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JANUARY, 2023

Volume 20 • Issue 4

Sparkly Treasures at Tatge Jewelry

By Cheri Roshon

Larry Tatge started his first jewelry store in Kenyon in 1975. The previous owner was ready to retire, and asked Larry if he would be interested in purchasing it, and the rest, as they say, is history. *(continued on page 4)*

Chili Cook Off Contest part of this years Dennison Lions Flake Out Festival Saturday, February 4th



The Dennison Lions Club is planning the 2023 Flake Out Festival & Winter Parade for Saturday, February 4th.

The club is holding a raffle in conjunction with the days events to raise funds to support Lions Clubs activities and help support other area non-profit entities and those in need that the club donates to and

supports throughout the year. A \$500 1st Prize, plus other cash prizes will be given away.

The Annual Lighted Parade will take place at 6:30 PM, and anyone can participate. A Cash Prize will be given to the best float.

Other returning favorites include Euchre at Fireside, beginning at 9 AM with 100% Prize Payout and Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo at City Hall at 3 pm. New this year

will be a Chili Cookoff Contest. Cook up your best chili recipe and bring it down to city hall at 11 AM. Tasting and voting will be from 11:30-12:30 with a cash prize for 1st and 2nd place. If you have any questions, contact Lion President Diane at 612-532-0268. See the full schedule of events on page 6 of this issue of the Messenger.

Announcements

• **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.

New Sign at Nerstrand Fire and Rescue Dennison Station



As they say "out with the old, in with the new". Thanks to Dennison Lions for donating funds for our new sign. *Courtesy of Nerstrand Fire & Rescue*

Supporting Our Local FFA & Celebrating National FFA Week February 18-25, 2023

National FFA Week is February 18 - 25th 2023. *(continued on page 6)*

Nerstrand School Annual PTO Sponsored Carnival

Nerstrand Elementary School has welcomed 2023 with lots of winter weather, snowdays and learning. In between all of that, our school is gearing up for our annual PTO Sponsored School Carnival that will take place on Friday, February 3rd from 6:00-8:00pm at our school. The community is invited to join us for a night of kid games, Bingo, food including hot dogs from Nerstrand Meats, a silent auction and FUN. The night is a lot of fun for children and adults of all ages. We hope to see many of you there.

In addition, Nerstrand Elementary School is now accepting enrollment applications for all grades for the Fall of 2023. To enroll, please visit our website <https://nerstrand.charter.k12.mn.us/> or call Trace at 507-333-6850.

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Sunday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
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Is Peace Possible?

Amidst all the craziness of the season, is peace possible? In our world where nations continue to fight against nations; is peace possible? In the culture around us that is bent on arguing and fighting; is peace possible?

Jesus said in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Jesus said, I am giving you peace- but not the kind you find out in the world. Peace is the sum and substance of human well-being. That's what everyone desperately wants. It's what you want; you might really want political peace; a peace between people and the government or a peace between governments and countries. You may long for psychological, or emotional peace. A peace that keeps those voices in our head in harmony. A peace that keeps healthy in body and in our minds. Most of all you and I want peace of conscience and peace of heart and that only comes from peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who guides us out of our lostness in the chaos of spiritual darkness to the way of light and peace. Peace with God is the only means of peace with each other. Without that peace, the world lies in the hands of the wicked one, in darkness, chaos, and fear. This was the ultimate purpose of Christ's mission; "through him (Jesus) to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace

through his blood, shed on the cross." Jesus was sent to bring peace of heart and spirit to all mankind.

Before we know Jesus, before we accept Him as our Savior- we are just walking around in the dark- with fear and death around each corner. We have no peace of mind or spirit- peace illudes us because in the dark and in the chaos peace is absent. Peace can overcome chaos and darkness- but it must be accepted. For you and me to truly experience peace we first, have to be at peace with ourselves.

I. Are You at Peace with Yourself? In other words, are you comfortable with your actions? Can you live with your decisions? Are you happy because of your choices?

Albert Einstein said "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results".

One of the largest obstacles that causes people to fail to change is that some of the problems, some of the troubles, some of the difficulties, some of the habits, some of the addictions are so big that you cannot just stop "cold turkey." We need to take the first step- and often they will be baby steps.

Are you at peace with yourself? What changes do you need to make in your life beginning today? What baby steps do you need to take to be at peace with yourself? Secondly-

II. Are You at Peace with Others? I recently heard a person say, "I love Christmas, but when the in-laws and the out-laws come in when I lose my peace." The word "Peace" appears some 429 times in the bible. It has

about eight different variations of meaning in the Old Testament and about seven different variations of meaning in the New Testament.

The bible says in Acts 5:29 "We must obey God rather than human being!" And in Romans 12:18 "As much as it is possible, as far as it lies within you, live at peace with everyone."

God is the one that we will all have to stand before and give an account of our actions and decisions. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict. Peace is also an action word. We need to take steps toward social justice. And steps toward equality and freedom, and actively work to ease poverty for those that have fallen on difficult times. We must be taking steps toward helping the lost find God. Our Mission is to make disciples so that Christ can transform people's lives.

Matthew 7:2 says, "For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." The church, the body of believers, is instructed in the bible to not gossip or spread rumors; we aren't to slander, or whisper behind someone's back, and we are not to insult or judge someone. Instead, we are to practice hospitality. The bible says, "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you." Romans 15:7 Are you at peace with yourself? Are you at peace with others? One final step.

III. Are You at Peace with God? The meaning of the word Peace in the bible implies quietness and rest. Another meaning of

peace is a type of "reset or fresh start."

Peace is not something you reach out and touch with your physical hands. Peace is not something that is visible with the eye. If I asked you to draw me a picture of peace we would get many different variations of images. If I asked you to describe peace we would get many expressions of feeling as answers. But this one thing I know for sure, every step you take toward being at peace with your self is a step you take toward being at peace with God. Every step you take toward being at peace with yourself, every step you take at being at peace with others is a step you take at becoming at peace with Jesus the Prince of Peace.

Is peace possible? Peace is possible when we come to Jesus and say yes- I want your peace, I want the gift of salvation you offer- we will receive that peace that goes far beyond what is happening in the world around us- the peace that passes all understanding. Jesus said, "my peace I give you. I do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." He gives us peace deep inside our spirits- it won't matter what the day brings, it won't matter how our crazy and messed up our lives or family are- when we receive His peace we are full- and we need never to be troubled or afraid. We only have to trust in Him! What do you need to take that first step toward peace in your life? Are you at peace with yourself? Are you at peace with others? Are you at peace with God?



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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
Sunday, February 5; Dennison - 9:00
Vang - 11:00 (Annual Meeting)
Sunday, February 12th : Dennison - 9:00
Vang - 11:00
Wednesday, February 15th -Songs of My Life
Dennison - 6:30 PM
Sunday, February 19th: Dennison - 9:00
Vang - 11:00
Sunday, February 26th: Dennison - 9:00
Vang - 11:00

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 Edwardson, Pastor • 10:30 a.m. worship

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

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC
Shannon Bauer, Pastor
24289 Cty. 24 Blvd., Cannon Falls
Sunday Worship at 9:00a.m. followed by fellowship.
Thursday Bible Study at 9:00a.m.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Chosen

He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will. — Ephesians 1:5

My daughter and son-in-law are in the process of choosing a therapy dog for one of our grandsons. They have been discussing and studying about which breed is best and which size is right. During this time, their other son has been helping to walk the neighbor's dog to get a sense of how this addition to the family will work. The family is invested together to make a good choice.

Even more important is understanding that God has decided that he wants us to join his family. Does it inspire you that God has been pleased to create us for fellowship with him? God knew that through the sacrifice of Jesus we would become sons and daughters of God. His plan for our lives is to include us in his story. It wasn't enough that God created us and made us his imagebearers; he also loves us and wants to live in relationship with us.

When our lives reflect the ?realization of all this, we display God's glory and his love, and something changes in us. We carry ourselves with the knowledge that we belong and are part of God's family.

What does it mean to be part of this family? It means we are responsible for one another. Because of the love God has given us, we have the ability to live in unity together, sharing in the story that God has indeed chosen us.

Thank you, Father, that you have created us and have chosen us. Help us to see what it means to be in your family and to treat others with the same love you have shown us. Amen.

METHODIST

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

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

ST. JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Wheeling Township) 19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault
Gary Liker, Pastor • 507-330-0025
www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info
Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

NEW LIFE CHURCH

Colin Reuter, Pastor
525 Beverly St., Wanamingo
9:00a.m. Sunday School for all ages;
10:00a.m. Worship Service
7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

HOLDEN-DALE PARISH

Pastor Dustin Haider • 507-789-6677
Email: holdensecretary@gmail.com
Worship schedule found at:
www.holdenlutheranchurch.org
Holden/Dale Facebook





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

Songs of My Life

In Songs of My Life gatherings, we build community and connection through music and stories.

Since beginning Songs of My Life at Dennison Lutheran Church, there have been many powerful, thoughtful, humorous, prayerful, and meaningful moments.

Beginning this month Songs of My Life will be moving Wednesday evenings. On the third Wednesday of the month, come check out these unique and life-giving gatherings (and bring a friend!)

In addition, there will be a dinner served before Songs of My Life. Come and be filled in body and in spirit. The next Songs of My Life will be on Wednesday, February 15. Dinner will be at 6:30, and Songs of My Life will begin at 7:00.

Lent 2023

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

Soup suppers begin at 6:00, and worship is at 7:00.

All soup suppers and worships will be at Dennison Lutheran.

The Lenten focus this year will be

"The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus Centered Life,"

entering into reflection, discernment and commitment

around the practices of

Turn – Learn – Pray – Worship – Bless – Go – Rest.

All are welcome.

Judy Marie Schumann

Judy Marie Schumann, age 77, of Faribault died on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at Allina Health Faribault Medical Center.

Memorial services were held at the Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at 2 p.m. Spring interment will be at Meadow Ridge Memorial Park, Faribault.

A memorial visitation was at the Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault for one hour prior to the service on Saturday.

Judy Marie, the daughter of Edward and

Frances (Haley) Spitzack was born on January 31, 1945, in Faribault. She married Richard Schumann, Sr., on September 20, 1986, in Wheeling Township, rural Rice County. She was formerly employed by Ceneidigh, Inc., Faribault.

She is survived by her husband, Dick; five children, William Schnobrich III of Fargo ND, Dean Schnobrich of Galt, IA, Kimberly (and Ed) Katra of Dodge Center, Richard (and Sharon) Schumann, Jr. of Morristown and Carl Schumann of Faribault; eight grandchildren; two great grandchildren; siblings, Les Spitzack of Crystal River, FL, Jane (and Norman) Thompson of Faribault and Harlan Spitzack of Pequot Lakes.

She was preceded in death by her parents; father of her children, William Schnobrich, Jr. and one sister, Fran Holmblad.

Goodhue County Dairy Princess Candidates Sought

Goodhue, Minn.-- The American Dairy Association of Goodhue County is seeking candidates to participate in this year's dairy princess program. Dairy princesses serve as goodwill ambassadors for the dairy industry through appearances that help explain dairy farmers' passion for taking care of their animals and land while providing nutritious food for people locally and throughout the world.

A candidate must be a high school graduate by July 1, 2023, and not yet 24 years old by July 1, 2023. A candidate must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident. She or her parents must be actively engaged in the production of milk for sale to a licensed plant during the current year. A candidate also qualifies if she or her parents are employed on a dairy farm in a dairy-related capacity, or if a

sibling has taken over the home farm. Additionally, she would qualify if her or her family custom raise animals that will produce milk or lease animals in exchange for work on that farm.

The dairy princess program is sponsored by the county's dairy farmers in conjunction with Midwest Dairy's Minnesota Division and the dairy checkoff.

At all levels of competition, contestants are judged on their communication skills, personality, enthusiasm for dairy promotion and general knowledge of the dairy industry.

For a complete rules and application form, contact any Goodhue County Dairy Association Board Member or Tiffany or Tony Betcher, email: goodhueada@gmail.com or call/text: 651-380-8874/651-380-1795.

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SUPPORTING OUR AREA FUTURE FARMERS

National FFA Week
February 18-25, 2023



Sparkly Treasures at Tatge Jewelry

(continued from page 1)

Over the years, Larry's business grew to include not only jewelry sales, but also ring sizing and solder repair, engraving, trophies and awards.

In 1994, he decided to branch out to a new location in Zumbrota. He gave himself a goal of 10 years of doing business there, and again found success. After the 10 year mark passed, he made the decision to cut back a little on the travel between the 2 businesses, close the Zumbrota store and focus on the original Kenyon store. "I keep busy with all the customers I've served since 1975, no matter where they live", says Tatge.

Larry is grateful for all his customers over the years, and says he wouldn't be here without them. He enjoys the work he does, and doesn't see any reason to stop. His customers are not only loyal, but most of them have become friends. Not only a business man, he has also served in many positions in the community, even serving as Grand Marshall in the 2021 Rose Fest. He loves Kenyon, and can't imagine living anywhere else.

Tatge Jewelry has jewelry for all occasions at very reasonable prices, watches, and one of the only engraving businesses in the area. He makes plaques and awards for all occasions, for sports teams and schools, and for businesses all over the area. "Since Covid started, I sell more plaques than the traditional trophies, since many teams have disbanded for the time being." Larry commented as I was looking through his vast collection of all things engravable. To see his inventory of different designs, log onto his website at Tatge-jewelry.com.

And the clocks! This article wouldn't be complete without mentioning the clocks! What a collection he has! Big clocks, small clocks, Grandfather clocks and Cuckoo clocks. Beautiful in design, and possibly the perfect gift for that hard to please person on your shopping list.

Be sure to stop by and see this amazing store and if you haven't already met Larry, you are in for a treat!



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Happy New Year!

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January 11 Ice Storm



photo courtesy of Sogn Valley SKYWARN

Just one of several overturned semis Wednesday morning.

Wedding Announcement



Cora Henriksen and Jovald Henriksen (hometown: Cape Town, South Africa), were married on December 15th, 2022, at Kitakobe Christ Church in Kobe, Japan. They live and work in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. Cora is the daughter of Bret & Mikki Showers of Nerstrand.

Goodhue County Student Recognized for Academic Achievement

Minnesota Connections Academy students inducted into National Honor Society Chapters

A Minnesota Connections Academy (MNCA) student from Goodhue County was among the 29 students recently inducted into the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society and National Elementary Honor Society in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement and service to the community.

During a ceremony held at the statewide virtual school's offices in St. Paul and on its LiveLesson online classroom, **Margaret Leonard, a junior from Dennison**, was inducted into the National Honor Society for students in grades 10 through 12.

The National Honor Society is a nationwide organization that recognizes students for achievement in four areas: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. To qualify students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 or higher, attended MNCA for at least one full semester, committed to attending meetings throughout the school year,



and committed to completing 50 volunteer hours throughout the school year. Including the 29 students inducted this year, MNCA currently has a total of 51 National Honor Society members.

"At Minnesota Connections Academy we have the opportunity to work with students and families from many different backgrounds who come to us seeking an academic setting where they can thrive," said Brad Swanson, Minnesota Connections Academy Executive Director. "I congratulate these students for their persistence and for maintaining such a strong commitment to succeeding in the classroom and making a difference in the communities in which they live."

At Minnesota Connections Academy students receive an online education that is tailored to their individual needs. The combination of state-certified teachers, a proven curriculum focused on both academics and social-emotional learning, and a nurturing, safe academic environment prepares students to thrive in a changing world.

Second semester enrollment at Minnesota Connections Academy for students in grades K thru 8 will remain open until March 6th. For students in grades 9 thru 12, enrollment will close February 7th. The school is hosting free, online information sessions and webinars for families interested in learning about the online public school's curriculum and how teachers engage and support the students. A complete schedule of events and more information about the school is available at www.MinnesotaConnectionsAcademy.com or call (800) 382-6010.

Nerstrand Elementary

CARNIVAL

FRIDAY 2/3

6:00-8:00p.m.

- Bingo
- Games
- Glitter Tattoos
- Silent Auction
- FOOD!

FUN!

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Supporting Our Local FFA & Celebrating National FFA Week February 18-25, 2023

(continued from page 1)



Starting in 1948, the National FFA Board of Directors designated a weeklong tradition to recognize George Washington's example and legacy as a leader and farmer. For the past 74 years, FFA members across the country have taken part in agricultural, leadership and service-based activities during National FFA Week.

"National FFA Week is a significant event that really showcases the heart of our organization," says Christine White, chief program officer for the National FFA Organization. "Local chapters use this as an opportunity to highlight program success, recognize community supporters and amplify the mission of the organization."

Again this year, more than 700,000 FFA members will spend the week of February

18-25 developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career suc-

cess through agricultural education.

They will do so in creative and innovative ways. Whether volunteering to clean up the local fairgrounds or throwing a citywide party to celebrate the 1732 birth of our first president, there is no limit to how this week can be recognized.

"It could be hosting a breakfast for teachers, an open house for FFA supporters or bestowing chapter-level degrees. It truly is an opportunity to celebrate all things FFA. As a former member and agricultural educator, FFA Week is something I always looked forward to since it was a way to share my passion for the organization," White says. "FFA members should embrace the planning, execution and celebration that occurs with developing activities and events for FFA Week. The skills of teamwork, communication and advocating are ones you will carry with you beyond your FFA experience."

Keep track of all that is happening by following #FFAWeek on your social channels. Find more about all the resources available at FFA.org/National-FFA-Week.

The organization also wants to Thank Alumni and Supporters!

Whether they wore the blue jacket or simply support an organization they were never a member of, these individuals are celebrated on National FFA Alumni and Supporters Day. Since 1971, alumni and supporters have found ways to significantly contribute to their



River Country Coop Randolph, presents a check to the Randolph FFA Chapter to be used towards their continued educational programs. Pictured: Dean Larson, River Country Coop Location Manager, and FFA Members Kaillie Sorem, Katie Radman, Sophia Amy and Grace Hoover

local chapters.

Jeremy Krerowicz, the past president of the Denmark FFA Alumni in Wisconsin, fondly remembers his time as a member, and he used those experiences as motivation to lead the 2020 Outstanding FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter.

"Our members love to see the students grow," Krerowicz says. "We love seeing them being recognized at state and national conventions, during their chapter banquet and throughout the community. It shows that we are doing our part. We help them with the resources they need to get that far."

In every state in the nation, alumni and supporters chapters work to create environments where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

They are raising funds to send members to the Washington Leadership Conference, hosting students with supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs), helping to advocate for their local chapters and more. 2023 marks the 52nd anniversary of the National FFA Alumni Association. Randolph FFA is also fortunate to have an very active alumni as well as great community support.

1st Prize \$500!

Proceeds Benefit Local Lions Club Activities!

Dennison Lions Flake Out Festival Raffle Saturday, February 4

Buy a Raffle Ticket from any Lions Member, Fireside Lounge, Dennison Depot Gas Station or Heritage Bank in Dennison for \$5.00 for your chance to win!

Grand Prize \$500.00 Cash!
2nd Prize - \$250 Cash
3rd Prize - \$100 Cash
Plus Many Additional Prizes from Local Area Businesses

Raffle Drawing held at 9p.m. at the Fireside Lounge. Need not be present to win. Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees. Complete list of additional prizes available upon request.

SPONSORED BY DENNISON LIONS CLUB CHARITABLE GAMBLING PERMIT #2762. MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.

Flake Out Festival & Winter Parade

Dennison, MN
Saturday, February 4, 2023

SAVE THE DATE! WATCH FOR SCHEDULE UPDATES!

9:00 AM **Euchre at Fireside on the Patio, 100% Payout**
Bring partner if possible, not required. \$20 team entry. Questions contact Jen at 507-649-0602

FIRST ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF CONTEST

\$5.00/entry. Tasters will pay \$5.00 to taste all entries/vote.

11:00 AM **Bring entry to City Hall (Chili)**

11:30 AM-12:30 PM **Tasting/Voting**

1:00 PM **Cookoff Winner Announced (1st & 2nd Place Payout)**

1:30 PM **Keg Toss on the Grassy Knoll - \$2 per throw or 3 throws for \$5**
Cash prizes for farthest throws

3:00 PM **Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo at City Hall**
\$30/packet, 10 games, designer purses and \$150 gift cards

6:30 PM **9th Annual Denni Dazzle Parade \$150.00 Prize for Best Float!**
Hosted by the Dennison Lions. Call or text Diane at 612-532-0268

8:00 PM **LIVE MUSIC AT THE FIRESIDE**

9:00 PM **Raffle Winners Announced at Fireside**

Flake Out Festival Raffle Saturday, February 4
Buy a Raffle Ticket from any Lions Member, Fireside Lounge, Dennison Depot Gas Station or Heritage Bank in Dennison for \$5.00 for your chance to win!

Grand Prize - \$500.00 Cash
2nd Prize - \$250 Cash 3rd Prize - \$100 Cash
Plus Many Additional Prizes from Local Area Businesses

Raffle Drawing held at 9p.m. at the Fireside Lounge. Need not be present to win. Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees. Complete list of additional prizes available upon request.

SPONSORED BY DENNISON LIONS CLUB CHARITABLE GAMBLING PERMIT #2762. MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.

A New Year Brings Change



By Harvey Mackey

A new year often brings new beginnings. I was intrigued to discover how one company used a novel way to motivate employees to think about new ways of doing things.

Here is the approach practiced by Chiyoji Misawa, who founded the largest home builder in Japan, Misawa Homes, more than 50 years ago. He “died” at least once every decade to arrest the momentum of out-of-date assumptions and policies. He sent a memo to his company that formally announced “the death of your president.”

According to Robert H. Waterman, Jr. in his book, “The Renewal Factor,” this was Misawa’s way of forcing the whole company to rethink everything. When employees resist change because they are used to the old way of doing things, Misawa declared: “That was

the way things were done under Mr. Misawa. He is now dead. Now, how shall we proceed?”

I was particularly interested in this novel idea because so often the resistance to major changes starts at the top. As the saying goes, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

But that thinking doesn’t apply to improvements. Simply because things are sailing along, assuming that the winds won’t change is dangerous business. When I went into the envelope manufacturing business decades ago, the notion of email and the internet were science fiction. Yet it became one of the biggest challenges that an envelope manufacturer could face.

Being a great leader is not always about becoming an expert at everything – it’s really about knowing where to find knowledge and expertise when you need it. That’s where Misawa’s genius was most evident: knowing how to solicit input and gain perspective from his own connections.

In turn, he encouraged his work force to learn how others approach new markets, re-vamp processes and resolve problems. Giving his employees the opportunity to offer their suggestions served several purposes: acknowledging their value to the company, encouraging them to think ahead, and teaching them not to be afraid of change.

Change is inevitable, and those who embrace it are more likely to have staying power as each new year rings in.

New Year’s resolutions tend to focus on areas that we know need a change. Make those resolutions too general or too sweep-

ing, and chances are they will be your resolutions year after year. Alan C. Freitas, president of Priority Management, recommends that you write resolutions/goals that are SMART:

Specific – Precisely what you want to achieve, and by when.

Measurable – What a successful outcome looks like.

Attainable – Challenging, but achievable.

Relevant – Address areas of your work and life that are really important to you.

Trackable – How you’re going to gauge your progress.

Getting into the right mindset to make changes, large or small, takes some motivation.

Figure out why you want to achieve the goal. Make a list of all the ways you will benefit from achieving it. Whether it’s a personal goal, like finishing a degree, or a professional change, such as breaking into a new market, you need to understand why it will be worth it to make a change.

Then analyze exactly where you are now in reaching that goal: the strengths that will help you, the weaknesses that could hurt you, and the opportunities you can use to attain what you want.

Next, you must determine what you’ll need to invest to achieve your goal. Whether it’s time, money, or something else, know what reaching this goal could “cost” you. Is it worth it? If it’s important enough to you, sacrifices will pay off in the end. Just make sure that you have an end in sight!



Do your research. You may need to master new abilities to fulfill your resolution. Will you need to take classes to learn a new skill? What kind of information do you need access to? Are you willing to carve out the time it will require? You don’t want to start something that you are not committed to finishing.

Look for support from family, friends, co-workers, managers or organizations that can help you. The more people who you share your resolutions or goals with, the more likely you will be to follow through.

You will have more success if you set deadlines for achieving your goals and resolutions. List specific dates on which you want to complete the various steps of the plan.

Finally, resolve to make it a happy new year!

Mackey’s Moral: You don’t have to “die” like Misawa to bring your dreams to life.

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

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Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) our motto is collaborating for regional vitality, and we do our best to live up to that commitment. In each area of our work – early childhood, entrepreneurship, and community vitality – we are mindful of partners in the state and region with whom we can collaborate to make a difference. Especially at this time of year as we look back at our accomplishments in 2022, we want to express our gratitude to these partners.

In partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, SMIF issued COVID business

recovery grants to over 2,000 businesses in our region, totaling over \$20 million since the onset of the pandemic. For SMIF this was over and above our regular workload, and I am also extremely grateful to our staff who stepped up to make this happen!

In partnership with Renewing the Countryside, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and other organizations, we co-sponsored the ninth annual Feast Local Foods Marketplace on November 5 at the Mayo Civic Center. It was our most successful event ever, with over 90 local food booths (exhibiting products like syrups and sauces, meats and cheeses, wines, brews and more) and roughly 1300 attendees. This event is a great way to highlight and celebrate the growing local foods sector in our region.

In partnership with, and often a referral from, local banks and economic development agencies, SMIF issued a total of 30 loans in fiscal year 2022 amounting to \$1.7 million dollars. In the first few months of fiscal year 2023, we have already added another seven loan clients to that number. We are proud to play a role in supporting new and early-stage businesses in our region.

SMIF also engages in numerous business training activities each year. These include our Prosperity Initiative offering coaching and mentoring to minority and new immigrant entrepreneurs, our Rural Entrepreneur Venture program which assists communities in creating an entrepreneurial culture, our Entrepreneur Bridge event which draws upwards of 75 small businesses each year for informational sessions important to business success, and our Young Entrepreneur com-



petitions focused on encouraging a new generation to start and build a business in our region. Various partners make these efforts possible – including Community Economic Development Associates (CEDA), the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Red Wing Ignites, Collider in Rochester, Region Nine Development Commission, and the South-Central Minnesota Business Development Center in Mankato – as well as several of our region’s colleges and universities.

For many years, SMIF has supported early education through grant-making and literacy efforts in our twenty-county region. This past year our reading programs distributed books to over 40 organizations, totaling over 21,000 books. Our book program includes a partnership with many Kiwanis Clubs in the area. All of this great work is made possible due to the generosity of two local publishing companies, Abdo and Capstone, who donate books for this purpose.

Throughout each year, SMIF offers trainings for early childhood providers to help them secure the continuing education credits they need to stay in business and be the best

they can be. In the past year we provided 29 trainings reaching 711 providers! We want to express appreciations to our key partners in this work: Families First, Le Sueur County, Lake Crystal Little Lakers, Mankato Public Schools, Help Me Grow, United Way of Steele County, as well as various trainers.

As of 2022, SMIF is partnering with 31 communities in southern Minnesota by helping them create and maintain community funds. These funds are designed to assist smaller towns in securing tax-deductible donations to build endowments and to invest in local needs. The book “Boomtown USA” cites community funds as one of the keys to small town vitality, and we are pleased to partner with community leaders in this regard.

As you can see, at SMIF we have much to celebrate and many partners to thank.

We look forward to working with our regional partners again in 2023 to continue investing in the vitality of our southern Minnesota region.

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

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Less Wrinkles and Healthy Skin



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Are you worried about getting wrinkles or sagging skin? Are your joints achy and sore? If so, it's time to look into collagen. Collagen is the body's most abundant protein. Its job is to hold together tissues in the body and allow them to stretch and spring back and forth. Collagen is found in the connective tissues of the body such as muscles, bones and tendons. Collagen is also in our blood vessels and digestive systems. Collagen contains an ingredient that plays a role in skin health and repair. Collagen has been shown to increase skin suppleness and prevent wrinkles.

A systematic review of 11 peer-reviewed collagen studies found that oral collagen supplements were beneficial for the skin and wound healing. Other benefits of collagen were reducing joint pain and stiffness, improving blood pressure and cardiovascular damage, strengthening bones and improving osteoporosis and lastly, helping with glucose (sugar) tolerance which is a benefit to type II diabetics.

Collagen is a compound of essential amino acids and cannot be produced by the body. The only way to get collagen in the body is through diet. In the old days, traditional diets of chicken and beef bone broth provided collagen to our daily diet. Making your own bone broth from the bones of organic grass fed or pastured animals is one of the best and inexpensive ways to get healthy collagen into your diet. If you've ever made homemade bone broth, you'll find it forms a layer of gelatin at the top when it cools. That's the collagen from the bones and cartilage that has turned into gelatin, a formidable superfood. The other way to get collagen in your daily diet is through organic collagen supplements. "Tests of collagen supplements that were non-organic revealed the presence of contaminants that included: antibiotics, drugs and endocrine disruptors that will affect hormone function and increase your cancer risk." So, to avoid contaminants, you'd be

wise to read labels thoroughly to make sure that what you choose is 100% organic.

Hyaluronic acid, an important compound for collagen in the skin and can be found in bone broth, organ meats and root vegetables, or taken as a supplement. Hyaluronic acid has been shown to improve skin moisture and suppleness and reduce wrinkles when added to the diet. In addition to alleviating joint discomfort, hyaluronic acid supplement is essential for maintaining moisture which benefits the skin, eyes, and mucosal tissue. Provide support for joint lubrication and bone strength for optimal comfort.

Chiropractic Thought for the Month: Pain

relief? Yes. More mobility? Yes. Enhanced performance? Yes. Improved health? Yes. Increased quality of life? Yes. This is what chiropractic care can do for you. Not sure about the how or the why? Here it is. Spinal adjustments realign your spinal joints, balancing your neck and back musculature. This increases mobility and relieves aches and discomforts. Most importantly, spinal adjustments improve nerve flow to all of your body's internal systems and organs. Doing this improves the function of your body's insides, thus enhancing health. The outcome of less pain, more mobility and improved health leads to a greater quality of life for you!



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Plan NOW for Spring Conservation Seeding



By Jarett Spitzack

As I sit down to write, we are currently in a winter storm warning. The last thing most people would think of is spring seeding, but on a cold day like this, it's a perfect time to plan new practices for 2023. Maybe you would like to try no-tilling soybeans or alfalfa or reseed and improve a pasture. Maybe you would like to plant native prairie for pollinators or corn and clover for a wildlife food plot.

Whatever conservation practice goal you may have in mind for the new year, the Rice SWCD has the tools to help make your planting a success. We will once again have the Great Plains No-Till Drill, Dew Drop seeder,

and hand seeder ready for renting for those who are interested.

The Great Plains 1006NT Drill is a 10ft pull-type no-till drill with 7.5-inch row spacings and is equipped with three seed boxes to drill a wide variety of seed including soybeans, native grasses and forbs, alfalfa, and many other species. The Great Plains drill fee is \$125 for delivery, and \$10 per acre seeded. An acre meter is positioned on the drill to record the number of seeded acres. It is recommended that a tractor with at least 70hp is used. The tractor will need to have one set of hydraulic remotes as well.

(Watch our Great Plains Drill in action in this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqiK-bGHHbwE>)

The Dew Drop seeder is a 3ft pull-type drop seeder. It is designed to be used behind small utility tractors and ATVs. It has an electric drive clutch that can be engaged or disengaged by the use of a remote, as well as a set of coulters on the front of the seeder which can be raised and lowered to prepare the seed bed.

Since this is a drop seeder, the seed will not be planted in rows. It will simply be dropped sporadically under the machine. If incorporation is desired most users will make a second pass with the coulters down and drive clutch disengaged. Other users will hook a drag or cultipacker to the rear of the seeder to help incorporate seed in a single pass.

This seeder can handle a wide variety of seeds from corn and soybeans to grass seeds for lawns. Rental rates for the Dew Drop Seeder are \$90 per business day, plus \$50 if



The Dew Drop Drill seeds bromegrass, timothy, and perennial rye grass on a water and sediment control basin in Rice County.

delivery is requested. A small utility trailer is used to transport the seeder from site to site, so all that is needed to pick up the seeder is a 2" ball and a hookup for trailer lights. In order to pull the seeder itself, all that is required is a 1 7/8th ball.

Rice SWCD also has a hand seeder available for anyone with smaller seeding projects such as pollinator gardens or backyard prairie plantings that may be too small for a drill. The hand seeder is available to rent for \$5, with a \$20 holding deposit.

If you look out the window into the snowy abyss, it is hard to believe that in a few months, you will be in the field and hoping

the weather cooperates for a good 2023 planting season. If you are interested in renting the Great Plains No-till Drill, or the Dew Drop seeder, don't hesitate to call Rice SWCD @ 507-334-5408 or email Jarett.spitzack@riceswcd.org to reserve your spot. Both machines are typically in use for most of the spring planting season, so it is best to reserve a spot to ensure the machine gets to you when you are ready to plant.

Jarett Spitzack is a Resource Specialist with the Rice Soil & Water Conservation District. He assists landowners with the drill rental program, wetland restorations, and the Wetland Conservation Act in Rice County. Contact Jarett with your drill rental questions at 507-332-5408.

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Minnesota-specific Dicamba Herbicide Restriction to Remain in Place for 2023 State Restrictions Add Date and Temperature Restrictions

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) announced that state-specific use restrictions for three dicamba herbicide products will remain the same for the 2023 growing season in Minnesota. The restrictions are aimed at curbing off-site movement of the products.

The affected dicamba formulations are Engenia by BASF, Tavium by Syngenta, and XtendiMax by Bayer. These are the only dicamba products labeled for use on dicamba-tolerant soybeans.

The three products are registered for use in Minnesota in 2023 with the following restrictions:

DATE CUTOFF: No application shall be made south of Interstate 94 after June 12, 2023. North of Interstate 94, use is prohibited after June 30, 2023.

TEMPERATURE CUTOFF: No application shall be made if the air temperature of

the field at the time of application is over 85 degrees Fahrenheit or if the National Weather Service's forecasted high temperature for the nearest available location for the day exceeds 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

Users can download these restrictions from the product manufacturer's website, and they must be in the user's possession during application.

"These restrictions mirror what we did in 2022 when we saw a major decrease in complaints of off-target movement from the previous year," said Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen. "These products must be used without impacts on neighboring homes, farms, and gardens. The Minnesota-specific restrictions are based on scientific evidence from our drift investigations and discussions with the University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota Soybean Growers Drift Task-force."

During the 2022 growing season, the MDA received 25 formal complaints and eight responses to an informal survey, all alleging off-target movement. This was a major decrease from 2021 which saw a total of 304 formal complaints and survey responses.

Other federal requirements for the products that appear on the product labels include:

Requiring an approved pH-buffering agent, also known as a volatility reducing agent, be tank mixed with dicamba products prior to all applications

Requiring a downwind buffer of 240 feet and 310 feet in areas where listed endangered species are located

Additional recordkeeping items

In addition to the cutoff date, Xtendimax and Tavium have crop growth stage cutoffs.

Since dicamba was first registered for use on dicamba-tolerant soybeans in the 2017 growing season, the MDA has fielded complaints each year of alleged off-site movement onto neighboring property. The chemical is highly volatile and can damage non-target plant species through spray drift and/or volatilization. Volatility is influenced by several factors including temperature, relative humidity, rate of application, and crop stage. The annual totals of complaints were:

2022: 32 reports

2021: 304

2020: 128

2019: 20

2018: 51

2017: 249

In Minnesota, Engenia, Tavium, and XtendiMax formulations of dicamba are approved for use on dicamba-tolerant soybeans only and are "Restricted Use Pesticides." The dicamba products are only for retail sale to and use by certified applicators.

Pesticide product registrations are renewed on an annual basis in Minnesota.

Rice SWCD 2023 Tree Sale Open

The Rice Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce that the Rice SWCD 2023 Tree Sale is open. From shrubs to beautiful trees, the district has a great selection of species to meet the conservation needs of property owners. The trees may be planted for windbreaks, wildlife habitat, agroforestry, erosion control, and other conservation practices.

The Rice SWCD Tree Sale features twenty-nine species of trees and shrubs available for spring planting. New species this year include Bitternut Hickory and American Plum. Most of the stock is bare-root, but a few potted evergreens are available. The district may also be able to special order species not listed on the order form.

Orders will be taken until April on a first come first serve basis. Species are beginning to sell out, so after February 26th, please call for availability. The trees typically arrive around the second week of April. The district also offers tree mats, fertilizer packets, and other tree supplies that can help make your planting a success.

Again this year, tree orders can be placed online and be paid by credit card. Visit the Rice SWCD's online store at www.riceswcdonlinestore.com. If you would like to receive a paper copy through the mail, please contact the Rice SWCD office at 507-332-5408. You can also download a paper copy from our website at www.riceswcd.org.

If you are looking to restore your woodlot, windbreak, or want to create woodland habitat for wildlife or birds, please contact the Rice SWCD office for assistance with planning and implementation. District staff with backgrounds in forestry are available to answer any questions you may have regarding species selection and can help you make the right choice of trees and shrubs. Contact the district today!

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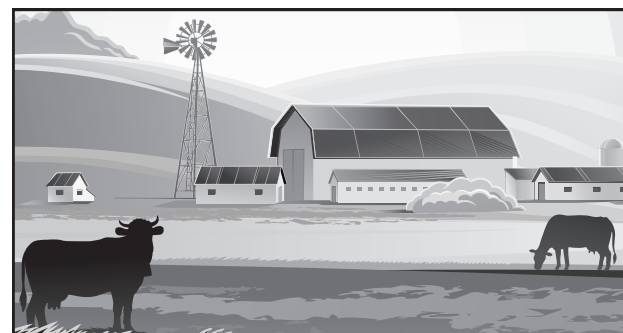
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Grants Available to Provide Access to Healthy Food

Good Food Access Program Grant applications due by March 16, 2023

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the

2023 Good Food Access Program (GFAP) grants to increase availability and access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods to underserved communities.

The GFAP Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant helps grocery stores and small food retailers purchase equipment or make physical improvements that will allow them to stock more fresh foods. Potential projects may include the purchase and installation costs of shelving, coolers, and freezers, as well as mobile food trucks, permanent infrastructure at farmers' markets, or architectural work.

A total of \$320,750 is available for this year's round of GFAP Equipment and Physical Improvement Grants, and the MDA anticipates awarding between 10 and 18 grants of up to \$50,000 each. A cash match is not required, and up to 50% of the award may be requested in advance. Multi-site proposals are encouraged.

The GFAP Technical Assistance Grant is available to help nonprofit organizations and public agencies provide appropriate technical assistance — including guidance and resources on topics such as business planning, financing, marketing, food procurement and distribution, handling and merchandising fresh foods, and more — to eligible food retailers, such as grocery stores, corner stores, and farmers' markets.

The MDA will award up to \$100,000 in this round of GFAP Technical Assistance Grants. Applicants may request between \$5,000 and \$50,000, and the grants can cover up to 75% of project costs.

Awards for both grants must be used to support projects that are located in or serve census-designated food deserts or low- to moderate-income communities with limited access to supermarkets.

All grant applications are due by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2023.

For more information, including a list of eligibility requirements, visit the GFAP Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant and the GFAP Technical Assistance Grant webpages.

MDA Now Accepting Applications for Noxious Weed/Invasive Plant Grants

Counties, municipalities, tribal governments, and weed management entities apply for grants by March 31

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the 2023 Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant. Counties, municipalities, tribal governments, and weed management entities (including weed management areas) may apply for grants to mitigate noxious weeds around the state. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must spend grant funds by June 30, 2023.

Since 2018, the MDA's Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant has awarded over \$1.3 million to fund a variety of activities such as purchasing equipment and supplies, conducting mapping and outreach activities, and hiring private applicators to manage noxious weeds. The MDA has awarded 119 grants, averaging \$9,000.

Review the application requirements and

find the application on the MDA website. Applications are due no later than 3 p.m. on March 31, 2023. Questions can be directed to Emilie Justen, MDA Noxious Weed Law Coordinator, at Emilie.Justen@state.mn.us.

The grant program is funded by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

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Updated Minnesota Groundwater Protection Rule Map Now Available

MDA encourages farmers to access the map

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has issued an updated map that will help farmers across the state comply with the Groundwater Protection Rule. The rule restricts fall application of nitrogen fertilizer in areas vulnerable to contamination, and it outlines steps to reduce the severity of contamination in areas where nitrate is already elevated in public water supply wells.

The MDA has made changes to the Fall Nitrogen Fertilizer Application Restrictions map which is accessible on the MDA website. There have been changes to the Drink-

ing Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMA). One DWSMA was removed and two DWSMAs had boundary changes. Additional information on the fall application restrictions and exceptions to the restrictions can be found on the MDA's website.

The restriction of fall application of nitrogen fertilizer on these acres will begin September 1, 2023. Farmers are encouraged to check the new map prior to the fall of 2023 to determine if their fields are subject to these restrictions.

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Community Health Needs Assessment Names Top 10 Issues

Mental Health, Housing, and Drug & Alcohol Use Top the List

By Goodhue County Health and Human Services

Goodhue County, MN (January, 2023) - The health of all people in Goodhue County is the subject of a newly released report. The 2022 Goodhue County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) identifies top health issues and offers a starting point to identify health inequities.

The report is an effort to take stock of the health of all people in Goodhue County. In the past local public health conducted the community health assessment every five years, and Mayo Clinic Health System every three years. The 2022 CHNA is a joint effort and will continue on a three-year cycle. As part of the process, members of the Community Health Assessment committee reviewed responses and comments from a 2021 random sample survey, a 2021 convenience sample survey, key informant interviews, an online prioritization survey, a community partner assessment, and community engagement events. Additionally, data from state and national sources were reviewed.

“Both health departments and hospitals are required to assess the needs of our communities and identify priorities,” said Ruth Greenslade, Public Health Supervisor for Goodhue County Health and Human Services. “We looked at health conditions, like diabetes. We looked at the factors that contribute to health conditions, like our behaviors and access to health care and income. When we took a list of all these health issues to community leaders from different towns in the county a year ago and asked them to identify the top issues, more than 80% of them said mental health. Then our intern went out to community events in the summer and the again the issue the most people were concerned about was mental health.”

The impact of COVID-19 had a major influence on the top health issues in this assessment. While mental health was also a top 10 issue in the 2017 Community Health Assessment, it rose to the number one spot, and for the first time, social connection and inclusion, and education access and quality were identified as top 10 issues, with many key informants and community members identifying the pandemic as a contributing factor.

“So many of our top issues are interrelated and the data shows how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of these issues,” said Maggie Cichosz, Community Engagement Specialist at Goodhue County Health and Human Services. “In 2021 we saw a spike in opioid overdose deaths and the 2022 student survey showed an increase in students who reported seriously considering suicide.”

“We are so thankful for all the community members and partners that have taken the time to work on this important report,” said Nina Arneson, Goodhue County Health and Human Services Director. “A special thank you goes to our core group for their strong leadership, partnership and commitment to improving health for all.” The core group includes Greenslade, Cichosz, Stephanie Olson, Mayo Clinic Health System Community Engagement Specialist, Michelle Leise, City of Red Wing Community Engagement Facilitator and Maureen Nelson, Goodhue, Wabasha and Pierce Counties United Way Executive Director.

Olson said, “Moving to doing an assessment report together every three years will allow Goodhue County and Mayo Clinic Health System to advance our partnership. In the past we have shared data and now we are working together throughout the assessment process and the process of writing the implementation plan.”

The CHNA report sets the stage for the Goodhue County Community Health Improvement Plan 2023- 2025, which will describe long-term, collective efforts to improve the health of everyone in the county.

The 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment, as well as many of the data sources used, are available on the Goodhue County website at www.co.goodhue.mn.us/chna.

Top 10 Health Issues:

- Mental Health & Mental Disorders



Health Conditions Health Behaviors Systems and Settings Social Determinants of Health

- Housing & Homes
- Drug & Alcohol Use
- Social Connection & Inclusion
- Education Access & Quality
- Health Care Access & Quality
- Economic Stability
- Physical Activity
- Health Communication
- Violence Prevention

This assessment was made possible in part by a grant from the National Association of City and County Health Officials to pilot test

Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) 2.0 assessment guidance as well as by a Minnesota Department of Health Rural Health Assessment grant using federal funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The mission of the Goodhue County Community Health Assessment Committee is to identify health disparities and top health issues for Goodhue County and implement and evaluate strategies, policies, and programs.

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 four service divisions: Economic Assistance, Public Health, Social Services, and HHS Finance/IT. For more information on Goodhue County Health & Human Services, please visit www.co.goodhue.mn.us.



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Rice County Sheriff's Department Hoping for Full Vehicle Upgrades

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

The aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic has been difficult for every facet of society,

and every section of the economy. No industry has been untouched by supply chain problems or hasn't had to re-evaluate a budget due to 8.5% inflation, and that includes local law enforcement agencies.

Sheriff Jesse Thomas said his department is hoping to receive the full complement of squad cars that he ordered last May, but he is not sure if that will happen.

The price of squad cars, he said, has increased by nearly 25%. A car that used to cost \$31,000 in 2021, now costs \$41,000 in 2023. And, Thomas said, that is before the Squad Cars have been outfitted with all of the necessary equipment.

Aside from finding a way to pay for the cars, he said they also have to hope they receive all of the cars he has ordered. If they don't, things could become problematic because the vehicles have a shelf life that isn't quite as long as the family sedan.

"Our squad cars are on a rotation. We replace them every five years. We've shown that they start costing us a lot of money to repair them after that. So, every five years, unless we crack one up on the Interstate, helping the State Patrol, which is what happened on the last one. Overall, though, we've been pretty fortunate that we've haven't had to total loss many cars, and nobody's gotten hurt."

And Thomas said, the department is having the same sort of problems trying to replace

the department's 11-year-old patrol boat.

Thomas said the department is attempting to buy a new Alumacraft boat, but the company keeps raising their prices which makes the boat more difficult to buy. Thomas said the new boat would be the same size, with a slightly bigger motor. However, the new boat will be easier to use in shallow water. With the water levels down so much, he said, the department needs a boat that can function where things aren't quite as deep.

Thomas said there are always problems at the beginning of the year, especially with a budget that must be laid out earlier in the year. However, he and his deputies always find a way to make things work, and they will do so again this year.

Rice County Working with State Health Department on Radon Awareness

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

Rice County Public Health is joining with the Minnesota Department of Health and the US Environmental Protection Agency to urge everyone to test their home for Radon.

Radon is an odorless, colorless and tasteless radioactive gas that occurs naturally in Minnesota soils and is often found at elevated levels in Minnesota homes. It is the leading cause of lung cancer among people who never smoked, however the risk is largely preventable through testing homes and fixing any problems.

A statement issued by Rice County said the only way for residents to know if their home has radon is to test for it.

Tests should be done in the lowest level of the home that is frequently occupied. Test devices are usually placed in the home for two to five days. The best time to test is during the heating season, but testing can be done year-

round. With more people working and schooling from home, it's even more important to test homes.

In homes found to have high radon levels, radon reduction typically involves installing a venting pipe and fan to pull the gas from under the home to the outside. This reduces the amount of radon in the home to low levels. A list of currently licensed radon mitigation professionals can be found on the Find a Radon Mitigation Professional page on the MDH website.

Test kits are available at many hardware stores, or directly from radon testing laboratories. MDH also conducts free inspections of radon mitigation systems installed after June 1, 2020. The inspections ensure systems were installed correctly and meet minimum requirements. Contact the MDH Indoor Air Unit to request an inspection.

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**City of Dennison
Regular Council Meeting
December 1st, 2022**

The December Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Flaten on Thursday, December 1st, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Nichole Schloesser, Heidi Cooke, Diane Ruddle, and Clerk Jessica Page. Councilor Ann Anders was unable to attend.

Councilor Ruddle move to approve the regular meeting minutes for November. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0. Councilor Schloesser move to approve the Treasurer's report. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

Building Permits: None

Administrative Issues:

Truth and taxation hearing. Ask if anyone has any input on the levy before it is set. Need to approve the final levy amount. Preliminary levy was set at \$171,913.00 (General levy \$129,700.00 and bond repayment \$42,213.00) Jeff reviewed what preliminary levy was, and that is was a significant increase over previous year. He asked for comments. Several reasons why to keep it as it is. Worked hard to go through it. Councilor Ruddle move to pass Resolution 12-2022-01. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

Review the public hearing for SEMM-CHRA and Small Cities Development Program to allow them to extend the original grant target areas and modify the financial packet for owner occupied rehabilitation projects. No action needed.

Discuss contract from People's Service to provide a C licensed operator for the community. Included in the cost per month is 1 on-site visit per week, as recommended by the MPCA. Mayor Flaten has had conversations with the operator from Hayward, Minnesota. He would be willing to help the City in the short-term. Presented both contracts to the council. Discussed with Nate who he might be more comfortable working with. Nate has worked with Travis a little with questions and feels comfortable with him. \$750 with People's service. \$700 for Travis/Hayword operator. Councilor Ruddle move to hire with Travis Reickl from in the interim license provider for sewer for onsite weekly visits for \$700 per month and \$50 hourly for emergency services needed effective December 1. Nichole Councilor

Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

Update regarding cleaning up the City Shop for the Nerstrand Fire Department. Roll off dumpster was delivered on November 16th. For the most part, the shop has been cleaned and organized. Keeping the jetter and Wisconsin pump in the shop. We made room on the North side for those items, for now. Have asked Paul Nygaard to help the City to remove and recycle metal items from the City Shop. Also in the process of cleaning the well house. Old paint cans removed. Paint chips from the well pipes tested for lead. Negative results. In the next few weeks, junk items will be removed from the basement of City Hall. Charlie and Dan will be helping with that. Sale of surplus items. Chairs in the shop, just get rid of them as they have been posted before with no interested parties. Sections of tin were sold for \$50. Councilor Ruddle let everyone know about the Paint care program, where old paint will be recycled for free. Pew in the basement, cut it up and recycle it.

Nerstrand Fire Department plans on putting up the signage on the building and having the new garage door opener installed after December 4th.

Punchlist for the forcemain project sent to the council. The grading and seeding wasn't done this fall, and the damaged conduit electrical pipe by the lift station hasn't been repaired yet. JJD will pay to repair the pipe, Cedar Lake will do the work. Hopefully will get done in the next few weeks. Paint it with orange paint or reflective tape, flag, etc to prevent any further damages.

The phosphorus shed. Epoxying the floor will occur on December 2nd. The goal is remaining rehabilitation/replacement work will take place in December.

Bolstrom letter sent by certified mail just recently. Have not had slip returned.

Requesting to replace the toilet in the City Shop due to the inner parts not working correctly any more. Leaks. Asking for approval for \$100.00 to purchase one. Nate will buy the toilet and install it. Councilor Schloesser move to approve \$150 for a toilet, wax ring, etc, for the shop and Nate will install it. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

New equipment for City phone received and installed by LTD Broadband on Dec 1. Will have to send someone to install another dish on City Hall so that the LTD signal can be received. Tech asked how to get in the attic. Does anyone know? Charlie thinks there may be an opening in the office ceiling.

Sales Tax reimbursement receipts received from Pioneer Power. Total sales tax will be \$5,660.50. Will submit to the Minnesota Department of Revenue before the end of the month. 30 pages of receipts.

Approve liquor license for Fireside, pending return from Sheriff's dept. Marlea's is closed so Michelle won't be renewing hers. Clerk was told it has gone back to previous owners, and that those owners are going to sell. Councilor Ruddle move to approve Fireside's Liquor License pending positive return from sheriff. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

Approve Cigarette licenses for Dennison Depot and Fireside for next year. Councilor

Schloesser move to approve Cigarette Licenses for Dennison Depot and Fireside Lounge for 2023. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion approved 4:0.

Since the approval of the utility assessments, one of the parcels that was on a contract for deed has gone back to the previous owner, who does not feel that they are responsible for that bill. Clerk is recommending that the City attorney be contacted on how to proceed to collect the utility payments from the previous owner.

Citizens Issues:

Mayors Issues:

Utilities:

1. Water meter and reader installed at the new Reiland Home on 11-23. 190 Prairie View Drive.

2. Where's the water meter reader? It should be kept in the well house when not being used. Maybe we should get another one. Current reader is close to 30 years old. Order a second one? \$500 or so estimated. Nate will leave in the file cabinet in the well house. Set of master keys in a lock box?

Spare set plus an accessible set.

3. Empire will not be televising and jetting the back alley behind Mainstreet this fall. Will have to be done next year. In the meantime, Dan and Jeff flushed the sewer main in the alley on 11-28. No plugs or issues to report.

Area that is collapsing in the line behind Marleas's/post office. Will need to keep this in mind as the City moves forward with liners/repairs.

Councilor Schloesser move to pay the bills. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

Mayor Flaten move to adjourn. Councilor Schloesser second. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Meeting opened back up by Mayor Flaten. Councilor Cooke move to pay the bill presented for the pump being fixed by Darrin Shuster for \$413.25. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 4:0. Councilor Schloesser move to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:17.

Next meeting: Regular meeting is Thursday January 5th, 2023 at 7:00.

Nerstrand City Council Meeting Minutes December 14, 2022

Nerstrand City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 7:00p.m. Those in attendance in person were Council Members Monica Gernandt, Dan Pflieger, John Harris, Jennifer Schwab, and Mayor Todd Evavold.. Other people in attendance were Public Works Director, Steve McDowell, City Clerk, Dana Jans, Maintenance Commissioner Scott Jans, and one business owner.

Roll Call

Councilpersons, Gernandt, Pflieger, Harris, Schwab and Mayor Evavold present.

Approval of Agenda

-Motion to accept the agenda by Councilor Schwab second by Councilor Gernandt, motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

-Motion to accept all consent items with the removal of two bills (CSG Dirtworks and Kennedy & Graven) by Councilor Gernandt, second by Councilor Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

New Business

-Discussion on the two bills CSG Dirtworks, and Kennedy & Graven. Motion to pay both bills by Councilor Schwab, seconded by Councilor Gernandt, motion passed unanimously.

-Councilor Schwab would like to unofficially switch the date of council meetings, this will get discussed further in January. Council agreed to hold the January meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

-Motion by Councilor Schwab to contract with Howard Quamme for snow removal of the sidewalks at city hall and the park. Second by Councilor Gernandt, motion passed unanimously.

-Discussion on residents request to remove the street light fee from their bill and receive service assure credit. Motion by Councilor Schwab to pay 2022 service assure credit, with no change to the monthly street light fee, second by Councilor Pflieger, motion passed 4 to 1. Mayor Evavold, Councilors Schwab, Pflieger, and Harris, fore. Councilor Gernandt against. This will be discussed again in January.

-Appointment of Lue Kuntz to the planning and zoning board. Motion by Councilor Gernandt, second by Councilor Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

-Mayor Evavold requested a piece of foam for a repair, motion by Councilor Schwab to purchase foam up to \$100.00, seconded by Councilor Gernandt, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

-Mayor Evavold found a solution to stop the freezing of the sanitary drain pipe behind city hall. Motion by Councilor Gernandt to purchase the hose and switch, seconded by Councilor Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

-Motion by Councilor Gernandt to adopt Resolution 2022-09 Final Tax Levy, seconded by Councilor Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Motion by Councilor Pflieger seconded by Councilor Harris to adjourn the meeting, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by;
Dana Jans
Nerstrand City Clerk



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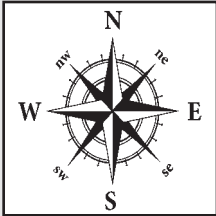
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes 2022 Was the Year for New Appliances



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.

It started out with the big stainless steel refrigerator in the farm house in Minnesota this summer. It was huge and over ten years old. I remember I had to remove the doors to get it in the house. Not just the handles, but both doors. The front door of the house came off the hinges and the refrigerator and freezer doors came off to make it in the house. The refrigerator had started making a clicking sound. More like a whap. Every ten seconds. "Whap". I knew what it was. There is a gear that opens the little door which brings cold air from the freezer to the refrigerator. It would open the door and then it would snap back shut. I explained it to my wife in technical terms. That didn't help. I related what a massive job it had been to get it in the house. It would be the same amount of work to take it out. That didn't help either. So, we compromised and I agreed on a smaller unit. I promised we would get a new one soon.

Then one morning the washer didn't spin the water out of the clothes on the last cycle. It had been acting up as well. My wife would say there was a helicopter going over the house quite low. I again had the technical answer ready. "No dear, it is the washer in the basement doing the spin cycle dance." So, a trip to the appliance store one Sunday afternoon took a \$2,500 hole out of the checkbook and we had a new fridge and washer. But I forgot one thing. Washers and dryers mate for life. One week later the dryer quite

drying. So, a matching Amana dryer came back home from the appliance store as well.

In late September I headed back down to Tennessee. I had to finish the lake house by fall so we could move in when we returned for the winter. I was prepared. We made a trip to Lowes in Owatonna and I had my wife pick out the kitchen appliances. Brand, size style, color, every option was decided on. I had the model number for each written down and I would go to the local Lowes in Tennessee and order the whole kitchen in one visit. No confusion or decision on my part. The matching fridge, range, dishwasher and rangehood microwave would be ordered and delivered right to our kitchen when ready.

The people who bought our old house in Tennessee didn't want our washer and dryer set. The appliances were only a few years old, and I would rather not move them. We had already moved four bedrooms of furniture into a storage unit since the new house was not finished. I was done with moving furniture. I had a house to finish. But since the plumbing and the ceramic tile floor in the new laundry room was already finished, I loaded them up and hauled them too. Well at least I wouldn't have to buy a washer and dryer, I told myself.

So, a week before I had the kitchen complete, I went to Lowes and presented the list to the young man there. Four appliances in one sale. No shopping, no discussion, just write it up, take my money and deliver them on time. The big Lowes truck would bring them to the front door and the strong young men would carry them into the house and life was good.

I had been working on the new house for a couple weeks and had laundry to do. So, I fired up the washer and threw in my work clothes. When I returned to put them in the dryer I discovered a load of wet, soggy heavy laundry. I ran them through again only to get the same result. The final spin cycle was not working. Irritated I chucked them in the dryer. When I opened the dryer to check on them, the machine kept on running. The switch on the door was broke. I was mad. Why did I move a washer/dryer set only to have both malfunction. I did the only logical thing left. I took the hand cart, wheeled the offending pair out the door and onto the trailer for their last trip to the scrap yard. Then I went back to Lowes and ordered a new Amana washer and dryer set. It arrived with the rest of the kitchen appliances.

A Minnesotan: New Years



By RosaLin Alcoser

When my sister and I were young children our parents use to do that thing parents do where they tell the kids it's New Years and put you to bed before midnight, but it's really just New Year's in New York not where you are.

We would stay up late and watch the ball drop at midnight in Times Square on the TV. Yell 'YAY! It's New Year's!' then promptly be taken off to bed; which we were already ready for.

In reality we only stayed up till about 11 PM. Don't get me wrong, 11 PM is still

pretty late when you're a little kid or if you're like me and choose to get up at 5 AM on a daily basis.

This worked for them until my sister was 9 years old and I was 4 years old.

The reason it worked for my parents that long is because my sister never bothered to look at the clock in the house to see that it was not midnight where we were. She was too caught up in the excitement of what was happening on the TV.

However, that year I had learned about how time works and went to check the clock; using the analog clock because it was 2001. I then proceeded to ruin everything for our parents by pointing out that it was not midnight where we were and that we were being tricked into thinking it was the next year when it wasn't. It was the next year somewhere else.

After that we got to stay up till midnight CST instead of being tricked into going to bed an hour before the new year.

Now that I'm an adult I understand why my parents did this. After all 2022 I stayed up till midnight then immediately went to bed at 12:01 AM. While I am writing this at the end of 2022 I feel this is also how I will see 2023 as well.



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THEME: GEOGRAPHY 101
- ACROSS**
- 1. Piece of data
 - 6. Baryshnikov's step
 - 9. Back wound
 - 13. Soft palate hanger
 - 14. *Any high mountain
 - 15. Tsar's edict
 - 16. Means
 - 17. Bishop of Rome's jurisdiction
 - 18. Female water-elf
 - 19. *Highest mountain
 - 21. *Sea that is also the largest lake
 - 23. A in MoMA
 - 24. *Small island
 - 25. Ignited
 - 28. Lamborghini model
 - 30. Extravagant
 - 35. 15th of March, May, July or October
 - 37. ___-a-Sketch
 - 39. Technology expert
 - 40. Novice
 - 41. Damage one's reputation
 - 43. Lil' Bow Wow's first name
 - 44. Bette Midler's movie "___ Pocus"
 - 46. "I'm ___ you!"
 - 47. Unit of pressure
 - 48. Denver breakfast choice
 - 50. Big rig
 - 52. ___ de Janeiro
 - 53. Excessively abundant
 - 55. Ensign, for short
 - 57. *Great ___ Reef
 - 61. *National Geographic ___
 - 65. Gibson garnish
 - 66. Arabic garment
 - 68. D-Day beach
 - 69. *Longest continental mountain range
 - 70. Nada
 - 71. Energy to motion converter
 - 72. Golf pegs
 - 73. Red Cross bed
 - 74. Follow as a consequence

- DOWN**
- 1. Surfer's "man"
 - 2. Tel ____, Israel
 - 3. Ditty
 - 4. Extremist
 - 5. Masters without t
 - 6. Ghost of Christmas ___
 - 7. Miller High Life, e.g.
 - 8. Four-eyes' gear
 - 9. Bypass
 - 10. Uber alternative
 - 11. *The largest continent
 - 12. Past participle of "be"
 - 15. Remove from political office
 - 20. Eyelid infections
 - 22. Opposite of nothing
 - 24. Burning aroma producer
 - 25. * ___ sphere, the solid earth
 - 26. "She is pulling my leg," e.g.
 - 27. 9 a.m. prayer
 - 29. * ___ sphere, air surrounding earth
 - 31. Sleeveless garment
 - 32. Blood of the gods, Greek mythology
 - 33. Harry Belafonte's daughter
 - 34. * ___ sphere, all water on earth
 - 36. Aretha Franklin's genre
 - 38. Type of crime
 - 42. Young Montague
 - 45. Brown and yellow finches
 - 49. Cravat or bola
 - 51. Financial gain
 - 54. 100 centimes
 - 56. "Barefoot in the Park" playwright
 - 57. Summer ride
 - 58. "Green Gables" protagonist
 - 59. Amusement park attraction
 - 60. Sturgeon ___ and salmon ___
 - 61. Table mineral
 - 62. Chow or grub
 - 63. Biblical pronoun
 - 64. Ready and eager
 - 67. ___ sphere, all life on earth

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