

There will be no paper published on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

WILLMAR, MINN.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2019

\$1.00



The Verso-Cap was created to help consumers squeeze the last drop of liquid product from bottles at the end of their use. The product is entirely made in Minnesota and was created by a Willmar couple. See video at [wctrib.com](http://wctrib.com).

Photos by Erica Dischino / West Central Tribune

## WILLMAR COUPLE CONTINUES INVENTIVE WAYS

### New bottle-cap invention helps consumers squeeze last drop of liquid from pump bottles

By Shelby Lindrud  
slindrud@wctrib.com

Willmar

The spark of inspiration can happen at any time and be caused by the smallest of things. For Steve Vossen and Julie Vossen-Henslin of Willmar, it was the two inches of shampoo left in the bottle after the pump stopped working.

"I used to cut the bottle off," Vossen said. At first, trying to solve the problem was just an

INSIDE

More Business news on  
PAGE A8

idea, nothing concrete. Then the husband and wife team started thinking about it a bit more seriously.

"It continued to bother us," Vossen-Henslin said. What eventually came from the inspiration was Verso-Cap, a patent-pending, bottle-cap invention that allows

INVENTIVE: Page A2



Steve Vossen, left, and Julie Vossen-Henslin at their home in Willmar hold up the Verso-Cap product they invented and are now selling. The invention is sold in a pack of three different sizes to fit all bottles.

## Ice on lines, high winds disrupt power

By Tom Chervenky  
tchervenky@wctrib.com

DANUBE — Ice and strong winds combined to cause some temporary power outages Monday to rural customers of the Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association and Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association.

Line crews with the Renville-Sibley Cooperative were working on two lines when contacted by the West Central Tribune on Monday afternoon. Gene Alex, line superintendent, said the crews were dealing with ice on the lines.

The combination of rain and a temperature at the freezing point on Sunday caused ice to build up on lines throughout the system. The high winds on Monday triggered the outages by causing the ice-coated lines to gallop or bounce.

Alex said the galloping lines caused power "blinks" through much of the system during parts of the day Monday, but no widespread power problems.

The co-op headquartered in Danube serves Renville County, as well as portions of Sibley, Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Redwood and Nicollet counties.

The Montevideo-based Minnesota Valley Power Cooperative began dealing with ice-triggered problems Sunday in its service territory near Canby in western Yellow Medicine County. Operations manager Bob Kratz said the cooperative's line crews worked 14 hours on Sunday to restore power.

The crews dealt with galloping lines Monday as well. As of Monday afternoon, only a few customers were affected by an outage from lines to the Asbury substation north of Granite Falls.

Minnesota Valley Cooperative serves customers in Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Renville, Yellow Medicine and Swift counties.

The Kandiyohi Power Cooperative did not experience the same extent of icing as did the cooperatives to the west and southwest, and as of Monday afternoon had not experienced any outages, reported Diane Maurice, communications director.

## Hard seltzers won't disappear but other possibilities predicted for 2020

By Emily Heil

The Washington Post

What will be the It drink of 2020? Will boozy kombucha take over your Instagram feed? Perhaps the long-overlooked, humble gin and tonic will shine?

Those are possibilities, according to a new report by Nielsen forecasting the liquids we'll be pouring down our throats in 2020. The company's crystal ball is a good one to peer into — after all, it did dub hard seltzer "the breakout star" of the beverage world long before White Claw Summer gripped the nation.

And while 2020 could see some drinks' profiles rise, hard seltzer isn't giving up its spot on the throne, per the report.

All the trends that spurred the craze for the boozy fizz — including younger drinkers' desire for more-healthful, lower-alcohol quaffs — will continue, it posits. The number of producers of hard seltzer will double, Nielsen says, with big brewers, mainstream

brands, craft brewers and spirits companies all getting in the game.

And with all that competition, producers will be trying to break out of the pack, so look for new entrants to differentiate themselves with qualities like "higher (alcohol by volume), healthy ingredients and features, bolder flavors." The mania for all things "hard" could mean your kombucha or coffee will be spiked in 2020, it says.

While its predictions for seltzer are rosy, wine — save for a few categories, including rosé and prosecco — isn't looking so good. And beer companies will probably be focused on "everything but beer," it says, including getting into canned cocktails, traditional spirits and even wine. Speaking of canned cocktails, they'll continue their march. "Many will be traditional cocktails with a twist to make them more interesting (e.g. Mezcal Mule)," the report says.

Overall, the trend is less. Lower-alcohol spirits, ready-to-drink cocktails and India pale ales, as well as nonalcoholic beers, are all drinks to watch. And customers will be looking for "alternative beverages with no/low sugar and carbs, and low-calorie options," the report says.

The report looked not just at what we'll be buying in stores, but also at trends at bars and restaurants, too. In those settings, Nielsen says, drinkers will keep looking to lighten up, too, seeking alcohol-free options and lower-octane spritzes and "low-alcohol" seltzers, vermouths and sake options. "Vodkas will be hot, with sugar-free and diet options flourishing, and flavored options moving from the candy-flavored varieties of the past to natural ones such as yuzu and kumquat.

But, classicists, take heart: There's hope for whiskey — with interesting flavor profiles — and even that old standby, the



Goran Kosanovic / The Washington Post

What we'll be drinking in 2020, as forecast by Nielsen, may include boozy kombucha but hard seltzer isn't giving up its spot on the throne.

gin and tonic. But this one is no old-school, post-golf quaff at the country club. It will be upscale — and probably "grammed" — "With increased distribution of premium tonics in

the U.S., lower sugar content of premium mixers and the social shareability of a perfect cocktail, a path is being cleared for the rise of this trend," the report finds. "Through a

more premium experience, we expect gin and tonics to grow in popularity over the next year and finally have their moment in the spotlight."



Wishing you all the best in  
2020 from all of us at the

WEST CENTRAL  
TRIBUNE





Steve Vossen speaks about the Verso-Cap product created by him and his wife, Julia Vossen-Henslin.

**INVENTIVE**

From Page A1

consumers to use every drop of product from their pump bottles, such as large shampoo containers or hand soap. The Vossens sell their new invention in a three-pack, a cap to fit small, medium and large bottles. "We haven't found a bottle they won't work with," Vossen-Henslin said.

Verso-Cap isn't the first time they have created something and marketed it. They own Ductcap and KZ Sales, both of which manufacture duct work coverings, another invention of Vossen and Vossen-Henslin.

"We've been doing it for 15 years now," Vossen said.

It was because of their experience and success with Ductcap that they knew they could do it again with Verso-Cap. The couple have been through all the steps before.

"We're not intimidated by it," Vossen said.

When they first started brainstorming about what would become Verso-Cap, the couple looked at ways to change the bottle itself, but quickly came to the realization that was too big of a project.

"It would have been far too expensive to redesign all the bottles," Vossen-Henslin said.

Instead they focused on creating a new cap that would allow people to squeeze the remaining product out of the bottle without the use of the pump.

Even that was a big challenge, since bottles can have different neck sizes and thread patterns. Instead of being able to invent a one-size-fits-all top, the Vossens created three different sizes. They also needed to find the right design and material to use.

"I think we had about

five failures," Vossen said.

The first step in bringing Verso-Cap to life was creating the prototype. They turned to John Wells of Wellstronics3D, a 3D-printing operation in Inver Grove Heights.

"A terrific guy to work with," Vossen said.

"He never rolled his eyes at us once," Vossen-Henslin added.

Once they finally landed on a design that worked, which allowed the product to be squeezed out but not leak out when not in use, it was on to the next step. They brought the schematics to H&S Specialties Inc., a Glenwood company that creates products using custom, precision injection molds.

Funding the injection mold step of the process was a learning experience. It costs more than \$15,000 to create the mold for the product. At first they attempted a Kickstarter campaign, but ultimately financed it themselves.

They had complete control over the product and self-funding also allowed them to go at their own speed, to make sure it was all done the way they wanted.

"We've had fun doing it so far," Vossen said.

The first 1,000 Verso-Cap sets came off the manufacturing line this past August.

So far the Vossens have sold the Verso-Cap at a few arts and crafts fairs, as well as online at www.verso-cap.com. Word has started to spread and they are getting return customers. In 2020 they're already lined up to participate in shows up in Duluth and in Shakopee. Vossen-Henslin also plans to increase their marketing in the coming months.

"Next year, by Christmas, we'll be able to hit that hard," Vossen-Henslin said.

The goal is to expand



The Verso-Cap was created to retrieve the last of the liquid product from the bottom bottles at the end of their use. The cap package comes with three bottle sizes: small, medium and large.

the product's reach nationwide. They would also like to see the product in salons and other beauty companies.

"I think we could see some decent growth," Vossen said.

Everything having to do with the Verso-Cap from its invention to its packaging is done right in Minnesota. The couple's patent attorney is in the Twin Cities and students at Willmar Public Schools

complete the packaging process. And like any good Minnesotan, they have a certain 12-day get-together in their sights.

"Eventually we would like to get into the State Fair," Vossen-Henslin said.

**BUY 2 GET 1 HALF OFF**

all skin care & make-up products  
EXP 12-31-19

**GLow BY | BOUTIQUE**  
Glowing Together

125 E. FR 126 • S4T 104 • LOCATED IN KANDI MAI  
320-905-6421 • www.glowbyshop1.com

**FOR ALL YOUR VETERINARIAN NEEDS**

**DOCTORS:**  
Jacyn Carlson Van Lits, DVM  
Kathleen Jost, DVM  
Paul Sylverson, DVM

Melissa Nelson, DVM  
Isabelle Eid, DVM

**H & H Veterinary Service**  
(320) 842-5960

4200 170 Hwy 9 NW, Bemis, MN 56215  
601 W. 9th St., Willmar, MN 56207 | (320) 848-2689  
h&hvetservice@rednet | www.h&hvetservice.com

**QUALITY 55+ RENTALS**

**STERLING MANOR APARTMENTS**  
320-235-2685  
501 28th Ave., Willmar

**WESTVIEW VILLAGE PATIO HOMES**  
320-235-2600  
1425 19th Ave. SW, Willmar

- Studio, 1 & 2 Bedroom + Attached Garages
- Central Air Conditioning
- Exercise, Library & Guest Room
- On-site Maintenance
- Elevator
- Smoke Free
- Secure Access
- Community Room
- Laundry Hookups
- One-Level 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments with Individual Patios
- Secure Pet Access
- Smoke Free
- Attached Garages
- Community Room
- Free Laundry
- Free Basic Cable

**FURNITURE PLUS**  
DECOR AND MORE

Find furniture, decor, accessories, & gifts.

**\$399** starting Queen Mat

10 Year warranty  
REG PRICE \$799

Visit us on Facebook  
Store Hours: Monday - Friday 10am - 6pm  
Saturday 10am - 5pm Sunday Closed

Ranked #1 on GoodBed.com

3272 South Hwy 71, Willmar, MN 56201 • 320-235-2318  
FurniturePlusDecorandMore.com

**Willmar 5-Day Forecast**

Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
 (7 a.m.) 16° Mostly cloudy NW at 10:20 mph	 (Noon) 17° Partly sunny NW at 8:16 mph	 (7 p.m.) 12° Mainly clear; not as cold late WSW at 4:8 mph	
 28° 26° Times of clouds and sun S at 7:14 mph	 32° 23° Low clouds NW at 6:12 mph	 27° 15° Cloudy with a couple of flurries NW at 10:20 mph	 23° 10° Considerable cloudiness W at 7:14 mph

**Almanac**

Willmar through 5 p.m., yesterday

Temperature	High/Low	Normal High/Low	Record High	Record Low
Today	34°/18°	22°/4°	55° in 1999	-26° in 1976

**Precipitation**

24 hrs to 5 p.m. yest. .... 0.23"  
Year to date ..... 36.59"  
Normal year to date .... 29.44"

**Sun and Moon**

	Sunrise	Sunset
Today	7:59 a.m.	4:48 p.m.
Wed.	7:59 a.m.	4:48 p.m.

**Moons**

	Moons	Moons
Today	11:31 a.m.	10:26 p.m.
Wed.	11:54 a.m.	11:27 p.m.

**First Full Last New**

Jan 2 Jan 10 Jan 17 Jan 24

**Regional Weather**

AccuWeather - DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

Show us today's weather. Temperatures are today's light and tonight's lows.

Roseau 15/10  
International Falls 17/2  
Grand Forks 14/8  
Bemidji 16/7  
Hibbing 18/3  
Fargo 15/8  
Fergus Falls 16/7  
Brainerd 24/8  
Duluth 21/10  
Morris 16/9  
Willmar 19/11  
St. Paul 26/12  
Eau Claire 27/10  
Marshall 22/16  
Minneapolis 26/13  
Rochester 24/13  
La Crosse 30/16  
Sioux Falls 23/13  
Fairmont 25/16

**National Forecast**

Show us today's noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are Highs for the day.

Shower Rain Ice Storms Hail Snow Ice Cold Warm Stationary

**National Summary:** A puddle of cold air will pivot southeastward from the Great Lakes to the Northeastern states today. Snow will fall from the eastern Great Lakes region to northern New England, while locally blinding snow squalls are forecast from the central Great Lakes to the central Appalachians. Dry air will take over across the northern Plains and extend to the mid-Atlantic and southern New England. Aside from rain showers in South Florida, much of the rest of the Eastern and Central states can expect some sunshine. Rain will fall on the coastal Northwest.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2019

**TODAY'S INFO**

**What's happening?**

Do you know of something that might make a good story or photograph for the newspaper? Just give us a call at 320-235-1150.

**Corrections**

If you have a question about accuracy of information in a news story, please call the news department at 320-235-1150.

If any corrections are necessary, they will be published here.

They will be published here.

**Lottery results**

Winning numbers drawn Monday night are:  
Daily 3: 7-2-8  
Gopher 5: 4-18-25-28-39  
Northstar Cash: 1-6-13-15-25  
Lucky for Life: 4-15-34-40-47  
Lucky ball: 16

For more information, go to mlrrolley.com.

**West Central Tribune**

A Division of Forum Communications Company

Steven W. Ammermann  
Publisher/General Manager  
sammermann@wctrib.com

Kelly J. Boldan  
Editor  
kboldan@wctrib.com

Tammie Brooks  
Controller  
tbrooks@wctrib.com

Christie Stetfel  
Advertising Manager  
cstetfel@wctrib.com

Nathan Schueller  
Circulation Manager  
nschueller@wctrib.com

News Department (320-235-1150)  
Hours: 8 a.m. to midnight weekdays,  
4 p.m. to midnight Sunday.

Business Office (320-235-1150)  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays,  
closed Saturday and Sunday.

Circulation (320-235-1154)  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays,  
6:30 to 10 a.m. Saturday, closed Sunday.

Classified ads (320-235-6786)  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays.  
classads@wctrib.com  
Fax: 320-235-6769

Vol. 92 No. 307 (USPS 675080)

Postmaster: Send any address changes to: West Central Tribune, PO Box 839, Willmar, MN 56201-0839

**Publishing:** The West Central Tribune is published as a digital E-paper edition on Mondays and as print and E-paper editions Tuesday through Saturday. The Tribune does not publish Sundays or the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. The newspaper is published by West Central Tribune at 2208 Trott Ave. SW, Willmar, MN 56201.

**Membership Rates**

**Carrier**  
\$227.24 for 52 weeks, \$118.30 for 26 weeks.  
The delivery deadline is 6:30 am Tuesday - Friday and 7:00 am Saturday.  
Redelivery hours 6:30 am - 10 am Tuesday

**Mail**  
\$247.52 for 52 weeks, \$128.96 for 26 weeks.  
Willmar, MN 56201.

**Weekend (Friday/Saturday Delivery)**  
\$162.24 for 52 weeks, \$83.98 for 26 weeks, \$41.99 for 13 weeks.  
Discounts are available through EZ Pay. Call for more information.

**GADGET GUYS LLC**  
is now

**CPR CELL PHONE REPAIR**  
TABLETS + PC/MAC + GAMING + DRONES

We fix broken iPhones and iPads 320-444-6421  
Inside Cash/We by Self Checkouts!

Thank you for your business!

Your confidence helps us rise to new heights

Look forward to serving you in 2020.

145 Lake Ave. N, Spicer  
1425 1st Street S, Willmar

**JANE VIKSE REAL ESTATE**