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APRIL 10, 2024

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School Board Approves K-W Superintendent Contract

The Kenyon-Wanamingo school board approved a new three year contract with Superintendent Beth Giese at the March meeting. *(continued on page 6)*



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 \$5-\$10 per meal. For more information on how to sign up for meals or to be a volunteer driver, please contact Dana Bergner at 507-421-6067 or dbergner@threeriverscap.org
- **Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard invite you to become a member.** Join us and help us make the Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard an even bigger success. WVHG meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Wanamingo Community Center. The VFW will meet from 7-7:30p.m. The Honor Guard will meet from 7:30-8:30p.m. For more information contact Eric Dierks 507-321-1967, Gary Floan at 507-732-7740, or Larry Van De Walker at 507-421-4674.

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

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

Wanamingo Auto Sales

By Cheri Roshon

As most of you know by now, I am a very curious woman. When I see something new, I want to discover what it's all about. I moved to Wanamingo about 2 years ago, and when I saw Color Solve at 101 Main Street, I wanted to know more. What I found out was that in 1982, Dana Kish started Color Solve as an automotive refurbishing business to bring life back to your vehicle. In 1999, his son Jeremy took over, and in 2022 his sons Daniel and Bradley joined him and began Wanamingo Auto Sales.

I stopped in to chat with them and found Jeremy there. He greeted me and asked me how he could help me.

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Blue Harbor Boutique

By Cheri Roshon

Driving down Main Street in Wanamingo, you will see the regular businesses, like the bank, the post office, the bakery, and some small businesses. One of those businesses is called Blue Harbor, and it is open on Wednesday and Thursday from 11 am to 6 pm. Sometimes you will see a mannequin out front, wearing a colorful outfit, letting you know that the store is open. But have you been inside?

Terry Kane hails from Maine, and Blue Harbor is one of her favorite places in Maine, so that's where the name comes from. She moved here in 1985 to be closer to her family. She landed in Wanamingo for the first 2 years, and it left an impression on her. She raised her kids in the Cannon Falls school system, and 18 years ago after the kids were all graduated, moved to Rochester to open an adult day care home for disabled adults.

Three and a half years ago, she was back in Wanamingo, and noticed the building where Harriet Peterson had been running her salon was empty. After inquiring about the vacancy, she decided to open a small store to sell clothing, jewelry, gifts, purses, craft items, beauty supplies and CBD products. A little bit of a lot of things! She opened her store, and was happy running it 2 days a week, when the owners told her they had decided to sell the building, and offered her first shot at purchasing it.

(continued on page 4)

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Eternal One for Your Joy



By Colin Rueter

A brief note and correction from last month's article. I wrote, "Denial of Jesus, obedience in repentance, and following the God's commandments is fruit of true faith." Instead, it should have said, "Denial of the false ideas of Jesus..." I assure you that I remain centered on orthodox Christian doctrine and have not strayed from the faith. Your salvation is from Christ alone, acknowledge Him and humble yourself before Him, and be saved.

Now, as we begin walking through this treatise of Christian doctrine, I want to explain a little of the format moving forward. We will be walking through this text the same way that faithful pastors/preachers should walk through biblical texts on Sunday mornings in sermons, verse-by-verse. Another name for this is expository preaching. While I am not preaching with my voice, there will be an explanation and application to our verses each month. In many churches today, we see topical sermons that use various scripture removed from context to examine and teach on a topic. However, the danger in this is misus-

ing verses, pulling verses out of their context, and missing the glorious connections that the Bible has to itself. We may have our favorite verses or books of the Bible, but as God's people, we love the Bible as a whole. The most faithful way to handle the Bible is to proclaim the full counsel of God's word in context and without skipping sections of scripture that are difficult, weighty, or convicting (Acts 20:27, 2 Timothy 14-15).

Our author, the Apostle John, writes with the aim to teach about the basics of faith in Christ and help the audience reflect honestly on their faith. So, John begins from the beginning, the beginning there was before there was anything, when all that existed was God Himself. See the beginning of Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." This makes the beginning of John 1:1 profound: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John takes us back to this time in eternity past, to meet this One which was from the beginning. The eternal One is Jesus, friends. The second person of the Triune God, the King of kings, Lord over all. We know this from the whole of scripture, but John continues as he explains in verse 1 and 2, "which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us..." This indicates that this eternal being came to earth, and John (among many others) personally experienced Him. The idea is that this eternal subject of John has been audibly heard, phys-

ically seen, intently studied (have looked upon), and tangibly touched (hands have handled) would have enormous implications for his readers. The implications were enormous because they said that this eternal God became accessible to man in the most basic way, a way that anyone could relate to. This eternal One can be known since He has revealed Himself to us. Enormous because they proved that John's words have the weight of eyewitness evidence. He did not speak of a myth or of a matter of clever story-telling. He carefully studied this eternal One and he knew whom he spoke about. Enormous because it debunked dangerous teachings that were creeping into the church, such as Gnosticism. Part of the teaching of Gnosticism was that though Jesus was God, He was not actually a physical man, but instead some kind of pseudo-physical phantom. Yet John declared, "I heard Him! I saw Him! I studied Him! I touched Him!" John identifies this eternally existent being, who was physically present with John and others (note the repetition of "our" and "we"), as the Word of Life. This is the same word, Logos, spoken of in John 1:1. The idea of the Word (Logos) was important for John and for the Greek and Jewish worlds of his day. For the Jew, God was often referred to as the Word because they knew God perfectly revealed Himself in His Word. For the Greek, their philosophers had spoken for centuries about the Logos - the basis for organization and intelligence in the universe, the Ultimate Reason which controls all things. It is as if John said to everyone, "This Logos you have been talking about and writing about for centuries - well, we have heard Him, seen Him, studied Him, and touched Him. Let me now tell you about

Him." This life was manifested, meaning that it was made actually and physically real. John solemnly testified as an eyewitness who has seen and now declare to you. As John calls Jesus eternal life, and adds, with the Father, John remembered the words of Jesus (John 5:26, 6:48, and 11:25). We can say that people are eternal, but we say this with the understanding that we mean they are eternal in the future sense only, not past tense like God. There was an eternal relationship of love and fellowship between the Father and the Son. Jesus referred to this in John 17:24: "For You loved Me before the foundation of the world."

So What?

John closes his first paragraph with an invitation to have fellowship with Christians and with the Father and Son, in order that our joy (everyone who has fellowship with God and His people) would be complete. You can enjoy this fellowship even though you do not understand all the intricacies of the Trinity. You can use your eyes even though you don't know every detail of how your vision works. You can know God and believe in Him as He has revealed Himself, even though you can't understand everything about His person or nature. The idea of fellowship is one of the most important ideas in this letter of John's. It is the ancient Greek word 'koinonia', which speaks of a sharing, a communion, a common life. It speaks of a living, breathing, sharing, loving relationship with another person. This simple and bold statement means that one can have a relationship with God. This idea would surprise many of John's readers, and it should be astounding to us.

(continued on page 3)

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Jesus Unites Us

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. . . . — John 15:5

Are we really united to Jesus like branches to a vine? Yes, and amen! And does that mean we are also united with other people who are Christians? Yes, it does.

If we are united with Christ, we are like a branch of the holy vine of God. Yet there are other branches too, and the people represented by all those branches are loved by God just as we are—even if we might disagree with them in some ways or don't understand why they believe as they do. Sadly, there are divisions in the worldwide church of Jesus Christ, and those can often be ugly and unnecessary. Do different Christians see things differently? Yes. Do they act differently? Yes. May we separate from them, when they are living branches in the vine of Christ? No. To do so would be arrogant and hurtful.

Sometimes, however, people come up with false teachings that deny the truth of Christ (as in 1 John 2:18-27). And if they insist on following those teachings, they can mislead others and cut themselves off from the vine of Christ. That is a terrible tragedy, and we need to know how tragic it is when something like that happens. Let's do all we can to remain united with Christ and with the other branches of Christ's church. Jesus says, "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love. . . . Love each other as I have loved you."

Forgive us, Lord, if we think that we are always right and that others should conform to our way. May we seek unity in you, the true vine. Amen.

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Lila Mae Cole

Lila Mae Cole, 89, of Kenyon, passed away on Friday, January 12, 2024 of complications from COVID, receiving wonderful comfort care at District One Hospital in Faribault.

She was born July 27, 1934 in Kenyon to Erwin and Bertha (Danielson) Luebke. Lila grew up in Kenyon and graduated from Kenyon High School as a member of the 1952 class. After school Lila met John Cole and they were united in marriage at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenyon on November 20,

1955, where they were both members. Lila stayed at home to help raise their four children until they were out of school. During this time she was a bookkeeper for Cole's mobile home park in Kenyon for over 50 years, which John and Lila owned. Lila also was a bookkeeper at Curt's Cannonball Truck Plaza. She was the coordinator for Goodhue County American Red Cross, where she was recognized for her 50 years plus of service and donated over 21 gallons. Lila volunteered her time at the Kenyon Country Club, the Bowling League as Secretary/Treasurer and at First Lutheran Church helping serve meals and other areas. Lila also was a long-time member of the VFW Auxiliary.

Lila loved to garden and make her well-known lefse. She played in the Bridge club and also played every week with her neigh-

bors. Lila loved to go bowling, play golf, and drink coffee. She was a great wife to John and a loving mother, grandma and great grandma.

She is survived by her daughters, Lyn (Charles) Clarke of Kenyon, Wendy (Darrel) Rossow of Faribault, Sherry (John) McDonald of Faribault; grandchildren, Cory Cole, Noah Clarke, Christie (Bryan) Aase, Heather (Steven) Dickey, Heidi (Beau) Winden, Scott (Julie) McDonald, Kelly (Alex) Zweber, and four step-grandchildren; great-grandchildren, Samuel and Lewis Zweber, Amelia, Beatrice, Charlie and Susanna McDonald, Austin and Logan Dickey, Loren Aase, Tyler Winden, and seven step-great-grandchildren; sisters, Jean (Lavern) Benson, Helen Porter; brother in law, Jeff (MaryPat) Cole sister-in-law, Nordis Luebke; AFS student Pattana (Aviphant) Jierwiriapant of Thailand.

She was preceded in death by her husband John Cole; parents, Erwin (and Bertha) Luebke; son, Dean Cole; brother, Curtis Luebke; brother-in-law David Porter; niece, Catherin Lawton; brother and sister-in-law, Joan and Luverne Schlobohm.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 12PM at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenyon, with a visitation starting one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in the Kenyon Cemetery in Kenyon at a later date. Memorials are preferred to First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenyon or to the Alzheimer's Association.

Nathan J. Avery

Nathan John Avery, 46, of Wanamingo, died Friday, March 29, 2024 at St. Marys Hospital as the result of a head injury.

He was born December 2, 1977 in Owatonna, Minnesota the son of Mark and Vicky (Hanson) Avery. He grew up in West Concord and attended Triton School.

At a young age, he began working with his father running equipment, then worked for Jason French on his farm, L & D Recycling, Hutton Drainage, and was currently a heavy equipment operator at B.H. Heselton Construction.

Nathan was a quiet, caring, and generous person. He was the one you called when you

needed help, knowing he'd be right there for you. Nate was fearless and adventurous (always willing to try new things), a problem solver (he knew how to fix most things), and dedicated to his work, which he loved.

He was married to Jackie Morten and they were blessed with two children, Jordyn and Rylan. He loved children and was a good teacher. He enjoyed family time and was fond of his dogs.

He is survived by his children, Jordyn (Greysen) Deblaay of Kasson and Rylan Avery of Kasson; partner, Erin Fjerstad of Wanamingo; mother, Vicky Avery of Wanamingo; siblings, Heidi (Tony) Mueller of Ramsey, Heather Avery Overson of Mantorville and Mark "Tony" (Jamie) Avery of West Concord; step-children, Dylan (Makayla) Fitzpatrick of Rochester and Kirsten (Matt) Schultz of Waltham; grandchildren, Weston and Hazel Deblaay, Bryant, Maverick, Logan and Eli Fitzpatrick and Waylon Schultz and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Mark Avery; grandparents, Lloyd and LaVonne Avery and John and Elaine Hanson; close cousin, Johnathon Lowery and other relatives.

Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna on Wednesday, April 3rd from 4:00 - 7:00 PM and on Thursday from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Funeral services were held Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna. Pastor Jim Avery officiated. Interment was in the Concord Cemetery in Concord Township.

Eternal One for Your Joy

(continued from page 2)

The Greek mind-set highly prized the idea of fellowship, but restricted to men among men – the idea of such an intimate relationship with God was revolutionary. This fellowship is shared life and is essential. This doesn't mean that when Jesus comes into our life He helps us to do the same things better than before. We don't add Jesus to our life. We enter a relationship of a shared life with Jesus. We share our life with Him, and He shares His life with us. The result of fellowship is fullness of joy. This joy is an abiding sense of optimism and cheerfulness based on God, as opposed to happiness, which is a sense of optimism and cheerfulness based on circumstances. Charles Spurgeon wisely said, "If any of you have lost the joy of the Lord, I pray you do not think it a small loss." Come find the fellowship, joy, and life you've been looking for through Christ. Next month we will look closer at the text in Chapter 1, verses 5-10 & Chapter 2, verses 1-6. Until then – may you know JOY that only comes from Christ! 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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Blue Harbor Boutique

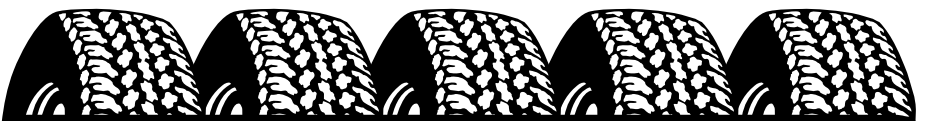
(continued from page 1)

After checking it out, she decided to buy it, and remodeled the whole building. The building now has 5 apartments and the store in it!

Well, Spring has Sprung, and Terry is offering a big sale at the Boutique. From the first day of Spring to the first day of Summer, you can get 50% off all the clothing in the store,

and 30% off everything else! I asked her why such a great sale, and she said she has new things coming, and wants to make way for all of it. Having a big sale will clear out a lot of room to bring in the summer outfits, and you get a great deal!

You can find Terry's Facebook page at Blue Harbor Boutique, and her phone number is (507) 250-4503. The address is 224 Main Street in Wanamingo, and she looks forward to showing you all her treasures for that unique gift for yourself, or your family and friends! So, come on in, and tell her Cheri sent you!



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Requests Far Outpace Funding for New Soil Health Grant

Equipment will be used to implement soil health practices on over 140,000 acres annually

By Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Demand is high for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) new Soil Health Financial Assistance Grant.

The MDA recently awarded 81 grants to in-

dividual producers, producer groups, and local governments to purchase or retrofit soil health equipment. The grants total over \$2.35 million.

Interest far outpaced available funding. The MDA received 284 applications for \$8.4 million in requests – more than three times the money in this round of grants.

The grants will provide up to 50% cost-share for equipment and parts, up to a cap of \$50,000.

“Given the amount of interest in this program, we see Minnesota farmers want to invest in healthy soils that provide important benefits to water quality and our other natural resources,” said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. “Specialized equipment and machinery can be a financial barrier for most producers trying to implement soil health

practices. Yet we can offset costs through the Soil Health Financial Assistance Grant, helping to expand the number of Minnesota farmers and acres engaged in soil health activities.”

The equipment provided by these grants is estimated to be used on more than 141,000 acres annually across Minnesota (Click here to see a map). The soil health practices on those acres include cover cropping, no-till planting, strip tillage, incorporation of perennials into cropping systems, low-disturbance nutrient application, and more. The most

common types of equipment noted in the grant awards were no-till drills (21) and strip tillage equipment (12).

This is the first full round of the Soil Health Financial Assistance Grant. A pilot program in early 2023 awarded \$475,000 to 16 individuals and organizations across 15 counties. The pilot program received more than 230 applications for more than \$6.5 million – over 13 times the available funding.

Applications for the next round of the Soil Health Financial Assistance Grant will open in August.

Wanamingo Auto Sales

(continued from page 1)

I told him I am looking for the vehicle of my dreams, a "stand up" van. He didn't have any available, but was kind enough to refer to me to another company that may be able to help. He was very courteous, so I asked him about the business.

I found out that when you are looking for a vehicle, you can go online to wanamingoautosales.com. There you will find a list of cars and trucks they have for sale. There are great

pictures, and a lot of information about each one. You may also go to the contact us page, and fill out a detailed form, letting them know what you are looking for, your price range, down payment, and other pertinent information, and they will contact you to chat about your needs. What a great way to find the vehicle of your dreams!

For more information, call them at (507) 735- 8908, and see what they can do for you!

Thank You

The family of Skeeter Berg are extremely grateful for the support, help, condolences, encouraging words and memories that everyone shared at the time of his passing.

We especially want to thank the staff at the Zumbrota Care Center, who became his extended family, for their excellent care and concern he received during his stay and at the time of his death. The love and kindness they expressed to him was truly remarkable. St. Croix Hospice deserves a huge thank you too for their guidance and care, as well as comforting words at the time of his passing.

Our thanks also to the local and area Honor Guard, VFW and Legion members for their impressive graveside service. The comforting words of Pastor Alan Horn and musical contributions by the Lambkins during the church service will provide lasting memories for all in attendance.

A huge shout-out and words of thanks goes to those who helped serve and clean up at the Mazeppa Community Center for his Celebration of Life. We were told many times that Skeeter was a legend and we will be forever grateful to everyone who reached out to us in any way. We will always be proud of the joy he brought to others and for putting Mazeppa on the map while singing "Where the Hell's Mazeppa."

Denise and Bob Poncet and Family
DeAnn and Mike Horsman and Family
Delane and Jon Liffrig and Family

Dennis and Colleen Berg and Family
Debra and Dan Dettmer and Family
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In Memory of Rachel Nesseth On her 20th Birthday



FOOD AND BLANKET DRIVE



Saturday, April 20, 2024
10:00am-2:00pm

Trailhead Building, Zumbrota
(Next to City Hall across from the Zumbrota Library)



“God bless those who don't have a warm place to sleep tonight or any food to eat.”
- Rachel Nesseth

On Saturday, April 20 we would like to invite you to go for a walk in the park and drop off a non-perishable food item or a blanket in memory of Rachel. The above prayer is one that she spoke at dinner every night from the time she was a toddler. In celebration of Rachel's birthday, we will collect food and blankets so that her light will continue to shine in our community. We will distribute to local food shelves and shelters.

Letter from the Superintendent

Host Families Needed



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

Have you considered being a foreign exchange family? Adding foreign exchange students to our school community contributes to our cultural diversity and promotes global awareness and understanding. By welcoming a student from a different country, we expose ourselves to new perspectives, traditions, and languages, enhancing the educational experience for every student.

When I was in high school, my family sponsored a student from Germany, it is an experience I will never forget. Interacting with a foreign exchange student provides us with the opportunity to learn about different cultures, customs, and traditions. This exposure to diverse perspectives fosters tolerance, appreciation, and respect for other cultures, ultimately creating a more inclusive and har-

monious school environment. I learned a great deal from the experience.

Additionally, having a foreign exchange student allows us to immerse ourselves in a new language. It provides an authentic and engaging context for language learning, where students can practice speaking and listening skills with a native speaker. This language immersion experience helps develop proficiency and fluency, preparing students for an increasingly globalized world. All students speak fluent English, but what a neat bonus for our kids to be exposed to.

At Kenyon-Wanamingo, foreign exchange students bring a unique global perspective to our classrooms. They can share personal experiences, unique insights, and different educational approaches from their home country. This diversity of perspectives fosters critical thinking, encourages students to question their own assumptions, and can broaden understanding of global issues.

If you are interested in becoming a host family please reach out, Kenyon-Wanamingo is a great place to learn from these students. bgiese@kw.k12.mn.us.

School Board Approves K-W Superintendent Contract

(continued from page 1)

Giese took the position for the 23-24 school year and the schoolboard members stated that they were very pleased with her performance. Her salary was increased to \$123,000 for the coming school year and will be \$125,460 for the 25-26 year and \$127,970 for the 26-27 year.

The state has approved the Statutory Operating Debt plan for the district submitted last month and the school is on good footing to resolve the budgetary problems which have faced the district in the previous years. The approval by the state gives the district more autonomy on decisions moving forward.

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The Kenyon Commercial Club is disbanding, thus discontinuing the KABA KASH program. Any outstanding KABA KASH will ONLY be redeemed for cash by bringing directly to Security State Bank of Kenyon. **DEADLINE** for cash refund of KABA KASH is 5/1/2024.

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Kenyon-Wanamingo Noble Knights of the Week



**KW Noble Knights of the Week
for March 15, 2024**

Front Row: Myles Sletten, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Adeline Baalson, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Declan Smith, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Luka Noney, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan.
Back Row: Korbin Flotterud, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Brayden Rapp, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Brooklyn Arnold, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Harper Kerr, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



**KW Noble Knights of the Week
for March 22, 2024**

Front Row: Axton Porras, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Reyna Dressel, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Aubree Wood, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Reese Allen, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Malia Evenson, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Jade Wrolson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Nathan Barraza, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Oliver Stoppel, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Hudson Otte, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Olivia Lorfald, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Nathan Flom, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



**KW Noble Knights of the Week
for March 29, 2024**

Front Row: Rose Burginger, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Alex Keller, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Ruby Caron, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Peyton Luedtke, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Haddie Schwering, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers. Back Row: Riley Falenschek, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Patience Castle, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Jaxsyn Bauer, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Lily Knott, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Ruby Allen, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman



**KW Noble Knights of the Week
for April 5, 2024**

Front Row: Remington Stalker, KG, Ms. Madi Andrist; Olivia Ramirez, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Scott Hogy, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Brecken McCabe, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Liza VanDeWalker, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Fabian Smith, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Sam Keller, Gr. 2, Mrs. Megan Jordan; Henry Skillestad, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Sebastian Uran, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Laila Mandujano, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Daniel Richards, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

What's Normal?



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

As we progress into the first days of Spring, we look back on a winter season that was not the typical Minnesota winter. We can also look back to the fourth anniversary of the Covid pandemic and the infamous shutdown the entire society endured. As that experience dragged on there was an increasing desire to see things “return to normal.” But how do you define normal?

Normal is “a standard, or regular pattern” according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, and is often associated with a routine, or possibly a habit. One individual online described “normal” as that action or belief that is accepted by 62% of the population. However, what is considered normal may not be healthy, or good for you. How comfortable are you with making a healthy choice that is not be-

seen as ‘normal’?

The Standard American Diet is a common phrase used by nutritionist with the emphasis on the first letter of each word – S.A.D. The normal choices for food consumption among Americans has resulted in SAD consequences. Back around 1901, the normal consumption of sugar per American was around 5 pounds of sugar per year. Today, the normal consumption of sugar per American is over 100 pounds of sugar per year. Before 1930, vegetable oil, corn oil, soybean oil, and canola oil did not exist. Today, soybean oil and corn oil are the top oils consumed promoting significant inflammation. There are a multitude of foods available in our warehouse grocery depots that our great grandparents would not recognize. What we consider normal today has brought about SAD consequences.

Unfortunately, in our culture, normal is not the same as healthy. Consider some of these examples:

- More than 70% of the American population is overweight or obese leading to heart disease, diabetes, and a weakened immune system
- Premenstrual cramps, headaches, and irritability each month is considered normal
- Constipation with bowel movements less than once a day is considered normal
- Braces to straighten teeth and pulling wisdom teeth is considered normal
- More than 10 prescriptions per American is the current average

To make a healthy choice, or choose a healthy lifestyle is not considered normal. Do some of these healthy choices seem ‘ab-

normal’ to you:

- Have some vegetables with your breakfast
- Be sure to drink 8 cups of filtered water (or more) each day
- Eat an apple every day
- Eat only three meals a day with no snacks between meals
- Each meal should include a protein (meat, egg, dairy, or beans)

When what is normal is not a healthy choice, you and I have the opportunity to be an influence to our circle of friends and relatives to help them recognize a healthy option. To be an influencer is to be one who helps others to be interested and to recognize there is another choice available. The normal advertisements and recommendations coming across the television screen are not presenting healthy options, they are presenting normal options. Internet videos presenting extreme diets and exercise are not presenting healthy options, they are sales gimmicks. The healthy options are going to be consistent, natural-based options your great grandparents would recognize. Healthy options are lifestyle choices that promote longevity, fertility, and a healthy environment. You can be an influencer to help move the American culture back to a healthy standard. Perhaps one day, healthy choices will be the “new normal.”

I invite you to join me this spring at the Northfield Holistic Health Summit “New Beginnings” Saturday, May 4, 2024, to learn more about healthy lifestyle choices and the resources available to you. Ten local health practitioners will be presenting information

on – herbs, homeopathy, acupuncture, toxins, neurology, allergy therapy, and more. Purchase your ticket today for this event that includes a healthy catered meal by Café Shawn. Ticket sales close on April 30. More information at <https://www.nutritionproportion.net/health-summit2024> or scan the QR code.

Make your health a priority in 2024. Change is required, but the outcome is worth the effort. Little changes can make a big difference over time. If you would like to pursue a healthy lifestyle and increase longevity, I can help.

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



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93% of Americans concerned about brain health!! Irish Music and Guinness Taste



By Shauna Burschem, D.C.

According to a recent AARP survey, 93% of Americans are concerned about their brain health, yet few understand how to protect it. Research is now showing that canola oil leads to significant declines in memory and has a negative impact on body weight management. This is bad news, as canola oil has

always been touted as a healthy oil to use. Most people do not even know where canola oil comes from or even what a canola is. There is actually no such thing as canola. Canola stands for Canadian Oil. It is in reality rapeseed oil which comes from pressing the oilseed rape plant. Canada became the first country in the world to produce large quantities of rapeseed with low erucic acid in the oil and low glucosinolates in the meal. Thus the name Canadian Oil or Canola Oil for short. Canola Oil is not a healthy oil for your brain. It is genetically engineered and altered to reduce toxic to humans erucic acid levels and then processed with several chemical baths before being bleached. Sadly, canola oil is found in almost oil processed (man-made foods in boxes or bags). And over the years, through proper marketing by canola oil manufacturers, has led us to believe it is a health food. Healthier options include pastured organic butter, virgin coconut oil, ghee, avocado and walnut oil for cooking and olive oil for non-cooking purposes (use olive oil as an added oil once the food is cooked, because olive oil is not supposed to be heated).

68% of adults have damage to the discs in their neck. The discs are cushions between the cervical vertebrae. This condition is called cervical disc degeneration or degener-

ative disc disease (DDD). If you do not have this condition now, you will likely get it unless you are in a neck mobility program. Early signs of disc degeneration include popping, cracking or gravelly noises in the neck. Chiropractic spinal adjustments either by hand or low force adjusting instruments place motion in the spinal joints which reduces the friction on the surface of the bones. Also helpful is using a cervical pillow at night and performing passive range of motion exercises daily.

There are two types of sugars which you should be aware of. Refined sugar and intrinsic sugar. Refined sugars are linked to health problems and include high fructose corn syrup as one example. Intrinsic sugars are naturally occurring sugars in whole fruits and vegetables. Refined sugars affect the gut by causing endotoxin production which destroys the function of the energy producing cells in the body which then can result in cancer metabolism. Fructose present in whole fruits does not result in the production of endotoxins. Avoid high fructose corn syrup and eat sugars from whole fruits, raw honey or pure organic raw cane sugar.

Mustard seed contains chemical compounds that can enhance the cancer fighting potential of cruciferous vegetables like broccoli, cauliflower and brussels sprouts. Sprinkle mustard seed powder on these vegetables to further reduce cancer risk. A compound in brown mustard seed lowered the risk of bladder cancer by 34.5% and was 100% effective at preventing the spread of cancer into surrounding muscle cells.

Dried plums, aka prunes may help prevent

bone loss in older osteoporotic postmenopausal women. In addition, dried plums are loaded with anti-oxidants which are very important for overall health.

Drinking Ireland's Guinness Stout was shown to taste better if you are listening to Irish music. A study from London, England's University of Lincoln, published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology* found that the tastes change when drinking Guinness stout comes down to two psychological factors. The first is called priming. Priming is the idea that exposure to one stimulus may influence a response to another stimulus without guidance or intention. For example, if a wine shop played German or French music in the background of their store, there would be increased interest in wines from those countries. The second factor is called musical fit. This factor state that our brains function better when things are as we expect them to be, or are well put together. For example, people are more willing to pay more for a drink in a bar or restaurant when the music playing fits the décor or foods being sold. The Guinness study showed that certain frequency ranges, tempos, timbres and harmonies are associated by our brains with flavor attributes such as sweetness, bitterness, sourness and perceived body and strength of the beer. For example, a light hearted tune like the Saw Doctors "To Win Just Once," or Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl" make Guinness taste sweeter. On the other hand, Sinéad O'Connor or the Cranberries singing "Zombie" would make the Guinness taste heavier, stronger and more bitter due to the heavy guitar and strong emotional content.

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\$1.1 Million to be Awarded to Southern Minnesota Businesses

Competitive grants to support existing operations or planned growth

By Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

Through a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) will award \$1.1 million in competitive grants to businesses in southern Minnesota to invest in existing operations or planned growth.

Grant awards will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 and can be used for working capital to support payroll expenses, rent or mortgage payments, utility bills, equipment, and other

similar expenses that occur in the regular course of business.

Grant awards will be limited and approved on a competitive basis. Not all eligible businesses will receive a grant. Primary business operations must be located in SMIF's region, which includes 20 counties and one Native nation. Businesses must earn \$750,000 or less in gross revenue (based on 2021 taxes) to be eligible. Additional eligibility requirements are listed on SMIF's website.

The grant cycle opened March 27, 2024 and will close on April 24, 2024. For the application and guidelines visit smifoundation.org/promise. Contact Melissa Langer (melissal@smifoundation.org) or Brian Conzemius (brianc@smifoundation.org) with questions.

The PROMISE Act is funded by one-time allocation from the State of Minnesota Legislature in partnership with DEED. This program looks to drive economic recovery in our region through grants to small businesses in south central and southeastern Minnesota experiencing lack of access to capital, loss of population or an aging population, or a lack of regional economic diversification.

"We are honored to, once again, partner with MN DEED to support entrepreneurs in southern Minnesota," said Tim Penny, presi-



dent and CEO of SMIF. "This will be an important boost for economic development in our region."

The PROMISE Act Grant is a statewide program with multiple partners accepting applications throughout Minnesota. SMIF is one of six Minnesota Initiative Foundations (MIFs) that will accept applications through this program, in addition to the Neighbor-

hood Development Center, which will accept applications in certain areas of the Twin Cities metro.

For businesses that are not located in SMIF's region, please consult the following website to determine who to contact for this program: <https://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/promise-grant/>



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By Monica & Claudia Vanderborght

A farm dog -- for companionship and protection.

Monica's daughter had two dogs, both lab-crosses. Together, they could get into so much trouble!! If they weren't locked in their kennels each and every time the family left the home, disaster would greet them upon return: upturned garbage cans spilling their contents, pillows and sofa cushions strewn about, shoes chewed, once they even managed to open the refrigerator door and raid the contents. Mocha and Ice didn't have a bad life, but their weekdays were relegated to their kennels. Ice was a sweetie with those he knew -- but a car accident had left him with only three legs and abuse made him untrustworthy around strangers, particularly men. Mocha was an easy girl with a wonderfully loud, deep, (and often too frequent) bark. After a few lessons at PetCo, Mocha knew basic commands and actually followed them on occasion.

Mocha absolutely loved her new-found freedom. She followed Monica everywhere, although she kept a safe distance when the chainsaw was in use. The rule of "No Dogs on the Couch" was quickly forgotten -- when Monica was on the couch, Mocha was there. When Monica was in bed, Mocha was there.

The two spent many hours outside each day, and she was Monica's constant companion.

Cats -- for amusement and critter control. Monica is adventuresome and brave, but when it comes to rodents and snakes Monica reacts like a typical girl.

Never mind that Monica fearlessly drove her 4WD Jeep over / through trails (and creeks and large rocks) in Minnesota and Wisconsin with the Dakota Dirt Diggers. (An important lesson that would also serve her well on the farm: "If you aren't getting stuck, you aren't learning anything.") All by herself, Monica traveled 49 states and several Canadian provinces on a Goldwing motorcycle. In 2005 she volunteered to be deployed with the Naval Reserve: ten days later she was on a plane to CENTCOM in Tampa for paperwork and immunizations; two weeks later she was on the long flight to Qatar.

Brave, yes. But when it comes to snakes and rodents, Monica actually believes she can levitate when startled by either. Perhaps it is the scream that gives the extra lift. Cats, for critter control, were absolutely essential.

So four kittens came to the farm: two from Craigslist, two from a friend. Each grandchild was tasked with naming one kitten. Cuddles and Tippiie were siblings (who hated each other and hissed whenever the other drew near). Shelley and Oliver were lively, curious, and chased each other all over the house. Slowly, the kittens were given greater outdoor freedom as they grew.

One dog, four cats, and dozens of boots (Monica, kids, grandkids, friends of grandkids) can bring in a tremendous amount of dirt and mud from the outside. The barely-nice house with easy-to-clean floors was ap-

preciated.

Autumn turned to winter. The days got shorter and colder. Claudia, who for decades had heated her homes exclusively with wood, assured Monica that the fire could burn all day without supervision. It could burn all night too. If the grandkids wanted to find the kittens, the fireplace was the first place they looked.

Every January, the fifth grade teachers and students headed to Eagle Bluff for a three-day field trip. This was the first extended "vacation" Monica would be away from home. (Not really a vacation, having to supervise all those children -- and their parents.) But it was a wonderful learning experience for the kids, many of whom had lived their entire lives in apartments with hundreds of TV channels and piles of video games. Mocha returned to Ice's house for a three-day sleepover. Thermostats for the electric heaters were set to 55 degrees. Food and water was left for the kittens ... although one wasn't looking well. Shelly was lethargic and showed little interest in food or water. Either she would be okay, or she wouldn't. Monica left for the field-trip, hoping for the best.

The internet was slow at Eagle Bluff, but Monica looked up symptoms of feline diseases. She asked for advice from the teachers. All symptoms pointed to feline leukemia -- a death sentence for Shelley and probably the other three. It was a long three days and a dreaded return home.

Mocha was thrilled to be out of the suburbs and back on the farm where she could run free again. Three kittens seemed fine, but



Mocha

Shelley was seriously ill. Monica still had two days before the weekend to consider options. Her colleagues sympathetically suggested that Shelley be taken to the vet for a confirmed diagnosis and to be euthanized. All the suburban friends agreed.

But Monica resolved: wasn't she a farmer now? Farmers don't take their cats to the vet to be euthanized -- they do it themselves. Farmers do not let their animals suffer. It was a difficult, agonizing, painful decision. But when she got home from school that day and saw the pitiful state Shelley was in, Monica knew what she had to do. It was a rough, rough weekend -- but she knew she had done the right, the farmer thing.

Several months later, Oliver started going downhill -- the same symptoms. This time the decision was no easier, but farmers do not let their animals suffer. Oliver's suffering was shorter, and the decision was easier, though no less painful.

Monica felt she had just passed a huge milestone in becoming a legitimate farmer. The first, difficult steps had been taken.

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Minnesota State Park Summer Tours Now Taking Reservations

By Minnesota DNR

This summer, Minnesota state parks will offer tours introducing visitors to the Iron Ranges' mining history, prairie life, and the longest cave in the state.

Reservations are now available for tours at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine, Blue Mounds, and Forestville/Mystery Cave state parks. Schedules and reservation information are available on the state park tours webpage of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website.

Returning in 2024: Soudan Underground Mine tours at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park

Minnesota has been a powerhouse in the production of iron ore starting with the state's first iron ore mine, the Soudan Mine, which opened in 1882 and operated until 1962. Underground mine tours will return in May after being closed the last two years due to an extensive restoration project. The mine shaft restoration was completed in December 2023 and new interpretive exhibits are coming to the visitor center in April. In addition, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the installation of the mine shaft hoist in the engine house.

"The Soudan Mine is a living memorial that

honors all who immigrated to the Iron Ranges of Minnesota to seek a better life for themselves," said Sarah Guy-Levar, interpretive services supervisor at the park. "We are eager to share the major improvements with our visitors and help people fully immerse themselves in the authentic experience of an underground miner."

The Soudan Underground Mine offers historic tours where visitors travel 2,341 feet — nearly one-half mile — underground by cage on authentic, expertly maintained hoisting equipment. Once underground, participants board a train and ride nearly a mile to the last and deepest area of the mine. On the tour, visitors hear true stories of the miners and learn firsthand about the working conditions that made this underground iron mine the safest of all the Iron Range mines.

Historic tours run daily from Memorial Day weekend through the end of September. In October, tours are offered on weekends through the third weekend of the month. Mine tours are fully accessible. Reservations are highly recommended as tours frequently sell out.

Prairie and bison tours at Blue Mounds State Park

Blue Mounds State Park, in the state's far southwest corner, offers a 90-minute bus tour into a vast prairie that might include the sighting of the park's massive bison herd. These powerful wild animals can be elusive, so there's no guarantee of seeing one. However, prairie life — such as grasses, prairie flowers and other wildlife — can easily be seen on the tour.

"The bison's story of resilience shows us



just how powerful the prairie can be," said Tiffany Muellner, interpretive naturalist at Blue Mounds State Park. "Taking the tour is a great way to experience some of that story and discover how the prairie is so much more than grass."

Tour reservations are required. Prairie and bison tours run Thursday through Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and weekends from mid-September to mid-October. The tour bus is equipped with a lift and can accommodate one wheelchair per tour.

Mystery Cave tours at Mystery Cave at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park

Covering 13 miles, Mystery Cave is Minnesota's longest cave. Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park offers a variety of tours through the cave, including the one-hour lantern tour, the one-hour scenic tour, the two-hour geology tour, and the four-hour wild caving tour. Each tour takes visitors to different areas of the cave and showcases stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone, fossils, and cave pools.

"Mystery Cave is unique because of its in-

terconnectedness to so many wonderful things," Cave Manager Dawn Ryan said. "When visitors leave the surface and go underground into Mystery Cave, they quickly discover the cave is its own environment defined by water. Everywhere you look, water is dripping, flowing or pooling. Water flowing through the cave contributes to the beautiful cave formations and provides habitat for rare cave life."

One-hour scenic tours begin May 11 and run through Oct. 20, and are offered multiple times daily. These tours are fully accessible. Reservations are recommended, but walk-ins will be accommodated based on availability. The 12:20 p.m. and 3:20 p.m. tours on weekends are not reservable and are for walk-ins only.

The lantern, geology and wild caving tours are offered on weekends only, and reservations are required. Participants in these tours should read the cave tour webpage for details about age restrictions, footwear requirements, and conditions that participants will encounter. Lantern and geology tours are available from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Wild caving tours run from June 1 to Aug. 24.

State park vehicle permits

A state parks vehicle permit is not needed for the parking area at the visitor center at Soudan Underground Mine or the Stuntz Bay parking lots; visitors will need a vehicle permit to enter other areas of the park, including the campground.

Tour participants at Blue Mounds and Forestville/Mystery Cave state parks will need a vehicle permit to drive into the park for their tour.

The permit cost is \$7 per day, or \$35 per year for unlimited visits to all state parks and recreation areas. Vehicle permits can be purchased on the state parks permit webpage or in person during open hours at state park ranger stations.

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City of Wanamingo Regular EDA Meeting Monday February 12, 2024 6:00 P.M.

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

PRESENT: Brian Gudknecht, Rebecca Haugen, Ryan Holmes, Jim Kittelson, and Josh Schaefer

ABSENT: Annette Fritz and Laurie Muselman

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Boulton and Andrew Deziel – Kenyon Leader

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

Pledge of Allegiance followed.

ADOPT AGENDA: Kittelson motioned, seconded by Schaefer to adopt. Approved 5-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Kittelson motioned, seconded by Haugen to approve. Approved 5-0-0.

PRESENTERS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Administrator Boulton provided a memo on the Dollar General development withdrawal. The developers for Dollar General, First Link LLC, did an about face on their plans for expansion in Wanamingo. The Dollar General Development plans have been withdrawn as of January 17th. The City and EDA had been working with First Link LLC, JABE Companies Commercial Real Estate Services, and Kimley-Horn (consulting engineer) to put together a plan for development of commercial land along MN TH 60. JABE Companies and First Link had a signed purchase agreement option with a local landowner in Spring 2023. City staff and WHKS (City Consulting Engineer) along with the realtor, developer, and their consulting engineer had spoken through MN TH 60 road access, stormwater management, water/sewer, construction of the remainder of Hill Avenue from Beverly Street to MN TH 60, and the EDA obtaining the remainder land for future development.

Initially the developer requested private access off MN TH 60. The City explained that MNDOT approved access and would consult the City before review procedures for access.

The City explained that Hill Avenue had been planned to be constructed from Beverly Street to MN TH 60. There were additional concerns that MNDOT would only allow one access (private or public) to the land. If the access were to be private, it would landlock the remaining land not utilized by Dollar

General. There was also discussion regarding stormwater treatment. Initially, the developer's plan was to have stormwater treatment on Dollar General's parcel for their lot. It was laid out to the developer that a regional stormwater treatment pond would be mutual beneficial for the future Dollar General location (not having to utilize so much land and long-term cost savings for maintenance) and the City (by taking stormwater from both the new portion of Hill Avenue and the remainder land). The City suggested that placing all of the proposed public improvements into one City project and publicly bidding it out for economies of scale. It was mutually agreed upon for the City to put together a plan and estimates. WHKS (City consulting engineer), on behalf of the City, put together estimates for the proposed improvements.

The City consulting engineer's estimates totaled \$991,000 (\$495,500 for the City and Dollar General in costs split 50%/50%). These estimates included items that may not be included in the final project such as full MNDOT turn and bypass lane along with excess storm water piping and mitigation. It was mutually assuming that the scope of the project could be reduced and that the final bids could also be significantly lower. A draft development agreement was put together by Kennedy & Graven on behalf of the City and EDA. The draft development agreement started out with a 50%/50% cost share for the improvements. The draft development had been shared with First Link LLC for comment. First Link LLC was satisfied with the outline of the development and had no further changes requested before going in front of the Wanamingo EDA and City Council for approval at the January 8th meetings. The EDA and City Council approved the preliminary agreements. It was noted that the 50%/50% cost share on the improvements may need to be amended to satisfy the Dollar General Developers. Staff laid out a number of options to amend the cost share in Dollar General Developers' favor that could be negotiated. The EDA and Council agreed that latitude in final negotiations could be given to staff to complete the draft development agreement.

On January 17th Administrator Boulton was called by the presidents of the First Link LLC and JABE Companies. They were upset that the City was forcing them to be a party to constructing Hill Avenue from MN TH 60 to Beverly Street. They demanded that Dollar General be allowed to construct a private en-

trance off MN TH 60 in order to meet within budget. Small communities in SE MN have required Dollar General to pay for the high-way access and road stub to the end of the property line. The full infrastructure proposal for access, turn lane and Hill Avenue to Beverly Street would cost similar to a private access, turn land, and stub road. There are additional issues of MNDOT access, not allowing to landlock remaining land along MN TH 60, regional stormwater treatment, and access for residents from existing Nelson/Beverly Street were explained.

The president of First Link LLC had choice words for the City. It was explained that the City staff had worked with subordinates in First Link LLC and JABE Companies along with the consulting engineer from Kimley-Horn on the proposed scope of work and rough outline for draft development agreement. City staff proposed changes to the 50%/50% split that would bring the developer's cost down, suggested bringing in a commercial developer to purchase the land directly from the developer, or assigning a price to the land as part of the development agreement to offset development costs. The developer and realtor presidents were unprofessional and counterproductive with the three phone calls between January 16th and January 17th in seeing the project move forward. The conversations culminated in the First Link President being so upset with the City not immediately allowing a private access off MN TH 60 that he hung up on the conference call.

City staff stated that the Wanamingo City Council and Wanamingo EDA had agreed to

the rough outline. City staff were given the authority to negotiate the cost share portion of the agreement. City staff explained to developers that if they were set on a private road that they would have to place the request in writing for City Council and EDA consideration. The developers wanted an immediate answer and staff said that it would materially change the scope of the project and draft development agreement which required action from the City Council and EDA. A suggestion was made by City staff for First Link and Jabe Companies to check with their consulting engineer on the scope of work difference between and private access and City Street access. City staff asked what MNDOT would require for a scope of work for private entrance/turn lane compared to a public City Street. The City consulting engineer stated that the scope of work required by MNDOT for a private entrance would be similar to a City Street. The consulting engineer stated that the savings would not be significant.

The JABE Companies President explained that Dollar General had shifted strategies for future growth in the past few months with a new CEO. Dollar General will only be expanding in communities with a population over 3,000 and will be focusing on expansion into Mexico. The Wanamingo location was still in the pipeline to proceed because a purchase agreement option was signed prior to changes in expansion had taken place. Dollar General had given the developer and realtor budget parameters for the proposed Wanamingo location.

(continued on page 15)

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(subject to change—please check www.Sogn.us prior to attending any session for last-minute class updates)

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26 Tuesday — Online Webinar begins at 6:30pm
Pre-registration required. Sign-up on www.Sogn.us

APRIL
4 Thursday — Online Webinar begins at 6:30pm
Pre-registration required. Sign-up on www.Sogn.us

13 Saturday — Cannon Falls (Christ UMC) beginning at 9:00am
(29470 Gaylord Ave. — church located just west of the Cannon Golf club)

FREE
17 Wednesday — Nerstrand (Fire Department) beginning at 6:30pm
(Located two blocks south of Hwy. 246 on Cherry Street)

22 Monday — Zumbrota (Fire Department) beginning at 6:30pm
(Located at 1400 Jefferson Drive — northeast of Zumbrota Ford)

★ Class length 2½ hours | Seating may be limited at some venues | Everyone welcome | Certification cards issued at completion ★



Wanamingo EDA Meeting

(continued from page 14)

Due to higher construction costs and interest rates the MN TH 60 access and stub road costs were holding up the project.

City staff received a text message on January 17th from JABE Companies president stating "Unfortunately, Dollar General and Lou Pappan (First Link LLC President) have decided not to pursue a store in Wanamingo. The costs have gotten too expensive with the road and deceleration lane. We appreciate your efforts."

The City incurred both direct and indirect costs from the project. The City has invoices from WHKS (\$5,989.29) and Kennedy & Graven (\$440.00), to date. City staff spent numerous hours with gathering information, negotiating agreements, and directing consultants. The direct costs are recommended to be written off by the general fund. Holmes stated that the City was not going to abandon Hill Avenue. Holmes thought that the developers had made up their mind to quit and were looking to blame the City for their decision. Haugen asked if the developer and realtor would ever have donated the land the EDA. Haugen thought that the whole plan sounded too good to be true. Holmes stated that the old 60-Stop location was still available and already had road access. Kittelson asked if Lew Groth still owned the land and if he was aware. Boulton stated that Monty Schaefer had informed Groth of the deal falling through when discussing renting the land in 2024. Boulton said that he and Groth had discussed what transpired with the Dollar General Development. Schaefer said that interest rates

were too high for development and that capital is limited. Schaefer floated the idea of the EDA purchasing the land. Boulton stated that there were no such funds unless a bond was taken out by the EDA/City. Kittelson stated that area commercial lots are slow being developed and cited Kenyon. Schaefer stated that Wanamingo was in a better location for commercial/industrial lots than Kenyon. Kittelson agreed and noted that twenty years ago Wanamingo lost out on commercial/industrial development due condition of roads and having to access US HWY 52 only to the east (before underpass and access at MN TH 57 to the north). Kittelson stated that the Dollar General Development withdrawal is more due to reorganization within the corporate structure than costs or anything involving the Wanamingo EDA or City.

OLD BUSINESS:

There being no further business Schaefer made a motion seconded by Kittelson to adjourn the EDA meeting at 6:14PM. Approved 5-0-0.

Brian Gudknecht, President
Michael Boulton, Director

CITY OF WANAMINGO

City Council Regular Meeting

Monday, March 11, 2024 7:00 P.M.

Wanamingo City Council Chambers –

401 Main Street

Wanamingo, MN

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.

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

City Administrator: Michael Boulton

Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters

ABSENT: Council: Stuart Ohr

ALSO PRESENT: Brandon Theobald – WHKS, Brad Kennedy, Earl Merchlewitz – Goodhue County Emergency Management Director, Stephen Kingsbury, Beth Haas – Zumbrota News-Record, Andrew Deziel – Kenyon Leader, Edward Matul – Goodhue County Deputy Sheriff, Emily Anderson – Goodhue County Deputy Sheriff, and Todd Greseth – Goodhue County Commissioner.

ADOPT AGENDA: Haugen motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Dierks motioned, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

A) Brad Kennedy reported on:

1) Built new flag brackets for Main Street light poles.

2) Hung up Main Street banner on light poles.

3) Trimmed trees on Emerald Valley II storm water pond. Still have to trim trees on pond closer to river

4) Stained four garden plot boxes that were constructed and installed last year.

5) Recycled brass water meters that have been stockpiled the past two years as meters were replaced. The roughly \$2,500 in scrap is planned to be utilized to purchase a new hot water pressure washer.

6) Purchased and picked up hot water pressure washer

7) The wellhouse scale quit working. The scale required a cell rebuilt kit with new load cell cables. The cost to rebuild was roughly \$1,000 while a new scale is roughly \$2,500. The maintenance staff relocated the sewer plant scale to the wellhouse until the rebuilt scale is reinstalled.

8) Kennedy and Peens attended the Minnesota Rural Water training conference in St. Cloud March 5th – 7th. Peens attended training and took the D Sewer Operator License exam while Kennedy attended training for ongoing educational hours for his C Sewer Operator License.

9) Street sweeper has been out a couple of times. The entire town has been swept at least once.

10) Installed new stop and yield signs in the Prairie Ridge Estates subdivision based upon Council action from February City Council meeting.

B) Earl Merchlewitz, Goodhue County Emergency Management Director, reported on:

1) Introduced himself to the Wanamingo City Council. Has been the Goodhue County Emergency Management Director since May 2023. Has been trying to get to Cities and Townships to introduce himself so that leaders know him before an emergency takes place.

2) Has eighteen years of law enforcement experience.

3) Working on Goodhue County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The update to the County Hazard Mitigation Plan is a couple of years past due the recommended five-year update. Once completed and submitted jurisdictions can apply for Federal Hazard Mitigation funds for identified projects within the plan.

4) Has been working on school safety within the County since hired. The County

has two contracts with School Districts within Goodhue County for SRO (School Resource Officers) Officers. The Sheriff's office helps with additional planning and coordination. Schools have come a long way in the past couple of decades to improve safety at the school buildings. There is still a need for SRO's for relationships with kids which lead to a number of positive outcomes within our community now and years later.

C) Brandon Theobald, WHKS City Consulting Engineer reported on:

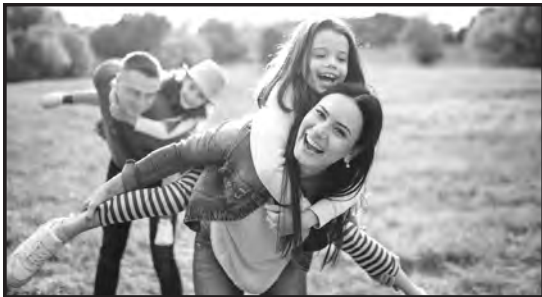
1) The North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District (NZSSD) four facilities plans have been submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency before March 1st. The plans include sewer details of the communities and growth, engineering, scope of proposed work, costs of the proposed project, and effects on rates to users.

2) A public hearing will be called through a resolution later in the meeting by the City Council for April 8th. The Council will also consider resolutions for both the land purchase approval and the State bonding bill request.

3) In the facilities plan Wanamingo will pay the highest user rates due to inflow and infiltration (I & I). The proposed rates would be \$20-\$30/month higher than Goodhue, who has no I & I issues. Wanamingo has the lowest proposed growth in the plan because there is assumption that I & I can be reduced moving forward. Growth has lower flows because only metered water use goes into the system with no I & I. The City sees spikes in waste water flow up to eight times regular flows during wet weather events. I & I reduction options, including a sump pump inspections program, have been discussed with Mayor Holmes, Councilmember Ohr, and staff in the past. Other options include drain tile inspections, replacement/lining of services lines, replacement/lining of sewer mains, and testing for cross connections with stormwater lines. A sump pump program is the most cost-effective option to reduce I & I.

The program would go into all homes for inventory later to ensure sump pumps do not hook into sanitary sewer, that all lines are plumbed outside, and all sump pump baskets have pumps and discharge lines (or are sealed off). In the past and currently the Wanamingo wastewater collection and treatment system can handle the I & I the direct costs have been limited or hard to quantify. Wanamingo has not seen backups to force reductions in I & I. Kasson had several 100-year rain events that lead to areas of town having backups into basements on a number of occasions that lead to public outcry and action. Once Wanamingo is hooked into the NZSSD residents will see quantifiable real costs for the I & I treatment. Most residents will be paying for a handful of residents discharging storm water into the sanitary sewer system. In order to reduce potentially higher rates than Goodhue, Pine Island, and Zumbrota there needs to be reduction in I & I. In the future smoke testing will be completed to check for cross connections with storm water lines and the next street project will both replace some clay sewer lines and add storm water and drain tiles lines to the back of curbs. The proposed sump pump inspection program is estimated to cost \$70,000-\$75,000.

(continued on page 16)



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Wanamingo City Council Meeting

(continued from page 15)

WHKS has handled sump pump inspection programs in a number of Southeast Minnesota Cities including Plainview and Kasson. WHKS would help to educate residents on the program which would include a dedicated website with information. Flotterud asked how many houses could possibly have sump pumps discharging into the sanitary sewer system. Theobald stated 10%-15% is what WHKS has seen in most cities. Holmes asked what the best place to discharge sump pumps would be. Theobald stated that drain tiles behind the back of curbs is the ideal location for discharge. Some streets do not have drain tiles in the back of curb. Therefore, the lines need to drain into the yard, or in certain circumstances, the street (depending upon local ordinances).

D) Todd Greseth, Goodhue County Commissioner, reported on:

1) March 13th is Townships Day. The day includes annual meeting and elections of officers.

2) County is still in discussions on Transfer Station. They are not money makers and may be difficult to turn over operations directly to private sector. Goodhue County may still need to be involved in the operations. It will be a fight to open back up the Wanamingo location for a transfer station after the demolition landfill was closed in late 2023. There are a number options in discussion including ½ days per month where roll off dumpster could be present at the Goodhue County Public works location in Kenyon. There is also an option to pull recycling out of Red Wing and place it in a centrally located municipal-

ity in the County. Currently, residents need take materials to Red Wing or go outside the County to locations such as Rochester. Holmes stated that it is nice to have a close location on the west half of the County.

3) There is frustration determining the 2025 Sheriff Policing Contract costs with Cities such as Wanamingo, Goodhue, Pine Island, and Dennison. The costs keep increasing with area pay studies and other inflationary items. Boulton asked if the board still plans to have numbers by May. Greseth thought that the plan was still on track for May. There have also been discussions on SRO contracts with the two school districts in the County. The costs for the SRO contracts are increasing similar to the policing contracts with Cities.

Mayor Holmes thanked the election judges that served during the Presidential Nomination Primary (PNP) from on March 5th. Mayor Holmes stated that judges served in two shifts but some had served more than 15 hours that day. There were 142 votes cast in Wanamingo.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION:

David Jacobsen, Jacobsen Law Firm, P.A. - Wanamingo City Attorney:

1) Provided a written 2023 summary of criminal attorney services

2) City of Wanamingo pays \$1,200/month for prosecution services and \$600/month for civil work to Jacobsen Law Firm, P.A.

3) Law firm has been handling prosecution since 2011 and civil since 2014. Currently has one attorney (Daivid), one semi-retired attorney (Mike Hero), has two full-time paralegals (Suzy Bergquist, and Shelley Klemensen), and one contract paralegal

(Michele Viken).

4) Gave breakdown of Prosecuted Offenses within City of Wanamingo - 22 offenses (12 traffic and 10 community offenses). 17 of the 22 cases have been closed.

5) There were 104 hours dedicated towards prosecution for the City of Wanamingo in 2023

6) The City of Wanamingo received \$1,247.82 in fine revenue after Goodhue County and State of MN received their shares of total fines.

7) Civil attorney work included: supported staff, reviewed Council packets, drafted ordinances (Cannabis Moratorium, Native Landscaping, and NSPM Electrical Franchise Agreement), lot split/parcel combinations, personnel advice, building permit enforcement, fire department by-laws update, fire hall space lease agreements for WiFi, Habitat land purchase and development agreement, MPCA enforcement consultation, and provided advice to Council and Staff.

24-022 = Approving 2024 2nd Quarter Maintenance Work Plan: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 4-0-0.

24-023 = Certifying Delinquent Utility Bills and Other Services to the Goodhue County Auditor for Collection with 2025 Real Estate Taxes: Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Boulton stated that the original certification list included four parcels. This twice a year process pushes those behind to get paid up. The list narrowed to two for certification. Mayor Holmes asked if anyone wished to contest the certifications. No input was given.

Passed 4-0-0.

24-024 = Approving North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District (NZSSD) Land Purchase Agreement: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Boulton stated that the land is the first choice on location (across the Zumbro River and east of the current Zumbro WWTP). There is 43.5 acres of land proposed to be purchased for \$957,000 (\$22,000/acre). Passed 4-0-0.

24-025 = Calling for a Public Hearing on the Wanamingo Portion of the North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District Facility Plan: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 4-0-0.

24-026 = Approving a John Deere 331P Compact Track Skid Loader Lease and Service Agreement With Midwest Machinery Co: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 4-0-0.

24-027 = Approving Support for a North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility G.O. Bonding Bill Request: Flotterud moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. Boulton stated that the capital request is for \$44.8 million. The \$44.8 million is half of the costs minus the \$10 million received in 2023 from the State. The total project costs, with inflation, is \$109.6 million. Passed 4-0-0.

(continued on page 17)

Do You Have A Story Idea?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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.



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Wanamingo City Council Meeting

(continued from page 16)

OLD BUSINESS:

Enforcement Process – Mead Johnson - Reckitt – 90 day written letter toward meeting goal of waste pH – Boulton stated that the City had received a letter from Mead Johnson – Reckitt which reiterated the work that had been done, to date, since April 2023 to present including conducting plant inspection, wastewater mapping validation and chemical consumption, installed 24-hour pH sampler, onsite tracking of pH levels and reporting to City, using contractor to clean out solids in sewer pipelines in June and October 2023, modification of sedimentation process, and pH adjustment of the hydration wastewater discharge, cleaning of the lift station, and a frac tank and required connections were added to the system which allow for pH adjustments before discharge. Mead Johnson – Reckitt is continuing pH monitoring and cleaning of the pipes. In the long term they are designing a pH monitor and treatment station. They are also working toward design and installation of a new lift station with pH treatment. Boulton stated that the Wanamingo staff are still monitoring the wastewater discharge from Reckitt-Mead Johnson. There were consistent high pH levels measuring between 9.5-11.5 in February. Boulton stated that the production lines have been shut down most of the months of December and January

and back on in February. Kennedy stated that the plant can handle high pH levels rather than low pH levels. Kennedy stated that the microbiological bugs are dead on the north side digester where Reckitt/Mead Johnson flow comes into. Kennedy stated that the main part of the facility is running well. Kennedy stated that the numbers were worse earlier in the month and better in the second half of the month. Prior to December results have regularly shown extremely low and at times high pH levels along with the 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. The City continues to keep 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. Boulton stated that the City Council should enforcement actions if the pH levels are not consistently within the 5.0 to 9.5 range. Kennedy stated that March will be a big month to see where the consistent pH levels are for Reckitt/Mead Johnson. Boulton stated the Enforcement Process would be left on the monthly agenda until November 2024, or when the action items are completed. Boulton stated the Mead Johnson -Reckitt would be required to provide written monthly updates to the City Council.

Administrator Boulton provided an investments of funds update. The City of Wanamingo has a CD (Certificate of Deposit), created in 2018 with \$100,000, that yields a 0.8% interest. City staff checked into breaking and creating a new CD at today's market rates. State Bank was able to

help with an early withdrawal the \$104,112.63 CD and created a new CD with the current 13-month special rates of 5.09%. This will net \$5,299.33 in interest in the next 13 months. The on CD would only have net \$832.90 in the same time period.

The City had created four (4) \$250,000 CDs with 13-month special interest rate of 4.5% in April 2023. The CD's mature in early May 2024. City Staff spoke with Security State Bank on future investments of the roughly \$1,045,000 (\$45,000 interest) after the CDs mature. Security State Bank would like the City to continue to have the deposit and are willing to offer another special interest rate CD for what the going rate interest is in May.

The current special interest rate is 7-month 5.09%. The City Staff will work with Security State Bank in late April regarding the new investment of funds.

The interest earned will be accounted for under the general fund. These investments should leave plenty of funds for cash flow in checking account. The checking account, new CD's, the current CD, and money market funds diversify the City investments.

Administrator Boulton provided a memo on the hot water pressure washer purchase. The City maintenance staff have requested a hot water pressure washer for the past five years.

The Council placed the pressure washer in the capital improvements plan for purchase in 2024 and in the 2024 budget. The City owns a 2001 Alkota 3-gallon 3,000 PSI mobile pressure washer. The City has also borrowed other local business's pressure washers in the past to complete larger projects such as the swimming pool. The City staff have been able to order parts to repair and maintain the Alkota pressure washer (Express Pressure Washer – Blooming Prairie). There are a number of tasks that would be better suited for a hot water mobile pressure washer. Some of these projects would be completed sooner with a second pressure washer. The list includes preparation work for painting at the swimming pool, pressure washing the mildew off the stucco Medical Center Building, cleaning the mildew off the Riverside Park playground equipment, and pressure washing the grease/grime/dirt off the street department equipment (specifically the pay loaders).

The pressure washer that the City owns does not have hot water with soaping capa-

bility. Projects trying to remove mildew, grease, grime, and caked on dirt require hot water and soap to remove from surfaces. The pressure washer is powered by a gas engine. The City looked into a 4-gallon 3,000+ PSI hot water pressure washer in 2022. The cost was roughly \$7,000 and the City ultimately did not purchase the pressure washer due to budget constraints. Larger model pressure washers require 220 40-amp plug-ins. The City shop has the necessary 220-Volt 40-amp plug ins. The Swimming Pool, Medical Center Building, and Street Shop have 220-Volt into the buildings but would need some electrical box upgrades and new 40-amp plug-ins installed. City staff spoke with Shane Electric which provided an estimated of roughly \$1,000 to make the necessary upgrades and plug adaptor.

The maintenance staff reached out to American Pressure Inc. (Robbinsdale) who have two floor model 2020 STP 3.5 GPM 2000 PSI 230V 1 Phase HW DD for \$4,495 plus the attachments package for an additional \$599. Other add-ons would include auto start/stop, hose reel platform, 100-foot hose reel, 100-foot pressure hose, 5-foot jump hose from pressure washer to hose reel, and live pressure swivel. The 2020 floor model comes with the standard 1-year warranty. This is slightly smaller than the 4-gallon 3,000+ PSA pressure washers that were considered in 2022. However, the cost for the larger models have increased from roughly \$7,000 to \$9,800 (State bid). The 2020 floor model is the best cost-effective route to purchase the necessary pressure washer in 2024. City staff purchased the floor model 2020 STP 3.5 GPM 2000 PSI 230V 1 Phase HW DD for \$4,495 plus the attachments package for an additional \$599. Flotterud asked about purchasing a portable generator rather than upgrading electric outlets at buildings. Kennedy stated that he was open to assistance in sizing the correct generator to see if it would be more cost effective than the upgrades and plug adaptor. Flotterud stated that he would assist with the process.

*Next City Council meeting on 4/8/2024 at 7:00pm.

Adjourn: At 7:59PM a motion to adjourn was made by Dierks and seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor
Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator



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Commissioners Corner

Greetings to District 3

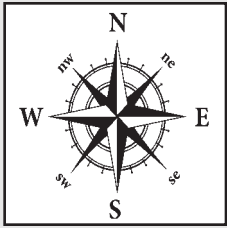
I hope you all had a nice Easter and we are all looking forward to warmer weather. Goodhue County is looking at a \$15 million dollar construction season this year so please be patient with our road crews. The landfill is still a work in progress, and we are looking at what would be the best option for the short term and the long term for our county and residents. We are going through some personal changes with our management team, we have job changes and retirements happening and I am very confident with our administration and HR department that these changes will not interrupt our daily operations. We are holding our May county board meeting in Kenyon on the 7th so if you wanted an opportunity to attend a meeting without the long drive please stop at the city hall at 9:00am on the 7th. I want to thank all our veterans for their service and a special thanks to Ken Axelson who just celebrated his 100th birthday and his 79th anniversary of his liberation from the prison camp during WWII. As always please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you, Todd Greseth



Todd Greseth
Goodhue County
Commissioner
District 3

Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Rock and Roll Hotel



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.

We like going to rock concerts. One of our favorite bands is the southern rock group, Blackberry Smoke. Always a great show every time we see them and we are willing to travel see them perform. So, when my wife got tickets to see Charlie and Benji doing an acoustic two man show in Decatur, Alabama I was ready to go.

The Princess theater was a four-hour drive from our home in Tennessee, so we figured an overnight trip was in order. Driving back in the middle of the night after a show is not fun anymore. She booked a hotel overlooking the Tennessee River, the same river that our home in Tennessee is on. I am a farm boy and she is a city girl. Hence a room on the fifth floor seems like a great idea to her but not so much to me. A great view is not as important as keeping my feet on the ground.

When we checked in at the front desk a couple came in behind us. She was young, excited all and caught up in the moment. Her boyfriend was Benji Shank's brother and they were opening for the band that night. And here were fans coming to see the show and her exuberance could hardly be contained. Her boyfriend gave her the look like she was a bad dog. Maintain your composure and don't interact with the common folk. She suddenly looked a little downcast. After I saw their performance, I thought he should have let her have her 15 minutes. They were a long

way from the level of talent required for anyone to notice or remember them.

We ate at the Magic Mushroom pizza restaurant just around the corner from the theater, saw a great show and headed back to the hotel. That is where the events got a little weird. At 2am I was jolted out of a sound sleep. And nothing to do with mushrooms, either.

I woke up to a strange popping sound and then smelled smoke. I sat up and looked at the cabinet where the television was mounted and saw smoke rolling out of the door. I looked at the hotel room door and realized it was partially open. My next epiphany was that my wife wasn't there. I am sitting on the edge of a bed in a hotel room, alone on the fifth floor with windows that I already knew wouldn't open. There was a burning smell, smoke rolling out of the credenza in front of me and still an occasional popping sound. The door was propped open and my wife was nowhere to be found. My mind processed the information and analyzed that she wouldn't have fled a fire without waking me up. I hoped anyway. I opened the cabinet door to find a microwave complete with a microwave popcorn package inside way past the two minutes necessary to pop the popcorn properly. In fact, it was just about to the point where it would set a hotel room on fire.

Now I have been able to wake up out of a deep sleep to run out and chase cattle in the middle of the night. But this event was giving my brain a while to process. At the moment none of it made any sense. Fortunately, at this point my wife walked back in the door to explain the circumstances I was witness to. She wanted a snack in the middle of the night and started the popcorn, when she realized we had no drinks in the hotel room so she headed out the door to the vending machine around the corner which turned out to not be operating so she took the elevator down to the next floor to find a soda, and at that time not realizing that the microwave had been set to twenty minutes instead of two. Since hotel rooms always smell pretty funky anyway, the burned popcorn was kind of an improvement. It didn't set off the smoke alarm so we were able to resolve the incident without anymore excitement. The popcorn was beyond edible, but there was still the leftover pizza.

A Minnesotan: Matters of Turkeys and Armadillos



By RosaLin Alcoser

Over the years I have discussed geese, ducks and of course goats. However, what I have yet to discuss are turkeys.

My current neighborhood has a roaming gang of wild turkeys that has at least ten members. Which I go to great lengths to avoid as they are wild turkeys. With good cause too as I once watched them chase a college student down the street. As I watched from my living room window it got me thinking about two encounters that I've had with wild turkeys. Except mine were both out in rural Minnesota rather than being chased down a Twin Cities suburban street.

My first encounter was when I was about

five or six years old. I had gone with my father to the farm of one of his church members at the time. This particular member did not keep a dog but still needed something to keep wild animals out of his chickens. So he kept an attack turkey.

This attack turkey was a big old Tom that was roughly the same size that I was at the time. And this turkey did his job well and pretty much attacked anything that it saw. Including me.

Well that big old Tom came running at me and I ran as fast as my little legs could carry me until it was called off. It felt like I had been chased forever. In reality it probably only chased me for all of one to two minutes but it felt like forever.

About 10 years later I had my second encounter with a wild turkey. I was walking outside with my mother and sister when I saw something stirring in the brush out of the corner of my eye. Then suddenly it moved and like any logical person would do I screamed "Armadillo!" Well the screaming caused it to fly up into the air right in front of me. To which I screamed again "Flying armadillo!"

Of course as this is Minnesota and not the South it was in fact not an armadillo nor can armadillos of any kind fly. As you might have already guessed it was in fact a turkey. More especially it was a mother hen who thought I was after her nest and was doing her best to get me to move away from it.



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Security State Bank of Wanamingo Announces Appointment of Scott G. Peterson as *President & Chief Executive Officer*

Security State Bank of Wanamingo, a full-service community bank, today announced that Scott G. Peterson has been promoted to President and Chief Executive Officer. Peterson has more 10 years of experience in senior management. He joined the bank in 2020 and is currently serving as the senior banker in the Agriculture and Commercial Lending Departments.

Jeff Davidson, Chairman of the bank's holding company, Wanamingo Bancshares Inc., expressed "Scott's knowledge of the bank and local communities made him an ideal choice to lead Security State Bank of Wanamingo. The board has great confidence in Scott and is excited to begin a new phase of growth under his leadership."

Peterson has a B.A. in Economics from the University of Minnesota and a deep background in agricultural business. Peterson is currently working on his master's degree from the University of South Dakota in Business Administration with a specialization in finance. His background and enthusiasm for embracing a culture of innovation aligns perfectly with the company's core values and will be instrumental in driving continued growth and improvement.

The board would also like to express a deep thank you to long-term employee Nancy Benrud. Her service as Interim President allowed the board to make a well thought out decision about the direction of the bank's leadership. Nancy will remain involved with the company in an administrative role after the transition is complete.

About Security State Bank of Wanamingo:

With over 100 years of providing financial services, Security State Bank of Wanamingo is a full-service commercial bank providing its expertise to the communities of Southeastern Minnesota. Security State Bank of Wanamingo has a long history of supporting local communities and continues to provide creative financial solutions to clients. The company has 11 employees and an asset size of \$85 million in 2023. Please visit <https://www.ssbwanamingo.com/> for more information.



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