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Announcements

• **Meals on Wheels** is available to anyone age 60 and over who are wanting a prepared hot, nutritious meal on a regular basis. Meals are available Sunday through Friday, including holidays. The meals are prepared at Kenyon Senior Living and volunteers deliver them right to your home. Delivery is available to anyone living in Kenyon city limits. The cost per meal is \$7.25. Volunteers provide you with a meal card to use as payment for your meals. Each meal card contains 12 meals, totaling a cost of \$87.00. You pick which days you would like to receive meals and can change it at any time. Meals are typically delivered between 11:15 and 12:15.

For more information about the program contact Barb St. John at 507-789-5553.

• **Wednesday Wear, Nerstrand United Methodist Church** hours are **Wednesdays 1 - 5 and Saturdays 9 - 12.** Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys and books. All things are free with donations accepted. Come and see what we have!

• **Dennison Lions Club** meets monthly. During COVID-19, meeting times may vary.
• **Dennison City Council** meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

• **The Nerstrand City Council** meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at the Nerstrand City Hall. Office hours are: Monday 8:30-11:00; Tuesday by appointment; Wednesday 8:30-11:00; Thursday 5:00-7:00; Friday by appointment. 507-332-8000.

• **Warsaw Township Meeting** is held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Warsaw Township Hall. Meeting time is 6:00p.m.

• **The Wheeling Township meeting** will be held on the second Monday of each month at 8:00p.m. at the Wheeling Township Hall. Contact Rebecca Vergin, Township Clerk.

The Gear Daddies To Headline the 2022 All Saints Music Festival May 20th

The All Saints Music Festival will return to the Little Log House Pioneer Village Friday May 20th 2022. A fundraiser for 5 area church parishes, this event is worth the drive! Promoted as the First Part of The Summer, this years event will not disappoint. Opening Act will be Chris Kroese, Runner Up on NBC's THE VOICE.

Growing up, there was a guitar in the corner of the family basement that no one was supposed to touch. When no one was looking, a young Chris Kroeze (pronounced Cruise-E) would sneak down and find it. On his 6th birthday, Chris got a guitar of his own and hasn't put it down since.

Sitting around the campfire on warm summer nights as a child, Chris fell in love with the guitar. His dad would put small stickers on the strings to show him how to play and he listened and learned under the stars in Northwest Wisconsin. Before long, the instrument became the most important thing in his life. Biking around his hometown of Barron,

Wisconsin, he would listen to a tape of Chuck Berry on his Walkman over and over, stopping every three and a half minutes to rewind.

When he was in middle school, his dad told him every band needed a singer, and the only way to tell if that would be Chris was to give it a try. He was a natural.

(continued on page 8)

NERSTRAND CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE

Saturday, May 21
You set your time

Nerstrand Fire Relief Association Celebrates Mike Stenbakken's 50 Years of Service

Courtesy of Nerstrand Fire Relief Association

Nerstrand Fire Relief Association held a dinner to celebrate Mike Stenbakken's 50 years of service (and counting!) to the Nerstrand Community. Mike has been, and continues to be an integral part of the department. Mike is frequently at the hall cleaning, maintaining equipment, making sure everything is ready to go to serve our community. We are pretty confident Mike is the longest serving active Fire-fighter in Rice County. Mike your 50 years of missed events, late nights, and time away from family does not go unnoticed. Thanks to our retired members, Mayor, and Rice County Sheriff Thomas for attending. Also, thanks to Boot's & Lu's and Nerstrand Meats and Catering Mary Heggedahl for catering and use of your facility. *(additional pictures on page 3)*



Nerstrand City Library



By Linda Bonde

It seems to be a well kept secret...however, the word is out! Nerstrand City Library is open!! Located in Nerstrand City Hall, the library boasts an excellent selection of children's books, I Can Read books for the beginning reader, and an impressive collection of chapter books for young adults.

(continued on page 4)

YOUR ALERTNESS OUR COMMUNITY

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Hope Breaks Through

Hope, what is hope? According to Miriam Webster, Hope is: desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfillment"

Over this past couple of years, we have all faced challenges of some kind. Some were personal, others were concerning the world we live in and the community we are a part of. For some the feeling of hopelessness and depression were daily companions.

I want to share a couple of stories of hope that came out of the last couple of years. In Beatrice, Nebraska Jorja Boller has been a volunteer at her local nursing home, Good Samaritan Society and she wanted to do something to brighten their days. So, Jorja brought Peanut, her pony, to the window so the residents could see her. Robin Gascon, the director of marketing and resource development at Good Samaritan, said they were "so excited."

"They would see the staff come to the window and they would wave and you could tell right when their eyes saw the pony because they instantly lit up with smiles from ear to ear!" she told Insider's Zoe Ettinger.

There are many stories like these over the last couple of years. At the Zumbro Valley Food shelf and at South Troy, we've been a part of stories of hope as well. One day a single mom came and received clothing and food for her family when she didn't know where else to turn after she saw the banner outside for the food shelf. Another had just lost her job and didn't know how she was going to make ends meet- then she stopped and was able to get food from the food shelf. We were also able to pray with her and offer her hope. These are only a couple of the stories that we were humbled to be a part of in our community. Each of these acts of kindness brought hope to their recipients. Hope can turn a very dark time to one with a light at the end of the tunnel.

Easter is all about hope. For believers- followers of Jesus- Easter is culmination of all the hopes that God carries for His people. Hope is powerful. The opposite of hope is despair, which can paralyze us, but hope energizes and mobilizes us. Our hope affects those around us, lifting them up and lifting us up as well.

On that very first Easter morning, the disciples were huddled together feeling defeated, afraid, and depressed. They had lost hope. They had believed that Jesus- their friend was going to be the next King of Israel- they thought he was God- or at least sent by God- But as they had watched his life ebb away 3

days previously, so their hope had ebbed away as well. When 2 followers of Jesus were talking to a stranger (they thought) later, they said, " We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago." Luke 24:21.

It really should be no surprise that on that first Easter morning- it was the women that felt they had to go to the tomb first thing and rightly prepare the body for burial. They felt that Jesus was hurriedly wrapped and placed in Joseph of Arimathea's grave so they needed to go and take care of it—they loved Him, and it was the last outpouring of love they could give their friend Jesus.

When they arrived at the cemetery- to the tomb- they discovered that the huge stone covering the opening was gone! Despite their sadness, despite their hopelessness, they brought the spices to the tomb. When they arrived, they didn't know what to think!

The tomb was empty—they were stunned and perplexed. Jesus body was gone! Let that sink in- they went there to put spices on him, rewrap him and prepare him for eternity a gift of love to Jesus through this last act... and their Savior is GONE!

Then 2 men appear in front of them- in dazzling robes. Not what you expect at an empty tomb! When they saw these men- they were terrified- they were experiencing something that they had never seen before! They knew these guys weren't just men-- they were angels- These guys had the women's attention the ladies fell to the

ground. They had an encounter with God's messengers.

I love the angels question to them: "Why would you look for the Living One in a tomb? He is not here, for he has risen!" Why would you be looking for LIVING ONE in this tomb? The tomb is where we look for those other gods- those that aren't real- the statues, those made from wood, stone and crystal- those that neither hear nor speak to us. Muhammad can be found in his grave in Medina, Saudi Arabia, we can visit The cremated remains of what an inscription says is the Buddha, also called Siddhārtha Gautama, have been discovered in a box in Jingchuan County, China, but the grave of Jesus is empty!

The angels ask the women- why are looking for the Living One among the dead—HE is alive—He is real! Jesus had told them several times that this was going to happen. At the time, it was just too crazy to believe. They had no point of reference to turn back too. No one had been dead three days to rise and live again. They saw him brutally beaten, and hung to die on the cross- For Jesus to be alive was IMPOSSIBLE—wasn't it? As the angels reminded them, they remembered, now... Oh – yeah—lightbulb moment- and extreme joy!!! Jesus is alive!

How important is the resurrection to our hope in God? It is what everything hinges on. Without the resurrection we have no living god to believe in. Paul put it succinctly when he said that if our hope in Christ is only for this life—that is, if the resurrection

was a ruse, and we have been fooled into believing in a life-after-death that will never come—then we are "of all people most to be pitied" (1 Cor. 15:19). The resurrection is foundational.

First, the resurrection is proof that Jesus is who He said He is and that He can do what He said He can do.

Second, the resurrection is our confidence that death will not be the end for us. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death (1 Cor. 15:26), but that's only true if our God has truly defeated it already.

Finally, the resurrection gives us confidence that our King is still alive and involved.

The women at the tomb, and the disciples later-- Their hope wasn't in a dead god that taught a good way to live. Their hope wasn't in a prophet or an earthly King. Their hope was built on the Living One, Jesus Christ- the Risen Savior. They went beyond their fears and believed. They knew that Jesus was alive forever more- they knew that He would be with them to the end of the age, this Hope filled these followers of Christ and they in turn were able to turn the world upside down with the Good News that Jesus is Alive- Hope was born that first Easter Sunday! This same Hope is available to us today too.

Jesus broke through the barriers of death and the grave. He broke through the chains of sin and the pain of this world. Jesus is the hope for you now and for you in the future.

LUTHERAN

Dennison/Vang Lutheran Parish
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN • 507-645-6042
Website: www.dennisonvang.org
Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com
Pastor Paul A. Graham

Summer Worship Schedule

During the month of June, worship services will be at Vang at 9:00 AM. During the month of July, worship services will be at Dennison Lutheran at 9:00 AM

Gol Lutheran Marv Kormann, Pastor
Marv Kormann, Pastor • 507-789-6311
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Grace Lutheran, Nerstrand
Mike Ahrens S.A.M.
Service 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

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

Hegre Lutheran
Pastor Chris Brekke
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

Moland Lutheran
Nancy Edvardson, Pastor • 10:30 a.m. worship

First Ev. Lutheran
Luther Mathsen, Pastor
Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC
Curtis Fox, Pastor
24289 Cty. 24 Blvd., Cannon Falls
Sunday mornings: 9a.m. Worship; 10a.m. Fellowship
Thursdays 9:30a.m. Bible Study;
7:00p.m. Bluegrass Jam (open to public)
Bring your instruments, play, sing or just enjoy.

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

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY Lord, King, and Savior

Scripture Reading — *Isaiah 32:1-8*
Each one will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert. — Isaiah 32:2

How amazing parents are! They sacrifice so much for their children and are eager to provide opportunities for them. A key preoccupation of seafarers during their visits to ports around the world is to buy books, toys, and clothes to bring back for their children. Parents show love and protection in so many ways for their children, and God does the same for us.

In Isaiah 32, God shares a wonderful announcement. This comes in the midst of warnings to God's people, who have turned away from him to rely on the power of other nations (see Isaiah 28-31). But even though the people have been unfaithful, Isaiah reminds them that God has promised a kingdom of righteousness.

Today we know that the King who "will reign in righteousness" is Jesus, and leaders who follow his ways will rule with justice. This means that everyone—young and old, men and women, parents and children—all will be able to flourish and learn and grow in peace.

God's kingdom is a refuge from the storms and troubles of life. The Savior, Jesus, has given us new life and promises it "to the full" (John 10:10). We need not fear or dread the future. Families and communities can thrive. And our King invites us to welcome others in from the storm.

Prayer
Lord, King, and Savior, you are our refuge and strength. You care for us with love and compassion. Help us to care for and love others as you have done for us. Amen.

METHODIST

Nerstrand United Methodist
Lora Sturm, Pastor
507-330-0025
Worship 9:00a.m.

Stanton United Methodist
Rev. Gary Liker
Worship 10:15a.m.
Church Phone 507-263-4063

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NEW LIFE CHURCH

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10:00a.m. Worship Service
7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

HOLDEN-DALE PARISH

Heather Culuris, Pastor
Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship at Holden;
11:00 a.m. worship at Dale



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Nerstrand Fire Relief Association



Thanking Mike Stenbakken for his years of service to Nerstrand Fire



Pastor Paul A. Graham

Dennison-Vang Lutheran Parish seeks to be a loving presence in the community in Christ's name. We are a community of faith that makes a difference through worship and serving outside our walls.

If you are looking for something more in your life, come check us out!

37514 3rd Avenue, Dennison, MN 55018

Website: www.dennisonvang.org

E-MAIL ADDRESS: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com

Blessing of the Animals

Come celebrate God's creation at a "Blessing of the Animals" service. It will be at Vang on Sunday, May 8. If your pet is leashed and is good with strangers, it is welcome in worship.



There will be a Blessing of the Animals at 10:00 on the Vang lawn.

All (and all furry friends) are welcome.

Dennison Lutheran Community Church Update

All are invited to DLC's special services – Songs of My Life and Taize evening prayer.

Songs of My Life will be on May 15 at 11:00 and Taize Evening prayer will be on Wednesday, May 18 at 7:00 PM.

The doors are open and all are welcome.

Songs
OF MY LIFE

Summer Worship Schedule

During the month of June, worship services will be at Vang at 9:00 AM. During the month of July, worship services will be at Dennison Lutheran at 9:00 AM

Delores J. Wilson

Delores J. Wilson went to be with her Lord and Savior at age 90, on April 2, 2022.



Delores, "Dolly," the daughter of Lawrence Chester and Thelma Knutson Chester, was born in Cannon City on August 3, 1931. She married Gene A. Wilson on August 10, 1948, in Faribault. They farmed in Walcott Township, and she was a homemaker, worked several years at F. W. Woolworth in Faribault, and for her daughter at Jan's Secretariat in Northfield.

In addition to her four daughters, Kathy (Mervin) Hendrickson of Owatonna, Janice (Steve) Billeb of Cody, WY, Gaylene (Steve) Simmons of Montross, VA, and Doris (Scott) Ripczinski of Bonita Spring, FL, Dolly is survived by 10 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and many other beloved relatives.

Dolly was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Gene; two grandchildren, Jolene Simmons and Suzanne Simmons, and several siblings.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Benefit to be Held for Area Resident

Jennifer Lorfald is a graduate of Kenyon-Wanamingo High School and has been a lifetime resident of the area. She and her boyfriend Nick have two children who are in middle school. Nick works for Banks Outdoors in Cannon Falls and Jennifer worked at David's Bridal in Rochester.

On Monday evening December 23rd Jennifer suffered a stroke and was taken to St. Mary's hospital in Rochester. It was discovered that she had a blood clot near her temple and surgery was performed to remove part of the clot. A second surgery was necessary to

remove part of her skull because of the swelling. Later in January a clot was discovered in her leg as well. In mid-February she moved to a rehab facility in Golden Valley and is anticipating returning to home by mid-April.

A benefit fundraiser is being planned on May 7th in Wanamingo at the Community Center with a pancake breakfast hosted by the Wanamingo Lion's Club from 7 to 11am. There will be a bake sale and a silent auction held at the same time. Donations are being accepted and you may contact Ashley at 507-210-7396 or Kasey at 507-272-8928 to submit items for the silent auction. There is also a go-fund-me site at <https://www.go-fundme.com/f/jennifer-lorfalds-benefit-fund>. An account has been set up at the Security State Bank of Kenyon as well if you wish to donate funds there.



Nerstrand City Library



(continued from page 1)

Thanks to numerous donations the library has recently added a small collection of books for adults.

This beautifully restored Nerstrand City Hall and Library is open the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 9:30 am - 11:00 & 5pm - 6pm.

The Honor System is in place for checking out books. Patrons are asked to sign the library card found in the back of each book. Next, place this card in the basket provided. Then take the book home to "Read and Enjoy." Simply return the book for others to read. No library card is needed. No late fees will be assessed.

There's more...Coming Soon...Summer Time Story Hour! Sponsored and funded by The Nerstrand City Council this one hour program (10am - 11am) designed for children from 2 years of age until 5th grade (with an adult), will begin June 8 and continue every Wednesday throughout the summer. Children will experience books, stories, crafts, songs, and perhaps some science magic.

Thanks to a donation from Lake Country Community Bank there are tables and chairs designed for small children. Summer Time Story Hour will make good use of this new furniture. Stop by and check out the Nerstrand City Library!

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Ann Traxler
Attorney

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Parricipating in the Annual Randolph Tractor Parade, Sophia Amy, a Junior at Randolph High school and also a member of the Randolph FFA , is getting ready for the parade with her Great Grandpa Bakers White 2-135 tractor.



Randolph Ag Teacher Ed Terry in the 2022 Annual FFA Tractor Parade

Do You Have a Story Idea?

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Purple Ribbon Fund Has Its Roots In The 4-H Auction

By Beth Brekke

The Goodhue County Purple Ribbon Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization that was formed using the mission statement “to better the Goodhue County youth”. The fund offers monetary awards to graduating seniors that have been in 4-H for at least six years with a goal of expanding the awards to other youth organizations in the future. Although a more inclusive effort was already underway, the recently formed non-profit grew from a long-running effort to help kids with the cost of raising 4-H market animals.

The Goodhue Co. 4-H Livestock Auction was started in 1968 when Jim Bryan, Jim Foss, Don Webster, Gerald Meyer, Morris Nysteun, LaMar Juliar, and Dick Houghton formed the Goodhue County Livestock Auction Committee.

Carl Bang, who later became a long-time fairboard member, was the first person to go through the auction with his champion market lamb. It was held outside in front of the sheep barn using wooden fence panels and wooden bleachers.

Auctioneer Don Webster conducted the sale. His sons would take over and continued working the sale until just a few years ago when the Houghton family of auctioneers took over. All auction expenses are donated by the auctioneers or the livestock committee.

There were about 50 animals bought by local supporters and businesses at that first sale. It has evolved into a much larger sale, sometimes exceeding 225 animals. In the early days some animals were available for actual purchase and butchering if they were not going to the state fair. Now it is a premium only auction and the 4-Her retains ownership of the animal. Any member who receives a blue or red ribbon on their market animal is eligible to be in the county auction.

The auction day begins with a buyers’ breakfast which is cooked, served, and donated by 4-H. Usually there is some fun that



Noah Schaefer received a generous premium for his hog at the 2021 Minnesota State Fair thanks to 26 contributors to the Goodhue County Purple Ribbon Fund.

Back Row: Derrick Dicke, Kevin Altendorff, Shannon and Matt Schaefer. Front row: Noah, Elih, and Macy Schaefer, and Chase Dohrn feeding the hog.

goes on during the 3-hour-long auction in the show arena. Marty Kehren from the Goodhue Lions Club tries to buy the Chicken entries for their Chicken Barbeque the next day and the Pork Producers make him pay dearly.

If any organization, business, or individual would like to participate in the local auction, any amount of money works. Auction committee members canvas local towns and businesses for donations. Mark and Noah Erickson take care of the Zumbrota area, Brandon Schafer does Goodhue/Bellechester, Mark Flom covers Kenyon and Cannon Falls, Kevin Altendorf and Bob Eppen do Red Wing and the surrounding area.

Call any one of these people to support the auction and get your name on the big billboard in the show arena for the year.

(continued on page 7)

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 8th

Special Mother's Day Breakfast and Brunch Menu

9:00am-2:00pm
(Regular Menu Available After 2:00pm)

Reservations Required
Call 507-645-9992 or Email: firesideloungedennison@gmail.com
to Make Your Reservation
(Put "Reservation Request" in the subject line)

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37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN
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Purple Ribbon Fund Has Its Roots In The 4-H Auction

(continued from page 6)

All money bid goes to Goodhue County 4-H kids. The auction proceeds are split, with the exhibitor keeping 80% and the other 20% going into the 4-H General Fund to defray the cost of State Fair trips for non-livestock exhibitors. The Purple Ribbon Fund originated from a desire to increase this funding and the premiums received by the Goodhue County 4-Hers lucky enough to participate in the State Fair livestock auction. Animals need to earn a purple ribbon at the State Fair and then, only the top few of each species are selected, so it is a very elite group which usually includes 3 or 4 local youth.

To raise this additional funding, organizers started auctioning off gift baskets following the regular county livestock auction. The baskets are donated by the previous year's entrants in the Minnesota State Fair Livestock Auction. Additional donations and funding ideas are being sought by board members and volunteers Derrick Dicke, Betty Dicke, Brandon Schafer, Noah Erickson, Andy Mann and Bob Eppen. Donations may be sent to: Goodhue Co. Purple Ribbon Fund, 34890 165th Ave. Way, Goodhue, MN 55027. For more information or to pledge a donation, call Bob Eppen at (651) 380-0494.



Lucas Erickson's market lamb was chosen for the 2021 Minnesota State Fair livestock auction and received a premium raised in part by the Goodhue County Purple Ribbon Fund. Pictured with Lucas are Kevin Altendorf, Derrick Dicke, Morgan Berg, and Beth and Will Erickson.



Friday & Saturday JULY 8 & 9

Tickets & Information at
www.iconicfest.com

Friday, July 8



Night Moves



BlackHawk

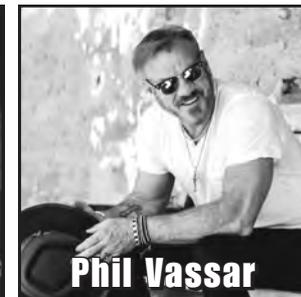
- 4pm Gates Open
- 5pm Weekend Rockstar
- 7pm Night Moves
(Tribute to Bob Seger)
- 9pm BlackHawk

Saturday, July 9

- 2pm Gates Open
- 3pm Whiskey Trail
- 5pm Stone Daisy Band
- 7pm Doug Stone
- 9pm Phil Vassar



Doug Stone



Phil Vassar

2 DAY OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL!
Held at the Green Lantern 9 miles East of Brainerd on Hwy. 18



The Gear Daddies To Headline the 2022 All Saints Music Festival May 20th

(continued from page 1)

The pull of small town life and the passion for music never left as Kroeze turned into one of the top country musicians in the Midwest. The power of small town community showed as family and friends in Barron helped him get started on his journey to Nashville in 2014, holding a fundraiser that would lead to him recording his first single "Four Letter Words," which received strong radio play and kick started his career.

In 2015, he began a busy stretch of playing over 175 shows a year, and creating a large and loyal fan following. That popularity soared in 2018, when he appeared on NBC's hit TV show "The Voice," making it all the way to the finals in a runner-up finish. In the finale, Kroeze sang the original song "Human," which was TOP 10 on the Billboard HOT 100 and TOP 5 on the iTunes TOP 100. His vocal and guitar skills, combined with a small-town charm, led to Kroeze to become the most streamed artist in the show's history.

A popular live performer, Chris continued to perform at a frantic pace maintaining an average of over 175 shows a year through 2019, and the crowds have gotten bigger and bigger. He headlined a show at Aquafest for over 5,500 fans and has had a number of stops in which he has sold out multiple nights in a row, yet he still returns for pop-up shows at local bars he used to play at early in his career.

A small town boy who loves the outdoors through and through, Kroeze still lives in Barron, Wisconsin with his wife and can't imagine raising his two children anywhere else.

The Gear Daddies will headline this years event

Gear Daddies is an Americana/Rock band originally from Austin, Minnesota. Members Martin Zellar (electric and acoustic guitar, harmonica and vocals), Nick Ciola (bass), Randy Broughten (electric and pedal steel guitar) and James "Billy" Dankert (drums and vocals), played their first shows together in 1984. Between 1986 and 1992, the band released three popular albums and became an important part of the Twin Cities music scene.

Many of the fan's favorite songs ("Stupid Boy", "Color of Her Eyes", "She's Happy", "Drank So Much" and many others) are credited to the exceptionally passionate writing skills possessed by Zellar, however Dankert has also contributed some of the compositions, including "Time Heals", and "Blues Mary".

Their most notable mainstream success was when they played "Stupid Boy" on Late Night with David Letterman in 1991. Zellar had this to say of the experience: "I was so nervous, and it all happened so quickly. I couldn't tell you what the hell happened. I got done, and I was walking back and said to Randy (Broughten), 'Did I sing all the words? Did I do that?' When I watched it that night in the

hotel room I had no recollection of having lived it."

Arguably, Zellar's "I Wanna Drive the Zamboni" is the band's best-known song, having been featured in the movies D2: The Mighty Ducks and Mystery, Alaska, as well as on the television program Malcolm in the Middle. It's also a staple at hockey games throughout North America and Europe.

Parking will be Free, and again, this is an 18+ event.

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attendant. If you are a Business Sponsor, please show your VIP Parking Pass at the front gate. On-site, FREE adequate parking is available. Please follow parking attendants who will direct cars to a large parking area and the entrance gate where tickets will be taken.

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UPCOMING 2022 AUCTIONS

Sat., April 30, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.
 10+ Collector Tractors - Wood Threshing - Farm + Horse Equipment - Trailers - Outdoor Items
PRESTEGARD FARM
 Owatonna, MN

Sat., June 18, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.
 40+ John Deere Collector Tractors - Trailer - Collector Tractor Parts
PHIL BRIGGS - ESTATE
KAREN BRIGGS - OWNER
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Sat., June 25, 2022 • 9:00 A.M.
 JD 4400 - JD 270 skid loader - 11 collector tractors - JD 770 Combine - Old D-8 Cat - Old A.C. grader - Trailers - Misc. Farm Equipment - Outdoor Items
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AUCTION CALENDAR

April 30, 2022..... 8:00 AM CST
Dundas, MN
 ONLINE ONLY ESTATE AUCTION FOR THE PAUL GULLORD ESTATE
 2013 Chevy Equinox, 2016 Tandem Dump Trailer, 22 Excellent Firearms, Browning Gun Safe, Yamaha 750 Grizzly, Hunting & Fishing Equip., Power & Hand Tools, JD Mower, Outside-Wood Furnace, Wood Splitter, Cargo Trailer, Duck Decoys

May 21, 2022..... 9:30 AM CST
Northfield, MN
 LIVE ONSITE & ONLINE FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION FOR GARY FALKENBERG
 John Deere 4955 MFWD, John Deere 730 Diesel, JD 630, IHC 560, John Deere 7000 Planter, JD 8200 Drill, Case IH 200 Field Cultivator, DMI 527 Ripper, (2) IHC Tandem Grain Trucks, Wagons, Farm Support Items

June 16, 2022..... 9:00 AM CST
Boyd, WI
 LIVE & ONLINE FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION FOR JOHN & DAWN HERRICK
 (11) John Deere Mfwd & 2wd Tractor, 2 Skid loaders, Planter & Drill, Tillage Machinery, 2 Forage Harvesters, 3 Manure Spreaders, 2 Manure Tanks, Livestock Machinery, Pickups, Trailers, Clean Well Maintained Equipment

June 25, 2022..... 9:00 AM CST
Owatonna, MN
 LIVE & ONLINE FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION FOR JOHN & JUDY KRISSEL
 John Deere 7720 2WD & 7405 2WD Tractors, Case IH 4300 Field Cultivator, Case IH 950 Planter, (2) Brent G544 Wagons, Clean Chevy 70 Grain Truck, Spraying & Tillage Equipment, Other Farm Machinery, Farm Support Items

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SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022, 9:30 A.M.

LOCATION: From Owatonna, MN 4 miles south on Hwy. 218, then 1 1/2 miles east on county road 6, then 1/4 mile south on county road 57
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Please Note: Only a partial list of the many items to be sold, a very good auction with older, usable farm and horse machinery. Many misc. Tractor + Implement parts.
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Terms: Cash or Good Check, + Picture ID Required. 5% buyer's fee applies to all items. No property removed until fully settled for. Sales staff and owners not responsible for accidents. Any verbal announcement made day of auction takes precedence over print. Lunch and restroom services available on site.
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Part 2 - Dale & Marlys Schmeling Living Estate Sale

April 28 • 9-5
April 29 & 30 • 9-4

Sale will be held at two addresses:
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Indian Head Gold Coins, Antique Chicken Incubator complete #160, Large back mahogany bar(28ft. long, three pcs.) Antique wardrobes, Antique dressers with mirrors, antique oak round tables, Oak chairs, Antique cupboards, Windmill weights, beautiful iron ornate beds, American Bank Protection Burgular Alarm(very rare), old toys, old ceiling tin panels, 15 cent Coca Cola machine, old comics, Tom Tom pinball machine made by Williams Co., old bank teller front, beer and advertising signs, Zenith wind charger, DeLuxe wind charger, Lundell snowblower, old radios, lots of misc.

Sale conducted by Joy's Estate Sales / Albert Lea, MN
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 See estatesales.net for further listing and pictures.

JENSEN AUCTIONS

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Saturday, April 30, 2022 • 9:30AM

Location: Owatonna Fairgrounds (Radel Building) 1525 S Cedar Ave. Owatonna, MN

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- Misc. Hobnail Pieces
- Shawnee Cookie Jars & Misc. Pieces
- Pink, Green, & Yellow Depression Glass
- McCoy Planters & Tea Set
- Jadette Kitchenware
- (2) Redwing Beater Jars
- Many Black Americana Pieces
- Many Carnival Chalkware Items
- Many Nesting Bowl Sets
- (4) Color Mixing Bowl Sets
- Many Shoulder Bowls
- Tea Pots
- Occupied Japan Figurines
- Box Kraft Cutter
- Large Brass Horse & Elephant Enamelware
- Blue & White Swirl Water Can
- Large Gray Coffee Pot
- Hornell Feed Sack
- Laray Fastel Dishware
- Red Wing Flatters & Butter Dish
- Jewel Tea Autumn Dishes
- Art Deco Pieces
- Hen on Nest Glassware
- Fontoria Glass Pieces
- Royal Ruby Glassware
- Copper Boiler w/ Lid
- Many Galvanized Pieces
- Large Glass Pickle & Pig Jar
- Glass Candy Jar
- (2) Large Baige Tie off Blocks
- Cast Iron Pig, Car, Bank & Kids Stove
- Wall Coffee Grinder
- Tabletop Coffee Grinder
- Spice Set
- Rolling Pin & Wood Tamper
- Twin Brook Farm 3dz Egg Crate
- Many Oil Lamps
- Marbles
- Vintage Floor Lamps & Tables
- Arcade Buster Churn
- (2) Pitcher & Basin
- Red Wing Ko-Rec Chicken Feeder
- Mantle Clocks
- Bordens Crate
- Bpc Roger Silver Set & Case
- Collector Blocks
- Planter - Peanut, Orange Crush, & Birdseye Wood Crates
- Ardor Glass General Store Jar (Pat. 4-17-1917)
- Calumet Tins
- Red Wing Crocks (2, 3, 5, & 6gal)
- 2 gal. Red Wing Butter Churn
- Metal Duff Houses
- (3) Wash Boards
- (2) Victorian Condiment Cruet Sets
- Tiffany Style Hanging & Table Lamps
- 45+33 Records
- Texas Ware Bowls
- Ball Jars (green) w/ Flip Tops

Antique Furniture

- Sellers Kitchen Cabinet
- Round Oak Table w/ 6 Chairs
- Square Oak Table w/ 6 Chairs
- Tea Cart w/ Marble Top
- (2) Marble Top Plant Stands
- Piano Stool w/ Claw Feet
- Parlor Tables
- Maple Makeup Desk
- Maple Washstand w/ Towel Bar
- Maple Dresser w/ Oval Mirror
- Folding Oak Table
- Small Drop Leaf Table
- 42" 2 Door Bookcase
- Large Hall Tree w/ Wash Basin
- Many Small Side Tables & Mirrors
- Victorian Walnut Fainting Couch
- Victorian Lounger Chair
- (3) Vintage Side by Side Secretary w/ Bookcase
- Childs Wicker Chair
- Wicker Baby Buggy
- Milk Stools
- Many Old Picture Frames
- Terry Redlin Framed Prints (Night on the Town, Almost Home, Sharing the Evening, & Evening Frost)

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AUCTIONEER'S COMMENT:
 Folks, if you are looking for top notch antiques here is your sale! Darlene collected for years! This is a great opportunity to buy some great items. This is the first of two sales. Please come with a chair and a truck to haul it home. -Thanks, Dennis.

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Housing Issues Affect Community Health

By Maddy Schwartz
Goodhue County Health and Human Services

Six months ago, a Housing Resource Specialist joined the staff at Goodhue County Health and Human Services. While the county department has long helped provide social services and economic assistance, this position is different. Maddy Schwartz, MPH, is tasked with addressing housing as a public health issue. The evidence shows that housing affects health outcomes.

The new position is fully funded by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services called the Community Living Infrastructure Grant. A Housing Resource Specialist is someone who provides technical assistance and consultation on housing and related resources for government staff, community providers, and advocates.

The goals of this Housing Resource Specialist position are aimed at working collaboratively with housing agencies and

stakeholders to increase and improve opportunities for those with disabling conditions and housing instability to live successfully in the community. Schwartz will support some of the great community work already being done in the area of housing in Goodhue County.

When the agency applied for the grant funding for a Housing Resource Specialist, the new position was located in the Public Health Division because housing is important to the health of our communities. The places people live, work, and play that affect health outcomes are called social determinants of health. Where everyone has access to high quality housing, housing they can afford, and access to basic necessities in their neighborhood, it increases both community health and economic stability.

First, an individual's health is directly impacted by their living space. Maintaining high quality living spaces can prevent against exposures to toxins and allergens. Building structural, electrical, mechanical, and other safety concerns can result in injuries. Substandard housing can contribute to the spread of infectious diseases through crowding, infestations, a lack of safe drinking water, and ineffective waste disposal.

Second, lacking housing stability affects an individual's physical and mental health. Even those who face short-term housing instability due to moving frequently, couch surfing, and

the effects of falling behind on rent are more likely to face poor health outcomes and stress. Populations facing chronic homelessness have higher rates of physical and mental diseases than the general public and are more likely to die at a younger age than the general population.

Finally, neighborhoods impact health. Healthy People 2030 is a plan of action developed by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to guide efforts to improve health and quality of life. Healthy People 2030 says neighborhoods with access to nutritious foods, spaces that promote active living (like sidewalks, bike trails, and parks), safe water, clean air, and a high-quality education impacts health.

Economic stability is another Social Determinant of Health. High costs of housing can reduce economic stability for residents. The Department of Housing and Urban Development considers housing to be affordable when a family or person spends 30% or less of their annual income on housing. Anyone spending over 30% of their income on housing is considered cost-burdened. Cost-burdened individuals can have difficulties paying for other necessities. The 2020 Comprehensive Housing Needs Analysis for Goodhue County determined an estimated 20% of all owner households and 41% of renter households are considered cost burdened in Goodhue County. For lower-income residents, high housing costs make it difficult to spend money on things that promote health.

Some people in our communities are more likely to face housing instability and barriers to home ownership. This includes people of color and people with disabilities. US Census American Community Survey data and the Wilder Research Minnesota Homeless Study both show people of color are disproportionately affected by homelessness in Southeast Minnesota. While approximately 40% of homeless individuals in southeast Minnesota were people of color in 2018, this population only made up approximately 10% of the total population. Additionally, the American Community Survey estimates (2013-2017) show that approximately 76% of white households in Goodhue County own, but the ownership rate drops to 41% for all other races.

The 2018 River Valley Continuum of Care Regional Homelessness Needs Assessment lists mental health problems as the most

common type of disability reported for all households experiencing homelessness in the region. The Comprehensive Housing Needs Analysis estimates that 45% of renter households in Goodhue County are occupied by a person with a disability. Disabilities represented in this analysis included vision impairments, ambulatory limitations, cognitive disabilities, and independent living limitations. This is compared to 30% of owner households occupied by someone with a disability. As household income increases, the percentage of households with a resident with a disability decreases.

Addressing housing inequities in our communities means that we recognize the benefits of all residents having improved outcomes related to health, education, and employment. When families and individuals have a stable home, our residents can focus on building our vibrant communities, seek employment and educational advancements, and make healthy decisions. Because housing is a health issue, we hope to expand the ways in which Goodhue County HHS can support community efforts to address housing needs in our county.

Goodhue County Housing Resource Specialist, Maddy Schwartz, can be reached at maddy.schwartz@co.goodhue.mn.us.

To learn more, visit Healthy People 2030 at <https://health.gov/healthypeople> and browse objectives by topic (look for Housing and Homes, and Neighborhood and Built Environment) or view the Comprehensive Housing Needs Analysis for Goodhue County, Minnesota at <https://co.goodhue.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/20298/Goodhue-County-Housing-Study-2020>.

About Goodhue County Health and Human Services:

The mission of Goodhue County Health and Human Services is to "Promote, Protect and Strengthen the Health of Individuals, Families, and Communities." The department has three service divisions: Economic Assistance, Public Health, and Social Services and is accredited by the national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). For more information on Goodhue County Health & Human Services, please visit www.co.goodhue.mn.us/HHS and

www.facebook.com/gchhs.

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Sgt. Justin Hunt Receives Posthumous Award

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

Former Rice County Sheriff's Sgt. Justin Hunt was honored posthumously with a Meritorious Service Award from the Special Operations Training Association.

The award recognizes "an individual who distinguishes themselves by providing exceptional service in the performance of his or her duties. This honor may be awarded for either sustained, long-term, noteworthy achievement or a single significant event."

Hunt, who passed away unexpectedly while off duty this past June, was nominated for the award by members of the South Metro SWAT team.

During his two-decade long career in law enforcement, Hunt served on the South-Central Drug Investigation Unit SWAT and later the South Metro SWAT team. A Faribault native who graduated from Faribault High School in 1999, Hunt began his career as a corrections officer in Douglas County before returning to Rice County as a part-time officer for the Lonsdale Police Department and Rice County corrections officer. He then served for 13 years as a Faribault police officer before taking a job as a Rice County Sheriff's deputy in 2017.

Hunt's wife, Maggie, and Rice County Sheriff Jesse Thomas accepted the award Monday on Hunt's behalf during the SOTA annual training conference. Both thanked the association for the award, and the South



Rice County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Justin Hunt

Metro SWAT team for its nomination. Each expressed how important training and mentoring his teammates was to Sgt. Hunt during his long tenure on SWAT.

"Sgt. Hunt was well deserving of this award," said Rice County Sheriff's Sgt. Paul LaRoche, "and he is a dearly missed member of our team."

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Organic Matters



Teri Knight



I talked about soil and rain barrels and composting last week. But what about organic matters? What is it? Does it matter? How much organic matter matters? Can it be too much? According to the University of MN Extension, the answer is actually... YES.

Soil organic matter (SOM) is the portion of soil that is composed of living and dead things in various states of decomposition, such as plant roots and microbes.

Organic (carbon-based) materials that we add to the soil, like compost or organic fertilizers, will also contribute to SOM as they are incorporated and decomposed by soil organisms.

Going forward, the best practice is to balance additions of compost or other organic materials with soil testing to truly understand how those materials are impacting your garden's SOM.

The U says that over time, SOM can build to the point where significantly more nutrients are available in the soil than the plants are able to use. That means excess goes into our waterways and groundwater.

Here are good things to do:

Reduce the amount of tilling

Use cover crops

Mulch around crops to keep soil in place and establish a buffer around the garden to minimize runoff.

Teri Knight became a Master Gardener with Dakota County, Minnesota in 2003. She currently produces her website, www.gardenbite.com. Teri's been involved in community projects which include a Junior Master Gardener program for 8 to 12 year olds, designing and planting a garden for a women's center and various other organizations!



June 20, 2021



Dried dead plants, faded begonias, some fallen leaves, kitchen scraps, compost bag, paper towel...

Rice County Begins Accepting Absentee Ballots for First District Special Election Primary

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

The primary for the special election to fill the 1st Congressional District seat that was vacated last month when Congressman Jim Hagedorn passed away, is set for next month and Rice County has been working diligently to prepare for the process.

Due to the increased concern regarding election transparency, particularly regarding absentee ballots, the County Board of Commissioners has taken steps to increase visibility of the work done by the Absentee Ballot Board.

Last month the Commissioners approved measures that will include the hiring of partisan election judges and the installation of a camera in the Elections Department conference room so members of the public can watch a live video feed as elections workers

receive, process, and accept the ballots.

A group of local voters and the Upper Midwest Law Center objected to wording in the measure. A letter sent to the Board of Commissioners and County Officials dated March 31st took issue with who will be acting as election judges and threatened a lawsuit over the matter. While the County measure provides for "election judges and/or staff from the Property Tax & Elections Department," to process the ballots, the group pointed to a recent State Supreme Court decision requiring "counties to include a sufficient number of election judges, who are party balanced" on the Absentee Board. The decision said that boards must consist of a balanced group of partisan election judges consisting of representatives from each of Minnesota's four major parties, Republican, DFL, Grassroots Legalize Cannabis, and Legal Marijuana Now.

Rice County Attorney John Fossum said the county has resolved the matter through conversation and explicit definition of terms. The County will seek to hire members of each party to act as election judges, who are called upon to determine the validity of a ballot in the event that there is a discrepancy.

The challenge will be finding enough members of each party to fill the number of judges needed. Fossum said that all options for filling the seats with partisan members will be exhausted but hiring could also be supplemented by employees of the County Elections Office.

Fossum said because of the added need to fill the 1st District Seat, the election processes this year will be more complicated and longer lasting than in a normal election year.

"Our election stretches out for weeks. And the ballot for this special primary election for the First Congressional District started being mailed out last Friday. They can start being reviewed for accuracy and whether or not they're accepted [right away.] We're moving forward with all of that. It's a complex process and there's a lot going on. Basically, we're in election mode from now until November."

The primary for the special election is May 24th, and the special election itself will be August 9th.

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2022 SCHEDULE

MAY			
Sun, May 1	at Cannon Falls Bears	Cannon Falls, Minn.	2 p.m.
Fri, May 6	St. Louis Park	Home	7:30 p.m.
	Firehouse Liquor Pocket Schedule Night		
Sun, May 8	at Lake City Serpents	Lake City, Minn.	2 p.m.
Wed, May 11	Baseball 365	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, May 13	St. Anthony Hogs	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, May 15	Red Wing Aces	Home	2 p.m.
	Frandsen Bank and Trust Jersey Day		
Wed, May 18	Champlin Park Logators	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sat, May 21	at Red Wing Aces	Red Wing, Minn.	2 p.m.
Sun, May 22	at Hastings Hawks	Hastings, Minn.	2 p.m.
Wed, May 25	Faribault Lakers	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, May 27	Baseball 365	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, May 29	Cannon Falls Bears	Home	2 p.m.
Mon, May 30	Northfield Knights	Home	2 p.m.
JUNE			
Fri, June 3	Elko Express	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, June 5	Lake City Serpents	Home	2 p.m.
Wed, June 8	Jordan Brewers	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, June 10	New Market Muskies	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, June 12	at Rochester Royals	Rochester, Minn.	2 p.m.
Wed, June 15	Highland Park	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, June 17	Hampton Cardinals	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, June 19	at New Market Muskies	New Market, Minn.	2 p.m.
Wed, June 22	Miesville Mudhens	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, June 24	Waconia Lakers	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, June 26	Rochester Royals	Home	2 p.m.
Wed, June 29	St. Benedict	Home	7:30 p.m.
JULY			
Fri, July 1	Tempe Banditos	Home	7:30 p.m.
Mon, July 4	at Northfield Knights	Northfield, Minn.	2 p.m.
Fri, July 8	Minnetonka Millers	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, July 10	Hastings Hawks	Home	2 p.m.
Wed, July 13	Lyons Pub Warriors	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, July 15	Forest Lake Brewers	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, July 17	at Hampton Cardinals	Hampton, Minn.	2 p.m.
Wed, July 20	Eagan Bandits	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, July 22	at Elko Express	Elko, Minn.	7:30 p.m.
Tue, July 26	at Minnetonka Millers	Minnetonka, Minn.	7:30 p.m.
Fri, July 29	at Miesville Mudhens	Miesville, Minn.	7:30 p.m.

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If we use your recipe and print it, you will receive a free certificate. Be sure to include your name and address so we can mail you a gift card if your entry is the winner.

April Winners

Lemon Jello Cake (easy, great Spring Easter dessert!) Submitted by Tami Peterson

- 1 box of lemon cake mix
- 1 3 oz pkg of lemon jello
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup boiling water
- 3/4 cup corn oil

Dissolve lemon jello in boiling water. Set aside to cool. Place cake mix in a bowl. Add oil and mix well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add jello and mix well for 2 minutes. Bake in a greased angel food pan. Bake at 350 for 35-40 minutes.

Broccoli Casserole Submitted by Cyndie Nosek

- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- Saute in 1/4 cup butter, then combine with:

- 1 10.5 ounce can mushroom soup
- 1 4 ounce can mushrooms, undrained
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon parsley flakes
- 10 ounce bag frozen broccoli, thawed

Pour into a buttered 2 quart casserole. Top with crumbs:

- 10 Ritz crackers, crushed
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- Mix well and sprinkle on top of casserole.
- Bake at 325 degrees for 30-35 minutes until lightly browned.

Chicken and Bacon Dip Submitted by Connie Turner

- 1 3oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 t. chicken bouillon granules
- 2 T. parmesan cheese
- 4 strips of bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 3/4 cup cooked chicken
- 1 tomato chopped
- Swiss cheese

Mix in a bowl cream cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise and bouillon. Refrigerate overnight. Spread on plate, sprinkle with parmesan cheese, bacon, chicken and tomato. Top with Swiss cheese. Serve with tortilla chips. This is everybody's favorite dip.

Soft and Chewy Gingersnaps Submitted by Shelly Donkers

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup soft butter
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves
- 1/4 tsp ground ginger

Cream sugar and butter. Beat in egg & molasses. Stir in remaining ingredients. Chill dough. Shape into 1 in. balls. Roll balls in sugar. Place balls 2 in. apart on greased baking sheet. Bake 9-12 min. until edges are set. Allow to cool on baking sheet for a couple of minutes before removing to cooling rack.

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

KW Public Schools And A Strategic Plan Gone Amok

It would happen like this. Someone...someone with the statutory authority to represent a school district would decide that it was not their job to get involved. And, as is almost always the case, it would be the children and grandchildren who would suffer the consequences. Welcome to my old alma mater.

Let me begin my concerns about a recent article in the Kenyon Leader by making reference to a series of quotations that should catch the eye of anyone who has committed themselves to the design and implementation of a school district's strategic plan. Beginning with an opening note of "frustration" by Mrs. Debb Paquin and ending with Mr. Kevin Anderson's suggestion to "Step back and let the administration team run with it," the article leads one to believe that the Kenyon-Wanamingo School Board would like to wash their hands of the entire process. And to make matters even worse, it was reported that 'board members felt good about the progress they had made in their hour-and-a-half brainstorming session.'

In the school board's proposal to focus on the principles of culture and curriculum, Mrs. Paquin expressed "Frustration with the board being tasked with creating the goals that go into the plan." Moreover, she said, "I don't believe this is our work to be doing. Our administration should be bringing this to us for us to brainstorm. They need to prioritize what's important. This is for the administration and

superintendent to figure out what's more important."

While the literature is clear when it comes to the impact a quality culture and a robust curriculum will have on the success of a school district, the idea that a school board and selected representatives of the community are left out of the loop is not only contrary to good policy, but when one looks at the forces that have found their way into public education, it becomes dangerous. I can think of no other time in my 49 years in education when the necessity to keep the school district's planning process out of the hands of politically motivated administrators and teachers is more important than it is today. If you do not believe me, just take a close look at where their respective "parent" organizations are trying to take our children and grandchildren. No...honesty and integrity must be part of the "stop gap" if the process is going to work. This will not happen if it is left in the hands of people who have long-since sold their loyalty to their unions.

As I continued reading the article, I found school board member, Mr. AJ Lindell, saying, "If we don't do this, its not going to get done. Is this our work to do? Probably not. But if we aren't taking the initiative, we will be left behind the eight-ball and our kids won't have the direction they need." Unfortunately, and with the exception of his comment on "probably not," he is correct in his assessment. Now, and due to the fact that current and previous school boards have placed their trust in the wrong people, they find themselves in a place that they have never been before; a place that they do not want to

be...and it shows every time you open the Kenyon Leader and read the school board members' comments.

A number of years ago Mrs. Paquin asked me about the kind of duties she could expect as a school board member if she decided to run for it. When I told her that it would entail some of the same challenges that she and her colleagues are now trying to avoid, she seemed undeterred. While I will admit that no one could have foreseen what we are now facing in public education, it does not change the fact that when she and her colleagues took the pledge to represent the community, they were telling us that they were willing to take on both the good and the bad; they were telling us that they were in it for the long haul...and it was our sense that they were sincere about it. Maybe that is why the article made reference to her comment about the 'repercussions you would face at your job if you did not perform the duties directed to you.' Perhaps she was telling us that the time has finally come to apply the same kind of standards when it pertains to leadership at the school district level. I sure hope this is the message she is trying to send to the community.

As the school board begins the process of changing the culture and the purpose behind having a quality curriculum in the school district, they need to keep two things in mind. First, the most difficult part of their assignment will be the culture. According to Parkway, Haas and Anctil (2010, p. 59), "It is the way of life common to a group of people; it represents their way of looking at the world. It also consists of the values, attitudes, and beliefs that influence their behavior." Due to the fact that Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools has a history of cultivating a "good old boy culture" within the respective buildings, it is paramount that they find a way to change the old way of doing business. Sadly, it has been my experience that these kinds of cultures will do everything in their power to sabotage the process. How do they get by with it? They get by with it because the ultimate power in a school district: its school board (See Minnesota Statutes), sits back and allows it to happen. It is time that they find a way to take back the power.

And second, and here is where it gets serious, the school district's curriculum leaders must start raising questions like: Why is our student achievement consistently behind other SE Minnesota schools as reported in the

Rochester Post Bulletin? What is our purpose as we move forward? Where are we at and where do we want to go? How do we achieve it—and who is going to lead us? If the school district does not have the right person/people at the helm, they need to find him/her/them before it is too late. There is just too much at stake for the future of our children and grandchildren.

And finally, the school board needs to be vigilant when it comes to the curriculum development piece of the school district's plan for school improvement. If they aren't; if they leave it to the wrong people with the wrong motives for our children and grandchildren, the community is going to wake up some morning and find out that Critical Race Theory, Black Lives Matter, White Fragility, the 1619 Project, and Marxism has not only been embedded into the curriculum, but it is now driving the bus. Oh by the way, the school board needs to be careful when they start waving the equity banner. If not, they will soon find out that the same people who are promoting CRT, BLM, White Fragility and other racist ideologies (the political Left) have an entirely different definition for what it should actually mean. Remember, these people have already proven that they are not the friends of public education. And if you do not believe me, just take a close look at what has taken place over the last two years.

In conclusion, and in reference to taking back the power, I would like to remind the community that there will be a school board election before the end of the year. With term limits expiring for Mrs. Craig, Mrs. Paquin, Mr. Anderson, and Mrs. Syverson on the first Monday in January of 2023, it will give perspective candidates a chance to review student achievement and other notable issues that have led to where the school district finds itself today. As someone who has spent his professional career working with K-12 through higher education doctoral students, I would be happy to share my thoughts with anyone who might be interested in helping to create a new beginning at Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools. It is getting late....

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Commissioner Corner

Greetings, last month was the annual meetings for our townships and I just want to send out a big Thank you to all our supervisors, clerks, treasurers and staff that work for our townships. Being a local representative can be vey challenging and rewarding. I also want to thank all who attended their township meetings, this is one of your opportunities to see what is happening in your township and also meet some of your neighbors. We are still working with our ARPA dollars that have been given to the county, spending this money efficiently is very important to me. During the re-districting process we did vote to change 1 township to balance out the voting numbers in our county, there were other options sent to us but after weighing out our options we agreed to just move the one. We still are looking to hire detention deputies, so if you know of a qualified person who would be willing to apply please send them to the county. I am available to listen to any concerns that arise in our county, give me a call or send me a note.

Todd



Todd Greseth
Goodhue County
Commissioner
District 3

Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes We Sell Farmland



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.

I saw an ad in the local paper saying “we sell Farmland”. It struck me as such an over simplification. It should have read, “We sell the lifetime hopes and dreams of a farmer.” March is the month most farmland is sold. Land transactions are completed before the crop season starts. This last year has seen a 26% increase in the price of farmland over the previous year. Not sure the price of crops and cost of inputs makes that logical.

It may seem like a simple sale, just a business deal for the ever expanding and enlarging farms. But for a farmer, land is their lifeblood. They are intimately attached to it. They raise their crops, livestock, families and dreams in the land. They care for it and it rewards them with its bounty. It is planted in

hope, cultivated in hard work and harvested in thankfulness. Some years the return is meager, some years plentiful.

When I grew up there were small farms everywhere across the county. Little family run businesses that provided a good living and a great lifestyle. No better place to raise a family. The kids went to the local school, the parents patronized the small-town businesses, dads and moms were active in the community in a myriad of ways.

I was blessed to grow up on a small farm and I was fortunate to raise my children on a small farm. My daughters played with barn cats, raised calves, operated machinery and even learned that the little pig they fed daily and named “Porker” went to the butcher shop in the livestock trailer and came back in freezer wrap.

My great grand-father broke this land with a horse and plow. I often thought about him listening to the birds sing as the horses pulled the steel wheeled implements across the field. I covered the same ground in a John Deere diesel powered tractor, while listening to the radio. I had it easier than he ever dreamed.

In the end, one gets old and decides to hang up his farm hat. You smell the dirt being worked in the spring and feel the draw of the land. You smell the fresh scent of corn at harvest and remember the pride of a good harvest. Each year farmland will be sold and change hands. The land is timeless. It will produce another crop. Someone else will farm the land. You doubt that they will take care of it like you did though.

A Minnesotan: Seven Dozen Easter Eggs



By RosaLin Alcoser

Easter 2004 was my all time favorite Easter of my childhood. I was seven years old that year and it was the Easter of seven dozen Easter eggs.

That year we spent Easter Sunday at my adopted grandparents house. Which is where we had one of the most memorable Easter Egg Hunts of my childhood. It is the most memorable for two reasons. First off it was the most eggs we ever had outside of a church egg hunt and secondly not all the eggs were found on Easter Sunday.

Why seven dozen Easter eggs you might ask? That's simple, my older sister and I dyed three dozen eggs at home, a dozen each and a spare incase some of them broke during the dyeing process. Then two dozen were dyed at my adoptive grandparents house then their friend dyed an-

other two dozen and left them at the house for us on Easter Sunday. Which is why there were seven dozen eggs that year.

The best part was not dying the Easter Eggs but Easter Sunday itself. After church we went over to my adopted grandparents house and everyone was there; my mom, sister, grandparents, a set of their parents, and their son.

That year their son was about 25 years-old and he hid the seven dozen eggs while we were at church. This was the only year that I can remember that the eggs were not found and hidden multiple times throughout the afternoon to keep us amused. Because he hid all seven dozen eggs way too hard for children.

They were hidden in places we would never think to look; inside and outside of the house. Up high out of our line of sight and if memory serves me correctly in a couple of places that we were not allowed to be in because we were children.

The eggs were so well hidden that my older sister believes that after spending all day looking we found a good 75-80% of those eggs on Easter Sunday. Then Grandpa was finding the rest well into July of that year, because his son forgot where he hid the ones that we could not find.

I have done dozens of egg hunts in my childhood and helped with many more as a teen and young adult. But the Easter of 2004 where seven dozen Easter Eggs were hidden and not all found will always be my favorite egg hunt of my childhood.



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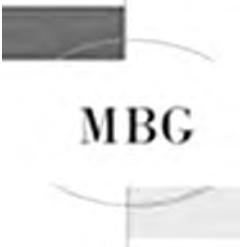
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