



Mainstreet Messenger™

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APRIL 24, 2024

Volume 21 • Issue 4

Farmers Market Returns to Dennison May 29

The Dennison Farmers Market will return Wednesdays beginning May 29th.

Besides including Fresh Garden veggies as they come in season, the market includes baked goods, handmade crafts and more.

The Market will be located on Main Street again this year.

Anyone interested in being a vendor at the market can e mail Heidi at: dennisonfarmersmarket@gmail.com

Garden Tractor Pull Returns to Dennison Days

The annual Dennison Days Festival takes place Friday and Saturday, June 21 & 22.

The Gopher State Garden Tractor Pullers will return to main street Friday Evening on Mainstreet in Dennison hosted by 625 Bar & Grill. More information is available at www.gsgtp.com.

Following the pull, Russ Franek and The

Biscuits will take the stage to entertain event goers Friday Night. The Kids Pedal Pull returns Saturday morning this year, and will take place on main street at 11 AM Saturday Morning as part of a full day of events during the festival. Live Music Saturday evening from Shane Martin will round out a full day of events on June 22nd. A full schedule of events will be available soon at

www.dennisondays.org and will appear in The Messenger and websites soon.

Pictured to the right: Russ Franek and The Biscuits will be a part of Dennison Days playing Friday night after the garden tractor pull on main street.



Rice County Steam & Gas Annual Flea Market & Swap Meet May 25th & 26th

The Rice County Steam & Gas Show has announced their annual Swap Meet and Flea Market for May 25th & 26th. A full line up of events are included.

New flea market vendors are welcome. check out their website and facebook page for more information. www.ricecountysteamandgas.com

Jacey Saemrow and Karlie DeGrood Crowned 2024 Rice County Dairy Princesses



Jacey Saemrow and Karlie DeGrood were selected Rice County Dairy Princesses for 2024 at the Rice County Dairy Princess Banquet on March 23rd.

(additional picture on page 5)

Announcements

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

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

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

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

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

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



The 2024 Goodhue County Dairy Princesses, Natalie Clemenson & Evelyn Scheffler

2024 Goodhue County Dairy Royalty Crowned

The 2024 Goodhue County Dairy Royalty was crowned at the annual family Princess Banquet on Saturday, March 30th at Bridget's Cafe in Zumbrota. Crowned princesses were Natalie Clementson and Evelyn Scheffler, both of Zumbrota.

Natalie Celmentson, daughter of Brian and Tiffany Clementson is currently a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls majoring in Dairy Science. **Evelyn Scheffler**, daughter of Tony and Maizie Scheffler, is a freshman at South Dakota State University majoring in Dairy Production. Both young women are also active in 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl and Dairy Judging teams, FFA, and agricultural clubs at their respective universities.

(continued on page 5)

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 12th • Serving 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Call 507-645-9992 for Reservations

- Reservations Highly Suggested -

- JOIN US FOR OUR SPECIAL BREAKFAST AND BRUNCH MENU -

Regular Menu Available 3:00-Close



37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN
Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 AM-8:30 PM
Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM-9:30 PM; Sunday 9:00 AM-8:00 PM
Bar Open Later

507-645-9992 • www.firesidelounge.net



Save the Date!



DENNISON DAYS

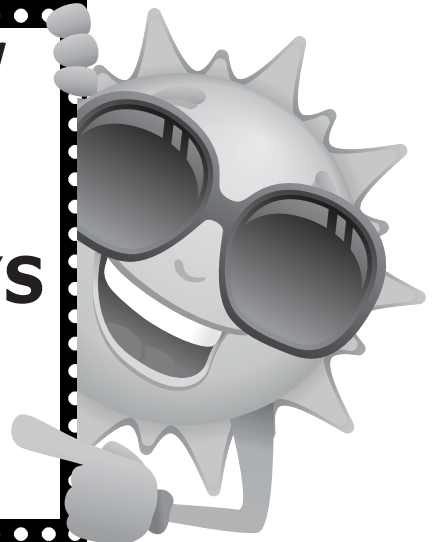
JUNE 21-22, 2024

Be Part of the 2024 Celebration!

Contact The Dennison Lions Club

Watch for updates at

www.dennisondays.org



Salt and Light



By Loren Bauer
Assistant Pastor, Hauge Church

I recently preached a sermon on Matthew 5:13-16, Salt and Light. For me, it was an eye-opener. God's word drew me to examine myself. Am I salt and light to the world? Am I a distinct Christian? Do people that I come in contact with daily know I'm a follower of Lord Jesus? What kind of presence do I have

around people? Honestly, I fall short of God's glorious standard. We all do. But God, who is rich in mercy, enables us to be distinct in the world. To be salt. Salt that adds flavor, is pure, distinct, and preserves. Light to the world. Light that shines in the darkness, distinct, unmistakable, and set for all to see. God is light and we must manifest God. The Word of God is light and we must manifest The Word. And Jesus is light, so we must manifest Jesus. My intent on writing this is plain and simple. Matthew chapter five starts with the beatitudes. And these are the characteristics, expectations that followers of Jesus are to have as members of His kingdom. And as members of the kingdom of God, we are to be distinct in the world. To stand out in a dark world. To preserve the decay in a dying world. 1st Peter 2:9-10; "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praise of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the peo-

ple of God, once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." I pray that we openly declare His praise as we live the beatitude life in the open. A city on a hill

is seen because of many lights. Collectively as a body of believers, let us be distinct in the world.

Garden Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: May 11, 18 • Sundays: May 12, 19

Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

Take a drive in the country and shop in our log cabin filled with crafts and antiques!

TRUST US TO PROTECT FARMERS

It's planting season and your local farmers are back on the road. Prioritize their safety and yours - drive carefully. Trust in Tomorrow.®

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LUTHERAN

Dennison/Vang Lutheran Parish
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN • 507-645-6042
Website: www.dennisonvang.org
Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com
Pastor Paul A. Graham

Gol Lutheran Joe Jorgensen, Pastor
507-838-2100
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. April-June

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

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

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

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

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

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

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

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.

METHODIST

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

Stanton United Methodist
Rev. Tom Countryman
Worship 10:15a.m.
Church Phone 507-321-3598

ST. JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Wheeling Township) 19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault
Gary Liker, Pastor • 507-330-0025
www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info
Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

NEW LIFE CHURCH

525 Beverly St., Wanamingo
9:00a.m. Sunday School for all ages;
10:00a.m. Worship Service
7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

HOLDEN-DALE PARISH

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

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

Shirley E. Little

Shirley E. Little, age 88, of Faribault, died at her home on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, following an extended illness.



Funeral services were held at St. John's United Church of Christ, Wheeling Township on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. The Reverend

Gary Liker officiated. Interment was at Meadow Ridge Memorial Park, Faribault.

Visitation was held at Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault on Friday, April 12, 2024, from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. and for one hour prior to the service at the church.

Shirley E., daughter of Lawrence Wayne and Zelda Myrtle (Osborn) Saxton was born on July 11, 1935, in Swea City, IA. She attended Kasson High School where she graduated salutatorian in 1953. She married Donald Eugene Little on September 26, 1954, in Sherburn, MN. She was a farm wife and dedicated partner in Donshir Farm for many years. Prior to life on the farm, Shirley was employed by Josten's in Owatonna. Following the dispersal of Donshir Farm Holsteins in 1987, she worked at Gustafson Catering, Farmer's Seed and Nursery, and Norwest Bank Operations; she retired from the State Bank of Faribault in 2006. She belonged to St. John's UCC, where she served on the church council, sang in the choir, taught Sunday school, served as a youth leader, and was an active member of the Women's Guild. She volunteered with 4-H, Holstein clubs, the State Bank, and Faribault Area Hospice. Wife of 43 years; mom, grandma, great grandma, taxi driver, referee, and friend.

She is survived by her children, Dr. Daniel (Patricia) Little of St. Peter, Cindy (Jim) Raimann of Minnesota Lake, Brian Little (Jeanne Wahlstrom) of Blaine, Annette (Steven) Kuball of Warsaw, Zachery (Amanda) Little of Rosemount, Yvonne (Thomas) Eggert of Woodbury, and Carrie (Matthew) Hess of Burnsville; 25 grandchildren; 24 great grandchildren; brother, Richard (Crystal) Saxton of Fairmont; sister-in-law, Arlene Saxton of Fairmont; foster brother, Ralph (Ger) Saxton of Las Vegas, NV; special cousin, Donna Wilson; brothers-in-law, Neil Wobschall, Douglas Little; sisters-in-law, Doris Bickel, Carol Little; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1998; parents; brother, LeRoy Saxton, and sister, Sylvia Saxton, both in infancy; brother, Ellis Saxton; foster brothers, Willis Saxton, Merrill Neubert; nephew, Bruce Saxton; parents-in-law, George and Alice Little; brothers-in-law, Lloyde (Ruth) Little, Robert (Nona) Little, Harold Little, Stanley Little, Wayne (Elvy) Little, Jerry Bickel; sisters-in-law, Hazelle (Bill) Williams, Betty (Duke) DuChene, Florence Wobschall, Anna Mae Little.

Memorials preferred to the Faribault Area Hospice Foundation, or St. John's UCC.

Daniel Swanson

Daniel Swanson, age 77 of Minnetonka (formerly of Dundas), passed away at his home on Tuesday morning, April 9.



Danny was born on May 3, 1946 in Faribault, the son of Carl and Dorothy (Jones) Swanson.

Danny attended Northfield High School where he met the love of his life, Gloria Amy; the pair were united in marriage on December 30, 1965 and they shared 50 years of dedication to one another before Gloria's passing in 2016. Their journey included his time in the Navy, having two beautiful daughters, building a business in Texas, coming back home to Minnesota, building a life in Minnetonka and an amazing career with the City of Minnetonka, where he retired and his final years after retirement were spent with his girls, grandkids, dancing, fishing, friends and family on Clearwater Lake and traveling to Mississippi visiting his fiancé, Sandy, and making new friends.

Danny is survived by his daughters, Wanda (Dan) Crews and Mychelle (Ryan) Jones; grandchildren, Joshua Anderson & Jessica Crews as well as Ally & Patrick Jones; siblings, Clancy, Elaine, & Terry Swanson; his fiancé, Sandy Shaw; as well as his nieces, nephews, other extended family, and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Gloria; parents, Carl and Dorothy; and a brother, Carl.

A Celebration of Danny's Life with many stories (as he would want) was held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, April 17 at the Bierman, Benson, & Langehough Funeral Home of Northfield. Visitation was held from one hour prior to the service from 12:00 to 1:00. Interment with Military Honors was held at Prairie Creek Cemetery. Everyone was invited to join the family at Fireside Lounge & Supper Club in Dennison for a luncheon after burial. www.northfieldfuneral.com

Arrangements are with Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home & Crematory. www.northfieldfuneral.com

Gerald R. Hanson

Gerald R. Hanson, age 80, of Rosemount, died Thursday, April 11, 2024, at his home.



Memorial services were held at Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

Interment was at Moland Cemetery, rural Kenyon. Military honors were provided by the Rice County Central Veterans. Visitation was for one hour prior to the service on Monday.

Gerald Russell, the son of Clarence L. and Genevieve (Burbach) Hanson, Sr., was born

on January 6, 1944, in Red Wing. Jerry graduated from Northfield High School and soon after he was ordered to serve in the United States Army, he continued to serve his country in the Army Reserves. He married Sandra J. Flom on June 1, 1963, in Faribault and they made their home in Rosemount. Sandra preceded him in death in 2012. Jerry worked for Greif Bros Corp for over 36 years as a supervisor. Trips to the casino, fishing and vacationing in Ft. Meyers Beach, Florida were his favorite things to do.

Survivors include his children, Scott Hanson, Cheryl (and Al) King, Valerie Howe and Amy (and Brent) Luedtke; nine grandchildren; five great grandchildren; sisters, Judy (and Harold) Parker and Sharon Heine; other relatives and friends.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, Genevieve and Clarence Hanson; wife, Sandra and brothers, Clarence Jr., Ronald, Henry and Allen.

Craig "Craiger" Pumper

Craig "Craiger" Pumper, age 69, of Northfield, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis.



Craig Steven Pumper was born on June 25, 1954, in Northfield to Joseph

and Dorothy (Malecha) Pumper. He graduated from Northfield High School before serving his country with distinction in the Army National Guard for a decade, concluding his service in 1980. He worked for his dad at Joe's Plumbing and Heating for over 20 year, continued working in various construction roles until starting work at Wanzek Construction in the early 2000s and would continue working there until retiring in 2019. He was a hard worker and knew a little bit about everything. His heart found its match in Donna Berres, whom he met at a dance at the Armory in Northfield. Their dance continued through life as they wed on October 1, 1977. Together they built a home and a family in Northfield.

Craig's joy was multiplied with the arrival of each grandchild. He took great pleasure in attending their games and sharing his pas-

sions with them, always eager to teach them how to fish or hunt. Craig's enthusiasm for life shone brightly through his interests. An avid fisherman, he treasured excursions to Lake Mille Lacs among other fishing spots. His dedication to hunting was evident in his more than three decades of trips to Montana, where he also built and maintained a cherished cabin. A sports fan at heart, he cheered vigorously for the Twins and the Wild.

Handy with his hands, Craig found relaxation in working on his Polaris Ranger, always cleaning and tinkering, ensuring everything he touched worked just a bit better. His sense of humor and undeniable knack for fixing things made him the go-to man in any situation.

As we say farewell to a man who brightened every room, we are comforted by the countless memories and the love that Craig bestowed upon the world. He will be dearly missed and forever cherished.

Survivors include his wife, Donna; four children: Matt (Deena Otto) of Northfield, Angie (Rafael) Perez of Northfield, Jon (Mandy) of Victoria, and Jake (Cate) of Victoria; and Jamie Olson of Cambridge; grandchildren Ashton, Collin, Cohen, Cash, Bella, Corbin, Evalyn, Ava, Phoebe, Noella, Addison, and Roman; mother, Dorothy of Northfield; siblings, Colleen (Tom) of Wisconsin Dells, Daniel (Nancy) of Northfield, Joel (Jeanne) Pumper of Northfield, Corrine (Fred) Beumer of Cannon Falls, Kaylene (Phillip) Little of Faribault, Keith (Nina) of Northfield, Lauren (Lance) Snedrud of Northfield and Jeffrey (Shari) of Owatonna; other family members and friends. He preceded in death by his father, Joseph Pumper and son Andrew.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 AM, Monday, April 22, 2024 at the Church of St. Dominic, Northfield. Visitation was 2-5 PM, Sunday, April 21, 2024, at the Church of St. Dominic and continued one hour prior to the service. A reception followed the service at the church.

Arrangements are with the Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home & Crematory. www.northfieldfuneral.com

(obituaries continued on page 4)

Traxler Law PLLC

traxlerlaw.com

Ann Traxler Attorney

PRACTICE AREAS

- Wills, Trusts, & Estates
- Farm and Business Transition Planning
- General Practice
- Probate

4359 Cty. 11 Blvd.
Kenyon, MN 55945
507-405-0420
ann@traxlerlaw.com

Saturday May 18

N

erstrand Night out

5:00-
10:00
PM

Hog Roast

At the Nerstrand Fire Hall

Proceeds benefit Advance \$20
Nerstrand Charter \$25 at the door.

School
18+

Food/Drinks

Auction

Beer/Wine
Pull

Music

Dancing

For more information, please email Executive Director Nicole at nnicol@nerstrand.org x13 ml mn us

Melvin A. Edelbach, Jr.

Melvin A. Edelbach, Jr., 79 of Kellogg, passed away Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at Mayo Clinic – St. Mary's Campus, Rochester, MN. Melvin Allan was born February 4, 1945, in Waumandee, WI to Wilma (Fink) and Melvin Edelbach, Sr. He grew up in the Buffalo County, WI area. On April 18, 1966 he married Sharon R. Kelly and together they raised six daughters: Jeanine, Linda, Lisa, Lori, Nancy, and Cindy.

Melvin enjoyed hobby farming and logged with his brother William for many years until a near fatal injury in 2009. A skilled wood crafter and tinkerer. A faithful member of the United Church of God. He loved spending time with his family and grandkids. He set such a great example for his family in his faith, work ethic and honesty.

He is survived by his wife Sharon; daughters: Jeanine Case; Linda (Ted) Gamble; Lisa (Todd) Fox; Lori (Brad) Passe; Nancy (Steve) Shanahan; and Cindy (Darrin) Dillinger; 13 grandchildren: Shane, Vachelle, Katey, Matt, Raleigh, Breena, Isabel, Jack, Luke, Grant, Austin, Tyler, and Trent; one great grandson Revan; four step-grandchildren: Dan, Toni, Emily, Adam; 10 step-great grandchildren: Logan, Ian, Hannah, Mason, Johnelvis, Owen, Christopher, Gianni, Easton, Ashton; a sister Ellen Amy and many other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a granddaughter Melanie; a grandson Dustyn; and eight siblings: Loren, Dawn, William, Russell, Shirley, Ivy, Marvin and Jesse.

A visitation was held from 10 am to 12 pm, Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at Abbott Funeral Home, Wabasha, Interment was at Hillside Cemetery, Minneiska, MN.

Services entrusted to Abbott Funeral Home & Crematory, Wabasha, MN. Words of sympathy or remembrance may be left at www.abbottfh.com

Jerry Robert Hubbard

Jerry Robert Hubbard, age 76, passed away on Friday morning, April 12, at the Minnesota Veteran's Home in Minneapolis. Jerry was born on November 13, 1947 in Northfield, the son of James 'Jim' and Maxine (Marshall) Hubbard, Sr. Jerry graduated from Northfield High

School in 1966 and went on to attend two years at Mankato State College as well as two years at the Northwest Technical Drafting School where he received a degree in architectural drafting in 1970.

Jerry married the love of his life, Elizabeth 'Jane' (Errington) Hubbard, on March 14, 1969 at the First United Church of Christ in Northfield and they made their homes during their fifty-five years of marriage in Minneapolis and Bloomington, Minnesota; Manhattan and Junction City, Kansas; and

Shakopee, Minnesota before making their way back home to Northfield, for good, in 1976.

Jerry was inducted into the United States Army in January of 1971 and completed his basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; he was then stationed as an MP in the 1st Infantry Division (Big Red 1) at Fort Riley, Kansas, throughout his active duty. Jerry was proud to serve his country until his honorable discharge from Army active duty in October of 1972. He continued serving as an Army Reservist until 1977.

Jerry accumulated over 35 years of dedication and hard work to College City Beverage, in various capacities over his career, before his final position as a draught technician, that dated back to his part-time work there as a teenager. Jerry was proud to be a member of the American Legion for 40 years; he was also a member of the Waterford Warriors Snowmobile Club and Ducks Unlimited.

Outside of work, Jerry was a devoted husband, dad, and grandpa as well as an avid outdoorsman. He cherished every moment spent outdoors hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, or riding his Harley Davidson. Woodworking, and tinkering with model cars, trains, or anything he could get his hands on in the garage were also favorite activities. Memorable staples in Jerry's life included family holidays, vacations, a trip through the Black Hills when the kids were young, several trips with Jane to Sturgis for the motorcycle rally, two ventures to Hawaii with Jane, and spending time on the waters of both Crane Lake and Lake Mazaska with family and friends. He also held a special place for the family pets over the years namely Snoopy, Missy, Buff, Khan, and Nutmeg, the Siamese cats, and Pepper, the black lab.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Jane Hubbard; children, Nicole 'Nikki' (Jayson) Nelson and Trevor (Brittney) Hubbard; grandchildren, Sabrina and Jerrin Nelson and Brooklyn and Briggs Hubbard, all of Northfield; brothers, James 'Jim' Hubbard, Jr. of Tennessee, John 'Jack' (Linda) Hubbard of Wisconsin, and Jay (Susan) Hubbard of Florida; sister-in-law Mary Gale of Bloomington; as well as his nieces, nephews, other extended family, and friends. He was preceded in death by an infant son; his parents, James 'Jim' and Maxine Hubbard, Sr; and a sister-in-law, Verlie Hubbard, as well as his parents-in-law John and Laura (Gibson) Errington; brother-in-law, John 'Jack' Errington; and sister-in-law, Bev-

erly 'Bev' Coffey; and nephew Anthony 'Tony' Gale.

A Celebration of Jerry's Life will be held at 3:30 PM on Thursday, April 25 at the Northfield United Methodist Church. Visitation will be held on Wednesday evening, April 24 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Bierman, Benson, & Langehough Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to the Minnesota Veteran's Home of Minneapolis at the following link: <https://mn.gov/mdva/donate/minneapolis-donations.jsp>

Memorials may also be made to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation in memory of Jerry at the following link: https://give.bafound.org/site/Donation2?df_id=5231&mfc_pref=T&5231.donation=form1

Elouise Quinnell

It's with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Elouise on Friday, April 5th, at her beloved farm of 68 years, surrounded by her family. Born in Northfield, Elouise spent her formative years on her family farm in Dennison and was a faithful member of St. John's Lutheran Church from a young age.

Elouise's life changed when she met and married Milo Quinnell on June 24, 1950. Their journey together included travels with Milo during his military service, eventually settling down and purchasing their farm in 1956. Together, they raised six children, nurturing a home filled with love, laughter, and the aroma of Elouise's delicious cooking. She found joy in being a homemaker, taking pride in baking and cooking for her family and any unexpected guests who crossed their threshold.

Her days were filled with tending to the garden, caring for chickens, and selling fresh eggs, demonstrating a strong work ethic and a deep connection to the land. Remarkably,

she continued to mow the lawn well into her 90s, embodying resilience and determination.

Throughout their 67 years of marriage, Elouise and Milo shared countless precious moments. They enjoyed simple pleasures like bowling, neighborhood card parties, and dancing to their favorite polkas and waltzes, creating memories that will be cherished by their family for generations to come.

The family farm was not just a place to live but the heart of their family and a gathering place for friends. It was a testament to Elouise's dedication and love for her family, providing a nurturing environment where memories were made and traditions were honored.

Elouise lived independently on her farm until her final moments, a testament to her strength, resilience, and unwavering spirit. Though she may no longer be with us in body, her legacy of love, hard work, and cherished memories will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Elouise is survived by her children, Keith (Annalise) Quinnell, Scott (Sandy) Quinnell, Marybeth (Kent) Harris, Craig (MaryAnnette) Quinnell, Randy (Terri) Quinnell, Michelle (Chad) Weed; 12 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and two sisters Bel Quinnell and Janet (Jim) Topp. Elouise was preceded in death by her husband, Milo; parents, Elsie & Helmer Estrem; siblings, Willard Estrem, Ed Estrem, Barb Halvorson, and Lorraine Chavie; and grandson, David Quinnell.

Memorials can be directed to St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield.

A funeral service was held at 11 AM, Thursday, April 11, 2024, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield. Visitation was from 4-7 PM, Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home, and continued one hour prior to the service at the church. A reception followed the service. Interment was in Oaklawn Cemetery, Northfield.

Arrangements are with Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home & Crematory. www.northfieldfuneral.com



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Haferman
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2024 Goodhue County Dairy Royalty Crowned

(continued from page 1)

They are both members of the Goodhue County 4-H Dairy Judging team that will be traveling to the United Kingdom and Ireland in June to participate in international judging experiences.

Also recognized at the banquet were a group of young people who will be working as Goodhue County Dairy Ambassadors. Ambassadors work with the princesses at events to promote the dairy industry while developing their own skills in dairy promotion. Each of these youth are active participants within the dairy community or on their respective farms. Ambassadors Named ambassadors were the following:

- Troy Clementson, son of Brian & Tiffany Clementson of Zumbrota
- Hannah Gutknecht, daughter of Brian & Holly Gutknecht of Wanamingo
- Leetta O'Reilly, daughter of Ben & Britany O'Reilly of Goodhue
- Jenna O'Reilly, daughter of Chris O'Reilly & Abby O'Reilly of Goodhue.

The Dairy Princess competition is sponsored by the American Dairy Association of Goodhue County, which helps promote and educate the public on dairy products and their pro-



2024 Goodhue County Dairy Ambassadors (left to right) Troy Clemenson, Hannah Gutknecht, Leetta O'Reilly, & Jennah O'Reilly

duction. Candidates are chosen based on their communication skills, enthusiasm for

dairy promotion, and general knowledge of the dairy industry. Once crowned, the princesses will become good-will ambassadors for Goodhue County's dairy industry and its farmers. They and the ambassadors will spend the next year promoting the dairy industry at, schools, promotional events, and

community events and festivals. Each princess will also be encouraged to attend the Minnesota May Dairy Promotion and Leadership Event where they will have the opportunity to continue on towards competing for the title Minnesota's Princess Kay of the Milky Way in August.

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Jacey Saemrow and Karlie DeGroot Crowned 2024 Rice County Dairy Princesses



From left, dairy maid Ava Kelm, dairy maid Rae Duhme, dairy princess Karlie DeGroot, 2023 Princess Kay of the Milky Way Emma Kuball, dairy princess Jacey Saemrow, dairy maid Molly Albers and dairy maid Macy Albers at the Rice County Dairy Banquet on Saturday. Photo courtesy of Emma Kuball

Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin

Becoming a Farmer: First Steps

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 Tippi 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 appreciated.

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 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.



Mocha

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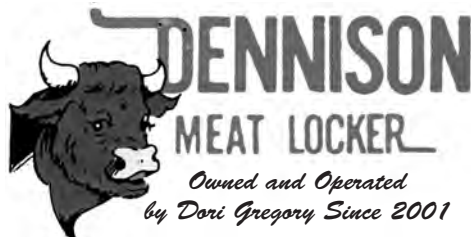
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Blue Harbor Boutique

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.

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



By Shauna Burshem, 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 degenerative 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 in-

trinsic 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 guid-

ance 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, Sinead 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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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 popula-

tion 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 'abnormal' 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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Spring Allergies



Dr. Neal Godse,
University of Minnesota Medical School
and M Health Fairview

As we say goodbye to winter and welcome in spring, it also signals the start of allergy season. The sneezing, itching and watery eyes accompanying spring allergies can overshadow the joy of the season.

Neal Godse, MD, with the University of Minnesota Medical School and M Health Fairview discusses spring allergies symptoms and strategies to keep it under control.

"Allergic rhinitis, a common condition affecting the nose, results from inflammation triggered by allergens like pollen and dust. Symptoms include congestion, sneezing, runny nose and itchy/watery eyes. If untreated, it can lead to other problems like fatigue, difficulty with focus and poor sleep. Treatment options include oral and topical antihistamines, nasal saline and topical steroid nasal sprays. These medicines help control the inflammation that allergens trigger and relieve symptoms. Be careful with long term use of oral or nasal decongestants. These can lead to damage of the lining of the nose and make issues like high-blood pressure worse."

"I advise patients to start taking an antihistamine and a topical steroid spray on a daily basis a few weeks before their allergy season starts to allow the medicine to build up in the lining of the nose and prevent the allergic inflammation from even starting. When symptoms persist despite these initial medicines, it may be worthwhile to seek evaluation to see whether our more advanced allergy treatment options may be beneficial."

"My team in the University of Minnesota Medical School's Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery is focused on understanding the inflammation underlying



allergic rhinitis and how it affects patients with other chronic inflammatory diseases of the nose and sinuses. We hope to improve patients' lives by providing targeted, comprehensive treatment for inflammatory disorders of the nose and sinuses."

Dr. Neal Godse is an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School

and a rhinologist and skull base surgeon at M Health Fairview. His research focuses on better understanding and treating patients with cancer of the nasal cavity and skull base. He is also interested in the novel applications of emerging technologies to patients with these issues and chronic inflammatory sinus disease.



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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 interconnectedness 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.

Free Entrance to Minnesota State Parks on April 27

Minnesotans are encouraged to explore outdoors with friends and family

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 74 state parks and recreation areas on Saturday, April 27.

This "Free Park Day" is one of four days each year on which the DNR waives the requirement for a vehicle permit at state parks and recreation areas. The four fee-free days are spread out over the year, giving folks an opportunity to visit a state park for free in each season of the year.

"Minnesota state parks and recreation areas are great places to make memories with loved ones," said Ann Pierce, director of the DNR Parks and Trails Division. "Spring is an ideal time to reconnect with the natural world and enjoy the beauty of Minnesota's state parks and recreation areas. I encourage visitors to look for signs of spring like early-blooming wildflowers, migrating birds, and the opening of green leaves on trees. Our goal is for those who visit on Free Park Day to be inspired to come back again soon."

Each spring, Free Park Day is held on the Saturday after Earth Day. Earth Day is a great time to remind visitors to always recreate responsibly to protect natural resources. For example:

Spring is a time of increased wildlife activity; respect wildlife by observing from a distance.

Please stay on trails when hiking or biking to avoid erosion and damage to sensitive plants and wildlife habitat.

Love the blooming spring wildflowers? Resist the urge to pick — take a photo instead. Leave flowers, rocks and other natural objects as they were found.

Interpretive naturalists at some park locations have planned programming for the Free Park Day. There is no cost to participate in these events. Find more details about these highlighted events or see the full state park events calendar online.

The DNR recommends visitors wear clothing appropriate for the weather and bring water and snacks. Spring brings a variety of weather conditions, and trails could be muddy. Check for updates in the visitor alerts on park websites.

While a vehicle permit is not needed for park admission on Free Park Days, additional fees for things like camping reservations and equipment rentals still apply.



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From Shoreline to Stream: Water Monitoring Volunteers Needed



By Emmie Scheffler,
District Technician

Minnesota is prided on being the land of 10,000 lakes. Did you also know that Minnesota has 83,000 miles of streams? That is a lot of water! These waterbodies offer a large number of benefits, ranging from wildlife habitat to recreational opportunities. The lakes and streams provide all these benefits to us, but who helps take care of the lakes and streams to ensure they are provided for?

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has been tasked with monitoring Minnesota lakes and streams for pollution and assisting with water health issues. With the high number of lakes and streams, that is a large task. The MPCA does not have the man-

power to monitor each of them every year. There has been an adopted approach to prioritize water monitoring based on the watershed level priorities and needs to help narrow down what MPCA staff and other partners are able to handle for monitoring.

This does not mean that monitoring on all the lakes and streams is not important and that is where local citizens come in. Citizens have been helping for 50 years with filling in gaps where monitoring is needed through the MPCA's Volunteer Water Monitoring Program. Last year, 1,367 volunteers helped with the task of monitoring Minnesota's lakes and streams.

Monitoring involves collecting samples twice a month or more during the summer. These samples are taken with a Secchi disk, a tube that measures water clarity and is provided by the MPCA. Lake monitors navigate by boat or paddle to predetermined locations on the lake to assess water clarity. Stream monitors collect data either from the stream-bank or from a bridge spanning over it.

Low clarity in streams can show excess sediment and in lakes excess algae. In order to track water quality trends over time, a minimum of eight years and 50 points need to be collected.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) relies on data collected by volunteers to assess whether lakes and streams adhere to water quality standards set to safeguard aquatic life and recreational pursuits such as fishing and swimming. At times,



volunteer-generated data constitutes the sole monitoring effort for specific water bodies, underscoring the vital role of volunteer contributions in our efforts to preserve the waters of Minnesota.

There are a large number of lakes and streams still needing monitoring in the Cannon River Watershed. If you are interested in these efforts, more information can be found at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/get-engaged/volunteer-water-monitoring>. No experience is needed and staff at Rice SWCD can come help show you how to monitor the first time if needed or are available if there are questions on other monitoring that has taken

place in the watershed. Feel free to reach out to our office at 507-332-5408.

Learn more about the program by watching this YouTube video:

<https://youtu.be/k11xzQ6N7EQ?si=zdwf-dUBavKIBY3PD>

Emmie Scheffler is a District Technician with the Rice Soil & Water Conservation District and is the Plan Administrator for the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. She also assists landowners and farmers with the implementation of soil erosion control practices and tree windbreaks. Contact Emmie with your questions at 507-332-5408.

Jeff Johnson Announces He Will Retire from KYMN Radio This Fall

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

Jeff Johnson of KYMN Radio announced that he intends to retire this fall.

Johnson, who purchased the station in 2008, has worked at KYMN for the better part of 37 years. During his tenure he has held many roles, including sports director, news director, and sales. He was the voice of Carleton College football for several years on this radio station.

When he took the reins as owner and General Manager, he also assigned himself the role of Morning Show host, where he has become a familiar voice to thousands of early-rising Northfielders.

As the owner, he said he has always sought to give the Northfield Community a voice and ensure that KYMN was always connected deeply to the community. He credited

his radio mentor for instilling that philosophy in him.

“Working for Wayne Eddy for 15 years you learn – Wayne really instilled the idea that you serve the community. Anybody can play music if they want to or say something dumb on social media, but being responsible, and being responsible toward the community is certainly something I learned from Wayne.”

Johnson has an agreement in place to sell the radio station to the current KYMN News Director, Rich Larson, who intends to keep that same commitment to strong, Northfield-centric programming.

Johnson said he intends to sign off sometime this fall. He will stay on at the station for now, helping Larson work through the ownership transition. After that, he said, he would like to leave Minnesota during the cold weather months, but he will never be far from Northfield.

“KYMN will always have a place in my heart, and I’ll never be too far from it. And I will be a listener from here on out. I’m going to be around here right through the summer, through the transition and maybe after Defeat of Jesse James days, start thinking about following the sun somewhere. I will not be a stranger.”



Jeff Johnson,
Owner & Host of
The Morning Show

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Anhydrous Safety Should be Top Concern This Spring

The MDA offers safety tips for those maintaining equipment and applying and transporting NH3

Many farmers and applicators will soon apply anhydrous ammonia (NH3) prior to planting or sidedress after planting. Even with a rush against time and the weather, safety should never be compromised. Accidents involving anhydrous ammonia have proven how dangerous and deadly the chemical can be when not handled properly.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is providing the following tips to farmers and applicators so they can safely apply anhydrous ammonia.

Always wear appropriate goggles and gloves. Never wear contact lenses.

Be sure to have a clean, adequate emergency water supply of at least 5 gallons.

Exercise caution when making connections and disconnections as if lines contain anhydrous ammonia.

Stand upwind when connecting, disconnecting, bleeding lines, or transferring NH3.

Also, close, bleed, disconnect, and secure valves and transfer lines when taking breaks or disconnecting lines, and be sure to handle the hose end valve by the valve body.

Position equipment away and downwind from homes, people, and livestock.

Safety is also key to those maintaining anhydrous ammonia equipment. Never assume NH3 lines are empty, always wear proper protective equipment, and have access to safety water.

When towing a nurse tank down the road, drive sensibly. Do not go any faster than 30 miles per hour, display a slow-moving vehi-

cle (SVM) emblem visible from the rear, and be sure the tank is secured to the tractor or truck with two separate, independent chains that supplement the hitch pin/clip.

If an accident or spill occurs, immediately

call 911 and then the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798 or 651-649-5451.

You can find more safety, storage, and transportation information on the MDA's website at www.mda.state.mn.us/nh3.

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Dundas Messenger Mainstreet Messenger Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock Messenger

Calling all Norwegians – Gathering of Descendants of Western Norway June 13-15th

We (Vestlandslag) are meeting for our annual stevne (convention) at the Urland Church, south of Cannon Falls June 13-15, and we are inviting you to join us. The Vestlandslag is an umbrella organization of 8 bygdelag (Hardangerlag, Møre og Romsdalslag, Nordhordlandslag / Sunnhordlandslag, Rogalandslag, Sogndalag, Sunnfjordlag, and Vosselag). Bygdelag are organizations comprised of descendants of emigrants from Norway to North America. Every "Lag" seeks to preserve and strengthen bonds with its home district or community-of-origin in Norway. Because groups usually hold meetings (stevner) once each summer, Lag newsletters continue to be essential communication tools in most groups. Each of the lags meet during the annual stevne.

Stevne programs may feature a variety of Norwegian cultural and educational activities, including genealogy classes, noted speakers, and displays of Norwegian arts and crafts. Vestlandslag usually meets the 2nd or 3rd week in June – Thursday – Saturday.

2024 Stevne - June 13-15, Urland Church, Cannon Falls, MN

www.fellesraad.com - www.moreogromsdallag.org

www.rogalandslag.org - www.vosselag.org

Contact person: President, Ann Romo 507-990-6397 annromo04@gmail.com

Thursday, June 13, 2024, speakers: Jen Dauer "Beyond Names and Dates: Creative ways to display family keepsakes"; Sandra Bestland - "SPEDALSKHED: Leprosy in 19th-Century Norway"; Lunch, Tour to Aspelund Church, Holden Church, Nystuen Home; Dinner, Pati Kachel - Story teller "Ya Sure, I'm a Norvegin Luteran"

Friday, June 14, 2024, speakers: Denny Kalvig - "Genealogy and Norwegian Digitalakivet", Karla Brown "My Great Aunt's trip to Norway in 1908"; Lunch, Hakon Torgesen - "A Norwegian Refugee from China", Grace Eddy - "Norwegian Folkehøgskole." Bunad Show & Norwegian Sweater Show, Stevne Banquet, "Down Home Bluegrass Band."

Saturday, June 15, 2024 - Individual Lag Meetings, Vestlandslag Annual meeting, lunch.



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Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol



Question: I know it has been extremely dry but with the anticipation of "April showers" can you talk about hydroplaning?

Answer: At speeds of 35

mph or less, most tires will "wipe" water off the road surface to keep tires in contact with the road. At higher speeds, water can collect under tires and lift them off the surface of the road — this is called "hydroplaning."

When your tires hydroplane, they lose all contact with the road. If this occurs, you will be unable to brake, accelerate, or change direction. If your tires begin to hydroplane, take your foot off the gas pedal.

Hydroplaning is less likely to occur at normal highway speeds if your vehicle is equipped with good tires that have deep treads, which will allow water to escape. But hydroplaning can occur at any speed if the depth of the water on the road is greater than

the depth of the tire treads. In heavy rain, standard cars may begin to hydroplane at 35 mph.

To prevent hydroplaning, keep your tires in good condition and reduce speed when driving on wet roads.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds,

pay attention and of course, drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

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

Cruise Control on Wet Roads

The spring and summer seasons can have their share of heavy rains and thunderstorms. Using cruise control on wet or slippery roads could send you on a cruise — straight into the ditch or oncoming traffic!

With dry road conditions, cruise control helps you safely monitor your speed, stay within the speed limit and improve driving comfort on long, fairly straight stretches of road. It should be used only when you are able to drive at a steady speed with safe road conditions.

On wet roads, if your wheels lose traction, the cruise control will continue to accelerate, causing the vehicle to skid. By the time you realize you are skidding, it could be too late.

When deciding if you should set your cruise control:

- Ask yourself if it's safe to travel the speed limit. If not, it isn't safe to set your cruise.
- Is there limited visibility? If it's foggy or raining and your range of visibility is significantly reduced, play it safe. Don't set your cruise.
- Is traffic moving smoothly? If it's stop-and-go, or there's heavy traffic around you, it's not safe to use cruise.

Remember that using your cruise control can be an advantage when driving long distances, but you are your vehicle's best safety feature.



Work Zones are Temporary. Actions Can Last Forever.

Work zones can present many challenges — narrow lanes, sudden stops, traffic pattern shifts and uneven road surfaces. This means that drivers need to be on the lookout for flaggers and road signs that indicate changes to the speed limit, detours and changing traffic patterns.

Brush Up on Safety Tips:

- Obey posted speed limits. The fine for speeding in a work zone is \$300.
- Drive undistracted. Cell phones, mobile devices, adjusting the radio — even eating — should be avoided in work zones.
- Stay alert, especially at night.
- Be patient. Expect delays, especially during peak travel times.
- Expect work zones to constantly change. Day to day you could experience lane shifts, closures or moving workers and vehicles.
- Don't make unnecessary lane changes.
- Never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

Everyone plays a role in work zone safety! It is critical that drivers slow down and pay attention to help keep construction, utility and other workers in work zones safe, especially as the construction season ramps up.



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32 4th St. NW, Faribault 55021

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**Nerstrand City Council Meeting
February 13, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Todd Evavold, Council Members John Harris, Monica Gernandt, Kevin O'Brien

ABSENT: Dan Pflieger

ALSO PRESENT: Public Works Steve McDowell, Sandy Borders, Interim City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Harris, second by Council Member Gernandt

yes: Evavold, Harris, O'Brien, Gernandt
Nays: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2024

B. Resolution 2024-08: Acceptance of Donation of Defibrillators to the Fire Department

C. Resolution 2024-09: Acceptance of Donation to the Nerstrand Cemetery

C. Payment of Claims dated: February 13, 2024 in the amount of \$11,644.56

New Business

Approval of Election Judge List for 2024

The Presidential Nominating Primary will be held on March 5, 2024 at City Hall. The following persons have been appointed as election judges for the 2024 Elections: Monica Gernandt, Head Judge; Jeanette Baalson, Pam Caron, Luann Kuntz, Hazel Schwanke, Carri Turi, and Sandra Borders.

MOTION: Motion to approve the list of election judges for 2024 as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Harris, second by Council Member O'Brien

Ayes: Evavold, Harris, O'Brien
Abstention: Gernandt
None

**Set date for Interviews:
City Clerk Position**

The city has received several applications for the part-time City Clerk position. Interviews will be held on February 20th starting at 6:00 pm.

Discussion of Pump house block restoration

It was reported that the block walls on the pump house are deteriorating and are in need of repair. Bids will be received regarding the repair.

Discussion Regarding City Parks

Council member Harris requested that this be on the agenda. Howling Adventures LLC is requesting that the city extend the hours the park can be used. They will be conducting a race on July 20-21 and will be using the park overnight for a meeting place along the race. It was explained that the racers would be coming to the park at different times during the overnight hours. There will be a need for lighting at the park. There possibly would be some music, but it would be concluded by 10:00 pm. It was suggested that letters or fliers be distributed to inform the residents around the park of the upcoming activities.

Motion made by Council Member Gernandt, second by Council Member O'Brien to allow Howling Adventures, LLC to rent the park July 20-21st for a race rest stop and allow the for the overnight use of the park, and that music will be allowed until 10 pm.

Ayes: Evavold, O'Brien, Gernandt
Abstention: Harris
Nays: None

REPORTS:

Steve McDowell gave a maintenance report which included update on the Farm Street project and the property exchange. Quality Flow installed a new pump.

Joe Johnson, Fire Chief had given the council a written report for January 2024.

Council member Gernandt introduced a discussion regarding a ditch and putting signs near by that the ditch is very deep and dangerous.

Council member Gernandt asked about a liquor license for the Nerstrand school's fund raiser. There will be beer sold from the Fire Station. Council member Gernandt will be in charge of getting the license and the insurance. The organization will be providing a list of bartenders for the events.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: Motion by Council Member Harris second by Council Member Gernandt to adjourn.

Ayes: Harris, Evavold, Harris, Gernandt, O'Brien
Nays: None

Next City Council Meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2024 at Nerstrand City Hall

Sandra Borders, Interim City Clerk

**Nerstrand Council Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Todd Evavold, Council Members Dan Pflieger, Monica Gernandt, Kevin O'Brien

ABSENT: John Harris
STAFF PRESENT: Public Works Steve McDowell, Sandy Borders, Interim City Clerk, Frances Boehning - City Clerk
GUESTS: Don Quistorff, Tony Vezzoli, Annette Evavold.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the agenda with discussion regarding the new state seal under New Business. Motion made by Monica Gernandt, second by Kevin O'Brien. All approved.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Payment of claims dated March 12, 2024:
B. Resolution 2024-11: Hiring of Part-time City Clerk

Council Member Monica Gernandt noted a typo in the resolution and requested that it be corrected.

Council Member Gernandt inquired about the possibility of taking taxes out of the election pay. The Clerk will speak with Abdo and request that the payment be run through payroll. A request was made to see if elections judges expected to make in excess of \$600 would also like taxes taken out.

MOTION:

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with changes regarding taxes for election workers.

Motion made by Council Member Gernandt, second by Council Member O'Brien All approved.

NEW BUSINESS

LETTER TO NORTHFIELD REGARDING HWY 246:

(continued on page 17)

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<p>AWD, iced blue silver metallic, 7,899 miles, 1.5L ecoboost #24024U</p> <p><i>Spring Special!</i> \$24,580</p>	<p>AWD, stone blue metallic, 14,248 miles, ecoboost 2.0L I-4, turbocharged #23213U</p> <p><i>Spring Special!</i> \$28,775</p>	<p>4 door, advanced 4x4, 18,527 miles, cactus gray, 2.7L V-6 ecoboost #23121U</p> <p><i>Spring Special!</i> \$51,950</p>	<p>4WD, supercrew, 5.5' box, rapid red, 27,508 miles, 2.7L V-6 ecoboost, 4 door #23067U</p> <p><i>Spring Special!</i> \$40,999</p>
<p>2022 FORD EXPLORER XLT</p>	<p>2018 FORD FUSION SE</p>	<h2>Spring Car Care</h2>	
<p>4WD, 20,957 miles, 2.3L ecoboost I-4, rapid red #24037U</p> <p><i>Spring Special!</i> \$35,999</p>	<p>FWD, 23,204 miles, burgundy velvet, 1.5L ecoboost #24002D</p> <p><i>Spring Special!</i> \$18,450</p>	<p><i>At Milo Peterson Ford Co., our highly qualified technicians are here to provide exceptional service in a timely manner.</i></p> <p><i>From oil changes to transmission replacements, we are dedicated to maintaining top tier customer service, for both new and pre-owned car buyers!</i></p> <p><i>Allow our staff to demonstrate our commitment to excellence.</i></p> <p>Call our service department to schedule your maintenance needs. Open Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 5pm.</p>	

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Nerstrand Council Meeting Minutes March 12, 2024

(continued from page 16)

Mayor Evavold reviewed the Northfield request to MNDOT for the turnback of Hwy 246 to the City of Northfield and the affected counties. He noted that Nerstrand is a commuter city and the turnback of the Hwy would be detrimental as the plowing and maintenance of the road by the cities and counties would not be at the level of the current service. Council Member Gernandt expressed similar concern as she reviewed current maintenance on other Rice County roads. The City Council agreed that it is bet-

ter for the City of Nerstrand if the road is not turned back.

MOTION:

Council Member Gernandt made a motion to submit a letter to the City of Northfield stating that the City of Nerstrand is not in favor of the turnback. Council Member Pflieger seconded the motion. All approved.

DISCUSSION REGARDING REQUEST FOR PICKLEBALL COURT:

Council Member Gernandt asked Council Member O'Brien if the current basketball court is big enough to double as a pickleball court. O'Brien noted that it is not quite big enough. A request was made to Council

Member O'Brien to research the cost and size of a single court pickleball court to be placed in the park. Council Member O'Brien noted that a pickleball court does have the possibility of bringing in noise complaints. Council Member Gernandt mentioned that a windscreen may also be requested by the players.

The results of the research into costs and size will be reviewed at the April meeting.

MN STATE SEAL/FLAG:

Council Member Gernandt expressed frustration regarding the methods taken by the state in designing the new state seal and flag. The concern was the lack of appropriate approvals and the process of the adoption of the new seal and flag. A request was made by the Council to have the Clerk draft a letter to the state expressing disapproval of the process.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON TREE STUMP PROJECT:

The stump will be ground out in May pending the ability to move the propane tank.

UPDATE ON PUMP HOUSE

DOOR REPAIR:

The new door has been received from Lamperis and will be installed this spring.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR - STEVE McDOWELL:

-Flushing Water Lines - The hydrants will be flushed within the next month. Steve McDowell will notify the clerk regarding the date so that residents can be notified.

-Tony Vezzoli's Garage - A request was made to install a bathroom, kitchen, and bedroom in the garage. It was noted that the property can not be split into two properties

following the conversion of the garage. Current plans involve service coming from the house. A suggestion was made to the owner to look into separate hookups for the water. Steve McDowell mentioned that a second access could be used, but is fine either way. It was noted that the empty lot next to the Vezzoli property is owned by a different property owner. Mayor Evavold noted that the driveway should be 20' per the ordinance. Tony stated that the ordinance also said the driveway should match the surrounding properties. The Council will review the ordinances and draw up a variance for the April meeting.

MAYOR - INSURANCE UPDATE REGARDING ROOF REPAIR:

Mayor Evavold stated that insurance has approved the use of Valentyn Builders for the roof repairs. Mayor Evavold will obtain new globes for the front of the building.

FIRE DEPARTMENT - JOE JOHNSON:

The fire report was included in the Council packet.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Gernandt mentioned that Linda B. was interested in opening the library this summer. Additional information regarding this will be obtained and presented at the April meeting.

MOTION ADJOURN:

MOTION: Motion by Council Member Pflieger second by Council Member Gernandt to adjourn. All Approved.

Frances Boehning, City Clerk
Next City Council Meeting is scheduled for April 9th, 2024 at Nerstrand City Hall

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

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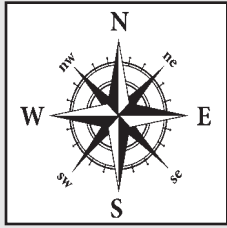
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Rock and Roll Hotel



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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 - Historical period
 - "___ its weight in gold"
 - *Namesake of famous pact signed in 1955
 - *"The City of a Hundred Spires"
 - Financial assistance
 - Bird's groomer
 - Pod nugget
 - Fountain order
 - Duck dish a certain way
 - Picture on a coat
 - Feline vibration
 - Stocking fiber
 - Stink to high heaven
 - Cocoyam, pl.
 - Pelvic bones
 - Frost over (2 words)
 - Stew bean
 - Sleeveless garment
 - Predicament
 - Snakelike fish
 - Hi-___ monitor
 - Toothy wheel
 - *Street, in capital city in #38 Down
 - *On the Danube
 - *On the Thames
 - Virtue, in Italian
 - *Street, in capital city in #25 Down
 - Dashboard instruments
 - Beside, archaic
 - Geological Society of America
 - Type of heron
 - Parks or Luxembourg
 - Pecking mother
 - Like oboe's sound
- DOWN**
- "___ the land of the free ..."
 - Cold one
 - Peruvian Empire
 - Miss America topper
 - Blood infection
 - Prepare to swallow
 - *Dublin's cultural quarter neighborhood, "Temple ___"
 - Parallelogram, e.g.
 - All excited
 - Spiritual leader
 - Network of nerves
 - Certain something in a tray
 - Rouse
 - Take puppy from a pound
 - "Hamilton: An American Musical" singing style
 - Great ___ Reef
 - *On the Seine
 - Not slouching
 - Arabian chieftain
 - Like Roman god Janus
 - *Also the most populous city in Ukraine
 - More ill
 - Neil Diamond's "Beautiful ___"
 - Annoying tiny biters
 - Arctic jaeger
 - *Located in boot-shaped country
 - Sound of artillery
 - Kind of hickory nut
 - Jack's inferior
 - Like a Grammy nominee
 - Frustration, in print
 - "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush," e.g.
 - Source of veritas
 - Wraths
 - Volcano in Sicily
 - Ground beef description
 - Fairy tale giant
 - "All You ___ Is Love"
 - Variable, abbr.
 - Put to work
 - Hog heaven

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