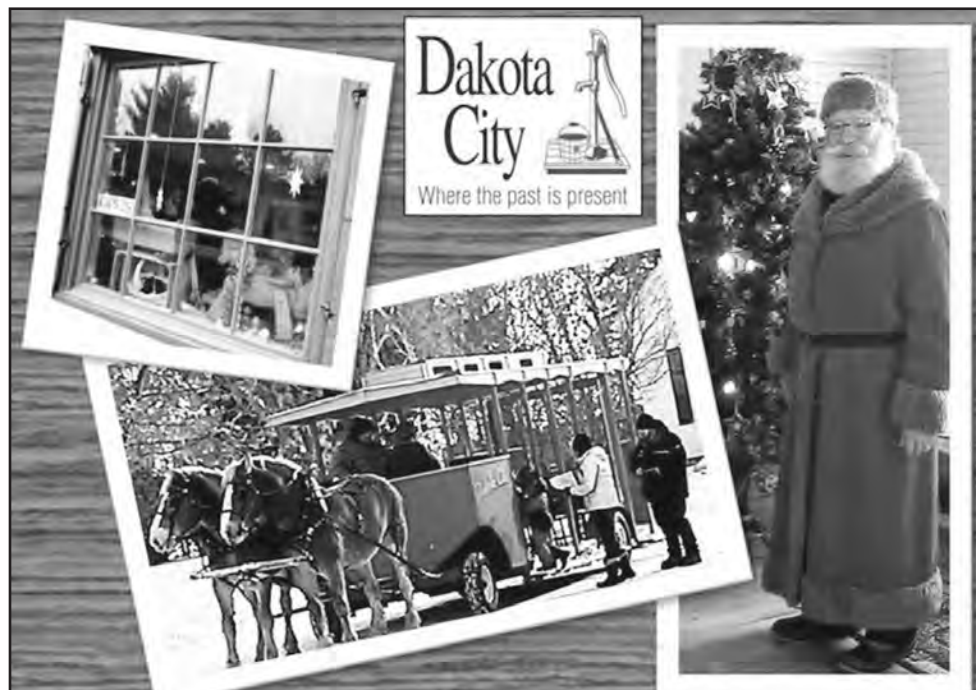


photo courtesy of Dakota City

[www.dakotacity.org](http://www.dakotacity.org), and on their facebook page. The Cost is just \$5.00 per person and children under age 5 are Free. Start your own Christmas Tradition this year at Christmas in

The Village December 11th and 12th at Dakota City in Farmington, located at the Fairgrounds.

Wishing You Loads of

# JOY

at Christmas!

## SIFT Thrift Store

26 Red Wing Avenue, Kenyon 507-259-2386



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



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## The Season of Giving



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

'Tis the season of giving, which I find to be one of the most inspirational times of year. I am always overwhelmed by the generous contributions that donors make to Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) or to SMIF's 30 Community Foundations. To me, this sends a clear message that keeping dollars local can help communities flourish.

As we do each November, Minnesotans rallied together once again to give to the causes they care about most on Give to the Max Day. This year's "Giving Holiday" raised a record \$34 million, a clear testament to why Minnesota ranks in the top three most generous states in the nation. I am also proud to share that SMIF's 30 Community Foundations had their most successful Give to the Max Day yet, raising more than \$85,000 which makes a direct impact on our communities.

As a donor myself, I know that a gift to SMIF is an investment in southern Minnesota's future. I am so grateful to have grown up here and to have built a career – first as a member of Congress representing this region, and now as the president and CEO of SMIF – which allows me to remain rooted in this place I love. Some of my favorite memories from the past 14 years at SMIF are of the countless times I have spent touring the region and seeing firsthand the impact of our work in Early Childhood, Economic Development and Community Vitality. Every time, I come away with renewed energy and passion about what we do.

Our board chair, John Peterson, is a great example of a donor who is invested in his community and the region. John is the owner of Ferndale Market, a third-generation turkey farm in Cannon Falls. He is also a vendor at the upcoming FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace on December 11, an event that SMIF has co-hosted since 2014. This is an opportunity to directly support local farmers and food makers this holiday shopping season.

Even in the midst of his busiest time of year, John generously shared some thoughts with me about why he gives to SMIF: "I'm proud to contribute to SMIF and view it as a reinvestment in the success of the region I call home. Like so many others, my own community and business have benefited from the Foundation's work, and I'm proud to support the vitality of southern Minnesota and our vibrant local food scene. As a SMIF board member, I have a front row seat to see the impact the Foundation has across our re-



gion, as well as the strong stewardship of our resources. I know each dollar I give is put to good use right here in our southern Minnesota communities."

Remember that anyone can be a philanthropist—no matter the size of your gift. What matters is that you support the causes and places most important to you. You can contribute to SMIF at [smifoundation.org/donate](http://smifoundation.org/donate) or to one of our Affiliate Funds, which includes our 30 Community Foundations, at [smifoundation.org/localdonations](http://smifoundation.org/localdonations).

If you are a donor or thinking of becoming one, thank you. Donors make our region thrive – we simply cannot do our work without you. It is the people like you who give back to your communities every day that make me proud to call southern Minnesota my home.

Pictured: John Peterson, owner of Ferndale Market in Cannon Falls, and chair of SMIF's Board of Trustees.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at [timp@smifoundation.org](mailto:timp@smifoundation.org) or 507-455-3215.

## Santa Says, "Celebrate!"

Thanks for all you've done to make our year a merry one. We really appreciate the support and friendship of this community, and we wish you all the best!



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# Sportsmanship is Winning As One



By Harvey Mackay

An anthropologist proposed a game to some children in Africa. He placed a basket of fruit near a tree and told them that whoever got to the tree first could have all the fruit.

When he gave the signal to go, all the children held each other's hands and ran to the tree together. Then they sat in a circle enjoying the fruit.

When the anthropologists asked why they'd run as a group when the winner could have had more fruit on his own, one child said, "How can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?"

For years I've maintained that nice guys can finish first. Leo Durocher may have been a

great Major League Baseball manager, but he was a misguided cynic when he remarked that "Nice guys finish last." Many of the most successful people I know are also among the nicest. There's just too much evidence out there to deny it.

More than just a warm, fuzzy feeling, being nice and being a good sport are not mutually exclusive. No one wants to play with a jerk – or a cheater, a showoff, or a braggart. One of the best commercials currently running features athletes of all ages stopping in the midst of competition to help other people up.

Another excellent example of sportsmanship occurred at the 1969 Ryder Cup, a biennial men's golf competition between teams from Europe and the United States. The team competition was tied at 15.5 in the final match between Britain's Tony Jacklin and American Jack Nicklaus, who reached the 18th hole tied. Nicklaus made his par putt, and Jacklin faced a three-foot putt to earn the first ever tie in the competition. Instead of forcing his rival to make the putt, Nicklaus picked up Jacklin's ball marker and conceded the tie.

Nicklaus said, "I don't think you would have missed that, Tony, but I didn't want to give you the chance."

The annals of sports are filled with inspiring stories of that sort. Successful businesses should have the same chapters in their histories. But if your business doesn't, examine the deficiencies in the culture and make some improvements.

In business, being nice doesn't mean being ineffective. My mother taught me, "It's nice to be important but more important to be nice." My father always said, "You get more in life with sugar than with vinegar."

Frightened and mistreated people underperform. Talent doesn't flourish in a culture of doom and gloom, intimidation and insecurity. A bullying executive is an executive unsure of himself or herself. The people they supervise realize how damaging this is. Morale sags, performance suffers and profits decline.

The methods for fostering sportsmanship in business are much the same as they are when teaching children. Play fair. Avoid arguing. Follow directions. If you lose, don't make excuses. If you win, don't rub it in. Appreciate what others do well. Be supportive and respectful. Be willing to learn. Have a positive attitude.

Learn from your mistakes and push yourself to do better next time. If someone else makes a mistake, encourage them instead of criticizing them. Try your best, that's all anyone can expect.

We teach our kids to show respect for teammates and officials, and it's the same for co-workers. Realize that through proper sportsmanship, we all win and our company wins.

I am a strong believer in competition. I

think it makes all of us better. However, I understand that some leaders try to eliminate competition at work because it can cause conflict. That's where sportsmanship really comes into play. Encourage everyone to do their best and cheer their success. Then use this success as incentive to achieve greater results. Leaders should want people to stretch themselves and get out of their comfort zones.

Competition isn't all about contests and incentives. It's about people pushing themselves to be better every day. The goal is to be the best you can be and never give up. If you win, be gracious.

Sportsmanship should be a requirement at work. Leaders should set the stage and demonstrate that the team is more important than individuals. We're all in this together. Don't be offended by others' success; cheer them on and learn from them.

Simon Nguyen said, "Victory is remembered for at most two decades; an act of good sportsmanship is remembered for a lifetime."

Mackay's Moral: Sportsmanship: lose with grace, win with class.

*Reprinted with permission from nationally syndicated columnist Harvey Mackay, author of the New York Times #1 bestseller "Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive."*

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# Letter to the Editor

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

## Letter to the Editor: Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools: A Time For Change Curriculum

According to A Principal Looks Back: Standards Matter by Kim Marshall from David T. Gordon (Ed.), *A Nation Reformed: American Education 20 Years after A Nation at Risk (2003)*, curriculum leaders must raise questions like the following: What is excellence in education? For what purpose is it sought? How can it be achieved? How can it be measured? Which is more important—the pursuit or the achievement of excellence? Furthermore, if excellence is a major curriculum goal, its attainment will depend primarily on decisions made by curriculum leaders and teachers—those who plan the curriculum (Parkay, Hass & Anctil, 2010).

So let us begin with the concept of curriculum. After all, it is the engine that drives teaching and learning (Jasparro, 1998). More than a list of subjects or topics covered in a school, it encompasses a number of independent factors including what and how students learn; what teaching strategies are most effective; and how the structure of the school supports both student achievement and teacher effectiveness (Rogers, 1977). Once in place, a highly qualified staff is the force that will take all of these variables and turn them into a quality learning environment.

Twenty years ago President George W. Bush signed into law a Federal program called the Adequate Yearly Progress Legislation (No Child Left Behind). With the primary emphasis on accountability for student achievement of academic standards; increased flexibility and local control; a greater role for parents and their children's educational program; and a greater emphasis on the use of scientifically based instruction (Best Practices), its overall objective was to raise the educational performances of **all** children. In each case, the goals were noble...the standard-based concept was proven...and no one could argue that mathematics, reading, and language arts are not important disciplines to master. That is unless you have given into today's American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the National School Board Association, or organizations and political operatives that have now come on the scene to promote a Marxist ideology. Sadly, they, along with school boards across the country, have knowingly or unwittingly abandoned these noble goals at the expense of our children and grandchildren (see recent legislation in California and Washington State). If we are not careful; if we are not willing to fight for this great Republic, this godless ideology may find its way into our school district as well.

As we look at the provisions of the Adequate Yearly Progress (MCA testing in today's vernacular as found in Minnesota), I find a number of reasons that will lead to student success in the classroom. Permit me to list the following:

To begin with, they serve as a “yardstick” whereby school districts like Kenyon-Wanamingo can show whether or not their students are making academic progress on a continuous basis. No longer left to the whims of administrators and local school boards who seem to have an uncanny ability to make excuses or skew the results, they are meant to

offer truthfulness. Just remember...you get what you put into them. Moreover, they have the added purpose to measure specific sub-groups in the school district. In each case, they are important to know when it comes time to plan for what should be a never ending concept: curriculum improvement.

Second, no school district worth its “salt” remains static. Research confirms that quality school districts are constantly moving forward in their efforts to make it work for their students. Always vigilant and never resting on their laurels, they use test results as part of the criteria for monitoring student performance so that they can implement a review process that is meant for change at the right time...and always...in the right places. If one takes the time to look at a list of schools that are recognized as schools of excellence, they will find that they are continually evolving. This keeps them on their toes and away from the false narratives that have become common practice across this country.

Third, the adequate yearly progress called for in the legislation becomes the school district's **report card**. While there may be achievement numbers that are manufactured at the local level (see locally generated Summative and Formative data), the publicly reported yearly progress finds its origin through the Minnesota Department of Education who, in turn, releases the MCA scores back to the school district once they have been scored and recorded. It is at this point that accountability must take on a new face if school districts are going to promote quality education for **all** of its students.

Finally, it is important for school districts to take a close look at the individual buildings. While it is true that buildings may have their own culture, one must not forget that the emphasis placed on student learning is a by-product of the district's philosophy. When a school district consistently fails to make adequate yearly progress, it is time to get serious about who and what is running the show. At some point, it will always come down to **leadership**.

As one reflects on my opening paragraph, it becomes obvious that the key word is **excellence**. Excellence in education; excellence in achievement; excellence in curriculum and leadership. While I think it is safe to say that most school districts aspire to reach this level of performance, in the end, there will always be a large number that come short of the mark. When this happens, **Red Flags** will appear for all to see. In the case of the Kenyon-Wanamingo School District, I find the first one to be particularly disturbing. Why? Because it represents an attitude that must be extinguished if excellence is to follow. In truth, it cries out for change. Let us take a look at these flags.

First, and foremost, if there is such a thing as a cardinal sin in curriculum and instruction, it will always come from someone who should know better; someone so bold as to make a public pronouncement (see Kenyon Leader, October 27, 2021) that “Not voting to fund a district with low MCA test scores goes beyond reading and math now, as lots of students count on extracurriculars for multiple reasons.” When you couple this with the fact that it came from a school board member who has tolerated years of low mathematics and reading scores, it sends the message that the leadership team does not have to worry

about MCA test scores. Just keep doing what you are doing and the public will pick up the tab.

Second, when a school district, that once found itself in the upper tier of student proficiency in mathematics and reading, finds itself consistently at or near the bottom when compared with a group of 16 school districts located in Southeastern Minnesota (this includes the State), it is time for change.

Third, when the school district's 2021 mathematics (33%) and reading (41%) student proficiency percentages continued their downward spiral from what was already a succession of low MCA scores from the 2017-2019 school years (there were no 2020 scores due to COVID-19), it is time for change.

Fourth, when a school district's college readiness score is less than a fifth of the student body (17.5%), it is time for change.

Fifth, when only 14% of all AP students (students who take classes with college/university credit attached to them) are able to pass just one qualifying examination, it is time for change.

Sixth, when a school district's student proficiency ranks worse than 58% of high schools across the State, it is time for change.

Finally, when a school district's student proficiency percentages find little or no consistency from year to year, it is time to do a full assessment of your curriculum and instruction model. Incidentally, while it would be tempting to blame teachers for a less than average student performance at Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools, when the problem is system wide with no indication of a sustainable change, one is forced to look elsewhere for answers and needed solutions.

### Promises

As we look beyond the recently passed levy referendum, we see that it came with a series of promises. Beginning with the promise to maintain a variety of course offerings, they would go on to include updating the curriculum, retaining quality teachers, focusing on low class sizes, and stabilizing the school district's finances. While past practice would seem to indicate that our school boards have not always kept their promises to the patrons, it would be my hope that those who voted to increase our property taxes would hold the current school board and its administration accountable. If not, the public needs to understand that our children and grandchildren will continue to pay the price for their leadership's ineptitude.

### Fall 2022

Before I share some final thoughts, I would like to remind the school board that they were able to weather the storm of public debate and adverse opinions because no one was up for reelection during the current school year. That will change in 2022. With such critical issues as the Nuclear Family, Cancel Culture, Cultural Marxism, Critical Race Theory, White Fragility, the 1619 Project, Equity, Black Lives Matter, and Leadership at the local level, it will be time to put people to the test.

### Final Thoughts

Although one could spend a lot more time reviewing the literature and preparing arguments either for or against the current delivery system at Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools, I believe the signs indicate that there is sufficient concerns to warrant an in-depth review of what is currently taking place at

my alma mater. While I no longer have any doubt that there are forces that would like to prevent this from happening, I think it is time for these people to get over the misguided perception that: “If you are not for them, you must be against them.” This is the type of leadership that causes school districts to become stagnate and out of touch with the one variable that is present in all quality school districts: the right to disagree and grow as a unit.

Finally, I would like to end my thoughts with some questions that I believe are relevant to the time at hand. It is my prayer that these questions will help to generate additional questions to where we are as a school district and where we would like to be in the future. As the great Sir Winston Churchill said at the height of WWII, “Truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it and ignorance may deride it, but, in the end, there it is.” Let us see where the truth takes us as a community. In addition to where we are and what the future holds for us, I offer the following as starting points of discussion:

- Does the existing delivery system enhance achievement for all sub-groups of students?
- Are there RUBRICS being used to answer the sub-group question? If not, WHY?
- Are current student performances what you have in mind under the existing delivery system?
- Are you listening to people whose experiences as educators offer a different perspective than your own?
- Are you concerned about accountability and the impact it can have on the school district?
- Are you prepared to take an honest and unbiased look at what is currently taking place in the school district?
- Are you prepared to make changes that would be in the best interests of our students and the community at large?
- Other questions TBD....

I trust the Kenyon-Wanamingo School Board will give this and other expressions of concern some serious consideration as they look to the future of our children and grandchildren. Just remember, you do not represent just yourselves. This is **OUR** school...and it is time to get serious about the work at hand.

Dr. James Russell Lehman, '63  
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**CITY OF WANAMINGO  
City Council Regular Meeting  
Monday, November 8, 2021 7:00 P.M.  
Wanamingo City Council Chambers –  
401 Main Street  
Wanamingo, MN**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Holmes.

**PRESENT:** Council: Ryan Holmes, Larry VanDeWalker, Eric Dierks, and Jeremiah Flotterud

City Administrator: Michael Boulton

Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters

**ABSENT:** Stuart Ohr

**ALSO PRESENT:** Brad Kennedy, Brandon Theobald - WHKS, Todd Greseth – Goodhue County Commissioner, and David Friese – News Record.

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

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

**PRESENTERS:**

A) Brad Kennedy reported on:

1) Swept Streets and removed leaves from the street with the leaf vacuum

2) Finished adding rip rap rock for storm sewer outlet on West Avenue. Access areas were repaired with black dirt and were seeded

3) Cottonwood tree was cut up and removed after it fell at Riverside Park earlier in the month

4) Older pay loader plow wing was repaired from last winter. The wing and attachment point needed extensive welding

5) Riverside Park water was shut off, lines winterized, volleyball nets taken down, and screen shelter shut down for winter

6) Snow equipment preparation has started in anticipation of snow event in the near future

7) Mowed at the WWTP, trimmed around the community garden, mowed and trimmed the undeveloped lot boulevards, and mowed other various areas around town

B) Brandon Theobald – WHKS – City Consulting Engineer, reported on:

1) 2022 Utility Improvements Project – Water Tower Portion of Project only. Well house and water main looping portion of the project to be considered at a future date.

2) The Council will be considering approving plans for the 250,000-gallon water tower and approve going to bid through a resolution later in the meeting.

3) Completion date will be November 1, 2022

4) Have met for the preliminary meeting to address immediate concerns and continue to be in contact to further address concerns.

5) Water plan was completed and considered as part of the final engineering report for the 2022 Utility Improvements Project

6) Water Tower will be spherical pedestal type tower

7) Tower painting will have two options in the bid: A) White with basic Wanamingo lettering in black and B) White with City of Wanamingo logo with colors

8) Wanamingo lettering and/or City logo is planned to be placed on the North and South facing sides of the tower

VanDeWalker asked what size the lettering of Wanamingo and/or the logo would be. Theobald stated 5' lettering would be the size. VanDeWalker was concerned with the cost to

paint and maintain the logo on the new tower.

Theobald stated that each were line items are part of the bid. The Council will be able to see the difference of costs between the lettering and logo costs. VanDeWalker asked if the tower could be painted blue rather than white. Boulton stated that blue would clash with the City logo colors if the Council approved the logo paint portion of the bid. Flotterud asked if flood lights could be added to the tower in order to see the logo at night.

Theobald stated that pricing could be checked into on lighting.

9) The controls to operate the pumps and tower would be bid directly from Automatic Systems directly. This would be needed to work with the current system compared to the new system that would be installed.

10) Water pressure will increase roughly 15 PSI throughout town with the highest pressure being roughly 85 PSI at the sewer plant.

The pressure could blow out lines and possible water heater failures with added pressure. Cenex Industrial Park and Prairie Ridge estates will have adequate pressure after project is completed.

11) Water Tower Removal – Mingo View tower and piping to the main line to be removed. Downtown water tower will also be removed as part of the bid. Steve Bauer from the Little Log House Pioneer Village near Hastings Minnesota has expressed interest in taking the downtown tower down and re-assembling the tower at the village. The contractors that bid removal of towers have no interest in taking the downtown tower down in a manner that would allow for it to be re-assembled. Bauer does not think that he could get a crane in to take down the tower. Theobald asked the Council for direction on how to proceed with the removal of the downtown water tower. He asked if the City should help coordinate the removal with Mr. Bauer. Boulton stated that the Council could justify assistance with the coordinating the removal of the downtown tower because it would be considered preservation. The assistance would come with risk to the City. VanDeWalker stated that residents he spoke with said that the downtown tower had served its purpose and that it should be removed when the new tower is constructed. Dierks has never had requests from residents to preserve the tower. Theobald stated that Bauer wants to preserve the tower but logistics could be tough moving forward to make that happen. Holmes stated that it would be difficult, but not impossible and that preservation could happen. Holmes stated that the tower should be preserved and the City should coordinate with Steve Bauer. Holmes said that Mr. Bauer should be allotted time to coordinate removing the tower. If Mr. Bauer is not able to complete the removal in the time period the tower should be taken down by a contractor. Theobald stated that the removal would be roughly \$30,000 plus \$10,000 of site cleanup work. VanDeWalker agreed with Holmes and giving Mr. Bauer a set amount of time to decide on removal before the contracts are approved in December. Flotterud asked if there are any savings to the City in having Bauer take the tower down that could help in removal. Theobald stated that the \$30,000 removal cost would be a savings. Theobald stated that financially as-

sisting with removal could get tricky with agreements, contracts, insurance, attorney fees, and bonds. The costs to set these up and enforce might exceed the potential savings and could set back potential work months. Flotterud stated that he would like to see lights shining on the City logo at the top of the tower. Boulton stated that lights would add monthly expenses to the operations of the tower along with upfront capital costs. Theobald said that lights that are on logos of towers around Minnesota generally are not on the spherical pedestal towers. Theobald stated that he and Boulton would research feasibility and costs to bring back to the Council to consider. Flotterud asked about what the 2022 utility improvements would do to Mingo View water pressure and clarity. Theobald stated that pressure would increase by 15 psi. This should help with those on Mingo View with pressure boosters. Has concerns with clarity moving forward. May have to flush the water lines more often or install an automatic flusher (worst case scenario).

C) Todd Greseth – Goodhue County Commissioner, reported on:

Here to listen to the Council's concerns and to provide some County Board of Commissioners updates

County Board approved a preliminary 2022 budget with a 7.8% levy increase. The board has worked its way down to a 5.9% levy increase and could end up less by the time the final levy is set.

An offer was extended to a candidate to fill the Veterans Service Officer position. This would be the third veterans service officer in seven years. Apologize for hiccups and lack of service during transition.

Thanked Administrator Boulton on putting together sample resolutions for communities and townships within Goodhue County to consider in support for use of County ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for fire department, first responder, and EMS portable and mobile radio purchases. Thanked the Wanamingo City Council passing the resolution in support. The County will not be pursuing the use of ARPA funds for these portable and mobile radio purchases. However, the County Board is considering purchasing/bonding a portion of the radios in the future. The request from Cities and Townships brought attention to this issue at the County level. The largest portion of the ARPA fund, \$2.75 million, is being considered for use with the Closed Landfill. Mental Health funding for the future is also a large consideration for the ARPA/long-term budgeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION:**

21-077 = Approving the Closure of City Hall on the Friday after Thanksgiving: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

21-078 = Re-Establishing the Polling Precinct and Precinct Location for the City of Wanamingo: VanDeWalker moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

21-079 = Approving Pay Request No. 5-Final for Schumacher Excavating Inc for 2020 Roadway Improvements Project: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by VanDeWalker. Project costs are right at budget;

however, engineering costs were a little over costs. The change orders/add-ons added to the engineering costs. The project came in under budget which allowed for additional work. Passed 4-0-0. Theobald stated that Boulton should not pay the final pay request until Schumacher Excavating submits the IC 134 forms (State contractor report).

21-080 = Approving the Renewal of Agreement with Goodhue County for Building Inspection and Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to sign the Agreement: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

21-081 = Approving Plans and Specifications for Cenex Water Tower Portion of the 2022 Utility Improvements and call to Advertise for Bids: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by VanDeWalker. Holmes stated that moving forward with the construction of a new water tower is exciting for the City of Wanamingo. Holmes stated that the residents are talking about the project. Passed 4-0-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Council reviewed 2022 Proposed Property Tax Rate (from 83.163% in 2021 to 83.655% in 2022) – Property Tax Effect, and 2022 Proposed Property Tax Effect Tables provided by Administrator Boulton. Administrator Boulton received additional date to show potential increase to homeowners' property taxes with the proposed levy (roughly \$5-\$12 City portion of a property tax increase per year, depending on home valuation changes from the past year). The new commercial and residential growth in 2020 helps offset the levy increase from going onto existing property owners.

Administrator Boulton provided an update for the North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District. The Sanitary District Legislative Subcommittee will be presenting the proposal to the House Capital Investments Committee on Tuesday November 9th at Riverland Community College. The Administrators from Pine Island, Zumbrota, and Wanamingo will be presenting with technical engineering assistance from Brandon Theobald (WHKS – Wanamingo Consulting Engineer). The presentation has been allotted 10 minutes. The Subcommittee will be the proposal to the Senate Capital Investments Committee on Thursday November 18th at the Zumbrota City Council Chambers. The mayors from each of the communities will be providing introductions and conclusions while Bill Angerman (WHKS – Zumbrota Consulting Engineer) and Craig Britton (Winseth – Pine Island Consulting Engineer) will be providing the body of the North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District presentation. This presentation has been allotted 25 minutes. The hope is to be part of the Senate priority list. We are pleased to have the ability to do a short trial run with the House while having a longer presentation time with the Senate.

\*Next City Council meeting is on 12/13/2021 at 7:00pm.

Adjourn: At 7:53 PM a motion to adjourn was made by VanDeWalker and seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

Signed:

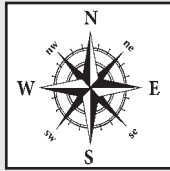
Attest:

Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Michael Boulton, City Administrator



## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Breaking Amish



By Terry Campbell

*This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell.*

*Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.*

We live near a number of Amish communities. Seeing a family in a horse drawn buggy is a common sight. But what is becoming more common is to see the family in a minivan. The whole family, infants, teenagers, mom, dad and grandparents. Saw a group of them down at the Pit Stop, a local gas station, in a van getting gas. They have a designated driver, someone who is willing to make cash for driving them to town for supplies. I was looking for some manual labor so I walked over and asked the man sitting there with his wife and their toddler. They were waiting for one of their family to finish their appointment at the chiropractor.

So, I broached my query about the job I was looking for and the father told me his boys

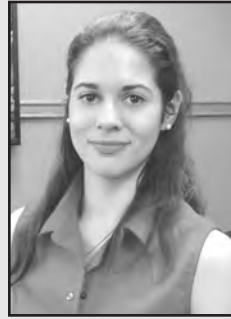
would do the job, if I could come and pick them up. My next question was where and when and for that information I suddenly had two teenage boys in the rear seat offering me their cell phone numbers.

We have a neighbor down the road who is farmer by the name of Enoch. He has helped us out with lots of projects and is always willing to work. Enoch and Elizabeth have cell phones but keep them in a small phone booth down the driveway from the farmhouse. I assume that is where the charging station is but we found that if we call their number, we almost always get their teenage daughter. Seems that she spends lots of time down there where the telephone is. Who would have thought that?

We needed to clear some woodland so we set up a time. Enoch showed up with his two sons in their one-horse buggy, with a wheelbarrow on top and a chainsaw and extra gas and oil in the back. My wife offered the boys a cold drink from the refrigerator in the house. They picked soda pop. The kids are very hard workers and do not engage in much conversation.

We stopped by the local hardware store up the road for some bags of wood shavings. It is owned by an Amish family and they stock about everything you would expect at a hardware store. The wife was explaining about another store down the road and part of her directions was that when you turned on a certain road you would lose cell phone signal. Nothing signals progress more than a middle age Amish housewife explaining cell phone coverage on the backroads of Tennessee.

## A Minnesotan: Christmas Memories



By RosaLin Alcoser

It's Christmas time again. For most families this is a joyous time full of family time, good memories, mishappes, and traditions.

Now that I am an adult I have found different past Christmases stick in the front of my memory more than other years then others. After all some of them are unforgettable because really who could forget the year that the dishwasher broke and the oven with the ham got turned off instead of the dishwasher while Grandpa and Dad tried to fix it. Or the year that Mom played

six different Christmas Eve services between the hours of noon and midnight.

The year that's really sticking with me this year is my first Christmas in Minnesota; which was also my first Christmas with snow. This Christmas is important to me because it is the year that I got my most important childhood possession Zoey Bear.

That year I had expressed that I wanted a Teddy Bear with dangly limbs so that it wasn't sitting up all the time; because really we all know that it can be hard to sleep with a stuffed toy that sits up all the time when you are little. So my Grandmother and her friends went to a Teddy Bear Shop in the Ozarks- yes that was a thing in the late 90s- and hugged every bear in the store and fretted over if they had picked out the right one.

I can tell you they definitely did pick the right one. I can still vividly remember opening up the box that Christmas and saying "Well there you are Zoey. I've been wondering when you would show up." and off I went with that bear for the next 21 years.

Who knows why some memories stick out more some years over others but the memories that do stick out are usually some of the best.

*Merry Christmas!*

The holidays are our favorite time of year because it gives us the opportunity to express our gratitude and let each of you know just how very much we value your generous support.

*We look forward to seeing you, soon!*

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- THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS
- ACROSS
- Pilgrim's destination
  - Make a scene
  - Rubik's puzzle
  - Hawaii environs
  - Toothy fish
  - Cone-shaped dwelling
  - White Swan in "Swan Lake" ballerina
  - \_\_\_\_-Wan Kenobi
  - \*Decorate with wreaths and holly, e.g.
  - \*Either dessert or source of heat (2 words)
  - \* \_\_\_\_ Day, or second day of Christmastide
  - Land parcel
  - Strauss of denim fame
  - Broadband access overseer, acr.
  - Clarified butter
  - Acute one and obtuse one
  - Southeastern Asian country
  - Jouster's breastplate
  - Shrewdness
  - Caspian basin river
  - \*Pasadena's Tournament of \_\_\_\_
  - Tel \_\_\_\_ , Israel
  - Native American emblem
  - "Why not?"
  - Hitchhiker's quest
  - Omits when speaking
  - Hard to find
  - Bear's winter quarters
  - Hoodwink
  - Scepter's partner
  - \*Number of days in Christmastide
  - \*"Ugly" holiday party garb?
  - Prepare a letter
  - "Bingo!"
  - Hunger for
  - Pass-the-baton race
  - \*Cranberry sauce sometimes comes from it
  - Same as tori
  - Raise the roof
  - German river
  - Stall sound
- DOWN
- Whiny and miserable
  - Shade of beige
  - Finish a ceiling, to a plasterer
  - Marlboro alternative
  - Not digital
  - Bug-eyed
  - Not Uber
  - Social group
  - Ghana monetary unit
  - Second word of many fairytales
  - Cause of Titanic's demise
  - Poetic "even"
  - Burdensome
  - Not this or that
  - Lab eggs
  - Time off
  - \*Champagne holder
  - \*Wassailing composition
  - Raccoon's South American cousin
  - Feeling of superiority, pl.
  - \_\_\_\_ gum, food additive
  - Furiously angry
  - Exclude or omit
  - \*Number of candles in kinara, Kwanzaa
  - \*Troika vehicle
  - "Will be," according to Doris
  - Asian goat antelope
  - Potpourri
  - Chevy Suburban, e.g.
  - Builds
  - \*Popular holiday wish
  - Munchausen's title
  - \*Bedecked arbor
  - Shakespeare, to his friends?
  - And others, for short
  - Minus
  - Tropical edible root
  - Anon's partner
  - Take a load off
  - Like some humor
  - \*Traditional main holiday dish

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