



Spring Sports  
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# Paynesville Press

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100 Years In The Family  
LeMasurier / Jacobson  
- Since 1924 -

## WILD TURKEY

### Injured Bird Moving Into Town (Apparently)...



Photo by Michael Jacobson

An injured wild turkey, who apparently has a broken right leg, has been spotted consistently along Highway 55 in Paynesville over the past several months, and now the iconic American bird has decided to move into town...to the neighborhood at the south end of Washburne Avenue, by the Paynesville Health Care Center (the local nursing home). Some call him Tur-key-lee.

## CITY OF PAYNESVILLE

### City decides against hiring realtor for lots

City considered getting requests for proposals from realtors

By Erica Reinke and Michael Jacobson

After selling one lot on Kira Court, and optioning several others to the buyer, the Paynesville City Council decided not to hire a realtor to sell the remaining lots in the Heatherwood Plat 3 development. (The city received these lots in compensation for unpaid utility assessments.) In March, the council dis-

cussed the possibility of hiring a realtor to assist in the sale of these lots, but they tabled the discussion until they could hear from realtors directly regarding the potential advantages of doing so.

On Monday, April 8, the sale of these lots was the primary discussion of the council. Riley Flanders of Flanders Realty addressed the council, saying "It's good for the city in at least two ways; one, there's housing availability, which is something you guys have been working on in numerous ways, and two, to have additional tax revenue, particularly when those lots are improved upon." He also noted that Flanders Realty

had sold nine lots in that neighborhood the past two years (2022 and 2023).

Andy Meagher of Meagher Realty then addressed the council, saying "There's two things that are important to get the lots to move, competitive price, which you are, and the other piece is exposure, which a broker provides by multiple listing services and making sure the city does have these lots available."

A disadvantage of hiring a realtor is that the city would have to pay for their services, and the sale of the plots is already close to their break-even point of \$21,220.94 (\$16,670.94 in deferred assessments owed the city and \$4,550

in housing incentives, also from the city).

After hearing from the realtors, the council discussed the idea of asking for formal proposals from interested realtors. But, after a closed session at the end of their meeting, the council accepted a purchase agreement for one lot, and optioned several others to that buyer.

That would leave only four lots for sale, and the council decided they would not need to hire a realty firm at this time for the sale of the remaining lots, although that decision may be revisited at a future date.

CITY COUNCIL - Page 2

## SPEECH

### Junior Taylor Bierwerth Advances to State Again...



Submitted photo

The Paynesville speech team competed at the Section 5A tournament on Saturday, April 13, with junior Taylor Bierwert (far right) placing second in dramatic interpretation and qualifying for the Class A state tournament for the second year in a row. By placing in the top three, Bierwerth will advance to the state tournament on Friday, April 19, at Shakopee High School, starting at 9 a.m. Four PHS speakers competed at sections, with three placing: junior Bridget Holcomb (dramatic interpretation), senior Jezmyn Rindahl (sixth place in extemporaneous reading), junior Aubri Inselman (fifth place in prose), and Bierwerth.

## News Briefs

Thursday, April 18

### Second graders to give concert

Please join the second graders as they perform, "Bada Bing, It's Spring!" on Thursday, April 18, at 2 p.m. in the Paynesville High School auditorium. The children are waiting for nice weather, and the weeds have popped out of the ground, but where are the flowers? Come to the program and find out who helps bring about the first blossoms of the season. (april17f)

### Middle schoolers to present play

Paynesville Middle School actors will present the play "Anne of Green Gables," based on the famous novel about a rambunctious young girl, on Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m. and on Saturday, April 20, at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. Admission is free, though freewill donations will be accepted at the door. A performance for the student body will be held on Wednesday, April 24.

### Friday, April 19, to Sunday, April 21

### Scavenger Days coming to town

The City of Paynesville will have its annual Scavenger Days - when residents are encouraged to put unwanted, free items in the boulevard in front of their residence - from Friday, April 19, to Sunday, April 21. All items should be removed no later than Sunday, April 21. Left-over items can be brought to the annual spring clean-up and hazardous waste collection on Saturday, April 27, from 8 to 11 a.m. (See Page 6 for more details.)

## LEGISLATURE 2024

### Is a full-time Minnesota Legislature on its way?

Parties clash on motives of proposed amendment

By Peter Callaghan, MinnPost

Sometime on Monday, May 20, likely after retiring lawmakers deliver their final speeches, someone will move that the House and Senate adjourn "Sine Die."

That's Latin for "without a day" and means that once the final gavels sound, the 2024 Legislature will not be reconvening - at least not in regular session - until next year.

But it might be the last time this tradition - hallowed or hackneyed - is carried out in the capitol. Its end depends on a few pending decisions - one made before that gavel clap and one after...one made by lawmakers themselves and one made by voters.

LEGISLATURE - Page 8

### GOP expresses concerns with full-time legislature

"A bill that would make Minnesota the 11th state to have a full-time legislature has been introduced and is in the initial stages of the committee process. I disagree with this approach because a part-time legislature allows members to spend more time back in their home districts, alongside the people we represent at the capitol," said Rep. Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Spring), who serves as the House Minority Leader and represents central Stearns County in the Minnesota House. "Our legislature has people with diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise, from farmers to teachers, business owners, law enforcement officers, trade workers, lawyers, and beyond. The list goes on, and the wide-ranging perspectives provided are an important part of what makes our system of government so special. We work at the capitol and then come back to our local communities, spending valuable time hearing directly from the people we advocate for at the capitol. It helps keep us grounded."

"Also, we must ask ourselves what legislators would do for the full year and a half after the state budget is set in advance of the fiscal year starting July 1," continued Demuth. "There's an old saying about whose workshop idle time becomes and I don't think we want to go there with state law."

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