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# J.B.'s New Faces, New Menu, Great Food

#### By Cheri Roshon

Announcements

one 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 liv-

ing 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

For more information about the program

Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard

invite you to become a member. Join us

and help us make the Wanamingo Veterans

Honor Guard an even bigger success. WVHG meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Wanamingo Community

Center. The VFW will meet from 7-7:30p.m. The Honor Guard will meet

from 7:30-8:30p.m. For more information contact Eric Dierks 507-321-1967, Gary Floan at 507-732-7740, or Larry Van De

• Hiawathaland Transit: Service hours

are 7:30am-4:30pm Monday through Fri-

day. Call dispatch at 866-623-7505 Monday through Friday 6am-9pm and Saturday

Walker at 507-421-4674.

contact Barb St. John at 507-789-5553.

11:15 and 12:15.

Meals on Wheels is available to any-

Since moving back to Wanamingo last year, I have had the pleasure of meeting many people who call this town home. I have to say, Barney Nesseth is one of the busiest ones I've met! Barney grew up and went to school here, and then left home and got married, and moved around for awhile before returning to Wanamingo in 2002 to raise his kids. "This is a great place to raise kids", he said, and I agree.

After working remotely for a computer company, he decided to try his hand at retail, and broke ground for a liquor store coupled with a Dollar store in 2004. The Dollar store wasn't as successful as he would have liked, so he turned it into a grocery store and ran that until 2018. Then he chose to expand the liquor store and add an office rental space. In 2014 he and his cousin Justin Nesseth bought what was then Ringo's Bar, and in 2 weeks had torn it apart and put it back together, renaming it JB's Tavern. They added a bar

menu with burgers and fries, and it continues to be a place to stop in and chat with friends, or join the Dart League on Wednesdays, a Pool League on Tuesdays, and in the summer a Volleyball League, which the outdoor space turns into a parking lot for snowmobiles during the winter. Always thinking, that Barney!

Now that the New Year is here, there have been some big changes to JB's menu. Barney hired Executive Chef Matt Hinman from Dennison to run the kitchen, and the new menu is delightful. You can see it on the JB's Tavern Facebook page. I can't even begin to tell you about all the culinary delights I look forward to experiencing, but I can tell you that Chef Matt brought new spices and flavors to town. The burgers and sandwiches are still on the menu, with upgraded appetizers and dinners to delight any palette. Along with serving breakfast on Saturdays and Sundays, they have also added "Showing Off Our Chef Night" once a month on a Sunday of their choosing. *(continued on page 5)* 



**Barney Nesseth** 

## What-Kins, a Quaint **Little Shop in Wanamingo**

#### By Cheri Roshon

Watkins products have been around for a long time, and are known for their quality and consistency. Started in 1868 by J.R. Watkins, their reputation has grown and the products continue to improve. Did you know all the products they carry are certified organic? I didn't!

J.R. Watkins started his company in Plainview, MN with one product. It was a linament made with camphor from pine trees and capsicum from red peppers. It is still sold today for the relief of minor muscle aches, soreness and stiffness. Eventually the product line expanded into baking ingredients & spices, as well as bath soaks, cough rubs, menthol drops, vitamins, supplements, cleaning supplies and organic flavorings. (continued on page 6)

7:00am-5:00pm. Visit threeriverscap.org for more information. Do you have an announcement? Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com ..... 20oz.





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### Religion

- WANAMINGO MESSENGER -

### Job: **"Sovereign Over Suffering**"



**By Pastor Colin Rueter. New Life Church** (colin@nlcwanamingo.org)

Job: [/jōb/] noun --- In Hebrew the name means 'persecuted.'

The Book of Job does not list the author. Several suggestions have been put forth for authors: Job himself, who could have best recalled his own words; Elihu, the fourth friend who spoke toward the end of the story; various biblical writers and leaders; or many editors who compiled the material over the years. While there is no definitive answer, it was most likely an eyewitness who recorded the detailed and lengthy conversations found in the book. In Old Testament times, authors sometimes referred to themselves in the third person, so Job's authorship is a strong possibility.

Since the author is unknown, the date of the text is also unknown.

**OVERVIEW:** 

The book of Job falls within wisdom literature. The book includes language from ancient legal proceedings, laments, and unique terms not found elsewhere in the Bible. In ad-



dition, most of Job is written in parallel lines like that of poetry.

The book probes into issues near to the heart of every human who experiences suffering. The prologue provides a fascinating peek into the back story-why God allowed Satan to afflict Job with such pain and turmoil. At the beginning of the book of Job is a scene in heaven where Satan stands before God. God asks Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?" (Job 1:8), and Satan immediately accuses Job, a righteous man, of fearing God only because God had prospered him. "Strike everything he has," Satan says, "and he will surely curse you to your face" (Job 1:11). God grants Satan limited permission to put Job to the test. Why do the righteous suffer? This is the question raised after Job loses his family, his wealth, and his health. Then, through a series of dialogues and monologues arranged in a pattern of threes, human wisdom attempts to explain the unexplainable. Job's three friends Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, come to "comfort" him and to discuss his crushing series of tragedies. They insist his suffering is punishment for sin in his life. Job, though, remains devoted to God through all of this and contends that his life has not been one of sin. A fourth man, Elihu, tells Job he needs to humble himself and submit to God's use of trials to purify his life. Finally, Job questions God Himself and learns valuable lessons about the sovereignty of God and his need to totally trust in the Lord. These final chapters record God's masterful defense of His majesty and unique "otherness"—of God's eternal transcendence above creation-in contrast with Job's hum-

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to the Wanamingo Messenger at:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

ble and ignorant mortality. "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? / Tell Me, if you have understanding" (Job 38:4). Job is then restored to health, happiness, and prosperity beyond his earlier state.

SO WHAT?

The Book of Job helps us to understand that Satan cannot bring financial and physical destruction upon us unless it is by God's permission. The text reminds us that God has power over what Satan can and cannot do. It is beyond our human ability to understand the "why's" behind all the suffering in the world. The wicked will receive justice. We cannot always blame suffering and sin on our lifestyles. Suffering may sometimes be allowed in our lives to purify, test, teach, or strengthen the soul. God remains enough, and He deserves and requests our love and praise in all circumstances of life. Pain in-

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#### for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

- 1 Thessalonians 1:6 My three-year-old granddaughter is full of life and joy. Every time she runs into our house or I walk into theirs, she shouts, "Grandma, my 'mini me'!" She is thrilled as she shouts the good news. No one can miss it. I have often suggested that she might be my "mini me" (since she is a lot like me), but she insists that I am her "mini me." We share mannerisms and a flare for shopping, and we both tend to be optimistic. We have serious discussions about life, giggle about nothing, and enjoy afternoon naps.

"Mini Me"

You became imitators of us and of the Lord.

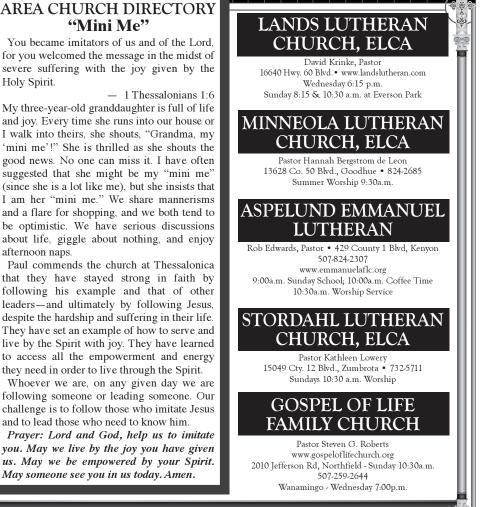
Paul commends the church at Thessalonica that they have stayed strong in faith by following his example and that of other leaders-and ultimately by following Jesus, despite the hardship and suffering in their life. They have set an example of how to serve and live by the Spirit with joy. They have learned to access all the empowerment and energy they need in order to live through the Spirit. Whoever we are, on any given day we are following someone or leading someone. Our challenge is to follow those who imitate Jesus and to lead those who need to know him Prayer: Lord and God, help us to imitate you. May we live by the joy you have given us. May we be empowered by your Spirit. May someone see you in us today. Amen

evitably afflicts each one of us. Suffering is unavoidable in this life. Will your relationship with God be enough when trials come? Will you trust Him through your suffering? Read Job 38-42. Spend time with the Almighty. Pray for a stronger faith in the powerful Creator described in those chapters. Pray for a right perspective of Him so that you might see your situation through His eyes. As C.H. Spurgeon said, "God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be

hand, we must trust His heart." I would love to hear from you, pray for you, and encourage you. Reach out to me via email: Colin@nlcwanamingo.org or by phone: 507-824-3019.

mistaken. And when we cannot trace His





### Obituary

- WANAMINGO MESSENGER -

friends.

February, 2023

LuVerne E. Johnson

LuVerne E. Johnson, age 98, of Richland Township, rural Kenyon, died Sunday, January 15, 2023, at the Three Links Care Center, Northfield. Funeral services were held at First English Lutheran Church. Faribault on Saturday, January 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

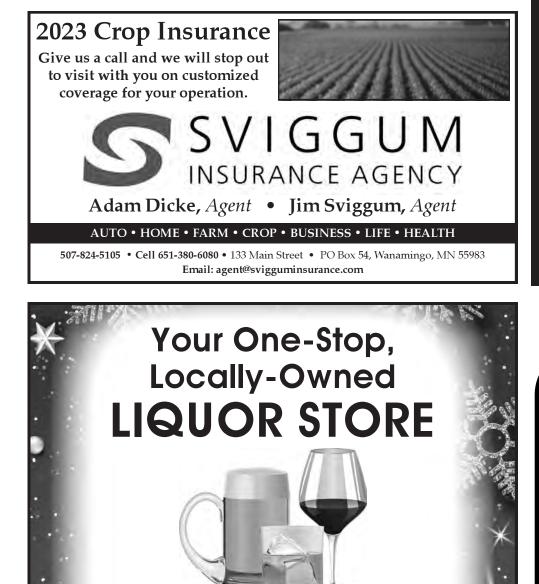
with the Reverend Carrie Chatelaine officiating. Interment will be at Meadow Ridge Memorial Park, Faribault at a later date.

Visitation was at the Boldt Funeral Home,

#### Faribault on Friday, January 20, 2023, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and for one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

LuVerne E., the son of Fred L. and Selma J. (Larson) Johnson was born on December 10, 1924, in Madison, Minnesota. On September 8, 1951, LuVerne was united in marriage to Jeanne Jurgenson at the Clarkfield Lutheran Church. LuVerne was a dairy farmer his entire life in the Madison, Kasson and Richland Township area. He enjoyed traveling and going on bus trips. Most of all, LuVerne loved his grandchildren and attending their activities and events.

Survivors include his children, Laurie (and Tim) Thorp of New Prague, Stevan (and Theresa) Johnson of Kenyon, David (and Peggy) Johnson of Faribault, Jeffrey (and Ju-



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dith) Johnson of Kenyon and Jim (and Kim- in 2006; sisters, Myrtress (and Eugene) Anberly) Johnson of Colorado Springs, CO; 11 grandchildren; 30 great grandchildren; brother, Robert Johnson: other relatives and

LuVerne was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Selma Johnson; wife, Jeanne

derson, Lillian (and Emerson) Bleyhl and Arla (and Merlyn) Matthies and sisters in law, Sharon Johnson and Isabell Johnson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Ecumen Hospice.



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### Education

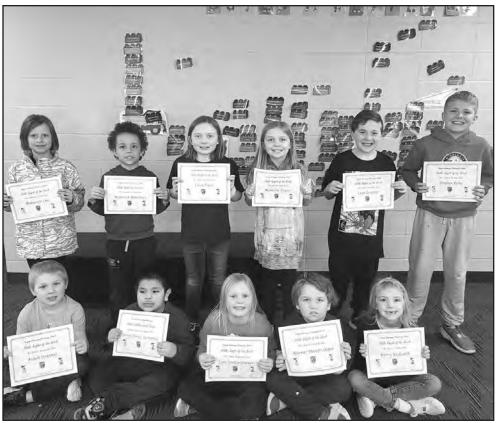
- WANAMINGO MESSENGER

February, 2023

### **KW Noble Knights of the Week**

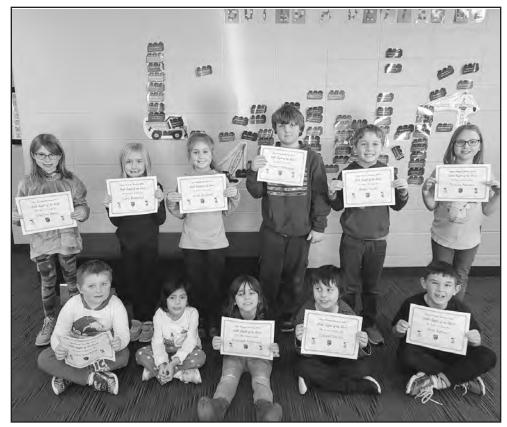


**KW** Noble Knights of the Week for January 13, 2023 Front Row: Jaxon Johnson, KG, Ms. Madison Andrist; Mae Bakken, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Jade Wrolson, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Will Amundson, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Tucker Westlund, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Karter Drum, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Nathan Flom, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Haddie Breyer, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Frederick Johnson, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Lidia Jandro, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



**KW Noble Knights of the Week for February 3, 3023** Front Row: Aiden Dressel, KG, Ms. Madison Andrist; Johnny Gomez Hernandez, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Liza VanDeWalker, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Warner Hendrickson, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Korra Vodovnik, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Makenzie Lee, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Maverick Moechnig, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Lilian Piper, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Madeline Engen, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Leon Dressel, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing; Stellen Kyllo, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman

Congratulations



KW Noble Knights of the Week for January 27, 2023 Front Row: Cole Ducklow, KG, Ms. Madison Andrist; Fatima Estevez Lima, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Brayden Peterson, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Fabian Smith, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Sam Keller, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Charlee Berg, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Lyra Blakstad, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Ariel Ordalen, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Emmett Peterson, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Blake Feidt, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Trinity Nelson, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



Community

- WANAMINGO MESSENGER

### Notes from the Kenyon-Wanamingo FFA chapter



February, 2023

It has been a busy year so far, from state fair to fruit sale. The year got started with 15 of our members finding great success at the Minnesota State Fair, including Premier Exhibitor Livestock,

Premier Chapter Swine Breeding Stock, and more.

In September four of our six officers attended Fall Leadership Day to start off the year learning leadership skills to bring back to the chapter.

In October, we brought 3 teams to the River Falls Falcon Ag Challenge for the region qualifier for Livestock and Dairy, and invitational for Poultry. Livestock placed 5th out of 26 and are going to State, this team consists of Julia Patterson, Sophia Poquette, Cody Ostertag, and Anna Ostertag. Dairy placed 8th out of 24 and will also be going to state, this team consists of Evelyn Scheffler, Hanna Gudknecht, Matthew Scheffler, and Jay Jacobson. The poultry team got first place at this event however it was not the state qualifier for poultry, this team consisted of Jett Smith, Jay Smith, Knute Ronningen, Lukas Gullickson, and Ryan LaCanne.

At the end of October we filled a school van with 8 members and Ms. Van Lanen headed over to Indianapolis for National FFA Convention. After our 10 hour drive we spent our 3 night 4 day stay attending sessions, visiting booths at expo, attending tours, and bonding at the Airbnb. National Convention gave members inspiration to be active in FFA and realize the scope that FFA reaches.

The annual FFA Fruit Sale Fundraiser ended on November 4th, our members sold over \$15,000 worth of fruit! The fruit arrived at the beginning of December and distributed from there. Our top seller were Evie and Matthew Scheffler, Cody Ostertag, and Jay and Jett Smith.

On December 12th we had two region FFA officers visit to teach our members about opportunities in FFA and leadership skills. If your member attended these workshops make sure to ask them how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

After a lot of rescheduling due to snow and cold, our poultry team finally got to compete again on December 19th this time to qualify for state. We once again loaded up a school van with our poultry team and head to Riverland Community College in Austin. There our poultry team placed 4th and qualified for state. The poultry team headed to state includes Lukas Gullickson, Knute Ronningen, Jett Smith, and Jay Smith.

This year has been both busy and rewarding, hopefully the rest of the year will be the same.





Kitchen Hours: Closed Monday; Tues.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Bar Hours: Mon. 4-10 p.m.; Tues.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri. 11 a.m.-1 a.m.; Sat. 8 a.m.-1 a.m.; Sun. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.



# J.B.'s New Faces, New Menu, Great Food (continued from page 1)



To see the menu for each month go to the Facebook page and RSVP, because these nights sell out fast. Seating is limited to 32 people. To book your reservation, call (507) 990-7578 with your name and number of guests.

I was able to get in a quick chat with Chef Matt, and asked him about his previous endeavors. He has been an Executive Chef for about 30 years, working mostly in the Minneapolis area. He took a short break to pursue a barnwood furniture business in Dennison, but the call of the grill pulled him back to his culinary background, and Barney was lucky enough to convince him to come to JB's. "I'm just a guy who loves to cook!" he said. Well, I say Welcome Chef Matt, and I look forward to trying all the goodies on the new menu!

Now remember I said Barney is the busiest person I have met? Well, the news is out that there will be a new venue in Kenyon called Angie's, which is a partnership between Barney and Angie Anderson. We will be printing another article about Angie Anderson and her new restaurant in another issue of the Messenger. I have to say, it is going to be something special! Along with the restaurant, there will be a coffee bar featuring Espresso, Mocha Lattes and other specialty drinks like smoothies, an ice cream shop, pizza take-out and delivery, and I think I heard a gift shop, too. Stay tuned for more information when it opens, Hopefully soon!

# Neighbors

- WANAMINGO MESSENGER -

# What-Kins, a Quaint Little Shop in Wanamingo

#### (continued from page 1)

In 1978 the Watkins line was sold to Minnesota businessman Irwin L. Jacobs after being in the Watkins family for over 110 years. Even though it changed hands, 80 to 85% of the products are still made in Winona, Mn.

507-789-6321

Today Pervin and Lois Bjorngaard own and operate a store on Main Street in Wanamingo called "What-Kins". They opened the store 32 years ago. and carry the full line of original Watkins products, plus a lot of fun Norwegian inspired art and nic-nacs, cards and other unique gifts for that someone special in your life. The store is pretty amazing! Stop in and check it out.

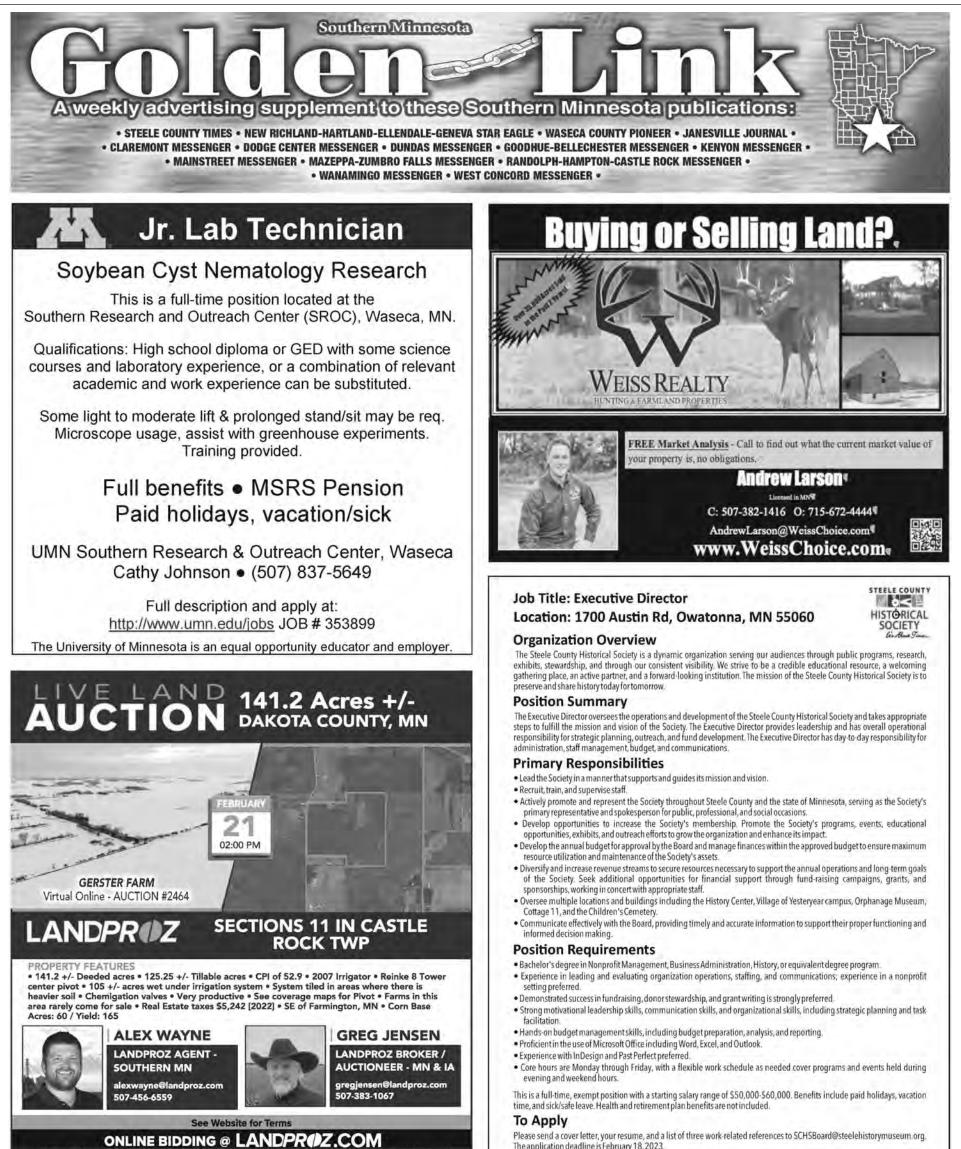
Another idea the Bjorngaards are promoting in Wanamingo is Granny Basketball! What a fun way to get in some much needed winter excersize and have fun doing so! They practice at the Wanamingo Elementary School, and they are hoping to grow their team. If you have some lady friends over 50 who would like to join the fun, please call Lois for more information. Sounds like a lot of fun to me!



Includes: string trimmers, edgers, chainsaws, hedge trimmers & more



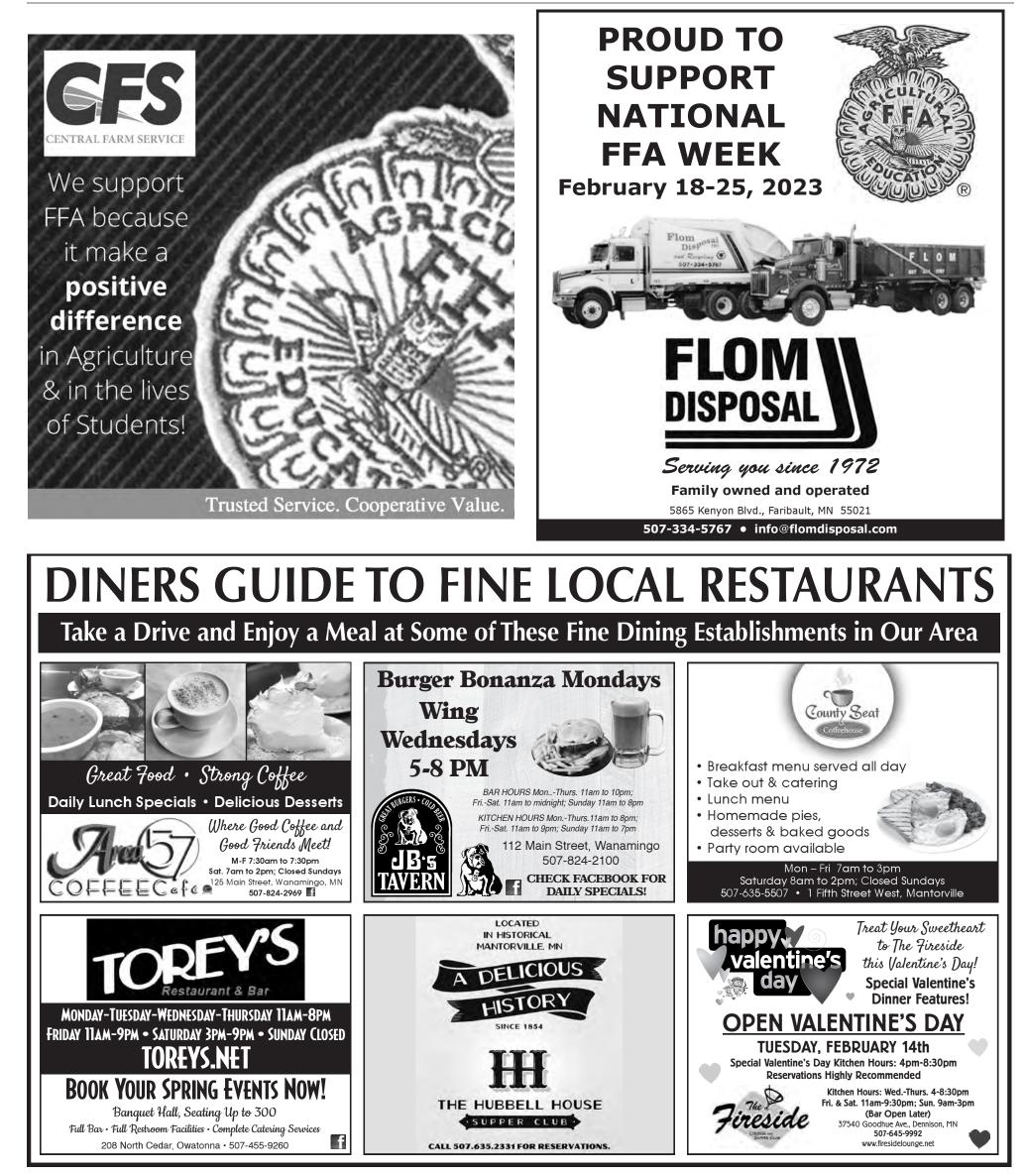




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The application deadline is February 18, 2023. The Steele County Historical Society is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.







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## 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.

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.



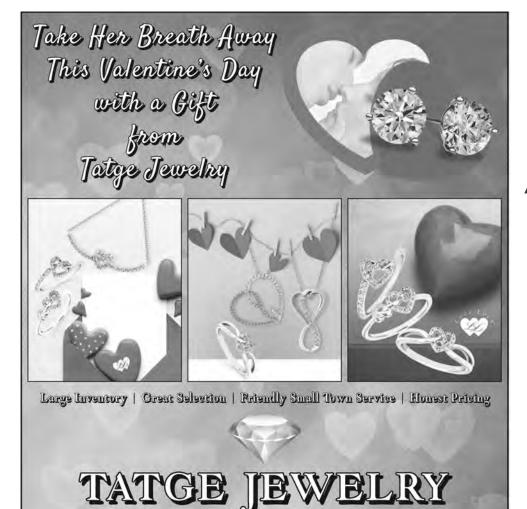
Tatge Jewelry

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 Tatgejewelry.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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#### Page 12

**CITY OF WANAMINGO City Council Regular Meeting** Monday, January 9, 2023 7:00 P.M. Wanamingo City Council Chambers -401 Main Street Wanamingo, MN

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.

The oath of office was administered to Mayor Holmes, Council Member Eric Dierks, and Council Member Rebecca Haugen by Administrator Boulton.

PRESENT: Council: Ryan Holmes, Stuart Ohr, Eric Dierks, Jeremiah Flotterud, and Rebecca Haugen

City Administrator: Michael Boulton Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters **ABSENT:** None

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Kennedy,

Melissa Meyers - Zumbrota News-Record, and Colin Rueter – New Life Church Pastor. Pastor Colin Rueter provided an invocation for the beginning of the new year for the City of Wanamingo and City Council.

ADOPT AGENDA: Ohr motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Haugen motioned, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0. **PRESENTERS:** 

A) Brad Kennedy reported on:

1) Plowed snow, moved snow from cul-desacs, and sanded the streets on a number of occasions

2) Cleaned snow from around some of they hydrants. Hoping to clear snow from around more of the hydrants this week.

3) Identified mail boxes whose location were out of standard with the USPS. These mail boxes with either too low to the ground or too close to the road. These boxes are in the way of snow removal and could be damaged with normal snow plowing. The City snow plowing policy does not pay for damages to mail boxes that are out of USPS standards. Calls were made and letters were sent to residents whose mail boxes were out of standard and asked that they be addressed before next winter. A Facebook post was put up on the City Facebook page to inform residents of the standards as well.

4) Council members Stuart Ohr and Larry VanDeWalker along with City Administrator Boulton were present at the Wanamingo Locker to review the slaughtering process and clean up. Boulton stated that a Minnesota Department of Agriculture Inspector was present to review and document the process as well.

Boulton stated that a copy of the report was included in the Agenda Packet. Boulton stated that the slaughtering process included a rubber ball being placed in the drain, being pumped up, the drain area being filled with water to ensure no leaks, the animal was slaughtered, the animal biproducts were placed in barrels, and the blood was squeegeed and vacuumed up with a shop vac. Ohr stated that it was a systematic process in which the staff knew exactly what they were doing. Ohr was impressed with slaughtering and clean-up process. Flotterud asked if all the State required enforcement steps were being completed by the Wanamingo. violation present from the

half of the tree trimming is complete. The remaining tree trimming along 440th Street may have to wait until snow melts and warmer weather.

7) The switch from the old water towers to the new water tower is complete. The new

water tower and distribution system is working well. The winter operations high fill is only 15 feet high on the tower. The summer operations will fill the tower higher. Pressure is better throughout town with winter fill height. When the tower was initially full pressure was noticeably higher throughout town. The downtown tower and Mingo View tower were taken offline and drained. However, a valve was unknowingly (partially) left on the overfilled the top of the tower in a few days. The freezing conditions created ice on the tower. The maintenance staff were able to identify and shut off the partially left on valve and drain the tower. There was nothing the maintenance staff can do about the ice chunks except wait and let warmer weather and gravity bring them down. The maintenance staff put out traffic cones and caution tape to around the water tower, well house, and log cabin lot to help warn the public of the dangers from ice chunks in case they fall off the tower. Kennedy stated that the contractor or its subcontractor had forgotten to install vertical installation around the riser enclosure. This caused freeze ups at the tower. Staff had to use heaters to thaw the riser pipe to get water moving again.

8) Holiday banners were taken down on Main Street. Will not be installing the newer City of Wanamingo banners due to the plastic material used to make them does not bend or stretch well in cold weather. Staff will wait for warmer weather in March or April to put the new logo banners back up.

9) Schumacher plans to remove the sediment from the Nelson Drive storm water retention pond at the end of January. Schumacher hopes that the ground is frozen enough for heavy equipment to easily remove the excess sediment material.

Mayor Holmes thanked the maintenance staff for all their hard, long hours, and effort in snow removal over the past few weeks. Mayor Holmes stated that the road conditions were pretty good considering the snow events that the City has recently seen. Flotterud asked about the ice rink status. Kennedy stated that staff had not gotten to the ice rink due to major snow events, holidays, and staff vacation. Kennedy was concerned with paying maintenance staff additional overtime to work on the rink after incurring overtime for snow removal. Kennedy hopes to start working on the ice rink later this week. Ohr asked that Kennedy bring up the recent damage to the skid loader

pushing blade attachment. Kennedy stated that the pushing blade attachment recently broke off from the faceplate. The maintenance staff were able to weld the blade back to the faceplate. The pushing blade is nearly 25 years old. The larger skid loader and modification to the blade have put additional strain on the attachment. Kennedy stated that the City Council should consider replacements sooner than 2025 that is listed on the capital improvements plan (CIP). Kennedy stated that the City had \$5,000 listed on the CIP, but that actual costs are between \$13,000-\$16,000.

#### **NEW BUSINESS: RESOLUTION:**

23-001 = Approving 2023 Appointments & Legals: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Boulton explained that Ohr would replace VanDeWalker as acting mayor, Haugen would take VanDeWalker's place as authorized check signer. Ohr would replace VanDeWalker on the personnel committee, Ohr would replace VanDeWalker on the safety committee, and Larry VanDeWalker and Stephen Kingsbury will replace Lindsey Fulton (moved out town) and Chuck Frederickson (passed away) on the police work group committee. Passed 5-0-0.

23-002 = Setting 2023 City Council Meeting Schedule: Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

23-003 = Authorizing Temporary Liquor License for the Fire Relief Association snowmobile run: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

23-004 = Approving 2023 Updated Wanamingo Emergency Management Plan: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that he and Gregg Erickson, the Wanamingo Civil Defense Director, had reviewed and made the necessary changes. The changes were mainly in the contacts and contact information. Passed 5-0-0.

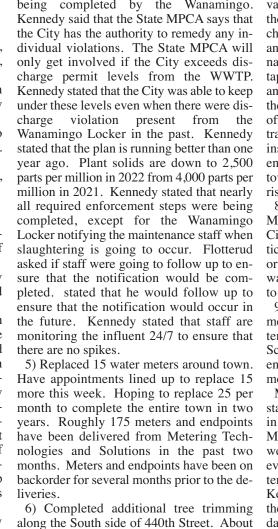
23-005 = Authorizing a Temporary Gambling Permit for the Wanamingo Fire Relief Association: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

23-006 = Approving Financial Authorization: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud.

Ryan Holmes, Stuart Ohr, and Michael Boulton continue to be designated check signers. Larry VanDeWalker will be removed and Rebecca Haugen will be added. (continued on page 13)

Local Government

- WANAMINGO MESSENGER -



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#### February, 2023

### Local Government

- WANAMINGO MESSENGER

#### Wanamingo City Council Meeting

(continued from page 12)

Karen Masters is authorized to do banking transactions for account ending in 9301. Michael Boulton is authorized to do banking transactions for accounts ending in 9301 and 9314. Passed 5-0-0.

22-007 = Appointing Fire Department Officers: Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. Brian Gudknecht is stepping down as Fire Chief. Trevor Aase has been recommended as Chief, Parker Erickson has been recommended as 1st Assistant Chief, and Brandon Lunde has been recommended as 2nd Assistant Chief. Holmes reminded the Council that the City Council considers approval based upon the Fire Department recommendation, but retains complete authority regarding Fire Department Officer appointments. Passed 5-0-0.

22-008 = Approving Pay Request No. 7 to Caldwell Tanks Inc. for the Water Tower Portion of the 2022 Utility Improvements: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that the pay request is for \$2,280.00. The new tower is up and running. Ohr asked how much the contractor was still owed. Boulton stated that the contractor is owed \$95,677.50, with \$62,277.50 being the retainage (5%). A punch list for the project will be compiled. Passed 5-0-0.

22-009 = Approving a One-Time Contribution to the Wanamingo Fire Relief Associations Retirement Fund From the General Fund: Haugen moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

Administrator Boulton stated that the new City of Wanamingo website, www.cityofwanamingo.com is live as of last week. The new website is part of the City rebranding that started well over three years ago when the City hired William Weigel. The City went with Revize platform to build the new website. The previous website utilized the Gov. platform. Dylan Steberg with the assistance of City Administrator Michael Boulton uploaded and migrated documents from the old website platform to the new website platform. Residents will able to navigate the new userfriendly website with the improved platform design. Residents will also have an easier time accessing the new website platform through smaller devises, such as cell phones and tablets. The City of Wanamingo rebranding, including new City logo and brand identity (theme and colors) are featured on the new website platform, look, and design. City provements to the new site in the coming months.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Public Hearing - Mayor Holmes opened Ordinance #201 - 2023 Fee Schedule Hearing at 7:29PM. Administrator Boulton went over the proposed changes from 2022 Fee Schedule for the proposed 2023 fee schedule including increasing the labor rate for each the Deputy Clerk, Public Works, and City Administrator by \$5/hours, the skid loader from \$65/hour to \$75/hour, the water meter cost from \$315 to \$340, adding a daily (\$25) and yearly (\$100) mobile food cart & mobile food trailer fees, increasing the water debt service/ base fee from \$24/month to \$25/month, increasing the sewer debt service/base fee from \$20.00/month to \$22.00/month, increasing the monthly garbage fee from \$15.21/month to \$16.25/month, and increasing the monthly recycling fee from \$6.45/month to \$6.65/month. The increase to the water meter fee helps to cover increases to the actual costs of the water meters and readers. Boulton stated that the proposed monthly water base rate/debt service fee increase of \$1.00/month to each hook-up would bring in roughly \$7,000 in new revenue in 2023. Boulton stated that the proposed monthly sewer base rate/debt service fee increase of \$2.00/month to each hook-up would bring in roughly \$12,000 in new revenue in 2023. The garbage and recycling monthly increase reflect the yearly contract increases with Waste Management. Throughout the year, including the budgeting process the Council has discussed and has recommended the above changes. The City Auditors recommend that the Council review sewer/water rates and make small adjustments regularly to capture revenue as opposed to large jumps. The waste water treatment plant will need upgrades in the near future which could cost millions of dollars. The City needs to continue building a larger fund balance in the waste water fund before upgrades become reality. Administrator Boulton said estimates are between \$7 million to \$10 million for plant upgrades with \$200,000 to \$300,000 yearly debt service costs. In past years the City has increased its cash reserve \$50,000-\$70,000 per year. The fund has a current estimated balance of \$580,000. Administrator Boulton stated that the Council should review and make small yearly increases over

#### staff will continue to make additions and im- the next few years to build up the fund balance. Kennedy stated that the Council should consider higher bulk water rates in 2024. Kennedy stated that the City staff no longer leaves the meter on the hydrant for long periods of time in the summer. Kennedy stated that filling bulk water is roughly a half hour job for staff each day a vendor wishes to purchase and fill. The current bulk water rate is \$7.00/1,000 gallons. Kennedy stated that each fill day should have a minimum fee plus a rate. Kennedy stated that a minimum fee could be \$25. No Additional Public Comments Offered. Mayor Holmes closed the public hearing at 7:39PM.

Ordinance #201 - 2023 Fee Schedule - 2nd Reading - Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

Administrator Boulton presented the 2022 Wanamingo Outstanding Indebtedness Report. The Wanamingo EDA paid \$26,000 in principal in 2022 and owes \$325,000 at the beginning of 2023. The City paid \$595,000 in principal and added \$2,600,000 (water tower, well house, and water main looping project) in principal in 2022 and owes \$5,675,000 at the beginning of 2023. The two advanced refunding bonds carry over \$1,510,000 which were paid back 2/1/2022. Without the new water tower, well house, and water main looping bond on the books the total debt owed by the City/EDA would be \$3,384,000. Administrator Boulton stated that this would be the lowest amount of debt on hand for many years. Boulton stated that the current debt service is manageable with the lower interest rates associated with the existing bonds. Boulton stated that the City paid \$621,000 in principle and roughly \$100,000 in interest in 2022. The report will be submitted to Goodhue County next week, according to the MN State Statutes.

Boulton stated that a North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District meeting had taken place with area legislators. State Senator John Jasinksi, State Senator Steve Drazkowski, State Representative Brian Daniels, and State Representative Steve Jacob were in attendance. The City Consulting Engineers presented the project to the legislators and City representatives. A discussion took place on 2023 Legislative Session bills that would need to be written and introduced. Thomas Hanson of Winthrop & Weinstine proposed that the request be made for half of the entire project costs rather than the limited engineering design and land acquisition costs. Hanson said that the State has over a \$17 billion surplus and this is the legislative session to think big and request for one-time funds. The legislature will not want to add longterm costs to the budget in fear of future budget shortfalls. A strategy was discussed on how to frame the project, the collaboration, cost saving, and environment impacts. Prairie Island Indian Community involvement in the lobbying efforts with the Governor's office and People of Color and Indigenous Legislative Caucus. A letter of support from Prairie Island Indian Community will be drafted and sent to legislators. A letter regarding the project and request will be sent to the Governor's Minnesota Management & Budget office.

Boulton stated that the annual City Council/Staff Appreciation Dinner would be held on Saturday January 28th. The event will be held at Area 57 Café with social hour starting at 6:00PM and dinner at 7:00PM. Boulton stated that formal invites would be sent out later in the week.

\*Fire Department/Township/City Annual Meeting is on 2/6/2023 at 6:30pm

\*Next City Council meeting on 2/13/2023 at 7:00pm.

Adjourn: At 7:48PM a motion to adjourn was made by Flotterud and seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator



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# **Commissioner Corner**

### By Todd Greseth, County Commissioner for District 3

I am starting my 3rd year as your county commissioner, the time is going fast. I have already experienced change from my first year in office. Our world is moving even faster than before and Goodhue county will try to keep up. We now have a Outreach and Communication specialist who is doing a great job with our social media and bringing the county business to the people of Goodhue county. Please check out our website and face book, there will be more changes coming soon too. We recently had a goal setting meeting with the commissioners. Finding a solution to our staffing of the county and keeping our cost in control and all of our programs running is a real struggle. I think we all have heard that it

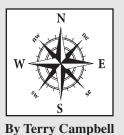
**Todd Greseth** Goodhue County Commissioner District 3

is hard to find staff and keep staff and we are no different, but we are looking at options and ways to improve. Byllesby park pavilion is going to be a real nice addition to our park system so please plan a time to go and see it this summer, we really do have a nice park there. Please let me know what you are thinking about Goodhue County, both good and bad but I hope there is not too much bad.



Changes in Latitudes, **Changes in Attitudes** 

### **Old License Plates and Memories**



This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when its warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

Living on a family farm means you have a collection of items that can be much older than yourself. Last summer my wife had one of her interior decorator friends do her magic on our newly remodeled house. One of the things was a display board of some of the tin signs and license plates that have been around the farmstead all my life. These are not only interesting but also convey a wealth of memories from the past, which predates me by quite a time.

The oldest item on this board is a set of license plates off a pre-1920 Model T Ford owned by my grandfather Otis Campbell. From what I can determine this was his first horse less carriage. I can ascertain that the vehicle was a 1919 or older Model T because it had a crank start. He would have bought it used since the plate is dated 1928 and the story, I will relate took place that year when my grandparents first child was just an infant.

Cooperatives were a common type of organization for farm service businesses. Otis was going to go to a meeting in West Concord for what I believe was a creamery association. It was a warm spring day and my grandmother and their very young daughter accompanied him in the open-air vehicle. The young farm couple were in their twenties and I can only imagine what a wonderful world it seemed like a century ago.

While my grandfather participated in the

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meeting, his wife Eva went for a drive down the dirt road we now know as Highway 56. A few miles to the south of town she decided to turn around. In the course of maneuvering the old Ford to return to town the engine quit. With a little baby wrapped in a blanket on the front seat, my grandmother had to dismount and hand crank the engine to start it again. She got it running and they chugged back to town.

The next set of license plates are motorcycle plates from 1948 and 1952. My father had a Harley Davidson 74 when he was a young man. Most of the stories I heard about the motorcycle were relayed to me by those who knew my dad. One of my dad's friends was our neighbor, Bub Wichser. Bud told me that my dad said he could take the Harley for a ride if he could get it started. By my calculations Bub would have been about 12 years old at the time. Never think a farm boy, no matter how young, can't get an engine started. Bub fired the Harley up and headed down the road on a ride. My dad sold the Harley before I was born, but he did tell me one story. Most roads were gravel back then and while on a trip back from Cannon Falls one evening, he laid the cycle over on a gravel curve. When he got home, he cleaned himself up and had to explain to my grandma about the bloody towels. He had gravel still embedded in the skin around his elbows thirty years later. He may have told me that story just to keep me from riding.

The next set of plates are for my grandfather's old pickup. It was a late 1940's Ford truck. Ford pickups have always played a vital role on our family farm. The last plate was from 1955 and is a "T" plate. As a kid I recall truck license plates designated with a T. I think it indicated a farm truck but am not certain if that was so.

In the granary on the old farm my grandfather had written many bits of information on the board walls. Most where about crops and feed and livestock, but one of them dated in the early 50's stated that he almost ran over Elvis with the pickup. That one got my attention. My dad explained that they named the dog Elvis, because he was "nothin' but a hound dog". One day my grandpa was backing up to the granary to unload feed from the pickup. Elvis was standing behind the pickup looking away and when the pickup bumper hit him, he yelped. Otis in his dry sense of humor noted that on that day he al-

HYBRID HOGS

### **A Minnesotan: More on Snow**



**By RosaLin Alcoser** 

Recently the Twin Cities got slammed by a ton of powder snow fall; while I was at work in the office. It was not snowing when I left home but started after I got there.

Because of the snow a lot of people left during lunch to finish the day from home. Except for me, the forecast said it was going to stop at 1pm. So I figured I might as well stay all day; after all, if I leave after it's not been snowing for a while then the roads will be plowed. Right?

Wrong! I was wrong in my assumption that the roads would all be plowed.

Now some of the side roads in town I did not expect to be completely snow free by the time I left for work. There were places where one side was plowed and the other was not. Which is to be expected since the plow has to come back in the other direction to do that side.

The issue was when I got to the highway; which I normally do not take home. Normally I take a backway home to avoid traffic. However, due to the large amounts of powdery snow I thought that I should play it safe and take the highway.

Clearly my assumption was that the highway would have been plowed. After all, it's a highway. The highway had not been plowed.

Instead it was a slushy snow filled mess. I did end up taking it all the way back to my neighborhood though by doing something that I had not done since I was a teenager driving to school.

I followed a 4x4 that was following a Semitruck and got into their tire tracks just like I used to do on snowy Minnesota mornings when I would follow the milk truck out of the valley to the main road.

The process was a little bit terrifying and extremely slow, however, I did live to tell the tale.

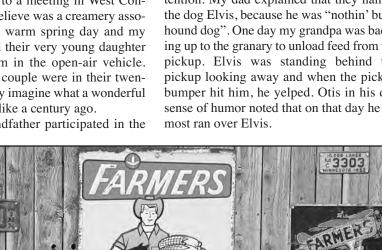
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