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NOVEMBER, 2023

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Veterans Day in Kenyon-Wanamingo

Submitted by: Beth Giese,
Superintendent

Veterans Day programs often include presentations, speeches, and activities that educate attendees, especially students, about the significance of the day, the history of the military, and the importance of freedom and democracy. It provides a valuable learning experience. *(continued on page 4)*

Announcements

• **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

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

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

Do you have an announcement?
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Revland Alignment Keeps you on the Road

By Cheri Roshon

With all the car shows going on in August, literally everywhere, my mind started seeking articles on car shops. There are quite a few places in Wanamingo alone that deal with different aspects of car care. Today's story focuses on Revland Alignment, located at 641 Main Street.

I met with Mark and Ruth to see what they have to offer. There are many services they offer besides wheel alignments. Along with wheel alignments on passenger vehicles like our cars and trucks, they also service large farm trucks and even semi's. Other offerings are tires, brakes, shocks and oil changes. They do not do engine repair, however.

Mark and Ruth met in 1984 at a dance in Cannon Falls. They now have 4 sons, Justin, Jason, Josh and Jesse. Jamie is their daughter in law, and they are also blessed with 5

grandchildren, one great granddaughter, and another great grand on the way. Josh works at the shop with 2 other full-time employees, Greg Poncelet and Dylan Johnson. Ruth is the financial secretary, so it is a real "family" business. Until recently, Mark was also a volunteer firefighter, retiring after 40 years of service.

As to how he got into the business, Mark's dad Les was the one who showed Mark the ropes. Les had worked for Haller Chevrolet doing front end alignments for many years, and wanted to help Mark build his future, so in 1981, they built the current shop after renting space from Maynard Romness for a time. Mark had gone to school for bodywork, and bought cars at auction and fixed them up and sold them, but Les convinced him to go back to school for front end work, too.

(continued on page 4)



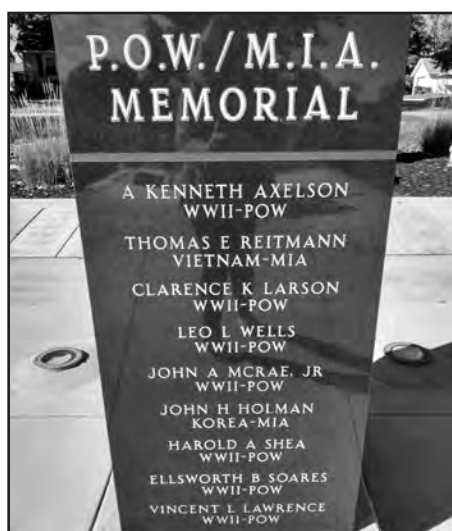
Honoring Our Veterans who Defend Our Freedom

By Cheri Roshon

All over America, people are gearing up for Veteran's Day. As a way of honoring the brave men and women who have served and are serving our country, there will be parades, free meals for veterans, and activities showing gratitude for the sacrifices they made for us all.

Many small towns have their own memorials for the people who still live there, and those who died doing their jobs.

(continued on page 8)



Smokin' Silverback



Ben Meyer

By Cheri Roshon

Ben Meyer lives in Wanamingo now, but he grew up in Kenyon. *(continued on page 16)*

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Ephesians: "The Gospel & Implications"



By Colin Rueter

We all know that plans change. My plan this month was to walk through the book of Daniel. However, this will be my final article as my days of being pastor of New Life Church have come to an end. Yes, plans change and I rest in the sovereign hand of the same God that we have seen throughout the Bible, His grace, and the gift of growing faith that all His purposes are good.

My hope in writing these articles over the last two years was to see and hear about more people reading, engaging, and delighting in the word of God. As I reflect on that hope, I have seen God answer those prayers and I rejoice! In light of this being my last article, I have chosen to walk through a text in the New Testament, Ephesians. My hope remains that God's word will continue to bless you.

Ephesians: [/i-fee-zhnz/] noun – A letter written by a real man to real people in the 1st century.

The author of the text is the Apostle Paul written to residents in and around the city of Ephesus. This letter was likely written around 60–63 A.D.

OVERVIEW:

Doctrine occupies the greatest portion of the Book of Ephesians. All too often those who teach from this book bypass all the founda-

tional instruction and go directly to the closing chapter. The closing chapter emphasizes the warfare or the struggle of followers of Jesus. However, to benefit fully from this letter, one must begin at the beginning of Paul's teachings in this letter. Paul spends the first three chapters of the letter discussing God's creation of a holy community by His gift of grace in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The members of this community have been chosen by God through the work of Christ before the foundation of the world, adopted as sons and daughters of God, and brought near to the Father through faith in His Son. All people with this faith—Jews and Gentiles alike—were dead in their transgressions and sins, but have been made alive because of the person and work of Jesus Christ. As followers of Christ, we must fully understand who God declares Himself to be and who is declares us to be. We must also become grounded in the knowledge of God's accomplishment in the gift of salvation. Next, our new existence and walk in Jesus must become exercised and strengthened. After laying out profound theological truths in the first half of the book, Paul made his purpose clear: he expected that the community of faith (the Church) would walk in accordance with its heavenly calling (Ephesians 4:1). This must continue until we no longer stagger back and forth with every teaching and subtlety of men. As a result of the theological realities Christians accept by their faith in God, several practices should follow in their relationships within the church, in the home, and in the world. Paul's writing can be broken down into three main segments. (1) Chapters one through three introduce principles with respect to God's accomplishment. (2) Chap-

ters four and five put forth principles regarding our present existence. (3) Chapter six aims to give principles concerning our daily struggles in this world as we walk by faith in Jesus.

SO WHAT?

One of the reasons why I love this letter from Paul is the combination of truth and practical implications behind such wonderful knowledge. This often is our struggle as followers of Jesus – "How then should we live in light of God's word?" This text emphasizes the connection between sound doctrine and right practice in the Christian life. Far too many people ignore sound theology and instead want to only discuss things that are "practical." In Ephesians, Paul argues that theology is practical and in extension, practical living is fruitless unless you know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. To live out God's will for us in our lives practically, we must first understand who we are in Christ doctrinally. Simply put: right knowledge leads to right living which will lead to right worship. Pastor John Piper says it well, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him!"

The book of Ephesians covers a wide range of moral and ethical behaviors, designed to ensure that believers are living up to our heavenly calling. However, for these morals and ethics to be exercised rightly, Christ must be the catalyst for the needed renewed heart and mind. Without faith in Jesus, the morals and ethics can easily become a 'new Law' which enslaves us, instead of living in the freedom that Christ has purchased for us to follow God's commands joyfully. As we continue in our faith from day to day and year to year, the temptation to become comfortable

and content will always exist. However, Paul presents the gift of God in Christ and the benefits we receive so clearly that we cannot help but ask ourselves if our lives reflect that reality as they should. Have you been looking for life anew? Come to Jesus and find what you have been searching for.

Friends, it is my heart-felt desire to continue to help others take one step closer to Jesus. Therefore, as always, if you have questions, need prayer, a word of encouragement, or a cup of coffee, please contact me. Reach out to me via my personal email: niloc1214@gmail.com

Thank you for the opportunity to walk with you here through the truth and life of God's word! May God bless you, keep you, may He shine on you, be gracious to you, and give you peace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Community Food Collection
November 18: WELCA Bake Sale 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.
Wanamingo Community Center
November 19: 9:00a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at WLC;
9:00a.m. Sunday School; Community Meal
November 22: 7:00p.m. Worship at WLC *No Confirmation Class*
November 26: 9:00a.m. Worship at WLC *No Sunday School*
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Sunday School at TLC; Community Meal
November 22: 7:00p.m. Worship at WLC *No Confirmation Class*
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November 29: Confirmation Class 5:00-6:30p.m. 7th & 8th

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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY Ark of the Church

In [the ark] only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also. . . .
— 1 Peter 3:20-21

In our reading for today, the apostle Peter mentions Noah and the ark, which we discussed on October 4 (Genesis 8). Do you remember another story this month that also pointed to the ark? In Exodus 2 (Oct. 5), as you may recall, Moses' mother places him as a baby in a "basket," and the Hebrew word for that can also mean "ark." Moses' mother did this, in faith, hoping that her little boy would escape the murderous reach of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt (see Exodus 1:22).

In the New Testament, the apostle and fisherman Peter states that just as God rescued Noah and his family "through water" while other people were swept away in judgment, Christians are rescued from judgment by Christ's death and resurrection, which is symbolized in baptism. If believers in Christ are symbolically rescued (like Noah and his family) "through water" (baptism), then what is the "ark"? What is the vessel of God's rescue for us and indeed for the whole creation? It seems that this would be the church, the community of faith. Remember, baptism places us in the nurturing community of the people of God with its worship, prayers, sacraments, and fellowship. In this "ark" we are on the way to the resurrection and full life in God's renewed world.

Lord, we praise you for the church, which, though it can be rocked by powerful winds and waves, is nonetheless piloted by you and is the place of your grace and salvation. Amen.

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Obituaries

Karen Elaine (Grothe) Freiheit

June 2, 1944 – August 2, 2023



Karen Elaine Freiheit, age 79, of Clinton, Missouri, passed away peacefully with her husband at her side on August 2, 2023. Karen was born to Obert and Gena Grothe at their rural Wanamingo, Minnesota farm on June 2, 1944. While

her sisters were graduating from Wanamingo High School and obtaining jobs away from home, Karen unexpectedly became in charge of household chores at the age of nine when her mother passed away. The on-the-job learning curve was challenging, yet she swiftly adapted.

As a licensed driver at age 16, Karen's fa-

vorite Minnesota winter sport was blasting through country road snowdrifts with the family's 1954 Chevrolet. Such driving skills enabled Karen to be at work during inclement winter weather. She graduated from Wanamingo High School in 1962. She enjoyed math, Elvis Presley, roller skating, pet cats, bowling, dancing to old time music, traveling, playing card games with relatives and friends, and sunshine.

Karen met her husband Larry after being introduced to him in 1960 by her cousin, Marilyn Gronseth. Marilyn is married to Lavern "Pete" Freiheit, Larry's brother. Karen and Larry were married at Dale Lutheran Church on May 27, 1966. At that time, Karen worked for Northwest Airlines gathering statistics as a comptometer operator. During Karen and Larry's marriage, she was the loyal and steadfast "wind beneath his wings" that ensured all household and child raising requirements were met during Larry's flight

training and absences for military duty.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, Obert and Gena Grothe, her sisters Sandra Grothe, Madelon (Leonard) Payne, and recently her brother Jerome "Jerry" Grothe. She is survived by Larry Freiheit, her beloved husband of 57 years, and their children, Dr. Stacy (Scott) Freiheit-Olson and son Kirk (Kelli) Freiheit. She is also survived by two grandchildren: Anders (Deidree) Olson and Lars Olson.

Special thanks go to the Overland Park Regional Medical Center Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in Kansas City, KS for providing the best care possible for Karen's simultaneous battle with Covid and pneumonia during her final days.

A Celebration of Life service was scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at Dale Lutheran Church, south of Wanamingo, MN

Frederick Jesse Halvorson

Frederick Jesse Halvorson, 90, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, November 1st at his home in Wanamingo. Fred was born on March 10, 1933, to C. Fredrick Halvorson and Jessie (Dimick) Halvorson. He was raised on the family farm outside of Wanamingo. After high school, he joined the



peacefully on Wednesday, November 1st at his home in Wanamingo. Fred was born on March 10, 1933, to C. Fredrick Halvorson and Jessie (Dimick) Halvorson. He was raised on the family farm outside of Wanamingo. After high school, he joined the

Air Force and was trained as an electrician. He enjoyed traveling and was stationed in Texas, Japan, Georgia, Maine and Greenland. While stationed in Albany, Georgia he met his wife, Elise (Mock) Halvorson. They were united in marriage on December 4, 1954. After service, they moved back to the family farm by Wanamingo where they raised their two sons, Fredrick and Kyle. Fred spent most his life as a dairy and cash crop farmer. He was a member of Wanamingo Lutheran Church and served on the board for both the church and the cemetery. Fred enjoyed being outdoors, fishing, watching the local sports teams, and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his sons Fredrick (Brenda) Halvorson of Cannon Falls and Kyle (Jody) Halvorson of Wanamingo; grandchildren Corey (Mike) Lande, Tucker (Anna) Halvorson, Tyler (Bettina) Halvorson, and Christopher Halvorson; and great-grandchildren Leon Halvorson, Claire Halvorson, Viveca Lande and Maeve Lande.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Elise; parents, C. Fredrick and Jessie; brother, Wallace Halvorson; sister, Gretha Loken and brother-in-law, Obert Loken.

The memorial service will be 1:00 p.m. Friday, November 10, 2023, at Wanamingo Lutheran Church, with Pastor Dave Sorenson officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorials will be donated to the Wanamingo Cemetery Fund. Online condolences are welcome and may be shared at mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com.

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Letter from the Superintendent

The Cross Subsidy



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

This year the legislative session has had a lot of conversation around the “cross subsidy”, but what does that mean for Kenyon-Wanamingo?

A cross subsidy refers to the financial gap or deficit that can occur in a school district's budget when the costs of providing special education services exceed the funding allocated for those services. In other words, it's when a school district has to use a portion of

its general education funds to cover the additional costs of providing services to students with disabilities. The cross subsidy amount for K-W is \$845,200 (FY23 special education revenue \$948,946 and FY23 special education expense \$1,794,146).

As school districts strive to balance their budgets and address funding gaps, there's a growing trend toward inclusive classrooms that benefit all students. Inclusive education fosters a sense of belonging, promotes and encourages collaboration among students of varying abilities. It reinforces the idea that every student has unique strengths and talents to offer, creating a richer learning environment.

All schools, including Kenyon-Wanamingo, face financial constraints due to cross subsidies. This has brought on an innovative spirit in our schools. New teaching methods, technological advancements, and adaptive materials are just a few creative ways to meet the individual needs of students with disabilities. The good news, these practices benefit all students!

The special education cross subsidy has not only sparked innovation and inclusivity but also encouraged advocacy for increased funding. I personally have testified at the Capitol, advocating for increased special education funding, improving cost-efficiency, and implementing more inclusive educational practices. Parents, educators, and community members have also united to call for a fair allocation of resources to support students with disabilities. As a result, during the 2023 Minnesota legislative session, school districts will now receive 44% of the cost of a student's services.

While cross subsidy challenges can be tough on superintendents and school boards to balance, its impact has been far from negative. Kenyon-Wanamingo's commitment to providing every student with an equitable education has inspired positive change in which all students can thrive, regardless of their unique needs.

Interested in touring our special services department, send me an email bgiese@kw.k12.mn.us

Veterans Day in Kenyon-Wanamingo

(continued from page 1)

Please join Kenyon-Wanamingo School in their special Veterans Day programs.

November 10th at 10:00am in Kenyon at the High School, guest speaker will be Ray Ades.

November 10th at 1:00 pm in Wanamingo at the Elementary, featuring numerous student speakers and musicians.

Christmas in Kenyon

By Cheri Roshon

Christmas in Kenyon is a magical time. Trees adorned with lights, and snow filled streets make this small town community shine! This tradition that community members and businesses have come to anticipate will spread the Christmas Spirit! We have a day filled with activities for children and adults that are sure to bring our community together this joyous time of the year. Following is a list of some of the events you can participate in, more items to be added, so be sure to check back periodically on the Kenyon website. Bring your family and friends to join in the fun! Happy Holidays from Kenyon Park n Rec!

Crafts, games and activities for the kids at the library from 9 to 12

Bloody Mary bar and Mimosas at VFW 10 to 1

Craft Vendor event 10 to 3 • Horse and Wagon Rides 3 to 5

Visits with Santa • School Carolers throughout the town

Shop Local Stores • Food trucks • Letters to Santa drop box

Gunderson House cookie sales/tours 10 to 1

Cookie frosting and games at Catholic Church 12 to 2:30

Wine Tasting 1 to 3 (depot fundraiser) • Gift Wrapping (pool fundraiser) 1 to 3

Community Tree Lighting Ceremony 5 pm

Lighted Parade (after tree lighting) • Music at Mui 8 to 12

Gingerbread House Contest at Angie's

All this conspires on Saturday, December 9, 2023 from 9 am to 11:59 pm!! Dress warm and come on out to see your friends and neighbors. and Happy Holidays to all!!

Revland Alignment Keeps you on the Road

(continued from page 1)

I asked Mark what he considered to be the most important aspect of car care, and he said having good tires, especially with winter right around the corner. Watch for his ads in the Messenger for the next tire sale!

When asked about the most important part of doing business in Wanamingo, he quoted his father. "Wanamingo is a small town. You have to do your best work to keep your customers coming back," said Les. And they do come back! Revland services vehicles in a 60 mile radius, and have many referrals from satisfied customers like Dave Stafford from Pine Island. "Mark is the first person who comes to mind for front end work. He has never failed me. I fully endorse him."

So if you need any front end work done, or are in the market for some new tires for safe winter driving, stop into the shop, or call them at (507) 824-2710, and tell them Cheri sent you!



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Wanamingo Landfill to Close

WANAMINGO - On November 19, the Wanamingo Demolition Landfill will no longer accept demolition debris, appliances, recyclable products or any other disposal materials. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has proposed a rule revision which would increase operational costs and liability for the landfill. After discussions with the MPCA, Goodhue County has determined the best path forward, at this time, is to permanently close the Wanamingo Demolition Landfill. The county is evaluating other options for the future to accommodate the disposal of demolition materials.

Demolition materials may be disposed of at the following locations:
Red Wing Solid Waste Campus - 1873 Bench St., Red Wing, MN 55066
Olmsted County (7401 19th St. NW, Rochester, MN 55901)

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K-W Noble Knights of the Week for October 13, 2023

Front Row: Brandon Swan, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Reyna Dressel, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; William Cato, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Aiden Dressel, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Finnley Butterfield, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Riley Falenschek, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Nathan Barraza, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Tarynn Houglum, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Natalie Bauer, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Macey Fitcher, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Keeton Luedtke, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



K-W Noble Knights of the Week for October 27, 2023

Front Row: Wyatt Breidall, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Olivia Ramirez, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Ava Cline, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Adeline Baalson, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Mae Bakken, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Jade Wrolson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Brookelynn Cato, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Hudson Otte, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Jaxsyn Bauer, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Olivia Lerfald, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Madeline Engen, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

Congratulations!



K-W Noble Knights of the Week for November 3, 2023

Front Row: Thomas Thoreson, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Milo Feist, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Paisley Ryan, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Neil Ellingsberg, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Eli Otteson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Luka Noney, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Adeline Prondzinski, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Maya Ramirez, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Emmett Peterson, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman

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Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin Farming Adventures: Single, Middle-Aged, Female Suburbanite Wants to Start a Hobby Farm

By Claudia Vanderborght

For years, friends and acquaintances had encouraged Monica to write down the saga of starting a farm from scratch – with no experience or knowledge – just a love of learning and adventure. Well, here it goes.

Monica taught elementary school in Apple Valley for 28 years. Additionally, she worked as a Navy Reserve Analyst for 21 years – nearly five of those years deployed to Tampa, Norfolk, and Qatar. In 1999, after purchasing a Jeep Wrangler, Monica joined a 4WD club and – under their tutelage – explored off-road trails in several states (once disemboweling a shock on some rocks). She also owned several motorcycles and, taking advantage of the school summer vacations, explored 49 states on motorcycle (all but Alaska). Once, she even jumped out of a perfectly good airplane (once was enough). It was time to delve into an entirely new adventure.

Claudia, Monica's sister, moved from Minnesota to Vermont, to Massachusetts, to northern New York, back to Minnesota, and finally

now to Wisconsin. She has worked as a high school science / math teacher, a secretary, an analyst for pharmaceuticals, delivered newspapers, wrote articles for kids magazines, started a tutoring service, and – semi-retired – substitute taught at local middle and high schools. Claudia was up for a new adventure at any time.

Monica was a bit envious of her teacher colleagues who would go to the cabin on weekends. But maintaining a second residence several hours away from her Farmington home just didn't appeal to her. What Monica really wanted was a "cabin" that she could live in full-time while continuing to work in Apple Valley. But what to do?

The options were endless! Monica motorcycled around that summer asking God, "Now what? Travel? Join a club? Come up with a new hobby?"

"Stay home and dork around..." was the only answer she got.

Yes, God talks to Monica in the vernacular, so she started thinking about what "staying at home and dorking around" might mean. Having several years before she could retire, to move and to commute was a issue.

There were a few things that were immediate, important considerations: a 45-minute commute to Apple Valley, a location east of 35W (Monica – a mosquito magnet – heard that the limestone geography east of 35W inhibited mosquito breeding), two miles off asphalt (keeps the riff-raff away), a four-bedroom split-entry house with a two-car attached garage. 20 acres (probably beyond the budget) with some open pastureland and some woods would be nice; interesting



topography (not flat, but not crazy-steep either). And some kind of outbuilding. Quite the wish list to say the least!

Hunting for the perfect farm was an adventure in and of itself ... a story for another day.

But there it was: 20 acres with a house and a 40' x 90' pole building, pasture and woods, in Wanamingo township. Once a hog farm, now completely overgrown. But the house and pole building had "good bones" and it was just within the budget. A year later, Claudia came to help on the farm. Quickly, we all learned some important lessons:

It is not a hobby farm. It is a small farm. (You cannot take tax write-offs for capital

improvements if you call it a hobby farm.)

Goats are naughty. They will always find their way out of the fence and into the neighbor's cornfield. Or your sister's garden. Always.

Fence posts must be pounded in all going the same direction. Stringing the electric fencing will be so much easier that way.

Be prepared for numerous donations from the family cats: dead (or not) voles, mice, chipmunks, gophers, birds, an occasional rat, and (too frequently) vomit.

(continued on page 7)

Does your car need a second opinion?



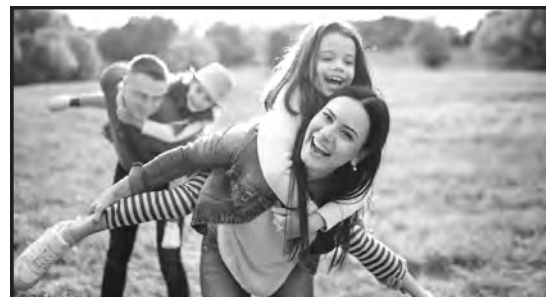
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Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin Farming Adventures: Single, Middle-Aged, Female Suburbanite Wants to Start a Hobby Farm

(continued from page 6)

Even small Dexter cattle can hurt you if they all want to go through the same opening at the same time and you don't jump out of the way fast enough.

Convincing the county that you are – indeed

– going to farm the property (to pay \$40 instead of \$500 for a building permit) may require some convincing.

The disgusting smell from the corner of the barn is not a skunk. The chickens are hiding their eggs again.

Cheap, suburban cell phone service does not work well down on the farm. It would be far more convenient researching goat bloat in the dry, cozy barn than sitting on an ATV at the top of the hill in the rain.

Dirt is a color. No matter what color your car is, by the time you get home after the car wash it will be the color of dirt.

If you are going to have livestock, you need to accept the fact that you will have dead stock.

You don't know what you don't know. And we didn't know much about anything.

But farmer neighbors are great – answering



2019 Scooby babysitting goats



innumerable questions, herding livestock home with the ATV, winching the skid loader out of the spring mud, or simply sharing a cup of coffee and a piece of pie at their kitchen

table. Thank you, my friends.

Next time: Buying a farm is a bit different than buying a suburban home in Farmington.

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Honoring Our Veterans who Defend Our Freedom

(continued from page 1)

Prisoners of war who have returned, and those still missing in action who did not. They, as well as their families who also endured the service of their loved ones, are recognized on this day.

I was tipped off by a former Messenger reporter that there was someone doing sand blasting for the Wanamingo Memorial one sunny October day, so I went to check it out. There I met James Schaefer. James has been sandblasting the names of our veterans into stone plaques for over 30 years. It is a very tedious job, and one he is proud to do. His father served, and he is proud to be a member of the Sons of the American Legion. As he prepared the stones, he told me that he is from Altura, and travels around to many small communities to enter the names of men and women and the years of service they they gave, to be forever emblazoned for generations to come.

He gave a bit of history that i would like to share. The memorials were started by the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) to honor military service of all kind, and of all ranks. All the money for the gardens is acquired by fundraisers. No money comes from our government, or from our taxes. The gardens and spaces are all built and cared for by volunteers who care, and are proud to do their part, whether pouring cement, planting and weeding flowers, or caring for the site.

I was asked to choose one veteran from Wanamingo and one from Kenyon for this article. John Tiller and Mac McDonald were the ones I chose. Every soldier has a job to do, and they are trained to do it well. Each has a story to tell. When you think of being in a war, sometimes the building blocks of living on a base in a war zone escapes attention. These 2 men served their country in different ways, and both had some stories to tell.

Michael (Mac) McDonald lives in Kenyon, and served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1972. His job, or MOS as it is called, was Crew Chief of a Huey helicopter. When the helicopter (bird) was on the ground, he took meticulous care of it, doing maintenance and making sure it was safe and ready to fly. In the air, he was a door gunner in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971. His company was called the Ghost Riders, and their mission was to insert and remove troops into the bases, and to bring supplies, rations and ammo to the operations on the ground. They flew from base to base around the country, bringing what was needed.

I asked Mac if he was drafted, or if he enlisted on his own. "My father was a World War 2 veteran, and suggested I join up on my own and enroll in aviation mechanics, and learn a new trade while I served. He thought it would be a safer job than ground combat."

Now, Mac is involved in several different military organizations, and helps with the celebrations and parades, and does whatever he can to honor his brothers and sisters that served and are still serving. He encourages everyone who has an interest to find an organization to join to help with programs, parades, and other tributes to our troops.

John Tiller lives in Wanamingo, and at 93 years of age is a wealth of information on many historical subjects. He served as a Corporal in the U. S. Army in the Korean war from 1951 to 1953. He began and completed his infantry and engineer basic at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, and learned the electronics trade. On his base, men were trained to build the facilities the troops overseas were based in. His company learned engineering, explosives and bridge building, all necessary to build military bases that housed the troops. On the base, there were "stores" of electrical, plumbing and supplies. After basic training, he travelled on a troop ship to Korea, and started building the base he served on. It is an interesting fact that the Korean war was the last to use troop ships to get the guys to their destinations. After that war, airplanes were used instead. John says, "When I arrived, the engineer supply base GI's were housed in tents. We set to work constructing housing, and moved into them. the 552nd engineer supply base was huge, and the facilities group I was a part of had quite a job keeping all the lights on."

Another fact John shared was that the Korean war was the first war that the men weren't segregated because of race. The men all worked together as equals for the first time in history. The Korean men also worked alongside our troops, doing all kinds of chores to assist our men. They had "house boys" who were paid to sweep, clean, and do laundry. There were trained mechanics, and drivers, and men who knew the terrain. We worked together to win the war.

Both of these men were very humble when they shared their stories. I enjoyed listening to them recount some of the activities they were involved in, and what they learned while serving. One thing both men encouraged was to be a part of the programs that are put on to honor our veterans, and to volunteer when you can to be a part of the history of our country. Even if many of us weren't directly serving in a military fashion, we can still join groups that still serve to remember the sacrifices our relatives and friends made when they were needed.

Kenyon will be having a presentation at the Middle High School on November 10th at 10 am. Ray Ades will be the speaker for this event. Wanamingo will be doing the program at the Wanamingo Elementary School at 1 pm. Both events are open to the public. The Kenyon/Wanamingo VFW and Honor Guards will be hosting a pancake breakfast from 7 to 9 at the Wanamingo Community Center for a free will donation on November 11th. Be sure to visit the Memorial Gardens in both towns to see the new plaques, and if you care to have your name or that of a loved one engraved onto a granite plaque, there is information on that in the info-tubes on the Memorial grounds.

Please always remember to honor our Veterans, and say thank you when and how you



can. All the Vets in our area say thanks to their communities for supporting their efforts to re-

member those who have served. Happy Veteran's Day!

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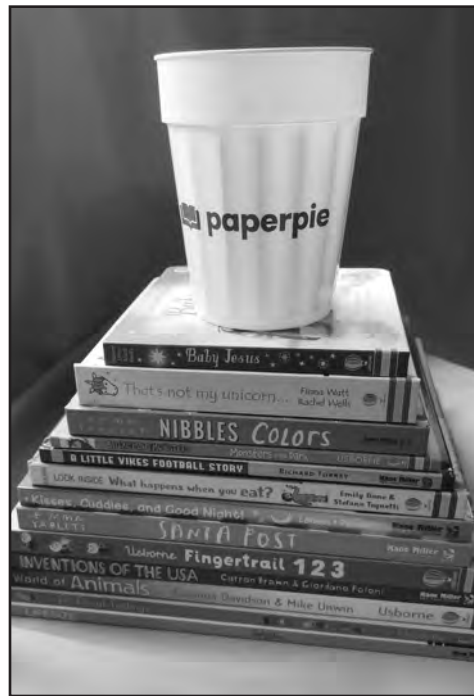
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Wanamingo Craft Fair

It's that time of year when all the crafty people are about, tempting you with special hand made one of a kind gifts to put under the tree! This year, Wanamingo is having their annual Crafters Fair at the Community Center on November 18th from 10am to 2 pm. There will be 16 crafters vending their wares, hoping to entice you to bring home some holiday joy. Crocheted, sewn and paper products, as well as Paper Pic (formerly Usborne Books), Button art, Tumblers, 3-D printed items, Tupperware, rag rugs and wooden delights will be on display. Holiday decor will tickle your fancy, and there will also be dish rags, Lilla Rose and goat milk products for you to check out. Many original crafts and even some freeze dried treats to munch on while you

shop! Holidays are so much fun because of the plethora of unique items crafters work on all year long. Come on out and support your community by purchasing a treasure for your loved ones, and don't forget to treat yourself to something special, too!



Christmas in Wanamingo

Thursday, December 07, 2023

Treats at Businesses
 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Industrial Park & 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on Main Street

Drawings for Mingo Bucks
 1st prize: \$100.00  2nd Prize: \$50.00  3rd Prize: \$25.00
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Clean JD Tractors, 8130 MFWD, 8520T, 9520 4WD, 4455 MFWD
'08 JD 8130 MFWD, 3960 Pre-Harvest Hrs, New Fronts Duals, New 380/90R50 Rear Duals, Deluxe Cab, PS, 3 PTO, 4 Hyd, Power Beyond, 60GPM Pump, Fasse Hyd Master, 3pt. Quick Hitch, Green Star Ready, Rock Box, One Owner; '04 JD 8520T, 2032 2nd Owner Pre-Harvest Hrs, 24" Tracks, PS, 1000PTO, 5 Hyd, Case Drain, 3pt. Quick Hitch, 120", Green Star Ready, Deluxe Comfort Package, 22 Weights, Rock Box, Clean; '07 JD 9520 4WD, 3788 Pre-Harvest Hrs, 800/70R38 Duals, Deluxe Cab, Green Star Ready, 48GPM Hyd. Pump, 4 Hyd, PS, Rock Box, Brown Box, (4) Inside Weights, (2) Outsid Weights, Very Clean; '89 JD 4455 MFWD w/JD 740 Hyd. Loader, 86" Bucket, 3015 Hrs On Engine Overhaul, 15sp PS, 540/1000PTO, 3pt., 18.4x42, New Cab Interior, Clean; 800/70R38 Tractor Tire At 95%; (4) 205KG Wheel Weights

Agco Massey Ferguson 9816 Planter
'14 Agco Massey Ferguson 9816 Planter, 16R30", Liquid Fert., Center Fill, 4 Sets of Seed Disc, 900 Acres On New Openers, Row Cleaners, Markers, Row Shut Offs, Variable Rate, 20/20 Precision Seed Sense, EZ Air Meters, PTO Pump, Residue Manager, Swath Control, Approx 6500 Acres On Planter, One Owner Purchased New In Fall of 2016, SN: AGCW98160EH816270
JD 4920 Sprayer, Saddle Tanks, Water Tender Trailers
'05 JD 4920 Sprayer, 2634 Hrs, 120' Booms, 1200 Gal. SS Tank, 380/105R50 Tires With Rear Duals, SS Boom Lines, Full Boom Breakaway, 5 Way Nozzle, 20" Spacings, 5 BoomTrac Sensors, Brown Box Rate Controller, 2 Cameras, Hi Flow Hyd. Pump, Green Star Ready; Demco Side Quest Saddle Tanks, (2) 350 Gallon Tanks, Hyd. Pump, Off JD 8000 Series; Ag System AG116 2000 Gal. Liquid Tender Tank, Tandem Axle Trailer, B&S Transfer Pump; B&B 1350 Gal. Liquid Tender Tank, Tandem Axle Trailer, Honda GX160 Transfer Pump, Chem Inductor, Platform

JD 9770 STS Combine, 608C StalkMaster, 635F Air Reel Bean Head
'09 JD 9770 STS, 1821 Sep/2605 Engine Pre-Harvest Hrs, Contour Master, 710/70R38 Duals, Green Star Ready, Bullet Rotor, Rock Trap, Chopper/Spread, Forc/Afr, Estes Concave Kit, Hi Torque Variable Speed Feeder House, Deluxe Hyd. Controls, Bin Topper, 2 Cameras, Yearly Inspection, Clean; '10 JD 608C StalkMaster, 8R30", Chopping Head, Stubble Lights, Hyd. Deck Plates, Contour Master, Row Sense, Updated Gear Boxes, Stalk Stomper Bar; '11 JD 635F Bean Head, Carry Air Reel, Full Finger, Stubble Lights, Poly Skids; Stud King MD38 Trailer, 38", Tandem Axle, Brakes
JD GPS Equipment
JD GS3 2630 Display, AutoTrac SF2, Row Sense, Section Control; JD GS3 2630 Display, AutoTrac SF1, Section Control; (2) JD Starfire 6000 Globes, SF2 & SF1; JD Starfire 3000 Globe, SF1
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'23 Tipte Super Hopper, IHC 8600 & Volvo Semi Tractors
2023 Tipte Super Hopper Grain Trailer, 40'x96"x66", Ag Hoppers, Air Ride, Aluminum Rims, 24.5, Elec. Roll Tarp, Like New; '10 IH Trans-Star 8600 Semi, Maxi Force 13 450HP, 10 Sp., 22.5, Wet Kit, 350,000 Miles, Aluminum Rims, Fresh DOT, Clean; '92 Volvo WIA64TES Semi, Sleeper, N14 Cummins, 9 Sp, 22.5, 502,000 Miles, Fresh DOT

JD 2210, CIH 730C, Tillage Machinery, Support Equipment
JD 2210 FC, 50.5', 2 Bar Harrow, Rolling Basket, Floating Hitch, 200lb Shanks, 7" Knock-On Sweeps, One Owner; CIH 730C Ripper, 7 Shank, 30" Spacings, 22" Blades, Rear Levelers; Rite Way RR900 ST Rock Picker, Hyd. Reel & Dump, Hyd. Hitch, One Owner; IH 800 Flex Plow, 10 Bottom, Buster Bar, Auto Reset, On-Land; White 273 Rock Flex Disk, 25", 9" Spacings; JD 120 Stalk Chopper, 20', 4 Wheel Trans., 1000PTO; Shop Built 40' Tool Bar Applicator, 16R30", Yetter Coulters, 500 Gal. Poly Tank, Hyd. Pump, Lift Assist Wheels, Micro Controller Auto Rate

Super B Grain Dryer SQ20, Brent Grain Cart, Westfield Augers
'09 Super B SQ20 Grain Dryer, 2250 Pre-Harvest Hrs, Quantum Heat/Cool Dryer, (2) 10HP Motors, LP Gas, 10 Column, March 1, 2024 For Removal; Brent 882 Grain Cart, 1000PTO, Roll Tarp, Camera, 30.5-32 Tires, One Owner; Dicky John GAC2100 Digital Moisture Tester; Westfield W130-71 Auger, 540PTO, Hyd. Lift; Westfield MK130-71 Plus Swing Hopper Auger, Hyd. Lift; Westfield WR100-41 & WR100-31 Grain Augers, 10HP; Westfield WR80-61 Grain Auger, 7.5HP; Westfield 8"x28" Auger, 10HP; Sudenga 8"x14" U-Trough Auger, 3HP

Ford 555D Backhoe/Loader, (2) White 2-105 Tractors, Other Farm Machinery, Skid Loader Attachments
Ford 555D Backhoe/Loader, 4WD, 1585 Hrs, 2nd Owner, Extenda Hoe, 18.4x24 Tires, 24" Hoe Bucket, 88" Loader Bucket, Down Riggers; White 2-105 2WD, 4795 Hrs, 2nd Owner, 3pt., PTO, 3 Hyd., 18.4x38 Tires; White 2-105 2WD, New Cab Kit, 3pt., PTO, 3 Hyd., 18.4x38 Tires; Farm King 96" 3pt Rear Blade; NH 420 Small Square Baler; 96" Straight Blade Snowplow, Skid Loader Plate; 3 Spade Tree Spade, 24", Skid Loader Plate; 20" Stump Bucket, Skid Loader Plate; Pallet Forks, 42", Skid Loader Plate; H/H Tree Puller, Skid Loader Plate; 72" Grapple Bucket, Skid Loader Plate; 80" Land Plane, Skid Loader Plate; Howse 7 Brush Mower, 3pt., 540PTO

GMC 2500 Diesel, Chevy Trail Blazer, Fuel Caddy & Tanks, Pressure Washer, JD 997 Mower
'02 GMC Sierra SLE 2500HD, Duramax Dsl, 4x4, Auto, Extenda Cab, New Tires, 122,000 Miles, Gooseneck Ball; '07 Chevy Trail Blazer LT, 144,000 Miles, Auto, Leather; JD 997 Zero Turn Mower, Dsl, 7100 Pro 72" Deck, 559 Hrs; 300 Gal Fuel Caddy, Trailer, 12 Volt High Flow Pump; (2) 1000 Gal Diesel Barrels, 35GPM Pump & Gas Boy Pump; Alkota 418X4 Hot Water Pressure Washer, 1800PSI, 4GPM, Wheel Kit; Viking 30 Ton Shop Press; Lincoln PowerMig 225 Wire Feed Welder; 3T Floor Jack; 20T Bottle Air Jack; 50' Tow Rope; Hi-Lift Jack; 21' 3/4" Log Chain; Radar Gum; (2) 12.5-15 Tires On Rims; 11L-15 Tire On Rim; Schumacker Battery Charger

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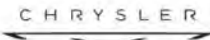


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Halloween in Wanamingo



Smokin' Silverback

(continued from page 1)

His mother, Cindy, was a cook when he was growing up, so I guess you could say that the restaurant business is in his blood!

I stopped in to the Smokin' Silverback to see what it has to offer. Located in Owatonna at 1832 South Cedar Avenue, it sports a large dining room with booths, tables and high tops. We placed our orders at the counter, and our meal was served to our table by a member of the front end staff in good time.

Suelaine Krosch was the front end operator that day, and took our order. She was very helpful with the questions we had about the menu, and also gave great advice on what to order. She encouraged us to try samples of the sides they serve, and everything we tried was quite tasty. A variety of BBQ sauces -- original, sweet, spicy and jalapeno bourbon sauce were offered that day.

Mac McGee, the kitchen manager, was busy in the kitchen getting special sauces conjured up for the Taste of Owatonna that was being held that weekend. He wasn't too busy to take time to answer questions about the sauces, and I could tell he takes pride in his work.

Smokin' Silverback offers a wide variety of menu items, several sides and drinks. Sounds like soon they will have a license to serve some beer with interesting names! So, head over to Owatonna for a taste of BBQ that you won't soon forget!



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Farm Rescue, Serving Others

By Cheri Roshon

We all have our trials and tribulations as we traverse this experience called Life. Once when I was struggling mightily with issues seeming to be beyond my control, my mother gave me a poem called Don't Quit. I would like to share with you the first few lines, as it pertains to the story at hand.

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,

When the road you're travelling seems all uphill,

When the funds are low and the debts are high

And you want to smile but you have to sigh,

*When care is pressing you down a bit---
Rest if you must, but don't you quit!*

Today's story is about an organization called Farm Rescue. Their mission is to help farmers and ranchers who have experienced a major setback by providing the necessary equipment and a volunteer workforce to plant hay or harvest their crops, among other chores they can lend a hand with. Livestock feeding assistance is also available for ranchers.

Farm Rescue offers assistance to farms in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota.

The Farm Rescue program also provides longer term assistance solutions to farmers and ranchers who have suffered major illness

and injuries, or who have been through a natural disaster.

The Board of Directors will review all requests for assistance, and approves cases based on each unique situation. They see what they can provide with their available funding and volunteer manpower. They have several sponsors in every state that help with lending equipment, and donations of time and money. Private tax deductible donations are also gratefully accepted.

These selfless acts of kindness are helping all of us to survive. Think about it. Without our farmers, we wouldn't have food to eat or clothes to wear. The more we help each other, the bigger the ripple effect. Something as simple as offering time to help a neighbor get his crops planted or harvested when he is unable, or sharing a donation of money to pay for seed or gas.... in the long run it is helping more than just one person.

John Deere Company is one such provider. They offer state of the art equipment to help get the jobs done. They travel thousands of miles to deliver the equipment and train the volunteers how to use them. It is a partnership that has helped almost 1,000 farmers in need so far, and there is no end in sight. What a comfort that is when one is in need!

One man who has helped through Vlogging (video blogging) calls himself the Millennial Farmer. He started a podcast several years ago so people not familiar with farming could see the work that goes into raising the crops and livestock that we all consume, and hopefully correcting some of the misinformation going around, painting farmers and ranchers in a bad light.



The agriculture community is truly a tight-knit group and we love sharing the random acts of kindness bestowed upon our hard working volunteers and farm families by local do-gooders. Today, our crew received another generous meal in the field from Alison Peters with Peters Insurance, a Farmers Union Agency. She was kind enough to deliver these bagged lunches during our soybean harvest operations near Dundas, MN. Our team has been eating very well this week and these heartwarming gestures mean the world to our organization and those we serve. Thank you, Alison!

"I just wanted to share the truth", he says. He has volunteered on many projects to help other farmers when he is needed.

One such farmer is John Thomas. John has a condition that causes neuropathy in his legs. He and his wife Judy live and farm in the Faribault area. They have 6 grown children, Elizabeth, Phyllis, Maynard, JW, Nathan and Travis. About 11 years ago, John suffered his first amputation from this disease, and just recently had to have his other leg amputated as well. It is a disease with no cure. John heard about Farm Rescue, and they were able to help him harvest his crops this year. He is very grateful, and wants to help get the word out about this unique program that does so much for so many.

I asked him what kind of qualifications a person would have to have to be able to lend assistance. He said they take volunteers from all walks of life. If training is needed, they are trained in whatever aspect is necessary to help the families in need. One of the people

who helped in John's case was a DJ from Minneapolis. One was a police officer. Of course people who have a valid CDL license are needed to haul equipment from project to project, and anyone who knows farm work is a valuable contributor. But all you need is a desire to help others, and you can be a volunteer.

To contact Farm Rescue for any reason, their address is Farm Rescue PO Box 28 Horace North Dakota 58047. Their email is info@farmrescue.org, and their phone number is (701) 252-2017. Personally, I think that anyone who can write a story for any kind of publication to spread the word about these services would be helpful, and volunteers are always needed. And as I stated previously, all monetary donations are tax deductible, so there's a win/win situation as well.

I would like to thank John for bringing this organization to our attention, and wish him and his family a joyful holiday season.

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Coffee: Pros and Cons



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

In last month's article, I presented the concept that food can be used as medicine. I presented some ideas for managing acid reflux. In that article, I mentioned that coffee can be a trigger for acid reflux. So how does coffee relate to nutrition? What are the positive aspects of coffee and what are the negative considerations? Can a person use coffee as medicine?

First, a little history. As reported by Tori Avey in "The Caffeinated History of Coffee," the first reports of coffee originate around Ethiopia and Yemen. The ripe coffee fruit is red, and the coffee bean is the seed of the fruit. Roasted coffee beans were first produced by Arabs and the Arab community had control of the coffee market until the Dutch were able to acquire some seed and start plantations around the world. In 1773, when Americans were revolting against the tax on tea, coffee became the acceptable, patriotic choice.

According to the National Coffee Association, more than 65% of Americans drink coffee each day. The average American consumes just less than 3 cups of coffee per day. The United States is the top coffee consuming country in the world with coffee being the first-choice beverage over tea, soft drinks, and juice. Berkeley, California wins the prize for the most coffee shops according to ApartmentGuide.

So, with all this coffee consumption what are the PROS or CONS of coffee consumption?

- PROS –**
- Moderate coffee consumption (1 – 4 cups per day) is linked to longer life
 - Decreased risk of liver cancer
 - Decreased risk of Parkinson's disease
 - Improved clarity in thinking
 - Improved regularity of bowel movements
- CONS –**
- Inflammation (measured as CRP) can increase with more than 1 cup of coffee per day
 - Heart and neurological challenges among infants of mothers who regularly consumed coffee during pregnancy
 - Anxiety increased with excessive consumption of coffee
 - Difficulty sleeping associated with coffee consumption
 - Trigger for diarrhea episodes
 - Can promote fatigue through caffeine addiction

Coffee can be a powerful medicine. Caffeine is one of the active ingredients, but

there are additional compounds that demonstrate antioxidant and stimulant activity. An important note to understand is that coffee does not produce energy. A black cup of coffee has almost no calories at all. The energy boost from coffee comes from the body response to caffeine, which stimulates the adrenal glands to produce epinephrine. The release of epinephrine causes the body to release more energy from its storage areas, in the same way a whip will cause an animal to move that was not moving before. For an individual who is extremely tired in the morning and "needs" the cup of coffee to get started for the day, this individual is battling a fatigue that is only increased by the regular consumption of coffee.

Coffee can be a good aid for digestion. A small cup of black coffee with a meal will stimulate the digestive process and increase the acidic mixture in the stomach. Between meals only water should be consumed to allow the digestive system to rest. There is no need to stimulate digestion by drinking coffee between meals.

An additional use of coffee by health practitioners throughout the centuries has been the use of coffee as an enema. A properly prepared coffee solution carefully introduced into the rectum has been an effective way to remove constipation and blockages in the colon. Reportedly, this enema was effectively used during World War 1 in the military hospitals when nurses used the coffee enema to aid the recovery of recovering wounded in the military hospitals.

Overall, pay attention to how your body responds when you consume a cup of coffee. Consider what other ingredients such as cream, sugar, or other flavors are being added. What happens if you stop drinking coffee for a day or two? You only get one body in this lifetime. Make sure you take



good care of it and do not wear it out sooner than necessary.

I welcome your questions and enjoy the opportunity to discuss healthy options with those who reach out to me with questions.

If you would like to present a question for a future article please write to:

Dr. Noel Aldrich, P.O. Box 167, Northfield, MN 55057

or send an email to: nutritionproportion@gmail.com

If you would prefer to meet for a personal consultation, you can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

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The Law of Vibration: Unveiling the Hidden Harmony



By Susan Hinrichsen
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In the vast tapestry of the universe, there exists a symphony of vibrations that weave through the fabric of reality. This intricate dance is governed by the second universal law, the Law of Vibration. As we explore this cosmic principle, we delve into the profound concept that everything is in a constant state of motion, emitting its unique vibrational frequency.

At its core, the Law of Vibration posits that all matter is in a perpetual state of motion, oscillating at a specific frequency. This concept has ancient roots, echoing through various philosophical and spiritual traditions. In essence, it suggests that nothing rests; everything moves, and each entity carries its own vibrational signature.

One of the key tenets of the Law of Vibration is the interconnectedness of all things. Every particle, every atom, every living being resonates with a distinctive vibrational frequency. This interconnected web of vibrations forms the basis of the intricate dance of existence. It implies that there is a hidden harmony that unites all elements in the cosmos.

Moreover, the Law of Vibration extends beyond the physical realm into the realm of thoughts and emotions. It suggests that our thoughts and feelings also emit vibrational frequencies, influencing the overall vibrational tapestry of our personal reality. This principle underscores the importance of mindfulness and the impact of positive or negative energy we contribute to the collective vibration.

The ancient wisdom of the Law of Vibration finds resonance in modern science, particularly in quantum physics. Scientists have discovered that at the subatomic level, particles are not static entities but exist in a state of constant motion and vibration. This scientific revelation aligns with the age-old spiritual understanding that everything is energy in motion.

Understanding and harnessing the Law of Vibration can empower individuals to navigate their lives with greater awareness. By cultivating positive thoughts, emotions, and actions, one can elevate their vibrational frequency and attract corresponding positive experiences. Conversely, dwelling in negativity can lower one's vibrational state, leading to a magnetism for less desirable outcomes.

In essence, the Law of Vibration invites us to

become conscious co-creators of our reality. By aligning our thoughts, emotions, and actions with higher vibrational frequencies, we can harmonize with the cosmic dance of existence and unlock the latent potential within ourselves. It's a reminder that, in the grand orchestra of the universe, each of us plays a unique note, contributing to the symphony of life.

Integrating the Law of Vibration into daily life involves adopting mindful practices and cultivating awareness of the vibrational energy one emits. Here are several practical steps to help individuals align with this universal law:

- Mindful Awareness:
 - Begin each day with a few moments of mindfulness. Reflect on your thoughts, emotions, and the energy you carry into the day.
 - Throughout the day, periodically check in with yourself. Notice the quality of your thoughts and feelings. Are they positive or negative? What kind of vibrational energy are you emitting?
- Positive Thinking:
 - Practice positive affirmations. Consciously choose thoughts that uplift and inspire. Affirmations can help shift your vibrational frequency towards positivity.
 - Avoid dwelling on negative thoughts. When negativity arises, acknowledge it, but then consciously choose to redirect your focus to more positive and constructive thoughts.
- Gratitude Practice:
 - Cultivate a habit of gratitude. Regularly express appreciation for the positive aspects of your life. Gratitude carries a high vibrational frequency and can attract more positive experiences.
 - Keep a gratitude journal and write down things you are thankful for each day.
- Conscious Communication:
 - Be mindful of the words you use. Words carry energy, and their vibrations can impact both you and those around you.
 - Strive to communicate with kindness and positivity. Choose words that uplift and inspire rather than words that convey negativity or criticism.
- Emotional Regulation:
 - Develop emotional intelligence. Understand and accept your emotions but strive to respond to challenging situations with calm and centeredness.
 - Practice techniques such as deep breathing or meditation to maintain emotional balance.
- Energetic Environment:
 - Surround yourself with positive influences. Be conscious of the people, environments, and media you expose yourself to.
 - Create a positive and harmonious living and working space. Decluttering and organizing your physical space can also have a positive impact on your energy.
- Self-Care:
 - Take care of your physical well-being. Exercise, proper nutrition, and adequate rest contribute to a higher vibrational state.
 - Engage in activities that bring you joy and fulfillment. The energy associated with activities you love can enhance your overall vibration.
- Visualization and Meditation:
 - Incorporate visualization and meditation into your daily routine. Envision the positive outcomes you desire and feel the correspon-

ding emotions.

- Meditation can help quiet the mind, allowing you to connect with your inner self and the higher vibrational frequencies of the universe.

Remember that integrating the Law of Vibration is a continuous practice. It involves a conscious and intentional approach to thoughts, emotions, and actions. By making these practices a part of your daily life, you can elevate your vibrational frequency and align more harmoniously with the cosmic dance of existence.

Life coaching serves as a guiding light on the journey to integrate the profound principles of the Law of Vibration into one's daily life. A skilled life coach provides the support

and tools needed to navigate the intricacies of mindful living, helping individuals to cultivate positive habits and align with higher vibrational frequencies. Through personalized guidance, a life coach empowers individuals to overcome challenges, break through limiting beliefs, and foster a deeper understanding of themselves. This transformative process not only enhances personal well-being but also ripples outward, positively influencing relationships, career, and overall life satisfaction. Life coaching becomes a catalyst for self-discovery and empowerment, offering a roadmap to unlock the immense potential within, and inviting individuals to dance in harmony with the universal rhythms of existence.

CITY OF WANAMINGO City Council Regular Meeting Monday, September 11, 2023 7:00 P.M. Wanamingo City Council Chambers – 401 Main Street Wanamingo, MN

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.

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

City Administrator: Michael Boulton

Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Kennedy, Beth Giese – KW Schools Superintendent, Julie Steberg-Mettille, Brandon Theobald – WHKS, Trevor Aase, and Josh McGovern – Kenyon Leader.

Mayor Holmes recognized the passing of former Mayor (1999-2000) and long-serving former Council Member (1971-1988) Robert "Bob" Benson. Mayor Holmes and the City Council extend their condolences to the Benson family.

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

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

PRESENTERS:

Beth Giese – Kenyon-Wanamingo Schools Superintendent reported on:

Great to be able to attend the City of Wanamingo council meeting. Glad to be hired as new School Superintendent and Principal with the Kenyon-Wanamingo School District. Started early in August and have been off and running.

Kenyon-Wanamingo School District is one of the best in the area

Kenyon-Wanamingo School District enrollment is up in the 2023-2024 school year.

Extended a wish to work together with the City of Wanamingo. Feel free to reach out to Giese when there are opportunities that present itself.

Holmes welcomed Giese to the Kenyon-Wanamingo School District. Holmes thanked Giese for attending the meeting and extended a willingness for the City of Wanamingo to work with Kenyon-Wanamingo School district to improve the lives of the area community.

Brad Kennedy reported on:

Swimming Pool is shut down and has been winterized for the season

Cut out and reset storm sewer grate at the corner of Hill Avenue and 2nd Street E

Various concrete curb repairs and one sidewalk replacement was completed in conjunction with past water valve and curb stop repairs by Homestead Restoration

Schumacher Excavating is scheduled to make additional leaking water valve repairs

Rochester Sand & Gravel completed asphalt patches at various locations in conjunction with past water valve repairs and other street settling. Hope to get them back to patch additional locations in October.

Site for new slat/sand shed has been excavated. B & N Construction has poured the concrete foundation and walls. The rafters are expected to arrive in next two weeks. Jason Bauer will assist City staff in constructing walls, rafters, and tin roof/siding.

Only one water meter left to replace. Once completed the City can fully switch over to new system.

City dump truck had a fire and staff are working on an insurance claim. It sounds like insurance will assist with repairs to wiring and other items up to \$3,000. The vehicle is valued at \$5,000 insurance does not wish to exceed 70% costs or else count as total loss.

New John Deere leased skid loader from Midwest Machinery will be delivered September 13th

Flotterud asked where Scott Meyers was at in cutting out and replacing the frog on the pay loader snow plow. Kennedy stated that Meyers was not completed, but the snow plow was at his garage building and was being work on. Ohr stated that Zumbro Valley Landscaping would be willing to give a quote for salt/sanding the streets around town if the dump truck is not able to get repaired before winter.

Julie Steberg-Mettille, Wanamingo Swimming Pool Manager, reported on:

1) Thanked Council support they provided Manager (Dylan Steberg) and Assistant Manager (Julie Steberg)

2) Operations were smooth in 2023. Only delay came to a pump burnt out and was switched out within an hour.

3) Swimming lessons two session had to be scheduled both in June for 2023 due to WSI teacher schedules. Attendance was great. There were no complaints.

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CITY OF WANAMINGO City Council Regular Meeting Monday, September 11, 2023 7:00 P.M.

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4) There were concerns with 2024 wages. Pine Island pool wages increased significantly in 2023 and it may be hard to compete.

5) Need additional WSI (water safety instructor) staff for 2024. Only have one WSI certified staff coming back in 2024.

6) Of the 16 current swimming pool staff only 8 possibly returning.

7) The Wanamingo swimming pool was built in 1973 and opened in 1974. 2024 will be the 50th anniversary. The City should think about something to recognize the milestone.

8) Dylan Steberg will not be back as manager for 2024. Julie Steberg-Mettile would be willing to help the next manager.

Holmes thanks Julie and Dylan. The City appreciated all that they have done for many years. Giese stated that KW Schools could help allowing new lifeguards time to get out early to get certifications. In the past Giese has set up work study programs for student to get credits to get swimming pool license and WSI certification.

Brandon Theobald of WHKS, Reported on:

Will be working with Mayor, City Administrator, and Public Works director to put together effluent limits for new waste water treatment plant. The limits from four communities will determine the size and cost of the waste water treatment plant. Each community is looking at plans for future growth over the next twenty years. The City has seen 0.5%/year growth over the last twenty years. We are making assumptions of 1%/year growth over the next twenty years.

New downtown well house motor controls are expected to show up this winter. The project start was delayed because the well house motor controls were on back order. The demolition of the old well house and construction of the new well house is expected to take place in spring 2024.

WHKS is working with Minnesota Department of Health on the lead service line identification grant program award for the City of Wanamingo. WHKS will work to obtain the available funding compared to the scope of work that can be completed.

Flotterud asked if water pressure rates are where they expected to be after the new water tower went online last winter. Kennedy stated that he had not heard any concerns from residents on low water pressure. Theobald stated that the City has not seen water main breaks. Kennedy stated that there have been water valve leaks. The leaks were caused by bolts being rusted and braking out seals in valves.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION:

23-053 = Adopting 2023 4th Quarter Maintenance Work Plan: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

23-054 = Decertifying Tax Increment Financing (Economic Development) District NO. 3-1 Maple Island: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

23-055 = Authorizing Snow Removal Contract Extension: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that the committee had worked with Jason Raths to put together the contract extension. Jason Raths put together the details of his proposal for the proposed 2024-2026 snow removal contract. Jason Raths proposes increasing the equipment schedule to include going from \$60/hour to \$80/hour for tandem truck, \$80/hour to \$110/hour for quad truck, \$105/hour to \$175/hour for snow blower (new blower), \$95/hour to \$125/hour for

payloader, and \$135/hour to \$150/hour for payloader and pusher. Jason also has proposed an increase from \$12,500/year to \$13,500/year for the guaranteed minimum. No other requested changes have taken place. Passed 5-0-0.

23-056 = Approving Lawn Mowing Contract Extension with Lunde Lawn Care: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Boulton stated that the committee had worked with Sheldon Lunde to put together the contract extension. Sheldon Lunde put together details of his proposal for the 2024-2026 lawn mowing contract. Sheldon Lunde proposes an increase from \$800/week in 2023 to \$850/week in 2024, \$875 in 2025, and \$900/week in 2026. The committee better defined monthly weed whipping and before holidays such as Memorial Day, July 4th weekend, and Labor Day. The committee also obtained a second mowing quote from Zumbro Valley Landscaping for a comparison. No other changes were requested. Zumbro Valley Landscaping provided a proposal of \$1,425/week for 2024-2026 mowing seasons. Flotterud stated that JMC Property Services should be consulted for pricing when the next contract is up. Holmes stated that the contract pricing by Lunde Lawn Care is a great deal. Passed 5-0-0.

23-057 = Authorizing the Order and Purchase of New Street Department Ford F550 Utilizing State Bid Through Midway Ford Commercial Fleet and Government Sales: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Holmes stated that the City still has to pay sales tax on the vehicle, which is disappointing. Kennedy stated that the truck should be here around the same time at the accessories. The plow truck should be available for use in the 2024-2025 winter season. Passed 5-0-0.

23-058 = Authorizing and Approving a 2024 Lobbyist Contract for the Proposed North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District State Capital Request: Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Holmes stated that last session was successful in securing \$10 million appropriation for design work and land acquisition. Holmes stated that we need to keep going to see funding for construction because we have our foot in the door. Holmes stated that everyone had done a lot of work in securing funds from City staff and elected officials meeting legislators at the capital to the assistance of Prairie Island Indian Community. Theobald stated that it was important the City staff and elected official went to the capitol and made the case for the regional waste water treatment plant. Flotterud asked where we were at with other funding sources. Boulton stated that the pre-design work had to be complete in order to apply for the PSIG (Point Source Implementation Grant). Theobald stated the PSIG is funded through the bonding bill. PSIG funding could be up to \$7 million for each community. More realistic that the project gets \$21 million, at most from PSIG. Theobald stated that the remaining ¼ of the project funding will be paid by the sewer rate users in the four communities. Passed 5-0-0.

23-059 = Reauthorizing Membership in the 4M Fund: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Flotterud asked what the 4M Fund rates were. Boulton stated that the 4M rates are highly competitive in the market. Boulton stated the four-hundred communities in Minnesota utilize the 4M Fund and that it would open up another investment option for the City of Wanamingo. City staff were not please with Stifel Nicolaus recommendations with the current City of Wanamingo money market account. Boulton stated that the 4M Fund would allow the City the option to shop around for the best investments. Passed 5-0-0.

ORDINANCE #203 – Defining Native Landscaping and Exempting Native Landscaping

from Weeds or Grass as a Nuisance; Amending Wanamingo Code of Ordinances § 90.01 & 90.02 (D) – 1st Reading. Boulton stated that the legislature amended the State Statutes this past session to preempt local governments from not allowing native landscaping. Boulton said he and the City attorney had drafted the ordinance based upon the language from the legislative bill. Boulton recommended that the Council adopt changes to the code of ordinances so that the Council has teeth to enforce noxious weeds removal where native landscaping is present. Holmes stated that if native landscaping were in place, he wishes to see it well maintained and not full of noxious weeds.

OLD BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION:

23-050 = Approving Fire Department By-Laws Updates: Boulton stated that the Fire Department By-Laws committee met before the City Council meeting. The committee reviewed the proposed changes to the amendments section of the By-Laws. The committee still has concerns with the language allowing the City Council to initiate the amendment process. Boulton stated that he would work with the committee to revise the language to make it amenable to the committee. Haugen moved to Table until the October City Council meeting, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.
*Next City Council meeting on 10/16/2023

Adjourn: At 7:54 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Ohr and seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator

CITY OF WANAMINGO City Council Regular Meeting Monday, October 16, 2023 7:00 P.M. Wanamingo City Council Chambers – 401 Main Street Wanamingo, MN

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.

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

City Administrator: Michael Boulton
Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Kennedy, Nick Koverman – SEMMCHRA, Seth Friese, Cobus Peens, Beth Haas – Zumbrota News Record, and Josh McGovern – Kenyon Leader.

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

CONSENT AGENDA: Haugen motioned, seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

Brad Kennedy reported on:

Worked with Jason Bauer Construction to complete the salt-sand shed walls, roof, and siding. The asphalt patch from the leaking water valve repair still has to be completed to 2nd Avenue at the shed entrance.

Leaf vacuum has been out getting leaves sucked off the streets

Clay sanitary sewer lines jetted with cutting head.

Hauled and land applied biosolids from the WWTP from south digester. Plan on continuing to haul out and clean out north digester.

The WWTP operations process continues to be disrupted by high concentrations of QAC's (quaternary ammonium compounds). A notice to the public was posted on the City Facebook page and published in the newspaper. The notice asked residents and businesses to limit the amount of QAC's that go down the drain to the WWTP

Hydrant valve repaired at 1st Avenue/5th Street W, an 8" leaking valve at Hill Avenue/4th Street E, and a 6" valve on 4th Street

E/Hill Avenue. The concrete curb/gutter and sidewalk has been replaced at 1st Avenue/5th Street W.

Rochester Sand & Gravel completed the roughly 1,600 square feet of asphalt patching on previous water leak repairs. Rochester Sand & Gravel does not think they can schedule the asphalt patching of the roughly 1,450 square feet from recently completed water leak holes. Looking at alternative paving contractors to complete the asphalt patches.

Administrator Boulton provided a memo regarding water shut-offs. The installation of the new water tower in 2022 has led to increased water pressure throughout the City of Wanamingo water distribution system. It was assumed that this increased pressure could cause leaks that would require repairs. As of October 2nd, there have been six leaks that have occurred and been repaired. All of the leaks have occurred at water shut off valves. The valve fittings are held to the pipe with bolts. These bolts seem to blame for the leaks as they are rusting off and with the added pressure popping loose causing the leaks.

The City has had to hire Schumacher Excavating since Jason Raths of Jason's Sewer Sucking and Excavating has not been available to make most of the necessary repairs. Schumacher Excavating has also been hard to schedule. This has led to the emergency repairs taking up to a month to complete. With this there has been a lack of advanced notification for repairs. City staff have gone door to door hours before shutting off water to speak with or hand out notices of pending shut-offs. The time for shut-offs is unknown due to the scope and work and accessibility of parts. The City is lucky to have been able to secure a contractor to make these important improvements before the weather gets cold. City staff are sorry that information was not provided to the public earlier due to short notice provided to the City. The City staff have spoken internally about providing notice the evening before water is to be shut off in the future. The City has requested Schumacher Excavating notify the City the day before work is to be completed.

Administrator Boulton provided a memo on the City employee health insurance renewal. The City employee health insurance is through Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota. The health insurance is through a small group plan. The City pays for 100% of the cost for employee and up to \$350/month for one dependent. The employee can choose whether to have dependents on the health insurance plan but pays any remaining health care premiums through pre-tax payroll deductions. The yearly renewals are for December 1st each year. Staff and the personal committee review the proposals in September/October each year.

The City of Wanamingo can now offer two separate health insurance policies through the MN Blue Cross Blue Shield small group plans. In the past the City has only been able to offer one small group plan option. The City has until November 1st to indicate changes to the plan. The current plan is set to increase by 9.2% for the City and roughly 16.2% for employee dependents. This is roughly a \$90 and \$140/month increase for the two employees with dependents on plan. The maximum out of pocket is \$3,750/person or \$7,500/family in 2023 and \$3,700/person or \$7,400/family with renewal in 2024. The City has five full-time employees that qualify for health insurance. Two of the City employees take advantage of the dependent coverage.

The City Council created a monthly payment of \$250 for one dependent with a change in the personal policy in 2015.

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**CITY OF WANAMINGO
City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, October 16, 2023 7:00 P.M.
(continued from page 20)**

The City Council increased the monthly coverage to \$300/month in 2018 with a change in personal policy. The City Council increased the monthly coverage to \$350/month in 2021 with a change in personal policy. There was discussion of increasing the dependent coverage by \$50/month every three years to keep up with the City portion of the insurance increases. The next three-year consideration would be this time in 2024.

The new MN Blue Cross Blue Shield option for the City to offer two health insurance choices to City Staff has created questions. The new BC/BS options put forth Gold \$500, \$1,000, or \$2,000 deductibles. The maximum out of pocket increases \$6,850/person or \$13,700/family with all three of the plans. The City staff can see a decrease in rates of 10.2%, 14.1%, or 19.3% for dependent premiums. The two employees with dependents could save roughly \$185-\$245 and \$192-\$258/month. There are other benefit changes to the plans that make them not as good as the current plan. You are either paying the premiums upfront or taking a gamble of not utilizing the insurance in order to save money. If you utilize the insurance there is a possibility of not saving money or paying additional funds out of pocket.

One option discussed is the City contributes the cost savings from their premiums to the dependent premiums. This creates a problem with equity among employees. These employees can gamble with lower premiums and possibly higher out of pocket while having the City contribute higher dependent premiums. The personal committee would rather revisit the personal policy to look at potential increases to the monthly dependent contribution from \$350/month to a higher per month contribution. The City Council understands that insurance premium costs have increased, leading to higher out of pocket costs for employee dependent costs. However, not all employees take advantage of the health insurance coverage for dependents that help cover the \$350/month dependent premiums. It puts the City in a difficult position to attract and maintain staff that need dependent coverage through the City. The City can't afford the full premium cost for dependents, but wish to attract and maintain the employees. The City can budget the \$4,200/year for one dependent by knowing the maximum premium costs. The City can also budget knowing that insurance premiums increase at roughly 8%/year on average.

The recommendation from personal commit-

tee would be to stay with the current policy of paying 100% of the employee health insurance premiums and increase the dollar amount per month for one dependent health insurance premiums. The personal committee recommends not to change the mechanism for dependent health care premium contribution. But rather, would recommend review and possible increase of the current \$350/month contribution in 2023 currently laid out in the personal policy. The proposed increase could be \$50, \$75, or \$100/month. The committee would defer to the Council for further discussion.

Holmes stated that the personnel committee wished to keep any changes simple and treat all employees as equal as possible. Holmes also stated that the City Council's goal should be to provide the best insurance without employees having to pay huge deductible costs. Flotterud asked if employees could opt out and have an HSA. Flotterud stated that it did not make sense to be double insured if the spouse had a family plan option like his wife. Boulton stated that HAS's are only available for high deductible insurance plans. Kennedy stated that his wife has either single or family option. Kennedy stated that is cheaper to have his kids on the City plan with the monthly contribution rather than his wife paying for the family plan option. Peens stated that the insurance costs are calculated on age and having his wife on the plan increases significantly each year. Kennedy stated that the monthly contribution was reviewed to look at a percentage rather than a dollar amount. Kennedy stated that this made an unknown contribution and treated employees differently for the benefit. Holmes stated that he would be comfortable increasing the monthly contribution for dependent by \$100. Haugen stated that her out of pocket health insurance premiums had increase over \$120 the last two years. Dierks recommended increasing the monthly contribution by \$100/month for dependent coverage. Flotterud stated that he was good with the \$100 increase on the monthly contribution for dependents. Boulton stated that he would put together a resolution for the Council to consider in November to change the monthly dependent contribution from \$350 to \$450 starting December 1st as part of the personnel policy.

Nick Koverman, Community Development Coordinator of SEMMCHRA, Reported on:

The Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) allows Cities to invest in housing stock and is funded through the Federal Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and Minnesota Department of Economic Employment Development (DEED)

The program allows Cites to apply for up to a \$450,000 grant to administer up to \$25,000

forgivable loans for home improvements

Wanamingo first received SCDP grant in 1994 and last received the SCDP in 2014. In 2014 there were fifteen homes worked on along with the three Springcroft apartment buildings.

A community survey needs to be completed in order to apply through DEED. There would be a match to need assessment completed in May/June 2024. The Council would review and apply in August 2024. The formal application approval would occur in February 2025. The funds would be available to start work in October/November 2025. Once approved there is a three-year cycle to make the repairs and spend the funds.

Goodhue County has accessed \$14 million in SCDP funds for home improvements since 1987

Currently there is work occurring with SCDP funds in Pine Island, Goodhue, Dennison, and Cannon Falls

SEMMCHRA is requesting partnership with the City of Wanamingo. In the past there were 10-year forgivable loans. The homeowner needs to keep 6 years. Each year after reduces the loan by 20%. The new process of the program makes the loans forgivable in 7 years.

In communities un 5,000 in population the whole community is eligible. In the past sections of town were identified and targeted for the improvement funds.

Work such as siding, windows, roofing, insulation, handicap bathrooms, moving laundry to main floor, plumbing, and energy efficiencies are eligible.

There is a community local contribution of \$5,000 to be paid in 2026.

Flotterud asked how the identification process works. Flotterud asked if this included driving around. Koverman stated that the process does include driving the streets in winter to see lack of insulation. The identification process includes reviewing siding, windows, and roofs. The surveys are important to see the needs of the interior of homes. Flotterud stated that it is important to spend funds that are dispersed. Koverman stated that any funds returned when homes sell are rolled back into do more work within the City. There are roughly \$17,750 left over from the 2014 SCDP Wanamingo grant that will be utilized with this new round of work.

**NEW BUSINESS:
RESOLUTION:**

23-060 = Certifying Delinquent Utility Bills and Other Services to the Goodhue County Auditor-Treasurer for the Collection with Real Estate Taxes in 2024: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Mayor Holmes asked if there were any challenges to the certifications. No challenges were made. Passed 5-0-0.

23-061 = Certifying Mowing Service Charges to the Goodhue County Auditor-Treasurer for the Collection with Real Estate Taxes in 2024: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Mayor Holmes asked if there were any challenges to the certifications. No challenges were made. Passed 5-0-0.

23-062 = Approving Change Order 1 For Caldwell Tanks Inc on the Water Tower Portion of the 2022 Utility Improvements: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Boulton stated that \$16,268.39 of change order items had been completed involving addressing vertical deflection to connect from existing watermain to new tower at the Cenex Water Tower, the City requested gate valve on watermain hydrant lead, pipe size and depth changes from plans to actual construction at the Mingo View Tower, and contract extension due to delay of electrical service installation to new water tower by Xcel Energy. Passed 5-0-0.

23-063 = Approving Pay Request No. 9-Final to Caldwell Tanks Inc. for the Cenex Water Tower Portion of the 2022 Utility Improve-

ments: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Boulton stated that the punch list work is complete. The final payment request is for \$80,168.39. This will start the one-year warranty period. Passed 5-0-0.

23-064 = Approving the Combination of Tax Parcels: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated the Jeff and Lind Benson had requested to join parcel number 70.366.0020 (Lot 2, Block 2) and 70.366.0010 (Lot 1, Block 1) in the Wanamingo SE Addition 2. Boulton stated that staff had no easements or public improvements concerns. Passed 5-0-0.

23-065 = Approving the Combination of Tax Parcels: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Boulton stated the Seth Friese had requested to join parcel number 70.147.0150 (Lot 15, Block 2) and 70.147.0160 (Lot 16, Block 1) in the Emerald Valley Addition. Boulton stated that staff had no easements or public improvements concerns. Passed 5-0-0.

23-066 = Declaring the City of Wanamingo as an Applicant and Partner for the Proposed Wanamingo Comprehensive SCDP Rehabilitation Projects Contained in the Community Finance Preliminary Proposal: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Hearing - Mayor Holmes opened Ordinance #203 - Defining Native Landscaping and Exempting Native Landscaping from Weeds or Grass as a Nuisance; Amending Wanamingo Code of Ordinances § 90.01 & 90.02 (D) at 7:47PM. Boulton reminded the Council that the legislature amended the State Statutes this past session to preempt local governments from not allowing native landscaping. Boulton said he and the City attorney had drafted the ordinance based upon the language from the legislative bill. Boulton stated that the Ordinance gave the City teeth to enforce noxious weeds removal where native landscaping is present. Boulton stated that intention of the ordinance is to allow native landscaping that is well maintained and not full of noxious weeds. No other public comments were offered. Holmes closed the public hearing at 7:51PM.

ORDINANCE #203 – Defining Native Landscaping and Exempting Native Landscaping from Weeds or Grass as a Nuisance; Amending Wanamingo Code of Ordinances § 90.01 & 90.02 (D) – 2nd Reading. Flotterud moved to approve, seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

RESOLUTION:

23-050 = Approving Fire Department By-Laws Updates: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Boulton stated that he had met with members of the fire department by-laws committee. He and the committee members put together agreed upon changes to the amendment language. Boulton stated that he had no heard any additional concerns. Boulton stated that the Council could either table to or vote to approve the updates. Dierks stated that the changes have been in limbo for months and should be considered for approval. Ohr stated that if there were additional concerns the City should have been notified by the Council meeting. Passed 5-0-0.

23-067 = Approving City On-Sale, Off-Sale, Sunday On-Sale, Intoxicating Liquor, and Tobacco Licenses for The Spot Sports Pub, Corp.: Haugen moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that the Council had approved Resolution 23-052 in August to transfer the liquor license for JB's Tavern from Barney Nesseth to Dan Romo. Romo had intended on operating as JB's Tavern until after the new year. Romo has now requested a new liquor and tobacco licenses for The Spot Sports Pub. Boulton stated that a new resolution incorporating the changes and request for new liquor and tobacco licenses would be needed. Passed 5-0-0.

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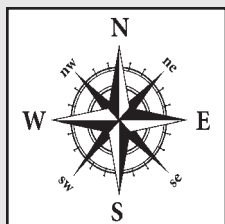
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes My Grandfather, Otis.



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 never knew my grandfather, Otis Campbell. He passed away the year I was born. But my grandmother and father told me many stories about him that just piqued my interest in him. I always enjoyed the character by his name in the Andy Griffith show, but unlike the Mayberry Otis Campbell, my grandfather was stone sober.

Most people remembered him for his dry wit. The only tangible evidence I had of that was the story my dad relayed about the day my grandpa almost ran over Elvis. It was written in pencil on the granary wall and mostly faded from sight by the time I was a kid. Turns out Elvis was the family dog, but it made a great story.

Harold Avery was a friend of Otis, and they were members of the Concord Church. When a new preacher was hired, Harold volunteered to take his livestock truck out to the western part of the state to move the new minister back, and Otis rode along to help. As the two filled the box of the truck with the new parson's household belongings, they constantly harped on each other over how to load each item. Once loaded the new pastor climbed in the truck cab between the two bickering furniture movers and had to endure the constant insults they plied each other with. His concern was that they may stop the truck and come to blows from the endless feuding. He was starting to reconsider the wisdom of coming to a church where two of the good members seemed to dislike each other so much. He later learned that they each



loved to rib each other mercilessly and were in fact best friends.

The church had an old coal furnace in the basement and one cold winter day it broke down. A couple of the men took turns laying on their backs inside the firebox and hammering with a cold chisel to remove the broken part. Dean Loquai told me years ago about the day in question, how the minister came over to see how they were coming along. Dean told him to head back to the parsonage as they were some words coming out of the furnace he might not want to hear.

My grandfather's hired man was Perry Bartholomew and one evening Otis stopped by their house on the farm to visit. Perry's wife loved the suspense theater on the radio and was sitting on a kitchen chair listening to the radio show with rapt attention. At the precise time, Otis reached out and put his hand on her shoulder. Her reaction was more than he expected as she jumped, sending the chair backwards, where the rear leg caught in a knot hole in the wood floor and she nearly fell onto the floor. She was not as amused as the two men were.

One evening Otis and a younger hired man had walked down to the country schoolhouse for a community meeting. As they walked back along the dark and deserted gravel road in the dark, a sound came from the cornfield to their right. It was the sound of cornstalks being broken and knocked down by a large and rapidly approaching object. The hired man in his terror took off running for the farm, leaving his older boss in his dust. Otis simply stopped and waited as a large buck deer burst out of the corn rows and raced across the road in front of him. My grandfather thought the whole event was too funny to be mad at the poor kid.

CITY OF WANAMINGO City Council Regular Meeting Monday, October 16, 2023 7:00 P.M.

(continued from page 21)

Administrator Boulton informed the City Council that Goodhue County is reviewing the cost involved with contract policing for the sheriff. The contract Cities have not been involved in discussions and have only heard about the discussions from two email updates from Sheriff Marty Kelly. City staff and Council have understood that there would be a significant increase to the next contract due to increased costs to actual patrol deputy pay, benefits, and operating expenses. The City of Wanamingo is contracted at six hours per day for additional services above and beyond regular County sheriff services. The County is looking at increasing policing services rates from \$58.55/hour in 2024 to \$86.22/hour in 2025 (\$91.95/hour in 2026). Higher and lower options were discussed. The contract would go from \$127,873 in 2024 to \$188,304 in 2025 (\$200,819 in 2026). This would be a \$60,431 (47%) increase from 2024 to 2025. The City levy would need to increase by 5.64% just to cover the new contract costs from 2024 to 2025 and an additional 1.1% (\$12,515) from 2025 to 2026. These proposed costs need to be addressed with the County board in terms of past consideration of give and take along with removing administrative overhead costs from consideration. If the County Board succeeds with increases to cover full costs, the contract Cities need to demand better individual services during their contract time. The contract cities do not have a say over the day-to-day interactions of the Sheriff's Department. The contract cities can ask the Sheriff's Department to do certain tasks but ultimately have no authority on what policing looks like in our community. If costs significantly increase, it only seems right that we would be able to provide input on how our city is being patrolled. The City has concerns with the number of deputies that are shifted through Wanamingo each month. A decade ago, there were 3-4 deputies assigned to Wanamingo each month. Now there are over 10 different deputies that are assigned to Wanamingo each month. This make follow through on situations difficult and goes against community policing philosophy that the County wishes to see. Currently communities are not guaranteed that deputies will be available for community events. Mayor Holmes, Wanamingo Police Work Group Member Larry VanDeWalker, and I plan on attending the county board meeting with me on Tuesday October 17th. Flotterud asked if reducing the contract hours were an option. Boulton stated that this could be explored, but the Sheriff's office could determine a minimum number of service hours based upon population and require the full six. Flotterud stated that Wanamingo could discuss approaching Kenyon for policing services in the future. Flotterud stated that costs for policing are significantly increasing everywhere and all options should be on the table for consideration. Holmes stated that the issue was complex, would take time to research, and will more than likely cost significantly more for policing from 2024 to 2025. Holmes goal is to keep costs from getting out of hand while providing the necessary policing services to the public.

*Next City Council meeting on 11/13/2023

Adjourn: At 8:17 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Ohr and seconded by Dierks. Passed 5-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator

A Minnesotan: Thanksgiving Traditions



By RosaLin Alcoser

to play football, while others do Turkey Trots or volunteer at soup kitchens. My family does none of these things.

Over the years we've done a number of things on Thanksgiving Day over the years. There have been years when we had venison or ham instead of turkey. There have been years that it was warm enough for us to go for a walk after dinner or where we had gone back south and could do that. While there have been other years where we talked about how if it wasn't snowing we could go for a walk. Mostly though we have no strong traditions that we have to do on Thanksgiving Day no matter what.

Except for one. Every single year we all watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade no matter where we are. There isn't a single year in my entire life that I can recall not watching that parade on Thanksgiving Day. Even though we can't all be together on Thanksgiving Day every year, which is most of it these days, we all make sure that we are up and watching the parade at the same time.

For my family at least, watching the parade has given us all something in common about the holiday while apart for over a decade now. Which means at the end of the holiday we all have at least one shared experience to talk about no matter what else happened allowing for that feeling of togetherness that traditions create.

Across the country every family has their own Thanksgiving Day traditions. Holiday traditions are a great way to bring families closer together on the holiday as everyone has something to look forward to knowing that no matter what that one thing will take place on that day. It can even be a good way to feel connected to your family on the holidays if you are far away from them during the holidays. As you can at least do that one thing knowing that your loved ones are also doing it at the same time.

Some families cook the same meal every year, or watch football, others go outside

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As we welcome another Thanksgiving,
 we welcome the opportunity
 to thank our good friends and customers
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We will be closed Thursday, November 23rd so our employees can enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.

Official drop site for Toys for Tots November 13th through December 11th.



Help us support our local food shelf, All Seasons, during the holiday season - non-perishable food donations will be accepted November 13th through December 15th.

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