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MAY, 2023

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Signage and So Much More



Sarah Jystad

By Cheri Roshon

With graduation right around the corner, I was curious to see what D & S Banner, Sign and Print had in the way of acknowledging the 2023 seniors. *(continued on page 5)*

New K-W Superintendent Hired



Beth Giese

The Kenyon-Wanamingo school board approved hiring Beth Giese as the new superintendent and elementary school principal at the April school board meeting. The school board had interviewed five candi-

dates for the position before narrowing down the search between Giese and Joel Whitehurst, longtime WEM superintendent.

Giese was a high school special education teacher at Kasson-Mantorville school district before serving as an elementary teacher and principal at Cannon Falls school district. She held the position as superintendent at St. Francis and was most recently was employed with the Minnesota Department of Education.

The K-W school district hired Giese for a

one-year contract at about \$70,000 less than the current superintendent. The financial position of the Kenyon-Wanamingo school district necessitated a cost savings in filling the position while they work through the fiscal financial problems at hand.

Giese and her husband have three grown children and were originally from the Goodhue County area. She looks forward to being back in the southern Minnesota community.

Olmsted Medical Clinic Reopens in Wanamingo

After closing due to staffing issues last fall the doctors are back in Wanamingo. The clinic reopened at the beginning of May and will be seeing patients Monday through Thursday from 8am to 5pm. The office will be closed over the lunch hour each day. The new providers will be Dannielle M. Zielkie APRN, CNP from and Peter R. Brehmer APRN, DNP. Peter will be available on Monday and Tuesday in Wanamingo and the rest of the week at the Pine Island office. Dannielle will be in Wanamingo on Wednesday and Thursday and splits the rest of the week at Pine Island and Cannon Falls clinics.



Dannielle M. Zielkie
APRN, CNP



Peter R. Brehmer
APRN, DNP

Dannielle grew up in the Red Wing area where she lives with her husband and daughters and one grandson. She attended the Chamberlain College of Nursing in Addison Illinois and worked as a nurse for twenty-three years before completing her degree as a nurse practitioner. She was employed at the Minute Clinic in Hastings before coming to Olmsted Medical Clinic in March. Dannielle pursued her career in medicine because of her desire to help people. She will be practicing family medicine and seeing patients from newborns through the elderly.

Dannielle enjoys spending time with her family, going on trail rides and on the river. Her and her husband ride motorcycle and look forward to going to Sturgis.

Wanamingo Community Garden



By Cheri Roshon

One of the many duties on Michael Boulton's plate as City Administrator is being in charge of the Community Garden in Wanamingo. The garden is a project open to the public and available on a seasonal basis. The initial capital costs of the project were originally funded through SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Project), administered by Live Well Goodhue County.

(continued on page 3)

Announcements

• **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 threeiverscap.org for more information.

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Ecclesiastes: "Reflections from an Old Preacher"



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

Ecclesiastes: [/uh·klee·zee·a·steez/] noun -- a translation of the Hebrew word koheleth, which means "one who convenes an assembly" or simply a preacher. The name of this text for us is a Greek word connected with another Greek word, ecclesia, meaning "a gathering" used to describe God's people gathering as the Church.

The Book of Ecclesiastes does not directly

identify its author. There are quite a few verses that imply King Solomon wrote this book and some clues in the context that may suggest a different person wrote it after Solomon's death, possibly several hundred years later. Still, the conventional belief is that the author is Solomon. If King Solomon did indeed write this text, it was likely written towards the end of his reign, approximately 935 B.C.

OVERVIEW:

Two phrases are repeated often in Ecclesiastes. The word translated as "vanity" appears often, and is used to emphasize the temporary nature of worldly things. In the end, even the most impressive human achievements will be left behind. The phrase "under the sun" occurs 28 times, and refers to the mortal world. When the Preacher refers to "all things under the sun," he is talking about earthly, temporary, human things. Simply put, we know that life is brief. Yet to say that life is brief is not to deny its meaning, thus when we say vanity, we do not imply meaninglessness. On the contrary, the Preacher knows that worshiping God and doing the divine will provide humans with a worthy goal and meaning in their lives. The first seven chapters of the book of Ecclesiastes describe all of the worldly things "under the sun" that the Preacher tries to find fulfillment in. He tries scientific discovery (1:10-11), wisdom and philosophy (1:13-18), mirth (2:1), alcohol (2:3), architecture (2:4), property (2:7-8), and luxury (2:8). The Preacher turned his mind towards different philosophies to find meaning, such as materialism (2:19-20), and even moral codes (including chapters 8-9). He found that everything was meaningless, a temporary diversion that,

without God, had no purpose or longevity. Chapters 8-12 of Ecclesiastes describe the Preacher's suggestions and comments on how a life should be lived. He concludes that without God, there is no truth or meaning to life. He has seen many evils and realized that even the best of man's achievements are worth nothing in eternity. So, he advises the reader to acknowledge God from youth (12:1) and to follow His will (12:13-14).

SO WHAT?

We all desire meaning in life. Often that search takes us along winding, up-and-down paths filled with bursts of satisfaction that shine bright for a time but eventually fade. In one sense, it is satisfying to see that experience echoed throughout Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes is a book of perspective. The account of "the Preacher" reveals the depression that inevitably results from seeking happiness in worldly things. This book gives Christians a chance to see the world through the eyes of a person who, though very wise, is trying to find meaning in temporary, human things. Most every form of worldly pleasure is explored by the Preacher, and none of it gives him a sense of meaning. In the end, the Preacher comes to accept that faith in God is the only way to find personal meaning. He decides to accept the fact that life is brief and ultimately worthless without God. The Preacher advises the reader to focus on an eternal God instead of temporary pleasure. Ecclesiastes is seeing life through human eyes, a life that is "like a mist" and helps us to turn our eyes to full meaning, purpose, and joy in the life we have through Jesus Christ. If you have you struggled with misplaced pursuits in life, this text will turn your eyes to behold your God. Has life fallen short of your

desire for meaning and purpose? Hear the words of the Living God in this text that they might encourage you to place your trust solely in Him, in this life and in the life to come.

Next month, we will walk through the Book of Song of Solomon, a text often "skipped over" due to its poetic and romantic content. My prayer is that we would see the goodness in this inspired text and seek to know the "full counsel of God's word" (Acts 20:27) for our good and God's glory. May God bless you and keep you until then!

If you have questions, need prayer, or encouragement, please contact me. Reach out to me via email: Colin@nlcwanamingo.org or by phone: 507-824-3019.

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May 21: 10:30a.m. Worship with Holy Communion;
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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Gospel, the Power of God

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. . . — Romans 1:16

Paul was preparing to visit Rome, the capital of the empire. He was on his way to Jerusalem to bring the poverty-stricken people there a generous gift. From Corinth he wrote his most robust letter, which we now call the book of Romans—and already here in the prologue, he has made a most audacious statement: "I am not ashamed of the gospel. . . ." Paul felt indebted to the gospel—the good news of Jesus. He was ready to preach the gospel, and he was not ashamed of it.

Paul was not ashamed of the gospel even though he was arrested and flogged and stoned nearly to death because of it. Paul was not ashamed because the gospel is "the power of God that brings salvation to every one who believes" in Christ as Lord and Savior. The gospel is God's power for salvation. And this power is available for all who believe. It doesn't matter what people or nation they come from. What matters is that they believe. The door of salvation is open in Christ. Behold the power of the gospel!

Lord, thank for giving us the gospel, the good news of Jesus, with its power for all who believe. Thank you for your grace and mercy in sending Jesus so that we can be saved to new life in you. May we live by faith in you, knowing that we never need to be ashamed because of you. In Jesus, Amen.

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Carol LaVonne Johnson

Carol LaVonne Johnson, age 86 of Cannon Falls, died at Cannon Rivers Senior Living in Cannon Falls, MN, on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

Carol was born on November 8, 1936, the daughter of Lewis and Christine Gjemse. She grew up in Hader and graduated from Wanamingo High School in 1954.



She married Conrad Johnson on July 16, 1955, and they had four children. She worked at Kid Duds and eventually became the bookkeeper for Johnson Logging. She had a passion for sewing and making quilts and loved to dance and play cards. Carol was an expert at baking and always had goodies to eat at her house, especially her famous cinnamon rolls. She was also a caregiver, taking care of her husband, Conrad, after his many accidents, and her uncles and parents in their older years.

She enjoyed her children and grandchildren and loved to host holidays and other special events. She was a member of Urland

Lutheran Church and most recently Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Aspelund.

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Conrad "Connie" Johnson of Cannon Falls; her four children, Rod (Bernie) Johnson of Cannon Falls, Julie Johnson of Northfield, Danny (Callie) Johnson of Hampton, and Sharie Samuelson of Louisville, Kentucky. She is also survived by her 11 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren; brother, LeRoy (Carol) Gjemse of Hader; sister-in-law, Judy (Ray) Wachter of Cannon Falls; along with many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lewis and Christine Gjemse; brother, Bobby Gjemse; nephew, Jody Gjemse; and niece, Becky Gjemse.

A memorial service was held on Friday, April 14 at 11:00 am, with visitation from 10:00-11:00 am, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Aspelund. Interment followed at Urland Lutheran Cemetery.

Carrol James Olson

Carrol James Olson, 76, of Wanamingo, passed away Friday, May 5, 2023, at The Mayo Clinic, Methodist Campus.

Carrol was born February 6, 1947, in Red Wing, Minnesota to Curtis and Jeanette (Hoven) Olson. Car-



rol was a 1965 graduate of Wanamingo High School. He was a Vietnam veteran, proudly serving his country as part of the U.S. Marine Corps. After being honorably discharged from the military, he attended Vo-Tech for welding and electronics. Carrol worked for B&N Construction company until 1985 where he then went to work for the City of Wanamingo, where he also ran the Wanamingo water treatment plant. Carrol also worked for the City of Cannon Falls at their water treatment plant. In his free time, he loved to go hunting, and snowmobiling. Carrol enjoyed watching movies, TV and was an avid reader. Carrol also enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Carrol was caring, personable and had a humble heart. He had a stoic and easy-going personality.

Carrol is survived by his siblings, Charles (Luanna) Olson of Wanamingo, Iris Olson of Wanamingo, Aloyce Rholl of Eagan, MN, Curtis Jr. (Leslie) Olson of Tucson, AZ, Ross Olson of Salt Lake City, UT, Richard (Elisabeth) Olson of Eagan, MN, and Roger (Lynne) Olson of Mazeppa, MN. Carrol is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Curtis and Jeanette.

A private family Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to Mahn Family Funeral Home- Larson Chapel. To share a special memory or condolence, please visit www.mahnfamilyfuneral-home.com

Wanamingo Community Garden

(continued from page 1)

After the original funding, the maintenance and upkeep as well as the building of raised beds and a few picnic tables onsite, is funded by the city's general fund. The garden is located inside Torkelson Park on the northeast side of town.

The developed gardens are laid out in an orderly fashion. There are twelve 4 by 8 newly built raised beds, and nine 25 by 25 foot ground plots available to rent. Water and hoses are provided by the city, as well as all the tools necessary to till, plant and weed each area. Renters are expected to keep their spaces weeded, cleaned and aesthetically pleasing. Sprawling plants must be culled and maintained throughout the season, and not encroaching into the grass surrounding the plots, or into another person's plot.

A fee of \$25 is charged each season to rent the plots and raised beds. This fee will be returned in November if the plots and beds are left the way they were rented-- Clean!

People love to garden for a variety of reasons. Michael likes to spend time with his family on his plot, teaching his kids where their food comes from. Some like to raise their own food, "farm to table" style. Others plant enough to can, freeze and dry their bounty for the winter. And some just like to be outside, in a serene place, growing food to share with their friends, family, and the local food shelf. Whatever reason you may have, if you are interested in renting a space to call your own, or to get on the waiting list, contact Michael at cityadministrator@cityofwanamingo.com. or call (507) 824-2477. Personally, I can't wait to get started!

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Mazeppa Native Earns DNR Award

By Cheri Roshon

Wayne was recently awarded for 30 years of serving as a firearm safety instructor by the game warden of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The award is a beautiful print of 2 dogs waiting to go out hunting with their master, and an engraved plate on the frame commemorating his years of service. It is proudly displayed in his home, along with many mounted trophies from his hunting and fishing days. Both Wayne and Audrey have their fair share of taxidermied memories, and I was privy to several stories as I asked about the fish and animals on display.

Wayne grew up in Mazeppa, and at age 13 went to work on a farm in Zumbrota. That is where his love of hunting and fishing began. He worked on the farm and went to school in his sophomore and junior years, and then on to Red Wing to finish out his senior year. And that is where he met the love of his life. Audrey had moved to Red Wing for nurses training, and that is where they met. They were married in 1958. Since farming was something he knew and enjoyed, the Livingstons bought a farm in Roscoe in 1970 to raise their son Randy and daughter Laurie.

Wayne also worked for IBM at the time as a 1st Line Manufacturing manager, and remained there for 32 years. He continued to farm for 43 years before injuring his leg in 2012, and moving into Wanamingo.

Being an avid hunter and fisherman, he took an advanced course in firearm safety. Eventually, he was asked to "help out" in the firearm safety programs in Rochester, Wanamingo, and Zumbrota, and he accepted the position. He remained as a trainer for 30 years!

I asked him what he taught his students in those 30 years. He said firearm safety consists of more than properly shooting a gun. It's what to do when someone hands you a gun,

how to operate it, and what to wear while hunting. Also, knowing how to survive if you get lost is of utmost importance. Wayne learned this lesson the hard way in 1974. He was hunting in northern Minnesota with his son and their 2 friends tracking a moose they had sighted when he got separated from the rest of his party. I asked him how that happened, and he said he didn't map out his coordinates, and he should have been more prepared. He had to build a shelter and shoot and cook up a squirrel to survive in the 2 ½ days he wandered about. On the 3rd day, he was rescued by a helicopter search team, but he was already heading back to camp. How? By using his map and compass like he should have done to begin with! Lesson learned! So, add survival skills to the tool box.

Wondering about the ages of those he taught, the answer is 12 to 72. I asked him if he ever hears back from his students, and he said just 2 weeks ago a man came up to him and Audrey at the Dairy Queen and thanked him for his training, and told Audrey what a great job he did.

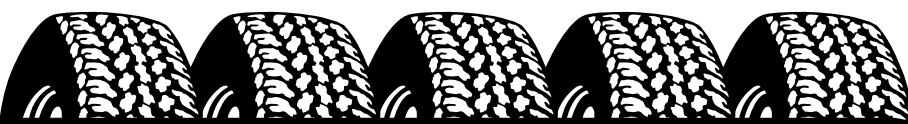
He has also helped mothers to understand how important hunter safety training is. He teaches the mothers not to be afraid of the gun itself. "With the proper training, a gun is no more than a tool", says Wayne. "When a mother is concerned about her children taking the course, it is because she doesn't understand. I teach her how important it is to know that safety training gives her child knowledge of the tool, and how to properly use it. A firearm won't hurt you unless there's an idiot behind it!"

I asked him where his favorite place to hunt was, and he decided the Northwest Territories were the most eventful. From almost missing a ferry because of being detained at a check point, to the Caribou hunts he had the pleasure of being part of, it ranks at the top of his list. Wayne has hunted in all but two of the Canadian Territories and provinces, and many of the best hunting spots in United States. He has had many experiences on those trips, and has a lot of stories to tell. In his living room are many of the subjects of his adventures! There were a few fish and mammals I had never seen before. What a pleasure it was to hear his stories!

Congratulations, Wayne, on a job well done!



Wayne Livingston



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Signage and So Much More

(continued from page 1)

You've most likely seen the signs in front of the graduating seniors' homes, letting people know how proud the parents are of this milestone? Did you ever wonder where they came

from? My assumption was "online" orders. But when I walked into the appropriately named shop at 113 Forest St. in Kenyon, I was literally blown away by everything available in this store!

Owner Sarah Jystad was busy with an order when I popped in, so after she greeted me as I walked in the door, I looked around the shop.

This business is amazing! If you asked me, "Well, what do they do?", my answer would be, "What don't they do?" There are racks of Kenyon Knights jerseys, tee shirts and hoodies. Hats embellished with business names, coffee mugs with family pictures and cute sayings on them, and one of my personal favorites, wrapped canvas pictures. Every year, my family does a photo shoot with as many members in it as possible and does a wrapped print for each of us to remember it by. Not an easy feat with a daughter in every time zone, so it is a special commemoration of the yearly event that we all enjoy. I asked Sarah how the printing process works. "We work with you on each and every project", she answered. "You bring in your own ideas and artwork, or we can take your ideas and work on your design for you."

We have a graphic designer, Sandy Thompson, who will design any logo, artwork or graphic design you want. Once the design is approved, Roger Anderson is the Graphic Design Installer. He will take Sandy's work

off the computer and put it on the medium ideal for the project. He then preps it for installation on vehicles, windows or smaller projects like coffee cups and anything, really."

Some of the other products at D & S are yard signs (think 2023 graduates and yard sales), party and wedding invitations, flyers, business cards, rack cards, invoices, sales forms, duplicate and triplicate forms, magnets and banners. Sarah can reproduce obsolete logos, large scale graphics for semi-trailers, trucks or cars, or your business store front.

If you need promotional products for your business, she will print on mouse pads, coffee mugs, coasters, cutting boards and ornaments in smaller quantities, and has access to wholesalers for larger quantities. Are you travelling soon? How about personalized luggage tags? Business meeting coming up? Maybe name tags, travel mugs or notepads with the name of your business on them?

Advertising is an important piece of any business to get the word out. She does banners, flyers and advertising for churches and schools, too!

I asked her how she got into this creative endeavor. Sarah is a Kenyon native, born and raised here. She moved away after graduating from college in 1982, and returned in 2012. She took a position as an office manager for another sign company, and ended up buying out the printing portion of the business in 2016.

Although running the business keeps her plenty busy, she also finds time to play in a



Christian band called 2 Copper Coins. When asked the meaning of the band's name, she explained the story in the Bible about the Widows Mite (Mark 12: 38-44). Basically, although the widow gave only two copper coins to the offering at synagogue, those coins were all she had, and so she gave the greatest gift....everything she had to give. Sarah sells the band's CD's in the store. Also, Art Rew sets up events for the band, so if you would like to book them, call (507) 302-8133 for church services, etc.

In any case, you owe it to yourself to come in and check out all the possibilities you can create with this imaginative company. The sky is the limit!

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KW Noble Knights of the Week



KW Noble Knights of the Week for April 14, 2023

Front Row: Aubrey Kylo, KG, Ms. Madison Andrist; Karlie Kerr, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Kendall Foss-Kennedy, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Declan Smith, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Jaxsyn Bauer, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Brinley Murdick, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Ivan Estrada, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Wyatt Intlekofer, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Layla Jarvis, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Maddison Miller, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



KW Noble Knights of the Week for April 21, 2023

Front Row: Landon Evert, KG, Ms. Madison Andrist; Bexley Otto, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Maya Ramirez, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Ava LaCanne Gillis, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland. Back Row: Bayleigh Bradford, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Lexi VanDeWalker, Gr. 4, Ms. Chloe Gohman; Jacob Johnson, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



KW Noble Knights of the Week for April 28, 2023

Front Row: Camilla Ortega, KG, Ms. Madison Andrist; Conner Foss, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Daxx Anderson, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Isabella McGowan, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks. Back Row: Skylin Taylor, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Gretta Haugen, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Gavin Van Winkle, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Daniel Richards, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Lilah Greseth, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman

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DNR Shares Top 10 Tips for Planning a Camping Trip in State Parks, Recreation Areas and Forest Campgrounds

As Minnesotans prepare for the summer camping season, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources shares tips to help in planning an outdoor adventure.

“We know Minnesotans love being outdoors, and getting outside after a long winter is exciting,” said Ann Pierce, Parks and Trails Division director. “We also know time and knowledge can be barriers in planning a camping trip. We’re working to alleviate this for folks by providing information to help them prepare for a fun experience.”

Book campsites early, and be flexible if you can’t book early

Reservations for campsites in state parks and recreation areas can be made up to 120 days in advance. Reservations are in high demand for holiday weekends and at the most popular parks, like those on the North Shore.

If reservations are full, the DNR has three suggestions. First, sign up for the “notify me”

function on the reservation website to get notified by email if there’s a cancellation. Second, consider a camping trip on weekdays instead of the busy weekends if your schedule allows. Third, look for open reservations at less busy parks. Our list of quiet state park getaways on the DNR website opens in a new browser tab provides suggestions for locations more likely to have open reservations. **Looking for flexible camping options? Try camping in a state forest.**

If spontaneity is your style, try camping in a state forest where all campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and dispersed camping is allowed. Learn more on the DNR’s state forest camping web page opens in a new browser tab.

Buy a vehicle permit

A permit is required for each vehicle entering state parks and recreation areas. Permits can be purchased online or at park offices during open hours. The cost is \$7 per day or \$35 per year. If you’re camping just one night, a one-day permit will be valid until check-out time. Find details on the Minnesota state park vehicle permit web page opens in a new browser tab. State forests do not require a vehicle permit.

Pack smart

Sometimes it can be hard to figure out what to pack for a camping trip, especially for those who are new to camping. For a good starting point, the DNR has a camping supply checklist opens in a new browser tab.

Check equipment before you leave home

Broken tent poles or a leaky air mattress might ruin a camping trip or make it less comfortable. If your camping gear hasn’t been used in a while or is new, test it at home



before the trip to make sure it works.

Research events to enhance your trip

Events and programs are scheduled at state parks throughout the year, offering a wide range of activities from fishing and birding, to interpretive hikes, to crafting. Visitors of all ages are welcome, and no prior experience is needed. Find event listings on the state parks and trails event calendar opens in a new browser tab.

Check visitor alerts before leaving home

State park and recreation area websites post visitor alerts to communicate important information related to safety, closures, construction projects and other helpful details. Find visitor alerts by choosing a park from the state parks map opens in a new browser tab.

Don’t get lost, navigate with a smartphone

The Avenza Maps app uses GPS location tracking so visitors can stay found, even off the grid. After you download the app and a GeoPDF map, no internet or cell service is needed. DNR maps can be downloaded for free. Get details on the DNR’s GeoPDF web

page opens in a new browser tab.

Watch the weather

Stay in the know by enabling severe weather notifications on your smartphone. Because cell service is not available in all locations within state parks, recreation areas and forests, visitors may want to bring a weather radio to get information about severe weather warnings, watches and advisories.

Document your trip and share your photos

Make sure to bring a camera to document the great memories made on the camping trip, and we’d love for you to share your photos with us. Images submitted may be featured on the Parks and Trails social media accounts. Share photos on the DNR photo sharing web page opens in a new browser tab.

For more information about any of these camping tips, visit www.mndnr.gov opens in a new browser tab or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us opens in a new browser tab or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday).

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Anhydrous Safety Should be Top Concern This Spring

The MDA offers safety tips for those maintaining equipment and applying and transporting NH3

Many farmers and applicators will soon apply anhydrous ammonia (NH3) prior to planting or sidedress after planting. Even with a rush against time and the weather, safety should never be compromised. Accidents involving anhydrous ammonia have

proven how dangerous and deadly the chemical can be when not handled properly.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is providing the following tips to farmers and applicators so they can safely apply anhydrous ammonia.

Always wear appropriate goggles and gloves. Never wear contact lenses.

Be sure to have a clean, adequate emergency water supply of at least 5 gallons.

Exercise caution when making connections and disconnections as if lines contain anhydrous ammonia.

Stand upwind when connecting, disconnecting, bleeding lines, or transferring NH3. Also, close, bleed, disconnect, and secure valves and transfer lines when taking breaks or disconnecting lines, and be sure to handle hose end valves by the valve body.

Position equipment away and downwind from homes, people, and livestock.

Safety is also key to those maintaining an-

hydrous ammonia equipment. Never assume NH3 lines are empty, always wear proper protective equipment, and have access to safety water.

When towing a nurse tank down the road, drive sensibly. Do not go any faster than 30 miles per hour, display a slow-moving vehicle (SVM) emblem visible from the rear, and be sure the tank is secured to the tractor or truck

with two separate, independent chains that supplement the hitch pin/clip.

If an accident or spill occurs, immediately call 911 and then the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798 or 651-649-5451.

You can find more safety, storage, and transportation information on the MDA's website at www.mda.state.mn.us/nh3.

MDA Announces New Grant Opportunity to Support Emerging Farmers

Technical assistance grant applications due June 26

A new grant opportunity for organizations that support emerging farmers is now open for applications through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Rural Finance Authority (RFA).

The Emerging Farmer Technical Assistance Grant is available to those who provide technical assistance services to emerging farmers in Minnesota. Grant funds can also be used by these organizations to pay up to 65% of emerging farmers' premium expenses for up to two years under the USDA Micro Farm Crop Insurance program.

"This grant is an important tool to support farmers and producers across the state in overcoming disparities and barriers to opening new pathways to agriculture," says Patrice Bailey, assistant commissioner at the MDA.

Technical assistance consists of helping farmers with financials, business planning, record keeping, regulations, land access, marketing, applying for state and federal programs, and/or other farm business needs.

Emerging farmers include farmers who are American Indian or Alaskan Natives, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, members of a community of color, women, veterans, persons

with disabilities, LGBTQIA+, or any other emerging farmers as determined by the commissioner of agriculture.

Applications for the grant are due by June 26, 2023, at 8 a.m. The RFA will award \$540,000 in one-time grants through a competitive review process, with a maximum award amount of \$100,000 and a minimum award amount of \$10,000. Decisions are expected in July 2023.

For more information and to access the application materials, visit the Emerging Farmer Technical Assistance Grant webpage.

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MFBF Leaders Speak Up About Rural Mental Health

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness and help break stigmas around mental health and those it affects.

Addressing mental health in farming and rural communities is a priority for the Minnesota Farm Bureau (MFBF) and its members. In the past, discussing the issues around mental health was met with resistance in the agriculture community, but with increased pressures alongside an increase in available resources the agriculture community is beginning to open up.

MFBF Promotion & Education (P&E) Committee Chair Cindy Durheim and Foundation Director Ruth Meirick are available for interviews throughout the month of May to discuss mental health awareness, resources and the importance of starting the conversation in the agriculture community. Please email MFBF Director of Communications Rachel Reisig, rachel.reisig@fbmn.org, for availability and to schedule an interview with Cindy Durheim or other leaders.

The P&E Committee is also continuing its mental health awareness campaign started last year. Committee members will contribute personal stories, resources and other conversation starters to be featured on MFBF social media to continue to open doors around this important topic throughout the month.

About the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation

To ensure Minnesota's agricultural vitality, the Minnesota Farm Bureau amplifies its members' voices through engagement, grassroots advocacy and agricultural awareness. Learn more about our efforts as an advocate for our nearly 30,000 members and 78 county Farm Bureaus at www.fbmn.org.

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Red Gate Alpaca Farm

By Mary Closner

For me, summer means jumping in my car and learning more about my immediate surroundings. I want to find hidden gems that are in my backyard and can be enjoyed during a day trip. This is what led me to an alpaca farm in Dundas, MN.

Contrary to popular belief, alpacas and llamas are not the same animal. It's like saying

St. Paul and Minneapolis are the same thing. Teri & Kraig Quamme set me straight during my visit to the Red Gate Alpaca Farm (RGAF).

An alpaca is a hybrid between a llama and a vicuña, two camelid species native to the Andes Mountains in Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Chile. Alpacas were never wild but rather were created by the Incans about 6,000 years ago as a source of fiber for royal clothing. Alpacas have been used by humans for transportation and fleece production for thousands of years.

The most notable difference is the actual size of the animals. Alpacas are much smaller than llamas (approximately #150 vs. #400)



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and llamas tend to be more comfortable interacting with humans. Alpacas, though cuddly looking, are more aloof. "Alpacas are more like cats, while llamas are more like dogs," says Cindi Hassrick, founder of Aurora Alpaca and Llama Farm.

Alpacas are mild tempered creatures who thrive in a herd environment. The first thing everyone asks about is the tendency for the animals to spit. With alpacas, spitting is gen-

erally observed between herd-mates to assert dominance and is rarely done towards humans unless they're provoked. Llamas have a slightly more aggressive nature and have been known to spit at the casual passer-by. Alpacas display affection by gently bringing their noses to you and they may briefly kiss or nuzzle certain people.

(continued on page 10)

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Red Gate Alpaca Farm

(continued from page 9)

"I have always loved animals...probably to a fault" said Kraig when I asked him how he and his wife got into this field back in 2005. Teri fell in love with the whimsical creatures the minute she saw them and was interested in raising livestock that you don't eat. Kraig spent 2 years researching and thinking about genetics before making the big decision to start raising the animals on their secluded farmland.

RGAF brought in genetics from the East and West coasts, the middle of the country as well as Wisconsin. Kraig knew that if there were other farms in their proximity, they could do some cross-breeding and have different genetics to distinguish themselves.

(continued on page 19)

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- 8:30-11:30am Quilt Show & Burrito Breakfast • St. Peters Church
- 8:45-10am reg. Road Rally • Start at Goodhue C-Store, \$5/person
- 9am Udder Run • Starts at back of GHS, \$15/ea adv | \$20/ea day
- 9am-2pm Craft and Vendor Show • Community Center/Lion's Building
- 9am Co-ed Sand Volleyball Tourn. • Rosie Park, \$60/team
- 10am-1pm Kids Bounce Party • GHS Gym 3

- 10am 3-on-3 Basketball • GHS Gym 1, \$100/Team
- 11am Bean Bag Tourn. • Rosie Park, \$40/team
- 1pm Bingo • Fire Hall
- 1-4pm Gopher State Garden Tractor Pull • 3rd Ave
- 2pm Tyler Stehr Live • Corner Bar
- 2pm Pedal Tractor Pull • Broadway/2nd Ave
- 10pm Fireworks • Rosie Park

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- 1pm Parade
- 2pm Fire Dept. Water Fight • Fire Dept.
- 2pm Bryan Anderson Live • Corner Bar



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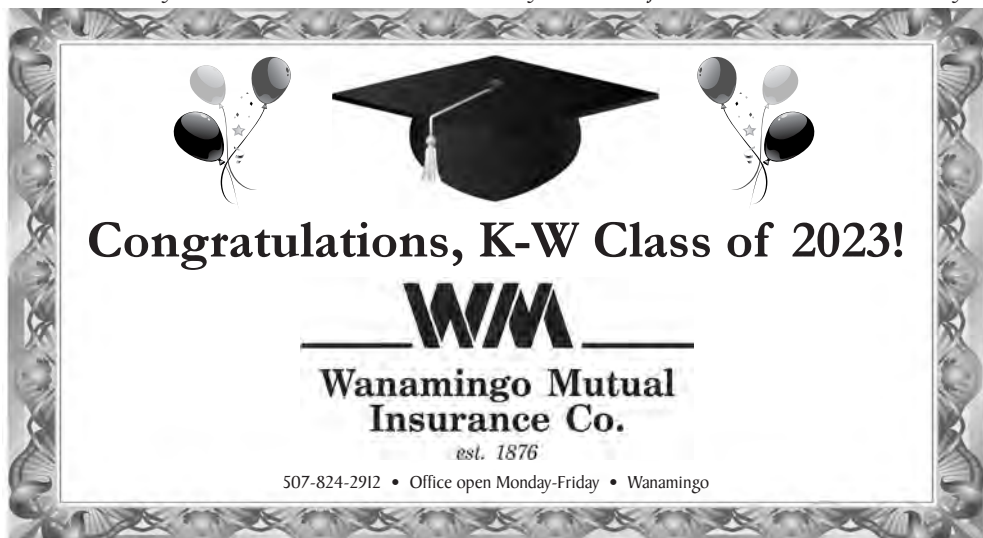
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Congratulations, K-W Class of 2023!



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Congratulations & Best Wishes

We wish all of this year's hardworking graduates good luck and great success as they start the next chapter.



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Gage Thompson



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Nathan Wood



Connor Young



KW
Kenyon-Wanamingo
Class of 2023
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 - Dr. Seuss

CLASS FLOWER:
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CLASS COLORS:
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CLASS SONG:
"Something in the Orange"
 by Zach Bryan

GOWN COLOR:
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TASSEL COLOR:
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Class of
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- Open House: Sunday April 30th 1-3PM

June Auctions:

- Michael & Christine Hein Revocable Trust Land Auction - Friday June 9th 10AM (on-site)
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SERVING MORE 15,000 HOMES IN SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

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LARGE ESTATE AUCTION
Saturday, May 20, 2023 10:00 A.M.

NO Buyer's Premium Lunch and Restroom on Grounds
Located: Belle Plaine, MN 22500 Delaware Ave.
Directions: At Highway 169 and County Road #64 (By Coborn's Grocery) go East on #64 3.5 miles to Delaware Ave., then North 1/4 mile.
Note: This is a large estate auction. Items are clean. Selling in 2 rings. Ring 1 starts at 10:00 A.M. With shop tools and equipment; Ring 2 starts at 11:00 A.M. With antiques, collectibles and household items. Tractor, truck and dirt scraper sell at Noon.
JOHN DEERE 4010LP w/Loader-1953 FORD F500-DIRT SCRAPER (Sells at Noon): John Deere 4010LP w/all hydraulic loader, 7' bucket, Synchro trans., w/f, 3 pt, good 18.4/34 RR tires, shows 8,155 hrs.; 1953 Ford F500 dual wheel truck, Flathead V-8, good wood grain box, been repainted, non running; Soil-Mover 225-RF pull type scraper, 2.25 yd; International 12' wheel disc w/hyd cylinder; Meade tractor cab, good glass, off AC 190xt; John Deere 3pt sprayer w/booms, approx 150 gallon; some scrap iron; '90's GM pickup rear bumper; **SHOP TOOLS and EQUIPMENT:** DeWalt metal chop saw; 5hp upright air compressor; 10" bench grinder; Craftsman AC/230-DC/140 welder; A-Frame chain hoist, 9'high x 10' wide on casters; 20 gallon sand blaster; electric and gas powered pressure washers; acetylene torch kit; hydraulic press; OIT HD 12spd drill press; 20 gallon parts washer; Makita 10" bevel mitre saw; Honda 8hp gas engine air compressor, twin tank; pancake air compressors; portable air tank; Craftsman 10" radial arm saw; Craftsman 10" table saw; hand tools, wrenches, socket sets including 3/4", pipe wrenches, levels, handsaws, bolt cutter, hammers; jacks; jack stands; come-a-longs; pneumatic nailers, staplers and others; electric grinder, router, drill and belt sanders; drill bits; nuts, bolts, misc. hardware; Shop Vac; welding rods, helmets and C-clamps; Signode bander; Blackhawk bumper jack; 100,000BTU and 80,000BTU kerosene heaters; portable LP shop heater; Craftsman radial arm saw; Craftsman table saw; shop creeper; jumper cables; electric paint sprayer; hand cart; Honda 5.5hp 2 man auger head; electric cords, work lights; furnace fan; misc. tires and rims; 2-alum 6' double step ladders; oils, auto fluids & chemicals; paints; Montgomery Ward 3000w gas generator; fire extinguishers; wall storage bin and garage shelving; tool boxes; 4' alum step ladder; 10" table saw; **GUNS-4 WHEELER-SPORTING GOODS:** Stevens 12ga single shot shotgun; Champion 16ga single shot shotgun; Remington .22 bolt action rifle; Daisy BB gun; Yamaha Breeze 125cc ATV, automatic; Michicraft 17' aluminum canoe; 2-Waterquest one person kayaks; goose decoys; 2-portable tree stands; older Johnson 5 1/2 hp OB motor w/gas tank; ping pong table; golf clubs, pull carts, golf balls; cross country snow skis; Pool table w/balls and cues; 6 gun cabinet; **LAWN and GARDEN-OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT:** Craftsman 8.5hp/26" snowblower; EZ Rake 48" power thatcher; chainsaws; Craftsman 6.25hp push mower w/bagger; Murray 4.5hp, 21" snow thrower; gas weed eaters; plastic garden fence; garden tools; wheel barrow; tomato cages; garden hose; gas cans; BBQ gas grille; electric hedge trimmers; electric chainsaw w/pole extension; Toro leaf blower; apple picker; patio furniture; **BUILDING TOOLS-MATERIALS and SUPPLIES:** K&E transit w/tri pod & Measure stick; electric wire; pex tubing; 98"x52" vinyl remodel picture window w/sliders, new; Crestline 38"x38" vinyl window, new; 15 boxes Inca "Z" bricks; misc. vinyl siding, shingles, roofing tin; misc. plumbing and electrical supplies; 14-18"x18" patio pavers; misc. lumber, planking, doors, building materials, windows; Wayne Dalton 9x7 garage door, NIB; 4 sections class A chimney; scaffolding w/ rollers, braces and planking; cement tools; **HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:** wooden dining room set, 6 chairs; Sanyo 42" flatscreen TV; wood writing desk; upholstered furniture; dishes, glassware, silverware, pots, pans; small electric appliances; Kenmore mini freezer; Whirlpool 32"H refrigerator; electric mixer; china hutch, end tables, lamps; book shelves; Lane blonde cedar chest; modern bedroom set, quilts, linens, towels; wall hangings and knick knacks; bell collection; Singer Tradition sewing machine; double bed w/blonde headboard; electric typewriters; console stereo; file cabinets; floor safe; desk chair; fans; radios, boom boxes; holiday décor; **ANTIQUES and COLLECTIBLES:** Buffet; Library table; Iron double bed; chrome kitchen set w/4 chairs; National Hockey table top game; Chef cookie jar; 3 pc bedroom set; 25 cent table top slot machine; 25 cent slot machine w/stand; Enterprise meat grinder w/wheel and belt; camp stove; trunk; Music Aire plastic radio; Rampart 8 track tape player; Pabst Blue Ribbon ice bucket; toys and games; metal kitchen scales; Tonka toys; egg baskets; **MANY OTHER ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION**

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Arvin & Shirley Ernst, Estate-Owner

CLERK: Trocke Auctioneers, LLC & Associates St. Peter, MN
AUCTIONEERS: Peter J. Trocke, St. Peter, MN Lic. # 52-22-007 (507) 382-8092
Tim Fahey, Norwood-Young America, MN Lic. # 10-11 (612) 282-5832
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Steele County Times
Blooming Prairie, Owatonna, Medford, Ellendale
Box 247, Blooming Prairie 55917 • 507-583-4431
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Waseca County Pioneer
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Janesville Journal
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The Messengers
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POLARIS ATV • SKID LOADER • GUNS ANVILS • ANTIQUES COLLECTIBLES



SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023 • 9:00 A.M.

LOCATION: From Ellendale, MN, 2 1/2 miles southwest on Cty. Rd. 14 (or 52nd Ave.), then 1 mile south on 770th Ave.

Auctioneer's Note: After 45 years of collecting antiques, the Langlies have decided to hold a public auction. This is only a partial list of the many collectible items to be sold. Mark your calendars and hope to see you auction day. **Tracy Holland**

POLARIS ATV • SKID LOADER • GUNS • ANVILS • GAS PUMP TOYS • ANTIQUES • COLLECTIBLES • OUTDOOR ITEMS • MISC.

- 2011 Polaris Sportsman 550 ATV, 4x4, 890 miles, one owner (to sell at 12 noon) • Old Wayne gas pump • 290lb Anvil 32" • Case 1816B skid loader • J.D. 290 planter • Dump rake • 10' field digger; 3 sets of scaffolding • 2 hand corn shellers • 5'x10' dog kennel • Rigid pipe stand • Misc. steel • Hand tools • Pit Boss pellet grill • 4 old boat motors • Acetylene torch • Building supplies • Old tools • Wood planes • J.D. 70, 1/18th scale • Diecast toys • Several anvils • Cracker Jack prizes • Pioneer hybrid memorabilia • Old cloth seed sacks • Key Stone steam roller • Old hand push sickle mower • Bar memorabilia • Toy tractors • Local advertising items • Misc. hunting & fishing items • Milk bottles • Tractor & Implement & Dealer manuals • Geneva market plates • Old trunks • Beer signs • Galvanized tubs • Many advertising items



GUNS TO SELL AT 11:00 A.M.
Winchester Model 37 single-shot 16 ga. • Winchester Model 37 single-shot 12 ga. • Gibbs Rifle Col 28 ga. over-under, nice carving • Springfield Model 10 single-shot 12 ga. • J.Stevens Arms 410 single-shot • ACME Model 1896 single-shot, Davenport Firearms 12 ga. • Ruger 10-22 auto, stainless, 22 cal. • Remington model 870 Camo, 3" less, 12 ga. (like New) • 4 misc. BB & pellet guns

Terms: Cash or good check & picture ID required. 10% buyer's fee applies to all items. No property removed until fully settled for. Sales staff and owners not responsible for accidents. Any verbal announcements made day of auction takes precedence over print. Lunch and restroom on site. **CLERK: Holland Auction LLC**

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Auctioneers:
Tracy Holland and Associates
Ellendale, MN #7405002
(507) 684-2955 or
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Important notice:
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Contact Tina Mittelsteadt 507-351-4608
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507-833-SEEK(7335)
Store hours: W-T-F: 10 am - 6 pm, Sat: 9 am - noon

Red Gate Alpaca Farm

(continued from page 10)

Genetics include things like fiber quality, fineness of fleece, volume of fleece, etc. Each year RGAF strives to improve on fiber qualities to benefit their flock as well as their standing in the national alpaca network.

There is only one species of alpaca - but two fleece types, often referred to as breeds. They are huacaya (pronounced wah-KI'-ya) and suri (pronounced surrey). The huacaya fleece is commonly described as looking like a "teddy bear" and the suri fleece as looking like "dreadlocks." The fiber of the suri alpaca is rarer and more highly prized than that of the huacaya. Suri fleece is soft as cashmere, warmer than wool and has the luster of silk.

All 75 members of the RGAF flock are suris and range in hue from white to jet black. Light rose grey is the rarest color and accounts for only 1% of registered animals in the Alpaca Owners Association (AOA).

I met Boreus and his sister, Aurora, who both had this gorgeous unusual coloring. Alpacas are very intelligent animals. They're amazingly alert and easily trained to halter and lead.

They constantly communicate with each other through body posture, tail and ear movements as well as a variety of sounds.

Alpacas are herbivores meaning they only eat vegetation. Some of their favorite treats include carrots, apples, broccoli stalks, and turnips. The average lifespan is 15 to 20 years. The females will spend most of their life pregnant starting at age 2-3. An average pregnancy can last 11-12 months although RGAF had one female that went an amazing 373 days before giving birth.

The babies (aka cria) stay with mom for about 6 months to nurse. A healthy female can be rebred within 21 days of giving birth. Teri mentioned the animals like being pregnant and really enjoy being moms. "They can take one sniff and know immediately which cria belongs to them," said Teri. Kraig said they also see color which helps the young animals identify their mom in the midst of a large herd.

When discussing alpacas as a business, there are several different ways they produce income. Using the animals as breeding stock brings in different fees depending on the rarity. I met SW (Secret Weapon) who had produced (40) champion offspring and had a stud fee of \$2,500.

Yet another valuable business component is alpaca compost which is commonly referred to as "Black Gold." One of the un-



Teri & Kraig Quamme

usual things about alpacas is that they fully utilize their food within 50 hours of eating. This results in manure pellets that have very little odor and are able to be placed directly on and around even the most delicate plants. Alpaca compost is lower in organic matter than the manure of most other livestock such as cows, horses, goats & sheep, yet it's perfect enough to improve soil texture and water holding capacities. It has the added benefit of not needing to be composted (aged or cured) prior to using and doesn't carry the salmonella bacteria. It's also an effective deer repellent, yet almost odorless to humans.

The third income source is the actual fiber of the animal. Teri is the one in charge of selling this end product. Llamas and alpacas are both used for fiber production, but the alpaca is the true champ in this area. Alpacas sport an incredibly soft fleece that is highly prized for being strong, yet surprisingly lightweight and warm. Some crafty people like to purchase it "right off the animal" as they prefer to clean and card it themselves, basically doing the whole process. Some fiber from RGAF gets sent out in bulk to be made into yarn and samples of final products are sold in their on-site store.

The animals are also shown at alpaca shows and compete with farms from all over the United States. A big farm might have hundreds of alpacas and a huge investment which could run up to \$50,000 per animal. Teri and Kraig have a smaller herd but consider themselves lucky to compete at a high level due to the quality genetics and care they put into their animals.

Some of their competitors have big farms, bigger budgets and full-time staff. RGAF is a currently a part-time business for the Quammes, but as they head toward retirement, it will become full-time. Kraig spent years as a self-employed contractor and is currently a full-time Senior Project Manager for Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare. Teri spent years as a Surgical Assistant to a periodontist and then transitioned into her current position as an educational assistant in the Special Education program at Northfield High School.

"You can have the worst day at work and come out to the barn and get some love. That's why we do it. That makes all the hard work worthwhile," said Kraig.

When the animals are being shown, most judges are looking for 50% confirmation (straight legs, straight topline, and a balanced frame). They will check the bite, feel the tail and basically do a full body evaluation. The other 50% of the judging equation is concentrated on the fiber qualities of the animal (luster, lock structure, density, uniformity, and micron which is the diameter of the wool fiber).

For example, alpaca wool fiber is approximately 23.1 - 26.5 micron. Baby alpaca is about 14 - 23 micron and human hair is about 60 micron. The fiber diameter increases when the animals age. Baby alpaca is softer than regular alpaca and is often shorn from the "blanket" (back area). The most precious category of alpaca fiber is royal alpaca which is the finest and softest fiber the animal produces.

The fleece is left long when the animals are going to be shown which gives them their slightly quirky appearance. Alpacas should be sheared every year but generally, no bathing or brushing is required.

They have long bangs covering their huge dark eyes and are usually accompanied by a wonky set of teeth protruding from their lower jaw.

Spring and summer become a busy time at the farm as it's birthing season. This is a great time of year to visit.

Alpacas find dealing with the summer heat and humidity challenging. They require at least 5 liters of water each per day. It goes without saying that they need to be sheared before the summer heat ramps up.

Suffice to say, I learned a lot only a few minutes from my own home. I was nuzzled by a girl named Sable and got the side-eye from a teenager named Ricco. These gentle animals were as curious about me as I was about them!

If you want to visit the farm, you just need to make an appointment. They welcome visitors and are soon to roll out an "Adopt an Alpaca Program." So, if you're interested in having an animal named after you, volunteering at the farm, or just supporting an interesting small business, give them a call!

Red Gate Alpaca Farm
11751 Dundas Blvd.
Dundas, MN 55019
(612) 919-6903



Friday, May 19th

4:00 p.m.

Lutefisk Dinner – Lands Lutheran Church

Saturday, May 20th

7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**Wanamingo Community Center
Pancake Breakfast - Lions Club**

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Vendor Show – Riverview Manor
750 3rd Ave S. Wanamingo, MN
Crafters and Home-Based Businesses & Garage Sales

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Norwegian Meal – JB's Tavern

City Wide Garage Sales

Pick up flyers & maps at Area 57 or Security State Bank beginning on Thursday, May 18th

Sign up for City-wide garage sale by Tuesday May 16th at City of Wanamingo, or Wanamingo Mutual Insurance Company. Or call/email Beth Smith at 507-824-2912 – b.smith@wgomutual.com



Sunday, May 21st

Katie Peterson Memorial 5K Walk/Jog/Run

Registration at 12:30 p.m.

Wanamingo Community Center

Race Starts at 1:00 p.m.

**CITY OF WANAMINGO
City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, April 10, 2023 7:00 P.M.
Wanamingo City Council Chambers –
401 Main Street
Wanamingo, MN**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.
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, Jason Boynton – Smith Schafer & Associates, and Josh McGovern – Kenyon Leader.

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

CONSENT AGENDA: Dierks motioned, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

A) Brad Kennedy reported on:

1) Plowed Snow, moved snow from cul-de-sacs, and sanded the streets

Received cold mix from Goodhue County public works and filled pot holes around town. Waiting to get additional cold mix to fill in more pot holes.

2) Street Sweeper was used the first time and swept seven loads.

3) Replaced twenty-five (25) water meters around town in the past month. Have roughly ten (10) more meters to replace before the trailer court and Groth Implement. All other meters have been replaced.

4) Last year's asphalt patch on Nelson Drive has failed, making a sink hole. Staff have

placed cones and barricades out so that vehicles don't get wrecked. R.A.W. Construction LLC, the watermain installation contractor, is required to make repairs as part of the contract/warranty work.

5) Four water gate valves were repaired with the curb cutter machine. The metal gate valves get damaged with snow removal. Staff have identified and will repair other gate valves in the coming month.

6) Emerald Valley Estates II Addition barricades are up to stop traffic from driving in the undeveloped area during thaw. In past years vehicles have gotten stuck and made ruts. Large traffic barriers and chains with caution tape with linked to reflector sign posts on the North end of Nelson Drive and the East and West entrances off 3rd Street E.

7) The contractor for Johnson Hardware Co., LLC installed the aluminum and glass doors on the rear entrances to City Hall and the Community Center. The door locks are keyed to the old door locks be some may need replacement keys. The older locking mechanism and keys have rounded over time.

8) Main Street sidewalk benches and garbage cans were placed out for the season.

9) The Mingo View Drive water tower demolition took place earlier today. The downtown water tower is scheduled for removal by Iseler Demolition April 12th. The hydrant relocation near the Mingo View Drive tower had to be changed to accommodate less than expected cover. Additional parts have been ordered to move the location to ensure proper cover.

10) One-ton Chevrolet pick-up has been repaired by River Road Repair and is back in

service.

11) Staff started sewer jetting. The entire community sanitary sewer main system is scheduled to be jetted in 2023. The jetting in Prairie Ridge Estates helped to identify two leaking manholes that need repair.

12) City staff identified damage to the Falls plow. The angle iron at the bottom of the plow has been warped so that new cutting edges can not be installed. Staff are working with Scott Meyers to either order a replacement 'frog' or have Meyers manufacture and beef up a new 'frog' bottom to the plow. Parts through Falls plow distributing is \$1,200 for the 'frog' edge plus roughly \$500 for additional bracing.

A memo was provided by Administrator Boulton regarding 2023 street maintenance work. In the 2023 budgeting process the City Council had dedicated \$50,000 from reserves along with \$50,000 from 2023 General Fund budget for street maintenance (crack filling and/or seal coating). However, other street maintenance preparation work and constraints to the general fund will require the City to postpone crack filling and seal coating.

There are a number of manhole casting in streets that should be adjusted (remove and replace) and sealed. These manholes are being hit by snow plows and should be adjusted and sealed before seal coating takes place. Some of the manholes require injection grout barrel joints to stop leaks. There are thirty-two (32) identified manholes that require adjustment and sealing. The costs to

adjust thirty-two (32) manholes is \$51,200. It is estimated that five (5) manholes are leaking and require injection grout barrel joints which would cost \$1,750. The work and weakened manhole casting could damage casting when they are adjusted. The maintenance staff plans to purchase three (3) casting frames/lids and three (3) casting frames to have on hand in case they are damaged during the adjustment process. The estimated cost for the combination manhole casting frames/lids are \$2,050.

There is additional work that will need to be completed in 2023. There are two leaking valves for hydrants located at Beverly Street/Main Street and 1st Avenue/4th Street that will need to be repaired. The excavation process will include curb/gutter and asphalt removal. The cost for both the curb/gutter and asphalt repairs are estimated at \$4,000 while the curb/gutter and asphalt repairs are estimated at \$3,500. There is additional work needed to repair curb/gutter and replace asphalt for a manhole adjustment located at the corner of Hill Avenue and 2nd Street E. This work is estimated at \$1,500. There is a dip in the road located in the 800 block of 9th Street (Prairie Ridge Estates) that needs to be put out and asphalt patched. This work is estimated at \$10,000. There will be additional asphalt patching identified before the work is completed which could add an additional \$10,000 to the budgeting.

(continued on page 21)

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Wanamingo City Council Meeting

(continued from page 20)

The plan is to work with Schumacher Excavating to coordinate asphalt patching and preparation work when they are working on Jefferson Drive project this summer in Zumbrota.

The repairs to the manholes will help in snow removal process, reduce inflow and infiltration, and help reduce bumps in road. The hope is to reduce wear and tear along with costs for snow plow equipment. This preparation work is advance work for future seal coating. This will address all of the Prairie Ridge Estates manholes and some of the worst manholes in various locations around town. The total costs for the manhole repairs and preparation work (curb/gutter replacement and asphalt patching) are estimated at \$84,000. The City staff plans to carry out these repairs and postpone any crack sealing or seal coating for a future year project. The City staff is conscientious of constraints to the general fund caused by inflation. By staying under the \$100,000 street maintenance budget this should help ease the 2023 general fund budget constraints.

Kennedy stated that the damage to the pay loader plow was more than likely caused by manholes that were higher than the asphalt. Holmes stated that the manhole work is a priority and needs to be repaired so that snow removal equipment does not sustain additional damage.

B) Jason Boynton of Smith Schafer & Associates reported on:

- 1) Conducted a presentation of the 2022 Wanamingo City Audit
- 2) No large (State or Federal) single audit required for 2022
- 3) There is limited segregation of duties in the small office – yearly recommendation for small staff communities. This is not possible with a small office staff.
- 4) The audit completion letter showed no disagreements with management
- 5) Paid down \$621,000 of debt in 2022
- 6) Advanced refunding bonds paid off in 2022
- 7) The general fund showed a \$63,223 (Roughly \$80,000 budgeted but not spent on Prairie Ridge Estate Park Shelter and general street maintenance that will be spent in 2023) surplus in 2022. Water fund showed an increase in cash of \$1,082,274 274 (\$276,704 not part of unspent bond proceeds) cash balance at the end of 2022. Sewer fund showed an increase of cash of \$55,810 while having \$568,818 in cash.
- 8) Recommend keeping an eye on water and

sewer billing rates so that they are keeping up with operational costs and future capital needs.

Flotterud asked what the plans were for the Sanitation fund balance. Boulton stated that \$1 is charged above and beyond the Waste Management contract to cover a portion of the utility billing. In the past the City has paid for utility billing software and computer purchases. Future fund transfers to the Water and Sewer funds could occur. Dierks asked if the Medical Center suites are full. Boulton stated that Heidi Smith had leased one suite while Reckitt/Mead Johnson had leased the remaining two vacant suites in 2022. Flotterud asked if there were any Heritage Hills/SEMMCHRA updates. Boulton stated that the only changes in 2022 were a draw down with operating/capital requests and the City paid back the fund to keep it at \$50,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION:

RESOLUTION 23-021 = Accepting the 2022 Wanamingo Audit: Flotterud moved to approve, seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

RESOLUTION 23-022 = Authorizing the Order and Purchase of Accessories for a New Street Department Ford F550 Utilizing State Cooperative Pricing Through Crysteel Truck Equipment: Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Dierks. Kennedy stated that the City would be ordering the Ford F-550 truck chassis through Midway Ford when the State bid process opens up. Kennedy stated that last year's truck chassis pricing was \$55,584.79 and are expected to be similar. Kennedy stated that the box, plow, wing, tool box, pull plate, hauling system, hydraulic & controls, light bars & strobes would be ordered through Crysteel Truck Equipment. Kennedy stated that the cooperative pricing for the truck accessories totaled \$82,447. Dierks asked if the proposed new truck would be replacing another City vehicle. Kennedy stated that it would be replacing the 1984 orange Ford dump truck. Boulton stated that the truck and accessories purchase would be paid for through the Street Capital Fund (216) which will have \$82,000 in in at the end of 2024. Boulton stated that the remaining \$57,000 is planned to be transferred from the 336 Street fund which will be created in 2024 for a future street project. Flotterud asked if the maintenance staff planned to change how snow plowing is conducted with the new snow plowing truck. Kennedy stated that the vehicle would be an easier was to salt/sand streets and clear intersections. Kennedy stated that the staff would be able to plow most of town when there is minimal snow and save City fuel and wear/tear on pay

loaders. Kennedy also added that 440th Street/Mingo View Drive would be able to be completed with one trip rather than three (Plow, salt/sand/wing would snow). Flotterud asked if the maintenance staff could ever take over Main Street and side streets snow removal. Kennedy stated that there are ways to do this but would require purchasing additional equipment. Kennedy stated that this would cause delays in snow removal. Passed 5-0-0.

RESOLUTION 23-023 = Approving City Tobacco License in 2023 for Casey's General Stores: Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. Boulton stated that he and Karen Masters had consulted with Mayor Holmes to issue the Tobacco License on April 4th prior to the Council meeting. This was to accommodate Casey's planned first day open. Passed 5-0-0.

RESOLUTION 23-024 = In Support of Minnesota House File 1285 and Minnesota Senate File 1953 – Removing TIF Housing District Income Requirements for Greater Minnesota: Haugen moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that the State laws regarding how Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is utilized for housing purposes limits the use of the tool. By removing income requirements for Greater Minnesota, the TIF tool would be easier to utilize in all forms of housing development. Passed 5-0-0.

RESOLUTION 23-025 = In Support of Minnesota House File 2560 and Minnesota Senate File 3087 - \$350,000 Appropriation for Grant to City of Chatfield to Develop Transportation Management Organization in SE MN: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Flotterud asked what the TMO was for. Melissa Meyers stated that the desire for a SE MN TMO came about due to Mayo Clinic no longer heavily subsidizing park and ride busing services in many Rochester area communities. Mayo Clinic found that they could save substantial money by no longer subsidizing the service after it was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a need to bring back some sort of park and ride service to Rochester in SE MN. Passed 5-0-0.

Administrator Boulton provided a memo on investment funds update. The City of Wanamingo is sitting on access funds for future bond payments, future projects, and reserves. The market for the City legally investing the funds has been flat (0.1% - 2%) for many years. Over the past month the investment interest rates have jumped significantly. Average 13-month CD rates have been between 4%-4-75%.

Mayor Holmes and Administrator Boulton researched CD rates at Security State Bank of Wanamingo, Frandsen Bank, ONB, and Ally. Security State Bank of Wanamingo was able to come up with 4.50% interest on a 13-month CD for the City of Wanamingo. Mayor Holmes and Administrator Boulton decided to keep the money local and invest in CD with Security State Bank of Wanamingo. The City will be investing a total of \$1 million in CDs over the next 13 months for 4.5%. We are creating four (4) \$250,000 CD's which will earn \$45,000 over the next 13 months. The interest earned will be accounted for under the general fund. These investments should leave plenty of funds for cash flow in checking account. The checking account, new CD's, the current CD,

and money market funds diversify the City investments. Flotterud asked why the City had not invested more of the funds earlier. Boulton stated that interest rates had been below 2% for the past few years. Boulton stated that the City had more cash on hand than past years due to the 2022 Water Storage, Well Upgrade, and Water Main Looping Project along with future bond payments, built up utility fund balances, and a healthy general fund. It was not feasible to have such a large investment, even a year or two ago.

OLD BUSINESS:

Administrator Boulton provided a North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District group update. The North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District group continues to meet monthly. The group has continued to gather information and work with our lobbyist on strategy for obtaining State funding in order to feasibly move forward with a joint sanitary sewer plant and collections system.

Zumbrota City Administrator Brian Grudem, Pine Island City Administrator Elizabeth Howard and Wanamingo City Administrator Michael Boulton (North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District Legislative Committee Member) continue to meet with House and Senate Capital Finance committee members. Since our March update we have met with Representative Cha (D), Senator Nelson (R), Representative West (R), Representative Meyers (R), Representative Quam (R), Senator Rasmussen (R), Senator Xiong (D), and Representative Quam. They are on Easter break from Wednesday this week to Wednesday April 12th. We are going back up the capitol during the week of April 17th through 21st to catch Senators and Representatives after sessions to be visible and make sure they keep our project in mind. We have one more meeting scheduled on Friday April 21st with Senator Pappas. Senator Pappas is the Capital Finance Committee chair bring added importance to the meeting.

The sewer district legislative committee also connect with Representative's Jacob, Altendorf and Daniels along with Senator's Jasinski and Draskowski each time we are at the capitol. These legislators are probably getting tired of seeing City representative. However, they better understand the importance and benefit of this project from an environmental and financial standpoint. This project should be seen as model for future sanitary districts throughout the state.

The members of the sewer district legislative committee continue to receive positive feedback. We are hopeful that our project will be included on the next bonding bill later in the legislative session.

Holmes acknowledged that it is bittersweet to see the historic downtown water tower be taken down. The long-term costs to keep the downtown tower made it not feasible compared to the tax base and other needs within Wanamingo that have to be met. The Mingo View water tower was removed on April 10th and the downtown water tower is scheduled to be removed April 11th.

*Next City Council meeting on 5/8/2023 at 7:00pm.

Adjourn: At 8:07 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Ohr and seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest:

Michael Boulton, City Administrator

Commissioner Corner

Greetings from Todd Greseth, Goodhue County Commissioner District 3

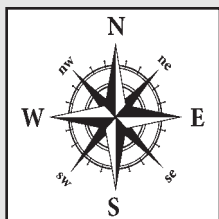
Spring is here finally, please stay cautious and patient as the farm equipment is out on our roads. I want to say to all of our farmers "Stay Safe". It is only May but we are already starting our budget talks for 2024, it's never too early. I want to say a big thank you to Greg Isakson who has retired as our county engineer and a big welcome to Jess Greenwood who has accepted his new position as county engineer. We have started another pay study and are focusing on filling staff positions that are currently vacant. Please keep watching our website, there are always things going on in Goodhue County. As always please contact me with any questions or concerns

Todd Greseth



Todd Greseth
Goodhue County
Commissioner
District 3

Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes **Horse Sense and Character**



By Terry Campbell

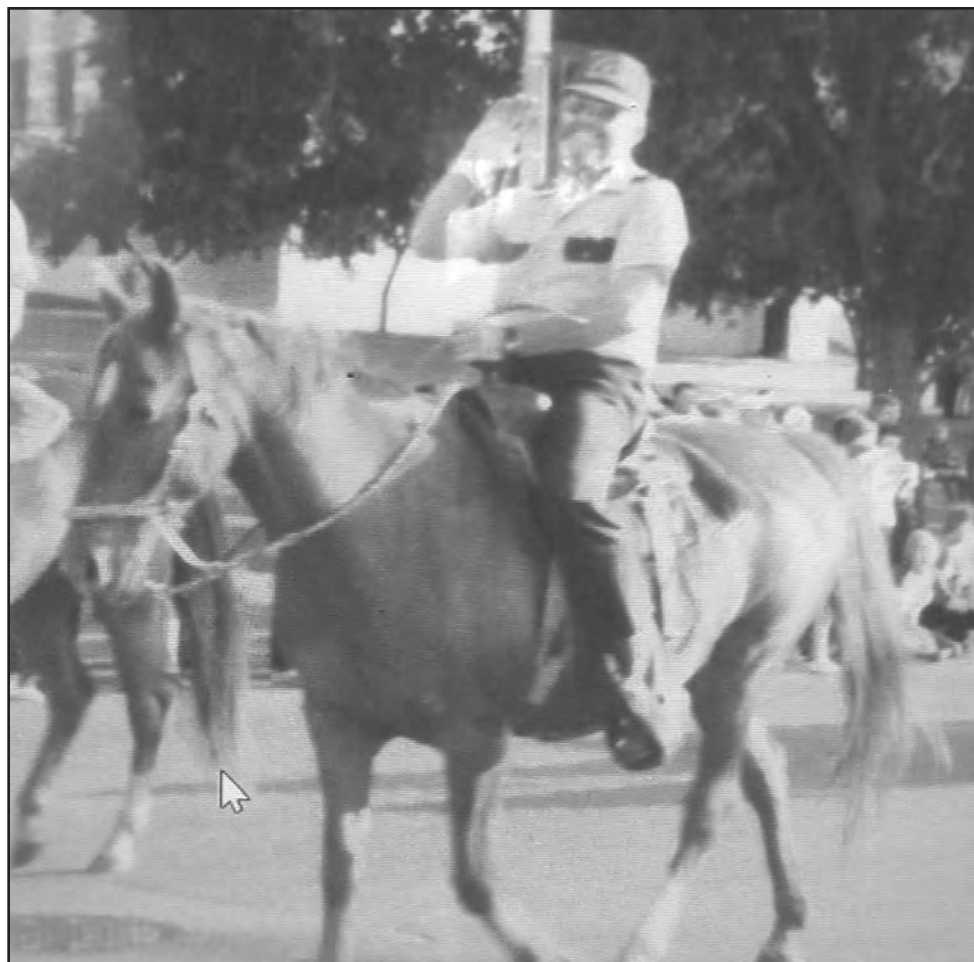
This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

This is a picture of my dad from 1984. I grew up with horses, but my dad did not like them very much. As a young kid he would take me to look at horses. He would wait while I rode them. And he would haul them back to the farm for me. There would be comments about how once cars were invented it was silly to go backwards to horse power. But once he joined the Sheriff's Mounted Posse it became a necessary evil. So, he bought this big Egyptian Arab geld-

ing. Azibelli loved to run and if you gave him his head he would flat out run like the wind. There is something exhilarating about pounding down the road on the back of a powerful horse, feeling as one with the beast, knowing that one miss step would likely be catastrophic. I was young and willing to risk life and limb on the back of this steed, even though I was a quarter horse guy and never much cared for Arabians, because this horse could run. I don't believe though, that my dad ever rode him at more than a walk.

My dad was very opinionated and stubborn and we butted heads often since I was the same way. He had me with more experience though. Anyone who has owned an Arabian knows what stubborn is. My dad loved a good theological argument with anyone who would engage him. He was certain he could make someone believe in Jesus if he just could talk to them long enough.

One incident I recall had little to do with horses and happened a few years earlier in life. It had to do with an old yellow school bus. As I recall, Dale Blanshan and a couple guys embarked on a cross country trip in a school bus. They were strumming and singing their way out west. They had the same idea my dad had, but they were more musical about it. I was around ten at this time, so my recollection may be a little hazy. At one point the bus broke down a long way from home and they needed funds for repair. My dad went to wire them money but it was a Saturday and the banks were closed. The only place to get cash for the wire transfer was the liquor store. My dad headed into West Concord to the Muni for \$300. The



Dad on Azibelli

guys at the liquor store had no idea who my dad was and questioned why they should let him write a check for cash. One might wonder how my dad could live his whole life in West Concord and there be people who didn't know him, but this was his first trip into the liquor store. If you knew my dad, you would know that too. So while he was trying to procure greenbacks with a check for three young guys on the other side of the USA in a broke down yellow school bus, Al Renner the hardware store owner showed up as a credit reference. When asked if my dad's check was good, Al said, "If Dana writes a check for a million dollars it will be good."

I was a young kid and a million dollars

sounded like a whole lot of money. I was certain that a poor farm family in Dodge County did not have that kind of money. So I wondered why someone would say that, not knowing our financial situation. In fact, I don't believe anyone one I knew could write a check for a million dollars. Over the last fifty years I have pondered this conversation and eventually came to understand it. It wasn't that my dad had a million dollars in his checking account. It was that he had a reputation of being a man of his word and if he said something it was backed up with integrity and truth. And that is worth more than a million dollars.

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A Minnesotan: The Problem With Geese



By RosaLin Alcoser

There is nothing I fear more on this earth than geese... well maybe snakes, but geese are the more intimate threat. Because here in Minnesota geese are everywhere.

Geese are at the park, in the parking lot, on the sidewalks, and even standing in the middle of the freeway in some cases- like they own the place.

It started out when I was a small child and the geese would chase me around the park honking. Since I was about the same size as them I guess it made sense that they were going after me.

Thankfully in response to these attacks my sister would chase the geese away from me so that I was not mauled to death by a goose at age six.

However, it did not stop as I got older. To this day geese will still chase me if given

the chance. Now I can out run the geese or avoid them all together.

When I was in community college in Rochester the geese that would hang out on campus would chase me across the campus on an almost daily basis. Which my mother did not believe was happening until she saw me take off running at the sound of 'Honk! Honk!' and a flock of geese start charging at me.

Don't worry I made it to the car before the geese caught up to me and lived to tell the tale.

My fear is not just limited to grease either. It does extend to water brands as a whole. I have also been attacked by ducks and gulls. The only reason the loons, swans and cranes have not gotten to me is because I am not fool enough to go anywhere close to them after the incident with the duck.

A couple years later when I was in University back south I was at the park with some friends. We were sitting on a bench watching the ducks, but not doing anything to the ducks. When a duck walked up to me and bit me on the leg with its serrated beak.

While ducks do not have teeth it does hurt when they bite you with their serrated beaks.

It is because of that duck and many, many geese that I now stay clear of all water birds. As I now live under the belief that if I give them space they just might not try to kill me... or at least not have the opportunity to.

P.S. as I write this two ducks have landed on my patio and taunted me with their serrated beaks.

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