



### Announcements

**• OPEN INVITATION:** All are welcome to breakfast, fellowship, bible study, and prayer time every Saturday morning at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon. Breakfast and fellowship start at 8:00 am. Followed by a verse by verse bible study. Finishing with prayer time at 10:00 am. All are welcome (men, women, and children) each Saturday morning!! Any questions, please contact Loren Bauer: 507-450-6623.

**• 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@three-riverscap.org

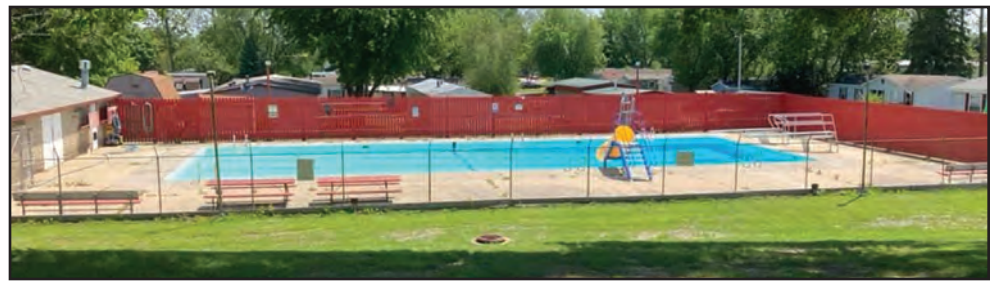
**• Hiawathaland Transit:** Service hours are 7:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. Call dispatch at 866-623-7505 Monday through Friday 6am-9pm and Saturday 7:00am-5:00pm. Visit [three-riverscap.org](http://three-riverscap.org) for more information.

**• 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.

Do you have an announcement?  
Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

# 50th Pool Anniversary

Yay! Summer is finally here! Time to hop in the pool and cool off with some summertime fun. Save the Date of Wednesday, July 17th for a 50th year celebration commemorating opening of the Wanamingo pool at 298 Hillcrest Manor! This date marks the exact date the pool opened, and there will be fun for all attendees. There will be a free swim from 1 pm to 6 pm for all ages. There may be surprises for those who attend, and maybe



## Red Cross Blood Drive coming to Vang

Save the Date!

There will be a blood drive at Vang Lutheran on July 24 from 12:00 – 6 PM.

The goal is collect 38 pints of blood.



American Red Cross

## Vacation Bible School next week

Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be hosting Vacation Bible School for preschool through sixth grade, on Monday through Wednesday July 1st - 3rd.



*(continued on page 5)*

even a few of the men who were responsible for making the pool happen will show up! Mayor Holmes says "Safety First" and there will be information on the classes to prepare you for water safety, like swimming lessons. Water aerobics are also available from 8:30 to 9:30 am and 7:00 to 8:00 pm. The pool hours for the summer are 1pm to 6 pm Monday through Friday, and 1pm to 4:30pm Saturday and Sunday.

*(continued on page 5)*



## Lydia Goes to State

Kenyon Wanamingo junior Lydia Floterud became the first K-W golfer to advance to state in Class AA finals in the 2024 Minnesota State High School League tournament this month. She placed 34th in the state in the final meet at Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker Minnesota held on July 11th and 12th.

Lydia's goals this season were to improve on her game, focusing on being more consistent, win the Gopher conference and get through sections and make it to state.

*(continued on page 5)*

## Hello Dolly Comes to Kenyon

By Cheri Roshon

Mark your calendar for a great weekend of entertainment as the Kenyon/Wanamingo Community Education Summer Theater group puts on the 1964 musical Hello, Dolly.

Based on Thornton Wilder's book The Matchmaker written in 1955, Michael Stewart's book takes a look at the then prominent theme of "The effects of living in wealth vs. poverty."

*(continued on page 7)*



## KENYON VFW POST 141

HAPPY HOUR: Monday-Saturday from 4-7 PM

### DAILY SPECIALS

**BURGER TUESDAY**  
5:30-7:30pm

**WEDNESDAY WINGS**  
6:00-8:00pm

**FRIDAY NIGHT MEAT RAFFLE**  
6:00-8:00pm  
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## Speak to Me

Father's Day not only a day to honor your father, but all men who act as a father figure. Stepfathers, Fathers-in-law, uncles, grandfathers, spiritual fathers, etc. are all honored on Father's Day. Dads do make a difference

A positive and continuous relationship to one's father has been found to be associated with a good self-concept, higher self-esteem, higher self-confidence in personal and social interaction, higher moral maturity, reduced rates of unwed teen pregnancy, greater internal control, and higher career aspirations. Fathers who are affectionate, nurturing and actively involved in child-rearing are more likely to have well-adjusted children.

Meet Samuel, he has lived in the temple as Eli, the priest's, assistant since he was 6 years old. He served by keeping the candles lit in the temple and probably many other odd jobs around the place, as well as attending to an aging priest. One night when Eli was sleeping and Samuel is sleeping near the lamp of God, Samuel hears someone calling to him. "Samuel, Samuel."

He runs to Eli and calls out, 'here I am.' Eli is a little annoyed- I didn't call you—go back to bed. A second time Samuel heard his name being called and he ran to Eli again- and again Eli's response is, "I didn't call you- go back to bed." A third time Samuel again hears his name and runs to Eli; Then Eli realized that God was calling Samuel. God's voice had been absent so long it wasn't even recognized by the priest! Eli said go back to bed and listen and answer if you are called again. Samuel went back to his bed and waited. I'm sure he didn't sleep- I mean- he'd been up and over to Eli 3 times already- Verse 10 says, "The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Every time God spoke and gave someone an assignment, it would challenge their faith. It would stretch them. It was never easy to hear. If you have the faith, the courage to pray, "speak to me, Lord," and when God does, I hope you'll know that the message may convict you. His voice will challenge you. What He asks you to do may seem completely impossible but I can promise you this: His voice will stretch you and teach you to depend on him and live with

even greater faith.

We need to be ready to accept the message that God is giving us. When we pray – it may be scary, or startling, it may stretch you and it may seem totally impossible. That's the kind of prayers that God loves to answer; speak Lord, I'm listening

Samuel was ready for Him now- Speak Lord, I am listening. Samuel had no idea what he was getting into. Samuel listened- and he heard a tough message; God was

showing him what was to become of Eli and his family. He didn't know what to expect when he got the call. Don't ask God to speak- if you don't want to hear what he says.

Prayer in its essence is communicating with our God, our Father, going before his throne of grace, and any form of real, meaningful communication is not just one-way communication.

(continued on page 3)

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June 30: 9:00a.m. Worship at TLC  
July 7: 9:00a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Riverside Park  
July 14: 9:00a.m. Worship at WLC  
July 21: 9:00 a.m. Worship at WLC with Holy Communion  
July 28: 9:00a.m. Worship at WLC

**WANAMINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**  
130 West 3rd St., Wanamingo  
824-2457  
[www.TrinityWanamingo.org](http://www.TrinityWanamingo.org)  
June 30: 9:00a.m. Worship at TLC  
July 7: 9:00a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Riverside Park  
July 14: 9:00a.m. Worship at WLC  
July 21: 9:00 a.m. Worship at WLC with Holy Communion  
July 28: 9:00a.m. Worship at WLC

**ASPELUND EMMANUEL LUTHERAN**  
Rob Edwards, Pastor  
429 County 1 Blvd, Kenyon  
507-824-2307  
[www.emmanuelafcl.org](http://www.emmanuelafcl.org)  
9:00a.m. Sunday School;  
10:00a.m. Coffee Time  
10:30a.m. Worship Service

**FIRST EV. LUTHERAN**  
Julie Rogness, Pastor  
309 Forest Street, Kenyon • 507-789-5261  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.;  
Wed. Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

**GOL LUTHERAN**  
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507-838-2100  
Sunday Worship 10:30a.m. April-June



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## AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Happiness of the United Family

*Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him.*  
— Psalm 128:1

Psalms 128 reminds God's people of the blessings of family life. (See also Psalm 127; June 10.)

One of the greatest blessings we have is our family. A happy marriage is worth more than any fortune; a united family is worth more than any wealth. A family that honors God is a valuable testimony to the richness of God's blessing in life.

A family dedicated to serving the Lord in all things is a family that knows happiness. The husband who fears the Lord and wants to live God's way works with all his energy for a safe and godly home for his family members. He loves his wife "just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25); he is united to and faithful to his wife, who is "like a fruitful vine." They respect and care for one another. And if they are blessed with children, their children are "like olive shoots," fruitful in bringing more blessing into their lives. Godly parents teach their children in the ways of the Lord so that they may be blessed all the days of their lives. And if God wills it, they may live to see their children's children, receiving even more blessing and joy from God's hand.

With blessing the Lord brings prosperity, peace, and joy to families who seek to honor him. When you honor God in your home, you will always have him as an ally.

*Father, bless our homes and families with your love. Give us unity, joy, fidelity, forgiveness, and prosperity—that we may share with others and help them to know you too. In Christ, Amen.*

**GOSPEL OF LIFE FAMILY CHURCH**  
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[www.gospeloflifechurch.org](http://www.gospeloflifechurch.org)  
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Wanamingo - Wednesday 7:00p.m.

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Mike Ahrens S.A.M.  
Service 9am. Coffee hour follows @ 10 am  
Sunday School 10:15 am

**HAUGE LUTHERAN**  
Larry Grove, Pastor • 507-271-9761  
302 Bullis Street, Kenyon  
Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.  
with lunch following

**LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**  
David Krinke, Pastor  
16640 Hwy. 60 Blvd.  
[www.landslutheran.com](http://www.landslutheran.com)  
Wednesday 6:15 p.m.  
Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. at Everson Park

**STORDAHL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**  
Pastor Kathleen Lowery  
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**MOLAND CHURCH**  
Nancy Edwardson, Pastor • 507-789-6661  
Sunday School 9 a.m.

**NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Gary Liker, Pastor  
12 Maple Street • 507-330-0025  
Worship 9:00 a.m.

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Reverend Daren Flink  
429 4th Street, Kenyon • 507-951-1271  
Worship 9:30 a.m.

**ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Father Cory Rohlfing  
Deacon Newell McGee  
108 Bullis St., Kenyon  
Sunday Mass 8:00a.m.  
Wednesday Mass 5:00p.m.

**NEW LIFE CHURCH**  
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507-824-3019  
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Dennison, MN 55018  
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[www.kenyonmn.net](http://www.kenyonmn.net)  
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E-mail:  
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Published in cooperation with  
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## Speak to Me

(continued from page 2)

Jesus said we can cry out Abba- Daddy- to communicate with His Father. It always reminds me of climbing up on my Dad's lap to just sit- to listen to and enjoy his company. To just be with him. God wants us to be "with Him" to hear Him and to know Him. In other words, praying to God isn't us just talking to him, but praying is actually listening to God. In fact, I would argue that God has done way

more when I listened to him than when I talked to him.

God is a speaking God. So, you may say, "Okay, I'm in. "I know it's dangerous, but I want to pray. "I want to hear the voice of God. "How do I hear the voice of God?"

Three spiritual thoughts to hear the voice of God:

- Be still before God. This goes against all of the trajectory of everything in culture, fight to be still before God, to pause and to rest in his presence.

- God speaks through His Word. He directs, guides, corrects. Hebrews 4:12. We need to read it and do what it says!

- God speaks through people. God may use a sermon to speak to you. He may use a good friend or teacher.

- God speaks through circumstances. For Jonah to get turned around God sent a storm and a fish. To help me see that drinking was wrong I woke up on a railroad track. Sometimes it is the loss of a job that will steer you a different direction or health or family situations... God can change our courses and help us to discover His plan if we are open to listening. We need to learn to thank God for those closed doors and be thankful for the future opportunities before us.

- God speaks through His Spirit. When I said I heard God- it wasn't audible- but it was a prompting from the Holy Spirit. It can happen through imagination, dreaming, a vision, feeling God's pleasure as we begin a journey with Him. The more you listen the more you recognize His voice—Be still!

- Be Willing: Often our prayers are long babblings- repetitive sentences that have lost their meaning. We need to be willing to be honest before God. We need to be willing to do what He calls us to do.

A warning: Make sure you've obeyed what He showed you last! God isn't going to show you what to do tomorrow if you haven't obeyed Him today. If you find yourself ask-

ing, "why don't I sense God? Why don't I feel His presence? It may be that you haven't done what He already told you to do in the past.

- Be Ready. When Samuel said, "Speak Lord"- he was ready to listen. When God speaks you may not like what you hear. You might not feel ready to do what He has asked. God calls us to do hard things- but with those hard things He gives us what we need to accomplish them. We had those that didn't think we could raise the funds for the addition on South Troy, but God had other plans. God may call you to move to a different state, or to change your career. He may be telling you to invite your boss to church or break up with the person you're dating. He may call you to forgive that one that hurt you.

Every time God spoke to people in the Bible- and even now- they felt unprepared, unequipped, and unqualified. God doesn't speak to those that aren't listening. He calls those that have willing hearts and faith to believe. Don't fear- You are exactly in the right place. Have Faith. Pray Speak Lord! The only thing more dangerous than praying this prayer- is not praying this prayer!

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## Carolyn Dora Walker

Carolyn Dora Walker, 77, of Kenyon died peacefully on June 16th 2024. She was born on July 1st, 1946 in Faribault, the daughter of Manton and Dora (Carlsen) Wallaker. Carolyn graduated from Kenyon High School in 1964. She married Larry Walker on January 25th, 1964 at



First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenyon.

Carolyn did in-home daycare for over 30 years, worked at Ktown video (her kids deemed her Ktown Carolyn), Motor Mart, and the Kenyon Country Club. Carolyn was a life-long member of First Evangelical Church. She served on church committees, Circle, and bible study. She was a member of the Kenyon Historical society. She found great comfort in her faith. She enjoyed her perennial and vegetable gardens, traveling with Larry, making Sunday dinner for her family- she was an excellent cook, known for her pies and cookies. Her summers were filled with golf and chasing her grandchildren.

She is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, Larry, children Lorrie (and Kathleen) Walker of Kenyon, Jeannie (and Jeff) Mattson of Kenyon, Jennifer (and Lars) Olson of Zumbrota; six grandchildren, Trish (and Luke) Bauernfeind and Hunter (and Abby) Walker, Max and Megan Mattson, Amber and Elliot Olson; Brother Richard (and Irene) Wallaker; brother in law and sister in law Timothy and Ellen Sackett, sister in law Darlene Walker; nieces and nephews Jody (and Ron) Hanson, Jamie Wallaker, Rebekah (and Mike) Tix, Melissa (and Dean) Severson, Chad (and Lisa) Walker.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents, Manton and Dora Wallaker, brother in laws Kevin Walker and William Walker; sister in law Kathleen Wallaker; nephews Jeff Wallaker and Richard Walker; grand niece Ashley Hanson; grand nephew Colton Tix; great granddaughters Lily and Rose Bauernfeind.

A Celebration of Carolyn's life was held at 11am on Monday, June 24, 2024 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenyon. Visitation was Sunday, June 23, 2024 from 4-7 at Michaelson Funeral Home, Kenyon and one hour prior to service at the church. Interment took place at Gol cemetery, Kenyon.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that consideration be given to donating to First Evangelical Lutheran Church or the Kenyon Historical Society.

## Douglas Arlyn Hanson



It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Douglas Arlyn Hanson, 56, on Monday, June 10th, 2024. Doug was a long-term resident of Nevis, Minnesota and most recently resided in Cannon Falls, MN.

Doug was born February 2, 1968 in Owatonna, MN, to Roger and Sharon (Reynolds) Hanson of Kenyon, MN.

He attended Kenyon High School, graduating in 1986 where he was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2015 for his academic and athletic excellence in cross country and track and field. His running superiority continued in his five years at North Dakota State University (NDSU) where he graduated with honors in 1991 with a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering. His fierce dedication to running was overwhelmingly observed as Doug is still the most decorated athlete in NDSU history, in any sport. Under coach Don Larson, Doug was a 7-time National Champion: twice in cross country, three times in the 10,000-meter outdoor run, and twice in the 5,000-meter indoor run. He was a five-time North Central Conference (NCC) track and field champion: twice in the indoor 5,000, twice in the outdoor 5,000, and once in the outdoor 10,000. He earned Division II All-America honors 12 times: nine in track and field and three in cross country. Along with being named the NCC's most valuable indoor track and field athlete, his academic excellence was acknowledged with two CoSIDA Academic All-America College Division Awards. Doug still holds records at both the high school and collegiate levels. He valued being the President of a local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter and also toured Europe as a member of Athletes in Action. Doug was named to the U.S. Track/Cross Country Association Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002 and inducted into the NDSU Men's Cross Country, Men's Track & Field Hall of Fame in 2006 where he was honored to be included in the NDSU field house memorial wall.

Doug utilized his mechanical engineering degree in various ways after college, working countless hours to design his own patents on concert related spotlights - even seeing his prototype at a Pink Floyd concert. Working for companies like Tandy Computers, Vari-Lite, and eventually moving on to be a global sales manager at APW, his combined outgoing personality and engineering knowledge made him shine. His magnetic personality, quick wit, and sense of fun and adventure was contagious - a person you wanted in the room.

On February 4, 2004, Doug, age 36, suffered a tragic snowmobiling accident which resulted in a traumatic brain injury. In dire condition, he was hospitalized for 3 months, and became paralyzed on the left side of his body. His family was told, if he survived at all, he would never walk or gain back his quality of life. As you can imagine, Doug refused to accept his diagnosis; he surpassed everyone's expectations in gaining his mobility, life, and independence back. He experienced a setback no one could imagine, yet persevered with such integrity, tenacity, faith

and grace - a true inspiration to those around him.

As Co-Head Cross Country Coach and Assistant Distance Track and Field Coach for Nevis High School, Doug utilized his athletic expertise to coach younger generations of runners for 16 years with fellow coach Tom Stambaugh. It was said that Tom was the science behind their training program but Doug was the strategy and heart. With numerous hours on his bike, Doug loved to extract the potential out of every athlete, no matter the age or talent. Doug said his proudest coaching moment was guiding Nevis High School athlete Jade Rypkema to 7 Minnesota State Titles - matching his 7 NCAA titles.

Doug was most proud of his two children. His son Breck (30) with severe autism is currently living in a wonderful group home run by Creative Care for Reaching Independence (CCRI). Doug visited Breck nearly every week for their treasured routine of riding bikes, shooting baskets, and eating chicken tenders at Chili's. Doug was Breck's favorite person to tell him "Good Job!" after he made a basket or after he placed the right puzzle piece. Their relationship was a cherished piece of Doug's life. His daughter Riley (29) is currently a practicing dentist. Watching her achieve years of academic work to fulfill her goal of becoming a dentist was a proud and momentous occasion.

They also shared their love of athletics as Doug traveled far and wide to watch her play volleyball, and even shared in the title of 'National Champion' as Riley won two in her volleyball career. His support and love for his children was unwavering and undoubted as any chance given he would speak of being a proud father and NEVER missed an opportunity to be there in support.

Of the utmost importance to Doug was his faith. Early on, Doug accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior; striving toward the goal of living with integrity in all aspects of his life. Doug was a devoted member of Faithbridge Church in Park Rapids, MN, a committed member of Gideons International, and thoroughly enjoyed fellowship and Bible Study with multiple small groups throughout the years. He found joy in supporting various ministries including Reign Ministries where his sister, Darla, serves.

2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Doug is survived by his parents Roger and

Sharon Hanson, son Breck Hanson, daughter Riley Hanson, two sisters Darla Hanson and Denise (Steve) Osborne, nephew Josiah (Haley) Osborne, niece Jinise (Nathan) Trueblood, and great nephew Jameson Trueblood.

Two memorial services will be held: the first up north on Wednesday, July 3rd at Faithbridge Church in Park Rapids, MN, and the other to be held down south on Saturday, July 6th at New Life Church in Wanamingo, MN. Both services are to be held at 11:00am. For those attending the memorial services, please wear green or yellow to commemorate Doug's impacts on two great places.

In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made to Reign Ministries or Creative Care for Reaching Independence (CCRI) in Doug's memory.

Donate to CCRI online at <http://www.ccrimoorhead.org/donate/>, or you can mail a check made out to CCRI in honor of Doug Hanson to: CCRI, 2903 15th St. S., Moorhead, MN 56560

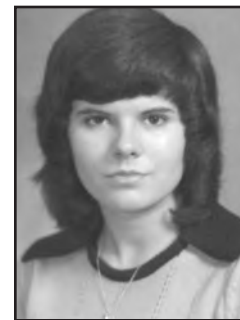
Donate to Reign Ministries online at <https://engage.suran.com/reignministries/s/give/gift/hansonmemorial>, or you can mail a check Reign Ministries, 5401 W Broadway Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55428 with a note for Hanson Memorial.

## Mary Wille

Mary Wille of Lake City, MN formerly of Kenyon, passed away June 15, 2024 at the Elysian Senior Homes, where she spent the last 2 years with her husband of 46 years, Steve.

Mary was born to Melroy and Sara Angelstad on February 26, 1957. She graduated from Kenyon

High School and Rochester Vo- Tech. Mary married Steve Wille on August 6, 1977. Mary worked in banking and sales. She also raised Golden Retriever dogs and helping Steve on the farm. She fought an 8-year battle with Alzheimer's disease and the last 3 years being blind. We both wanted to thank the great staff at Elysian for their care and concerns and also St. Croix Hospice for the last two months. At Mary's request there will be no funeral service. There will be a burial at a later date.



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## Do You Have an Announcement?

Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## 50th Pool Anniversary

(continued from page 1)

Or if you are looking for a great way to have a fun private pool party, you may book the

pool after 8pm on weekdays, and after 5pm on the weekends for only \$75 per hour! Just call 824-2667 for more info. What a great way to have a summer party to remember. Even though the recent weather has not been conducive to swimming, there is a whole lot of summer left to enjoy the privilege of having our own home town pool. Come on down and check it out for only \$4.00 each afternoon, and don't forget, the kiddie pool is free!

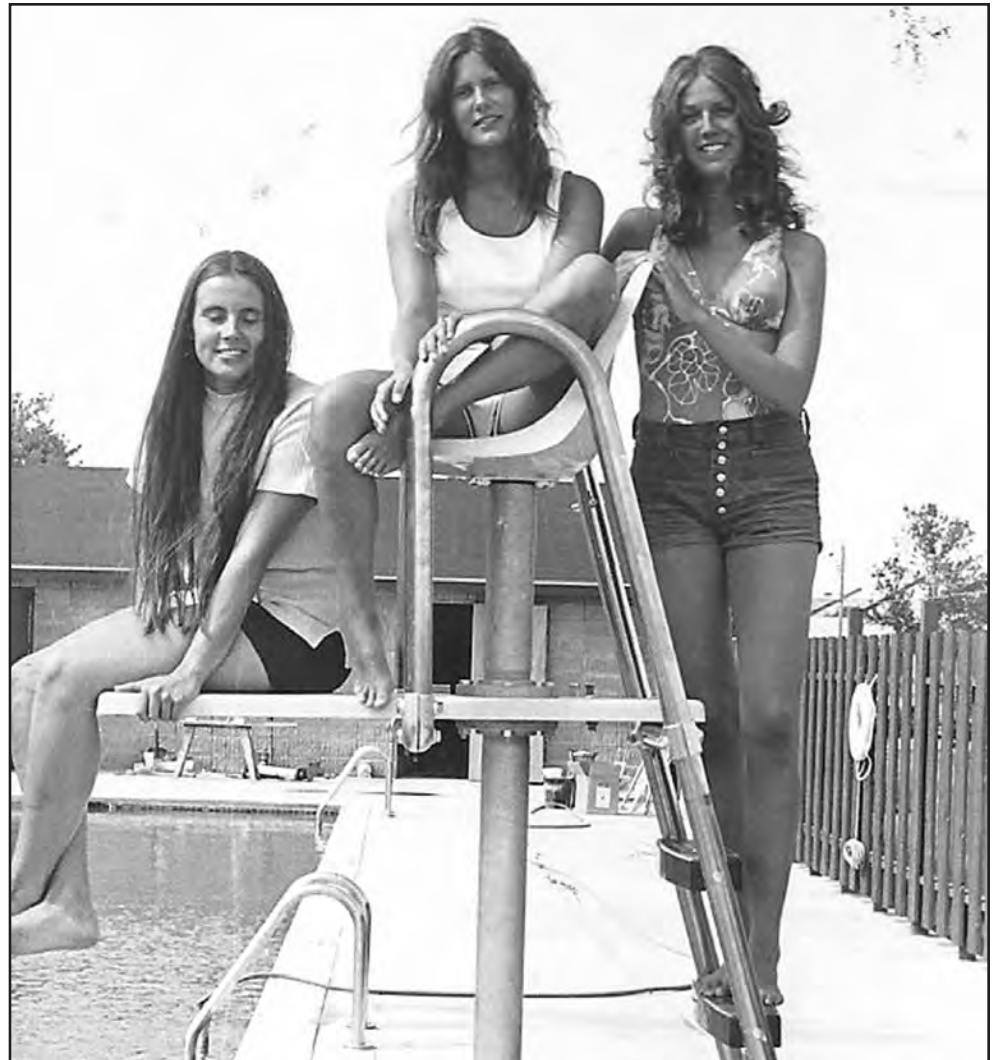
## Vacation Bible School next week

(continued from page 1)

This is the third summer it will be held at the K-W Elementary school building in Wanamingo. Enter through the main door. This year, due to the Independence Day activities in Wanamingo the VBS will be an all-day event starting at 8:30 am each morning until 4:30pm. Lunch and snacks will be provided. All are welcome and the event is free. The K-W Elementary facility allows use of the music room, art room, playground and gym incase of wet weather.

Parents are encouraged to pre-register their kids so they can plan for anticipated numbers. There will be a free will offering every day with a competition between the boys and girls with the funds raised donated to a local food shelf. On Wednesday July 3rd there will be a short program held at 4pm for the friends and families of the children to watch the kids perform some of the songs they learned this year at VBS. On Friday July 5th there will be a pool party at the Wanamingo swimming pool for all the kids who attended.

The theme of this year's VBS is The Great Jungle Journey, an epic cruise from Genesis to Revelation. They invite all the kids to come learn about Jesus. Emmanuel Lutheran Church meets at 42957 County Road 1 Blvd, Kenyon(Aspelund). Their Sunday services are at 9:30am in the summer. Rob Edwards is the pastor. For more information you may contact Marley Strand at 701-899-4804.



Penny Haugen, the first pool manager of the Wanamingo pool sent these pictures of the first year in 1974. Pictured left to right: Maren Syverson, Penny Haugen, Debbie Hugstad

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Three lifeguards that started that first summer. Maren Syverson, Debbie Hugstad and Penny Haugen (Pool Manger)

## Lydia Goes to State

(continued from page 1)

She won the home meet in Kenyon and went on to win the first conference meet in Mankato.

The last conference meet of the season in Waseca came down to her and one other golfer, it was a competitive and exciting last 5 holes of back and forth and she ended up having to make a great up and down on 18 to win the conference by 1 stroke.

This was the first year of her dad as a coach along with Coach Weime, he was super helpful in moments of club selection and difficult lies. She focused on mental toughness and recovery shots and overall felt good about her improvement in her game.

Lydia has memories of the Pebble Creek course being a beautiful and challenging course and was really good fun competition. She scored an 87 on the first round on day one, chipping in for birdie on the last hole. She scored a 43 on round two on the second day. Unfortunately, there was a three-hour rain delay on the last day of the tournament, which shortened it down to nine holes instead of 18.

## That's the Latest Comedy



By Emery Kleven

Emery is now a retired farm broadcaster after starting at KDHL in Faribault in 1987. He's a 1971 graduate of West Concord High School. You can view past columns at his website RoadFarming.com. You can email him at emery@roadfarming.com.

In 2010, my wife and I went to St. Paul to the Fitzgerald Theater to watch a radio pro-

gram. Being an old radio guy, that phrase 'watching a radio program' seems to be a contradiction to the norm. But indeed, about a 1000 people would flock in from across the country to watch 'A Prairie Home Companion' with Garrison Keillor. Garrison would write most if not all the scripts for the comedy bits and of course his tales of Lake Wobegon, his hometown where it was a quiet week there on the edge of the prairie. He described the little town as one that time forgot and the decades cannot improve. Some of the sponsors included the Ketchup Advisory Board, Bebop-A-Reebop Rhubarb Pie and who can forget the Powdermilk Biscuits? The tagline for the Powdermilk biscuits read: Made from whole wheat raised by Norwegian bachelor farmers, so you know they're not only good for you, they're pure...mostly.

One of the original members of the Powdermilk Biscuit Band, which played on the program, is a guy my wife and I got to know at the State Fair, Adam Granger. Adam would take part in the annual State Fair Fiddle Contest. I emceed the event for a number of years and Adam was a guitar player who would ac-

company many of the fiddle contestants.

But to quote the late Steve Cannon of WCCO fame, I digress. My point about writing about Garrison Keillor is that once a year he would devote the entire program to joke telling. Yes they had some music and the news of Lake Wobegon, but the rest of the program was Keillor, guest stars and the show regulars telling jokes, many which were submitted by listeners and the audience. So with that introduction, this is my somewhat annual joke column.

To start with, I found a list that my daughter Bente helped me write several years ago about how some days go better than others. It's kind of like the song by Mary Chapin Carpenter who wrote that someday you're the bug, someday you're the windshield.

With that, I hope none of these describe how your day has gone. You start every sentence with 'Some days we're the'...and then the line, such as Some days we're the 'crack in the sidewalk of life; buttonweeds in the soybean field of life; we're the hair (hare) in

the rabbit stew of life; manure in the hog pit of life; hole in the sock of life; root canal in the mouth of life; wrinkles on the skin of life; leak in the radiator of life. Don't forget to put 'some days we're the' in front of these lines. Some days we're the hemorrhoid in the butt of life. My daughter wrote 'Dad, don't do this one! And then drew an arrow to that line so I knew for sure which one she was referring to. I did it anyway because some days are like that.

Just a few more here: We're the: cobwebs in the corner of life; gutter balls in the bowling game of life; wobbly leg on the table of life; hangnails on the finger of life; lint in your pocket of life; penalty in the hockey game of life; and finally but not leastly: We're the boogers in the nose of life!

I had written several columns ago how I would do top five and top ten lists. I found this old one I used on the radio way back when. The top five reasons no one will steal a farm pickup.

(continued on page 7)

## Kenyon Rose Fest Royalty

Applications for the 2024 Rose Fest royalty candidates are now being accepted. Requirements for Royalty are boys and girls who have completed 9th grade through 12th grade and must reside at a Kenyon address. The Junior Royalty candidates may be any boy or girl which has completed 5th grade through 8th grade and also reside at a Kenyon address.

The deadline for your application is July 20th and you can find application forms at the city of Kenyon website or request one by e-mailing kimmihelge@outlook.com. E-mail any questions and the completed application to kimmihelge@outlook.com or drop off at city hall by July 20th.

### 2024-25 Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary First Day School Needs

\* Please label everything with student's name unless noted "unlabeled" or "to share"

#### Kindergarten (DO NOT LABEL)

- Crayons - (24 ct. Crayola) - 4 boxes
- Glue Sticks - 15-20, Elmer's (unlabeled)
- Blunt Scissors (Kids Fiskars) No plastic blades
- Water bottle
- Pencil Box - Approx. 5" X 8" Plastic (No zipper bags)
- 3 Spiral Notebooks
- 1 Composition Notebook
- Backpack (No wheels)
- Tennis Shoes (Velcro if unable to tie)
- 2 Washable Marker 8-pk. Broad Line
- 2 low odor EXPO Dry Erase Markers
- Tissues to share - 1 lg. box (unlabeled)
- 1 Highlighter
- 1 Plastic Folder-Red
- 2 Packages Baby Wipes
- 1 Container Clorox/Antibacterial Wipes
- Last Name A-M: 1 box Ziploc sandwich bags
- Last Name N-Z: 1 box Ziploc gallon bags

#### 1st Grade

- Crayons - 24-pack -3 boxes
- 2 Glue Sticks (unopened & labeled)
- (1) 2-pack Pink Pearl Erasers
- Scissors - Kid's Fiskars or similar quality
- 24 Pencils to share (Ticonderoga or USA Gold Brand)
- School Box - Approx. 5" X 8"
- 2 Spiral Notebooks (Wide-rule)
- (5) 2-Pocket Folders: Red-Blue-Green-Yellow-Purple
- 2 boxes Washable Markers - 8 or 10 pk.
- 2 pk. Expo Dry Erase Markers
- 2 boxes Tissues (to share)
- 12 oz. Hand Sanitizer (to share)
- 2 Yellow Highlighters
- Headphones (No earbuds please)

#### 2nd Grade

- 24-pack Crayons - 2 boxes
- 6 Glue Sticks & 1 Glue Bottle (5 oz.) (Unlabeled)
- (3) 2-Pocket Folders: Red-Blue-Yellow
- Scissors - Kid's Fiskars or similar quality
- (2) 24-pack Pencils to share (Ticonderoga or USA Gold Brand)
- 5" X 8" Crayon Box
- 2 Spiral Notebooks (Wide-Rule)
- (2) 8-pack Washable Markers
- 2 boxes Tissue (to share)

#### 2nd Grade (Cont.)

- Headphones
- (1) 4-pack EXPO Dry Erase Markers
- Clorox wipes (to share)

#### 3rd Grade

- (3) 24-packs #2 Pencils - (Ticonderoga or USA Gold. Pre-sharpened preferred.)
- Individual enclosed Pencil Sharpener
- Pencil-top Erasers
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons
- Glue Stick
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Zippered Bag for Pencils
- 4 Single-Subject Notebooks (8 1/2 X 11 Wide-rule with spiral binding)
- EXPO Dry Erase Markers
- Headphones (No earbuds please)
- (3) 2-Pocket Folders: Blue-Yellow-Red
- Antibacterial Wipes
- 2 or more boxes Tissues (to share)

#### 4th Grade

- 24 Pre-sharpened Pencils
- (2) 24-pack Colored Pencils
- Crayons (optional)
- Pencil Box (No locks please)
- Scissors (Not child-sized)
- Pencil-top Erasers
- 2 Glue Sticks
- 1 Glue Bottle
- Pencil Sharpener (optional-not electric)
- 5 Notebooks: Red-Blue-Yellow-Black-Green
- (6) 2-Pocket Folders: Red-Blue-Yellow-Green-Black-other your choice
- 1" 3-Ring Binder
- 2 Yellow Highlighters
- Basic Calculator
- Headphones (No earbuds please)
- 1 Clorox wipes
- 2 boxes of tissues
- Water Bottle (No glass please)

Tennis shoes will be required for all students for Physical Education. We would request no black soles if possible.

Please note that supplies will need to be replenished during the school year. Teachers will store extra supplies until needed and notify you if supplies are running low.

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## That's the Latest

(continued from page 6)

#5. They have a range of 20 miles before they overheat, breakdown or run out of gas. #4. The dog on the toolbox looks real mean. #3. Top speed is 45 miles per hour. #2. The large round bale in the back makes it hard to

see if you're being chased. You could use the mirrors if they weren't cracked and covered in duct tape. And the number one reason no one will steal a farm pickup...It's hard to commit a crime with everyone waving at you!

Top 10 George Carlinisms! To the unfamiliar, George Carlin was a comedian. Controversial? Probably. Ahead of his time? Maybe. Funny? Definitely!

Top 10 things George Carlin asked: #10. How come wrong numbers are never busy? #9. Do people in Australia call the rest of the world 'up over'? #8. Does that screwdriver

belong to Philip? #7. Why is it that night falls but day breaks? #6. Why is the third hand on a watch called the second hand? #5. Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons? #4. Are part-time bandleaders semi-conductors? #3. Did Noah keep his bees in Archives? #2. Can you buy an entire chess set in a pawn shop? #1. Do you think that when they asked George Washington for his ID, that he just whipped out a quarter?

Now for my encore, the top five real signs

spotted across the country?

#5. In a Maine Restaurant: "Open 7 days a week and weekends." #4. In a Florida maternity ward: "No children allowed." #3. In a New York restaurant: "Customers who find our waitresses rude ought to see the manager." #2 On the menu of a New Orleans restaurant: Blackened bluefish." And the number 1 real sign: In a Texas funeral parlor: "Ask about our layaway plan." And that's the news from Lake Wobegon!!

## Hello Dolly Comes to Kenyon

(continued from page 1)

The book features Dolly Levi, a well intentioned widow who tries to find a match for a miserly old half-millionaire, and ends up wanting him for herself. It is not a relationship she could base on love, but on money. She felt marrying money would put her in a position to help the poor. The all star cast in 1964 included Carol Channing as Dolly, Charles Nelson Riley, David Burns, Eileen Brennan, Sondra Lee, Jerry Dodge and Gordon Connell. Music by Jerry Herman topped the charts for quite awhile, and when Louis Armstrong wrote and sang his version of Hello Dolly, the musical became one of the longest running Broadway hits, and held the record for the Tony Awards Best Musical for 37 years. Many other actors and actresses played the parts over the years, but Carol Channing was well known for her performance for years to come.

The play will be held at the Kenyon/Wanamingo High School Auditorium on Thursday June 27th and Friday 28th at 7 pm, and Sunday June 30th at 2 pm. Admission is \$12 for adults, and \$10 for students.

Be sure to come out and see what the Theater group has worked hard to perform for your enjoyment, and tell your friends!

## Do You Have a Story Idea?

Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## Wanamingo's 4<sup>th</sup> of July

**Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Blondies Butcher Shop - Rib Feed - 4:00 p.m. till gone**

**Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Fire Department Picnic & Dance**  
**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Wendinger Polka Band**  
**"Travis Themert" starts at 9 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.**  
Sponsored by Wanamingo Firefighters Relief Association

**Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**\*\*\* NORTH MAIN STREET - ALL DAY \*\*\***  
(Sponsored by Wanamingo Commercial Club)

**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Bounce Houses**

**10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Yard games for ALL ages**

**11:00 a.m. Face Painting - The Party Lady LLC**

**\*\*\*\* Food Vendors \*\*\*\***

**7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast** at Community Center (Minneola Lutheran Church)

**10:00 a.m. Horseshoe Tournament** at Riverside Park

**11:00 a.m. Walking Tacos** (by the food vendors) fundraiser for Trinity Lutheran Church

**11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Live Music, Drink & Food Specials** at The Spot Sports Pub & Grill

**11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Flour Child Creations** Stop in for selection of ice cream sandwiches.

**12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Silent Auction** - Community Center (Wanamingo Lutheran Church)\*\*  
\*\* Please note ANYONE can donate items for the silent auction\*\*

**12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Hotdogs, Sundaes, Cotton Candy** at 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift (Lion's Club)

**1:00 p.m. Zumbrotta Band** Community Center Patio or Bus Garage if raining

**Grand Parade - 2:30 p.m.** (participants gather at AG Partners)

**4:00 p.m. Fire Department water-fight** at Fire Hall

**Check out the other events throughout town!**

## Fireworks at Dusk

**Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Commercial Club Fundraiser: for community events & fireworks for 2025**  
\* 50% goes to fundraiser  
50% prizes to top 3 teams  
 Location: The Spot Sport's Pub & Grill  
**9:00 a.m. Volleyball Tournament: \$100 per team\***

**Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>** **VFW Fundraiser** - Location: The Spot Sport's Pub and Grill  
**4:00 p.m. Bean Bag Tournament: \$30 per team\***

**Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>** **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wanamingo Putt Putt Classic**  
 11:00 a.m. registration & 12:00 p.m. shotgun start at the Wanamingo Fire Hall

**Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>** **9:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship at Riverside Park**  
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The north branch of the Zumbro River flooded the park just west of Kenyon this past weekend. Heavy rains have plagued the community over the last week.

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FINALLY FRIDAY All You Can Eat Fish Dinner  
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SUNDAY Enjoy Our Sunday Breakfast Beginning at 9am.  
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## Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,  
Minnesota State Patrol



*Question: Are smoked tail lights illegal in Minnesota?*

Answer: Minnesota law states that "tail lamps shall be plainly visible from a distance of 100 feet to the rear during normal sunlight and at night." The same goes for turn signals and headlights. Smoking, tinting, covering or placing any material over tail lights, brake lights, headlights or turn signals would be illegal and unsafe as they would not be plainly visible. It is illegal in all 50 states, because it is a major safety concern.

I recommend getting into the habit of check-

ing and keeping your rear lights clear of any snow, mud, dirt, dust or anything that can obstruct your lights.

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.

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## Share the Road

Summer is a great season for motorcyclists to enjoy the nice weather.

**Riders:**

Be properly licensed. Cars and motorcycles require different skills. If it's been a while, refresh your knowledge with Motorcycle Safety Training and continue to invest in yourself and your riding skills.

Wear a helmet (and other safety gear). These are the best options for protecting your brain and body. Look for the DOT symbol on the back of your helmet to ensure you have proper safety gear.

Stopping, curves and intersections. Must-have skills as a motorcyclist include proper cornering judgement and better stopping skills. Both are skills to practice and improve to better manage your ride. Intersections remain the most likely place to have a crash involving another motorist and corners are the most likely place for a single motorcyclist to crash.

Know before you go. Conduct a quick motorcycle inspection to check your tire pressure and tread depth, headlights, signals, and fluid levels before you set out for the open road.

**Motorists:**

Watch for motorcycles. Due to the smaller size of motorcycles, their speed and distance is more difficult to judge.

Always look twice before entering a roadway, turning left or changing lanes.

Give riders room by maintaining a three-second (or more) following distance and double-check blind spots.

Pay attention and drive at safe speeds, especially on corners and unfamiliar roads.

Stay alert, be prepared for hazards on the roadway and never ride impaired. Together, we can drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths!



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# CANNON VALLEY FAIR ★ JULY 3-6, 2024

## Cannon Falls, Minnesota

**2024 SCHEDULE**

**June 29th**

9 am 4H, FFA & WSCA Open Horse Show – Horse Arena

**July 2nd – ENTRY DAY**

2-7 pm – Open Class Exhibit Building Entry  
2-7 pm – 4 H Building Exhibit Entry and Judging

**July 3 – KIDS DAY**

9 am – 5 pm – Livestock Entry  
10 am – Goodhue County Commissioners Meeting – PAVILION  
11:30 am – Mandana Balloon Artistry – FREE STAGE  
12:30 pm – Kids Pedal Pull Registration – Near Grandstand  
1 pm – Kids Pedal Pull – Near Grandstand  
1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – Wristband Special 1-5 pm OR 5-10 pm  
2 pm – 5 pm – Mandana Balloon Twisting – PAVILION  
2 pm – 5 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Beef Check-In & Weigh-In – ARENA  
3 pm – Just for Kix Performance – FREE STAGE  
5 pm – 4H and FFA Beef Show followed by Open Class Beef Show – ARENA  
6 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Beef Show – ARENA  
7 pm – Rice Rodeo Company – Bull Riding, Barrel Racing & Bronc Riding – GRANDSTAND  
**8:30 – Midnight – CHICKEN RANCH DUO – FREE STAGE**

**July 4th – VETERAN & SENIOR CITIZEN DAY – FREE GROUNDS ADMISSION DAY!**

11 am – Grande Day Parade Starts  
1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – Wristband Special 1-5 pm OR 5-10 pm  
2 pm – Harness Horse Racing – GRANDSTAND – FREE Admission  
2 pm – 5 pm – DAVE CARPENTER BAND – FREE STAGE  
3 pm – 4H Dog Project Demonstration – ARENA  
**8:30 – Midnight – LIVE MUSIC – FREE STAGE**  
Dusk—Fireworks Show

**July 5th**

9 AM – 4H & FFA Rabbit Show followed by 4H & FFA Poultry  
11 am – Auto Cross Pit Gate Opens  
Noon – 4H & FFA Sheep Show Followed by Open Class Sheep Show  
Noon – 3 pm MN RadZoo – FREE STAGE  
1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – Wristband Special 1-5 pm OR 5-10 pm  
3 pm Auto Cross Starts – GRANDSTAND – Ticket gate open at 1:30 pm  
3 pm – 5 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Market Lamb Check-in & Weigh-in – SHEEP & GOAT ARENA  
4 pm – 7 pm – 4-H Demonstrations  
6 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Market Lamb Show  
**8:30 – Midnight – THE CHUBS – FREE STAGE**

**July 6th**

9:30 am – 4H & FFA Dairy Show – ARENA  
10:30 am – 11:30 am – Dr. Street Magician – Strolling the Grounds  
11:00 am – 4H & FFA Goat Show – GOAT ARENA  
Noon – Dr. Street Magician Show – FREE STAGE  
Noon – District VI Holstein Show – ARENA  
1 pm Demo Derby Pit Gate Opens  
1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – Wristband Special 1-5 pm OR 5-10 pm  
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm – Dr. Street Magician – Strolling the Grounds  
3 pm – Dr. Street Magician Show – FREE STAGE  
5 pm – Demo Derby – Ticket Gates open at 3:00 pm – GRANDSTAND  
6 – 8 pm – Livestock Released & Building Exhibits Released  
**8:30 – Midnight – BLYND EYE – FREE STAGE**

Admission to the fairgrounds is \$5.00 per person daily (5 and under Free) or Season Pass available for \$12.00.

PARKING IS FREE!

Bull Riding, Barrel Racing & Bronc Riding grandstand admission is \$20.00 per person and 5 and under are FREE. Demo Derby & Auto Cross grandstand admission per event is \$15.00 per person or \$5.00 for those under 12 years and under. Pit Pass is available for \$25.00.

Harness Racing GRANDSTAND Admission is FREE.

**RODEO**  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 3 - 7 PM**  
Admission \$20 - UNDER 5 FREE

**CHICKEN RANCH**

8:30 - Midnight FREE STAGE

**AUTO CROSS**  
**FRIDAY, JULY 5 - 3 PM**  
Pit gate open at 11:00  
Grandstand Ticket Gates Open 1:30 P.M.

- Compact Car 4 cyl
- Compact Car 4 cyl AWD
- Mid Size Car 6 cyl
- Mid Size Car 6 cyl Powder Puff
- Mini Vans
- Full Size Car
- Full Size Car Front Wheel Drive
- Full Size Car Rear Wheel Drive
- Compact Truck/SUV No V8
- Compact Truck/SUV V8
- Full Size Truck 2x4
- Full Size Truck 4x4

**ADULTS: \$15 - CHILDREN 12 & UNDER, \$5 - PIT PASS: \$25**  
For rules and regulations go to: [www.cannonvalleyfair.org](http://www.cannonvalleyfair.org)

8:30 - Midnight FREE STAGE

**DEMOLITION DERBY**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 6 - 5 PM**  
Pit gate open at 2:00 P.M.  
Grandstand Ticket Gates Open 3:00 P.M.

- Mega Stock Mid Size Car (Youth)
- Mega Stock Mid Size Car (Adult)
- Mega Stock Mini's
- Mega Stock 80's & Newer
- Mega Stock Full Size Truck
- Limited Weld Mid Size Car
- Limited Weld Mini's
- Limited Weld Full Size Car
- Limited Weld Full Size Truck

Pre Registration Online

**ADULTS: \$15 - CHILDREN 12 & UNDER, \$5 - PIT PASS: \$25**  
For rules and regulations go to: [www.cannonvalleyfair.org](http://www.cannonvalleyfair.org)

8:30 - Midnight FREE STAGE

**HARNESS HORSE RACING**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 4 - 2 PM**

**FREE STAGE**

**Fireworks**  
July 4 – Dusk

**Bryan Anderson**  
8:30 PM – Midnight

FREE ADMISSION & FREE PROGRAMS

## U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Minnesota Fire Chiefs Celebrate Passage of the Fire Grants and Safety Act

WASHINGTON, DC –U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Tina Smith (D-MN) issued the below statements after the Senate passed the Fire Grants and Safety Act, bipartisan legislation to continue providing federal funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant programs. This bill now goes to the President's desk to be signed into law. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program helps firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources. The SAFER Grants program provides direct funding to fire departments and volunteer firefighter organizations to increase or maintain the number of trained "front line" firefighters and enhance their capacity to comply with staffing, response, and opera-

tional standards. Since 2015, fire departments across Minnesota have received over \$33 million in SAFER grants and \$59 million in AFG grants.

"Firefighters put their lives on the line every day to save lives. We need to invest in our local fire departments and ensure that they have the funding they need to hire and train firefighters and purchase life-saving equipment," said Senator Klobuchar. "That's why I worked to pass the bipartisan Fire Grants and Safety Act which will support fire departments in Minnesota and across the country."

"Firefighters do one of the most difficult jobs possible, often at the risk of immense personal injury, to keep our families and loved ones safe. This funding is our way of giving them the support they need to do their jobs as safely and effectively as possible," said Senator Smith. "This bill means better equipment to protect firefighters on the job, increased funding for departments to hire additional firefighters, and ensures departments get the staff and resources they need to be ready to go in case of an emergency. I am proud to support this legislation."

"The AFG FIRE and SAFER grant programs are vital for providing federal assistance to Fire Departments across the State of Minnesota as they struggle to provide funding for modern, safe, equipment and adequate levels of staffing to keep their communities

### Do You Have an Announcement?

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safe," said Eric Bullen, President of the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association.

"These programs are vital to us. Fire Grants and Safety Act programs give our cities and fire departments the funding we need to provide firefighters with equipment and staffing to keep people safe. It's crucial to us that it is in effect and fully funded," said Thomas Thornberg, 5th District Vice President of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

"Small volunteer and paid on-call fire departments rely heavily on AFG dollars to replace critical equipment and apparatus. These items are crucial to firefighter safety," said Ely Fire Chief Dave Marshall. "Without a doubt, AFG funding allows community fire departments to fulfill their commitment in saving lives and property."

"The AFG Program is paramount to the future of the fire service. As costs for fire departments are constantly increasing, we definitely need this type of assistance," said Virginia Fire Chief Scott Fredrickson.

"This is a great program that really helps out fire departments, especially those in the rural parts of Minnesota," said Steve Shykes, Fire Chief for Fayal Township.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant has been a critical component in helping fire departments purchase apparatus, protective gear & life-saving equipment, to ensure we can continue to meet the emergency response needs of our communities," said Jesse Buhs, Fire Chief of the Cloquet Area Fire District. "The continuation of this program will be very impactful to the long-term sustainability of fire departments across the US."



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### Reps. Finstad, Fischbach, Emmer, and Stauber Send Letter to Governor Walz Urging Request for Federal Disaster Declaration

WASHINGTON D.C. – Congressman Brad Finstad (MN-01), Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach (MN-07), Majority Whip Tom Emmer (MN-06), and Congressman Pete Stauber (MN-08) sent a letter urging Governor Tim Walz to issue a Major Disaster Declaration Request for the areas across Minnesota that have been affected by recent flooding.

"I have been traveling around southern Minnesota to meet with local officials and assess the damage caused by the recent catastrophic flooding. As I talk with community members across the First District, it is clear that the extent of the damage is severe and has significantly affected the lives and livelihoods of thousands across southern Minnesota," said Rep. Finstad. "My Republican colleagues and I are urging Governor Walz to act swiftly and request a Federal Disaster Declaration, which will provide our communities with the resources they need to recover and rebuild."

In part, the letter reads:

"The damage from this flooding has impacted many Minnesotan families. Homes, businesses, community buildings, and public areas are under water. We ask that you immediately request a Major Disaster Declaration to help unlock federal resources for these people," the letter reads. "Once your request is submitted, we will also call on President Biden and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to act swiftly to approve your request and get these resources to our state."

If you have been impacted by the flooding, contact Congressman Finstad's office for assistance by visiting [Finstad.house.gov](http://Finstad.house.gov) or by calling (507) 577-6140.



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## Five Years of Data Reveal Higher Profitability for Ag Water Quality Certified Farms

*Farmers also saw other improved financial metrics compared to non-certified farms*

Farmers enrolled in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) have higher profits than non-certified farms, according to five years of data from the Minnesota State Agricultural Centers of Excellence.

The "Influence of Intensified Environmental Practices on Farm Profitability" study examines financial and crop and livestock production information from farmers enrolled in the Minnesota State Farm Business Management education program. The 126

MAWQCP farms in the study saw more gross cash farm income and net farm income in 2023 than non-certified farms. Looking at five-year average data, the average net cash income for MAWQCP farms was over \$213,600 compared to nearly \$163,000 for non-MAWQCP farms. Other key financial metrics are also better for those enrolled in the MAWQCP, such as debt-to-asset ratios and operating expense ratios.

The five years of data serve as an indicator of a positive return on investment for whole-farm conservation management that farmers implement to become certified.

"We now have continuous data that shows the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program provides better economic outcomes on top of the benefits to our water and soil resources," said Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen. "With so many advantages to the MAWQCP, I encourage all farmers and landowners to look into certifying their land and contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District for more information."

"The MAWQCP producers participating in Farm Business Management can enhance farm profitability by benchmarking various aspects of their farm operations," said Keith Olander, Executive Director of AgCentric, and Agricultural Partnerships. "This study shows that these producers operate with a higher level of efficiency compared to their peers."

To find details on the economic study, visit: <https://www.agcentric.org/farm-business-management/annual-fbm-reports/>.

The MAWQCP puts farmers in touch with

local conservation district experts to identify and mitigate any risks their farms pose to water quality on a field-by-field basis. Producers going through the certification process have priority access to financial assistance. After being certified, each farm is deemed in compliance with new water quality laws and regulations for 10 years.

Since the program's statewide launch in 2016, the 1,500 Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality certified farms have added more than 2,915 new conservation practices

that protect Minnesota's waters. Those new practices have kept over 48,250 tons of sediment out of Minnesota rivers while saving 144,125 tons of soil and nearly 60,375 pounds of phosphorous on farms each year. The conservation practices have also reduced nitrogen loss up to 49% and cut greenhouse gas emissions by over 58,250 tons per year.

Farmers and landowners interested in becoming water quality certified can contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District or visit [MyLandMyLegacy.com](http://MyLandMyLegacy.com).

## Top MN Dairy Farms Recognized for Superior Cow Care

*MDA honors 90 herds with lowest somatic cell count*

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen today released the annual list of top Minnesota dairy herds with low somatic cell counts (SCC). Somatic cell count is a key indicator of milk quality – a lower SCC count is better for cheese production and a longer shelf life for bottled milk.

In honor of National Dairy Month, 90 Minnesota dairy farms are being recognized for their superior herd management skills by achieving an average SCC of under 100,000.

"We applaud these farmers' efforts to maintain high milk quality standards, especially in the face of new and ongoing challenges," Petersen said. "Their success is a testament to these farms' resilience, and a major accomplishment."

Although somatic cells occur naturally and are not a food safety concern, dairy farmers monitor them because they can be used as a measure of the health of their cows. Processors also pay a premium for milk with low counts. A farmer whose herd has a very low count can receive a higher price per hundredweight compared to a farmer whose herd average is high.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture and University of Minnesota dairy experts have worked with the state's dairy farmers for 20 years to lower somatic cell counts. When the initiative began in 2003, the herds honored that year included those with SCC averages as high as 144,000, compared to the current goal of obtaining a SCC under 100,000.

### Minnesota Dairy Herds with Low Somatic Cell Counts (SCC)

#### Goodhue County

Robert Hinsch, Jeff Beckman

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 (left to right) Troy Clemenson, Hannah Gutknecht, Leetta O'Reilly,  
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