

## BENSON CANARY - SWIFT COUNTY MONITOR-NEWS • 320-843-4111 • March 25, 2026

### • AUCTIONS • AUCTIONS • AUCTIONS • AUCTIONS • AUCTIONS • AUCTIONS •

**NOW thru MARCH 25** - Online only land auction. 53.97 Acres. Swift County, MN. Danvers, MN. Connolly Trust/Old National Bank, Trustee. **Pifer's Auction Company.**

**THURS., MARCH 26** - 11 a.m. Retirement farm equipment auction. Tractors, grain cart, combine/heads, air seeder, sprayer, tillage, semi, trailers, pickup, ATV, misc. Larry Rahm, owner, Doland, SD. **Jark/Worlie Auction, LLC.**

**FRI., MARCH 27 thru APR. 6** - Online Only Land Auction 39.82 Surveyed Acres in Section 31 of Lake George Township, Stearns County MN. **Zielsdorf Auction and Real Estate Services.**

**SAT., MARCH 28** - 11 a.m. Retirement farm equipment auction. Martin and Julene Micko, owners. Claremont, SD. Tractors, grain cart, combine, heads, rock roller, VT plus, augers, semi, trailers, pickup, ATV, misc. **Jark/Worlie Auction, LLC.**

**TUES., APRIL 7** - 10 a.m. Feedlot retirement auction. Lynd, MN. Banks Farms, owner. Tractors, loaders, combine/heads, crop equipment, local consignments, cattle equipment, chopper and wagons, tools, misc. **Deutz Auctioneers.**

**THURS., APRIL 9** - 11 a.m. Retirement farm equipment auction.

ment farm equipment auction. Tractors, planter, mulch finisher, super couler, batwing, seed tender, augers, fuel trailer, combine/heads, grain cart, Timpete trailers, semis. Terry "Doc" Ford, owner. Mellette, SD. **Jark/Worlie Auction, LLC.**

**SAT., APRIL 11** - 10 a.m. Live auction with online bidding on select items at 11:30 a.m. NH skid loader w/ attach., tractors, machinery, farm support, Toro lawn mower, shop equip./tools, 2023 Ford-150, 1999 Ford F-250. Alvin W. Otto Estate, Stewart, MN. **Ziemer/Hilbrands Auctions.**

**APRIL 24 thru MAY 4** - April sporting/recreation and equipment Online only Consignment Auction. **Zielsdorf Auction and Real Estate Services.**

**JUNE 12 thru JUNE 22** - June Online only Consignment Auction. **Zielsdorf Auction and Real Estate Services.**

**JUNE 19 thru JUNE 29** - James E. "Jef" Fredine Estate Online Only auction. Classic cars, fish house, Kubota utility tractor, alum. utility trailer, dock, boatlift, lots of tools, shop decor, household items and more. **Zielsdorf Auction and Real Estate Services.**

**JULY 10 thru JULY 20** - Mark Peterson Farming & Excavation Retirement Online Only Auction. Full line of farm equipment along with full line of construction equipment. **Zielsdorf Auction and Real Estate Services.**

**JULY 17 thru JULY 27** - Peter and Colleen Fank online only farm retirement auction. Complete line of well kept late farm equipment. Kerkhoven, MN. **Zielsdorf Auction and Real Estate Services.**

**MON., JULY 27** - 10 a.m. Roland and Shirley Winter farm retirement. 2012 Case IH quadtrac 500, 2012 Case IH Magnum 180 FWA, Case IH 7120 combine, Case IH Patriot 3330 sprayer, White 8524 planter, entire line of row crop equipment. Lynd, MN. **Deutz Auctioneers.**

**JULY 24 thru AUG. 3** - Hjelle Farms online only auction. Barrett, MN. Tractors, campers, planters, vehicles, augers, tools, misc. **Zielsdorf Auction and Real Estate Services.**

**JULY 31 thru AUGUST 10** - August Online only Consignment Auction. **Zielsdorf Auction and Real Estate Services.**

**AUG. 14 thru AUG. 24** - Marlene (Clay) VanHorn liquidation online

only auction. Saddles, miniature pony wagons, sleigh, postal wagon, Dances with Wolves Military Saddle, horse drawn equip., stamp collection, coins, antiques, vehicles, tools, gardening items, Western Theme Fountain and more. **Zielsdorf Auction and Real Estate Services.**

**AUG. 14 thru AUG. 26** - Marlin and Phyllis Rieppel online auction. Appleton, MN. Tractors, vehicles, trailers, tools and much more. **Zielsdorf Auction and Real Estate Services.**

**OCTOBER 2 thru OCT 12** - October

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**DECEMBER 4 thru DEC 14** - December Online only Consignment Auction. **Zielsdorf Auction and Real Estate Services.**

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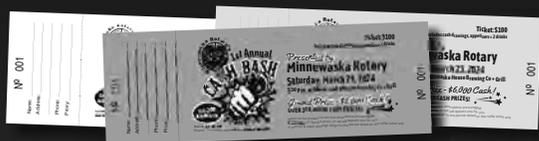
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# Way Back WHEN

## 100 years ago • Feb. 25, 1926 Sauk Centre students win high honors in St. Cloud

Sauk Centre finished the subdistrict Declamation Contest in St. Cloud Feb. 24, winning one first and two seconds with one entry in each of the three divisions.

Vione Steege, having as her theme "Bobby Unwelcome," won first honors in the dramatic division; Virginia Kells, with "The Fall of George Bassett," was awarded second place in the humorous section; and Carlyle Key, with "Christ of Andes," won second honors in the oratorical section. Sauk Centre was the only school of five schools competing that placed all contestants, and Sauk Centre led all schools in the subdistrict in total rating.

## 50 years ago • Feb. 25, 1976 Board seeks replacement for 2 agriculture teachers

A special meeting of the Sauk Centre Board of Education was called Feb. 19 for action in the resignation of vocational agriculture instructor Don Mier and to consider continuation of the Veterans' Ag program.

The vocational agriculture program has a total enrollment of 160 students, with have of them in Mier's four classes. Dropping the program would mean some students would have to take substitute classes spring quarter, and underclassmen would be missing prerequisite classes for when they are upperclassmen.

## 25 years ago • Feb. 27, 2001 A passion for papier tole

Bill Klundt has an eye for depth, contour and perception thanks to the French art of three-dimensional papier tole, which Klundt is becoming proficient at. Papier tole is the process of taking identical prints, cutting out its component parts, shaping and sizing these components, then layering them on the base print to give the finished piece its special 3D effect.

"It's not really an art or a craft; it's an art/craft," he said. "You're taking someone else's artwork and making a three-dimensional picture."

## 10 years ago • Feb. 25, 2016 CentraCare unveils new clinic space

A nine-month expansion project with a price tag of \$2.4 million was unveiled to an eager public Feb. 17. CentraCare Health-Sauk Centre held an open house, marking the opening of the new 7,100-square-foot addition that will add 15 exam rooms, bringing the clinic's total to 39.

"The additional space benefits both the patients and the staff," said Carolyn Koglin, clinic director. "It allows us to operate with 10 family medicine providers and many outreach specialists, offering more services on the main level."

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to sports.

M H T L E E

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Helmet

# Deer hunting debate

## County commissioners weigh rifle or shotgun zone

BY SHALON WILBER  
STAR PUBLICATIONS  
WRITER

As Stearns County commissioners prepare to decide whether deer hunters can use rifles county-wide, the discussion has grown beyond questions of firearms and safety, revealing deeper tensions about tradition, technology and who should ultimately make wildlife policy decisions.

A change in Minnesota law allows deer hunters to use legal rifles and shotguns throughout the state, beginning the 2026 firearms season. Current shotgun-only counties, however, have the ability to pass an ordinance to keep existing restrictions.

That compromise has left county boards across Minnesota in the middle of a divided debate.

The Stearns County Board of Commissioners is hosting a public hearing on the matter at 6 p.m. April 7 at Melrose City Hall in Melrose. The hearing comes ahead of the commissioners' May ordinance deadline.

"We're kind of in a predicament," said Steve Notch, board chair and 5th District representative. "You've got half the people saying keep shotgun and half saying rifle is fine."

According to white tail deer management history from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, shotgun-only hunting zones were created in the 1970s after deer populations in Minnesota dropped in the late 1960s. Limiting firearm range was viewed as both a conservation and safety measure.

Stuart Austing is a longtime gunsmith, avid hunter and owner of Iron Horse Trading Co. in Albany. He said the current debate is something he has heard before.

"This isn't a new argument," said Austing, a resident of Birchdale Township. "It's something that's come up again and again as technology changed and people started asking whether the old rules still matched how hunting actually works."

Earlier restrictions reflected a different era of hunting, Austing said. Fewer deer, different firearms and larger groups that drove deer across open farmland were more common than they are today, he said.

Austing said one



PHOTO BY CAROL MOORMAN

Stuart Austing stands at his work bench with tools in hand Feb. 25 at Iron Horse Trading Co. in Albany. As the Stearns County Board of Commissioners prepare to host a public hearing April 7 in Melrose, local hunters are debating the possible transition to a rifle deer hunting zone.

of the biggest misconceptions is how modern firearms are compared with those used when shotgun-only zones were first established.

"Growing up, we were all taught that slugs and shotguns were safer than rifles," he said. "In that same breath, people have been spending their lives getting better and better shotguns and trying to get them to perform like rifles."

Traditional slugs once limited both accuracy and effective distance, Austing said. Today, rifled barrels and modern slugs allow shotgun hunters to achieve accuracy and ranges far beyond what earlier generations experienced, he said.

Modern deer rifles are typically used within controlled distances, especially in wooded or rolling farmland common across Central Minnesota, Austing said.

"The equipment has changed, but so has how people hunt," Austing said. "A lot of this discussion is based on what hunting looked like 30 or 40 years ago."

Much of the public debate has centered on whether rifles are capable of longer ranges and if they pose greater risks in populated agricultural areas.

According to the MN DNR, available data does not show firearm type as a primary safety factor.

"We didn't have safety concerns about it," said Joe Albert, communications coordinator for the MN DNR. "From a wildlife management standpoint, we can manage deer populations regardless of what legal firearm is used."

Hunting incidents have steadily declined for decades, Albert said. This, he said, is largely due to mandatory firearm safety education and im-

proved hunter training.

"At the end of the day, safe handling practices matter more than the type of firearm," Albert said.

Enforcement can become more complicated when neighboring counties adopt different rules, creating potential confusion for hunters traveling between areas, Albert said.

There is a patchwork of acceptance already beginning to emerge as some counties throughout Minnesota are making decisions on whether to allow the shotgun-only zones to continue or follow the state's rifle recommendations.

Ben Wiechman, a hunter who lives in Melrose Township, hunts in three to four area counties going through the decision-making process. Wiechman wanted to track the decisions of the counties he hunts in. Shortly after he started, Wiechman said, he decided to compile a public spreadsheet tracking the decision-making process of Minnesota's 61 counties either entirely or partially in a shotgun-only zone.

"It was surprisingly hard to find information," he said. "You had to dig through agendas and meeting minutes county by county."

As of March 2, only three counties, including Stearns County's western neighbor, Pope County, have opted to stay with shotgun-only zones. In Wiechman's following of meeting minutes, calls to county offices and watching of meeting livestreams, he found 22 counties will allow rifles, and the remaining counties, like Stearns County, still have a decision ahead.

A common theme he noticed was frustration among local officials.

"A lot of commissioners don't feel equipped to make this decision," Wiechman said. "They feel like they've been pushed into the middle of their neighbors over something that probably should have been decided at the state level."

For hunters who cross county lines each season, inconsistent rules can create confusion.

Sauk Centre Conservation Club member and area hunter Andy Uphus said the divide sometimes feels arbitrary.

"I hunt both (shotgun-only) zone, just north of Sauk Centre, and I hunt with rifles by Wadena," Uphus said. "I do both on basically the same landscape. So, to me, it's just this imaginary line that separates the rifle and the (shotgun-only) zones."

Uphus has taught firearm safety, and Wiechman has mentored youth hunters.

They agreed rifles can make it easier to introduce new hunters to the sport. Shotguns often produce heavier recoil and are louder, which can make training youth hunters more difficult and increase costs due to expensive ammunition.

Uphus said he feels as though no matter what the weapon being used is, the sport is safe. But he said nothing is ever certain, and, for him, the discussion boils down to basic safety.

"You follow the general rules of firearm safety," Uphus said. "Know your target and what is beyond it. It doesn't matter what you are hunting with."

The upcoming public hearing, Notch said, is intended to gather community feedback before a final vote in early May.

Notch said he encourages those in favor or opposed to a rifle zone in Stearns County to submit a letter either as a collective group or a township as a whole to share their feelings on the matter. Doing so will ensure as many opinions are considered as possible.

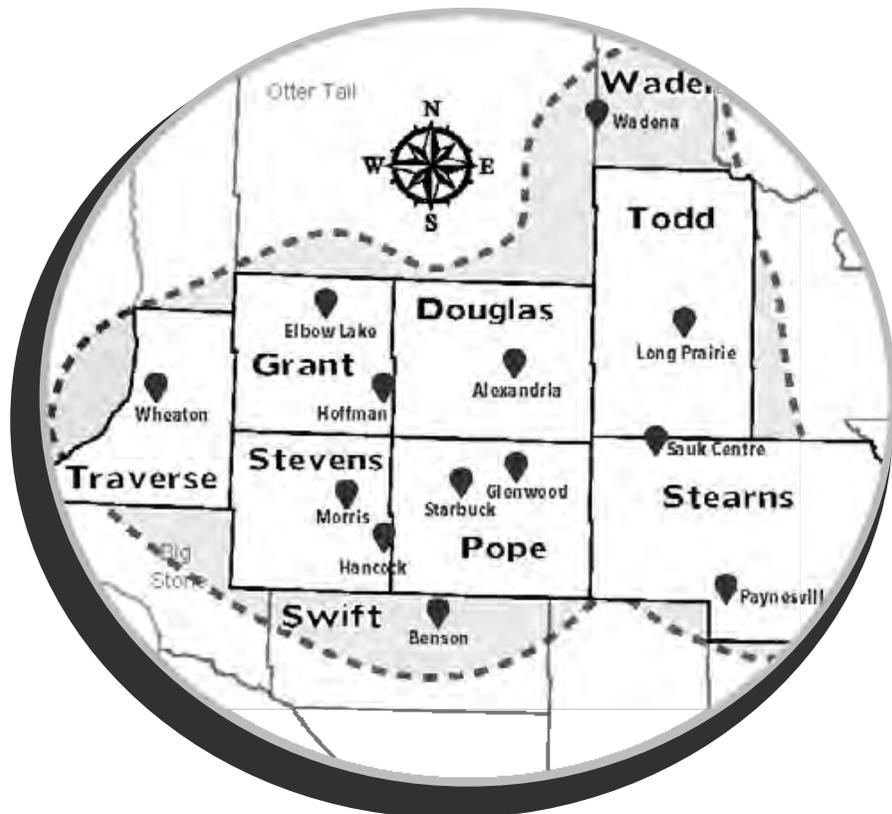
"You just hope that people understand why the decision was made," Notch said.

As counties across Minnesota reach different conclusions, Stearns County hunters can be assured they have a voice as the process continues, he said.

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[Ashton@grantcountyherald.com](mailto:Ashton@grantcountyherald.com)

218-685-5326

### **Pope County Tribune**

Glenwood

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### **Douglas County Record**

Brandon

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### **Long Prairie Leader, Long Prairie**

[news@lpleader.com](mailto:news@lpleader.com)

320-732-2151

### **Stevens County Times**

Morris, Hancock

[sales@stevensctimes.com](mailto:sales@stevensctimes.com)

320-589-2525

### **Paynesville Press, Paynesville**

[editor@paynesvillepress.com](mailto:editor@paynesvillepress.com)

320-243-3772

### **Sauk Centre Herald, Sauk Centre**

[joyce@saukherald.com](mailto:joyce@saukherald.com)

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**2026 SCHEDULE**

Sauk Centre Hay Auction Quality Tested  
**HAY AUCTIONS**

**PLEASE NOTE LOCATION FOR OUR HAY SALES**  
The Hay Sales will be held at Sauk Centre Hay Auction LLC office and auction site located from the intersection of I-94 and US Hwy. 71 at Sauk Centre, MN 1/2 miles south on US Hwy. 71 to Modern Farm Equipment, then 1/10 mile east on 408th Street to auction site. Signs will be posted.

**Hay Sales Begin at 12:30 pm**  
Regular fall & winter schedule being the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month

**NEXT SALE**

**Thursday, Apr. 2, 2026**  
**Thursday, Apr. 16, 2026**  
**COLS. KEVIN WINTER**  
**320-760-1593**

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**FERGUS FALLS LIVESTOCK AUCTION MARKET**

Our sales will start at 9 a.m. until further notice  
**CATTLE REPORTS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026**

Check our current market prices & upcoming sale dates at Fergus Falls Livestock Auction Market on our website:  
[www.salebarninfo.com](http://www.salebarninfo.com) FIND US ON FACEBOOK TOO!  
We do take cattle all day on Monday from 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., all pens with hay and water. Buyer Commission is \$20 per head on cows, fats, and feeder cattle!  
**Note:** We are discontinuing our sheep buying day for now, if you have large numbers of sheep or goats call Doug @ 218-689-0295  
**NOTICE: WE WILL BE STARTING OUR FEEDERS AT 11 A.M.**

REPRESENTATIVE SALES			
<b>FEEDER STEERS</b>			
Brandon	54 Blk	1012	321.00 C
Brandon	54 Blk	1006	321.00 C
Brandon	54 Blk	1053	320.00 C
Brandon	54 Blk	1043	319.50 C
Brandon	54 Blk	1044	319.50 C
Brandon	54 Blk	1040	319.50 C
Brandon	54 Blk	1038	319.50 C
Brandon	54 Blk	1031	319.50 C
<b>SLAUGHTER COWS</b>			
Greenbush	1 Red	1625	181.00 C
Greenbush	18 Blk	1673	177.25 C
Greenbush	7 Red	1645	177.25 C
Leonard ND	6 Red	1781	173.50 C
Enderlin ND	2 Blk	1637	173.00 C
<b>FAT HEIFERS/HEIFERETTES</b>			
Menagha	1 Blk	1520	172.50 C
Leonard ND	1 Bwf	1885	172.00 C
Greenbush	2 Blk	1470	171.00 C
Neché ND	1 Blk	1715	170.00 C
Menagha	6 Red	1596	169.00 C
Menagha	4 Blk	1462	169.00 C
Menagha	2 Blk	1917	168.00 C
Hewitt	1 Blk	1595	166.00 C
Hawley	1 Blk	1480	158.00 C
Hawley	1 Blk	1430	142.50 C
Hawley	1 Blk	1145	130.00 C
Hawley	1 Char	1305	122.50 C
<b>FAT STEERS</b>			
Rothsay	10 Blk	1434	240.00 C
Rothsay	5 Red	1328	235.50 C
Hoffman	1 Blk	1655	233.00 C
Fergus Falls	1 Red	1460	233.00 C
Fergus Falls	3 Xbrd	1396	228.00 C
Hewitt	1 Blk	1270	226.00 C
Barnesville	1 Blk	1275	225.00 C
Barnesville	1 Blk	1260	225.00 C
Baldwin ND	1 Blk	1185	212.50 C
Neché ND	1 Blk	1550	207.50 C
Neché ND	1 Blk	1465	194.00 C
Neché ND	1 Blk	1420	185.00 C
Barnesville	1 Bwf	1665	183.00 C
Fergus Falls	1 Rwf	1270	165.00 C
Leonard ND	1 Blk	1150	155.00 C
Rothsay	22 Blk	1634	244.00 C
Hoffman	5 Xbrd	1623	243.50 C
Alexandria	7 Blk	1644	241.00 C

Rothsay	9 Red	1626	238.00 C
Fergus Falls	4 Xbrd	1495	237.50 C
Baldwin ND	8 Blk	1474	237.00 C
Baldwin ND	1 Blk	1220	236.00 C
Fergus Falls	1 Xbrd	1575	236.00 C
Baldwin ND	10 Red	1483	234.00 C
Hoffman	1 Xbrd	1615	234.00 C
Baldwin ND	1 Red	1300	233.00 C
Fergus Falls	1 Xbrd	1550	232.00 C
Barnesville	1 Bwf	1340	228.00 C
Hoffman	1 Rd/W	1675	226.00 C
Neché ND	3 Blk	1506	225.00 C
Hoffman	4 Hol	1791	221.00 C
Brandon	1 Hol	1600	220.00 C
Barnesville	1 Bk/W	1540	217.50 C
Brandon	1 Hol	1600	211.00 C
Fergus Falls	1 Blk	1265	180.00 C

**UPCOMING SALES:**  
To consign call Joe 320-630-9484  
**Tuesday, March 24th**  
**Special Feeder Sale- 8 a.m.**  
**CATTLE ALREADY CONSIGNED:**  
• 95 Blks - 675-800# • 80 Blk Hfns - 825#  
• 70 Blk & Blk Baldy Hfns - Home Raised, All Shots - 750#  
• 50 Blk Strs - 650-900# • 35 Blk Strs - 600-700#  
• 27 Blk Hfns - 400-700# • 25 Blk Strs - 600-750#  
• 23 Blk & Rd Strs - 8-850# • 22 Rd Strs - 750#  
• 19 Charx Strs & Hfns - 8-900#  
• 17 Blk Strs - 7-800# • 14 Blk & Blk Baldies - 4-600#  
• Many More By Sale Date!  
More Consignments Needed - Call 218-998-0561

**Special Feeder Sales**  
**April 7th & 8th**  
Along With Regular Sale  
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