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MARCH, 2023

Volume 21 • Issue 4 • \$1.00

## Announcements

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

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

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

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

*Do you have an announcement?*  
Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

# Blossoms & Keepsakes

By Cheri Roshon

Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the flowers is?? Well, I can assure you, there are flowers in bloom at Blossoms and Keepsakes right now! Walking into the store, I was amazed at all the beautiful and unique inventory displayed on the walls and floors of this lovely shop! Blooming houseplants made me long for springtime, when I like to plant as many colorful flowers around my house and in my yard as I can find sunshine for. House mums, Dieffenbachia, Pothos, Kalanchoe and more graced the front part of the store that Jeri Ryan has called "home" for the past 40 years. Blazers and Infinity scarves, jewelry, candles and stat-

uettes, Wind & Willow cheeseball mixes, dips and desserts line the walls in the next area. The cooler is filled with fresh flowers for any occasion, or for no occasion at all. I mean, who doesn't like fresh flowers on the table, especially after a long winter? Purses and accessories hang amidst the unique gifts in the foyer. And we can't forget the chocolates! Abdallah chocolates and decadent hot cocoa mixes have a space of their own. I do believe there are gifts for everyone here! And you will find this boutique style flower and gift shop at 125 2nd street east in Wanamingo.

*(continued on page 13)*



## Held Bus Fights to Keep K-W School Bus Routes On Time

The K-W school board has been looking for avenues to cut costs in the districts shrinking budget. One of the latest items has been the transportation of the students to and from school. The latest proposal published from the school board was to reduce the bus routes from ten to seven with the justification that it would only add 15 to twenty minutes per route.

*(continued on page 7)*

## Repairs, anyone?



By Cheri Roshon

Wanamingo has some new faces in town, and we would like to welcome Jacob, Emily, Rylin, Willow and Ivy Vredenburg to our community.

*(continued on page 8)*

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## The Psalms: "Prayers and Songs"



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

Psalm: [ /sä(1)m/ ] noun --- from the Greek word psalmos, "song sung to a harp", similar to the original Hebrew word and meaning.

The Book of Psalms lists many authors as this is a collection of songs and prayers to God. David has his name on 73 different Psalms, making him the main author. Two of the psalms (72 and 127) are attributed to Solomon, David's son and successor. Psalm 90 is a prayer assigned to Moses. Another group of 12 psalms (50) and (73—83) is ascribed to the family of Asaph. The sons of Korah wrote 11 psalms (42, 44—49, 84—85, 87—88). Psalm 88 is attributed to Heman and Psalm 89 is assigned to Ethan the Ezrahite. Except for Solomon and Moses, all these additional authors from David were priests or Levites who were responsible for providing music for sanctuary worship during David's reign.

These Psalms were written over many cen-

turies, based on authorship, from the prayer of Moses (90) being the oldest to Psalm 137 as the most current as a song of lament clearly written during the days when the Hebrews were being held captive by the Babylonians, from about 586 to 538 B.C.

### OVERVIEW:

The Book of Psalms has far more "chapters" than any other book in the Bible, with 150 individual psalms. It is also one of the most diverse, since the psalms deal with such subjects as God and His creation, war, worship, wisdom, sin and evil, judgment, justice, and the coming of the Messiah.

The Book of Psalms is a collection of prayers, poems, and hymns that focus the worshiper's thoughts on God in praise and adoration. Parts of this book were used as a hymnal in the worship services of ancient Israel. The book of Psalms expresses worship—this being done with music and without music. Through its many pages, Psalms encourages its readers to praise God for who He is and what He has done. The Psalms illuminate the greatness of our God, affirm His faithfulness to us in times of trouble, and remind us of the absolute centrality of His Word. As the Psalms present a clear picture of God lovingly guiding His people, the responses of praise and worship to God are never far from the heart of the author. The portrayal of worship in the Psalms offers us glimpse after glimpse of hearts devoted to God, individuals repentant before Him, and lives changed through encounters with Him to praise Him.

### SO WHAT?

One of the results of being filled with the

Spirit or the word of Christ is singing. The psalms are the "songbook" of the early church that reflected the new truth in Christ. God is the same Lord in all the psalms. But we respond to Him in different ways, according to the specific circumstances of our lives. What a marvelous God we worship, the psalmist declares, high and lifted up beyond our human experiences but also close enough to touch and who walks beside us along life's way. We can bring all our feelings to God—no matter how negative or complaining they may be—and we can rest assured that He will hear and understand. The psalmist teaches us that the most profound prayer of all is a cry for help as we find ourselves overwhelmed by the problems of life. Read Psalm 1, then Psalm 150. Thank God for allowing you to express your deepest emotions to Him. If

you are hurting, use Psalm 13 as a guide and write your own lament to God. If you are rejoicing, meditate on Psalm 30 and echo the praise found there. If you wonder about victory of evil and being downcast, read Psalm 73 to remind you that God is bigger and not to trust in what you see, but who God is. No matter your circumstance, the psalms contain a corresponding word that will help you share your heart with the Lord.

Next month, we seek wisdom in the Book of Proverbs. May God bless you and keep you until then!

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.

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*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." — Matthew 5:9*

In A.D. 989 the once powerful Carolingian Empire lay in ruins. The collapse of central authority had led to increased violence. Bloody feuds and local wars broke out in much of the area where France is today. That's when local church ministers proclaimed "Pax Dei" ("The Peace of God"), granting shelter from violence for people who could not defend themselves—peasants, clergy, and many women and children. Pax Dei prohibited nobles and their guards from invading churches, burning houses, beating people, and so on. If anyone broke those rules, they could be excommunicated from the church. From a humble beginning, this church-led movement spread through Western Europe, surviving in some form for about 200 years. Today it is considered one of the first mass peace movements.

Nearly a thousand years before Pax Dei, Jesus preached "Blessed are the peacemakers" to the shock and disbelief of his listeners. In those days many of his fellow Jews dreamed of rebelling against the ruthless occupation of the Roman Empire.

The call to make peace was difficult in Jesus' day and in the Middle Ages, and it is still difficult today. Yet Jesus inspires his faithful followers to seek peace, for that is God's way of restoring us to himself and making us his children.

*Heavenly Father, thank you for making us your sons and daughters. Inspire us to become your peacemakers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

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## Gerald Wayne "Jerry" Wallaker

Gerald Wayne "Jerry" Wallaker, 70, of Wanamingo, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family on Monday, February 6, 2023. Jerry was born February 26, 1952, in Rochester, the son of Robert "Red" Melroy Wallaker and Geraldine Delores (Schaefer) Wallaker. He was raised in Wanamingo, and a graduate of Wanamingo High School in 1970. Jerry married Linda Lee at Spring Garden



Church in December 1971 and the couple celebrated 51 years of marriage together. Jerry worked many years for Gary Braget, Dale Curtin, and Dan Greseth doing dry wall taping. He also worked at Midwest Transmission driving truck. He retired at the age of 65.

Jerry enjoyed playing basketball and coaching women's softball in his younger years. His annual Lake of the Woods fishing trip with his brothers-in-law, Rueben Berg, Larry Lawson, and his nephews, was always a memorable time for him. He looked forward to going to the VFW in Zumbrota every day for what he called "The Bored" meeting. He loved seeing and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Wallaker of Wanamingo; a daughter, Lori (Shawn) Shelstad of Kenyon; a son, Jeremy Wallaker of Wanamingo; 5 grandchildren; 3 1/2 great-grandchildren; six sisters, Nancy Rath (Jim Kittelson) of Wanamingo, LaRita (Jim) Brown of Zumbrota, Cheryl (Merlin) Moreland of Dodge Center, Teresa Lawson of Zumbrota, and Brenda (Jack) Harvey of Hager City; and one brother, Steven Wallaker

of Rosemount. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Debra McWaters.

He will be missed.

Memorial service was at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements made by the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel.

## Susan Haugen

The Memorial Service for Sue Haugen was at Noon on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo. Visitation was at the church one hour prior to the Memorial Service. Sue passed away at Mayo Clinic Hospital, Methodist Campus in Rochester on February 15, 2023, from pancreatic cancer.

Susan May Wenholtz was born May 7, 1954, to Hillard and Donna (Kutz) Wenholtz in Buffalo, Minnesota. Early childhood was spent in Delano with the family later moving to Golden Valley where she graduated from Armstrong High School. On June 7, 1975, she married Tom Haugen. The first years of their marriage were spent in an apartment above the feed store in Wanamingo. They later moved to the Haugen farm in Roscoe Township where they raised chickens, hogs,

cattle, and three wonderful children.

Sue spent 30 years working in the business office of the Mayo Clinic, and after that, she joined Tom working on the farm. She seamlessly made the transition from a business suit and high heels to a life of work boots and mud along with beef cows and sows that would require her assistance.

Sue took an active part in her church helping serve many meals in the kitchen along with her good friends and had served as president of WELCA. She had a house full of plants (38!) that she carefully tended along with beautiful flower beds in the summer. Tom and Sue traveled in the U.S. and abroad and enjoyed a trip to Palm Springs, California every February.

Sue is survived by her husband, Tom; son, Aaron and wife, Kristi of Cincinnati, Ohio; son, Sam and wife, Brittany of Wausau, Wisconsin; and daughter, Emily Haugen of Wanamingo; six precious grandchildren, Elizabeth Haugen, Evianna Haugen, Luke Haugen, Lane Haugen, Rhen Haugen, and Jack Beougher; sister, Carol (Dave) Tellers; brother, Dale (Rayne) Wenholtz; brother-in-law, John Haugen; sister-in-law, Anne Gerl; along with very special nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred. Memorials will be directed by the family unless otherwise designated. Suggested memorials: Mayo Clinic Cancer Research and Trinity Lutheran Church.

Arrangements made by the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel.

(obituaries continued on page 4)

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## Agnes Mae VanHoff

Agnes Mae VanHoff, age 100, passed away on February 18, 2023, at her home in New Perspective Assisted Living in Faribault, MN with her daughter, Carol Ann at her side.

Agnes was born at home, January 15, 1923 in Pocahontas, Iowa to Rudolph and Lillie Andersen. She helped her mother take care of her three younger sisters as her mother was a mid-wife. She attended country school through the eighth grade.

She married Lloyd VanHoff November 2, 1941 in Manson, Iowa at the Methodist Church. Agnes, Lloyd and her whole family moved to Minnesota in 1943. She helped her father with some of his farm work on her par-



ent's farm near Skyberg. Lloyd and Agnes lived in and around Kenyon until 1954. They then moved their family back to Iowa for three years. They lived near Gowrie, Iowa, but Agnes missed her parents and sisters so much, they moved back to Minnesota and bought a house in Skyberg, where they lived for over 40 years. Agnes worked at The Bluebird Cafe and then Wunderlicks Grocery Store, in Kenyon, after Wunderlicks closed, she worked at the West Concord Super Value Grocery Store until her retirement. They moved into Kingsbury Court Senior housing in 2001 in Kenyon until Lloyd passed away in 2012. She moved into Kenyon Senior Living in 2016 where she lived until October of 2022 when they closed and she moved to New Perspective.

She enjoyed gardening, reading, growing flowers, playing her organ and family. They both loved to play cards, square dance, fish and travel around with their camper club. They even traveled, with friends, to Florida and Texas, no cell phones in those days, just CB Radios to stay in touch. Lloyd and Agnes belonged to Gol Lutheran Church.

She is survived by her three children, Carol Ann Baker (David) of Kenyon, Sharon Kay Youngdahl of Gulfport, MS and Alan Lloyd VanHoff (June) Cape Canaveral, FL; 8 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren and 15 great, great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of almost 71 years, her three younger sisters and their spouses, and a son-in-law.

A funeral service was held at Gol Lutheran Church in Kenyon at 11:00 AM on Thursday, March 2, 2023 with visitation one hour prior.

Interment will be in Gol Lutheran Cemetery immediately followed by a lunch reception in the church fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to: Gol Lutheran Church, Minnesota Hospice, New Perspective Assisted Living, or the donor's choice.

## Barbara Lynne Evert

Barbara Lynne Evert passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 22nd under the care of Mayo Clinic Hospice and Zumbrota Health Services in Zumbrota, MN.

A celebration of life and visitation will be held on Saturday, March 25th, from 1-4 at Mahn Funeral Home in Zumbrota, MN. A private funeral service will be held at a later date.

Barb was born on June 12th, 1951, in Lake City, MN. The middle child of Jack and Lorraine, Barb attended Lincoln High School in Lake City. After High School, Barb attended Winona State University and met the love of her life, Jeffrey Evert. After graduating, Barb and Jeff married on July 12th, 1975, in Lake City, MN. Barb was a renaissance woman of sorts, working jobs and careers as varied as a carhop at the root beer stand in Lake City to a being a librarian, but nothing compared to her time working at Main Street Dental/Mid-

west Dental in Zumbrota. It was here that Barb had her second family and closest friends, right up until her final days. Barb loved to travel, whether chaperoning several school trips to Washington D.C. or taking the entire family multiple times to her favorite place on earth, Disney World, Barb enjoyed getting out and experiencing new things with her family. Barb was also an avid scrapbooker, making elaborate scrapbooks for every vacation or notable event as well as one for each year of each grandchild's life. Barb made it look easy, much like the love she showed for her family.

Barb was preceded in death by her husband, Jeff, parents, Jack and Lorraine, sister and brother-in-law Patricia and Edward Anderson, and brother in law Bill Evert.

Barb is survived by her children Nicholas (Candace) Evert, Kathleen (Joel) Benbrooks, and Joseph (Erin) Evert. Her grandchildren, Austin (Calley), Claire, Piper, Oakley, and Landon. Her sisters Kathy (Mike) Cliff and Patricia (Jim) Anderson. Brothers and sisters-in law Larry (Sheri) Evert, Mike (Sharon) Evert, Mark (Dawn) Evert, David Evert, and many nieces and nephews.

Barb's family would like to thank the Oncology Teams at Mayo Clinic, Mayo Clinic Hospice and Zumbrota Health Services.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Jeffrey Evert Scholarship fund. To share a special memory or condolence, please visit [www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com)



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## 14th Annual Ride and Show Held in Wanamingo

By Cheri Roshon

On March 4th, the 14th annual Snowmobile Ride & Show was held at the Wanamingo Fire Station. This event is held to raise money for the 4th of July fireworks, and for equipment for the volunteer fire department. It is one of two fundraisers held each year. The other event is the 3rd of July dance, and is also held at the fire station.

All kinds of activities were scheduled. There was a line up of over 150 snowmobiles of all kinds in front of the station, and in the lot across the street.

Old and new, flashy and vintage, 104 of them were registered for the ride and the judging that gave awards for Best of Show, best ride and other categories. Registration was held at 9 am, and the judging began at 11 am. Once the judging was completed, over 100 sleds took off for a 12 mile ride to Cherry Grove Township and back.

Sixty gallons of "House Chili" was served at 11 am throughout the day to those who purchased a ticket that entitled them to all the chili they could eat. House Chili is the name of the winner of the very first chili cook off in 2010, made by Jason Bauer. Then from 3 to 4 pm this year's chili cook off was held, and judged by anyone in attendance who wanted to participate in the fun.

At 3:30 the awards for the snowmobiles were given out, and the raffle was held along with the silent auction. All kinds of merchandise was set up for the auction. The Ride & Show sponsors generously donated all kinds of "toys" to be bid on. Local businesses also donated a variety of items to help raise the money needed.

The official sponsors for this year's event were Moto Proz of Mazeppa, Midwest Sign Tech, M & M Lawn and Leisure, and Cannon Power Sports. The firefighters want to give a hearty thank you to this year's sponsors and businesses for their donations and support.

Registration for the Bean Bag Tournament began at 4 pm. A \$5 entry fee to participate was collected, and the registrants names were put into a hat. The names were drawn from the hat to assign partners, so you never know who your partner would be. The tournament



commenced at 4:30.

While covering the event, I had the pleasure of meeting Bob Benson. Bob moved to Wanamingo in 1962 from a farm just south of Roseau, Mn. He worked at building bridges as a crane operator. His hobby was, you guessed it, snowmobiling, and he was a wealth of information. He had dozens of pictures of snowmobiles, or "Snow Travellers" as they were originally called. He shared pictures of the earliest snow machines, and Polaris posters from way back with the people who attended the Ride & Show.

In 1969, Bob purchased the Polaris dealership from Otto Olson, and ran it until 1986. In the years he owned and operated the dealership, he collected the pictures, posters, books and knowledge he shares with us today.

It seems that Otto Johnson built the first Snow Traveller in 1917. Almost 40 years went by before David Johnson, Otto Johnson's nephew and an employee of Edgar and Allen Hetteen's Hoist & Derrick Company in Roseau, Mn had a request for their company to build a way to get hay to a herd of cattle through the snow. Using a conveyer belt as a track to move it along, the apparatus was assembled, and the era of the modern snowmobile began! Bob had a picture on his table was a picture of one of the first sleds built, and it had a half steering wheel off a 1955 Ford Model T attached to steer with. Not long after that, Polaris was born! According to Bob, even though Polaris was the first to manufacture the machines, Ski Doo was the first



Bob Benson at the Wanamingo snowmobile show. Bob was the Polaris dealer in Wanamingo until 1986 and had a display with many items to share with the public.



company to go into production of the machines, so they got the credit for that.

In any case, if you are a snowmobile enthusiast, and like to hear about the history of the machine, Bob Benson is the man to go see! He left me with a quote to share. "It's what you learn after you think you know it all that really counts!" Thanks, Bob, for teaching me something new!

Carl Majerus is the "unofficial" coordinator for this event, and I was able to talk to him about the department itself, and the volunteers who take care of our town and the surrounding areas when a crisis occurs. There are about 29 official volunteers in Wanamingo who can be called upon when needed. There is a county wide mutual agreement that they all help each other when necessary with extra manpower and trucks. When a situation requires more than what one town can handle, volunteers from other towns in our area can be called upon to assist in whatever way they are needed. This ensures a quick and safe outcome for any problems that may occur. All of the Fire Fighters wish to thank the businesses in town who are willing to let their employees who volunteer leave their jobs a the drop of a hat to serve in



their position of keeping all of us safe in any emergency that may occur. It takes a village!

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## KW Noble Knights of the Week



**KW Noble Knights of the Week for February 10, 2023**

Front Row: Shia Evenson, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Oliver Miner, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Parker Sletten, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Roman Johnson, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Koraiyah Johnson-Pratt, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Henry Skillestad, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Abigail Lerfald, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Brooklyn Arnold, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl



**KW Noble Knights of the Week for February 17, 2023**

Front Row: Paisley Ryan, KG, Ms. Madison Andrist; Adaline Richards, Gr.1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Jack Priebe, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Genevieve Hendrickson, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland. Back Row: Leila Macho, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Harvey Bauer, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Madalyn Lee, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



**KW Noble Knights of the Week for March 3, 2023**

Front Row: Braelyn Callahan, KG, Ms. Madison Andrist; Ella Hernandez-Washington, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Jaxson Cline, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Aubree Cagle, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Asher Porras, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky. Back Row: Zachariah Strusz, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Keeton Luedtke, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Sawyer Overend, Gr. 4, Ms. Chloe Gohman; David Meyer, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



**KW Noble Knights of the Week for March 10, 2023**

Front Row: Malia Evenson, KG, Ms. Madison Andrist; Nova Christensen, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Liliana Guzman, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Adrian Moreno, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky. Back Row: Hunter Aronson, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Korbyn Meyers, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Blake Feidt, Gr. 4, Ms. Chloe Gohman; Freddy Ramirez, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

*Congratulations*



## Held Bus Fights to Keep K-W School Bus Routes On Time

(continued from page 1)

This would save \$700 per day for the school district by altering the contract with Held Bus which the district had agreed to two years ago.

In a conversation with Jon Held, the Kenyon and Wanamingo Messenger would like to

clarify the realities of the busing schedule. Held Bus has been operating eleven bus routes each day while only being paid for ten, and reducing the number to seven would add 40 to 60 minutes per route. It was also pointed out that drivers would have to learn a new route with only a couple months left in the school year, and the route that is drawn out by computer may not be the safest or most efficient route in real life.

The new plan would have some rural students getting on the bus at 5:45am. Parents were very upset about the changes and have expressed their displeasure about the extended routes and long bus rides from their children. One of the outcomes of children faced with a two hour bus ride is that parents

located at the extremities of the school district will enroll their children in a closer school district, further exacerbating the K-W school district problem by losing even more students.

The K-W school district covers more area than many of the surrounding schools and Held Bus has a fifty-five year history of safe and efficient transportation of Kenyon and Wanamingo students. Jon Held along with his father Howard before him, have operated a highly respected bus service all these years which parents have trusted the safety of their children traveling to and from school and for many after school activities.

The latest negotiation with the school and approval from the superintendent has led to an agreement of nine routes and no child will have to board their bus before 6:15am.

Jon points out further that in October of 2020 Held Bus submitted a bill to the K-W school district which was never paid in full. They received approximately 15% of the total bill which barely covered about a third of the payroll for the month. This is a local family run business that pays \$50,000 a month in payroll along with fuel and maintenance in vehicles to service the transportation of district students. "Where did the money go", he asks?

## 2023-24 Kenyon-Wanamingo Kindergarten

An informational meeting for parents of 2023-24 Kindergarten students will be held on Monday, March 27th at 6:00 pm at the Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary School in Wanamingo. Free childcare for children aged 33 months and older will be provided. Information covered during the meeting will include Kindergarten Readiness, health and immunizations, transportation and curriculum. A tour of the elementary school will be offered.

The Kindergarten Roundup Mini-Session for 2023-24 Kindergarten students will be held on Friday, May 5, 2023. Students will attend a short classroom session with their teacher and classmates.

If you have a child who will be age 5 on or before September 1, 2023 and have not yet been contacted by the school district, please call the K-W Elementary School Office at 507-824-2211.

## Do You Have an Announcement?

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



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Consider this:

- Each American farmer feeds about 165 people.
- Agriculture is America's #1 export.
- New technology means farmers are more environmentally friendly than ever before.



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Wanamingo  
(507) 824-2256





## Repairs, anyone?

(continued from page 1)

While it's always great to see new people moving in, it's especially wonderful when they come with skills to meet the needs of the locals.

Jacob and Emily moved here from Mazeppa. Looking for a place to call home, they found a house large enough for their growing family and purchased it last May, and began working on it right away. Their neighbor told me one day, "They are putting the rest of us to shame! Look at the work they are doing on the house and yard!"

There was a truck out front all summer that said Homestead Restoration on it, with a number to call for an estimate. I watched all summer as the back yard was fenced in and the garage was jacked up to install a new header, and lowered onto new cement. I wrote down the number on the truck down so I could have it when I needed this hard working contractor.

Come to find out Jacob was the contractor! When I asked him what kind of work he does, he replied, "Anything but plumbing and electrical. What I really enjoy doing is fixing up

old homesteads and bringing them back to their original state", so out came my list. He's been busy picking up all kinds of jobs in the area, so I decided to get the opinion of someone Jacob had worked for recently.

Tim and Mona Geise live just outside of Wanamingo, so I called them and asked about Jacob's work, and if they would recommend him as a contractor. Tim said when he contacted Jacob about a job on his property, he came out to give a bid (no charge). Tim said, "Jacob came out and started asking questions, and listened to what we wanted. We had a shed on the property, and weren't sure what we wanted to do with it. He asked us all kinds of questions. He asked not only about plans for the shed, but also what our hobbies were, and what colors we liked, and gave us some excellent ideas for our project. We made a decision based on Jacob's ideas, and his craftsmanship was excellent, diligent, thorough and professional, and all that at a very competitive price! He finished December 1st, and we couldn't be happier with the results."

Tim's wife, Mona chimed in, "I thought why would this young man want to talk to us old folks? But he listened to what we had in our minds, and was able to bring to us a very unique experience. We highly recommend him!"

Jacob says, "No job is too big or too small, so for all those projects on the "honey-do" list, call Jacob at (507)-216-1538.



Jacob, Emily, Rylin, Willow and Ivy Vredenburg

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## Spring Is A Great Time For A New Ford From Peterson Ford!

	<p><b>2016 F-250 SUPER DUTY</b></p>		<p><b>2021 ESCAPE SEL</b></p>		<p><b>2020 EXPLORER XLT</b></p>		<p><b>2020 EDGE ST</b></p>
<p>4WD, four door, crew cab, 6' box, white, 168,963 miles, 6.2L V-8 #22149U</p>	<p><i>Spring Special!</i> <b>\$23,750</b></p>	<p>AWD, 39,683 miles, white metallic, ecoboost 2.0L turbocharged #22152U</p>	<p><i>Spring Special!</i> <b>\$28,999</b></p>	<p>White, 48,979 miles, 2.3L ecoboost #22164U</p>	<p><i>Spring Special!</i> <b>\$34,550</b></p>	<p>AWD, blue, 22,492 miles, 2.7L V-6 #22078U</p>	<p><i>Spring Special!</i> <b>\$38,488</b></p>
	<p><b>2019 RANGER LARIAT</b></p>		<p><b>2021 F-150 XLT</b></p>	<p><i>Spring Car Care</i></p> <p><b>At Milo Peterson Ford Co., our highly qualified technicians are here to provide exceptional service in a timely manner.</b></p> <p>From oil changes to transmission replacements, we are dedicated to maintaining top tier customer service, for both new and pre-owned car buyers! Allow our staff to demonstrate our commitment to excellence. Call our service department to schedule your maintenance needs. Open Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 5pm.</p>			
<p>4WD, super crew cab, 5' box, ecoboost 2.3L turbocharged, shadow black, 37,842 miles #22134U</p>	<p><i>Spring Special!</i> <b>\$35,999</b></p>	<p>4WD, super crew cab, 4 door, 5.5' box, 13,093 miles, ecoboost 2.7L V-6, gray metallic #22074U</p>	<p><i>Spring Special!</i> <b>\$49,975</b></p>				

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Southern Minnesota

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A weekly advertising supplement to these Southern Minnesota publications:

- STEELE COUNTY TIMES • NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA STAR EAGLE • WASECA COUNTY PIONEER • JANESVILLE JOURNAL •
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*prairie lakes*  
regional arts council

## Executive Director

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council (PLRAC) is currently accepting applications for the position of **Executive Director**. The Council serves the artistic communities of a 9-county area of southcentral MN by supporting the creation and presentation of diverse art forms, fostering equitable access to arts opportunities, and integrating arts and culture to enhance quality of life in our communities.

The Executive Director will hold primary responsibility for ensuring the overall achievement of organization including goals, plans, transparent financial management and accountability, community relations, representation/liaison among regional, state, and national Arts Organizations and for maintaining a highly effective grant management program. The Executive Director reports to the PLRAC Board of Directors and supervises a staff of two. The Executive Director will be guided by the PLRAC Strategy, the PLRAC Policy & Procedures Manual and PLRAC By-Laws. The position is full-time, exempt with an excellent benefits package. Minimum salary is \$50,000 commensurate with experience.

To Apply: submit requested information by **5PM on Friday, March 17, 2023** to [plrac@hickorytech.net](mailto:plrac@hickorytech.net) be considered in the first screening. Details and further information can be found at [www.plrac.org/hiring](http://www.plrac.org/hiring).

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**To advertise in the Golden Link, please contact a member publication:**

**Call:** Star Eagle: 507-461-5283,  
 Steele County Times: 507-583-4431,  
 Messengers: 507-951-7417, Waseca County Pioneer: 507-837-6767  
 Janesville Journal: 507-231-6371  
**Email:** [goldenlink@hickorytech.net](mailto:goldenlink@hickorytech.net)  
[bprick@frontier.com](mailto:bprick@frontier.com)  
[hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)  
[jjournal@frontier.com](mailto:jjournal@frontier.com)

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**ESTATE AUCTION**


**Sunday, March 19 10:00 am**  
 Preview Saturday, March 18 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.  
 In case of severe storm see website.

**Montgomery Auction Barn, 303 Montgomery Ave SE  
 Hwy 21 South side of Montgomery MN 56069**

Tables full of antiques & collectibles; Edison cylinder phonograph w/horn; gentleman's dresser; Faribault adv. items; 2pc Darth Vader mask; Native American artifacts; 125 pcs Czech pottery, birds & glassware; several hundred pcs of Czech & other costume jewelry; 65pcs Poppy Trail; 70pcs pink depression glass; 12 pcs Fenton Silver Crest; Bob White RW dishes; Sheridan C-Series 20cal pellet gun; 1970's football cards; album of 1960's baseball cards; 60 new Ertl & Precision toy tractors; exMark Lazer Z zero turn 60" mower; Snap-On Special Edition 2pc roller tool box; Craftsman 240v 2 stage 80 gal upright air compressor; Snap-on ratchets, socket sets & wrenches; power & air tools.

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**AUCTION CALENDAR**

**March 5, 2023 ..... 9:00 AM Kenyon, MN**  
SPRING AREA FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION  
Live and Online Area Farmers Consignment Auction, Tractors, Combines, Semi's, Trailers, Construction Equipment, Planters & Tillage Equipment, Livestock Equipment, Pickups, Cars, ATVs and Farm Support Items

**March 30, 2023**  
Bidding Begins: ..Mar. 20, 2023  
Starts Closing: .....Mar. 30, 2023  
**Lonsdale, MN**  
ONLINE ONLY SHOP TOOLS AUCTION FOR THE OTTO HOMBURG ESTATE  
Power & Hand Tools, Welders, Air Compressor, Shop Cabinets, Tool Boxes, Battery Chargers, Pullers, Pipe Wrenches, Sockets, New Filters & Oil, New Hardware, All Like New Items

**April 1, 2023 ..... 10:00 AM Lonsdale, MN**  
LARGE FARM ESTATE AUCTION FOR THE OTTO HOMBURG ESTATE  
John Deere 7520, 4320, 4020, 4000, 3020, 630, 530, A & B Tractors, MC Crawler, (2) Case Skidloaders, 2004 GMC 2500 - 12K Miles, JD 6620 Combine W/Heads, JD 936 Moco, NH RB740A Baler, JD 8300 Drill, Tillage & Livestock Equip., Motor Home, Cadillac Car

**April 8, 2023**  
Bidding Begins: ..Mar. 30, 2023  
Starts Closing: .....April 8, 2023  
**Montgomery, MN**  
ONLINE ONLY 78.20 ACRES IN RICE CO. MN FOR MARVIN DAVID ESTATE  
78.20 Acres in Section 32 Erin Township, Rice Co., Rural Montgomery, MN, 8 Acre Building Site 3 Bedroom Home, Sheds, Barn, 70 Acres of Prime Farm Land, 80 CPI, Drian Tile in Place, Online Only Bidding, Montgomery, MN

**April 8, 2023**  
Bidding Begins: ..Mar. 30, 2023  
Starts Closing: .....April 8, 2023  
**Montgomery, MN**  
ONLINE ONLY FARM EQUIPMENT & AUTOS AUCTION FOR MARVIN DAVID ESTATE  
2017 Ford Edge 4x4, 2005 Ford F150 4x4, Massey Ferguson 285 Tractor, New Holland Baler, NH Sickle Mower, John Deere Snowblower, NH Manure Spreader, Artic Cat ATV, Lawn & Garden, Tools

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**Large Consignment Auction AUCTION**

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**UPCOMING 2023 AUCTIONS**

**Saturday April 22 • 9:30 A.M.**  
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**Live and Online Bidding LARGE MACHINERY AUCTION**  
Ellendale, MN

**Sunday June 4 • 9:00 A.M.**  
Polaris Sportsman 550 ATV, 4x4 Guns - Case 1816 skidloader - 32" Anvil - Old gas pump - anvil collection - old machinery - antiques & collectibles

**Joel & Kelly Langlie OWNERS**  
Ellendale, MN

**Tuesday June 27 • 9:30 A.M.**  
**LARGE RETIREMENT AUCTION**  
John Deere S670 Combine PRWD - Grain Heads  
2-Cat Challenger Tractors - White Planter - Tillage Equipment - Peterbuilt Grain Truck - Brent 678 Grain Cart - Seed Tender - Full line of Farm Equipment

**Denny Hoehn - OWNERS**  
New Richland, MN

**Saturday Aug. 12, 2023 • 9:30 A.M.**  
**FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION**  
Versatile 2375, 4WD, John Deere 4640 - J.D. 4430 - J.D. 4020 - J.D. 5055 - Riteway rock picker - 4-Crysteel 600 Bu. Wagons - Tillage + Haying Equip. - Misc. Outdoor Items

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## Blossoms & Keepsakes

(continued from page 1)

One question I like to ask business owners is "How did you decide to open your store?" Jeri laughed and said, "It was my brother's idea!" Ok, I wasn't expecting that. She said that Sherree (Steberg) Van De Walker had opened the shop on Main St., just 1/2 a block away. Sherree was selling her store, and even though Jeri said she knew nothing about flowers, she listened to Butch, and purchased the store, lock, stock and barrel, as they say.

Jeri went to school in Minneapolis for fashion and merchandising after high school. She managed several stores when she completed her education, and was working at Nina B's in Apache Mall when the flower shop became available. If you have ever managed a retail store, you know how time consuming and hectic it can be, and it was becoming more of a chore than the fun career she had gone to school for, so the timing was right, the opportunity to try something a little different was there, and Jeri had the courage to jump right in and learn something new!

But Jeri didn't give up on her love of fashion. She also has been a Cabi stylist for over 12 years. Cabi is an exclusive designer clothing line with styles for all sizes and ages. She hosts house parties with her clothing displayed so you can look and feel and even try on all the beautiful and quality ensembles in her line. She also does personal consulting in her home, where she carries the full line of the items you will see in her catalog. She says she loves working with her clothing customers, and it fills her love of fashion.

Now back to the flowers! Sometime in early May, you will begin to see flats of flowers to be planted outdoors, and brightly colored hanging baskets lining the greenhouse right outside her shop. Lovely statues to enhance your gardens and whimsical ornaments to hang about the yard catch your eye as you drive past her displays. Since Mother's Day



Jeri Ryan

is one of the biggest retail flower sales of the year, weather permitting you will find a host of greenery to put a smile on any mother's face by the beginning of May.

Jeri offers all the traditional services you will find in larger flower shops as well. Weddings, funerals, holidays and special occasions all need flowers, and Jeri offers all these services within a pretty large area, and she delivers! Thinking outside the box, she has participated in Festival of the Trees in Rochester for many years. Festival of the Trees is hosted by Hiawatha Homes for the disabled in our community, and raises money to keep the operation afloat. She does beautiful centerpieces for holiday tables, such as Thanksgiving, Easter and family gatherings.



She even helped to decorate the Governor's Mansion in St. Paul for Christmas one year! She loves to be of service to her community, and welcomes any ideas you may have to spruce up any occasion.

You can chat with Jeri about your ideas, and pick up gifts or a treat for yourself Monday through Friday from 10 to 5, and Saturdays from 9 to noon. Or you can call the shop at (507) 824-2500, or her cell phone at (507) 271-8699. So put your thinking cap on and let Jeri "dress up" your holiday affairs with a beautiful bouquet or centerpiece this holiday season!

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## SKYWARN To Offer In-Person Training This Spring

KENYON — Sogn Valley SKYWARN will be offering several opportunities to become certified as a severe storm spotter for the National Weather Service.

The training is free, takes about 2 to 3 hours and this year will be available both via webinar(home computer) and also in person at various locations in Goodhue County.

"The past three years have been a challenge to train volunteer storm spotters because of the pandemic," says Jim Braaten, lead coordinator for the Sogn Valley SKYWARN group. "The uncertainty of not knowing if you could train in-person pushed us into doing only webinar-based sessions the past two years.

While some individuals prefer staying home and the convenience of learning online, others seemed to miss the vibe of classroom interaction. So, this year we are offering both learning options." Anyone with an interest in public service is encouraged to participate as a volunteer storm spotter. The SKYWARN program is a great resource allowing local citizens to get involved by keeping their communities safe during severe weather events.

The more trained eyes spread across the county the better for the early detection and public warning system to work. NWS certified instructors will teach spotters how to ob-



Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 17-21, 2023

serve and subsequently report severe weather to assist in the weather warning process.

Trainees will learn the basics of thunderstorm development, the fundamentals of storm structure, how to identify potential severe weather features, what information to report and how, as well as severe weather safety.

The times and dates for the two online SKYWARN training webinars are:

- Wednesday, March 22 @ 6:30pm H
- Thursday, March 30 @ 6:30pm

In-person classes will be held in the following cities:




## 2023 Spring SKYWARN Training Schedule

*(subject to change—please check www.Sogn.us prior to attending for any last-minute class updates)*

**MARCH**

22 Wednesday — Online Webinar begins at 6:30pm

30 Thursday — Online Webinar begins at 6:30pm


SCAN FOR MORE INFO.

Pre-registration required for online classes only. Details on how to register will go live on 3/3/23 with the sign-up links found on www.Sogn.us. Both classes taught by our SVS Team and delivered to your home computer via Zoom.

**APRIL**

1 Saturday — Cannon Falls (Public Safety Bldg.) beginning at 9:00am  
In-person SKYWARN training class with the option of being Metro Skywarn certified (for HAM radio operators). This training will be conducted by Jarrod Schoenecker who is an experienced spotter and trainer from the Twin Cities.

11 Tuesday — Red Wing (Em. Operations Center) beginning at 6:30pm  
In-person class held at the Goodhue County Law Enforcement Center (430 West 6th St.). The session is being conducted by Todd Krause who is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Chanhassen.

22 Saturday — Kenyon (First Lutheran Basement) beginning at 9:00am  
This in-person class session will be taught by our Sogn Valley SKYWARN (SVS) Team.

★ Typical class length is 2 to 3 hours | There is NO CHARGE | Everyone is welcome | Certification upon completion lasts for two years ★

- Cannon Falls (Public Safety Bldg.) on Saturday, April 1, starting at 9:00am
- Red Wing (Emergency Operations Center/LEC) on Tuesday, April 11, at 6:30pm
- Kenyon (First Lutheran Church Basement) on Saturday, April 22, at 9:00am

Registration sign-up links for the online sessions can be found at [www.Sogn.us](http://www.Sogn.us) after March 3. In-person classes do not require registration, but check the website for any possible changes prior to attending any class. Additional information about Sogn Valley SKYWARN and these upcoming training opportunities is also available by contacting: [info@Sogn.us](mailto:info@Sogn.us).

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## Kids Teach Us Great Lessons



By Harvey Mackay

A little girl visited a farm one day and wanted to buy a large watermelon.

The farmer said, "That will be \$3."

"But I've only got 30 cents," said the young girl.

The farmer pointed to a very small watermelon in the field and said, "How about that one?"

"Okay, I'll take it," said the little girl. "But leave it on the vine. I'll be back for it in a month."

Now there's a young girl who is destined to succeed.

Children teach us many lessons. For example, kids are more creative and are more imaginative. Children don't know what is and isn't possible. To them everything is

doable. They don't have the mental blocks that many adults have and haven't been curtailed by rules and regulations.

Similarly, kids also dream more and dream bigger. If they can dream it, children believe they can do it. They are more ambitious and enthusiastic.

When I speak to business audiences, one of my messages is to believe in yourself, even when no one else does. No one does this better than children. They believe they can do anything and everything.

Children are fearless. They don't fear rejection or what people think of them. They don't think about the future. They are care-free. Tomorrow is simply another day.

Children start every day anew. They are not afraid to try new things. They don't worry and, possibly most importantly, are happy. And they strive to do what makes them happy. Shouldn't we do the same as adults? You can be as happy as you decide to be. It also helps that kids laugh a lot.

Children forgive and forget. If they get upset they are typically on to something else soon and they forget what was troubling them. They don't hold grudges. It is far better to forgive and forget than to resent and remember.

Children make friends easily. They understand that the best vitamin for developing friends is B1.

Long gone are the days of "children should be seen and not heard." Children of today are not just tech savvy; they are creating apps

that will pay their college tuition.

That's pretty amazing for a whole sector of society with no control over most areas of their lives. Someone else is telling them when to eat, sleep and go to school. They can't choose their living arrangements, make their own vacation plans, or set their own rules. They are essentially powerless. And yet, they manage to survive and thrive. What are we adults doing wrong?

Perhaps we have set aside the childlike qualities that keep us excited about getting up every morning. Remedy that problem pronto. If enthusiasm and creativity are lacking, it might be time to reread some Dr. Seuss.

Children are incredibly perceptive. They can spot a phony with dizzying speed, and while tact isn't always among their strongest attributes, their blunt honesty is hard to argue with.

Let me tell you the story about the father of a very wealthy family who took his son on a trip to the country with the purpose of showing his son how poor people live. They stayed with a very poor family. When they returned, the father asked the son what he thought of their trip.

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they



have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Through the eyes of a child, the father learned wisdom beyond the ages.

**Mackay's Moral: Kids will be kids, but they can be terrific teachers too.**

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

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## Wanamingo City Council Meeting

(continued from page 16)

5) Maintenance repairs – manifold gaskets on leaf sucking machine. New shaft, couplers, bearings, and new rubber skids on street sweeper. New clutch and throw bearings on pressure plate.

6) New air lines installed at street shop building.

7) Worked on State Bid order for 550 style truck and box. Order window for truck may only be open for a day in May or June (until spaces run out). Working with Towmaster Truck Equipment and Crysteel Truck Equipment on prices for the box.

8) Communicating with Richard Hanson of Floorcoat Midwest LLC regarding manhole rehab work. Last year's quote was for \$1,200 to rehab each manhole. Looking to get a plan together and bundle manhole work which could lower price for each manhole rehab.

9) Schumacher completed the remove the sediment from the Nelson Drive storm water retention pond last week. Kennedy stated that Schumacher removed thirty-six (36) loads of excess sediment material from the storm water retention pond. The storm water retention pond to function normally again after the sediment covered the outflow pipe and disrupted discharge.

Administrator Boulton provided a memo regarding the proposed grader sale. Boulton explained that Jeff Enstrom came a couple of weeks ago to inspect the 1967 120G Caterpillar (12) Motor Grader for potential purchase. The grader was replaced when the City purchased the used 2008 Caterpillar Front End Pay Loader in 2018. In May 2018, the City Council passed a resolution declaring the grader surplus. The City attempted to sell the grader through IronPlanet (Ritchie Brothers Online Auction). Similar models at previous auctions had sold for over \$20,000. The grader went through several auctions with a minimum of \$10,500, without a sale. The City had missed the hot overseas market by a few months. The City was offered \$3,000 by a local farmer. The City weighed the grader and estimated scrap price to be \$1,500. The City opted to keep the grader as a backup snow removal piece of equipment.

The grader has been sitting for nearly five years. The Wanamingo maintenance staff have started the motor yearly, but have not utilized the grader. The batteries need replacement (\$400) and one of the front rims needs

replacement (\$500). In order to get it running in cold weather it could take up to a day.

The Wanamingo maintenance staff has no intentions of utilizing the grader as a backup snow removal piece of equipment. The City staff recommend selling the grader before it loses value by having additional maintenance needs from sitting.

Jeff Engstrom had approached Mayor Holmes in Fall 2022 and stated his interest in purchasing the grader. Jeff Engstrom lives close to Wanamingo and works for RDO Equipment Company. He is interested in preserving old pieces of iron equipment. The Wanamingo City Council had discussed and come to a consensus to ask \$4,000 for the grader from Jeff Engstrom in November 2022. Jeff Engstrom was able to inspect the grader where he and City staff noticed the dead batteries and issues with front rims. Jeff Engstrom also looked at the obsolete roller in the Livery Barn. City staff have no intentions of utilizing the roller and deem it a safety hazard. The motor is the only thing of value and has not been run in years. Jeff Engstrom offered \$4,000 for the roller and grader, with City purchasing new batteries.

Boulton stated that the Council should reconsider the agreed upon asking price of the grader. The staff did not realize that the grader needs new batteries and replacement rims. The Council could accept offer or counter offer. City staff requests that the City Council sell the roller to get rid of a safety hazard. City staff believe that packaging the grader and roller into a deal would simplify the sale process. Kennedy stated that Jeff Engstrom was fine with installing the batteries if the City purchased them. Kennedy stated that Engstrom collects and enjoys old pieces of equipment. Flotterud moved to accept \$4,000 offer from Jeff Engstrom to purchase the grader and roller with the City purchasing two new batteries and the buyer installing them, seconded by Ohr, Passed 5-0-0.

Boulton provided a memo regarding the rear doors at City Hall and the Community Center. The rear doors of the Wanamingo City Hall and Community Center are in poor condition. The door handle broke off the City Hall door. Neither of the doors have automatic closers, so they shake the entire building when the doors are closed. The shifting of the building has led to issues with the seals having to be removed. The Com-

munity Center door held water at the entrance each year before the parking lot was replaced, leading to water damage. Both doors have significant wear and tear, including dents and rust showing.

The City Hall side door is the same style door (half glass residential steel bottom) as the door that was replaced with the aluminum frame glass door in 2018. The new City Hall front aluminum frame glass door was installed in 2018 by Red Wing Glass for \$4,248. The Community Center rear door is a solid residential steel door. This door had been installed when the building was still a fire hall, prior to City Hall/Community Center renovations in 2005.

As per discussions with City Staff and Mayor Holmes it was decided to replace the doors with similar looking doors to the front and side of the City Hall/Community. These doors are aluminum frame with glass. The rear doors do not need full glass, but rather glass on top and aluminum on the bottom. There is concern with deliveries and snow removal hitting the bottom of the doors. Aluminum bottoms to the doors will absorb any impacts where glass would crack or shatter. The City requested to have aluminum openings, rim exit devices, offset pulls, and closers installed for each door. The City requested that the door locks be keyed to match the current City Hall and Community Center keys. The installation of new frames to the existing door openings will be labor intensive.

Johnson Hardware Co., LLC out of Dodge Center provided the City a quote of \$4,810/per door plus \$3,360 for coordinating the installation. Johnson Hardware Co., LLC's staff stated that the order will be placed for the materials. The materials will take at least six weeks to order. Once they arrive Johnson Hardware Co., LLC will coordinate with the City for installation.

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### RESOLUTION:

**23-010 = Accepting 2022 Employee Reviews:** Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Boulton stated that Holmes, Ohr, Kennedy, and himself would be getting together in the next two weeks in order to complete the reviews. Passed 5-0-0.

**23-011 = Adopting a Proclamation for School Bus Driver Appreciation Day:** Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Holmes expressed his appreciation for school bus drivers going back to Sigurd Ree. Boulton stated that he has been working with Lorin Pohlman of Held Bus Services with the sample language. Boulton stated that a photo would be taken and placed on the City Facebook page and sent to the newspaper. Passed 5-0-0.

**23-012 = Approving Hiring a Part-Time Pool Manager and a Part-Time Assistant Pool Manager:** Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Boulton stated that Dylan Steberg was coming back to be the swimming pool manager one more year with Julie Steberg as the assistant swimming pool manager. Ohr stated that the Water Lilly's (water aerobics participants) would be pleased with both returning. Haugen stated that Dylan & Julie have done a great job managing the swimming pool the past few years. Passed

5-0-0.

**23-013 = Approving Pay Requests No. 2 & 3 to The Joseph Company, Inc. for the Well House Portion of the 2022 Utility Improvements:** Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that Pay Request No. 2 is for \$36,125.65 and Pay Request No. 3 is for \$53,949.55. The Pay requests are for a majority of the electrical supplies that are being warehoused at The Joseph Company. Boulton stated that the project delay was due to the variable drive for the automatic controls being on back order. Kennedy stated that Northfield, MN was waiting three years on variable drive for their controls. Holmes stated that it is difficult to pay for items when no site work has been completed and the supplies are not on-site/in town. Boulton stated that the contract, as it is written, requires the City to pay the contractor for the supplies since they have been purchased and are being warehoused. Passed 5-0-0.

**23-014 = Approving Support For a North Zumbro Sanitary District Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility Project General Fund and G.O. Bonding Bill Request:** Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that the Senate and House File Numbers would be added to the resolution once they are assigned. Boulton stated that the lobbyist, Prairie Island Indian Community, and area legislators are working to obtain DFL sponsors for the legislation in hopes of gaining majority party support and having broader appeal and making the final bonding bill list. Passed 5-0-0.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The City Council reviewed the 2021 & 2022 swimming pool financials for comparisons. In 2022 the swimming pool brought in \$20,300.53 in revenue compared with \$20,128.57 in 2021 revenue. In 2022 the swimming pool had \$68,380.69 in expenses compared with \$69,212.02 in 2021 expenses. The swimming pool lost \$48,080.16 in 2022 compared with \$49,083.45 in 2021. The losses are funded by the general fund. Utility expenses were higher in 2022 compared to 2021. Work comp costs were lower from 2022 compared to 2021. Building R & M was higher in 2022 compared to 2021. Income was down for vending in 2022 compared to 2021.

Haugen attended the League of Minnesota Cities (LMNC) newly elected officials conference in Mankato on February 10th and 11th. Haugen stated that there were over one hundred (100) attendees. The topics included budgets, levies, legals, open meeting law, ethics, and discussions regarding scenarios. Haugen stated that the conference was informative and enjoyed discussions with fellow attendees. Flotterud and Dierks expressed their gratitude for having attended past LMNC newly elected officials' conferences.

\*Next City Council meeting on 3/13/2023 at 7:00pm.

Adjourn: At 7:42PM a motion to adjourn was made by Ohr and seconded by Dierks. Passed 5-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator



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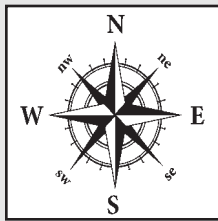
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Dyers Creek



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.*

Dyers Creek. I drive past it quite often near our place in Tennessee. We have went kayaking up and down it numerous times. It is very quiet in the evenings and we enjoy the cranes that hunt for fish at the water's edge and the deer that come to the bank to get a drink as we slip silently by. Fish break the surface of the water around the kayak. I always thought it would be interesting to have one hop in the kayak. Much more manageable than a water snake.

We use the boat launch there to put the boat into the Cumberland River. The river is shallow and narrow and one must be careful not to run the prop into the mud right where it meets the mighty Cumberland. Like every place in Tennessee it has over two centuries of history to tell if you look and listen.

Stewart County was first settled by pioneers from North Carolina, who arrived around 1795. The military granted up to 1,500 acres to survivors if the Continental War from 1795 to 1805 and many took advantage of the offer. A party of surveyors arrived first to run the lines of land tracts. One night while the eight men were camped along what is now Dyers Creek, they were attacked by Indians and four of the group were killed. One of the surveyors, Thomas French, escaped the ambush but did return later to claim property. The settlers built two story log house-forts to help protect from the Indian attacks since most of the indigenous people there were very hostile. Up until 1812 the militia made patrols up and down the Tennessee River to protect the settlers from Indian raids.

Some of the locals relate that the name was

a result of the surveyors being left to die after the Indian attack. I soon learned that spelling and pronunciation is not a strong point with long-time Tennessee residents. Dyers Creek was named after Robert Henry Dyer who was a cavalry colonel in the War of 1812 and the 1818 Seminole War. He settled in the area and later became a Tennessee state senator.

Wildlife was available to feed the early settlers in the Tennessee woodlands and game of every description could be found in abundance. Judge James Scarborough lived along Dyers Creek and related a story that happened about 1807. The Judge and his sons left the farm to attend court while his wife, Mary remained at home to tend the livestock. The county seat was some distance and it was necessary to remain overnight. During the evening a large black bear was detected prowling around the place and got in amongst the pigs. The dogs were set on it and the bear climbed a tree by the house. By this time it was dark and Mrs. Scarborough could not distinguish the form of the bruin in the tree so she built a large fire under the tree and waited through the night in vigil. When the morning came, she took her husband's rifle and killed the bear and proceeded to skin it.

In the early days of the settlements there were very few stores in the area. Many supplies came from New Orleans and were brought up the river in Keel Boats powered by hand. They would bring dry goods up the rivers and exchange for furs, skins and other produce. It took a full six months to make a round trip.

In 1804 Mason Bennett opened a general merchandise store at his house and also sold whisky. Most of the early 1800 accounts of merchants were of men who opened a tavern at their house. Due to the extremely hilly terrain and plentiful rivers in Tennessee, most travel was by water and most settlements were along the river. As more settlers arrived and started businesses, many small towns sprang up throughout the state. The Dover Hotel was built on the banks of the Cumberland River in the mid 1850's and is still standing, thanks mostly because it was the location of the signing of the surrender between the Union General Grant and Confederate General Buckner after the Battle of Fort Donelson. It served as the General's headquarters and a hospital during the battle. After the war it continued as a hotel until the 1930's.



## A Minnesotan: Second Winter



By RosaLin Alcoser

Seasons in Minnesota, and the rest of the Midwest, are wild. You've got Per-Witner, Winter, False Spring, Second Winter, maybe Spring, construction season- also known as Summer, and Fall.

False Spring came early to Minnesota this year, I think. If memory serves me correctly it normally does not get into the mid

40s during February. I feel like that is an early March thing most years.

Honestly having that nice of weather in February was excellent. We did not need our coats and could go outside and enjoy being there without freezing.

I fully realize that there are plenty of Minnesotans that enjoy going outside in the winter when it's cold to do things like ski, snow shoe, and snowmobile. I however am not one of those people. Between late November and early April I take to being an indoor person.

With the exception of false Spring. Then I am outside along with all of the rest of the Minnesotans to enjoy the short window of nice weather while we have it.

But alas like all false Springs it came and went in a matter of a week or two. Now we embark into the second Winter.

After all, we already had our first Winter. It's high time that we had a second Winter before we either get adult Spring or skip over the season completely and go straight to Summer.

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## National Ag Day is Celebrated During National Ag Week March 21-27



The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) will host National Agriculture Day on March 21, 2023.

This will mark the 50th anniversary of National Ag Day which is celebrated in classrooms and communities across the country. The theme for National Ag Day 2023 is "Growing a Climate for Tomorrow."

On March 21, 2023, the ACA will host a virtual Ag Day event and events in Washington, DC. Additionally, the ACA will bring college students to Washington "virtually" to deliver the message of Ag Day to the Hill. A core leadership team of college students will attend events in DC. Other Ag Day events in DC will be announce soon.

These events honor National Agriculture Day and mark a nationwide effort to tell the true story of American agriculture and remind citizens that agriculture is a part of all of us. Many agricultural associations, corporations, students and government organizations involved in agriculture are expected to partici-

pate.

National Ag Day is organized by the Agriculture Council of America. The ACA is a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in the agricultural, food and fiber community, dedicating its efforts to increasing the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society.

The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced

- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products

- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy

- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry

In addition to the events on March 21, the ACA will once again feature the Ag Day Essay Contest. The winning essay will be presented on National Ag Day.

Visit [www.agday.org](http://www.agday.org) for more information on National Ag Day.

### HISTORY OF NATIONAL AG DAY

Almost all of us take agriculture for granted. National Ag Day is arranged by the Agriculture Council of America. This is a non-profit organization that comprises all the leaders in the agriculture and food community. This day is observed to honor the efforts of people related to agriculture and promote awareness about these efforts amongst people.

It is that day of the year when all the pro-

ducers, agriculture organizations, universities, corporations, and government departments take out some time to recognize the greatness of agriculture.

National Ag Day was founded by the Agriculture Council of America in 1973. The first National Ag Day was celebrated by the ACA in 1979. Since then the ACA has put efforts into creating awareness about the role of agriculture in modern society. So even if we are not involved in agriculture, we should learn about how our food and fiber are produced, as well as how agriculture provides us with safe, abundant, and useful products. Another important thing that agriculture provides us with is employment opportunities. Therefore, we should also acknowledge the career opportunities in the field of agriculture.

## DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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



# Happy Ag Week!

## Thank you to all ag producers in our community!

• National Ag Week March 21-27, 2023 •

*Come in and see Pete Kramer or Scott Peterson for your 2023 Ag operating loans.*



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