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SEPTEMBER, 2023

Volume 17 • Issue 5

Announcements

• **Hegre's Annual Fall Swedish Meatball Supper:** Wednesday September 20 2023. Serving 4pm to 7pm take out & curbside pickup only. Call or text orders to 507-330-4996 by September 15th is appreciated and will guarantee meals. Drive up meals day of supper while food lasts. Menu: Swedish meatballs, ham, mashed potatoes, & gravey, coleslaw, corn, dinner roll, & dessert

Hegre Church 51939 hwy 56 blvd, kenyon mn

hegrechurch@yahoo.com

• **Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Goodhue, Pine Island, Kenyon and Wanamingo.** Receive a hot meal delivered to your home by a volunteer at lunch time up to 5 days per week. To qualify you must be 60 or older, live within city limits, have limited mobility and/or are unable to prepare nutritious meals. The suggested donation is \$4.50 per meal. For more information on how to sign up for meals or to be a volunteer driver, please contact Dana Bergner at 507-421-6067 or dbergner@threeriverscap.org

• **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 threeriverscap.org for more information.

Do you have an announcement?

Email:

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Kenyon School History

By Julie Praus

From 1889 to 2013, a span of 124 years, a Kenyon school stood on the hill on the east side of Forest Street in the 300 block of Kenyon, Minnesota. Kenyon schools have a long history of handsome buildings that provided a rich and well-rounded education for generations of Kenyonites.

John L. Cole, former Mayor, was an amaz-

ing and accomplished citizen, born and raised in Kenyon. His love of history and passion for the community shows in the three books he wrote about Kenyon life and in his endless support of the school district. The following is an excerpt from his "All School Reunion" book:

School History 1855 to 1996

There is not much information on the his-

Vang Church Annual Lutefisk and Norwegian Meatball Supper

The annual Vang Church Lutefisk and Meatball Supper will be held Wednesday, October 11th. Meal includes: Lutefisk with melted butter, Norwegian meatballs with gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, cole slaw, fruit soup, lefse and Norwegian baking's.

Tickets are \$20.00.

Home or business delivery and curbside pick up. 11:00-2:00pm/4:00-7:00pm. Pre-orders required with credit card by October 6, 2023.

Call or email for reservations 507-789-5186. vanglutefisk@gmail.com



Kenyon School 1889

tory of early education in Kenyon after the village founding in 1855. We know that early settlers knew enough to provide education to children who wanted to take it.

(continued on page 4)

Super-Intendent

By Cheri Roshon

With a new school year starting, I would like to introduce you to the new Kenyon/Wanamingo superintendent, Beth Giese. She has agreed to take on the job of .5 Principal and .5 Superintendent.

What qualifies Beth for this daunting task? I'd say quite a bit of unusual life experience. Beth grew up in Pine Island. As soon as she graduated, she joined the U.S. Army to take advantage of the G.I. Bill while serving our country. While she was stationed in Fort Dix, New Jersey, she took training for her MOS of 88M--- she

learned how to drive semi trucks and busses with her CDL license. She served in the Army for 12 years and earned her Master's Degree in Education and Administration for her Superintendent degree.

(continued on page 7)



Beth Giese

Faith Community Church MOPS Program Nurtures Moms and Children

Faith Community Church kicks off its fall "Moms of Preschoolers" (MOPS) Program on Friday, September 22nd at 9:30 am. Meeting every 1st and 3rd Friday of each month through May from 9:30 - 11:00 am, MOPS provides an opportunity for Moms to connect with other Moms and develop friendships and enjoy adult conversation, laughter and learning. Childcare is provided for babies and toddlers; classes are provided for preschool children.

(continued on page 15)

BACK TO SCHOOL



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Lamentations: "Weep"



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

Lamentations: [/lamən 'tāSHəns/] noun – the passionate expression of grief or sorrow; weeping. The original name of the book in Hebrew can be translated “Alas!” or “How,” giving the sense of weeping or lamenting over some sad event. Later, it was translated to ‘Lamentations’ for a clearer understanding and application.

The author of the text is not listed. The tradition is that the Prophet Jeremiah wrote Lamentations. This view is highly likely considering the author was a witness of the Babylonians destroying Jerusalem. Not only does the author of the book witness the results of the recent destruction of Jerusalem, he seems to have witnessed the invasion itself (Lamentations 1:13–15). Jeremiah fits this qualification (2 Chronicles 35:25; 36:21–22). The Book of Lamentations was likely written between 586 and 575 B.C., during or soon after Jerusalem’s fall.

OVERVIEW:

The Book of Lamentations is divided into five chapters. Each chapter represents a separate poem. In the original Hebrew, the verses are acrostic, each verse starting with a succeeding letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In the

Book of Lamentations, the Prophet Jeremiah understands that the Babylonians were God’s tool for bringing judgment on Jerusalem (Lamentations 1:12-15; 2:1-8; 4:11). Lamentations makes it clear that sin and rebellion were the causes of God’s wrath being poured out (1:8-9; 4:13; 5:16). Lamenting is appropriate in a time of distress, but it should quickly give way to contrition and repentance (Lamentations 3:40-42; 5:21-22). As we read through the text, we cannot help but wonder how many ways Jeremiah could describe the desolation of the once proud city of Jerusalem. Children begged food from their mothers (Lamentations 2:12), young men and women were cut down by swords (2:21), and formerly compassionate mothers used their children for food (4:10). Even the city’s roads mourned over its condition (1:4). Jeremiah could not help but acknowledge the dismal state of this city. Yet even in this seemingly hopeless situation, he somehow found hope in the Lord (3:21–24).

SO WHAT?

God is a God of hope (Lamentations 3:24–25). No matter how far we have gone from Him, we have the hope that we can return to Him and find Him compassionate and forgiving (1 John 1:9). God’s faithfulness (Lamentations 3:23) and deliverance (Lamentations 3:26) are attributes that give us great hope and comfort. He is not a disinterested, capricious god, but a God who will deliver all those who turn to Him, admit they can do nothing to earn His favor, and call upon the Lord’s mercy so that we will not be consumed (Lamentations 3:22). Despite its

inconsolable suffering, Lamentations does offer us hope, first in the text itself and then in the full scope of the Bible. In the center of the book, in Lamentations 3:21-25, clear words of hope are found. The author has hope because he calls to mind the nature of his covenantal God and remembers that he is ultimately a God of love, compassion, and faithfulness. He then resolves to seek the LORD and wait on his salvation even when the LORD is nowhere to be found (seemingly). Yet the ending of Lamentations leaves much to be desired in terms of salvation and redemption. We praise God that these are not the final words of God! We see, in the context of the whole Bible, God who knows of our lost and dead state and came to us on a rescue and redemption mission. This glorious God came in the flesh, fully God and fully man, in Jesus Christ, to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15), to bear our grief and shame (Isaiah 53). Much of what we recoil at in Lamentations—the level of shame, the humiliation, the judgment of God—are little pictures of what Jesus would suffer as he bore the sins of the world. This includes our sin and suffering. That alone is reason enough to read Lamentations. We need to linger over these horrifying images long enough to appreciate the depth of Jesus’ work. Through Jesus, we not only experience salvation within sorrow, but we also have great confidence that one day all our sorrow will be wiped away when Jesus returns to right all wrongs and cause us to walk with God in unbroken fellowship on a fully renewed earth (Revelation 21). This doesn’t mean you

should ignore over your pain and grief; it just means there’s always hope. In the living hope we have through Christ, who is alive, we can have joy, for our hope does not put us to shame (Romans 5:1-5).

Next month, we will look closer at the book of Ezekial, the prophet who spoke during the Israelites exile in Babylon. Ezekial’s challenges us to have a life-giving vision of the power of God as we humble ourselves before Him in worship.

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

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“Now get up and stand on your feet. . . I am sending you to [the Gentiles] to open their eyes . . . so that they may receive forgiveness of sins. . .” — Acts 26:16-18
Consider your own story of faith. One of the ways you can know the awe of God is through your story. Maybe you came to Jesus out of a life of poverty and pain. Maybe you think your story is less than exciting because you grew up in the church and have always been a part of it.
Whatever the case, you have a story to share because it’s really about God’s story happening through you. In all your struggles, celebrations, griefs, and joys, God has been telling his story of grace in and through you.
When given the opportunity, Paul shared his story. One of the main reasons a personal story is so powerful is that no one can argue against the way God has chosen to work in and through you. Think of moments when you had to trust God with a loved one who was sick, or when you were not sure how to pay a debt and God provided for you. Or maybe you thought your marriage was at the point of no return, but God brought it back.
People can debate theology and doctrine, but they cannot argue against the awesome work of God in and through a transformed life.
May we not lose sight of the power of whom we serve and that we are called to be his people. Let’s embrace and celebrate the awe and wonder of God’s power each day.
God, undo me today! Soften my heart and bring me freedom so that I may see and know the wonder of who you are. Amen

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Robert Morris "Bob" Benson

Robert Morris "Bob" Benson was born November 25, 1931, in Wannaska, Minnesota to Elmer and Mabel (Torfin) Benson. He spent his childhood on the family farm, attending grades 1-8 at the 44 West (Palmville) school. He attended the Ag High School in Crookston, Minnesota his freshman year, and part of his sophomore year, before returning to the farm in Wannaska. Robert loved hockey, and played at the amateur level from his teens through his mid 20's. He also coached youth hockey in Wannaska for many years.

On Dec. 6, 1952, he married Ida Marie Eggen in Wannaska. He worked with his father on the family farm until 1958, when he took a job with a road construction crew. In 1962 Robert and Ida Marie put down roots and raised their family in Wanamingo, where he continued to live until 10 days before his death. After 16 years as a heavy equipment/crane operator, Robert launched off on his own, as a concrete contractor: First as Benson Construction, and later incorporating as B&N Construction. From 1969-1986 Robert was a Polaris snowmobile dealer. Following his retirement from construction in 1998, Robert spent 17 years driving motor coach to destinations throughout the United States and Canada. He was always happy to talk about his travels, and to pass out to his

riders his "Old Bus Driver" business card that included the saying "It's what you learn after you think you know it all that really counts."

In 1998 Robert established the Robert Benson Hunting Camp near the farm he grew up on so that his sons and grandchildren for generations to come could enjoy deer hunting as much as he did.

Robert was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Aspelund, where he served numerous terms on the Church Board.

Robert served on the Wanamingo City Council for 18 years, and also served a term as Mayor of Wanamingo.

Left to cherish Robert's memory are his children, Linda (Greg) Pippert of Fullerton, Calif., Jeffrey (Linda) Benson of Wanamingo, Daniel (Janell) Benson of Centennial, Colo., and Jon (Jeannette) Benson of Newark, IL.; grandchildren, Bryce (Katherine), Berent (Janice), Brett (Kristin), Jason, Kyle (McKenzie), Michelle, Kevin (Natalya), Brian (Jenn), Marie, Andrew (Kathryn) and Caleb (Cassie); great-grandchildren, Hartvig, Trisha, Ava, Charlie, Wynn, Grant, Lorelai, Ryder, Trevor, Hannah, Iver, Ella, Greyson, Asher, Josiah, Ryleigh, Arya, Sophie, and Ezra.

Robert was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Ida Marie; his parents, Elmer and Mabel; sister, Marie and her husband, Layton Oslund.

Robert passed into eternity at Pine Haven in Pine Island, Minnesota, Sunday, August 20, 2023, at the age of 91 years.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Palmville Cemetery.

Visitation was Thursday, August 31 from 5-7 pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Aspelund. Memorial Service was Friday September 1 at 11 am at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Aspelund. Burial was Sunday September 3 at 10 am, Palmville Cemetery, Wannaska, Minnesota.

Constance, 'Connie' Ruth Ione (Boraas) Voxland

Constance, 'Connie' Ruth Ione (Boraas) Voxland, 85, died Friday, August 11, 2023 at her home in Kenyon.

Connie was born March 21, 1938 to Herman and Alma (Haugen) Boraas, and she attended country school and Wanamingo High School. She was baptized and confirmed at Minneola Lutheran Church. She married Wally Voxland on January 10, 1955 and together they raised four children.

Connie was employed at Our Own Hardware, Floms' Department Store, Kenyon Farm and Home, Kenyon Vet Clinic, and was a substitute school bus driver for Held Bus Service. She and Wally eventually took over Wally's family farm in rural Kenyon and farmed together for over 20 years. Connie was also an organist at Holden Lutheran Church for approximately 10 years, where both her and Wally attended and she sang in the choir.

She went on many trips with Wally that included Hawaii, Alaska, and Norway. She also enjoyed summer visits to their cabin in Marcell and wintering in Mission, Texas, where they went on several cruises. She always enjoyed visits from family and friends, whether at their cabin, in Texas, or their home in Kenyon and loved seeing her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Connie is remembered as a loving wife, dedicated mother, devoted grandmother and great-grandmother, and a treasured friend.

Connie is survived by her children: Don (Mary Jo) Voxland, Gary Voxland (Gail Berg), Lori Thompson, and Kelly (LeRoy) Uhlenkamp; grandchildren: Jared Voxland (Kristy Lenartz), Crystin (Adam Maloney) Voxland, Carly (Jeremy) Bergerson, Caleb Voxland, Adam Voxland (Nina Onhsee), Jessica Thompson, Berent Uhlenkamp, and Kelsey (Justin) Mergen; great-grandchildren: Evan and Austin Voxland, Beau, Brynnea, and Blakely Bergerson, and Elijah and Elleanna Mergen; sister-in-law, JoAnn Lancaster (Arlen Fordahl); brother-in-law, Charles Voxland; many nieces and nephews.

Connie was preceded in death by her husband, Wally; sister, Phyllis Carlson; brother-in-law, George Voxland; nephew, Brian Lancaster; and niece, Julie Steberg.

Memorials are preferred to Holden Lutheran Church or Holden Park.

Visitation took place at Holden Lutheran Church on Saturday, August 19, 2023, beginning at 10:00am. With the funeral service was at 11:00am. Burial took place at Holden Cemetery following the service.



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Kenyon School History

(continued from page 1)

The first reference made was in 1856, when a log store was built. When it closed in 1858 the building became Kenyon's first school.

In 1862 Kenyon was organized as a common school district. Townspeople, realizing the need for a better school, built a new building in 1863. It was one long room with windows on both sides and homemade painted blackboards. A few years later, an addition was built to accommodate more students.

In 1887, Kenyon was changed to an Independent School District and shortly after a new school site was purchased for \$300.00 on Forest Street. This site was thought to be unwise, since the school would be "out in the country". After much controversy, a vote taken on April 1, 1889 favored a new two-story brick veneered structure. Ground was broken in June of that year by Gordon and Trostle. John Vogel and J.I. Stene constructed the walls and foundation for \$4200.00. The building, completed in August, contained four classrooms, library, hallway and Superintendent's office. This would house 200 elementary and high school students. There was no indoor plumbing, but outdoor privies were

provided, with separate accommodations for girls and boys. During 1893 and again in 1895, graduation was held for one or two students. The first large high school class to graduate was in 1896.

In 1897, additional room was needed, so an addition was added to the south of the main building. Again in 1902, a north wing was added, which had a gymnasium in the basement with shower baths for a cost of \$8000.00. This brought the total cost of the building to \$20,000.00. This building was very adequate for a number of years, but as time went on, it was evident that a larger and more sanitary quarters were needed.

In January of 1915, the voters of Kenyon decided a new building was to be built on the same spot as the existing building. Although the first bond issue was turned down, it was not until the State Department of Education informed Kenyon residents that state school aid allotment would be refused unless a new school was built. This information helped the second vote to pass.

During the spring semester, school was held six days a week and school closed one month early. This permitted the contractor to start work the first part of May. It is known that one wing of the old school was moved to Main Street by James Freely, who converted it into a hotel. There is no mention of what happened to the remainder of the building, but it is presumed that it was wrecked and

hauled away.

A cornerstone with the date 1915 was laid during ceremonies held June 21, 1915. A box was placed in the cornerstone by J.C.E. Holmen, secretary of the Board of Education. The stone contained the following items: an engraved plate with the date of cornerstone laying; a list of school board members, faculty, janitor, grade and high school students; copies of the Kenyon Leader; a photograph of the old school, showing dates of erection; post card views of Kenyon; names of architects and builder; brief history of District 91; brief write-up of Kenyon business places, city

officers and information of interest; a photo of the school board and KHS athletic teams; samples of report cards, high school commencement invitation; and program of cornerstone laying exercises.

Work on the school proceeded through the summer with completion in time for the fall opening. This deadline was not met, so classes were held in four churches and three halls in town. Work on the \$62,000.00 structure was completed by mid-December.

(continued on page 5)

Former Governor Al Quie Passes Away

Former Minnesota Gov. Al Quie, a moderate Republican known for working across the aisle as both governor and as a congressman, has died. He was 99.

Quie died of natural causes late Friday, August 18 at a senior living community in suburban Wayzata where he had lived for the last 10 years, his son, Joel Quie, said Saturday.

While he had been in declining health in recent months, he still enjoyed meeting and greeting people. At a family gathering two weeks ago, he read aloud to his great-grandchildren from their favorite storybook, his son said. He died just a month shy of his 100th birthday.

"His stature and his energy and his enthusiasm for life was there right to the end," Joel Quie said.

Albert Harold Quie was born Sept. 18, 1923, on his family's dairy farm near Dennison in southeastern Minnesota. After serving as a Navy pilot in World War II, he returned home to resume farming. He served a stint in the Minnesota Senate before winning a special election for a vacant congressional seat.

Quie represented southeastern Minnesota's 1st District in the U.S. House from 1958 to 1979, becoming known for his expertise on education and agriculture. He ran for governor in 1978 and unseated Rudy Perpich in what was dubbed the "Minnesota Massacre," a bad year for state Democrats. Voter anger had lingered after Gov. Wendell Anderson arranged for Perpich, then his lieutenant governor, to appoint Anderson to the U.S. Senate seat that Walter Mondale gave up in 1976 to become vice president.

But Quie's single term as governor turned rocky amid a deep budget shortfall in the early 1980s, when Democrats controlled the Minnesota Legislature. Amid the bitter divisions of the 1981 and 1982 sessions, he opted not to seek reelection.

In a farewell address at the University of Minnesota in December 1982, Quie decried the growing partisanship in politics but said he remained optimistic about the future of the state and the nation.

"I entered public life with a strong, though still-developing belief in the sanctity of the individual, the centrality of the family, and the compassion and good sense of people in neighborhoods and local communities. I believed that all people have infinite worth, and that all people possess gifts that can be known fully by no one," he said. "My belief in these ideas gained in strength as the years passed and I better saw their worth, and as they withstood the doubts of skeptics and the strain of great change. Nothing ... has successfully challenged my early — and lasting — belief in them."

Quie, a man of deep Lutheran faith, remained active after leaving office, serving as a local and national leader of the Christian ministry Prison Fellowship.

Joel Quie, a retired Lutheran pastor, said his family used his 99th birthday celebration last year as sort of a dress rehearsal for what they hoped would be his 100th. Current Gov. Tim Walz proclaimed it Al Quie Day. When he turned 97, the former Navy pilot got to fly in an open cockpit plane — albeit with another pilot at the controls. He had been an avid horseman and last rode when he was 1995. His goal was to saddle a horse when he turned 100, his son said.

"God blessed him with incredible resilience and stamina," his son said. "And he embraced it and lived life to the fullest."

Walz, a Democrat who held Quie's congressional seat for 12 years before becoming governor, paid tribute to him Saturday, recalling that he found him "caring, funny, and generous as ever" when he attended his predecessor's 99th birthday celebration.

"A veteran, a man of faith, and a life-long public servant, Governor Quie had a deep commitment to the betterment of our state and a legacy that extends beyond his time in office," Walz said in a statement. "His advocacy for education, eliminating discrimination, and rural development demonstrated his unwavering dedication to creating a better life for all Minnesotans."

His wife, Gretchen Quie, died in 2015. Al Quie is survived by children Fred Quivik of St. Paul; Jennie Coffin of Fairfax, Va.; Dan Quie of Greenfield, Minn.; Joel Quie of Eden Prairie; Ben Quie of St. Paul; 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Quie's funeral was held at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis on September 9 at 1 pm.



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Kenyon School History

(continued from page 4)

During Christmas break, equipment was moved into the new school, making ready for students and teachers after the holiday season.

The ground floor, which was partially sunken, housed domestic science, which was later called Home Economics, with cooking and sewing as the contents of the course. In 1940, art, home design, home furnishing, child care and nutrition were added. The gymnasium, called the "Cracker Box" because it was so small, was six feet lower than

the ground floor. There were bleachers on the west, a balcony to the east for spectators and a score board which was manually operated. The boy's locker room was on the south, with shower rooms one floor up, accessible via an iron spiral staircase, which was slippery when wet, as many can relate to. Also on this level, manual training was first offered. In later years, this subject was changed to Industrial Arts. Mr. L.G. Picha was the first instructor. Besides the regular course, Picha added Art Metal Working to the class. KHS became the first school in the state to offer Art Metal Working and state officials were so please, that as a result, this course was added state-wide. Commercial was also taught in this area for a short time. The course included typing, two years of short-hand and bookkeeping. Upon completion, the student was ready for a business position.

The second floor housed the Superintendent's office and grades 1-6. The boy's toilet was located on the south end, with the girl's toilet being on the north end.

The high school occupied the third floor. There were classrooms to the south, west and north. To the east was a large assembly room/auditorium. This served as home room for every high school student. Here, roll call was taken at the beginning of each day. A stage was located to the south and was used for operettas, graduations and class plays. Dedication ceremonies for the new building were held there in the evening of March 17, 1916.

For the next 23 years, school went on as usual. In the spring of 1938, the voters of the



Kenyon School 1915

school district voted 532 to 68 to spend \$53,000.00 for a new gymnasium/auditorium. In November of that year, the building was dedicated. It consisted of a large regulation basketball court with a stage to the west side. In the basement, two locker/shower rooms and a band/community room were located. The band room was also used as the first lunch room. In the 1915 part, the assembly room on the third floor was remodeled into three rooms; math, library and home room/study hall. Individual lockers for students were provided for their personal belongings in the long hall.

In the early 1950's, with the increasing enrollment of students, the school board pro-

posed a \$900,000.00 bond for the construction of a new elementary school and remodeling of the old high school. In 1953 and again in 1954, voters disapproved both issues. The school board then dropped the remodeling of the high school and concentrated on the elementary building. In February 1954, the voters approved the new elementary building on a new site on 6th Street. The Kenyon School District sold rural schools #53, 120, 140 and 148, these students would be bused to Kenyon in the fall. The remaining 11 rural schools in the district would remain open for the 1954-55 school year.

(continued on page 6)

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Ann Traxler
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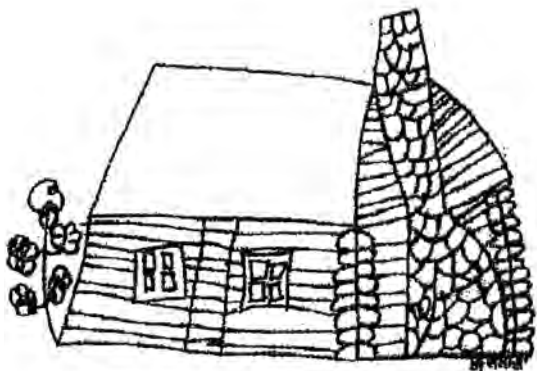


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Kenyon School History

(continued from page 5)

After 95 years as District #91, the school was changed to District #254 in October 1957. Increasing enrollment and the higher number of courses offered also caused overcrowding in the high school. After a lot of talk about how KHS would lose state aid if something wasn't done, another heated election was planned for June 1960, for a bond totaling \$795,000.00. The issue passed by less than 100 votes. Ground was broken for the new additions on April 13, 1961. A new gymnasium would be built north of the 1939 addition and new spaces would be added to the east, north and west of this new gym. Many people resented the "lean too" as they were called, but work continued. A total of 13 major classrooms were added to this area. During construction, one workman was killed in a fall from the building and a prehistoric Mammoth tooth was found. Work on remodeling the old structure, along with the completion of the new additions continued throughout the summer of 1962. Students started the 1962-63 school year in September and the new complex was dedicated on November 11, 1962.

For the next 30-some years, building projects came to a halt, but major changes and points of interest took place in the school district during those years.

In 1981, there were discussions about pair-

ing with West Concord and in 1988 the same discussions were held with Wanamingo. In 1989, a three-way pairing ended when West Concorde chose to look south for its future. In 1990, KHS school board unanimously approves pairing with Wanamingo for the 1990-1991 school year. In 1990, the Kenyon Vikings and the Wanamingo Bulldogs become the Knights and the school colors changed from maroon and gold to black, red and silver with the pairing of KHS and WHS. In 1993 the two school boards asked voters to approve a formal joining of the two schools.

The first vote failed when Wanamingo rejected the proposal of a joint school district. On the second vote in December 1993, the issue passed and in July of 1994, Kenyon-Wanamingo became School District 2172. In 1995 the K-W school board approved a new building plan but it wasn't until May of 1996 that a proposal for a new K-W high school was approved by voters. Ground breaking for the new high school, just west of the Kenyon Elementary School, started in October of 1996.

The Kenyon High and Grade School, 1996 to 2023

The old Kenyon High and Grade School was vacated in the fall of 1998, with the new school district locking the doors and leaving behind all the school equipment, desks, books, trophies, band uniforms and memories from the past 109 years.

From 1998 to 2013, the old school property passed through a few hands and fell into sad disrepair. Lack of maintenance, vandalism and invasion of nature and elements destroyed the building, creating an eyesore and



Kenyon School 1938

bitter resentment from some of the Kenyon community. Finally, in the spring of 2013, a contractor was hired to remove the old school.

During the demolition of the school, several people, including John Cole, watched every day as the building became a huge pile of rubble. From those people came the idea to save some small part of the school and try to preserve the fond memories that many alumni had of their experiences in that building. The contractor was called to see about saving the pediments around the front door of the 1915 building, unfortunately the cost was too high and the time too short to save them. Once they were pushed into the rubble pile, the cost came down and a group of alumni bought them, moved them and stored

them until a plan could be formed.


The salvaged pieces took a beating when dragged down by the excavator and were promptly labeled "junk" by some observers. To dispel this rumor, Jeff Anderson from Anderson Memorials, a Certified Memorialist with certification from the American Institute of Commemorative Art, examined the pieces. He said, "I am impressed with the character of these hand carved pieces...they are wonderful artifacts of the historical past and should be preserved". The egg and scroll and the column capitals were all hand carved by craftsmen using Indiana limestone, a common material used for carving. The columns and entablature were made by ArtStone, a company established in 1914 in New Ulm, Minnesota.

(continued on page 7)

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Super-Intendent

(continued from page 1)

Upon leaving the military, she took a teaching position in Kasson/Mantorville as a special education and physical education teacher. After that, she taught in South Washington County. She then taught in Cannon Falls until a position came up to be the Principal in the Cannon Falls school district. She applied for it, and got it. From there, she was hired as the Cannon Falls Superintendent. While working with the Cannon Falls school district, she and her husband Brad decided to purchase a small hobby farm. They reside there still with 2 Tennessee Walker horses, Rip & Finn. They have 3 adult children, Lauren, Anna and

Matthew.

After 20 years in Cannon Falls, she took the position of Superintendent at St. Francis in Anoka County. Although this was truly a prestigious position, she found it was too far from home, and she missed her interaction with the kids in school. She made the decision to go back to her small town roots, and accepted the position she now holds as Principal/Superintendent of the Kenyon/Wanamingo schools. I'd say she is well qualified for this position, wouldn't you agree?

We had a candid conversation about the areas Beth feels need the most focus to achieve her goals. Financial transparency is a top priority. She means to address fiscal accountability, and rebuild the trust of the school district. Secondly she wishes to fix

what she sees as a communication deficit using all forms of social media. Beth welcomes questions and comments, as well as ideas for the school, and will maintain a social presence where she can be reached. Concerned parents, staff and students can call her office, stop in and chat when she is available, or contact her on Face Book at @Suptgiese.

Beth feels that authentic leadership can be maintained by being present and listening, and also by having a community presence. You will find her at band concerts, sports events and FFA meetings, to name a few. She welcomes conversations at these events.

Enrollment is up about 20 students this year. That means the right amount of staff to students is a priority. She is putting together a 3 year plan to address this issue. The plan is a solid one, so I asked her how she is going to

accomplish all these goals. "I'm not afraid to say no", she replied. "If a request is made that we as a district can't currently afford, I will deny the request and look for ways to implement the request at a later date."

She is addressing state funding, and said that the state is covering 44% of cross subsidy funding for special education for the 2024/25 school year. Keeping the current students enrolled in the K/W school district is important. Focusing on drawing new students is crucial, too. For every child enrolled in the system, the state pays the school a set amount for operating expenses, food and transportation, to name a few things that they need. Knowing this, you can see how revenue from new students can help balance the budget. Keeping the students we already have is an important step, so keeping the extracurricular activities we currently have in place is key. Addressing mental health is also a priority, and letting students know they are heard is valuable. When the students know they are being listened to, and that their ideas are important, more ideas surface.

Putting all these ideas into play will be a big job, but Beth has a "Can Do" attitude, and believes that working together to address the issues we all are facing in the upcoming year is the key to success. I encourage you to get to know Beth as a person on a mission for the good of all concerned. You will be able to "hear" her thoughts and ideas in her new monthly column in the Messenger! I am looking forward to hearing what she has to say, and she is excited to hear your thoughts on her ideas, too. Here's to a great year ahead!!

Kenyon School History (continued from page 6)

The question of using the damaged pieces in a monument was discussed more than once. The Architect, Kim Portz, presented the perspective that the damage is just part of the history of the school, to fix the pieces would be cost prohibitive and disingenuous to their history. Setting them in used Chicago brick added to the patina of time and authenticity of the monument.

So, after 10 years of planning, fundraising and constructing, the monument to the Kenyon High and Grade School is nearly complete. The journey of the school, such an important part of Kenyon history and ingrained in all alumni, can be continued now,

with the monument set near the school site. Pavers with familiar names and triggers for fond memories surround the monument, where visitors point, laugh and perhaps shed a tear for the school and experiences that shaped their lives.

Future plans for the monument include some benches and signage to complete the experience and honor the past. Fundraising will continue until the site is complete and an honorary reflection of the Kenyon Schools.

The monument dedication was on August 19, 2023 at 3pm at the monument site on Forest Street.

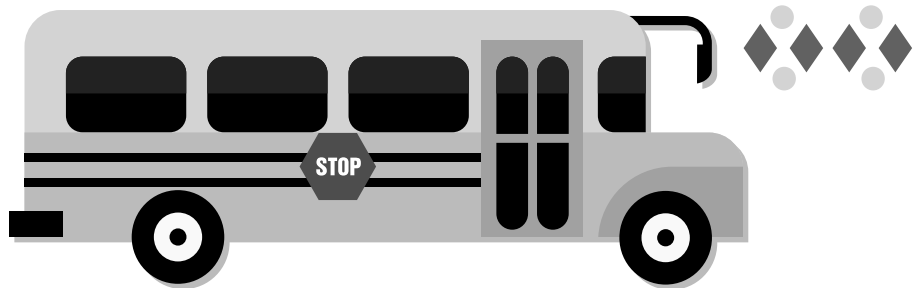
Family Fun Night at Faith Community Church in West Concord

October 4, 2023, a Family Fun Night will be held at Faith Community Church in West Concord.

Supper will be served at 6:15 p.m. followed by fun, games, music & more. The fast-paced evening is designed to serve the entire family and concludes at 7:45 p.m. The nursery will be available.

These fun nights are planned for the first Wednesday of each month, starting in October and running through May. Family Fun Nights allow families to eat, play, and learn together. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us.

Safety Smarts



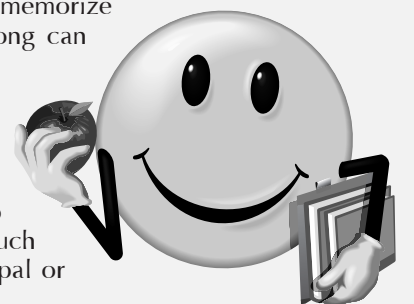
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Parents, be sure to review these important bus safety tips with young riders to keep kids safe this school year.

- Talk to your kids about bus safety and respect. Ridership is a privilege. It can be taken away due to bad behavior, so check with your school district about established guidelines.
- Dress appropriately for the weather.
- Be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus is set to arrive. Tardiness can lead to mistakes in safety measures.
- Kids should follow the five giant steps rule: Be five giant steps back from where the bus actually stops until it comes to a complete stop and the driver opens the door.
- Backpacks/bags need to be fully closed and sized appropriately for the child to prevent safety hazards such as dragging straps.
- Always stay seated on the bus. Teach your child to stay in the seat until the bus comes to a complete stop at your child's destination.
- Show appreciation to the bus driver. Remind your kids to say thank you when they get off. Kindness and good manners go a long way.
- Go over your child's bus routine. Describe the location and street where your child should get off. For younger kids, write down their names, bus number, bus stop and where you may be reached and put that information inside their backpack. Help your children memorize your cell telephone number; putting it to song can help.
- Don't hang out of the window. Keep body parts inside the bus!
- Bullying should never be tolerated. Talk to your child about bullying on the bus. Read your district's school bus behavior policy to understand to whom you should report such bullying. It may be the driver, teacher, principal or someone else.



Letter from the Superintendent Ready, Set, Go -



By Beth Giese MA, Ed.S
Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools
District Superintendent



I am so excited to be your new superintendent. I've had the opportunity to be a part of many community events over the summer. As I visit the local businesses, partake in celebrations, and explore the area,

I am so impressed with everything our communities have to offer.

The last week of August was filled with staff back in the buildings and you can feel the energy throughout the hallways. As we kick-off the 2023 school year, I want to ex-

press my enthusiasm and commitment to providing the best possible educational experience for your children.

I am not surprised by enrollment being up this year. Here is a very brief summary of why parents are gravitating to K-W when they are selecting a school.

- **Small Class Sizes:** We know that personalized learning from our talented staff occurs when we keep class sizes as low as possible. Our Kindergarten, for example, boasts 15 students in a class. This allows for things like early literacy development to occur.

- **Academic Rigor:** Students have access to advanced math and language arts coursework, world language and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Concurrent enrollment coursework also offers options to our high school students in areas of their personal interest. Our band, choir, technology, and CTE (Career and Technical Education - "The Trades") are just some of the reasons people enroll their children in our district. Workforce Pathways and Certifications is an upcoming priority of mine.

- **Student Engagement:** When students engage in activities, the arts, or athletics beyond the school day, their achievement and overall success increases. K-W continues to offer a wide variety of program offerings, and has an unprecedented number of individual Conference and State Championships in athletics and the fine arts. Coding, FFA, and Robotics are all competing as well.

- **Early Childhood Programs:** K-W has prioritized and offers high-quality preschool

and early learning programming for our youngest students and their families!

At our August "State of the School" address, I shared my belief that our teachers and staff are the CHAMPIONS for our students. It is our responsibility as educators to continue to encourage them to follow their dreams. This may be running the family business, college, tech school, apprentice-

ships, the military and the list goes on.

My door is always open to your questions, suggestions, and feedback.

Email: bgiese@kw.k12.mn.us

Website: www.kw.k12.mn.us

Social Media: @SuptGiese.

I truly am excited to be a Knight.

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An Apple A Day



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

In last month's article, I presented a solution to the increasing health challenge of Metabolic Syndrome. In that article, eight specific steps were recommended for beginning the process of reversing Metabolic Syn-

drome. The final step listed was "Eat an apple each day."

You probably have heard the rhyme, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." But what does an apple really do for you? Does any apple work, or only certain kinds? Let's dig a little deeper.

Medications - A 2015 study published in JAMA Internal Medicine by Davis et al observed that those who consumed one apple a day required less prescription drugs. Those who eat one apple a day probably make other healthy choices as well that contribute to this positive association between apples and reduced drugs.

Heart Disease - A 2017 study published in Molecular Nutrition Food Research by Bon-donno et al compared apples high in flavonoids, which are found in the apple skin, with apples low in flavonoids and observed improved blood flow through the brachial arteries when the high flavonoid apples were eaten. In other words, these apples improved the blood flow through the body. The apples with high flavonoid content will typically be darker red apples that are not too sweet.

Cholesterol - The healthy control of cholesterol has also been improved with an apple a day. A 2017 study in the Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture by GC Tenore compared modern apples with the Annurca apple and observed that two small Annurca apples a day significantly lowered the bad cholesterol and increased the good cholesterol. The Annurca apple is known for its higher flavonoid content. Older, heritage ap-

ples typically have high flavonoid and polyphenol content.

Blood Sugar - Those individuals who had a daily intake of apple polyphenols, which are from the skin of the apple, had an improved ability to manage blood sugar compared to individuals who did not consume the polyphenols. This observation was reported in a 2017 study published in Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice by Shoji et al. One possible reason for this improved sugar control is the polyphenols seem to reduce the sugar absorption ability of the intestines by closing the primary "door" that sugar uses to pass through the intestines, according to Schulze et al in their 2014 published study in Molecular Nutrition and Food Research.

Colon Health - The ability of the polyphenols of apples to "close the door" on sugar transport to cells is one of the pathways to stop the growth of cancer cells in the colon, as observed in a 2016 study by Lin et al in the Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry. A cancer cell has many more "doors" to bring in sugar to accelerate growth, so polyphenols help to close these doors and inhibit the growth of cancer cells. The peeling of the apple contains the highest content of effective polyphenols with antioxidant activity, anti-bacterial activity, and anti-cancer activity, which was documented in a 2016 study by Lin et al in the Journal of Food Science.

The older apple varieties that have high polyphenol content include - Braeburn, Jonathan, McIntosh, Gravenstein, and Annurca. Avoid the newer varieties that have

been bred for increased sugar content and size.

An apple a day is the eighth guideline followed in the Metabolic Balance Program®, a program developed 20 years ago in Germany. This program provides a personalized meal plan based on your unique blood chemistry. Those who have followed their personal Metabolic Balance Plan have observed blood sugar levels become controlled, cholesterol levels improve, inflammation decreased, acid reflux disappear, and the body shifts to a healthy weight.

If you would like to learn more about the foods that help you thrive, join me for a LIVE event series planned for September 11, 18, and 25. I will be presenting "PRIORITY FOODS: Protein, Fats, and Carbohydrates" at FiftyNorth in Northfield at 6:30 pm each Monday evening. You can register by calling the Front Desk at (507) 664-3700.

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- How much of each category should you consume
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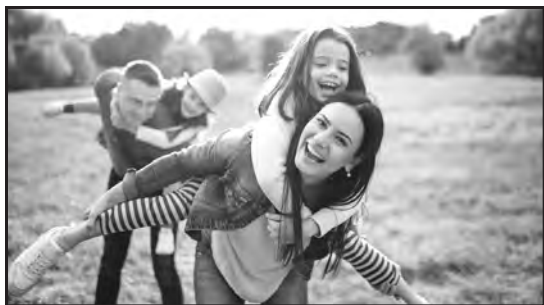
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HJB Accounting in West Concord

By Cheri Roshon

Today I had the pleasure of meeting Holly and Jeff Burow at their tax office in West Concord. Now that the rush of income tax season has subsided, we were able to sit down and chat about not only the business they run, but I also learned a lot about Jeff's position as manager of the gambling aspect of the West Concord Historical Society, and their 5th generation family farm just outside of West Concord.

Holly is involved in not only personal taxes, but also prepares small business and corporate taxes as well. She is also an auditor and helps Jeff on the farm. Jeff runs the farm and also helps out in the tax office, and manages the e-tabs at the liquor store and the bowling alley, so these two are quite the team!

Holly grew up in Lake City, and after graduation, went to school for Ag Business in River Falls, Wisconsin. Her jobs included raising, farrowing and breeding pigs at MN Family Farms, then after a few years, she worked at a high-tech research facility in Rochester where research was being done on whole heart transplants from pig to humans. She began servicing mortgages in Rochester at Ag Star Financial Services. During her time there, she began taking classes to become a Certified Public Accountant. She began un-

derwriting home loans, then writing mortgages for commercial properties, and finally got into accounting. When she earned her CPA, she left Ag Star to work with Reese, Winter & Associates, an accounting firm located in Northfield and Faribault.

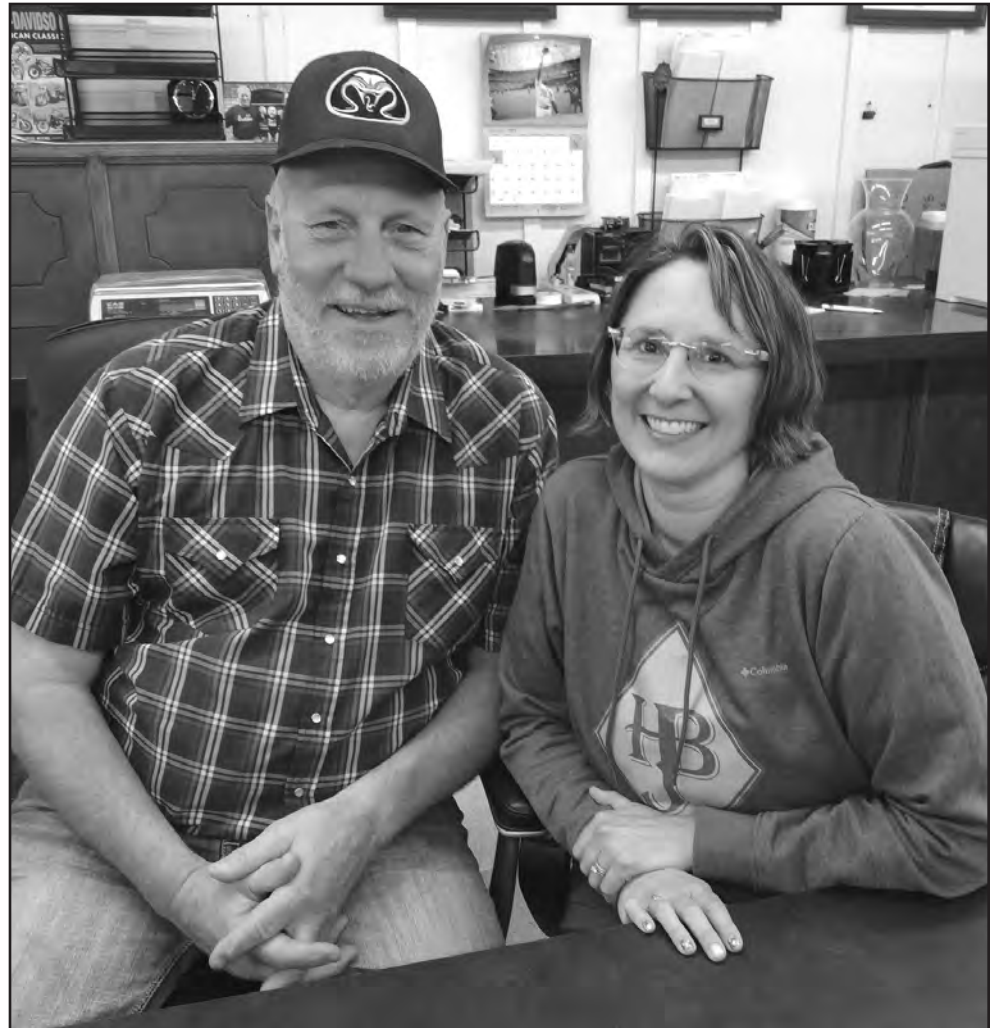
One night she was serving meatballs at a church supper, and mentioned to a parishioner that she would like to open her own firm, and was told that the current accountant in town was looking to sell her business, and the rest, as they say, is history. So it was that in 2015, Holly began her own practice. I asked if Jeff was involved in the tax office, and she said he is her office manager. I asked what that consisted of, and she said he answers the phone, sets appointments, assembles the tax returns, vacuums the office and with a twinkle in her eye, said of course, he brings her coffee!

She met Jeff in 1998 in Kenyon, and they were married in 2005. I asked her, since he helps her so much, does she help him on the farm, too? She laughed and said she helps with the chores when she's not busy, and winked.

Getting back to the tax business, I wondered what keeps her busy out of income tax season. "I do accounting for small businesses, corporations and non-profits, as well as gambling audits," she replied. As if that wasn't enough, she helps Jeff with Bingo, meat raffles and other charitable functions that benefit West Concord in various ways.

When I spoke to Jeff, I learned about a bill that is currently up for vote that would eliminate all e-tabs at Wescon Lanes and the Liquor Store.

(continued on page 15)



Jeff and Holly Burow

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September 16
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- 1997 Ford F150 - 116,000 mi.
- 2002 Chev. K2500 - 135,000 mi.
- 2000 Yamaha Kodiak 4-wheeler - not running

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Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023 9 am

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Location Parcel 1: From I-35 & County Rd 46
intersection in Albert Lea, MN
1.5 miles East on County Rd 46
Location Parcel 2: North 1.5 miles on
County Road 20 towards Interstate then
East ¼ mile on Plaza Street

Parcel 1: • 75.40 acres with 43.40 tillable acres. The Corn Base is 43.40.
 The CPI is 86.9
Parcel 2: • 32.49 acres with 28.86 tillable acres. The Corn Base is 23.30.
 The Bean Base is 5.56. CPI of 59.9

Auctioneer Comment:

Both of these parcels are very special. Parcel 1 has good farmland with
 excellent hunting. It is just outside of The Myre Big Island State Park. Parcel
 2 is excellent land for future development on Plaza Street. Just off of I-90
Terms & Conditions:
 \$100,000 down for Tract 1 and \$50,000 down for Tract 2 due on the day of
 the auctions. The balance is due on or before November 1, 2023. There will
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OWNER:

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**AUCTION
CALENDAR**

September 10, 2023
Bidding Begins: ... Sept. 2, 2023
Starts Closing.....Sept. 10, 2023
Zumbro Falls, MN

ONLINE ONLY MOVING AUCTION
FOR RON & SHIRLEY ANDERSON
 John Deere LX277 Mower, Pressure
 Washer, Metal Saws, Power & Hand
 Tools, Engines & Parts, Farm Primitives,
 Antiques, Furniture, Household Items
 and More

September 14, 2023.....1:00 PM
Mapleton, MN

LIVE & ONLINE
FARM MOVING AUCTION
FOR ROBERT & KAREN SCHULL
 John Deere 4720 MFD w/Loader,
 ID 2425, Z375R & 525E Mowers,
 (3) Arctic Cat 550 & 650 ATVs/
 PI 20' Trailer, Snowblower, Brush
 Mower, Firearms, Red Wing
 Stoneware, Antiques, Collectibles,
 Farm Primitives, Power & Hand Tools

October 8, 2023

Bidding Begins: ..Sept. 28, 2023
Starts Closing...October 8, 2023
Northfield, MN

ONLINE ONLY ESTATE AUCTION
FOR THE LES SANDFORD ESTATE
 (3) Farmall Tractors, Antique Gas Hit
 & Miss Engines, Tractor Parts, Large
 Amount of Farm Primitives, Hand &
 Power Tools, Antiques, Furniture

October 11, 2023

Bidding Begins: Oct. 2, 2023
Starts Closing..... Oct. 11, 2023
Randolph, MN

ONLINE ONLY
FARM ESTATE AUCTION FOR
RANDY THOMPSON ESTATE
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First Lutheran Church
 434 1st Street SW
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Saturday, October 14, 2023

\$23 per meal

Reservations and prepayment
required for dining room seating
and take-out / NO Walk-ins

11 a.m, 12 noon or 1 p.m. seatings

Tickets go on sale September 14

Reservations & payment can be made online at
firstlutheranbp.com/lutefisk-dinner/ or by
 calling the church office at 507-583-6621

Office hours are Mon - Thurs 8am-3pm
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NEW AUCTION ENDS EVERY WED, 8pm! Sept 13th No auction 9/5

Tracker Guide 16 ft Boat w/ motor
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Faith Community Church MOPS Program Nurtures Moms and Children

(continued from page 1)

Life as a Mom can be a rewarding and definitely a challenging journey. For those Moms who stay at home with their kiddos, it is sometimes lonely and challenging to make friends. Going hour after hour speaking only to a 2 year old whose favorite word is “Mine” or “No” is no picnic. Moms understand how exhausting it is when babies wake up two or three times every night. Children do eventually get through these stages, but it certainly helps to connect with friends who understand and relate to things like temper tantrums, potty training, sleepless nights and “am I doing this motherhood thing right” questions.

The MOPS program includes many varied and helpful topics such as women’s health, soul rest, nutrition, marriage, friendship, and creativity in parenting. Time for coffee or tea is always provided and a light breakfast is a part of every session. Interesting “hands on” crafts are occasionally added for enjoyment and creativity.



MOPS encourages and equips moms of young children to realize their potential as

mothers, women, and leaders, in relationship with Jesus and in partnership with the local church. The MOPS organization began in 1973 when a group of moms with young children met together to share with each other and encourage each other on the parenting journey. MOPS partners with churches and organizations worldwide and is now encouraging moms in more than 70 countries.

The MOPS organization believes remarkable things happen when moms come to-

gether and encourage each other.

Come find friendship, courage and joy together with other moms of young children!

HJB Accounting in West Concord

(continued from page 10)

I had no idea how important the revenue off pull tabs and other types of gambling keep a small-town thriving. I'm going to name a few benefits. The gaming fund benefits the Cardinal Club, which supports the upkeep on the softball field and the girls Venom softball league, Tritons post prom party, and Survival Days, just to name a few. It helps the, and does projects to beautify the town. It is a very important part of small-town sustainability.

One of the events the gaming contributes to is Survival Days on July 21-23. On the 22nd, there will be Bingo under the big tent, followed by none other than Lost Highway from Kenyon. There will be a beer garden for snacks and refreshments as well. If you'd like to know more about the gaming aspect of your town's funds, just ask Jeff. He is a wealth of information about the benefits, the steps we need to take to keep the revenue coming in, and what the West Concord Historical Society does for the town. He can let you know how you, too, can be a part of this important organization.

And if you are contemplating opening a new business, or are looking for a CPA for a current endeavor, Holly services many small businesses in the area and would love to help you, too. Call her at (507) 527-2898 for a consultation. You'll be glad to be in such capable hands!

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Big Woods Run

An organized run through the Big Woods State Park is happening again this year! St John's United Church of Christ is once again planning the Big Woods Run, a race that takes runners through one of the best hardwood forests in southern Minnesota. Saturday, September 30, 2023 is the date to pull on your running shoes and enjoy this scenic trek. The Big Woods should be in prime color for the runners and spectators.

The schedule of events includes a half marathon, 10k and 5k. The half marathon will take runners through beautiful wooded scenery with challenging hills. The 10k and 5k runners will enjoy a fairly flat wooded trail course. The half marathon and 10k begin at 9:00am at St John's UCC, 19086 Jacobs Avenue, Faribault, MN. 5k runners will take a shuttle bus from the church to the starting line in the middle of the park. 5k runners must be on the bus no later than 8:40am.

Runners can register online at www.finalstretch.com Race day registration is 7:15-8:45am at the church.

Proceeds from the Big Woods Run are donated to local charities. Over \$150,000 has been donated in the 25 years of the event.



To the Editor:

Thank you to all the local businesses and individuals who sponsored the 2023 Kenyon Rose Fest Old Car and Truck Show. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated.

The show brought 207 entries to Kenyon. The car show participants gave back to our community by donating 162 pounds of food, in addition to giving cash donations to our local food shelf. They also supported the breakfasts and lunches that were being served and shopped at the local stores.

The show could not have taken place without each one of you who sponsored it. Thank you also to everyone else who helped during the show.

We are thankful to live in such a wonderful community.

Bob & Helen Peterson
Kenyon

**GOD'S WORK
OUR HANDS
COMMUNITY
RALLY DAY
SEPTEMBER 17,
2023
10:30AM
HOLDEN
COMMUNITY
PARK**

Join us for our
2nd Annual Community Rally Day!

Our rally day begins with outdoor worship at 10:30am with Bishop Hassanally providing the message. After worship, join us for food, fellowship and service projects supporting local and global ministries, knowing that every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Donations are currently being collected and can be dropped off at Holden Lutheran Church or brought to the event.

**SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
FOR K-W SCHOOLS
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EARBUDS/HEADPHONES,
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MARKERS, ETC.**

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BATH SIZED SOAP BARS (BOXED)
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STURDY HAIR COMBS
METAL NAIL CLIPPERS**

*Carpool recommended *Bring a lawn chair *Rain Location: Holden Church

**Vang/Dennison Lutheran's
Sunday Fun-day at Windy
Willow Farm!
Sunday October 1st, 2-5 PM**

Family Fun for all ages!
Come enjoy the farm and activities, as well as team building followed by a picnic dinner!

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council Meeting was duly held in the City Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. on the 11th day of July 2023. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Henke.

The following members were present: Mayor Doug Henke, Council Members Kim Helgeson, Lee Sjolander, Mary Bailey, and Molly Ryan

Absent: None

Also, present: City Administrator Mark Vahlsing, Police Officer Brian Homeier, Attorney Scott Riggs, Public Works Director Wayne Ehrlich, City Engineer Derik Olinger, Administrative Assistant Holli Gudknecht, Police Chief Jeff Sjoblom, Linda Bean, Jerry & Diane Barrett, Nicole Eggert

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENT

ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Henke second by Ryan to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried 5-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Helgeson second by Bailey to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes payment of check numbers, 74959 through 75042.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS/RECOGNITIONS/PROLAMATIONS ENGINEERING

Pearl Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements Engineer Olinger stated that the bids for the Pearl Creek Sewer project were opened last week and were lower than projected.

Resolution 2023-17: Accepting Easements Engineer Olinger updated the council on the progress of securing easements for the sewer project. The City is still waiting for signatures from one property owner.

Motion by Bailey second by Helgeson to approve Resolution 2023-17 Motion carried 5-0-0.

Construction Engineering Proposal

Engineer Olinger stated that Council approval was needed for costs related to construction engineering services including surveying for the Pearl Creek Sanitary Sewer project.

Motion by Henke second by Ryan to approve the construction engineering proposal from Bolton and Menk for the Pearl Creek Sanitary Sewer and Street Improvement projects. Motion carried 5-0-0.

2023 Street Maintenance Improvement Project

Engineer Olinger reviewed the pavement management plan for the city this year. Quotes for reclamite work to seal specified streets were solicited. One proposal was received.

Construction Engineering Proposal

Motion by Helgeson, second by Bailey to approve the proposal from Bolton and Menk for construction engineering services for the 2023 Street Improvement Project. Motion carried 5-0-0.

LEGAL

Review of Ordinance No. 102 (interim ordinance) Cannabis

City Attorney Riggs reviewed the draft interim ordinance authorizing a study and imposing a moratorium of the operation of

Cannabis. Summaries of the new law, and a copy of the interim ordinance are attached. He also said that before the draft ordinance is considered the Council needs to discuss whether the City wants to regulate hemp products (THC edibles and gummies that have been available since last year). If the Council moves to proceed with the Ordinance a Public Hearing would have to be scheduled for the August Council meeting.

Adopt Interim Ordinance No. 102

No discussion.

Resolution 2023-11 Approving Summary Publication of an Ordinance Authorizing a Study and Imposing a Moratorium of the Operation of Cannabis Business

No discussion.

Request for City to relocate alley/ROW - Jeff and Ann Traxler

Attorney Riggs stated that the City received the legal description from Rapp Surveying today (7/11). He will begin to prepare the deeds for the land swap. Jeff and Ann Traxler are requesting that the City to do a land swap of right-of-way area that abuts their property to the west. They need the land swap to help facilitate a planned expansion project of their business.

OLD BUSINESS

Review Ordinance No. 101 Allowing Chickens within City Limits

Administrator Vahlsing stated that revisions were made to the draft ordinance regulating Chickens based on discussion at the June Council meeting. Revisions were made to the areas regulating chicken coops. He also reviewed the results of the on-line survey conducted on the city web site. Respondents were asked if they supported allowing Chickens n residentially zoned areas. The results were 121 yes, 103 no, and 17 unsure.

Mayor Henke- Thanked Library Director Otte for her work with the survey on the City web site. He had talked to residents about allowing chickens but had received mixed results. He was still against allowing chickens in the City.

Councilmen Ryan had done research also, she talked to City employees and residents about allowing chickens. She had concerns with who would enforce the ordinance.

Councilmen Bailey stated that more people wanted chickens in the survey. The Council is here to serve the public and they voted yes.

Councilmen Helgeson – It was hard to tell if the survey is accurate as far as who may have voted.

Councilmen Sjolander – He was torn on the idea of allowing chickens. He wants to give residents what they want. There are already chickens in town. May be hard to enforce ordinance. If the ordinance is passed, it should be reviewed again in a year.

Motion by Sjolander, Second by Bailey to approve Ordinance 101 Allowing Chickens in the City limits

Ayes	Nayes
Bailey	Helgeson
Sjolander	Henke
	Ryan

Motion failed.

Resolution 2023-15: Approving Summary Publication of Ord. 101

No discussion

Review Quotes for Payroll Services

Administrator Vahlsing stated that staff had been reviewing options for contracting payroll processing. The city has received updated quotes from five firms. Kelly Perry has met with representatives of all the payroll firms. In order to cover the costs of the payroll service, the hours that the city pays toward the PD/City Administrative position could be reduced. The personnel committee has reviewed the concept and is supportive. Staff would recommend using Paycom. Kelly has worked with that company previously and had a good experience.

Motion by Ryan second by Henke to approve proposal of Paycom. Approval contingent on execution of agreement. Motion carried 5-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

City and KMU Compensation Study

Administrator Vahlsing updated the Council that staff is getting quotes for a compensation study. This study compares City pay scales with comparable cities. He stated that the city was hoping to get 4 or 5 quotes and have them ready for the August City Council and KMU meetings.

Therapy and Consulting Services Agreement – Police Department

Police Chief Sjoblom requested Council approval of an agreement with Lodestar Psychology to provide counseling services and therapy for the Police Department. He stated that a recently approved state law requires that law enforcement agencies provide therapy services for offices.

Motion by Sjolander seconded by Ryan to approve agreement with Lodestar Psychology for therapy services for the Police Department. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Pearl Creek Sewer Main and Street Improvement Projects Bond Sale – George Eilertson – Northland Public Finance

George Eilertson- Northland Public Finance reviewed the proposed bond sale terms for the 2023 public works projects. As part of the bond sale, Standard and Poors reviewed the City financial standing and confirmed the A+ rating. See S&P summary attached below for more information on the bond rating. The bonds sold at a 3.93% interest rate and a 15-year term.

Resolution 2023-16: Awarding the Sale of General Obligation Bonds – Pearl Creek Sewer Main and Street Improvement projects.

Motion by Ryan second by Helgeson to adopt Resolution 2023-16. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

KMU Meeting: Tuesday, July 18th @ 4:00 p.m.

EDA Meeting: Tuesday, August 1st @ 8:00 a.m.

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, August 8th @ 7 p.m

COUNCIL AND STAFF GENERAL COMMENTS

Council member Helgeson thanked community for supporting Farmers Market.

Mayor Henke- Farmers Market has had a good turnout. Thanked Councilmen Helgeson, Bailey Ament and Park Board for work on the market. Administrator Vahlsing has approved two building permits for townhomes in Trondheim area.

City Administrator Vahlsing stated that Library Director Michelle did a great job with the survey for Chickens on the City web site.

Police Chief Sjoblom reminded the Council that National Night Out was August 1.

Motion by Bailey second by Helgeson to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Mark Vahlsing, City Administrator
Douglas Henke, Mayor

“ASK A TROOPER”

By Sgt. Troy Christianson of the Minnesota State Patrol

Question: I know it's discouraged but is it actually illegal for students to be standing on a school bus while it is moving?

Answer: Minnesota state law says no person shall stand in a school bus when the bus is in motion. In addition, the aisle and emergency exit of a school bus shall be kept unobstructed at all times when children are being transported.

Stop for School Buses: It's the Law!

- State law requires all vehicles to stop for school buses when the bus driver activates the flashing lights and has the stop arm fully extended.
- Drivers who violate the law face a \$500 fine.
- Drivers can face criminal charges for passing a school bus on the right, passing when a child is outside the bus, or injuring or killing a child.

Motorists:

- On undivided roads, motorists traveling both directions must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights and an extended stop arm.
- Traffic traveling the opposite direction on a divided roadway with a separating median such as a cement wall or boulevard is not required to stop.
- Motorists should slow down, pay attention and anticipate school children and buses, especially in neighborhoods and school zones.

Students:

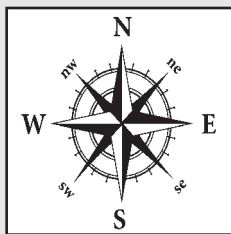
- When getting off a bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
- When crossing the street to get on the bus or to go home, make eye contact with motorists before proceeding.

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)



Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes



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.

I found this Minneapolis Moline tractor replica at a garage sale I took my wife to. I don't intentionally do garage sales but occasionally an interesting item pops up. I am at that age where I do not try to accumulate anymore worldly treasures. Just seems like more junk to leave to someone to dispose of after they dispose of me. But this one just called out to me.

It really isn't much of a tractor replica, more of an abstract collection of parts and could be many things if not painted that iconic yellow/orange with the Minneapolis Moline logo on the side. It started out life as a Singer sewing machine and was repurposed for some nostalgic antique tractor buff.

When I was a very small kid, I remember my grandfather's Minneapolis Moline Z tractor. I do not believe it ever ran during my lifetime. Just sat in the grass on the north side of the hog barn. My sister and I used to climb up on it and pretend we were driving tractor when we were very young. There were lots of levers that moved back and forth with a satisfying clunk while we shifted gears and engaged the power on our imaginary adventures.

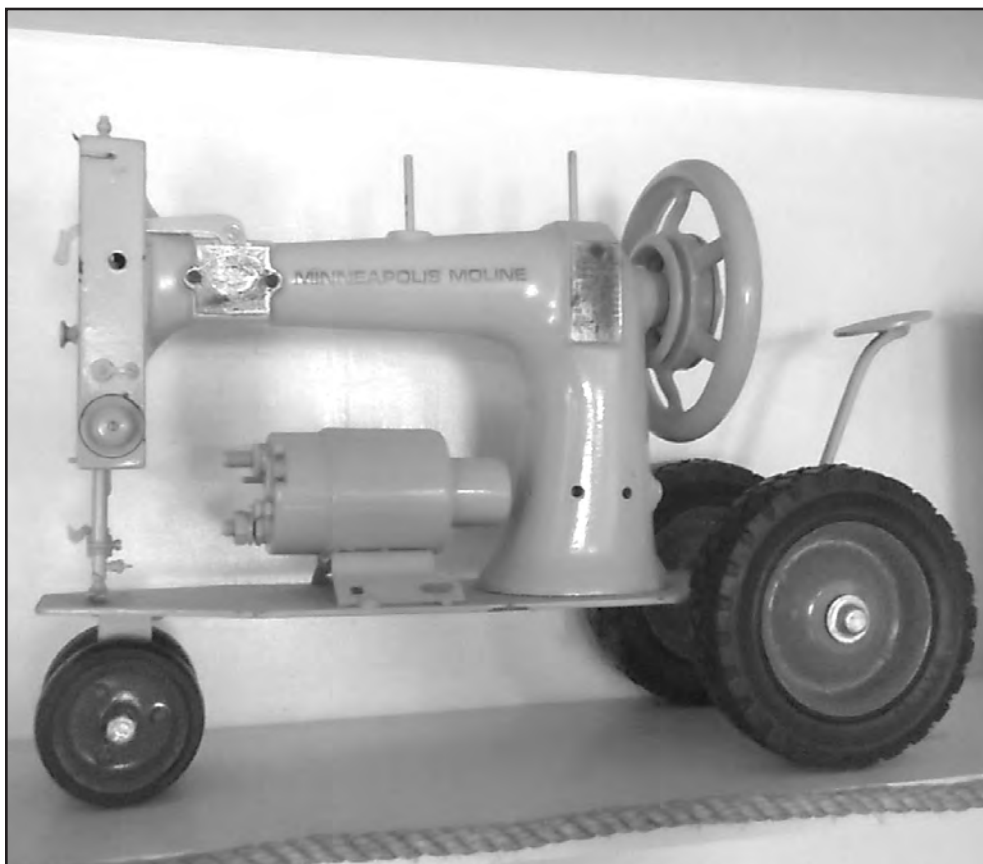
One day my activity aroused a bumble bee which had taken up residence under neath the

metal cowl of the tractor. He proceeded to sting me on the arm and I ran to the house howling for my mom. She put salve on my wound and soothed my pain but told me not to play on it any more. That was her standard advice when I did something she felt could harm me. I climbed the silo. She told me not to. I went up in the hay loft, she told me not to. Eventually I learned to not tell her what I did. My dad just figured what didn't kill me, made me stronger. That is why young boys hang out with dad more often.

It had a great history on the farm though. I believe it was the first rubber-tired tractor that my grandfather owned. They were made between 1949 and 1953. The Z was rated at 36 horsepower on the belt and 32 horsepower at the drawbar. My neighbor Richard Matti told me once about how proud my grandfather was of it and they used it to power a threshing machine in the early years.

One story related to me was how one fall it was very cold when they were doing fall plowing and my grandfather would drive the farm pickup along-side the tractor in the field. The hired man would drop the plow in the ground and tie the steering wheel with a rope and then ride in the warmth of the pickup to the other end of the field. It went slow enough with a two-bottom plow that he could easily climb on and off while it was moving. He would climb aboard, untie the rope and raise the plow out of the ground at the end of the field in time to turn it around and then get back in the warm pickup as the tractor lumbered along turning over the soil. The kind of activity we all learned not to tell mom about until much later.

We live in the house where my grandparent's spent their final years. My wife suggested putting it in the room where my grandmother kept her sewing machine. One piece of history to remind me of both my grandparents. It seemed worth it to bring home this treasure. Although now I know the real treasure are the memories about two wonderful people that it brings back to me.



A Minnesotan: Down at the Riverside



By RosaLin Alcoser

Wade in the water, wade in the water children. Wade in the water, God's going to trouble the water. Well it's Labor Day and this marks the start of school and the end of summer activities. Which also means that churches that are going to hold outdoor Baptism have reached the end of being able to do so for this year.

After all there's no better way to end the summer then to go down to the river for a good old fashioned outdoor Baptism. Which if truth be told is a lot more exciting than the indoor ones done during the rest of the year. This is because normally even if your church normally does Baptism by sprinkling when it takes place at the river it will normally be done by immersion.

Personally I was Baptized during outdoor Baptism back in 2004. Except it was done outside in a turned off hot tub. This was done mainly because the church was next to the Zumbro River in a place where the

current was way too strong to safely hold a Baptism in. Great part to go tubing in not so much for safely dunking people in and out of the water.

My father is a pastor, who currently works for two little Methodists churches out in western Minnesota. Now the thing to know about my Belize pastor father is that while he might work for the Methodist he's an acuity Southern Baptist. Which is one of the denominations that baptize by immersion.

One of his churches held an outdoor Baptism by the river the weekend before Labor Day this year. Their plan was to go out into the river, which water levels have been pretty low this year, and sprinkle just like they would do inside of the church building except while standing in the river. Practical but unexpected right?

Which is what it would have been if anyone else except maybe my father had been the one doing all of this. Because the day of, he changed the plan and decided that he was going to baptize everyone who was getting baptized that day by immersion in the low creek levels.

My mother sent me a video about an hour after my father, wearing his fishing wader under his robe, lowered a parishioner into the water, bringing them back up and then both of them immediately falling back into the water. Which made the whole thing a lot more executing than the original plan.

Luckily for my father, I know him, and remind my mother to send him with a spare change of clothing. Because I knew somewhere in the back of my mind that baptism at the river would result in something existing enough to need a dry change of every.

MAKE SURE THEY HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE

Kids are back in school, and that means we all need to be careful. Watch for buses, children walking to school and bicycles on the road. By playing it safe, we all can have a brighter future.



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parksidenerstrand@gmail.com

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THEME: FOOTBALL
ACROSS

1. Brainchild
5. Gravestone wish
8. Paleozoic one
11. Pressing tool
12. Senegal's neighbor
13. Literary theme
15. Scissors sound
16. Final notice
17. *Notre Dame's Fighting _____
18. *Home of the first Super Bowl winners
20. National League Pennant series, acr.
21. Steer clear
22. "Glee" actress _____ Michele
23. Befuddled
26. *One of 4 NFL teams sharing a home field
29. Fish story
30. Stockings
33. "Doggone it!"
35. Rand McNally book
37. Mozart's "L'_____ del Cairo"
38. Whiskey drinks?
39. Comedy act
40. Be more of a fox
42. Dead or Black, e.g.
43. Obliquely
45. Roof supporter
47. High or low card
48. Employer's good news
50. Hyperbolic tangent
52. *College player not using eligibility
55. Beastly person
56. Double-reed instrument
57. *Nike Pegasus 39
59. Smidgeons
60. Paddleboarding acronym, pl.
61. Seaside bird
62. *Thirty-_____ teams in NFL
63. *Ravens' or Lions' time, acr.
64. *Rushing unit

DOWN

1. "____ Now or Never"
2. "Shoot!"
3. Arabian bigwig
4. Fund-raising letter
5. Torah teacher
6. Homer's famous poem
7. Feel for
8. Larger-than-life
9. A Supreme singer
10. Emerald _____ borer
12. Poet's death lament
13. Fungal skin infection
14. *Home of the Citrus Bowl in Florida
19. Not odds
22. Lily, in French
23. Unfortunately, exclamation
24. *a.k.a. Iron Mike
25. Charcuterie stores
26. Nibble away
27. Have faith
28. Rane's wrap
31. LummoX
32. Calendar abbr.
34. Russian autocrat
36. *Home to College Football Hall of Fame
38. Secret supply
40. *Extra point
41. Van Gogh flowers
44. Partners of pains
46. Spirited
48. Puzzle with pictures and letters
49. Take as one's own
50. Think, archaic
51. Grand theft target
52. *The oldest college football Bowl
53. Actress Perlman
54. Millimeter of mercury
55. Took the bait
58. *Defensive one

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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Elvis & Johnny, Bingo & More

The popular Vegas Style Tribute Show featuring the music of Johnny Cash, Elvis, and Neil Diamond returns to Dennison Saturday September 16th, Under the big top.

For fans young and old, if you have ever been to the popular Breezy Point Resort up north in Minnesota, you may have caught The Memories of Elvis Show (www.espkings.com) with Chris Olson.

You may have seen their show on the dock-side bar at Breezy Point or if you have been to Dennison on Labor Day weekend, Chris Olson performs this entertaining tribute of The King, and will be bringing his talents and show back to DENNISON, MINNESOTA on Saturday, September 16th. Show time will be at 7:30p.m.

This will be a rain or shine event under the big top at the Fireside.

Doug Allen Nash will again join the show this year with is tribute to Neil Diamond and also his "Johnny Cash Tribute - American Icon". (www.dougallenash.com)

It is in this production, Nash includes one of his own songs "June" co-written and co-produced with Jeff Silverman in Nashville, TN. Engineering mix by Grammy Award Winners John Carter Cash and Chuck Turner at Cash Cabin Studio in Hendersonville, TN.



You can see both of these great artists in Dennison Saturday, September 16th.

Advance tickets are just \$25.00. \$30.00 day of show. Call Fireside at 507-645-9992 during normal business hours, or e-mail them at firesideloungedennison@gmail.com to order tickets.

You can also make dinner reservations that

evening ahead of the show. Space is limited, so make your reservations early. This years event will be a part of a weekend celebration in Dennison. As Fireside Lounge celebrates 20 years of Amy Family Hospitality, Friday, September 15th, music will be provided by popular variety band, The Look. Music will start around 7 PM Friday night to kick off the

weekend. Also this year, under the tent Saturday afternoon, Fireside Lounge & The Dennison Lions Club will host Purse & Gift Card Bingo.

Watch the Fireside Facebook page & website for up to date information.

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