

# Sen. Torrey Westrom's comprehensive agriculture, rural development, housing budget bill signed into law

St. Paul—Senator Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) joined Governor Tim Walz (DFL) as he signed into law, SF 1, the comprehensive agriculture, rural development and affordable housing budget bill chief-authored by Westrom. The bipartisan budget legislation, a component of the overall state budget agreement, places an emphasis on rural broadband expansion, invests in affordable manufactured housing and home ownership, prioritizes value-added agriculture opportunities that directly impact farmers, and increases resources for farmer mental health services.

“By working together, we were able to craft a bipartisan budget that prioritizes Minnesota farm families and Greater Minnesota Development,” said

Westrom, Chair of the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development, and Housing Finance Committee. “Low commodity prices have severely impacted the agriculture community, especially dairy and soybean farmers. This budget includes investments in programs that aim to expand markets and improve the bottom lines of Minnesota farmers. Further, we recognize struggling to make ends meet puts additional stress on farm families beyond the financial burdens, which is why we fund an expansion of farmer mental health services in our state.”

Specifically, the bill includes a \$5 million one-time investment in an innovative soybean processing and research facility near the University of Minnesota – Crookston

that aims to increase profitability for soybean farmers. Additionally, the legislation makes a \$5 million one-time investment in the Dairy Assistance Investment Relief Initiative (DAIRI) to provide financial aid to dairy farmers facing historically low milk prices. Dairy farmers enrolled in the new five year federal dairy protection program, a program for dairy farmers similar to crop insurance, are eligible for a cost share of their initial premium through the DAIRI initiative.

Further, the bill funds the Minnesota Border-to-Border Rural Broadband expansion program at \$40 million over the next two years million, a significant increase in the legislature's appropriation over the last biennium.

## Public Notices

### NOTIFICATION TO MELROSE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

The monthly meeting scheduled for July 4, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at the Melrose Town Hall will be rescheduled for July 11, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Melrose Town Hall due to The Fourth of July holiday.

Cecilia Tylutki  
Melrose Township Clerk  
B-25-2B

### NOTICE TO SAUK RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT RESIDENTS

The Stearns County Board of Commissioners is seeking applicants for an appointment to the Sauk River Watershed District Board of Managers. The appointment would be to serve a three year term ending on June 30, 2022. If you are interested in being appointed to this board and you reside in the Sauk River Watershed District in Stearns County, send a brief resume giving your place of residence and any other information about yourself which you would like to share with the Board regarding your qualifications or interests in serving on the board. An on-line application form and more information on the board is available on the Stearns County website: <http://www.co.stearns.mn.us/Government/BoardsandCommittees/CommitteeVacancies>. You can also contact us at 320-656-3900, send resumes to the Stearns County Auditor-Treasurer's Office, Administration Center, Room 148, 705 Courthouse Square, St. Cloud, MN 56303 or e-mail [auditor@co.stearns.mn.us](mailto:auditor@co.stearns.mn.us) no later than Monday, June 24, 2019.

Randy R. Schreifels, MBA, CPA  
Stearns County Auditor-Treasurer  
B/H-24-2B

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By: Dr. Rick Optometrist

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AMD is a generative disease that happens when part of the retina, called the macula, is damaged. It's the part of the eye that delivers sharp, central vision needed to see objects straight ahead. Over time, the loss of central vision can interfere with everyday activities, such as the ability to drive, read, and see faces clearly.

It's a complex disease that involves genetics, environment, lifestyle factors such as smoking and diet, and systematic diseases like heart disease. How the disease develops is not fully understood, but researchers have shown that oxidative stress and inflammation play a critical role in the development and progression of AMD. Drusen formation, the earliest clinical finding, has been shown to result from localized inflammatory response.

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# Meeting, facing, overcoming challenges Meyer focuses on enjoying sports, life

by HERMAN LENSING  
herman@melrosebeacon.com

Melrose—Challenges should be met, faced and overcome.

That's Aaron Meyer's philosophy in life and something he will carry with him into his future as he graduated May 31 from Melrose Area High School.

Meyer, the son of Dean and Karen Meyer of rural Meire Grove, was a three-sport athlete even though he was aware of physical limitations. He has both cerebral palsy, which affects the ability to move and maintain balance; and dystonia, which causes involuntary muscle contractions. They didn't prevent him from being with or doing what he had to earn a spot on teams.

"I've kind of been dealing with it my whole life so I work with it," he said.

Basketball coach Ryan Dusha said Meyer never complained about his condition or wanted people to treat him differently.

"He makes any team better because it is easy to see his passion for the activity and the fact that he does not use his limitations as an excuse. He is just a very easy student-athlete to cheer for," said Dusha.

In fact, Meyer was among the group of seniors Melrose Area coaches praised for their leadership.

"Aaron has won the respect of his teammates through his hard work and dedication throughout the years," said Dusha. "He's just the type of kid that loves being around sports, and he was not going to let his physical limitations get in the way."

As with any leader Meyer worked hard to improve his skills and playing level. He suited up and played on varsity levels of football, basketball and baseball. Being on the field and in the game is where he wants to be.

"I always liked playing sports," said Meyer. "It's something I wanted to do."

That interest started when he was growing up and playing with his siblings, Sarah, Kristin and Kayla, continuing through elementary school at St. John's-St. Andrew's in Meire Grove and Greenwald and junior high school.

"I've had him as a teammate since fourth grade in Meire Grove," said fellow senior and teammate Reegan Nelson. "I love having him on the team. He brings so much energy, so much knowledge to the game. He doesn't get on the field all that often, but when he does, there is excitement every moment I can watch him play."

Meyer brought a desire to play in games and improve himself and his teams.

His football playing career was limited to his senior year, but he found a way to be involved the other years.



PHOTOS BY HERMAN LENSING

In uniform is where Dutchmen fans often found Aaron Meyer while he was in high school. A three-sport athlete he also served, at times, as manager of the football team; not letting his physical challenges prevent him from doing what he loves.

"Aaron was our football manager ninth to 11th grade," said co-head coach Chuck Noll. "He would do anything asked of him. He also enjoyed talking sports with the coaching staff. As a senior he finally got the okay to play football. He gave everything he had in practice, and when he got in the games, he did his very best."

As a student he was no slouch, taking calculus his senior year. Meyer will be attending the North Dakota State University to study finance.

"I like working with numbers," he said of his career choice.

He is also planning to stay involved in athletics after high school. He plays with the Greenwald Legion team and the Meire Grove Grovers amateur

team. "I've played with my teammates so long they don't have any reaction to me playing," he said.

Actually that is not entirely true. Nelson, who played on all three high school sports teams with Meyer, credited him with a unique role helping the Dutchmen Basketball Team focus this year.

"In BOLD we were playing bad. We were down by 20. He came in, made a lay-up, a little later gets a block and the bench was going wild," said Nelson. "That was the most excited I've ever seen a team get that was down by 20 points. When he gets in I'm cheering for him."

"They (his teammates) were jumping up and down and in the locker room they were

talking about the plays," said Dusha of that game. "We came back the next day to practice, and they were having fun."

The Dutchmen refocused after that night, winning 26 of the next 29 games and finishing as state consolation champions. Meyer scored a few points in that stretch.

"Going to state was awesome," said Meyer who played in two of the three games at state. "I don't have a favorite sport from high school, but in general baseball is my favorite. I like everything about sports."

One of the things he did do was help the team prepare for upcoming games. To do so, he and others had to learn about their opponents.

"We did that in football," he said. "In basketball, we would scout teams in the play-offs. We really can't do that in baseball."

Meyer has a few favorite athletes, who are also his role models about how to play the game. He enjoys watching highlight films of Kirby Puckett, and his favorite football player is Viking Adam Thelen.

Meyer's high school academic and athletic careers are complete. He has special memories of fellow students he hung around with and teammates he played with. They may not, however, be about game winning plays.

"State was a highlight," he said. "But what I really like is playing with my friends and teammates and competing with them at practice. I just like playing sports."

Meyer will now focus on his future in finance, ready to meet, face and overcome any challenges he's faced with.



Aaron Meyer (right) likes the challenge competition, even if it is a foot race to the dugout with Joshua Hemmesch following infield warm-ups during Dutchmen baseball games.

## PULSE ON PEOPLE

Ridgewater College acknowledges the following local students for earning recognition on the dean's lists for spring semester 2019: Melrose-- **Kendra Moening, Austin Rieland and Emily Tschida.**

Area students recognized for their academic achievements at Minnesota State Community and Technical College spring semester include: Melrose-- **Madison Dufner, Carly Feldewerd and Bryant Sand,** all on the president's list; Freeport--**Julia Welle,** on the dean's list.

The following Melrose students have been awarded scholarships from Minnesota State University Moorhead: **Courtney Gerads,** child of Dale and Mary Lou Gerads, majoring in Elementary Inclusive Education, received a \$2,000 Helen Lucille Wardeberg Elementary Education scholarship; **Kalie Klaphake,** child of Tim and Teresa Klaphake, majoring in English Education, received a \$1,000 English Department scholarship.

Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples, has announced its 2019 spring semester honors list including local students from Freeport-- **Sara Dobmeier,** president's list; **Caitlyn Douvier,** president's list; and **Alexandra Wuebkers,** dean's list; Melrose--**Derek Wiechmann,** dean's list.

**Luke Glasener,** a sophomore at Bethel University in St. Paul, has been named to the dean's list for academic excellence for the spring 2019 semester. He is the son of Vaughn and Lenae Glasener of Melrose.

The following local individual was among 532 students to graduate with bachelor of arts degrees from Gustavus Adolphus College during the school's annual commencement exercises June 1: **Rebecca Engel,** of Melrose, Elementary Education, cum laude.

**Sarah Meyer,** daughter of Karen and Dean Meyer of rural Greenwald, was on the dean's honor list spring semester at Concordia College, Moorhead.

The following local students have been named to the Minnesota State University Moorhead dean's list in recognition of academic achievement spring semester: **Jacob Borgerding, Terese Dehmer, Kelsey Fleischhacker, Alexis Funk, Allison Funk, Courtney Gerads, Kaylee Gerads, Holly Hellermann, Gina Holdvogt, Kalie Klaphake, Mackenzie Meyer, Taylor Poepping, Tiffany Reller, Timothy Schmiesing, Isaac Schreiner, Summer Storm, Olivia Thompson, Spencer Van Beck, Shayne Winter and Madison Worms.**

St. Cloud Technical and Community College congratulates the following students for their academic achievement spring semester: Freeport--**Kayla Herdering,** president's list; **Brady Van Drehle,** dean's list; Melrose--**Bailey Feldewerd,** president's list.

## Clay shooting team finishes eighth

**Rural Sauk Centre**—The Melrose Area High School Clay Shooting Team finished eighth in its conference.

The conference standings were totaled after five competitions. Melrose Area finished with 23,843 points in those weeks. St. Michael-Albertville's 41,552.5 was the top total.

Sara Hoppe remained among the top girls in the

competition and is tied for eighth with a season average of 20.40.

Team	Standings
St. Michael-Albertville	41,552.5
Austin	30,702.0
Elk River	27,833.5
Tri-City	26,949.0
Thief River Falls	26,700.0
Waterville-Elysian-Memorial	25,373.0
Lake Park-Audubon	24,383.0
Melrose Area High School	23,843.0
Parker's Prairie	21,503.5

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## Dutchmen, Lady Dutchmen earn WCC diamond honors

by HERMAN LENSING  
herman@melrosebeacon.com

Melrose—Two Lady Dutchmen were named to the West Central Conference (WCC) all-conference softball team, following the end of the season.

Pitcher/Infielder Makiya Luetmer earned the honor as did infielder Ashley Rademacher. Both were pivotal players at the bat and in the field for Melrose Area. Maddie Rosenberger, outfielder/designated hitter, received honorable mention.

Luetmer was also named to the Section 6AA softball team.

The Dutchmen Baseball Team had three named to the all-conference team.

Pitcher/infielder Reegan Nelson, catcher/pitcher/out-

fielder, Carter Tschida and pitcher/infielder/outfielder Grant Moscho received that honor. Ben Welle, utility player, earned honorable mention distinction.

Other WCC all-conference honors were earned by the following:

**Track-All-Conference-Girls:** Madalyn Kraemer, 200; Kayla Meyer 1,600; Camryn Brinkman, triple jump; 4x100 relay Chloey Evans, Kraemer, Alexa Martinez and Brinkman; 4x800, Katherine Maus, Madeiline Osborn, Laura Funk and Meyer. **Honorable Mention:** Brinkman, 100, long jump; 4x400 relay, April Rademacher, Gaby Martinez, Meyer and Maus. **Boys:** Chris Feldewerd, 400; Preston Poepping, 3,200; Spencer Meyer, long jump; 4x400 relay, Brandon Mon-

tanez, Will Hoeschen, Meyer Feldewerd; 4x800 relay Nick Berscheit, Brock Chellgren, Hoeschen and Poepping. **Honorable Mention:** Josh Brinkman, pole vault; 4x200, Montanez, Meyer, Feldewerd and Tyler Pohlmann.

**Golf-Boys:** Nate Loxtercamp, Ethan Van Beck, Tony Lieser, Trevor Braegelmann. The Dutchmen team of Adam Helmin, Braegelmann, Cooper Goerd, Lieser, Loxtercamp and Van Beck were team co-champions.



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