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Happy New Year!

We want to Thank You for your continued support of the Wanamingo Messenger again this past year!

Your hometown newspaper continues with an unwavering goal to bring the local and area news to you.

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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.

Flour Child Creations

By Cheri Roshon

Happy New Year to all of our readers! In thinking about what should be the first story of the year, my mind was flooded with articles I have been running through my head for the past few months. Since I write for the Messenger, people tend to assume I know the answers to most of the questions about Wanamingo, so I get asked a lot of them, and I do my best to find the answers. I settled on the one question I get asked the most...no, not "When is Casey's going to start serving pizza?" But "What is Beth doing at the bakery when she is there, but not open to the

public?" Ah-Ha! There is a mystery that must be solved!

Beth Eliason moved to Wanamingo from Hastings, after meeting her "paperless husband" as she likes to call him. Chad Vieths is a local VW enthusiast, mechanic and carpenter who has lived around this area all of his life. Many of you will remember Alvin Vieths from Goodhue County. Alvin was Chad's uncle. They have 6 children in their family, ages 17,19, 20, 21, 23 and 27. They purchased a homestead near Zumbrota in 2021, and have put down roots, literally, by planting fruit trees, and making it their own.



Yes. They still own the bakery...

Maybe you have seen the CakeBus around town, or parked in front of the bakery. How did this come together? Let's go back in time to find answers...

(continued on page 7)

What is a Lion?

By Cheri Roshon



I have been wonderingWhat is the Lions Club? Then I saw calendars being delivered around town, and learned that the calendars are a big part of the Lions funds to operate in the capacity of helping others. In fact, the Lions Club helps not just the people in our community, but as a national outreach as well!

So, what do the Lions support? Some of the local projects include maintenance of the town's swimming pool, which by the way, turned

50 this year! The Wanamingo Community Center on Main Street that hosts several activities during the year, including fund raisers, craft fairs, special meals and meetings for all kinds of functions is maintained with funds the Lions donate. The Kenyon/Wanamingo ball fields are kept groomed with the funds raised, as well as the after prom party each year, scholastic scholarships for our students, and the 4th grade dictionary donations. The local Lions Club also supports regional, national and international projects by combining their money with other larger projects. These include the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation, the Lions Hearing Foundation, the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation, Can Do Canines, Project New Hope, and the Minnesota Special Olympics! That's a whole lot of supporting going on!

(continued on page 6)

Merry Musings in 2024

By Cheri Roshon

Well, we made it through the holidays, and here we are in 2024! Happy New Year to you all!

I thought it would be fun to start the new year out with a bit of new knowledge, to give us all some things to muse about. It began when I was giving a client a massage last week, and we were chatting about the things we used to say as a child. How we got onto that subject, I fail to remember, but it was amusing. I said "Remember when we used to pick dandelion's, and put our thumb under the flower, and say, "Mama had a baby and it's head popped off", and we would send the flower flying with a flick of our thumb?"

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Year of Favor



By Colin Rueter

Friends, every year we are reminded through Christmas of the eternal joy through Christ. While we may not always feel the joy of the season, we are reminded that this is why Jesus came in the flesh [I recently wrote about this in a blog]. To summarize: Jesus came veiled in flesh to seek and save the sinner by willingly giving his life as the substitutionary atonement for sin, thus reconciling God and humanity for those who believe in Jesus alone by faith [Isaiah 53; Matthew 1:21; John 1; John 3:16-17; Romans 3:21-26, 4:13-25, 5:1-11; Ephesians 2:1-22]. We cannot understand the glories of Christmas without keeping the cross at Calvary and the empty tomb in view. Friends, we have living hope in this.

So, as we look ahead to 2024, I want to remind you, Christian, and plead with those who have not yet trusted in Christ, to look to Him who is faithful, who died for you, and who sits in the throne of glory with abounding grace in this year of favor.

In Luke chapter four, Jesus has begun His ministry and is teaching by the power of the Spirit (4:14-15). He has returned to His hometown of Nazareth to teach in the synagogue to read the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolls the scroll and read from Chapter 61:1-2: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." The people of God knew this passage, along with the passages in Isaiah before and in them created a longing for this day. In this moment, prophecy was being fulfilled! We just celebrated this moment in the season of Christmas, friends.

There have been thousands of babies born who became kings to rule a nation, but only once has a King become a baby to save the

nations. Jesus was born into a world of infant massacres, tyrant political leaders, sexual perversion, systematic oppression, a place where outcasts had no voice, and religious leaders were corrupted by power. He came in a very dark time to push back the darkness, to bring light. This same Jesus we need today – thankful that He is the same then, today, and forever. I want to highlight two things from this passage that Jesus fulfills: 1) God's mission and 2) Gives us hope and joy.

God's mission is an extended time of favor (grace) to bring good news through the Anointed One, Jesus. Look at Isaiah 61, verse 1 – there is a coming hope of the Messiah. The One who is to be anointed with the Holy Spirit, bringing good news to the poor, to heal the broken, free captives, and break chains. This chapter comes after Isaiah has spoken of the Suffering Servant (Ch 53), the LORD's abounding compassion (Ch 55), then salvation to all peoples (Ch 56), addressing evil/oppression (Ch 59), and leading into future, everlasting glory for God's people (Ch 60). Seeing His plan be accomplished from before time is God's good pleasure. His mission from eternity past delights God, satisfies Him, as He sees the right timing of the Messiah and salvation coming to the nations. This is the gospel and it is our hope and joy.

The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. It is beautiful and it will triumph. The gospel is the only cause on the face of the earth that will finally succeed as intended. I want to be a part of that cause, that mission! Every other cause, no matter the impact, is doomed to extinction. This passage, after showing us God missions, gives us hope and joy – real hope, real joy. First, this passage gives us hope because we are the ones

being given good news in verse 1. We are poor, broken, lost, chained. We are not just set free though...no, we are planted as oaks of righteousness with beautiful crowns, anointed with gladness, and given a garment of praise to the glory of God. This hope of a Spirit-empowered life will then bring us joy, being happy in God. If we look to Him in promised faith, through the Hope He gives... Joy comes with it! Our joy is not in experiences (though we have some), they are grounded in the Living Savior – no one can take that from me or you! The life saturated in God's truth is a life that is deeply durable in the face of drought and a life that succeeds in God's good purposes into eternity because it is grounded in truth. His objective, never-changing, life-giving, life-sustaining, raise the dead to life, healing all wounds, redeeming the broken, binding the hurting, grace-abounding, TRUTH through His word, the Bible. This is the truth we look to by faith as we look at the promise of the LORD's favor.

Isaiah speaks about the Lord's time, a time of favor when the Anointed One comes and after this time will be a time of vengeance. We are in the first time of favor and are awaiting the day of fulfillment on the day of vengeance in Christ's second coming. Be assured that this Day is coming. For the follower of Jesus, this day is a great day. We see justice done, wrongs punished, and a life of eternity beginning with Jesus forever. However, if you have not placed your faith in Christ alone for salvation, tremble for this Day. God's wrath will be rightly poured out on you for your rebellion and sin. Turn to Jesus today, friend, and be saved from the wrath to come in order that you receive today hope and joy in Jesus.

So What?

This passage in Isaiah shows God's faithfulness in prophecy fulfilled through Jesus. It reminds us of our greatest need. This season we have been reminded how this need is met. Our need is not a bigger house, a better job, a more loving husband, a more patient wife, or even a spouse, period. It is not better behaving kids, more kids, or even to have kids. It is not the scholarship or acceptance letter to the college of your choice, more money in your budget, a newer car, keeping your lake cabin, getting the tropical vacation, or gaining more friends, via real life or social media. Our greatest need is to be saved from our sin and God's wrath. You are a sinner. God is Holy. His righteous judgment will be seen, yet this righteous, Holy judge is full of mercy and compassion and has a mission to redeem us.

God will exchange your suffering and death for resurrection. He has promised spiritual blessings and an eternal life with Him. Jesus is building His Church – He has commanded and empowered us to join the mission. This is what makes Jesus' coming over 2000 years ago magnificent! Because He came: We were poor, now rich. We were brokenhearted, now rejoicing. We were captive to sin, now set free. We were under God's wrath, now called His sons and daughters. It means we are called upon to display his glory. Show that He's glorious. Act like He's glorious. Make much of him like He's the most valuable, glorious thing in the universe because He is. May this be your life's vision as you look ahead to 2024. As always, if you have questions, need prayer, a word of encouragement, or a cup of coffee, please contact me via my personal email: niloc1214@gmail.com

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The Return of the King

"Suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple." – Malachi 3:1

When Jesus is 40 days old, his parents bring him to the temple to present the required offering after a son is born. It's a big day. Here's why.

When the Israelites, under Moses, set up a tabernacle (a portable temple) in the wilderness, a cloud of glory signaled the presence of God. God was there in the midst of his people. Later, when they built a temple, under Solomon, the cloud of glory filled it to overflowing. God was enthroned in the temple as Israel's true King.

Many years later, the prophet Ezekiel saw God's throne leave the temple—and the cloud of glory with it (Ezekiel 10). Soon the temple itself lay in ruins, destroyed by Babylon. Later the people of Israel returned from exile and built another temple. But this time there was no cloud of glory, no sign that God had come to live in the new temple.

Many more years later, Mary and Joseph came to the temple carrying Jesus. And the Lord, Israel's true King, was in the midst of his people once again. What kind of king will he be? And what kind of kingdom will he bring?

We are faced with those questions to this day. How will we welcome King Jesus and his kingdom? With humility? With joy? With thanksgiving? With hope? With holy obedience? The answer is in our lives and in the life of the church.

Jesus, you came to live among us for a while. And you will come again. We want to welcome you wherever you appear. And wherever you are, your kingdom is. Amen.

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LaVonne Mae Schafer

LaVonne Mae Schafer, 92, died Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at Mayo Clinic Health Systems, Red Wing. She was born April 16, 1931 to Oscar and Myrtle (Nord) Flom of Wanamingo. She was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo and in 1949, she graduated from Wanamingo High School. After high school she attended Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, graduating in 1953 with



a Bachelor of Science Degree. She was a Registered Medical Technologist working at Gunderson Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse, WI. She also worked for Dr. Davis, Hanson and Weber in Minneapolis. On September 29, 1956, she married John Schafer at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo. They lived on a dairy farm in rural Lake City. In 1990 their son took over the dairy farm and they moved to rural Goodhue. John died on February 12, 2015 and for the past five years LaVonne has resided at the Downtown Plaza. LaVonne was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Hay Creek. She was involved in Ladies Aid, Fellowship Club and choir. She was a member of the Belva-Dears Extension Home Study Group and a past 4-H leader. She enjoyed cooking, knitting and crafts—particularly making jewelry. She al-

ways enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

She is survived by two daughters, Peri Anne (Ray) Williams of Goodhue and Kimberly (Kyle) Gibbens of Tomah, WI; two sons, Todd (Tammy) Schafer of Berlin, WI and Kevin (Carol) Schafer of Lake City; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and baby Schafer on the way and two sisters-in-law, Margaret and Ruth Schafer of Rochester. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and an infant son.

Funeral service was at 11 a.m. Monday, December 11, 2023 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hay Creek. Reverend Lowell Sorenson officiated. Visitation was from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, December 10, 2023, and one hour prior to the service, all at the church. Burial took place at St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery, Belvidere. Arrangements handled by Mahn Family Funeral Home, Bodelson-Mahn Chapel. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com

Shirley Mary Healy

Shirley Mary Healy, 88, of Kasson, died Friday, December 15, 2023 at Reflections Hospice in Northfield.



She was born January 10, 1935 in Rochester, Minnesota the daughter of Norman and Margaret (Freund) Hanson. She graduated from Lourdes High School in 1953. She then at-

tended Rochester Junior College where she earned her medical secretary degree.

Shirley married the love of her life, Chris Healy in 1955 at St. Francis Church in Rochester. From there they lived in Mankato briefly, New Ulm for 20 years where they raised their 4 children, Kenyon for 23 years and retired to Kasson in 2005.

She enjoyed gardening, especially her flower beds, camping, showing and raising boxer dogs, and sewing and needle point. Shirley also loved reading, writing letters and singing in the choir.

She is survived by her children, John (Nadia) of Prescott, WI, Denise (Roger) of Dodge Center, Sue (Scott) of Cannon Falls; 10 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren and siblings, John (Ginny) of Kasson, Jim (Bonnie) of Grand Meadow and Eric (Marilyn) of Cornelius, NC.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Chris Healy; son, Joseph; parents, Norman and Margaret and a sister, Maureen.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, December 21, 2023 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Kenyon with visitation one hour prior. Father Clayton Forner was the celebrant. Interment was in the St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery in Kenyon.



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Wayne Wilson

The funeral service for Wayne Wilson was held Saturday January 6th at 2:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo. The Reverend David Sorenson officiated. Visitation was from 12:00 – 2:00 PM at the church. Burial followed at the Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery. Mr. Wilson, 73, of Wanamingo, died Saturday December 23, 2023 at Goodhue Living in Goodhue.

A life defined by music, Wayne Everett Wilson was born November 18, 1950 in Bentonville, Arkansas to Everett and Wanda (Rider) Wilson. At an early age the family moved to Plains, Montana and Wayne was raised there. He received a bachelor's degree in music education from Concordia College in Moorhead, and it was there that he met Diane Finley while on a Christian outreach team. The couple married in 1972. In 1978, the couple moved to Caledonia, Minnesota where Wayne worked as an insurance salesman. He would eventually complete radiology training from Western Wisconsin Technical College, and in 1990 he began a career in radiology at Gundersen Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse. He continued at Fairview Hospital in Red Wing until his retirement in 2017.

Wayne and Diane loved singing together, and they often sang at weddings, funerals, church, and community events. He joined the community band in Caledonia, and later in Zumbrota. As a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Caledonia, he was involved in adult bible study, worked with the youth group, taught Sunday school, and chaperoned youth trips. At Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo, he ushered and served on the church council.

Throughout his lifetime, he was an avid reader, enjoyed working on cars, woodworking, bicycle riding, hiking, and camping. He loved traveling, and particularly enjoyed visiting wineries.

He is survived by his wife Diane of Wanamingo; sons, Matthew of Fremont, Nebraska, Marc of Maple Grove, and Luke (Khari) of Chatfield; a daughter Bethany (Josh) Feine of Cazenovia, Wisconsin; 7 grandchildren, Aidan Wilson, Maya Stadler, Claire Stadler, Clara Wilson, Ryan Stadler, Ella Stadler, and Elizabeth Wilson; 2 step-grandchildren, Isabel and Isaiah Feine. Also surviving are his sister Kathleen (Donald) Simmons of Cheney, Washington; as well as nieces, nephews, and other extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his parents. If so desired, memorials may be directed to The Alzheimer's Association at 3261 19th St NW, Suite 201, Rochester Minnesota 55901.

E-mail your engagement, marriage or birth announcement to the Wanamingo Messenger
hometownmessenger@gmail.com



Neil Allen Gullickson

Neil Allen Gullickson, 69, of Wanamingo, passed away at his home on Thursday, January 4, 2024. He was born in Zumbrota on August 31, 1954, to Wilbur and Inez (Reierson) Gullickson. He graduated from Wanamingo High School in 1973. He worked at Maple Island for many years, in addition to the City of Wanamingo and the City of Cannon Falls in maintenance. Most recently, he drove truck for the Ag Partners Soil Center in Wanamingo. Neil was a lifelong member of Wanamingo Lutheran Church. He loved to be social and never met a stranger in his life. He enjoyed visiting with his neighbors and friends around town. He had a knack for fixing things and restored a 1967 Ford Falcon. He loved classic cars and his Harley-Davidson.

He is survived by his two daughters, Tracy (Chris) Graham and Anna (Sam) Edmunds; seven grandchildren, Rayhan, Marelo, Isla, Hadley, Enzo, Cary, and Palmer; brother, David (Alice) Gullickson; sister-in-law, Barb Gullickson; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Eugene and James Gullickson; and nephews, William and John Gullickson.

Funeral service was at 1 p.m. on Friday, January 12, 2024, at Wanamingo Lutheran Church. Visitation was for two hours prior to the service at the church. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Arrangements made by Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel in Zumbrota.

David L. Isaacson

David L. Isaacson, age 78, of Nerstrand, died on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at Three Links Care Center, Northfield.

Funeral services were held at Grace Lutheran Church, Nerstrand on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Interment was at the Nerstrand Cemetery with military rites will be provided by Rice County Central Veterans Association.

Visitation was held at Grace Lutheran Nerstrand from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday. A celebration of life was held at the Elks Club 28 3rd Street N. W., Faribault after the interment service.

Arrangements are being completed by the Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault.

David L., the son of Manford L. and Marlys A. (Rongley) Isaacson was born April 27, 1945, in Faribault. After graduating from Faribault High School in 1963, David proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1963 – 1967. David was called home to start his lifelong passion for Allis – Chalmers and farm machinery when his father got sick. On June 1, 1968, David was united in marriage to Penny (Iverson)



Thurnau at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Owatonna. David served many years on the Nerstrand City Council and was a volunteer firefighter for Nerstrand Fire Department. He was the mayor of Nerstrand for many years and a lifelong member of Grace Lutheran Church, Nerstrand serving on many committees. He was a member of Faribault Elks #1166 and Faribault American Legion Post 43. David along with his parents and brothers owned Isaacson Implement, Nerstrand. David and Penny became sole owners of Isaacson Implement in 1990. They were inducted into the Rice County Historical Society in 2022. He also was a member of the Rice County Fair Board for many years and in 2016 received the Rice County Friend of the Fair award for all his support and dedication to the Rice County 4-H Program.

David enjoyed bowling, fishing, snowmobiling, playing cards and traveling with friends and family. David's most precious time was spent with his family at the cabin.

David was a true salesman. He made many friends wherever he was with his pen and paper in his shirt pocket, and he also knew the prices and was ready for a sale. Many customers became not only friends, but family also. Thank you to our customers that supported our family.

Survivors include his wife, Penny; children, Jeff (and Mary) Isaacson, Anne Gilster (Bryan Lowe), Jill (and Rick) Swenson and John (and Alex) Isaacson; grandchildren, Megan (and Derek) Melhouse, Allison (and Adam) Peine, Paige (and Jake) Gilster, Chelsea (and Kaya) Gilster, Kylie Lowe, Lexi (and Joe) Bauer, Madi Isaacson, Mikaela (and Maxwell) Isaacson, Gianna Isaacson, David Isaacson and Noah Isaacson; great grandchildren, Winslow Melhouse, Luna Melhouse and Beau Bauer; siblings, Betty (and Henry) Hull, Gary Isaacson, Richard Isaacson, Jim (and Marcy) Isaacson; in-laws, Richard (and Joan) Iverson, John (and Lila) Iverson and Peggy (and Curtis) Radtke.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Manford and Marlys Isaacson; father and mother-in-law Mickey and Phyllis Iverson, sister-in-law Peggy Isaacson.

Special thanks to Three Links Care Center and Allina Hospice, Owatonna, for all the love and care they have given to David.

Memorials may be given in memory to Three Links Care Center, Northfield, Allina Hospice, Owatonna, Grace Lutheran Church, Nerstrand, and the Rice County Historical Society.

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KW Noble Knights of the Week for December 8, 2023

Front Row: Tobi Smith, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Violet Burt, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Ruby Caron, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Julia Potvin, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Connor Foss, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Isabella McGowan, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Adaline Richards, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Lily Cordes, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Konnor Peltier, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Abby Lerfald, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Sophia Nokes, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



KW Noble Knights of the Week for December 15, 2023

Front Row: Remington Stalker, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Raelynne Westlund, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Morgan Anfinson, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Aubrey Kyllö, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Isaac Sivahop, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Patience Castle, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Liliana Guzman, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Makenzie Lee, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Mason Quam, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Ella Amundson, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

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Letter from the Superintendent

The Importance of Library Cards and Reading to Children



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

In a world filled with screens and gadgets, one timeless tool remains a treasure trove of knowledge and imagination—the library card. Encouraging children to explore the wonders of literature through the simple act of reading can unlock a realm of possibilities, and obtaining a library card is the first step toward this enriching journey.

A library card isn't just a piece of plastic; it's a passport to worlds unknown. It grants access to a universe of books, stories, and information that can inspire, educate, and

entertain young minds. With this magical card, children can borrow books, explore various genres, and embark on adventures without leaving their neighborhood.

Reading to children is a gift that keeps on giving. It fosters a bond between parents and children while nurturing a love for storytelling and learning. Research consistently shows that regular reading sessions with children from an early age can significantly enhance their cognitive development, language skills, and imagination.

Beyond improving literacy, reading aloud to kids stimulates curiosity, empathy, and creativity. It exposes them to diverse perspectives, cultures, and ideas, broadening their horizons and preparing them to navigate the complexities of the world with confidence.

Choose books that captivate their interests, create a cozy reading nook, and make reading time an enjoyable and anticipated part of the day. Encourage children to select books they're excited about! I wonder how many times I checked out the book "owning your own horse" from the Pine Island Van Horn Library as a kid?

Libraries serve as vibrant hubs for community engagement, offering not only books but also a variety of programs, events, and resources to support childhood literacy. Librarians, those unsung heroes, are valuable allies in guiding children toward age-appropriate books and fostering a lifelong love for reading.

In a fast-paced digital era, the simple pleasure of flipping through pages and getting lost in a story holds immeasurable value. A library card is a gateway to a world where imagination knows no bounds, where knowl-

edge is limitless, and where the seeds of a lifelong passion for learning are sown.

So, for 2024 let's take a step back, grab that library card, and embark on an adventure with our children—one page, one story at a time. After all, in the words of Dr. Seuss, "The more that you read, the more things you

will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Storytime in Kenyon resumes on January 10th, at 10:30, hope to see you there. The Kenyon Public Library is open Monday through Saturday, check the website for hours.

What is a Lion?

(continued from page 1)

So, back to the fundraiser that supports about half of all these projects..... Community members can purchase a calendar for a donation. The unofficial donation suggested is \$10, but any amount will do. Have an extra \$20 in your pocket? It all goes to help others, and your generosity is gratefully accepted! Only have a \$5 bill? All donations are welcomed. With the purchase of the calendar, you may have your special occasions printed on the calendar for all your friends and neighbors to read! Birthdays of your family members, anniversaries, whatever it is you want people to know! And local businesses have the opportunity to put their advertising on the calendars as well. Imagine your business on a calendar that will be looked at for an entire year!

Have you ever considered joining the Lions Club? Now that you know that they help both our local community and regional projects, and is a great way to meet people and help with the planning and carrying out of all the good deeds, you can contact Lion Daniel Radloff at (651) 262- 8779. One of the projects you can look forward to are the monthly meetings, held the first Thursday of each month in the Wanamingo Community Center on Main Street at 6:30 pm. A list of the regular activities are:

- Highway 60 ditch cleanup, spring and fall
- Pancake meals in February or May
- Corn feed in August
- Soup cookoff in January
- Christmas in Wanamingo Bell ringing for the Salvation Army
- Dictionary donations to the K/W 4th grade students in November
- Leader Dogs for the blind
- 4th of July in Wanamingo several fundraisers on the 3rd and 4th
- Halloween Dance @ K/W Middle School

So, there you have it! Now we all know what those Lions are up to! If you are interested in attending the meetings, call Daniel!



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Flour Child Creations

(continued from page 1)

I met with Beth at said bakery, and unveiled my question, "Just what is it that you are doing here when you are not open?" She gave me a mysterious smile, and began her story.

"I grew up in a kitchen surrounded by cooks using real, whole foods (the ones you can pronounce). My high school job was cooking at the local Dairy Queen, flipping burgers, and decorating ice cream cakes.

In 1999, after speaking to dozens of pastry chefs and bakers about my wedding cake, I thought I had found my baker. After attending a friend's wedding, I was so disappointed when the cake from this bakery was so dry that we had to pour a shot of Baileys on it to make it edible. I simply could not find a baker in the Twin Cities area who was artistic AND whose cakes tasted good. A wedding cake is the final presentation of the evening, so it needs to be extra special. Problem solved: I decided to make my own wedding cake. Brides have nothing else to do on the day of the wedding, right? I created a tentiered, ten-flavored masterpiece that was beautiful and most importantly, incredibly delicious. My hands were so sore, I could barely hold my bouquet, but I had created a cake be-

yond my wildest dreams.

That cake led to several cousins asking me to make the cake for their weddings, which quickly snowballed into more events and serious baking from home while transporting kids to school and activities. It was never planned, but my career led to a commercial kitchen where I get to blend my artistry with my baking skills.

After moving myself and my 4 kids to Wanamingo, I attended Le Cordon Bleu, College of Culinary Arts, Twin Cities, and earned a degree in Baking and Patisserie. Simultaneously, Chad restored a 1958 Volkswagen bus, complete with license plate CAKEBUS. As we started to see our goals of making Flour Child Creations become reality, we were ready for the next step.

Baking from home was no longer an option. We didn't have the space to feed our crew of eight and also fill customer orders. We purchased our current brick-and-mortar building in 2015, a tiny space that started as a canteen at the swimming area on the north side of town, later to be converted into a diner. Chad spent months building a custom kitchen inside the shell of the former Bulldogs Den. We saved the front door and the amazing, old brick. Everything else from the ground up was replaced and brought up to the strict code of the Department of Agriculture.

Wanamingo is a unique place, where women support other women. Marlene supported me in my culinary adventure. The "Marlene Malerich Artists Scholarship Fund" was created to honor Marlene while also sup-

porting future artists. Now that 5 of our 6 kids have graduated high school, we will start having yearly events in the garden behind the bakery. Local young artists in Southern Minnesota in all the creatives: music, sculpture, welding, painting, and design can entertain guests, sell their artwork, enjoy gourmet desserts, while completing for the scholarship.

Everyone has a family member who either needs to (or prefers to) eat a certain way for their health. I have been making gluten-free products for my family for 18 years, long before the ingredients were available in every store. I am starting to create a dairy-free line, but have only perfected one recipe so far: a dark chocolate torte.

My specialty is cake and desserts. Chad brings a different set of skills, allowing the cakes to spin, defy gravity, and sometimes shoot fireworks. He maintains CAKEBUS, while I fill it with gourmet treats to share at events. You can pronounce and spell every simple ingredient I use in my products: zero preservatives, pounds of butter, and gallons of cream. We make food your grandmother would recognize.

The shelf life is short, so most of my items need to stay refrigerated. I am currently open a few days before each holiday to ensure fresh products. My priority is providing the best-tasting items possible, with the best ingredients available. There is no mass-produced, factory food in my cakery, as everything is made hours before an event. My creativity is a bonus. The dates I will be open for purchasing treats already made, or for picking up your special orders, are February 12, 13 & 14 for that special Valentine, March 27th to the 30th for helping the Easter Bunny deliver delicacies, and May 9th, 10th and 11th for treats your mother will enjoy as you celebrate her day. I will also be open the 4th of July. To place your special orders for pick up at the bakery, you can email Beth at beth@flourchildcreations.com, or if you'd prefer, call her at (507) 824- CAKE.(2253).

Starting January, 2024, Flour Child Creations, 237 Main Street, Wanamingo, will be open on Fridays, 10:00am-4:00pm.

I also love to cook, but that usually consists of me opening the fridge and creating something out of what is on hand that day from my garden and pantry. Cooking is simple, you add items as you go. Baking is different, it is chemistry and control. I weigh each ingredient in every batch, balance the ratio of

ingredients, and then complete steps in a precise order. Many of the recipes I have created are unique to Flour Child Creations. No one else has my recipes, because I created them. I use top-shelf ingredients from all over the world.

Some people read romance novels, I read cookbooks. I love to spend the cold winter days curled up in front of the fireplace, paging through the vast collection of 1950/60s church cookbooks I pick up at summer garage sales. My chocolate cake recipe disappeared from my cakery wall during my first year on Main Street. As it was the only copy, I am still perfecting the replication of that recipe.

I often get asked for my award-winning buttercream recipe, which takes 6 hours to complete from start to finish per batch. The recipe cannot be stolen, as it is only in my head.

My website, flourchildcreations.com is currently being updated for 2024 and includes a flavor list and examples of my creations. I struggle with hearing loss, so I prefer to have orders emailed to beth@flourchildcreations.com.

I post on FB and Instagram for special events and holidays, but would love to find someone to handle my social media. Weddings and large events, like fundraisers, are my current focus, creating edible art out of the tiniest building in town, so feel free to contact me for your special event. You can be sure it will be unique and delicious.

We host a Volkswagen campout weekend every July. Check out the article on CAKEBUS, where it was featured in a 6 page spread in Hot VW Magazine".

And so now you know the history of the Flour Child Creations bakery, thus far. As for the answer to the mystery of what Beth is doing when she is there, but not open, she is creating recipes, one at a time, by trial and error, to be sold at the bakery, and to be featured in her newest endeavor: a completely unique recipe collection to be enjoyed for generations to come! Other times she is completing orders for wedding cakes, birthday parties, anniversaries, reunions, and all special occasions that need an artistic and delectable cake, cookie, cupcake or special dessert to complete the event, occasionally delivering them in CAKEBUS. Flour Child Creations is a forever-evolving business that embraces change. Future plans, including the cookbook, will be revealed when it is completed.

"Stop in and say hello! We will be open every Friday in 2024. Stay Sweet!"




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Dannielle M. Zielkie APRN, CNP



Peter R. Brehmer APRN, DNP

Santa Claus Spotted in Wanamingo

By Cheri Roshon

When you spot Santa with kids in his lap, decorated Christmas trees, and cookies on plates, you know what time of the year is here. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Even though the weather is warmer, and the snow comes and goes, the end of December is creeping up on us.

As I wandered the streets of Wanamingo on Thursday, December 7th I could see the season of giving is upon us. The stores on Main Street were all dressed up in holiday fashion, inside and out. People brought canned goods to exchange for a punch card, and visited the businesses that were participating in the holiday activities to get punches on their cards. Once 10 punches were accumulated, the cards were turned in the bank, and 3 lucky winners were drawn to win Mingo Bucks to be spent at local retailers. Santa arrived on a John Deere tractor to visit with the children and ask them what they wanted for Christmas. Food was served in various locations, and cookies, too! It looked like everyone was in good spirits, and the season was kicked off for 2023!



Christmas in Wanamingo



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Merry Musings in 2024

(continued from page 1)

My client looked at me with a sort of startled expression, and said, "No! Why would we DO that?", and I began to wonder.....

So I was with my cousin Tammy Lexvold a few days later, and I asked her the same question, and she laughed at the memory and said Yes! More perplexed than ever, I asked her, "Why would we say such an awful thing?" and she did not know. It was just one of those funny (?) things we said as a kid. So I began down the rabbit hole of strange sayings, to uncover more of these things we don't know where they came from, or even what they mean??

Starting with "Sick as a dog". Why were only DOGS sick? I never heard Sick as a Cat. Or a Fish..... Why did the Dog get the notorious honor? It came from the early 1700's, when dogs ran free and carried diseases, and weren't like the companions they are today. Being on their own, they ate rotting food, and carried the Plague and other diseases, and could become very ill. The phrase is said to have been coined in 1705, meaning "Very ill, from a stomach point of view".

Ok, this search was becoming more interesting, so I looked up another. Where were you if you were "Up a Blind Alley?" This phrase was coined in about 1874, used to describe someone that was following a course

of action that leads nowhere, like the first alleys that only went so far, and you'd hit a wall, or an undesirable outcome.

How about "Long in the Tooth"? Well, back in the horse-trading era, when someone went to purchase a horse, their old age was determined by the length of it's teeth. So, if someone says you are long in the tooth, it is not a compliment!

"Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining" was first coined by John Milton in 1634 in his masque called Comus, when he penned, "Was I deceived, or did a sable cloud Turn forth her silver lining on the night?" Meaning? You can derive some benefit from every bad thing that happens to you. A lesson to cling to!

"Hold your Horses" was an early 19th century entreaty to be patient, and just hold on and see what happens. Not bad advice there, either.

"At the Drop of a Hat" means something that will happen immediately, as in, "we can leave at the drop of a hat".

"A Shot in the Dark" describes a situation where there will be little chance of success, like a wild guess. It was coined in 1841, but wasn't seen in print until 1895 in The Saturday Review, where George Bernard Shaw used it in a article that read, "Never did a man make a worse shot in the dark."

Ok, here's a good one. "Watch your P's and Q's!" Well P stands for pints and Q stands for Quarts in this one. In the old Irish pubs, the bartender would tell his patrons to watch so their Pints and Quarts of beer didn't run dry, and if they did? Why then, old chap, "Wet your Whistle". Yep! The handles of the mugs used to serve spirits to the customers had a

whistle built into the handle so you could let the barkeep know to bring another!

Well, I bet now you are thinking up your own sayings that make no sense, and believe me, there are hundreds out there! Google is a great resource for things you never knew you

wanted to know, and you will find many sayings there. However, in my research, I never did find what that dandelion one meant! So, if you used to say that, or you run across the meaning, please let me know!

Happy New Year!

(continued from page 1)

In addition, in an effort to deliver the news and information more timely between print issues, last year we launched our on-line edition of the Messenger.

Check it out if you haven't already, There is additional bonus content on the site as well that is not in the print edition.

Thanks to local advertisers and your voluntary subscriptions, we are in your mailbox each month. Enclosed in this month's issue is a subscription envelope. We hope you will consider renewing your voluntary subscription. It insures the paper will continue here in your hometown.

Without this support, we would not be here. We hope you continue to see value in the Messenger. While there are plenty of social media sources and on line sites out there, most don't deliver the hometown news and message like we do here.

Every year, many newspapers have consolidated or gone out of business.

We have watched this happen many times in recent years in small rural communities, and especially the past several years.

With our small staff of 2.5, we understand this challenge first hand here at the Messenger, which is why we publish the Messenger in its monthly format and update you as needed throughout the month on our web site.

Our goal with the Messenger is to help insure our home towns still have a community voice of its own, direct mailing to all residents in the zip code as well as many out of town subscribers. This format allows your hometown to maintain a local monthly paper, and better connect local residents, businesses and the community. We also understand the need for more timely information within the month, so check out the web site for important news that happens between print issues. We continue to expand our digital and online offerings while still maintaining our dedication to our hometowns!

We remain a small family owned business with a goal of supporting our rural communities and businesses. As always, if you have news, information or story ideas, please reach out to us. Again, Thank you for your readership and support.



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12:00 PM Bring Entry to City Hall

12:30 PM-1:30 PM Tasting/Voting

2:00 PM Cookoff Winner Announced (1st & 2nd Place Payout)

3:00 PM Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo at City Hall
\$30/packet, 10 games, designer purses and \$150 gift cards

6:30 PM 9th Annual Denni Dazzle Parade
\$150.00 Prize for Best Float!
Hosted by the Dennison Lions. Call or text Diane at 612-532-0268

7:00 PM Live Music from Bryan Anderson at 625 Bar & Grill

8:00 PM LIVE MUSIC AT THE FIRESIDE "Wreckless"

9:00 PM Raffle Winners Announced at Fireside

Flake Out Festival Raffle Saturday, February 3
Buy a Raffle Ticket from any Lions Member, Fireside Lounge, Dennison Depot Gas Station, 625 Bar & Grill or Heritage Bank in Dennison for \$5.00 for your chance to win!

Grand Prize - \$500.00 Cash

2nd Prize - \$250 Cash 3rd Prize - \$100 Cash

Plus Many Additional Prizes from Local Area Businesses

Raffle Drawing held at 9p.m. at the Fireside Lounge. Need not be present to win. Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees. Complete list of additional prizes available upon request.

SPONSORED BY DENNISON LIONS CLUB CHARITABLE GAMBLING PERMIT #2762. MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.



1st

Prize

\$500!



Proceeds

Benefit Local

Lions Club

Activities!

Dennison Lions

Flake Out Festival Raffle

Saturday, February 3

Buy a Raffle Ticket from any Lions Member, Fireside Lounge, Dennison Depot Gas Station, 625 Bar & Grill or Heritage Bank in Dennison for \$5.00 for your chance to win!

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Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin

How to Make Friends in a New Community: Being Helpful

By Claudia Vanderborght

When all is said and done, it still takes time for a home purchase to close. Monica finally had a purchase agreement on a small farm: 20 acres with rolling topography and some fenced pasture, a barely nice four-bedroom home with attached garage, and a huge 40'

x 90' pole barn. And still some summer remained to make local friends before her teaching job began in September.

Monica's daughter was grown with a family of her own – it's difficult to make friends when your kids are adults. But church would be a key to meeting some local folks and maybe some farmer friends. (Farming sounded like fun, but Monica realized that she knew nothing and would have a lot to learn.)

Monica settled into a local community church. Although the congregation was small, it was welcoming. With instant friends: there were two female veterans, a single middle-aged teacher, and a few families who farmed. Having time on her hands before house closing and school starting, Monica offered to help her new friends with whatever was needed. One family invited her to help trim grape vines in their vineyard; it was hot, sweaty work, standing on a steep hillside -- but Monica liked being outdoors and loved learning new skills.

One Sunday, Monica listened to the teacher exclaiming frustration about her basement renter: the gal was behind on rent, causing problems, and refusing to leave. Monica had heard many stories from her dad about how difficult it was to evict tenants, usually costing thousands of dollars and causing months of frustration. Monica is a problem solver, had experience with renters, and loves to help others; she offered her new friend help in evicting the tenant.

"Let's make this official," Monica suggested. "Write up a lease and I will pay you \$1 in rent to make the contract legally binding."

Contract in hand, Monica packed a few clothes, her cooler and grill, the air mattress, a few miscellaneous essentials, and moved into the other basement bedroom. The difficult tenant had gone away for the weekend, so while she was gone Monica helped pack her belongings.

Anything that might be used as a weapon (knives, tools) were stored at the bottom of the box, clothes and dishes on top. Two days later, the delinquent renter returned and discovered Monica -- her new, helpful roommate.

The shouting and cursing began, including pleas like, "Where I am supposed to go? I have nowhere to live! How am I supposed to move? I have nowhere to go..."

After pointing out that this was not the homeowner's or Monica's problem, Monica ignored her. The homeowner simply repeated her requests for rent owed.

Knowing that possession is nine-tenths of the law, Monica was careful not to leave the

apartment. When dinner time came and she wanted to use the grill, Monica simply locked the bedroom door and climbed in and out of the window!

The tenant was – of course – furious and threatened to call the police. Both the homeowner and Monica agreed that was a wonderful idea (much to the chagrin of the apartment squatter). A very nice officer came to the home, understood the dilemma, and asked to speak with each person individually. When it was her turn, Monica presented her driver's license and military identification (knowing that many officers had served in the military).

"I have my own home," Monica explained, "but I am just trying to help my friend, the

homeowner."

"You know this isn't the normal way of doing things," the officer said.

To which Monica completely agreed. So the officer phoned the chief for advice on the legalities of the situation.

"Good news and bad news," the officer told the young lady. "No, the homeowner cannot force you to move out. You have a legal right to stay and make the homeowner go through the normal eviction process. The bad news is that Monica, having a legitimate lease, also has a legal right to stay."

Within 24 hours, still shouting and cursing, the delinquent renter packed up the rest of her belongings and moved out. Monica left a day or so later.

Lacey's Closes at End of December



Lacey's Kitchen & Cocktails announced there were closing their doors at the end of December. The business opened up in the old Schweich's Bar and Hotel building in November of 2021. A Facebook post on Friday December 29th informed the public that they were ceasing the operation and the kitchen would be closed but the bar would be open over the weekend with cheap drink specials.

Steven Lacey was the chef and had a thirty-year history of experience in the restaurant industry. He opened Lacey's at Brooktree in late July of this past year. Brooktree is the municipally owned golf course in Owatonna. He opened that business just days after the Tavern Nine closed at the same facility.

A Facebook post by Lacey addressed the issue of gift cards that were sold over the holiday season in Kenyon. They said they would be posting a solution for those who had unredeemed gift cards shortly.

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BBQ Rib Dinner - 1/2 or Full Rack (begins at 4:00p.m.)

THURSDAY \$3.50 All Taps, Domestic Bottles, Rail Drinks! 16oz. Margarita Special!
Taco Specials! Fajita Specials!

FINALLY FRIDAY All You Can Eat Fish Dinner

SATURDAY Hand Battered Jumbo Shrimp or Slow Roasted Prime Rib

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Expires February 4, 2024. Coupon valid from 4:00-8:00pm, Sunday only. Limit 1 coupon per table. No cash value. Not valid with other offers, discounts, promotions or certificates.

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**City of Wanamingo
Regular EDA Meeting
Monday December 11, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

**Wanamingo City Council Chambers
401 Main Street
Wanamingo MN**

PRESENT: Becky Haugen, Ryan Holmes, Jim Kittelson, Laurie Musselman, Annette Fritz, and Brian Gudknecht

ABSENT: Josh Schaefer

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Boulton, Karen Masters, & Andrew Deziel – Kenyon Leader.

Brian Gudknecht called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance followed.

ADOPT AGENDA: Fritz motioned, seconded by Kittelson to adopt. Approved 6-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Kittelson motioned, seconded by Musselman to approve. Approved 6-0-0.

PRESENTERS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Administrator Boulton provided a 2023 Economic Development for the City. 2023 saw interest rates jump significantly, slowing down residential and commercial expansion. Continued supply chain delays, shortage of labor, and high inflation continue to hurt the economy. Inflation, coupled with increase in the Fed's rates have seen a slowing of the residential housing market. 2023 did see continued improvement throughout Wanamingo. The City has seen commercial building additions, a number of new homes, and infrastructure improvements. Reckitt Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district was decertified and will be included in the 2024 tax base. These additions and valuation increases have increased the City of Wanamingo tax base.

There were no major commercial building expansions in 2023. However, there were several minor projects. Midco installed a pre-fab building (\$20,000) for their fiber cable network. Caseys completed interior work (\$94,000). Beulkes installed a new greenhouse (\$25,000). Zumbro Valley Landscaping installed a new salt/sand shed (\$10,000).

In the residential side we have seen seven (7) new home building permits issued in 2023. The seven homes have a collective building permit valuation of \$971,000. The seven (7) units is considered a very good year of residential growth in Wanamingo. There have also several new decks, mechanical work, new windows/doors, re-roofing's, and other home improvement building permits in 2023. In total there have been 52 building permits with a total permit valuation of \$1,758,000.

The City continues to work on the 2022 Utility Improvements Project. The new 250,000-gallon water tower project has been completed and is in warranty period. The watermain loops project still has punch list items to complete that may push into 2024. The new well house will hopefully be completed in 2024. The total cost of the project was \$2.8 million. The City finalized replacement of roughly 575 water meters and/or endpoints. The project was completed between 2021-2023. The total estimated cost was \$160,000. The City completed manhole work for

roughly \$53,000 in 2023. The City spent \$69,075.95 on repairing leaking water valves, asphalt patching, and concrete replacement work in 2023. The City constructed a new park shelter at Prairie Ridge estates in 2022/2023. The total cost of the project was \$41,718.13. The City constructed a new salt/sand shed in 2023. The total cost was \$30,231.32.

2024 has some planned private and public work on the horizon. The City staff have been working with Jon Whitcomb of Metro East Commercial Re Inc. He purchased the 24 tax forfeited Emerald Valley II parcels from Goodhue County. Mr. Whitcomb is working with the other landowners to put together a development plan for the area. Mr. Whitcomb is working with Bolton & Menk engineering to put together plans for construction. Jason Grant Trucking is still looking at a cold storage warehouse in the industrial park. Jason Grant is held up by current high construction and interest rates. Reckitt/Mead Johnson has plans for building expansion along with traffic, parking lot, building expansion, and other outside aesthetic improvements. Dollar General is purchasing the 14.8 acres along MN HWY 60 Stop lot with anticipation of constructing a Dollar General store in 2024. Casey's plans to make additional improvements to the gas station/convenience location. There continues to be some interest in residential single-family dwellings. City Staff anticipates slowdown of construction in 2024 leading to fewer new homes. The City has been working with Zumbrota, Pine Island, Goodhue regarding a regional wastewater treatment facility. The City received \$10 million from the State for predesign and land acquisition for the facility. The Cities have hired Winthrop & Weinstine lobbyist firm to help obtain State dollars for the next phase of construction. Having capacity and reliability in the water and wastewater treatment are keys to allowing for future growth and current sustainability of the community. The North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District hinges on State funding through the bonding bill and Point Source Implementation grant to be financially feasible.

Administrator Boulton went over the 2024 proposed EDA portion of the Wanamingo budget. Administrator Boulton went over Funds 251 EDA, 306 Cenex 3rd Addition, 331 Cenex 4th Addition, and 604 Medical Center.

EDA Fund 251 Levy is set to increase from \$41,000 in 2023 to \$45,000 in 2024. This will help offset small additional costs to keep the fund in a positive balance. 2022 expenses were \$35,976 while 2023 to date expenses are \$38,600.

Debt Service 306 Levy is set to stay the same from 2023 to 2024 at \$45,000. The two bond payments of debt service fund 306 split with the 2017-2018 audit and now includes debt service funds 306 (Cenex 3rd Addition) and 331 (Cenex 4th Addition). Debt Service fund 306 has a \$86,487 balance at the end of 2022. The bond payments are \$62,000/year through 2025. The Cenex III phase bond payments will be \$67,600 in 2024.

Debt Service 331 – Levy is set to remain at \$10,000 for 2024. The Cenex 4th Addition phase was separated from account 306 in

2018. The proceeds from the sale of property in 2018 to Comcast will support the bond payments for the near future (7.5 years of the 13 remaining yearly payments). The yearly bond payments will be roughly \$45,000 (payment is \$41,900 in 2024) running through 2031. The fund had a \$307,986 balance at the end of 2022. The proceeds from the sale of property in 2018 to Comcast will support the bond payments for the near future (8 years of the 9 remaining yearly payments). Before 2026 the City will need to

look at additional levy dollars to offset bond payments running through 2031. In 2024 the City will levy \$10,000 with yearly levies reducing to \$0 in 2025.

Medical Center Account 604 – There have been concerns with fund falling behind due to past vacant suites and utility reimbursements. The Medical Center suites are all full as of October 2022. The facility is projected to cash flow and have a \$5,000-\$8,000 cash surplus at the end of each year (depending on building capital needs). *(continued on page 15)*

Healthy Sugar?



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

In this past season you probably noticed that “sweet tooth” become extra active. The holiday season is filled with opportunity for sweets of all different kinds. For many the holiday would not be complete without a particular candy or cookie or dessert being present. Now as the new year takes hold many resolve to do a better job of self-discipline in choosing what to eat. Let me suggest you direct your effort to improve the quality and decrease the quantity of sugar you consume this year.

There is no question that sugar has a strong hold on our community. From government data we can find that the average American consumed less than 10 pounds of sugar a year back in 1880. More than 100 years later, the average American consumes about 2 pounds of sugar each week. Not only has the quantity increased more than 10-fold, but this sugar is processed to the point of pure energy with no additional mineral or vitamin content attached to it.

Go back to 1959 and less than one percent of the American population was diabetic. Today more than 30 percent of the American population is identified as pre-diabetic or diabetic. The greatest increase in diabetes is occurring among the young Americans. Those managing diabetes will have more significant medication costs, more doctor visits, and twice as long hospital stays. New medications are coming out promising to control the downward spiral of disease, but the cost of these medicines continues to increase.

There is a better solution. You can choose healthy sugars to replace the pure energy of the white sugar and corn syrup you currently have in the cupboard. As you start this new direction, I encourage you to throw out the white sugar and corn syrup and select healthy sugars that contain minerals and enzymes that will aid digestion and help to keep your health.

These healthy sugars have a variety of flavors. You are familiar with them, but

probably have not used them as well as they can be used. So let's review some of these options:

Whole Fruit – a piece of whole fruit at the end of a meal, or as part of a meal is an excellent way to satisfy the sweet tooth and get vitamins and minerals as well. In a previous article, I spoke on the benefit of an apple each day. Make whole fruit a priority in your meal planning and you will be healthier for it.

Raw Honey – organic raw honey contains enzymes that will help aid digestion and additional nutrients that benefit health. Raw honey will contain active enzymes and unfiltered honey will contain additional bee propolis and pollen that can help reduce some allergies and improve digestion. Less honey will be required in recipes because it tastes sweeter than sugar.

Black Strap molasses – molasses is a by-product of the sugar refining process. Molasses contains all minerals that are removed from refined sugar. Rich in iron, calcium, potassium, and copper, this addition to recipes is always noticed. Often associated with gingerbread flavors, but molasses can also be used in many other recipes.

Maple Syrup – the sap of the maple tree collected in early spring contains minerals and nutrients essential for the new life of the spring leaves. Grade C maple syrup contains the most vitamins and minerals and is the strongest flavor. Grade A maple syrup also contains minerals and is a good substitute for white sugar in any recipe.

Rapadura or Sucanat – these two products are made from sugar cane juice. The juice does not go through the extensive processing required for white sugar. Therefore, there is still some mineral content remaining with these sweet products. There is a slight molasses or caramel flavor that is pleasant to taste.

Make your health a priority in 2024. There will be change that is required. Little changes can make a big difference over time. Changing your sugar choices can be one of those little changes. If you would like to reverse diabetes or prevent diabetes, I can help you start a plan.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for 2024. I can help you reach those health goals with whole food plans customized to your specific needs. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net Start this year with a new plan. Foundation to Thrive is a 16 week lifestyle transformation to help you reach your health goals in 2024.

Wanamingo EDA Meeting

(continued from page 14)

The Medical Center Fund owes the General Fund \$44,121 at the end of 2022. The Council should consider a future levy of \$10,000/year for 2-3 years or a transfer from other fund(s) of \$25,000 to make the fund solvent (This would include \$5,000-\$8,000 yearly cash generated from current rent).

Administrator Boulton provided an updated regarding possible Dollar General development of the 14.8-acre parcel along MN TH 60. A couple of different versions of site plans have been drafted and refined. The public improvements include constructing Hill Avenue extension with a shared stormwater detention pond for the entire development along with bypass and turn lanes along MN TH 60. City Consulting Engineer Theobald has been working with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) regarding access to MN TH 60. It would be problematic to request a private access with future access requests in near proximity within the City. A shared access for a City street would be both an easier ask to MNDOT and a betterment for the land to be given to the EDA/City. The City preferred an access for a public street (Hill Avenue) and not a private access. Theobald was not sure if MNDOT would require turning lanes.

Theobald, Administrator Boulton, Public Works Director Kennedy, Mayor Holmes, and City Attorney Julie Eddington – Kennedy & Grave have had meetings with Dollar General Developer (First Links LLC) and consulting engineers (Kimley-Horn). Theobald put together estimated costs to construct Hill Avenue from MN TH 60 to Beverly Street with a regional stormwater pond along with bypass and turn lanes at MN TH 60. The costs were higher than expected. Constructing Hill Avenue and a regional storm water pond were roughly \$600,000 while the bypass and turn lane was roughly \$400,000. MnDOT may ultimately not require a bypass lane which could save \$200,000. There could be additional savings with respect to configuration of the re-

gional stormwater pond/piping, reduced mobilization costs, and better than expected bidding. The \$1,000,000 total cost would include all potential costs. The City has agreed to a cost share for the infrastructure costs. Theobald stated that the City/EDA would obtain the residual 5.19-acre lot on the East side of Hill Avenue and 4.04-acre residual lot on the West side of Hill Avenue. The City would have additional access for traffic to access MN TH 60. Boulton stated that Dollar General would benefit by utilizing the best portion of land for development and leaving the City with a flag shaped parcel on the West side of Hill Avenue. Boulton stated that a sidewalk was figured into the costs from Beverly Street to MN TH 60 on the West side of Hill Avenue. Boulton stated that the Beverly Street intersection to the property line on Hill Avenue would need to be reconstructed. A meeting has been scheduled with Goodhue County Soil and Water to discuss wetland delineation. Dollar General would like to be open late next fall. This is a short schedule and there is a lot of planning, design, and engineering work that needs to occur to meet this schedule. Gudknecht asked where the placement of the stormwater pond would be. Boulton said on the east side of the property depending on the wetland delineation process. Fritz asked what land the City/EDA would own. Boulton stated that the City/EDA would own land on both sides (5.19-acre lot on the East side of Hill Avenue and 4.04-acre) West of Hill Avenue. Boulton stated that the mechanism for sale would be in the development agreement and that the City/EDA would pay \$1. Fritz asked about access. Boulton stated that access would be off MN TH 60 and Hill Avenue. Boulton stated that the City wishes to finish the infrastructure (Hill Avenue) now and not wait if Dollar General wishes to go forward. The costs will not be cheaper in the future. Fritz asked if adjacent property owners had been informed. Boulton stated that there had been discussion with a few property owners, but the information is limited.

Kittelton asked when Dollar General would build. Boulton stated that they planned to exercise their purchase agreement in May/June and start building in July/August. Boulton stated that they thought they could finish construction in 90 days. Boulton stated that the infrastructure bidding would be in March with construction starting in May. Boulton stated that a preliminary development agreement would be drafted by Kennedy & Graven to ensure that Dollar General pays ½ the cost of the infrastructure. Fritz asked about Dollar General and other lighting to make sure that it doesn't shine into adjacent residential homes. Boulton stated that he would share the concern with Dollar General. Boulton stated that the City has to work with private utilities such as Xcel Energy, Minnesota Energy, and Midco for the development.

Holmes thanked everyone for being a part of the EDA. Holmes stated that the EDA is important to the growth of the town and needs members to be active.

There being no further business Fritz made a motion seconded by Kittelson to adjourn the EDA meeting at 6:41 p.m. Approved 6-0-0.

CITY OF WANAMINGO City Council Regular Meeting Monday, December 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, Stuart Ohr, Jeremiah Flotterud, and Rebecca Haugen

City Administrator: Michael Boulton

Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Kennedy, Beth Haas – Zumbrota News Record, Goodhue County Deputy Matul, and Brandon Theobald - WHKS.

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

CONSENT AGENDA: Haugen motioned,

seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

Brad Kennedy reported on:

Changed out Main Street banners from City logo to holiday theme

Put up Christmas/Holiday snow flake lights on Main Street light poles

Main Street flag brackets are in rough shape either require significant repair or replacement

Picked up and put away Main Street benches and garbage cans. Three of the benches are beyond repair and will need to be scrapped and pieces salvaged to repair other benches.

Two loads of thick biosolids were hauled into the WWTP to reseed the microorganisms. The WWTP operations process is running better than it has in the last couple of weeks. This includes being significantly under the State wastewater discharge limits. The past 2-3 months have included being over for the monthly average on wastewater discharge limits.

Insulated City shop behind City Hall with foam boards and patched holes to keep out birds and rodents. This should help with heating costs this winter.

Street Sweeper has been gone through, fully serviced and should be ready for next spring. Replaced curb brush, springs for the main broom, new filters, along with rubber slides for the main broom. The machine has been fully washed and greased.

Continuing to trim trees on 3rd Avenue and alleys. Will be trimming additional trees on Hill Avenue, 440th Street, Riverside Park, and other various areas around town.

River Road Repair completed repairs to City dump truck. The sander has been installed and has been utilized a couple of times on the light snow falls

Eddie Matul – Goodhue County Deputy Sheriff reported on:

Has been with the sheriff's office for three years.

Goodhue County Sheriff's squad car parked behind City Hall during officer training

Five deputies are currently in training. Three more new deputies will begin training in the near future. Three deputies will be retiring in the near future as well.

Boulton stated that Patrol Major Johnson and Chief Deputy Huneke met on December 1st. There will be regular meetings on the 1st even month Friday to discuss concerns, share data, and ensure that that City is getting what they require for policing services. Boulton stated that he is developing a policing list for Wanamingo that will include daily tasks, seasonal tasks, and how to deal with certain City code violations. This will assist with new officer training.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing - Mayor Holmes opened the 2024 Budget & Levy Public Hearing at 7:12PM. Administrator Boulton provided a written memo of the Preliminary/Proposed 2023 Budget, budgeting and levy process. The overall levy is proposed to increase 9.18% from \$980,000 to \$1,070,000. The Revland Alignment expansion increased its taxable value by an estimated \$135,300 with 2022 expansion. This would bring in roughly \$5,547 (slightly less than half City portion) in property taxes (0.041).

(continued on page 16)

Here's Where To Buy Your Minnesota Country Salute CD
Buy the FINAL Minnesota Country Salute CD

Once again the net proceeds from this years Minnesota Country Salute CD will go to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation and Minnesota Wheels of Honor. Starting Veteran's Day you'll be able buy your copy at any one of these locations and make sure the service men and women and first responders of Minnesota have the support they need.

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About the Minnesota Country Salute CD Project:
A decade ago while sitting on his porch, Neil Freeman came up with the idea of tying together two groups that BOB FM supports. The Homegrown artists of Minnesota and the military member support organizations. By creating a compilation CD to sell across Minnesota, he nailed it. With the help of many sponsors and listeners who went out and purchased these CDs over the years, BOB FM has donated over \$235,000 to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation, Minnesota Wheels of Honor, and Tribute to the Troops.
If you or your business would like to help further this mission, or help distribute the CD, please contact
Neil Freeman, neil@mybobcountry.com.

Wanamingo City Council Meeting

(continued from page 15)

New construction within the community over the last year (7 new taxable homes in 2022) should aid with the increase to the taxable market value increase.

Maple Island/Mead Johnson TIF will be de-certified and placed back in the tax levy pool. In 2022, there was \$80,000 TIF generated. The City portion is roughly half of the generated TIF; \$40,000. The new construction and captured TIF that has been de-certified should off-set roughly 2/3 of the proposed levy increase (6% of the proposed 9.18% increase). In 2025, Reckitt improvements at the Wanamingo Medical Center, Casey's interior work, Beulke's new green house, Zumbro Valley Landscaping new salt/sand shed, along with addition residential growth (7 new homes) will continue to expand the tax base. Goodhue County calculated the 2024 tax capacity numbers based on the proposed levy and new valuation figured into tax capacity and taxable market values. Wanamingo tax capacity will go from \$1,389,590 (includes TIF) to \$1,494,529 (Includes TIF) a 7.55% increase. Wanamingo Market Value will go from \$125,912,600 to \$136,012,400 or an 8.02% increase. The tax pool (what the levy gets divided out by) will go from \$1,303,406 to \$1,408,016 or an 8.02% increase.

The tax rate is proposed to go from 75.256 to 71.959 or a decrease of 3.297%. The Wanamingo City Council proposed levy increase to \$1,070,000 will have a net increase on tax rates. Administrator Boulton received additional data to show potential changes to homeowners' property taxes with the proposed levy (roughly a decrease of \$23.66 for \$100,000 value, a decrease of \$41.60 for \$150,000 value, a decrease of \$59.60 for \$200,000 value, and a decrease of \$77.57 for \$250,000 value City portion of a property tax increase per year). This is depending on home valuation changes from the past year. Most homes saw a 5%-10% increase in valuations from 2022 to 2023. This would show changes on the low end of value increases to roughly \$15 for \$100,000 home, \$25 for a \$150,000 value home, \$30 for a \$200,000 value home, and \$40 increase for \$250,000 value home. It would show increases of \$50 for \$100,000, \$80 for \$150,000 value, an increase of \$105 for \$200,000 value, and an increase of \$135 for \$250,000 value City portion of a property tax increase per year) on the high end. The new commercial and residential growth in 2022 helps offset the levy increase from going onto existing property owners. Boulton stated that LGA is proposed to increase by roughly \$25,000 from 2023 to 2024. Boulton stated that inflation makes 2024 budgeting harder for the general fund than 2023. Boulton stated that increases to utilities, salaries, ambulance levy, fire, police, health insurance, street maintenance, and future capital needs are putting pressure on the general fund. Boulton stated that City operation costs continue to rise. Boulton stated that in addition, infrastructure and equipment needs over the next few years put the City in a tough position in attempting to keep levies increase low. Boulton stated that the City had ordered a 550 Ford Truck with accessories for a new plow truck to be delivered and paid for in

2024. The total cost is roughly \$145,000. Boulton suggested that the half-ton truck be ordered in 2024 to replace the unsafe 1999 Ford Ranger that is barely limping along. Boulton estimates the half-ton truck will cost \$45,000. Boulton stated that the City needs additional growth to help offset these levy increases moving forward. Boulton stated that Dan and Annette Fritz had provided a written statement requesting the City Council to consider a lower final levy increase than the proposed levy increase of 9.18%. The Fritz's stated that inflation was hitting citizens hard.

The Fritz's understand that inflation is also hitting the City. Holmes stated that the combination of inflation and planning for future needs is the reason for the proposed levy increase. Flotterud asked how much the general fund was proposed to increase. Boulton stated that the general fund portion of the levy was proposed to increase by \$52,000, the LGA was proposed to increase by roughly \$25,000, while interest was projected to increase by roughly \$40,000, with projected other income decreases of roughly \$7,000. The total new revenue would be 110,000. Flotterud stated that the proposed new revenue was a lot of new money. Boulton stated that the proposed general fund increase would be roughly 15%. Boulton stated that street maintenance, capital, and inflation were driving factors in the proposed general fund budget for 2024. Flotterud asked how much was budgeted for street maintenance (crack filling/chip sealing/man-hole repairs). Boulton stated \$67,000 in 2024, up from \$50,000 in 2023. Flotterud stated that the street maintenance fund seems to always be utilized in other areas or pushed off for future years. Boulton stated that the City spent over \$70,000 in street maintenance in 2023, mainly on manhole repairs and minor asphalt patching. Boulton stated that the plan is to increase the street maintenance plan in coming years to \$80,000/year. Flotterud asked why so much in street maintenance. Boulton stated that the \$80,000/year number is what the Capital Improvements plan shows in addition to street reconstruction projects in either 2025 or 2026. Boulton stated that the proposed 2024 infrastructure improvements for Dollar General could push back the next reconstruction project a year or two for financing purposes. Boulton stated that there is roughly \$130,000/year of debt service that will be available, stating in 2024/2025 with additional debt service payments falling off in 2025(2), 2026 (2), and 2027 with the levy portion totaling \$169,000/year. Ohr stated that the City needs to plan for and be ready in case the economy takes a downturn and either LGA gets cut or a significant portion of the property taxes are delinquent in future years. Ohr stated that each fund should be prepared for rainy days. Ohr stated that \$67,000 or \$80,000 does not go very far in street maintenance. Theobald agreed that \$80,000 does not go far in street maintenance work.

Theobald stated that street reconstruction costs are estimated at \$1,000 a foot. Ohr stated that many of the streets need base work completed, which is significantly more expensive than crack filling/seal coating/man-hole repairs. Holmes stated that the City has

had growth and has a TIF district that has been decertified that significantly add to the tax base. Holmes stated that the growth and TIF funds should be captured because the next couple of years will not have the same growth or significant TIF districts being decertified. Holmes stated that that the growth and TIF decertification covers 2/3 of the proposed increase. Ohr stated that he prefers small property tax increases like \$100/year that has been proposed for 2024 rather than \$0 one year and +\$500 the next. Flotterud asked why the projected 2025 levy has 7.94% proposed increase. Boulton stated that the 7.94% increase reflects the proposed increase of policing by Goodhue County for a Sheriff contract. Boulton stated that this number was included to start discussions for both budgeting and policing contract negotiations. Mayor Holmes closed the public hearing at 7:22PM.

RESOLUTION:

23-073 = Adopting Final 2024 Budget: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

23-074 = Certifying Final Tax Levy for 2024: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. The 2023 levy would go from \$980,000 to \$1,070,000 (\$90,000 increase or 9.18%). Passed 5-0-0.

23-075 = Approving Fire Department Budget & Township Budget Contract Allocation Formula for 2024:

Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

23-076 = Approving Licenses (Cigarette & Liquor) for 2024: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

23-077 = Adopting 2024 1st Quarter Maintenance Work Plan: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

23-078 = Approving Smith Schafer Engagement Letter for 2023 Audit: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Passed 5-0-0.

23-079 = To Not Waive the Monetary Limits on Tort Liability Established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04:

Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

23-080 = Approving a Land Lease Agreement with Kenyon-Wanamingo School District, No. 2172, for the Operation of an Ice Rink and Warming House: Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

23-081 = Approving A Proposed Municipal Prosecution Legal Services Billing Change with Jacobsen Law Firm, P.A.: Haugen moved to approve, seconded by Dierks. Boulton stated that the proposed prosecution legal services billing increase is for \$150/month. Passed 5-0-0.

Ordinance #204 – Renewing Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy) Electric Franchise Agreement – 1st Reading - Administrator Boulton explained that the current 20-year Franchise agreement with Xcel Energy is expiring and needs to be renewed. Boulton stated that the current franchise agreement is coming to an end. Boulton stated that there was language requiring Xcel Energy to move their lines, at their costs, when City infrastructure needs to be installed or moved. Mayor Holmes asked if the Council wished to see changes made

to the proposed new franchise agreement before the January City Council. No changes were requested.

Ordinance #205 - 2024 Fee Schedule – 1st Reading – Mayor Holmes went over the recommended changes from 2023 Fee Schedule for the proposed 2024 fee schedule including increasing the water meter cost from

\$340 to \$360, increasing the water debt service/ base fee from \$25/month to \$26/month, increasing the sewer debt service/base fee from \$22.00/month to \$28.00/month, increasing bulk water from \$7.00/1,000 gallons to

\$15.00/1,000 gallons, increasing the monthly garbage fee from \$16.25/month to \$16.50/month, and increasing the monthly recycling fee from \$6.65/month to \$6.85/month. The increase to the water meter fee helps to cover increases to the actual costs of the water meters and readers. Boulton stated that the proposed monthly water base rate/debt service fee increase of \$1.00/month to water for each hook-up would bring in roughly

\$7,000/year more for water in 2024. Boulton stated that the proposed monthly sewer base rate/debt service fee increase of \$6.00/month to each hook-up would bring in roughly \$43,000 in new revenue in 2024. The bulk water proposed increase reflects the staff time to set up a meter on a hydrant for the bulk user. The garbage and recycling monthly increase reflect the yearly contract increases with Waste Management. Throughout the year, including the budgeting process, the Council has discussed and has recommended the above changes. The City Auditors recommend that the Council review sewer/water rates and make small adjustments regularly to capture revenue as opposed to large jumps. The wastewater treatment plant will need upgrades in the near future which could cost millions of dollars. Mayor Holmes asked if the Council wished to see changes made to the proposed fee schedule before the January City Council. No changes were requested.

Boulton provided background on the wastewater treatment facility operations the past few months. Boulton stated that the Wanamingo staff have been monitoring the wastewater discharge from Reckitt-Mead Johnson since March 2023. The results show extremely low and at times high pH levels along with presence of high levels of QAC (Quaternary Ammonium Compounds) have been sent to Reckitt-Mead Johnson. The pH levels should be within 5.0 and 9.5. City Staff have been working with Reckitt-Mead Johnson toward a solution to bring the pH levels within the limits. The City appreciates the open dialogue and work, to date, from Reckitt-Mead Johnson.

During the above-mentioned monitoring time period, the Wanamingo wastewater treatment plant operations have failed several months of State treatment discharge limits. City staff have attempted several potential trouble shooting options. A comprehensive list of staff actions was provided to the Council for review.

(continued on page 17)

Wanamingo City Council Meeting

(continued from page 16)

After numerous corrective action steps, the South side digester of the facility coming from the community wastewater discharge seems to be improving. However, the Reckitt-Mead Johnson diverted wastewater discharge to the North side digester continues to have operational problems seemingly due to consistent low pH levels. The City has kept the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency informed during this process. The City is required to be within the discharge limits or show significant steps toward getting back under the discharge limits. The next step is to provide formal notice to Reckitt-Mead Johnson with a formal timeline to correct the pH violations.

Administrator Boulton and Richard Turri put together a proposed letter outlining the violation notice and corrective action plan. From City staff and Reckitt-Mead Johnson discussions, it sounds like Reckitt-Mead Johnson is well on their way to meeting the corrective action plan and assisting the City to keep under the wastewater discharge limits.

Flotterud asked if the pH issues have happened at the plant before. Kennedy stated that Reckitt-Mead Johnson started a different cleaning process around the time issues started to occur with the pH levels. Kennedy stated that the MPCA does not regulate QAC's and that best practices should be utilized by businesses. Kennedy stated that the MPCA may regulate QAC's in the future because of the widespread issues at wastewater treatment facilities showing high concentrations which lead to microbiological bacterial organisms dying off. These microbiological bacterial organisms are part of the treatment process at the wastewater treatment plant. Long periods of low pH levels (3-4) lead to the microbiological bacterial organisms dying off. It is important to not see sustained low levels of pH. Kennedy stated the sustained high level of pH doesn't have the same effect on the microbiological bacterial organisms but is considered toxic waste. The City sampler collects samples every hour for twenty-four hours. Flotterud asked if the City and Reckitt-Mead Johnson could see the samples in real time. Kennedy stated that samples are gathered and tested every twenty-four hours. Kennedy stated that Reckitt-Mead Johnson should set up real-time testing/results onsite to treat the waste and ensure that the pH is within the required limits. Ohr asked if testing costs and fines had been imposed onto Reckitt-Mead Johnson.

Boulton stated that testing costs and fines had not been sent onto Reckitt-Mead Johnson. Boulton recommends sending the violation notice and allowing a corrective action time period. Boulton stated that if the problem continues after this time period, the City Council could direct actions such as fines, blocking sanitary sewer service pipe, or take legal action. Kennedy stated that it is hard to identify the problem beyond pH violations. The City can make Reckitt-Mead Johnson correct the pH issues, but the plant could still have operational problems. Kennedy stated that the City waste is going into the South digester and Reckitt-Mead Johnson's waste is going into the North side digester. The microbiological

bacterial organisms were reseeded, and the operations are now running well in the South digester. The staff has re-seeded both digesters a number of times. The North digester continues to have operational issues. The latest troubleshooting fix was not to run the sampler out of the North digester. By doing this one day it sends over 20,000 gallons of waste from the North digester to the South digester. This cross contaminates the tank and must be enough for the microbiological bacterial organisms to die off. Flotterud moved to approve the drafted letter to Reckitt-Mead Johnson and send it off with copies of the monthly pH levels, seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Theobald updated the Council regarding possible Dollar General development of the 14.8-acre parcel along MN TH 60. Theobald, Administrator Boulton, Public Works Director Kennedy, Mayor Holmes, and City Attorney Julie Eddington – Kennedy & Grave have had meetings with Dollar General Developer (First Links LLC) and consulting engineers (Kimley-Horn). Theobald put together estimated costs to construct Hill Avenue from MN TH 60 to Beverly Street with a regional stormwater pond along with bypass and turn lanes at MN TH 60. The costs were higher than expected. Construction of Hill Avenue and a regional storm water pond were roughly

\$600,000 while the bypass and turn lane was roughly \$400,000. MnDOT may ultimately not require a bypass lane which could save \$200,000. There could be additional savings with respect to configuration of the regional stormwater pond/piping, reduced mobilization costs, and better than expected bidding. The \$1,000,000 total cost would include all potential costs. The City has agreed to a cost share for the infrastructure costs. Theobald stated that the City/EDA would obtain the residual 5.19-acre lot on the East side of Hill Avenue and 4.04-acre residual lot on the West side of Hill Avenue. The City would have additional access for traffic to access MN TH 60. Boulton stated that Dollar General would benefit by utilizing the best portion of land for development and leaving the City with a flag shaped parcel on the West side of Hill Avenue. Theobald stated that a sidewalk was figured into the costs from Beverly Street to MN TH 60 on the West side of Hill Avenue. Theobald stated that the Beverly Street intersection to property line on Hill Avenue would need to be reconstructed. A meeting has been scheduled with Goodhue County Soil and Water to discuss wetland delineation. Dollar General would like to be open late next fall. This is a short schedule and there is a lot of planning, design, and engineering work that needs to occur to meet this schedule. Ohr asked what #22 & #24 - adjust sanitary sewer and sanitary and water service meant in the cost estimates. Theobald stated that the buried sanitary manhole in the field would need to be adjusted to grade to build the road. Theobald stated that there would need to be water and sewer service stubs installed for Dollar General and the other parcels. Flotterud stated that the project was a no brainer. Flotterud asked about any possible risk.

Theobald stated that there is a \$500,000 risk for the share of development if the lots are not sold and developed. Boulton stated that the City would need to have a preliminary development agreement with Dollar General to proceed with the engineering work for Hill Avenue, regional stormwater, along with bypass and turning lane work. The City needs to ensure that Dollar General will pay their half of the infrastructure and engineering work even if they do not exercise their purchase agreement as planned in May/June 2024. A formal development agreement with Dollar General will be completed after the sale of the land. Haugen stated that the proposed development seems a like a no brainer.

Holmes stated that Hill Avenue needs to be constructed from Beverly Street to MN TH 60 if Dollar General wishes to move forward. The proposed Dollar General would be considered a marketplace and have extra coolers for groceries. Flotterud asked if the neighboring properties had been notified. Boulton stated that the EDA had just been informed of the proposal and that it was too soon to inform the neighboring properties.

Theobald stated that a public hearing for preliminary plat would occur. Theobald stated that there would be concrete information to share at that time.

Mayor Holmes went over Administrator Boulton's 2023 Wanamingo Economic Development Update Memo. 2023 saw interest rates jump significantly, slowing down residential and commercial expansion. Continued supply chain delays, shortage of labor, and high inflation continue to hurt the economy. Inflation, coupled with increases in the Fed's rates have seen a slowing of the residential housing market. 2023 did see continued improvement throughout Wanamingo. The City has seen commercial building additions, a number of new homes, and infrastructure improvements. Reckitt Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district was de-certified and will be included in the 2024 tax base. These additions and valuation increases have increased the City of Wanamingo tax base.

There were no major commercial building expansions in 2023. However, there were several minor projects. Midco installed a pre-fab building (\$20,000) for their fiber cable network. Caseys completed interior work (\$94,000). Beulke's Greenhouse installed a new greenhouse (\$25,000). Zumbro Valley Landscaping installed a new salt/sand shed (\$10,000).

In the residential side we have seen seven (7) new home building permits issued in 2023. The seven homes have a collective building permit valuation of \$971,000. The seven (7) units is considered a very good year of residential growth in Wanamingo. There have also been several new decks, mechanical work, new windows/doors, re-roofing's, and other home improvement building permits in 2023. In total there have been 52 building permits with a total permit valuation of \$1,758,000.

The City continues to work on the 2022 Utility Improvements Project. The new 250,000-gallon water tower project has been completed and is in warranty period. The watermain loops project still has punch list items

to complete that may push into 2024. The new well house will hopefully be completed in 2024. The total cost of the project was \$2.8 million. The City finalized replacement of roughly 575 water meters and/or endpoints.

The project was completed between 2021-2023. The total estimated cost was \$160,000. The City completed manhole work for roughly \$53,000 in 2023. The City spent \$69,075.95 on repairing leaking water valves, asphalt patching, and concrete replacement work in 2023. The City constructed a new park shelter at Prairie Ridge estates in 2022/2023. The total cost of the project was \$41,718.13. The City constructed a new salt/sand shed in 2023. The total cost was \$30,231.32.

2024 has some planned private and public work on the horizon. The City staff have been working with Jon Whitcomb of Metro East Commercial Re Inc. He purchased the 24 tax forfeited Emerald Valley II parcels from Goodhue County. Mr. Whitcomb is working with the other landowners to put together a development plan for the area. Mr. Whitcomb is working with Bolton & Menk engineering to put together plans for construction.

Jason Grant Trucking is still looking at a cold storage warehouse in the industrial park. Jason Grant is held up by current high construction and interest rates. Reckitt/Mead Johnson has plans for building expansion along with traffic, parking lot, building expansion, and other outside esthetic improvements. Dollar General is purchasing the 14.8 acres along MN HWY 60 Stop lot with anticipation of constructing a Dollar General store in 2024. Casey's plans to make additional improvements to the gas station/convenience location. There continues to be some interest in residential single-family dwellings. City Staff anticipates slowdown of construction in 2024 leading to fewer new homes. The City has been working with Zumbrota, Pine Island, Goodhue regarding a regional wastewater treatment facility. The City received \$10 million from the State for pre-design and land acquisition for the facility. The Cities have hired Winthrop & Weinstine lobbyist firm to help obtain State dollars for the next phase of construction. Having capacity and reliability in the water and wastewater treatment are keys to allowing for future growth and current sustainability of the community. The North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District hinges on State funding through the bonding bill and Point Source Implementation grant to be financially feasible.

*Next City Council meeting on 1/8/2024

*City Council discussed employee recognition event, usually held in January. Mayor Holmes and City Administrator are working on dates in mid-January to be hosted at Area 57 café. Administrator Boulton will send out invites to the Council and staff once the date and time have been finalized.

*Fire Department/Township/City Annual Meeting is on 2/5/2024 at 6:30pm

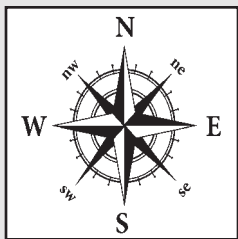
Adjourn: At 9:04 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Ohr and seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0. Signed:

Attest:

Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Michael Boulton, City Administrator

Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Back Home on the River



By Terry Campbell

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

This is a picture of the Paris Landing bridge. It connects the Land between the Lakes area with the western part of the state of Tennessee. The bridge spans a mile over the Tennessee River and the widest point of Kentucky Lake. It is beautiful on a sunny day and so impressive to see all that water in both directions. This is where we live in Tennessee. Every time I come home down here, I love to look out over the bridge and take in the sight.

One afternoon as we were driving home over the bridge we saw something startling appear beside our car. A Blackhawk helicopter began rising above the bridge to our left. There were two military UH-60's flying at water level beside the bridge. We watched as they landed in an open field in Paris Landing state park. Being curious we turned in and parked in the lot. It was some kind of family of servicemen gathering and lots of kids were waiting to see their dads get out. Fort Campbell, home of the 101st Airborne is only thirty-miles away.

The bridge has quite a rise to accommodate the daily barge traffic and the kid in me couldn't resist the urge to accelerate the Corvette every time we approached the bridge. If you exceed 100 mph it feels like you are in a plane taking off when you reach the top of the bridge. I must not have been the only one doing that because one day I saw a Tennessee Highway Patrol parked by the marina side of the bridge. Nothing like the sight of a squad car to slow you down.

About ten miles upstream is the Danville transfer elevator. We enjoy boating to the site

and the bridge can still be seen in the distance for almost the entire trip. The Danville elevator was a five-story concrete structure that transferred cargo from rail car to paddle wheelers over a century ago. When the lake was formed by the construction of the dam in 1941, the elevator was abandoned and left to stand in the middle of the lake. The arial lift bridge was also removed at that time and a ferry provides passage for automobile traffic across the river there for one dollar per trip.

Twenty-four hours each day barges travel under the bridge as they haul grain, coal and gravel up and down the river. One learns to stay between the green and red buoys on the river, just like the barges do. The dam controls the water level and at winter pool it is six feet lower than summer pool. Unsuspecting boaters during the cold months can suddenly find the bottom of the river in the middle of the lake, and run aground if not careful. We had that happen one fine afternoon last winter as we were exploring the cove near Cypress Bay Marina. We were at least 200 feet from shore as we came around the bend and suddenly we were looking at the rocky floor of Kentucky Lake. I hit the trim and raised the prop out of the water and after further investigation reversed the boat and backed out to deeper water.

The wind coming off the nearly two-mile wide lake can create some substantial waves crashing into the bridge pilings and there is a breakwater at the entrance of the Paris Landing marina to calm the waters. On a windy day there will be over two-foot swells to contend with heading into the marina. The first day we used the boat launch there we encountered quite rough water returning to dock. I rode a wave in looking at the trough and thinking it could easily swamp us. While I tried to keep the bow straight, I could hear my wife yelling "Woo Hoo". She was enjoying the adventure much more that I was. After that we started using Gray's Landing on the other side of the Lake where the water was much calmer.

When we first moved here the Paris Landing Lodge was being demolished to make way for a new facility. The locals were up in arms because the 70 year-old lodge and restaurant was a sentimental place in their hearts. It took about five years to complete the new one but it is a beautiful resort on the lake with a restaurant which is out favorite place to eat and just down the road from our home.



A Minnesotan: Epiphany



By RosaLin Alcoser

And once again it's a new year. I could talk about something along the lines of it being New Year's, however, I did that last year. Instead let me tell you all about the much more existing holiday that comes right after the New Year which would be Epiphany otherwise known as Kings Day or the 12th day of Christmas.

As I've mentioned before my transplanted hispanic family from the south celebrates Christmas from start to finish. Meaning that starting on Christmas day we celebrate the 12 days of Christmas until January 6th when we celebrate the Epiphany.

Epiphany is when the three kings, or three wisemen, arrive to see baby Jesus and present him with the gifts.

Growing up this meant that my family spent those 12 days playing games and enjoying a much needed break after the rush of getting everything ready for Christmas Eve services, and some years Christmas Day services, in addition to all of the extra things at the church leading up to Christmas.

In my Belizean father's traditions Christmas is when the big Christmas dinner is had and stockings appear, however, presents don't appear until Epiphany when the three kings bring them.

When my older sister and I were children we would often get some presents on Christmas Day and the rest on Epiphany. Or in years where our parents worked a lot on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day nearly everything would be saved for Epiphany.

For us this was also a day for spiced cookies in the shape of a star, to represent the star that guided the Three Kings to Bethlehem. We didn't make them every year and often we would make a pan of ginger bread instead. However, I remember these cookies being a type of crisp ginger cookie.

Now that we're adults and our family is spread out we don't celebrate in the same way as when we were children. However, we do still celebrate the 12 days of Christmas and always make sure to do something individually while wishing one another a Happy Epiphany.



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THEME: WINTER FUN
- ACROSS**
1. Mulligatawny and gazpacho, e.g.
 6. Half of NFL
 9. "Oscar" of sports
 13. Relating to sight
 14. Sargasso ____
 15. Dugout glider
 16. Not fresh
 17. First H in HRH
 18. Face-to-face exams
 19. *Ice fishing shelter
 21. **Polar" activity
 23. *Type of Christmas tree
 24. Diagonal
 25. Tax return professional, acr.
 28. Kind of cola
 30. Diaphragm spasm
 35. Scepters' partners
 37. Of two minds
 39. ____ Jean Baker
 40. *Rabbit's winter one is white
 41. Sheik's bevy?
 43. Type of dam
 44. Butcher's refuse
 46. Etna's emission
 47. Secret disclosure
 48. Stellar
 50. Chap or fella
 52. Diabetic ketoacidosis, acr.
 53. A or O, to blood
 55. Unit of electrical resistance
 57. *Finger warmers
 60. *Certain sleigh ride
 63. Courtroom excuse
 64. Gobbled up
 66. Train runners
 68. Land of taekwondo
 69. "Caroline in the City" Thompson
 70. Relating to Scandinavia
 71. Not home
 72. *Last winter mo.
 73. Klondike river
- DOWN**
1. Acronym in a bottle
 2. Chooses
 3. Colorado's neighbor
 4. a.k.a. pilau
 5. Like a longer route?
 6. Grayish
 7. ATM extra
 8. Carpus, pl.
 9. Bring home the bacon
 10. Unforeseen obstacle
 11. *Skier's aid
 12. Da or oui
 15. Jenny McCarthy to Melissa McCarthy
 20. Engagement, archaic
 22. ____-di-dah
 24. Onslaught
 25. *Warming drink
 26. Faculty members, for short
 27. Behind a stern
 29. *Frosty's eyes
 31. Type of hood
 32. Apollo of "Rocky"
 33. Inuit skin boat
 34. *a.k.a. anorak
 36. *Betelgeuse, e.g.
 38. *Snow, in Italy
 42. Lord's estate
 45. Lithuania's neighbor
 49. NaOH
 51. Like a rosebush
 54. Church song
 56. Meow, alt. sp.
 57. ____-in-the-dark
 58. Milano moolah
 59. Toe the line
 60. Product of laceration
 61. Michael Douglas' dad
 62. "The Sun ____ Rises"
 63. *What clues #4 and #34 Down have in common
 65. High affair
 67. Barack Obama, pre-pres.

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			4	3		1		8
2	5			8	1			
8								
3			8			4	6	
			6		3			
	9	6			7			3
								6
			9	6			1	7
6		3		2	8			

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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