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NERSTRAND

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MAY, 2023

Volume 20 • Issue 8

Vang/St. John's Lutheran Ice Cream Social

This summer, Vang will host an ice cream social together with members of St. John's Lutheran in Northfield. This came about when the St. John's Adult Ministry board contacted Vang wanting to learn more about our congregation and community. This event will feature music, fellowship, ice cream, a presentation from Rene Koester, and other activities.

WHAT: Vang/St. John's event

WHEN: Wednesday, June 21, 7:00 PM

WHERE: Vang Lutheran Church

New K-W Superintendent Hired

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 candidates 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



Beth Giese

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.

Chili Feed & Bingo at Nerstrand Fire Hall



Courtesy of Nerstrand Fire & Rescue

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the Nerstrand Volunteer Fire Department and the Nerstrand Elementary School. What a fun night!

(additional pictures on page 4)

Announcements

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

• **Dennison Lions Club** meets monthly. During COVID-19, meeting times may vary.

• **Dennison City Council** meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Goodhue Volksfest June 9-11

Goodhue Volksfest is June 9-11. Their full schedule is online at www.goodhuevolksfest.com.

Their entertainment lineup includes:

June 9: Blondage, Lone Jett and the Brokenhearts, KC/DC Tribute to AC/DC.

June 10: Bryan Anderson, Lost Highway, Granger Smith Featuring Earl Dubbles Jr.

MEMORIAL WEEKEND HOURS

Open Normal Hours
Friday and Saturday
Closed Sunday



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Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM-9:30 PM; Sunday 9:00 AM-2:30 PM

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Come to the Table

Excuses- we've all heard some remarkable ones over the years- especially if you are in any type of position of authority. We have excuses for being late, for losing homework, for forgetting birthdays, for most everything! I'm not sure if it would be teachers or insurance companies who have heard the most creative excuses- but here is a list compiled by Readers Digest from actual insurance company reports: 10 Bizarre Excuses for a car accident:

- "I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law, and headed over the embankment."
- "The other car collided with mine without giving me warning of its intention."
- "I was sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the road when I struck him."
- "Going to work at 7:00 this morning I drove out of my driveway straight into a bus. The bus was 5 minutes early."
- "My car was legally parked as it backed into another vehicle."
- "I didn't think the speed limit applied after midnight."
- "Windshield broken. Cause unknown. Probably voodoo."
- "I started to slow down, but the traffic was more stationary than I thought."
- "I knew the dog was possessive about the car, but I would not have asked her to drive it if I thought there was any risk."
- "No one was to blame for the accident, but it would never have happened if the other driver had been alert."

We laugh at these excuses! Sadly, many of us are guilty of having excuses for things that we don't want to do, places or people we don't want to see, and we even have excuses for our lack of growth in our faith. So many excuses—so little time to use them all.

Jesus knew all the excuses. Of course, the excuses used in the 1st century are a bit different than those used today- but people have

had excuses for their lack of commitment to God since the beginning. Jesus is teaching the crowds in Luke 14, and he shares a parable addressing some of those excuses and their implications to one's faith and future. Luke 14:15-21

The people of Israel – the Jewish people had ALL been invited to the great banquet. The master of this banquet wanted to have a huge feast and to have all the places at the table full. He had enough for all those invited.

The servant goes out and lets those that were invited know it's time. But instead of grabbing their coats, or their dates, they give lame excuses. Not even creative or good excuses. The first person says, I bought some land- and I need to look at it. Crazy! Even if he had bought some land- he had probably already looked at it before he purchased it and if he hadn't... that land would have still been in the same place the next day- but this guy just wasn't interested- 'I have more important things to do than go to your banquet. I have my own plans, my own way to live and I'm comfortable just staying put.'

The second guy had just bought some oxen- he had bought 10 oxen and hadn't tried them out... not a very smart farmer! If you are buying animals to work together in your fields- you would make sure they could work in a yoke together before you purchased them. Again, another flimsy excuse that even the servant of the Master saw through. Again, the lure of the things of this

life are far more important than God's call to the people of Israel. They are comfortable and they like the way things are- they have no interest in attending the banquet that the man had prepared for them.

Lastly there was a guest whose excuse was that he was recently married and couldn't come. I'm sure that his wife would have joined him in this great feast! But again, this banquet didn't interest him. He had better, more important things to do- or so he thought.

The guests- the people of Israel were very comfortable the way they were. They had no desire to change. Jesus said- I'm here and the feast is ready! But when Jesus came, they rejected Him. They ignored Him, they persecuted Him. They would only attend this banquet on their own terms or not at all. Their possessions and position were more important than answering the call to come to supper.

Are we guilty of putting our plans and our timeline ahead of God's plans for us? When Jesus says, come aside and let's eat- do we say, 'just a minute- I've got to finish this?' Do we put off our faith for a more convenient time? Do we begin to make excuses to why we can't possibly be expected to come right now!

When the servant returns and tells the man putting on the banquet- they guy is ANGRY!!! He has all this food, all this stuff prepared, and no one is coming. Well, forget those guys... instead go out and invite

everyone you see! Invite those people that are the less fortunate, the forgotten, the 'unclean' and unimportant in the eyes of the Pharisees and religious leaders. The master is not satisfied with a partially full banquet hall; he wants every place at the table to be filled.

The servant went out even farther- find anyone you can to come and join the dinner- there is room for anyone that accepts the invitation to come and partake of the banquet. The new guests can hardly believe that they have been included! They accept the invitation and fill the banquet table. This is where we come in- this is referred to as the 'calling of the gentiles- and the church is full of them!!!'

Many come to the banquet- AND there is still room!!!

- The meal is prepared for those that are thankful to be invited.
 - The poor and humble are welcome.
 - The least likely often benefit the most.
 - We- the servants- must be quick and persistent to invite all that we can
 - There is still room for more!
 - One day Christ's house will be filled!
- "God isn't willing that any should perish," 2 Peter 3:9. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved," Romans 10:13.

We are to go and tell. The followers of Jesus are the servants that are to invite those along the road- everyone, everywhere- to this great banquet.

The Table is ready- and you have an invitation- are you coming?

LUTHERAN

Dennison/Vang Lutheran Parish
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN • 507-645-6042
Website: www.dennisonvang.org

Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com

Pastor Paul A. Graham

Summer Worship Schedule

During the summer months, there will be one combined service on Sundays. In June, worship will be at Vang at 9:00 AM. In July, worship will be at Dennison at 9:00 AM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

METHODIST

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

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

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

HOLDEN-DALE PARISH

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



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Pastor Paul A. Graham

Dennison-Vang Lutheran Parish seeks to be a loving presence in the community in Christ's name. We are a community of faith that makes a difference through worship and serving outside our walls. If you are looking for something more in your life, come check us out!

37514 3rd Avenue, Dennison, MN 55018

Website: www.dennisonvang.org

E-MAIL ADDRESS: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com

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Centering Prayer Group

Centering Prayer is a form of contemplative prayer, to center awareness on the presence of God. Centering prayer is a powerful way to connect with God and with one another. The Centering Prayer group meets weekly on Sunday evenings at 6:00 PM via Zoom. The zoom link can be found on the church website. No experience necessary. All are welcome.

Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity

There will be a new Habitat for Humanity build site starting in Wannamingo. We are working with Habitat on organizing volunteers to help. Be looking for more information about volunteer opportunities in July.

Special Guest Coming Sunday, June 4

On Sunday, June 4, we will welcome Rev. Emily Carson, Assistant to the Bishop in the Southeastern Minnesota synod. Rev. Carson will preach and help lead worship, and be available for conversation following the service.

Mary Heggedahl

Mary Heggedahl, age 77, of Nerstrand, passed away April 30, 2023, at Mayo Clinic Hospital, St. Marys Campus in Rochester. She passed peacefully and was surrounded by loved ones.



A memorial service was held at Valley Grove Church, rural Nerstrand, on May 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. Reverend Gary Liker, officiated. Interment was at Valley Grove Cemetery. No visitation was held at the church but family greeted family and friends at a celebration of life and reception at the Nerstrand Fire Department following the interment in the church cemetery.

Visitation was held on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Mary Ann, the daughter of Rusty and Zorene (Brown) Henke, was born on August 17, 1945, in Zumbrota. She attended Faribault High School and married Clyde Owen Heggedahl on October 11, 1961, in Nerstrand. They had two children, Valerie and Jeff. Together, they owned and operated Nerstrand Meats & Catering, a thriving family business for 133 years and counting. At age 75, Mary fulfilled her dream of opening an ice cream shop next to the meat market. Boots and Lu's opened on September 29, 2021. Mary created an atmosphere of warmth and coziness for the community that she and Clyde loved so much. During her visits to the

Mayo Clinic her doctor would ask, "What can we do to help you, Mary?" and she'd reply, "Just get me back to work."

Mary dedicated herself to making a warm and loving home for her husband, children, and grandchildren, Mitch, Josie and Brady. For 20+ years, Mary and Clyde enjoyed watching their grandchildren (and friends), play every sport imaginable. They opened their home to all their grandchildren's friends, and Mary was known as "Grandma Mary" to everyone.

Mary volunteered and enjoyed several years as a kindergarten aid and was active in the Nerstrand Women's Club. Mary enjoyed cooking for her family, gardening, baking, Halloween parties, decorating for Christmas, reading, writing down recipes, watching scary movies, and ice cream. Over the last couple of years, Mary and her daughter, Valerie, thoroughly enjoyed finding humor in the strangest places. Above all, Mary devoted her life to family and friends who she loved with all her heart.

Mary will be lovingly remembered by her daughter and son-in-law, Tom and Valerie Kuchinka of Lake City; daughter-in-law, Laura Westby of Switzerland; three grandchildren, Mitch (and Kristine), Josie, and Brady Kuchinka; brother, Terry (and Diana) Henke; sisters, Dorothy Pearl, Becky (and Danny) Carlson, and Ava (and Patrick) Shields; several nieces and nephews; dear friend, Andrea (and Chad) Lee; and the Lake City families and friends.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Zorene (and Chuck) Sautner and Rusty (and Norma) Henke; her husband, Clyde Heggedahl and son, Jeff Heggedahl.

As you celebrate this important milestone in your life, we extend our warm congratulations and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Way to go!

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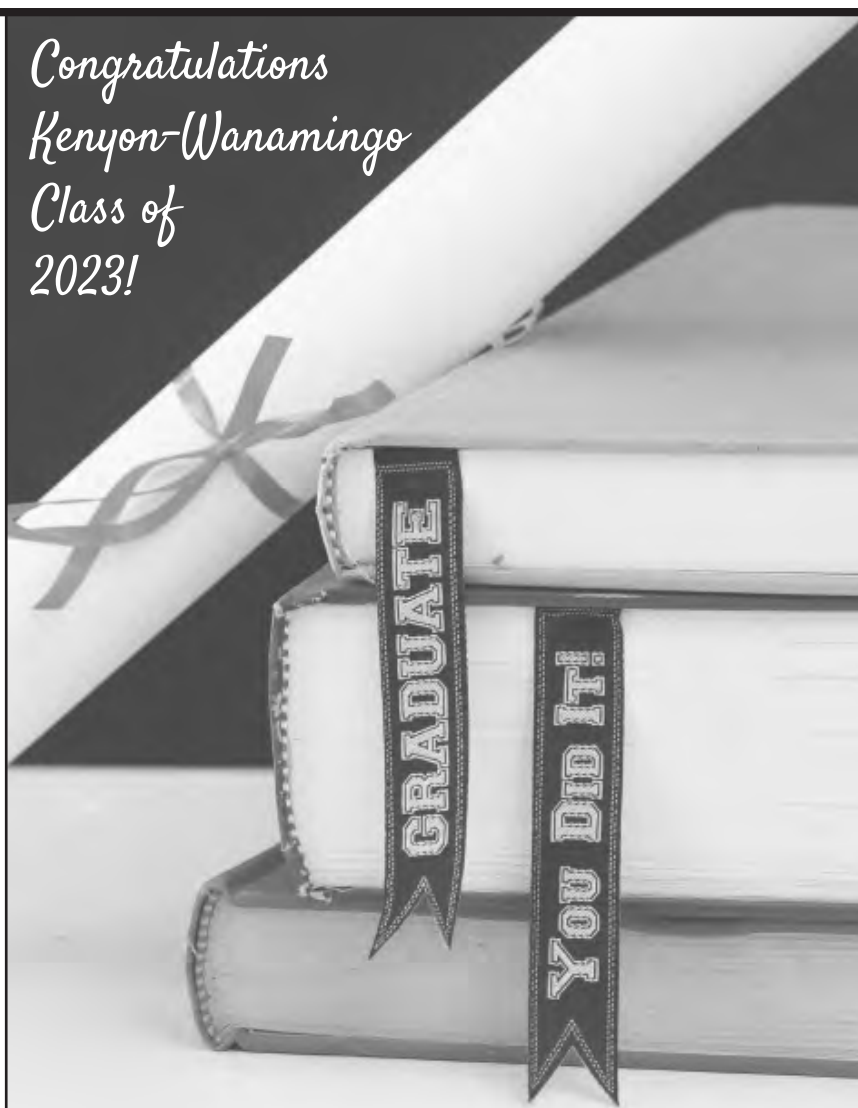
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*Congratulations
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Chili Feed & Bingo



Gold Star Amusements on the midway!
Rides will run from 1:00pm-10:00pm



JULY 4th
GRANDE DAY PARADE
11:00am
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CANNON VALLEY FAIR ★ JULY 1-4, 2023

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JULY 1st: **THE SHEETROCKERS** 8:30 PM JULY 2nd: **CHICKEN RANCH DUO** 8:30 PM

JULY 3rd: **THE CHUBS** 8:30 PM JULY 4th: **BRYAN ANDERSON** 7:00 PM

WWW.CANNONVALLEYFAIR.ORG

The Gardens of Castle Rock announce Good Times @ The Gardens Live Summer Music Series

Northfield, MN: The Gardens of Castle Rock has announced it will be hosting Good Times @ The Gardens at the venue Wednesday evenings in June, July, and August. Good Times @ The Gardens is a live summer music series showcasing local and regional musicians. This event creates the perfect opportunity for guests to hear live music while enjoying the natural environment of The Gardens of Castle Rock. In addition, Eclectic Culinary Concepts, the catering arm of local restaurants like Lucky's 12 Pub, The Clover, Pajarito, Me & Julio, Yankee Tavern, The Mudd Room & JoJo's Italian will be providing a full bar with local beer and delicious menu items like: woodfired nachos, chicken Tinga or Korean beef street tacos and fresh salads. Entrance fee into the venue is \$5 and paid upon arriving. Couples who have booked their wedding at The Gardens in 2023 and 2023 receive two complimentary admissions.

Event is 16+. If raining, the event moves inside the venue's semipermanent tent. For more information, please visit the Good Times @ The Gardens page on The Garden's website.

- List of musicians:
- June 7 – Joyann Parker
 - June 14 – Trevor & Mary with Dan Lowinger
 - June 28 – Tony Cuchetti
 - July 5 – Cole Diamond
 - July 12 – Joshua Schmidt (Chapel of M Night)
 - July 19 – Trevor & Mary with Dan Lowinger
 - July 26 – TBD
 - Aug 2 – Old Country Boys
 - Aug 9 – Dan Lowinger Four
 - Aug 16 – James Eugene Russell
 - Aug 23 – Becky Kapell
 - Aug 30 – TBD

The Gardens of Castle Rock provides a beautiful setting for outdoor wedding ceremonies, receptions, and special events. Located in the lower south metro, The Gardens is a short distance from the Twin Cities. The Gardens welcomes all! Couples that are looking to express who they are and share with family and friends in an environment that is grounded in beauty, nature and design. Where personal expressions are manifested in the ability to create an event that is truly unique. An event that is an extension of your values and beliefs found in your relationship.



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NERSTRAND FIREMAN'S DANCE




SAT. JULY 8



All are invited to a joint 80th Birthday party for **Lloyd Kispert and Rodney Rauk** on Saturday, June 3rd 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Nerstrand City Park.

Your presence is your gift.

The Best Is Yet To Come

Best wishes to all of this year's outstanding graduates!
We hope your big day is wonderful in every way.



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Share the Road with Farm Equipment

Since 2020, there were 391 crashes involving farm equipment in Minnesota, resulting in six deaths and 143 injuries. Inattentive driving and speed were the biggest contributing factors in those crashes. It can be frustrating to follow them at what feels like a turtle's pace, but safety should always be a priority. Farm equipment is large and heavy, making it difficult for operators to accelerate,



slow down and stop. The equipment makes wide turns and can cross over the center line. Farm vehicles can also create large blind spots, making it difficult for operators to see approaching vehicles behind them.

Motorists should:

Slow down and use caution when approaching farm equipment.

Watch for debris dropped by farm equipment.

Wait for a safe place to pass.

Drive with headlights on at all times.

Farm equipment operators should:

Use lights and flashers to make equipment more visible.

Use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 mph.

Consider using a follow vehicle when moving equipment, especially at night.

Please remember to watch for slow-moving farm equipment all summer. Be patient, be kind and share the road.

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Northwood Pines

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Luxury Living. Community Feel.

Northwood Pines includes luxurious finishes and is situated in a controlled-access, 10-apartment building offering spacious one-bedroom plus den apartments ranging from 588 to 742 square feet. Apartments feature large windows allowing for sunlight, private bathrooms and access to complimentary laundry facilities

Northwood Pines residents have access to an array of campus amenities, including:

- Spiritual care and Chapel services
- Fitness facilities and exercise classes
- Media center including local newspapers
- Salon for hair and nail services
- Movie theater with scheduled showings



Northfield Retirement Community
Innovation. Choice. Tradition.

Your Family Farm Can Benefit Southern Minnesota's Future



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

As president of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) I travel across our region nearly every day visiting people and places in the 20 counties that we serve. Over the 16 years that I have worked at SMIF, I have watched farming practices change and adapt. As someone who comes from a farming family, I know what it is like to feel rooted to the land, and how heartbreaking it is to see productive land used for anything but farming.

Fortunately, for those who do not have an

heir to transfer the land to when the time comes, SMIF has a program to help safeguard the family legacy and keep their farmland in production. SMIF's Acres for Good program allows farm families to donate their land as a charitable gift. What makes this model unique is that rather than liquidate the asset as most charities do, SMIF will retain the land and keep it in production by a rental arrangement. This allows retiring farmers the peace of mind that their land will continue to be farmed.

What does it mean to give farmland as a gift? There are three options. You can give a gift during your lifetime and you would get a charitable deduction on income tax. You can wait and give it in your will and it would be released to SMIF upon your passing. Or you can opt for a retained life estate where you keep the right to farm the land until you pass and then it automatically becomes a charitable gift at that point. For those who only want to donate a section of their property, SMIF can accommodate that preference, as well.

As the name suggests, the Acres for Good program is also a way to do good things for your community. The net income stream from the land can be used to support southern Minnesota communities well into the future. Farmers can choose how they want to allocate their gift of land through this program. There are several options.

For example, the benefit can go toward one of SMIF's 31 Community Foundations (Pine Island and Lonsdale are our newest foundations) which invest in their communities through grants and programs.



Or, for a region-wide reach, farmers can allocate their gift toward SMIF's general endowment, or SMIF's specific funds which support youth and entrepreneurs in the region.

Another option could be setting up a Donor Advised Fund to allocate resources to the donor's specific interests such as a place of worship, an alma mater or a local charity. Whichever avenue, these are all ways to leave a legacy that will make a huge difference in the future of southern Minnesota – and doing it all without having your family farm sold.

Acres for Good is an incredibly unique way

to donate and preserve farmland while also creating an ongoing stream of charitable funds to help out your local community or a cause that is dear to your heart. SMIF is here to help you create your ongoing legacy.

To learn more about the Acres for Good program visit smifoundation.org/acresforgood or contact Alissa Oeltjenbruns, Philanthropy Officer, at 507-214-7023 or alissao@smifoundation.org.

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

2023 DENNISON DAYS

Design A
Button for Dennison Days
August 4 & 5, 2023

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2nd
PRIZE:
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Recreational Opportunities Abound at State Parks, Trails, Recreation Areas Over Memorial Day Weekend

In advance of the upcoming Memorial Day weekend, the Minnesota Department of Nat-

ural Resources is highlighting recreational opportunities at state parks, trails and recreation areas throughout Minnesota.

The DNR's summer activities guide is a great place to start planning a state parks and trails adventure. The guide lists warm weather activities for people of all ages and interests.

"Many people know about common activities at state parks and trails like hiking and camping, but we offer so much more," said Ann Pierce, the DNR's Parks and Trails Division director. "We encourage people to explore the DNR website to learn about all the activities available within the state parks and trails system."

Nature walks and campfire talks

State parks offer events and programs led

by interpretive naturalists. Participants can learn about wildlife, plants, night skies, park history, outdoor skills and more. There's no cost to attend naturalist events, but some require reservations. Check the online events calendar for a full list of programming.

Plan a picnic

There are 60 locations within the state parks and trails system with picnic shelters, and even more with picnic areas. The DNR's guide on how to picnic like a pro provides picnic location suggestions and can help visitors learn what to pack, find games to play, and get campfire cooking recipes.

Walk, pedal and roll on state trails

Minnesota offers more than 1,300 miles of state trails. Many state trails are paved, making them a great option for bikers, in-line skaters, and people using wheelchairs or strollers. State trails do not require a vehicle permit. Find trail maps on the DNR's state trails webpage.

Borrow equipment to try a new activity

Most state parks and recreation areas offer free loaner equipment so visitors can try a new activity before purchasing their own gear. Fishing kits, birding kits, kids' discovery kits and GPS units are available on a first come, first served basis at select park offices. Find where equipment is available to borrow on the DNR's loaner equipment webpage.

Enjoy the water

Minnesota is known for water recreation, and paddling is a popular activity. To learn about state water trails for a paddling trip, visit the DNR's water trails webpage. More than 30 state parks offer rentals, including

canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards. Life jackets are included with rentals. In addition, state parks are home to hundreds of lakes and many swimming beaches perfect for a day of play or relaxation. Use the Park-Finder tool to find state parks with swimming beaches and rentals.

Limited camping reservations available

As of Thursday, May 18, 95% of available camping and lodging in state parks and recreation areas is fully booked for Memorial Day weekend. People looking for a camping reservation will find the most openings in northwestern Minnesota. Locations with more than 10 available campsites include Franz Jevne, Lake Bronson and Zippel Bay state parks and Red River State Recreation Area.

Campers who don't have a reservation can consider state forest campgrounds, where all campsites are available on a first come, first served basis. Find these campgrounds on the DNR's camping in Minnesota state forests webpage.

Check visitor alerts before leaving home

State park and recreation area pages on the DNR website post visitor alerts to communicate important information related to safety, closures, construction projects and other helpful details. Find visitor alerts on park webpages.


For more information about any of these recreation opportunities, visit www.mndnr.gov 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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MDA Reminds Minnesotans to Use Pesticides and Fertilizers with Care

Spring is here, and many Minnesotans are working on lawns, trees, and gardens. Whether you do it yourself or hire a professional, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) urges the safe use of pesticides

and fertilizers on your property by following all label directions.

Pesticide and fertilizer labels specify how to use products safely and effectively. In Minnesota, it is against the law to apply products without following label instructions. The label is the law.

If you hire a professional lawn care service, do your homework. State law requires pesticide applicators to be licensed by the MDA to commercially apply pesticides and fertilizers, including weed and feed products. Applicators must know and understand state and federal regulations regarding all aspects of pesticide and fertilizer handling, application, and disposal to be licensed by the MDA. The following are helpful tips for a safe spring season.

If you do it yourself:

Read and follow all label directions.

Do not apply products in windy or adverse weather conditions. High wind can cause products to drift and potentially harm people, pets, or plants.

Sweep sidewalks and hard surfaces of any dry or granular product and reapply to the intended area. Pesticides left on these surfaces easily wash into our water supply.

Buy only what you need. Unused products must be stored according to the label, can lose effectiveness over time, and be difficult to dispose of properly. Find a pesticide waste collection site near you to safely dispose of any unused product.

If you hire a professional:

Professionals must be licensed by the MDA and carry their pesticide applicator license with them. Ask to see their license before

they start work.

Be cautious of people who claim their products are completely safe, or pressure you to sign a service contract.

Recognize posted warning flags in areas that have been chemically treated.

Applicators are required to provide an application record to you. Review the record, including products used and the amounts applied.

Be sure the applicator sweeps the sidewalks and hard surfaces clean of any dry or granular products.

For information about applicator licenses, call the MDA at 651-201-6615. To report unlicensed applicators, please file a complaint on the MDA website or call 651-201-6333.

Consumers can call the Better Business Bureau at 651-699-1111 and check customer satisfaction histories for lawn care companies.

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Area Students Compete at Envirothon

By Rice SWCD

Over eighty students representing high schools and middle schools from southeastern Minnesota gathered at the Byron Sportsmen & Conservation Club near Byron, Minnesota to test their knowledge of conservation and the environment during the 2023 Envirothon competition.

The Envirothon is an outdoor, hands-on learning competition for high school and middle school students. It centers on five different learning stations, including soils, wildlife, water resources, forestry, and a current environmental issue. Each station consists of a short presentation about the topic by a resource professional, followed by a test taken by the students. Across Minnesota, around 1,000 students participate in the Envirothon every year.



Middle school students from the Cannon River STEM School examine a soil profile while answering test questions at the 2023 Area VII Envirothon.

Photo by Senja Viktora, Freeborn SWCD.

Some test questions were “hands-on” and required students to identify trees, determine soil texture, and analyze resource maps. High school teams also prepared an oral presentation and answered questions from a panel of judges.



The Cannon River STEM School middle school team. From left to right: Skye Bishop, Zoey Kirkham, Maverick Heacock, Kaileb Dienst, Dominic Swedin, Adeline Piper, and 7/8 grade teacher Ann Shannon.

For thirty years, the Southeast Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SEMASWCD) has held the competition for a ten-county area in southeastern Minnesota, with the exception of 2020, when the event was canceled due to Covid-19. In 2021, the event was held virtually.

One middle school team from the Cannon River STEM School represented Rice County at the competition this year. The team finished in fifth place.

In the high school division, Goodhue High School-White team took first place, Goodhue

High School-Black team took second place, and Chatfield High School-Gopher 1 team took third place. These three teams advanced to the state competition which was held on May 15th at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls.

The Rice SWCD congratulates all the students from Rice County who took the time and effort to compete in the 2023 Envirothon. The District also thanks teacher Ann Shannon who organized this year’s team from the Cannon River STEM School.

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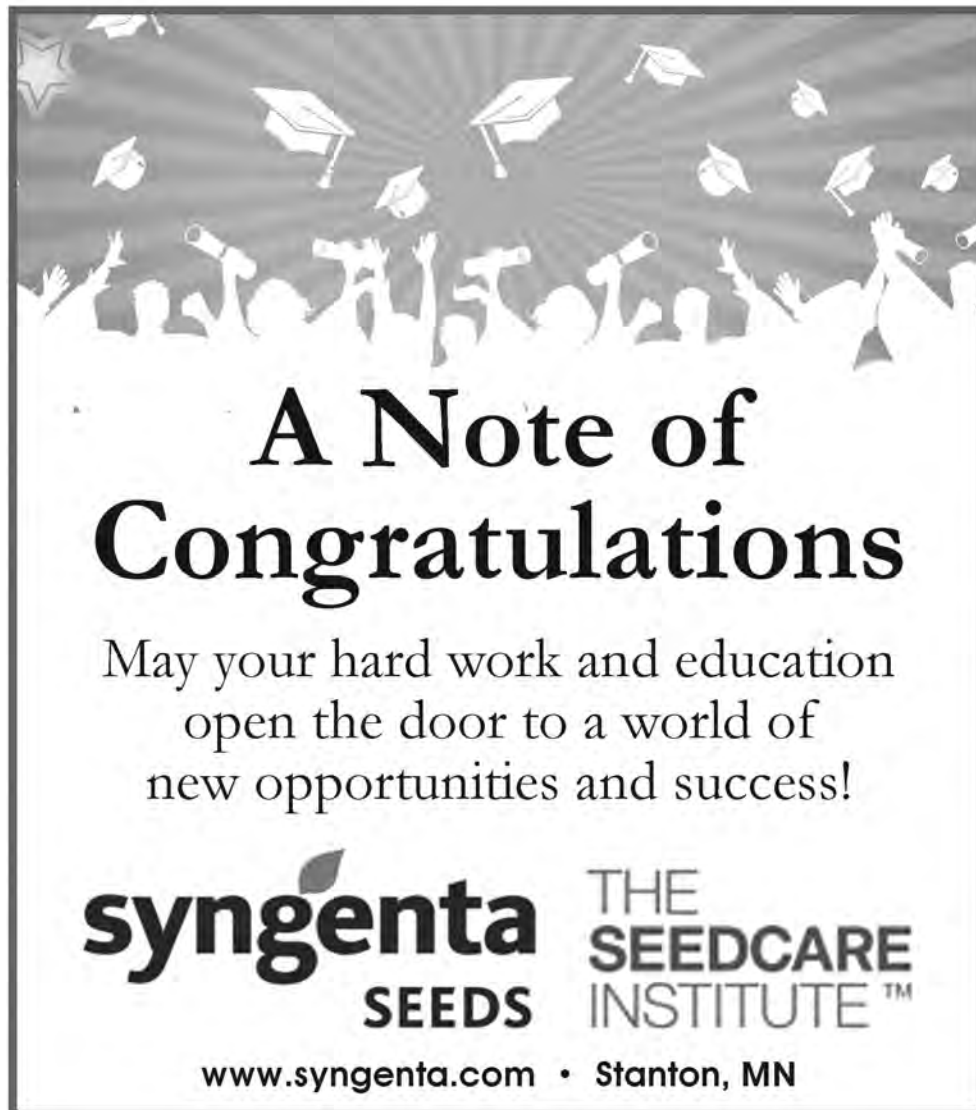


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Five Ways to Increase Diversity on Your Land



By Kourtney Hammerschmidt
Rice SWCD

With spring here, I have been thinking about all the birds, bees, and other wildlife and insects that all seem to reappear once again. They all work together to help improve and create the ecosystems that we are all a part of.

With that in mind, I have been coming up with things that I can do to help increase the amount of diversity around my house. I want all of these beneficial insects, pollinators, and other wildlife to stick around and have plenty of good food for them to last through the year.

What are some ways that we can increase the diversity around us? Here are a few things that I have thought of:

1. Plant a diverse mix of pollinator-loving plants in and around your yard to attract pollinators and add diversity to your landscape. Make sure you add some species that bloom throughout the year. Early blooming plants and late blooming plants are especially important as a food source for pollinator-loving insects, as they are migrating to and from our area during those times.

2. Add native grasses to your pollinator garden. While grasses are not as showy as other wildflowers, they are extremely important for a variety of butterfly and bee species. The larvae of some butterflies and moths will eat the leaves of many grass species, while some native bees depend on these grasses for their nesting sites.

3. Plant a tree or shrub on your property. Trees and shrubs provide important food and shelter for wildlife and pollinators throughout the seasons. It can also help ensure that all the tree and shrub species can succeed. If there are a limited amount of tree and shrub species in an area, some diseases can become prevalent and threaten the livelihood of those populations.

4. Plant pollinator strips in your farm fields. If you own agricultural land, consider planting pollinator strips in or around your fields. Not only does it provide amazing habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects, but can also improve local water quality.

5. Implement cover crops into your crop rotation. There are many benefits to utilizing cover crops. These benefits can include decreased erosion issues, reduced nutrient runoff, improve water quality and increase organic matter content. Planting cover crops



A pollinator plot in Forest Township, just east of Circle Lake in Rice County, Minnesota.


can also result in an increase of beneficial insects in your fields. When diverse mixes are used, it can increase the number of these beneficial insects, which might be natural predators to some pests in your fields.

Why should we want to increase the diversity of our landscapes? It can help bring a wide variety of insects and wildlife back into that area. With an increase in the number of species, the risk of diseases can also decrease. They will help increase resiliency, build corridors for a wide variety of insects and animals, and it will help support all the species that will utilize the vegetation. All of the plant species, insects, and wildlife can come together to help create a sustainable, healthy

environment.

In Rice County, there are some funding options out there that can help reduce the cost of implementing these conservation practices. We have trained staff with multiple years of experience and can answer your questions about cost-share programs, cover crops, and native tree/prairie plantings. Give the Rice SWCD a call at 507-332-5408 or stop by our office at 1810 30th St. NW in Faribault. We'd be happy to help!

Kourtney Hammerschmidt is a District Technician with the Rice Soil & Water Conservation District. She assists landowners with buffer implementation and with the district's cover crop/custom interseeding program and tree program. Contact Kourtney with your questions at 507-332-5408.



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Students Encouraged to "Plant a Pocket of Prairie"

By Rice SWCD

Staff from the Rice Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) visited third-grade classrooms in Faribault to teach the students about the value of micro prairies in urban landscapes. The District partnered with the Faribault Rotary Club, Donahue's Greenhouse, and the Tri-Lakes Sportsmen's Club to fund the project.

The idea for the project began with Rotarian Dr. Richard Huston. A former Rice SWCD Supervisor, Dr. Huston organized the project and brought the partners together. He received a copy of the children's book "Plant a Pocket of Prairie" from a friend, which planted the "seed" for his idea.

The Faribault Rotary Club purchased copies of the book and donated them to the third-grade classrooms and each school's library. Every third-grade student received a native prairie plant that they could take home to plant. Donahue's Greenhouse donated the pots and soil. The Tri-Lakes Sportsmen's Club and the Rice SWCD donated the native

plants.

When the trays of native plants arrived, they were planted into pots. Along with District employees, Huston recruited staff from River Bend Nature Center and his friend Emily Nesvold to help transplant the plants.

Nesvold, a retired teacher, also presented to third-grade classrooms, speaking at Roosevelt Elementary, Nerstrand Elementary School, and a Faribault homeschooling group. District Manager, Steve Pahs, presented to Lincoln Elementary, the Cannon River STEM School, and Faribault Lutheran School. District Public Relations & Information Specialist, Teresa DeMars, presented to Jefferson Elementary School and Divine Mercy Catholic School. District Technician Kourtney Hammerschmidt helped to demonstrate how to transplant the plant to students and took pictures of the presentations.

"Native gardening is a passion of mine. It was so much fun to visit third-grade classrooms and show them my 'pocket of prairie,'" said DeMars.

DeMars lives in Faribault, where she planted native prairie plants to attract pollinators at her home. "My little micro prairie is like a jungle. There are many insects that visit during the summer. They are so busy and entertaining to watch," she added.

During the classroom visit, District staff read the book to the third-grade students. They also showed pictures of how DeMars planted her native garden and videos of pollinators that have visited her plants.

For the native prairie plant, students received a meadow blazing star, which blooms in late summer and is a favorite plant of the Monarch butterfly. Monarchs flock to the



Top picture left: Katy Anderegg, Erin Tone, and Matt Johnson (from River Bend Nature Center, Steve Pahs and Richard Peterson (Rice SWCD), Emily Nesvold, and Dr. Richard Huston. Top picture right: Emily Nesvold transplants meadow blazing star into pots. Bottom left picture: Katy Anderegg and Erin Tone place labels onto the pots. Bottom right picture: Dr. Richard Huston stands with the potted soil donated from Donahue's Greenhouse.

plant to feed off its nectar, which provides fuel for their long migration to central Mexico in the fall. Students also received a planting guide that shared information about meadow blazing star and how to care for it. In addition, the planting guide was also translated into Spanish and Somali by Faribault School District staff and shared with parents.

"Most students at this age love butterflies and other insects. They were very engaged and asked great questions about pollinators and planting the meadow blazing star. It was so rewarding to share in their enthusiasm," said DeMars. "As a District, we hope to expand the project to more schools in the county next year."

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Talking Social Media & Mental Health with U of M

Social media has become a major part in the lives of children and teenagers, and its possible impact on mental health is a growing area of conversation. Earlier this week, the American Psychological Association issued recommendations for guiding teenager's use of social media for the first time.

For Mental Health Awareness Month in May, Kathryn Cullen, MD, with the U of M Medical School discusses the impact of social media on children's mental health as well as advice for parents.

Q: What are some of the ways that social media impacts children's mental health?

Dr. Cullen: First, it's important to note that this is still an emerging field, and so we still have a lot to learn. Social media is a phenomenon that impacts people of all ages, but concern has been raised about the potential risks for teens. During this developmental phase, peer relationships are of utmost importance. So, teens may be especially sensitive to the acceptance and rejection that goes on with social media. This is an active area of research. So far, studies have shown both positive and negative effects for media use on mental health outcomes for children and teens.

Social media gives teens the opportunity to learn new things, express themselves creatively, share humor, and receive support from peers. The latter is especially important for

young people from marginalized backgrounds who may not be able to find the support they need in their own 'real world' community. One key potential risk is bullying—social media allows kids to be bullied when they are at home, not just at school. Additionally, through social media platforms, kids can be exposed to false information and harmful content, and potentially manipulated into unsafe situations. Overuse of social media can interfere with learning and other important activities that are critical to mental health such as sleep, exercise, being outside, having real in person contact with others and general engagement with the real world.

Q: What amount of screen time is considered unhealthy for kids?

Dr. Cullen: There is no hard and fast number that should be applied as a screen time limit to all kids. The appropriate amount of screen time will be different for each family. When setting limits, it's important to be both realistic and consistent. In this process, a high priority should be making sure kids get enough sleep and exercise, which are critical for so many aspects of health and development. Some specific recommendations include turning off screens during family meals, and removing them from bedrooms 30 to 60 minutes before bedtime. While homework will often require some kind of internet access, other kinds of entertainment media use while doing homework is discouraged.

Q: Are there specific platforms or social media features that pose particular harm/risks to children?

Dr. Cullen: Social media platforms and features are always changing, so much so that making a formal recommendation about the risks and benefits of one versus the other is

very difficult. By the time we feel we have a firm grasp on a specific platform/feature, it has already changed. The important thing is that parents have an understanding of how their child is engaging in social media and that they can have meaningful conversations with their child about the child's experiences, to provide support and guidance.

Q: What advice would you give parents who may be concerned about their children's social media usage?

Dr. Cullen: I encourage parents to talk to their kids about their social media use. They may find that their kids themselves are also concerned and feeling confused about what to do. Approaching these conversations with curiosity and non-judgment can open doors that allow parents to learn more about what kids are learning and experiencing, which can help them in guiding their kids. Having regular discussions about online citizenship and safety is a good thing and these conversations don't need to be one-way. When it comes to these topics, kids need guidance from their parents. There's a lot parents can learn from kids, too.

Q: What work are you doing to advance research on adolescent mental health?

Dr. Cullen: My research generally aims to try to understand the brain mechanisms underlying depression and suicide risk in teens and use that information to guide the development of new treatments. Lately, my research team has been analyzing the data from the ABCD study, which is a longitudinal brain imaging study of over 10,000 kids who were 9-10 years old when they started the study and will be followed for 10 years. Be-

cause this study is collecting data starting before the prevalence of depression goes up in the adolescent period, it provides a unique opportunity to study developmental trajectories associated with the onset and course of depression in teens. Another direction of my research lately has focused on creativity. We are looking into the potential value of engaging in the creative arts as a way to improve mental health in teens.

Dr. Kathryn Cullen is an associate professor and the head of the child and adolescent mental health division at the University of Minnesota Medical School, as well as a psychiatrist at M Health Fairview. Dr. Cullen leads an NIH-funded research team examining the neurodevelopmental underpinnings of depression, self-injury and suicide risk in adolescents and young adults and investigating interventions aimed at promoting healthy trajectories in these youth.



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2023 SCHEDULE

Wed, May 24	Baseball 3B5	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, May 26	at Red Wing Aces	Red Wing, Minn.	7:30 p.m.
Mon, May 29	at Northfield Knights	Northfield, Minn.	2 p.m.
Wed, May 31	Burnsville Bobcats	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, June 2	Chaska Cubs	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, June 4	Miesville Mudhens	Home	2 p.m.
Wed, June 7	Eagan Bandits	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, June 9	at Cannon Falls Bears	Cannon Falls, Minn.	7:30 p.m.
Sat, June 11	at Hampton Cardinals	Hampton, Minn.	2 p.m.
Wed, June 14	St. Paul Windy's	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, June 16	Elko Express	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, June 18	Highland Park Beavers	Home	2 p.m.
Wed, June 21	Hastings Hawks	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, June 23	Hampton Cardinals	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sat, June 24	Waconia Lakers	Home	5 p.m.
Sun, June 25	St. Patrick Irish	Home	2 p.m.
Wed, June 28	Red Wing Aces	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, June 30	at Rochester Royals	Rochester, Minn.	7:30 p.m.
Tue, July 4	Northfield Knights	Home	2 p.m.
Fri, July 7	Minnetonka Millers	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sat, July 9	at Rev Harlot N Ladies	Rev Harlot, Minn.	7:30 p.m.
Wed, July 12	Rochester Royals	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, July 14	MacStanghtli Grizzlies	Home	7:30 p.m.
Sun, July 16	Metro Knights	Home	2 p.m.
Fri, July 21	at St. Patrick	St. Patrick, Minn.	7:30 p.m.
Sat, July 22	at Minnetonka	Minnetonka, Minn.	2 p.m.
Sun, July 23	at Elko Express	Elko, Minn.	2 p.m.
Wed, July 26	Fairbault Lakers	Home	7:30 p.m.
Fri, July 28	at Miesville Mudhens	Miesville, Minn.	7:30 p.m.
Sun, July 30	New Market Muskies	Home	2 p.m.
Fri, Aug 4	Section 1B Playoffs - Gm 1	TBD	8 p.m.
Sat, Aug 6	Section 1B Playoffs - Gm 2	TBD	2 p.m.
Tue, Aug 8	Section 1B Playoffs - Gm 3	TBD	8 p.m.
Fri, Aug 11	Sect. 1B Playoffs - Play back	TBD	8 p.m.
Sun, Aug 13	Sect. 1B Playoffs - Play back	TBD	2 p.m.

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Mental Health Crisis Team Now Embedded in Rice County

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

The South Central Community Based Initiative, the organization that operates a mental health crisis team serving Rice County, has expanded its physical footprint to better serve those in crisis in the local area.

The SCCBI crisis team has served Rice County, though it is based in Mankato, for several years. While the services have been very helpful over the years, having a crisis team based more than an hour away is not

ideal.

That distance and area residents' need for a quick, in-person response at all times of the day and week led Rice County Adult Services Manager Megan Thomas to convince SCCBI to open a satellite office in Faribault.

SCCBI operates in a 10-county area, with Rice County on the easternmost edge. The wait for a mobile crisis unit has been lengthy, especially when time is of the essence.

South Central Community Based Initiative applied for and received a \$1 million federal grant to expand its mobile services last year and embedded a team in Rice County on April 1st.

The mobile crisis teams, operated by mental health services provider Horizon Homes, can also ensure individuals receive post-crisis services, help with additional resources including follow ups, check ins and referrals, and work collaboratively with Rice County's Behavioral Health Unit, a team of social

workers embedded with local law enforcement.

Services are offered in English, and a translation service is available as well.

As with all mental health professionals, confidentiality is guaranteed. If an individual has insurance, Horizon Homes will collect that information and bill. If a person does not, Horizon Homes will find other resources to provide the necessary care.

If you or someone you know needs support for a mental health or emotional crisis, call 877-399-3040, call or text the National Sui-



cide Prevention Hotline at 988. Visit the South Central Mobile Crisis Team website for more information.

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City of Dennison Regular Council Meeting April 6th, 12th, 2023

The April Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Flaten on Thursday, April 6th 2023 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Nichole Schloesser, Kaylyn Nygaard, Heidi Cooke, and Diane Ruddle. The meeting was adjourned to be continued on Wednesday April 12th, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

The April Dennison City Council meeting was reconvened at 7:00 pm on April 12th at Dennison City Hall by Mayor Flaten. Present were Councilors Nichole Schloesser, Kaylyn Nygaard, Heidi Cooke, and Diane Ruddle, and Clerk Jessica Page.

Councilor Cooke move to approve the regular meeting minutes for March. Councilor Schlessor second. Motion passed 5:0. Councilor Schloesser move to approve the Treasurer's report. Councilor Nygaard second. Motion passed 5:0.

Old Business/Committee Reports/Building Permits:

Tyler Swanson was present to apply for a building permit for the Jeff Haase building. They will be using one of Cannon Tackle hook ups. Mayor Flaten move to approve the

building permit for Jeff Hasse's building. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0.

Administrative Issues:

1. The Holten family is requesting to detach parcels 622000020 and 622000183 from the City. They would help in the annexation process, if the council wants to go in that direction. After some discussion, Councilor Nygaard move to decline to detach the parcels from the city. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0.

2. Assessments from Marlea's. Leann N. approached the City Council regarding an assessment put on the property taxes for the parcel that Marlea's sits on for past due utility bills.

3. Bolstrom Property/Compliant. There were questions last month about the new owner of the property, Joe Stanke, and who is legally responsible. Is it the person or the property? Mayor Flaten contacted the LMC for their opinion. Information was forwarded to the council. No letter has been sent to Joe Stanke yet. How does the council want to proceed? Jeff contacted LMC for opinion. More stuff appears to have been added to the property by new owner. Send same letter to

Joe that was sent to Chuck Bolstrom previously.

4. Continue discussion on a new driveway ordinance later. Councilor Ruddle should have final version ready to consider soon. Councilor Ruddle move to table the driveway Ordinance. Councilor Nygaard second. Motion passed 5:0.

5. Email sent out to the council from the Nerstrand Fire Chief regarding our ISO score. It has improved from 7/7x to 5/5x effective July 1st, 2023. This score means the properties within 1000 ft. from the fire hydrant receives a score of 5. Properties over 1000 ft. from a fire hydrant but with 5 miles of our Nerstrand or Dennison stations receives a score of 5x. Locations over 5 miles from a fire station receive a score of 10.

6. Sales Tax reimbursement and claim submitted to the Minnesota Department of Revenue for the phosphorus reduction project has been approved. Letter has been sent to the City regarding the decision and the check will follow about 10 days later. Money needs to go back into sewer funds. Should be deposited in the capital fund.

7. Letter received from the Minnesota Department of Health pertaining to a Notice of Violation for failure to perform quarterly bacteriological and total chlorine residual monitoring. We are required to notify the public of the violation. The City had 10 days to return the completed forms to the MDH. Jeff, Heidi and Nate completed that by posting notice on the website and bulletin board outside City Hall.

8. Mayor Flaten met with Doug Morem

from Goodhue County on 3-15 and discussed Pete Lee's roof. Upon inspection of the building, it was quite apparent the back half of the roof has caved in (east side). Doug said he would reach out to Pete and discuss the situation. Further meeting will occur on 4-12 with Pete, Doug and Mayor Flaten to hear plans to fix the roof. There was discussion regarding the possibility that the building might need to be condemned. Mayor Flaten will contact Doug to discuss.

9. Complaints filed with the City. 6 of them.

Snow plowing complaints. Send the letter and have it fixed within 30 days.

Non registered vehicles need to be sent out. There was a complaint on vehicles around the maintenance shed. Paul's truck was moved out to the ponds, and Nate's truck was moved away.

Heidi will have Mike move the trailers out of the way to ensure there is enough room to get through the alleyway.

Send the letters to the 4 properties. Councilor Nygaard move to send the four letters to get the issues addressed, Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0

10. Requesting that the council approves widening the driveway of the fire station/city shop on the north side about 5 feet. If vehicles are going to be parked on the side of the driveway, they should be parked on gravel, not the grass. Also asking that Nate removes his green pickup from south side of the driveway and not park on the grass.

(continued on page 25)

HomeHelpMN Information

HomeHelpMN helps eligible homeowners who have fallen behind on housing-related expenses due to the pandemic.

HomeHelpMN helps eligible homeowners who have fallen behind on housing-related expenses due to the pandemic with up to \$50,000 in financial assistance. Homeowners should apply as soon as they become past due.

HomeHelpMN may be able to assist with past-due payments for:

- Property taxes
- Mortgage
- Contract for deed
- Tribal land lease
- Manufactured home loan
- Lot rent
- Homeowner insurance
- Homeowner association fees

Funds are paid directly to the debt holder, mortgage servicer, or county. Funds do not need to be paid back.

Qualified Financial Hardship include:

Reduction of Income: Temporary or permanent loss of income after January 21, 2020, related to the coronavirus pandemic

Increase in Living Expenses: Increase in household expenses after January 21, 2020, directly related to the coronavirus pandemic

Second-time applicants

If a homeowner already received HomeHelpMN assistance, they may be eligible for additional assistance. They can submit a new application if they are experiencing another (or ongoing) COVID-19-related financial hardship. The total of all applications cannot exceed \$50,000.

Apply now!

Funds are limited, so homeowners should apply as soon as possible. Homeowners interested in the program should visit the HomeHelpMN website or call us at 1.800.388.3226. Call Center agents are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST.

Funds are still available.

Check fund availability on our Applications Dashboard. Applications received after available funds are reserved may be put on a waitlist, which we will announce in advance.

Questions? Want more information?

Sign up for eNews by visiting mnhousing.gov/homehelpnews

Call us at 800.388.3226 or live chat HomeHelpMN website using the chat icon

View the HomeHelpMN handout and checklist in English, Somali, Spanish, and or Hmong.

Additional resources for Homeowners

The Minnesota Homeownership Center works one-on-one with homeowners providing free, confidential, and comprehensive foreclosure prevention education. Many advisors offer virtual appointments.

ASK A TROOPER

By Sgt. Troy Christianson of the Minnesota State Patrol

Question: I was wondering, with the ads on television showing people driving with their hands off the steering wheel, is that legal in Minnesota if your vehicle has that capability?

Answer: I believe you are asking about autonomous vehicles, or self-driving cars, which are capable of sensing their environment and operating without human involvement.

Minnesota law states that every driver is responsible for becoming and remaining aware of the actual and potential hazards that exist on the highway and must use due care in operating a vehicle. This would include both hands, one hand, or no hands.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)



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

Dennison City Council (continued from page 24)

Bill Deutsch gave an estimate for gravel and expanding the driveway. 10 by 45 feet from building to curb along existing driveway, would be \$800. It was asked if the Fire Dept might split the cost with us?

Will contact the Fire Department to see, and defer the decision until we have finished graveling roads.

Citizens Issues:

Plowing on 5th Ave. 2 snows ago, a substitute driver was plowing for Bill, and the plowing wasn't done as it usual was. There were drifts in driveways that were 3 feet high. It was a single incident.

Mayors Issues:

Utilities:

1. Update from Nate and Travis Need to discharge. Primary pond is close to full. Secondary is at 60 already. Need to get alum out to dose the pond. Hawkins wont' let them deliver due to outstanding invoice. LMC attorney called by Jeff to see if we need to pay it. Jeff sent email to John Larson today. Council decided to pay the Hawkins bill for \$3866.00 so the City can get the alum we need.

Mayor Flaten will send as built plans to Travis.

Annual review for Nate in March.

Summary of the closed meeting last month for Nate.

Reviewed goals and expectations during the

past year.

-Will update job description.

-Council will help put together a schedule of important deadlines for reports/tests that need to be submitted to the State.

-Motion passed to increase Nate's pay to \$25 dollars an hour contingent he obtains C sewer license.

-waiting to hear if Nate passed his C sewer license test.

-Updated Job description for Nate. It was reviewed by Council members and Nate. Councilor Ruddle move to approve the updated Job description. Councilor Cooke second.

Phosphorus shed. Pat Anderson is finishing up the last details/work this week. Inspections for mechanical systems have been completed. A final bill of \$17,687.50 was submitted by Milltown Construction, Council will add this bill to the listed bills.

Councilor Schloesser move to pay the bills, including the Milltown Construction final payment. Councilor Nygaard second. Motion passed 5:0.

Mayor Flaten move to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Cooke second. Meeting adjourned at 9:04.

Next meeting: Regular meeting is Thursday May 4th, 2023 at 7:00.

Nerstrand City Council Meeting Minutes April 12, 2023

Nerstrand City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:00p.m. Those in attendance in person were Council Members Carrie Turi, Dan Pflieger, Jennifer Schwab, and Mayor Todd Evavold. Other people in attendance were, Public Works Director, Steve McDowell, City Clerk, Dana Jans, and 3 residents. Councilor John Harris, absent.

Roll Call

Councilpersons, Turi, Pflieger, Schwab and Mayor Evavold present.

Approval of Agenda

-Motion to accept the agenda with the removal of the complaint on 2nd Street N and the addition of Bingo application, Garden plots, and Fire Department hosting a Chili Feed on May 20th by Councilor Schwab, second by Councilor Turi, motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

-Motion to accept all consent items by Councilor Turi, second by Councilor Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Motion by Councilor Schwab to require liability insurance at the time bids are submitted, second by Councilor Pflieger, motion passed unanimously.

- Nerstrand Fire and Rescue will be hosting a Chili Feed and Bingo event on May 20th. Proceeds to go to Nerstrand Elementary School and Nerstrand Fire and Rescue. Motion by Councilor Turi to approve the Nerstrand Fire and Rescue to submit bingo licensing documentation to the appropriate agency, second by Councilor Pflieger, motion passed unanimously.

- Nerstrand Elementary School requested to have two garden plots donated. Motion by Councilor Schwab to donate the plots, second by Councilor Pflieger, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- Bond discussion, second story, tuck-pointing, paving of Farm Street and Fire Hall. Bids received add up to approximately \$225,000.00. Motion by Councilor Schwab to sign agreement with Northland Securities to start the process which includes a public hearing, second by Councilor Turi, motion passed unanimously.

Public Works

- Survey bid received for the land swap of Farm St and section of 3rd Street N. Motion by Councilor Schwab, seconded by Councilor Pflieger, motion passed unanimously.

Fire

- Fire Chief Johnson attended Warsaw Township meeting. Warsaw Board asked if Nerstrand Fire and Rescue would like more area to cover. Chief Johnson sent a map to Warsaw Board showing 5 miles around the Nerstrand Fire Hall located in Dennison. Motion by Councilor Schwab to allow a change in service area if Warsaw and Nerstrand Fire and Rescue reach an agreement, second by Councilor Turi, motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Motion by Councilor Schwab second by Councilor Turi to adjourn the meeting, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by;

Dana Jans

Nerstrand City Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

REGARDING PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS AND ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Nerstrand, Minnesota (the "City"), will hold a public hearing of the City Council at City Hall located at 221 Main Street in the City beginning at 7:00 p.m., on May 31st, 2023, on the proposal that the City abate property taxes levied by the City on property with the parcel identification numbers listed below.

The total amount of the taxes proposed to be abated by the City on the property for up to a fifteen (15) year period is estimated to be approximately \$70,000. The City Council will consider the property tax abatement in connection with the financing of public infrastructure and parking improvements (the "Project") in the City. The Project would be funded in part by the issuance of general obligation bonds (the "Bonds") in the approximate aggregate principal amount of \$70,000 (the "Bonds"), under Sections 469.1813 and Chapter 475, as amended.

Members of the public can participate in the May 31st, 2023 public hearing to present their views to the Council. The Mayor will allow for public comments and questions at the appropriate time.

Parcels:

21.14.1.00.004

21.14.1.00.020

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NERSTRAND, MINNESOTA

/s/ Dana Jans

City Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN OF THE CITY OF NERSTRAND, MINNESOTA AND THE CITY'S INTENTION TO ISSUE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Nerstrand, Minnesota, (the "City") meet on Wednesday, May 31st, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., at the Nerstrand City Hall, located at 221 Main Street, Nerstrand, Minnesota, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the City's proposed Capital Improvement Plan prepared under Minnesota Statutes, Section 475.521 and the City's intention to issue bonds in one or more series, in an amount not to exceed \$190,000 (the "Bonds") to finance improvements to City Hall as identified in the Capital Improvement Plan and pay the costs of issuing the Bonds. The payment of the Bonds and interest thereon shall constitute a general obligation of the City secured by the full faith and credit of the City.

All interested persons may appear and be heard at the time and place set forth above. Individuals unable to attend the public hearing can make written comment by writing to Dana Jans, Nerstrand City Clerk, 221 Main Street, Nerstrand, MN 55033 or via email at cityclerknerstrand@gmail.com. Written comments must be received prior to the public hearing.

If a petition requesting a vote on the issuance of the Bonds is signed by voters equal to five (5) percent of the votes cast in the City in the last municipal general election and is filed with the City Clerk within thirty (30) days after the public hearing, the Bonds may only be issued upon obtaining the approval of the majority of the voters voting for the question of issuing the Bonds.

BY ORDER OF THE NERSTRAND CITY
COUNCIL

[Signature]
City Clerk

WE'RE ONLINE!

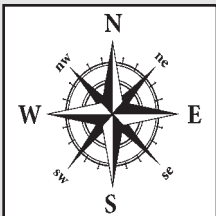
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Mainstreet
Messenger

Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Horse Sense and Character



By Terry Campbell

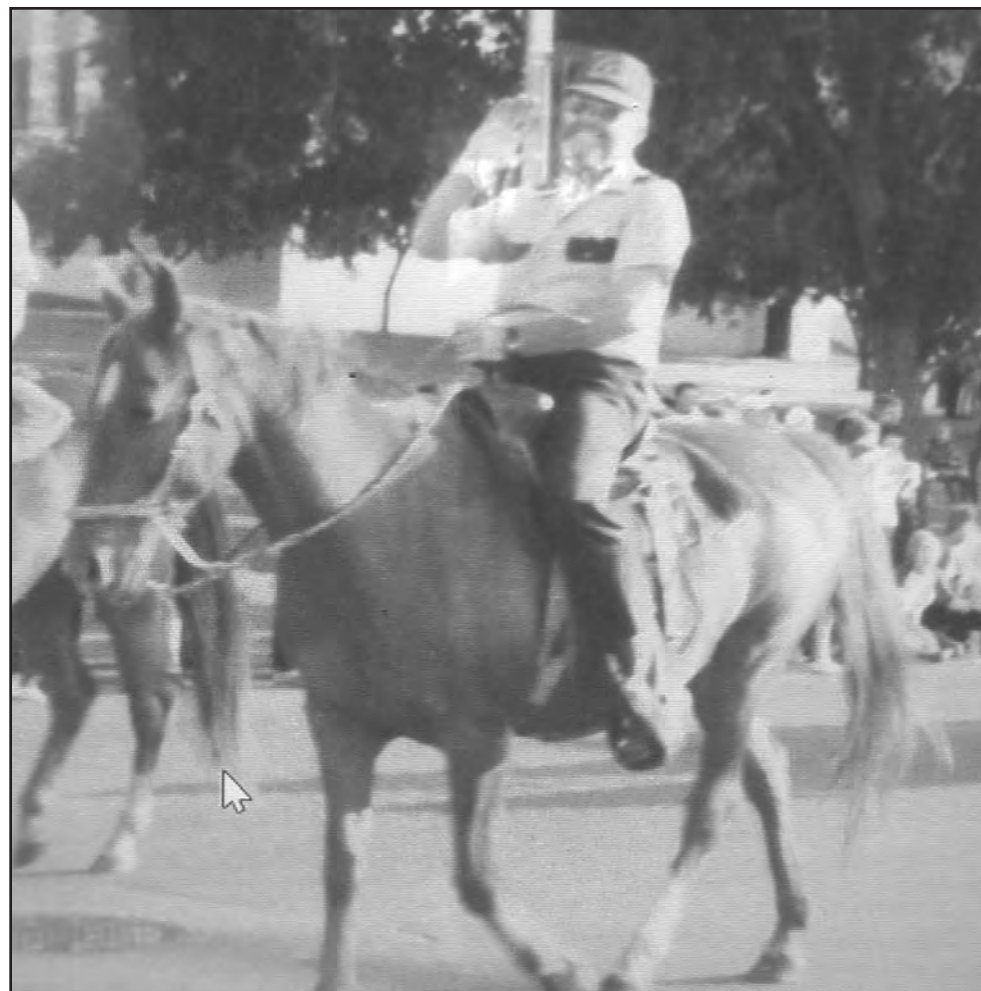
This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

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

guy 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.

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.

Share Your Good News with the Community!
Submit your engagement, wedding or birth announcement
Email:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

**Congratulations to the
Class of 2023 Graduates!**

On behalf of Held Bus Service and all bus drivers,
we wish you the best, brightest and most successful future!

Held Bus Service

Proudly Transporting Our Area Children

621 2nd St., Kenyon
507-789-6151



Class *of* 2023



*The future is yours, and the possibilities are endless.
We wish you good health and good fortune
as you embark on the next step of your journey.
Congratulations on this fine achievement.*



HERITAGE
— B A N K —

www.heritagebankmn.com

DENNISON: 37470 1st Ave. Ct. 507-645-5929

NORTHFIELD: 1520 Clinton Lane 507-645-6736

WEST CONCORD: 181 Main Street 507-527-2236

