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APRIL 17, 2024

Volume 5 • Issue 8

This Door's For You!

By Cheri Roshon

Rod French has big doors. Really big doors! At French Manufacturing, you will find the solution to your entryway in any capacity. Located at 20960 636th Street in Dodge Center, you will find Rod hard at work in his own steel fabrication shop he began in 2001, after many years of working in the industry. *(continued on page 9)*



Five Young Women Named Dairy Princesses

The Dodge County Dairy Princesses for 2024 were named at a banquet on Saturday evening April 13th. These young women will represent the dairy industry in the county for the next year.

Olivia Baskett, daughter of Michelle and Michael Dougherty of Rochester is sponsored by Olson Motor Repair of Pine Island. Alita Rinehart, daughter of Amanda Rinehart and Brian Rinehart of Kasson is sponsored by Carriage House Animal Hospital of Kasson and Dodge Vet Clinic of Dodge Center. Elyssa Robinson, daughter of Shane and Jacinta Robinson of West Concord is sponsored by Moenning Meats of Dodge Center. Ellie Sauder, daughter of Stan and Amy Sauder of Pine Island is sponsored by Clint Renken of Nelson Dairy Consultants Inc. Cadence Spearman, daughter of Nick and Melissa Herrick of West Concord and Josh and



Left to right: Olivia, Ellie, Alita, Elyssa and Cadence

Tammy Spearman of Mantorville is sponsored by Gochnauer Farms of West Concord. The friend of the dairy award was presented to Ron and Mary Whitaker for their dedica-

tion to managing the malt stand each year at the Dodge County Fair.

Announcements

• The Claremont American Legion Auxiliary will have poppies available at several businesses May 20 through May 24. On Monday, May 27th, treats will be served (free will offering) at the Legion Hall after the cemetery programs.

• GriefShare support group meets Sundays, 3-5 pm at Anchor Of Hope Church, 203 East Main Street, Dodge Center, MN. Contact Dale E Rood at 507-633-2772 for more information. Registration is available on the GriefShare website or by calling Pastor Rood. This is for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one, friend, or other significant person in their lives.

• The United Methodist Church of Dodge Center at 20 First Street NE offers a dine in and carry out meal from 5:00-6:00pm the third Wednesday of each month.

Do you have an announcement?
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

B & L Guns



firing, and a prop to hold the gun steady. The first device, or "lock" for mechanically firing a gun was called a "Matchlock" which appeared in the early 1400's.

(continued on page 8)

By Cheri Roshon

Have you ever stopped to wonder where and how the first guns were invented and used? Well, since this article is all about firearms, I decided to look into it.

I found out that the first recorded use of a gun was a rifle used in 1364, and the historic period lasted with important revisions until 1892. The first guns were fired, literally by holding a burning wick to a "touch hole" in the barrel, lighting the powder inside. The shooter would use one hand for

Dodge County Cowboy Church



The Dodge County Cowboy Church started about eight years ago when Charles Schaal was the pastor at the Congregational Church in Dodge Center. *(continued on page 8)*

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Open Mic	Thursday, May 16	7:00-10:00p.m.



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Confident About Eternity



By Pastor Roger Langworthy
Praise Fellowship Church

All of us face the reality of life on earth coming to its end. Do you ever wonder about what comes after that? I know there are some that have had near death or temporary death experiences and have described an experience of being outside of their body, yet still conscious of things happening. They come back and share their brief experience. But what of those who have died and don't come back? What is their experience and how is it that we can know with any certainty about what that experience will be for us when we die?

If you believe the Bible to be God's Word and the truth for all time, there is much that it has to say about life on earth and life after our time on earth is done. Even the familiar passage of John 3:16 says, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." From this verse we see how great God's love is for everyone and the result of his love is eternal life in contrast to "perishing." But the qualifier is "everyone who believes".

God never forces himself on anyone, but he offers a gift for people to receive his grace and his salvation. The only reason that we would perish is that we don't receive the gift that God offers and so we pay the consequences of our own wrongdoing. Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

Through our faith in God's grace, we receive

the promise of eternal life and that brings much peace about what happens after life on earth is done. James 4:14 says, "How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone." We don't have a certainty about how many days we have here on earth. Even if we live to be a hundred, it will still be like a vapor compared to eternity.

There is much to be discovered about eternal life. The Bible refers to a few things, but there are also things that cannot be described in human terms (see 2 Corinthians 12:4). But the biggest change we will experience personally is the change of our bodies. The bodies that we have now are called "corrupted" and are decaying daily (that's why we die). But the Bible says that we will be raised up incorruptible. (See 1 Corinthians 15, 2 Corinthians 5). The Bible also says that we don't fully know what we will be like, but we will be like Jesus who has already raised from the dead. 1 John 3:2 "Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is."

If you do not yet have this confidence and certainty about your future, please follow the Biblical instructions of Romans 10:9-10 to have the confidence of your own salvation and the promise of eternal life. Romans 10:9-10 "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved."

TRITON CLASS OF 2024

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



ELIZABETH HUKKEE

Elizabeth Hukee is a senior at Triton this year.

Her parents are Jull and Mike Hukee.

She has one sister Jessica. Elizabeth is active in student council, MHS, SADD and theater. Outside of school she is involved in Club Volleyball and enjoys reading, baking and Just Dance.

She like Rom-Com movies like How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days and actress Julia Roberts.

After graduation she plans to attend Bemidji State University of UofM Duluth.



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Area Church Directory

Jesus Unites Us

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. . . . — John 15:5

Are we really united to Jesus like branches to a vine? Yes, and amen! And does that mean we are also united with other people who are Christians? Yes, it does.

If we are united with Christ, we are like a branch of the holy vine of God. Yet there are other branches too, and the people represented by all those branches are loved by God just as we are—even if we might disagree with them in some ways or don't understand why they believe as they do. Sadly, there are divisions in the worldwide church of Jesus Christ, and those can often be ugly and unnecessary. Do different Christians see things differently? Yes. Do they act differently? Yes. May we separate from them, when they are living branches in the vine of Christ? No. To do so would be arrogant and hurtful.

Sometimes, however, people come up with false teachings that deny the truth of Christ (as in 1 John 2:18-27). And if they insist on following those teachings, they can mislead others and cut themselves off from the vine of Christ. That is a terrible tragedy, and we need to know how tragic it is when something like that happens. Let's do all we can to remain united with Christ and with the other branches of Christ's church. Jesus says, "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love. . . . Love each other as I have loved you."

Forgive us, Lord, if we think that we are always right and that others should conform to our way. May we seek unity in you, the true vine. Amen.

CLAREMONT

1st Presbyterian Church

200 East Street, Claremont • 528-2320
Pastor Doug Walters
Sunday Worship at 10:00a.m.

St. John Lutheran Church

4532 SE 84th Avenue, Claremont • 528-2404
Pastor Alan Broadwell
Sunday Service at 10:30a.m.

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DODGE CENTER

Faith Lutheran Church

308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center
Pastor Jessica Bakken Busch • 507-374-2174
Traditional Worship 8a.m.; Fellowship 9a.m.
Christian Education 9:15a.m.
Contemporary Worship 10a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

404 Central Avenue N, Dodge Center
Rev. Elliott Malm • 507-633-2253
https://gracedc.church
Worship 9a.m.; Sunday School 10:30a.m.

Praise Fellowship Church

602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center
Roger Langworthy • 507-374-6400
Kids Church 9:15a.m.; Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.

Dodge Center Methodist Church

201 1st St. NE, Dodge Center
Rev. Chad Christensen • 507-374-6885
Sunday Morning Worship at 8:15a.m.,
Fellowship Time Following

St. John Baptist De La Salle

20 2nd St. NE, Dodge Center • 507-374-6830
Mass Saturday 5p.m.

Living Water Assembly Church

104 1st St. NW, Dodge Center
Roy Andrews • 507-374-6561
Sunday 10a.m.

Dodge Center SDA Church

410 3rd Ave. SW
Dodge Center • 507-374-6895
Sabbath School 9:15a.m.; Saturday Worship 11a.m.

Anchor of Hope Church, a 7th Day Baptist Congregation

203 E. Main St., Dodge Center • 507-374-6755
Saturday 10a.m. Worship; 11:45a.m. Sabbath School

Bible Lutheran Church

(American Assoc. of Lutheran Churches)
11 1st Ave. N.E., Dodge Center
www.biblelc.org • 612-803-1212
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.
(weekly sermons available on YouTube and on website)

First Congregational Church

12 Second Street NW
Dodge Center, MN 55927 • 507-633-6873
www.congregationalchurchdc.com
Keith Mosier, Pastor

WEST CONCORD

Faith Community Church

305 State Street N, West Concord • 507-527-2244
Pastor David Brederland
Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship; 10:45a.m. Sunday School
www.fcwc.org
Facebook: WC Faith Community Church

Hegre Lutheran, ELCA

51939 Highway 56 Blvd., Kenyon • 507-527-2353
Sunday: 9:15a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Worship

Trinity Lutheran, ELCA

301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778
Pastor Chad Christensen • trinitychurchwc.net
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:
Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn
Sundays 9:45a.m. Worship in building and live streamed on
Facebook
Sunday School 10:30a.m.
Tuesday Men's Bible Study, 7:00a.m.
at church and via Zoom
Call church for more information on ministries and events.

Church of Christ

55087 200th Ave., West Concord • 507-527-2723
Pastor Peter Moen
9:00a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Worship
concordchurchmn.com

Zwingli United Church of Christ

"The Berne Church"
23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340
Pastor Karen Larson
Sunday 10:00a.m. Worship; Find us on Facebook

Email your church announcements,
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Merwin Lindahl

Merwin Lindahl, 84, of Dodge Center, MN passed away on April 6, 2024 at the Fairview Care Center in Dodge Center, MN.



Merwin was born in Dodge Center, MN on August 1, 1939 to Marvin and Charlotte (Langworthy) Lindahl. He grew up in Dodge Center. When he was old enough he worked with his Dad in S & L Motor and Implement repairing cars and farm machinery.

He graduated from Dodge Center High School in 1957. On September 18, 1959 he married Arlys Madery.

In 1961 he was hired as a bookkeeper for Underground Construction which later became Donaldson Construction. He worked there until 1988. He then worked for Energy Economics until retiring in 2001.

Merwin was a volunteer fireman for the Dodge Center Fire Department for 30 years. He was a founding board member of the Dodge Center Sportsmen's Club in 1965. He was the treasurer until 2019. His favorite activity was trap shooting.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Arlys and two sons; Larry (Lynn) of Roland, Arkansas and Dan (Jane) of Rochester, MN. Six grandchildren, Ashley (Brad) Gartner, Andrew Buechler, David (Maylene) Lindahl, Marie (Caleb) Stark, Danny (Katie) Lindahl and Naomi Lindahl. Two great-grandchildren Clayton and Quinn Gartner; sister Irene Conrad of Santa Barbara, CA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother and sister-in-law Robert & Lois Lindahl and brother-in-law Devon Conrad.

A funeral will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday April 20, 2024, at Praise Fellowship Church, 602 Central Avenue South, Dodge Center, MN with Pastor Roger Langworthy officiating. Visitation will be held one-hour before the service.

Memorials may be given to Praise Fellowship Church, Dodge Center Fire Department, Dodge Center Sportsmen's Club or charity of your choice.

Gloria Grace Alberts

Gloria Grace Alberts of Mantorville, passed away Monday, April 1, 2024 at Mayo Clinic Hospital - Saint Mary's Campus in Rochester, Minnesota. Gloria was born April 12, 1927 to Irvin and Delilah (Vanderhyde) Martig.

She grew up as an only child with her parents on a farm outside West Concord. Gloria attended elementary and high school there, graduating from West Concord High School.

On August 10, 1944, she married Orvis Alberts and they were blessed with two sons; Richard and Ronald. A few years later the couple started farming east of Kasson and later purchased a farm north of Mantorville where they farmed until retiring.



Gloria worked for some time in the Dodge County Nurses Office; later leaving there to concentrate on farm living. Upon leaving farming, Gloria obtained her license to sell real estate to assist her husband who had a real estate business.

Gloria and Orvis enjoyed traveling and visited some countries in Europe as well as traveling to Hawaii. They spent a few winters in Florida and later purchased a house in Tucson, Arizona where they enjoyed the warmth of winter weather there.

Gloria was very active in church life; first at the Congregational Church in Mantorville and later as a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Kasson. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star chapter in Mantorville for many years, serving as Worthy

Matron as well as many other stations until the chapter closed.

Gloria enjoyed golfing at Zumbro Valley Golf Course where she could be seen frequently on ladies' day golfing with friends. She was a member of the VFW Auxiliary of Mantorville and also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Kasson.

Gloria is survived by grandchildren Joel Alberts of Kasson, Paul (Heidi) Alberts of Kasson, Sarah (Shane) Witt of Whitehall, WI, Michael Alberts of Eau Claire, WI, Matthew (Mikayla) Alberts of Cadott, WI and Nathan Alberts of Osseo, WI; five great-granddaughters and two great-great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law Sue Alberts and three sisters-in-law as well as many nieces and nephews-in-law.

Gloria was preceded in death by her parents, husband Orvis and sons Richard and Ronald.

The funeral service for Gloria was held Saturday, April 6th at 11:00 A.M. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 301 8th Ave. NW, Kasson. Pastor John Wiesenburger officiated. Visitation was at the church one hour prior to the service. Burial was at Evergreen Cemetery, Mantorville, MN.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials be directed to the Mantorville Senior Citizens Center, 601 Clay Street, Mantorville, MN 55955.

It is sad to let her go, but she is now happily re-united with her family in heaven with God.

Wynn E. Frederick

Wynn E. Frederick, 75 of Chisholm died peacefully with his family by his side on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at Heritage Manor in Chisholm.

He was born June 10, 1948 in Rochester, MN, to Charles and Marieta (Churchward) Frederick. He graduated from West Concord High School and from Staples Technical College for Mechanical Engineering.

Wynn was a United States Navy Veteran and received the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal (2 Stars).

On April 19, 1969, he and Virginia L. Wilson, his Jr. High School sweetheart united in marriage at the Hegre Lutheran Church in



West Concord and were soon to celebrate their 55th Wedding Anniversary. Together, they were longtime residents of Chisholm since 1978.

Wynn worked for the Hibbing Taconite Mining Company as a Maintenance Mechanic for 32yrs and was also an EMT for the Chisholm Ambulance Service (20yrs). He was a member of the Chisholm United Methodist Church, Chisholm Curling Club, Hibbing Elks Lodge and American Legion Post 247. Wynn loved riding his Trail 90 and cruising in his convertible and would often stop at the local tire shop. He also looked forward to his Friday and Saturday night rides with friends. He enjoyed spending time outdoors fishing, hunting, biking, snowmobiling, sitting around campfires, boating, gardening and grilling. He will be fondly remembered for his garage hospitality serving up venison jerky, homemade wine, cheap beer and wok popcorn with music and conversation. He was also known to fix and build almost anything. But above all, Wynn enjoyed watching his grandkids in sports, graduate and become good human beings!

Wynn is survived by his loving wife Virginia, daughters, Stacey (Jeremy) Rodorigo and Stephanie (Todd) Petersen, three grandchildren: Sage Hopke, Madysen Hopke and Brecken Rodorigo, two brothers, Kerry (Sue) Frederick, Bryce (Brenda) Frederick, sister, Debbi (Tim) Fishbach and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents and beloved dogs Freckles and Chelsea.

A celebration of Life will take place at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to Rupp Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Chisholm.

Gary Ewing Abrahamson

Gary Ewing Abrahamson, long time resident of Tracy, MN, passed out of this life in Apache Junction, Arizona, February 27th, 2024 at age 83.

He was born in Dodge County, MN to Pearl and Dorothy Abrahamson on March 31, 1940. Growing up on the family farm with his siblings Delia, Arnold and Cindy, he graduated from High School in West Concord, MN.

Gary joined the US Navy and served for five years. While there, he married Arlene Leiting in 1961 and had two children, Kathryn in 1963 and Jeff in 1969.

After returning home, the family lived in Rochester, MN where Gary worked as a car mechanic and then began work with the natural gas distribution company, where he was promoted from service technician in Rochester and then Farmington, MN to managing the local office in Tracy, MN.

He became an over the road truck driver after leaving the gas company and enjoyed seeing America from coast to coast. Gary retired in 2003 and was preceded in death by Arlene in 2012. Donna Hoffman became his wife in 2013 and they traveled between

homes in Minnesota and Apache Junction, AZ, where he settled in for the last time in 2021.

Gary was preceded in death by Arlene Abrahamson, Pearl Abrahamson, Dorothy Saxer Abrahamson, sister Delia Doffin.

He is survived by his brother Arnold, wife Judy, and sister Cindy Tate, his children, Jeff and Marcie Abrahamson and grandchildren, Jakob, Faith and Kyle, Kathryn and Tim Trainor, grandchildren Isaac, Josiah, Nathaniel, Irena, Tracy and Phillip Booth, great grandchildren Dakari and Irwin.

Gary enjoyed golf, fishing, camping as well as woodworking. If we could measure contributions to this world properly, the wraparound details of his life will be remembered by countless people who may not even hear of his passing in their homes far away.

Gary was generous with his time, his talents and adding extra plates at his table.

One dear friend, who represents a continual stream of people he cared for and loved, shared stories of when she was new to America and needed help with her car in the bitter cold. He said she must wait until it reached 20 degrees below zero, but he'd be coming to get it started.

She remembers years of shared meals and stories, not just of our family, but helping us learn about her interests, work, homeland and faith. He offered to make popcorn on one of her first visits, and she was surprised that it could be done away from the movie theater, so he brought her into the kitchen and got the 'popcorn pan'.

As the heat rose and the ping started inside, she excitedly pulled up the lid and flying, hot kernels flew around the kitchen.

Everyone knows that Gary would just laugh, of course. It's all fun and we've got plenty.

Hundreds of people, church friends, neighbors, family and travelers have had their own tastes of delicious food he loved to cook and warm hospitality and friendships that lasted for decades. If everyone sat at one banquet table, it would stretch so big. What a feast.

An accomplished woodworking craftsman, Gary handmade a collection of sturdy, heavy bookshelves, tables, quilt racks and pulpits still being used around SW Minnesota. Cabinets have been built and repaired and young men, now older were taught how to do home and auto repairs.

It wasn't enough for Gary to just do good work and helpful things, he wanted others to be able to help themselves the next time and help others in their circle of living.

The source for this delightful mix of fun and enduring stability, was Gary's faith in Christ. We are thankful as his children that he prioritized living with heaven in the long view and caring for others in the daily plan.

He looked forward, the last few years, to being reunited in heaven with his beloved Arlene. It was his firm request to not have a funeral, and just let his remains get back up to where he felt the most at home in Tracy, MN. They are laid to rest in the local cemetery.

No requests for flowers, foundations or other donations. We ask that you honor his memory by following his example of hospitality, helpfulness and daily celebrating another chance to love and help someone that needs a warm meal, a true friend or extended family, when they are a long way from home.

Gary's gone Home, but he left his best in us.



That's the Latest Eclipsed



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.

I was totally eclipsed for the second time in my life on April 8, 2024. I saw my first total eclipse in Grand Island, Nebraska in August, 2017, and my wife and I decided right then, that in 7 years we would go see it again. We knew it would run from Texas to Maine. About a year and a half ago, we started looking at who would have the best odds of clear skies, which is always a crap shoot. We first thought we'd go to Texas but the statistics that my brother in law Richard detailed for us showed that for early April, Dallas had a 60% chance of clear skies and Indianapolis had a 55% chance. Indy was a much closer drive so we determined that would be the place.

I personally wanted to get back to this area anyway. I was there for the Indy 500 in 2006 and quickly became friends with the family that built and owned a golf course in Darlington, Indiana, which is about 40 miles west of Indianapolis.

Let me give you some background. In 2006, I was a member of the ag media covering that year's Indianapolis 500. It was the first year of the Indy racing circuit using ethanol in the cars. The Rahal-Letterman racing team sent me an invitation to cover the event. Yes, I know what you're asking and yes it was THAT Rahal, longtime driver Bobby Rahal. The other guy, Letterman, had a TV show I guess.

The day before the race, I played golf at the Rocky Ridge golf course in Darlington. One of the owners, Garry Hole, became a fast friend. After the round of golf, I was enjoying a cold beverage when Garry came over and struck up a conversation. Well soon after, he suggested we go road farming around the area. Road farming is a Midwest colloquialism to describe how many view agriculture. We drive down the road looking through the windshield to determine how good the crops will be this year. It's very entertaining to say the least but very inaccurate to say the most.

So Garry, his friend JK, and I got in the old pickup and drove down many of the local roads. We stopped and talked to a few neighbors to see how things were going. Then we headed to an old covered bridge, one of the last remaining in Montgomery County. Well, we got the pickup stuck in the ditch turning around as the bridge is closed to vehicles.

So JK, being the smallest of us three, got be-



Emery's T-shirt depicting his two-time eclipse viewing



The entrance to Rocky Ridge Golf Course in Darlington, IN

hind the steering wheel and spun the wheels while Garry and I pushed the truck from behind. We were successful and were once again road farming.

After a nighttime run through the golf course in the dark on the fastest golf carts I'd ever seen, we had a midnight barbeque at Garry's house. Garry and I were talking like we had been friends since grade school. But when his wife Peggy, asked how long we'd know each other, I had to literally look at my watch to determine just how long it had been. I left the next day for Indianapolis for the race. I headed back home afterwards hoping to get back to Darlington someday to do more road farming with Garry. It was not to be though as just a few months later, Garry was diagnosed with cancer and he died in February of 2007. But the day before the eclipse, I did get back to play the golf course once more. There's a beautiful bench overlooking the 15th hole in Garry's honor. JK is a maintenance man at the course although he was not around the day I was there.

I did get to meet Garry's older brother Gerald, who is a retired member of the Indiana State Police. Those two and another brother, Bob, built the course that was their grandfather's farm. It was a very rocky farm and they have lots of big boulders around the course including at the entrance. To honor Garry many years ago, I called my business and website RoadFarming LLC.

As to my recollection of the golf carts we rode at night being very fast, one of the guys told me JK still has a cart that can go 25 to 28mph.

Oh yes, I did stick around the next day for the eclipse. It turned out Indy did have better viewing weather than Dallas and we had a beautiful day to see it. Right before the eclipse started it was 76°. At totality, it dropped 9°. For me, it was a twice in a lifetime experience. It was awe inspiring, to say



On April 7th, 2024, Emery revisited the 166-foot-long Darlington, Indiana covered bridge that was built in 1868



The memorial at the golf course of Emery's friend Garry

the least.

The next total eclipse visible in the 48 contiguous United States is August 22, 2044 but only in parts of Montana and the Dakotas. My plans include a trip to Minot for that one but I will be checking the weather first

though. Northwest Alaska has one on March 30, 2033 but I'll pass on that one as it's too far to drive. As for people in Dallas, they will have to wait until 2317 for their next total eclipse. I'll put that down as a maybe!

70th Birthday Celebration

For Boni (Lulf) Moon's 70th Birthday

Saturday, May 25
1:00-4:00 PM
at Bell Tower,
West Concord
(old Methodist Church)

Celebration of Life
for Al Gilbert

Sunday, April 21 at 1:00pm
Bell Tower Event Center
West Concord



Authors Visit West Concord Library



Minnesota authors Jess Lourey and Sarah Stonich visited the West Concord Public Library on Friday, April 12.

Dodge County Expo



From L-R: EDA Coordinator - Zach Bubany West Concord Historical Society - Patti Krier, Mayor - Jeffrey McCool, Senator- Carla Nelson, & Police Chief- Shannon Boerner

WEST CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS

DOUBLETREE LEATHERWORKS

Ages 14+
Registration required

LEATHER WALLET WORKSHOP

Join us for this fun class to create a bifold leather wallet. During this four hour session you will learn to pattern trace, cut leather, apply a stamp, apply a protective finish, hand-stitch, and edge-finish your own wallet! All materials and tools will be provided and this program is free and open to the public

May 9, 2024
4:00pm

(507) 527-2031

West Concord Public Library
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Find more events in the region here!



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West Concord Traffic Stop Turns Deadly

From Dodge County Sheriff Department News Release

Sunday evening, April 14th, at approximately 7:39pm, a West Concord Police Officer was parked on Highway 56 in West Concord when a vehicle came up behind him

and swerved towards him just missing hitting the side of his squad car. The officer pulled out behind the vehicle that then pulled into the Casey's gas station, made a U-turn and aggressively drove towards the squad car. The suspect driver then turned north on

Highway 56. The West Concord Officer initiated a traffic stop with his overhead lights and the suspect vehicle stopped in the roadway briefly, then put the vehicle in reverse and rammed the squad car's front end disabling the squad and setting off the air bags injuring the officer. The suspect vehicle then fled. The West Concord Officer was transported by ambulance from the scene for minor injuries. He has since been discharged and is recovering at home

With the help of a citizen who followed the suspect car, Dodge County Deputies responded and were able to locate the suspect vehicle, a black 2005 Ford Explorer. The vehicle failed to stop for Dodge County Deputies resulting in a pursuit north on county and township roads into rural Goodhue County. During the pursuit, a Rice County deputy was able to deploy stop sticks resulting in the suspect losing his right front tire. As the pursuit entered Cannon falls on County 24 Blvd, a Dodge County Deputy was able to successfully deploy stop sticks a second time in an attempt to disable the suspect vehicle.

The suspect turned into the Mayo Clinic Hospital, which went into lockdown, stopping his vehicle at the curb by the main doors of the building. Dodge County Deputies attempted to get the suspect to exit the vehicle when he produced a firearm and shot himself. No officers discharged their firearm during this incident.

The Cannon Falls Police Department requested the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) to assist their agency with the suicide investigation. BCA agents and Evidence Technicians responded to take over the suicide investigation.

2024 Tree Planting April 20th

On Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 8:00 am we will be meeting at the Bell Tower for the second tree planting in the community. This is a result of a grant obtained from the DNR due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

If you would like to help, please reach out to city hall at 507-527-2668 and let us know ASAP. This will allow for us to provide numbers for tools (provided) and lunch. The UofM and Tree Trust will be present for instruction and equipment.

We most likely will be all wrapped up with the day by noon or 1 pm. We have approximately 50 trees to plant.

Last year was a lot of fun! Join us this year!

Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library Saturday, May 4 from 9-10am or Wednesday, May 8 from 4-5pm

The Lager Queen of Minnesota by J. Ryan Stradal

A novel of family, Midwestern values, hard work, fate and the secrets of making a world-class beer.

Two sisters, one farm. A family is split when their father leaves their shared inheritance entirely to Helen, his younger daughter. Despite baking award-winning pies at the local nursing home, her older sister, Edith, struggles to make what most people would call a living. So she can't help wondering what her life would have been like with even a portion of the farm money her sister kept for herself.

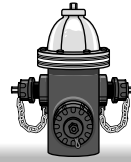
With the proceeds from the farm, Helen builds one of the most successful light breweries in the country, and makes their company motto ubiquitous: "Drink lots. It's Blotz." Where Edith has a heart as big as Minnesota, Helen's is as rigid as a steel keg. Yet one day, Helen will find she needs some help herself, and she could find a potential savior close to home. . . if it's not too late.

349 pages, Hardcover, First published July 1, 2019



West Concord 2024 Hydrant Flushing Schedule

- April 22nd – 24th
- May 20th – 22nd
- June 17th – 19th
- July 22nd – 24th
- August 19th – 21st
- September 23rd – 25th
- October 21st – 23rd
- November 18th – 20th



City Hall is no longer accepting plastic bags that was part of a Lions project. It has concluded at this time.

If there is another project in the future we will be sure to let you know.
Thank you all for the effort, it is appreciated!

2024 West Concord Events

- Saturday, April 20th or 27th - Tree Planting
- Saturday, May 11th (8-11am) - Community Clean-up/3rd Annual Spring Fling Event (4-7pm)
- June 19th - Juneteenth - Open Swim
- Thursday-Sunday, July 25th-28th, 39th Annual Survival Days Weekend
- Tuesday, August 6th - National Night Out (6-9pm)
- Saturday, September 21st - 3rd Annual Oktoberfest Event (3-7:30pm) 
- October Membership Drive, Date/Time to be determined
- Saturday, December 7th - 18th Annual WC Community Christmas 



Save the Date!

West Concord Spring Fling

Saturday, May 11, 2024

4:00-7:00 PM

More Information to Come!

Plant Sale

Food/Cash Bar

Silent Auction

Music

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HELLO Spring



B & L Guns

(continued from page 1)

In this rendition, the powder was held in the "flash pan" and ignited by a match in a movable clamp. Both hands remained on the gun, vastly improving the aim.

In 1498, the "rifling" principal was discovered, and the invention of the "wheel lock" became the next major advance in design. With no wick to keep lit, the wheel lock generated a spark mechanically, making it much easier to use. It was also much more expensive to produce, so the matchlock remained in common use. In about 1540, the rifling principle began to be used in firearms. This was also about the time that the double barreled shotgun was invented.

In 1630 the first true flintlock was designed. Sometime in the late 1500s, a lid had been added to the flash pan design. To expose the powder, the lid had to be moved manually. The flintlock mechanism was designed to push back the lid, and spark a flint at the same time. This became very popular, and the design was unaltered for about 200 years with no alterations.

In 1835, Samuel Colt developed the first mass produced, multi shot, revolving firearms. Even though various revolving designs had been around for centuries, precision parts couldn't be made with the current technologies. Once Colt applied the new machining tools to the idea, mass production was possible, and by 1850, true shotguns were in common use. The musket design was popular, but the Spencer came along as a repeating rifle and took over as a weapon of war. The Gatling gun was invented in 1862, the first cartridge revolver was introduced in 1871, and the Winchester was born in 1873. In 1892, the automatic hand guns were created, and many companies began mass production. The Historical period was concluded in 1900.

So there you have a brief history of the firearm evolution!

Now, if you are interested in guns, and the history and use of them in America, I have a special treat for you. Located in Dodge Center in the old Wells Fargo Bank building at 18 Second Street SW, is B & L Gun Shop. I was able to meet with Bud Sanson to see his extensive inventory of all things guns, and a lot more!

Bud started his gun shop about 10 years ago in a shed on his Dodge Center property. About 5 years ago, he purchased the Bank building, and 18 months ago, moved his shop into town. In the shop you will find not only firearms of all sorts, but he carries ammunition that is both current and obsolete, safety vests, bow hunting equipment, deer stands, laser engraving, Cerakote applications, military guns, antiques, military artillery shells, silencers, bayonets, and so much more! He has taxidermized animals for sale, with stories to go with them. A Master Gunsmith is on duty to repair or specialize your gun, and they do special orders for weapons and ammo. The shop specializes in long range shooting rifles, ammo and scopes. They also build muzzle loaders for hunting enthusiasts.

A true enthusiast himself, Bud has had hunting trips all over the world, and has quite the collection of trophy animals from Africa, Alaska, Canada and South America. He worked on the pipelines all over the globe, and was able to hunt wherever he was working. He is also an avid fisherman, and likes to swap "fish stories" with his customers.

Some of his activities in the community include teaching Conceal and Carry classes twice a month, and selling raffle tickets and supplying firearms for fundraisers in the community. He participates in gun shows in Rochester, Wykoff and Wells, and sells passes for the Dodge Center Gun Club just outside of town.

You can reach Bud at (507) 269-7967, or stop in and check out his shop Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm.

His website is XSteel Targets, or you can email him with questions at budsanson@hotmail.com. When I asked Bud what he would like to leave us with, he replied, "Buy local, and support your local businesses." So find some time to stop in and see all that B & L has to offer! It's definitely worth stopping by!



Dodge County Cowboy Church

(continued from page 1)

The Cowboy Church spread across the country with the resurgence of nostalgia for some of the Old West lore. After Charles left his position at the Congregational Church, the event moved to the old school building in Dodge Center. With the demolition of the old school building the Dodge County Cowboy Church now meets at the Kasson Church of Christ located at 901 8th Avenue NE.

The Cowboy Church meets on the second Sunday evening of each month, except during the mid-winter. It is not really a church service, they call it more cowboy and less church, just more informal and fun with lots of music. It starts at 5:30pm with some fun stuff and the music starts at 6pm. Sometimes there are guest musicians and other times anyone who wants can get up and play. They take

requests from the crowd as well. They play songs, read a scripture, play more music and then Charles does a devotion or a story and then ends with more music. It wraps up about 7:15pm and then snacks are served. Last November pies were served in honor of Thanksgiving.

There is a cowboy boot to drop your donations in. A percentage of the funds go for use of the building, pay guest performers and sometimes donated to benevolent causes. Everyone is welcome to come and in March they had a packed house. The schedule is posted on their facebook page so you can see what is planned for each month. Like them on Facebook @cowboychurch55927. There is a Cowboy Church in Cherry Grove on the first Sunday and one in Lyle on the third Sunday of the month.

TRITON CLASS OF 2024



CASPER CONNOR

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Casper Connor is a senior at Triton this year.

Casper's parents are Katie Finne and Kevin Connor.

In Triton Casper is active in gender-sexuality alliance, theater and MHS as well as the Rochester Teen Council.

Casper's pastimes are reading, painting, writing, binging on tv series and favorite music is by Pheobe Bridgers, Mitski, TV Girl and Grandson. Favorite movies are Ladybird, Ferris Bueller and the Breakfast Club.

Favorite actors are Maya Hawke, Joe Keery and Cillian Murphy.

After graduation Casper plans to attend U of M Twin Cities for Art History.



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This Door's For You!

(continued from page 1)

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consin in a vast variety of buildings. Being that the midwest is known for its agricultural prowess, think barns. Think heavy equipment used to plant, spray and harvest the crops on millions of acres, and where they are kept when not in use. Think airplane sprayers used for agricultural purposes, and even small planes to transport everything from people to products. A turn-key Power-Lift door is the best choice for your aviation, commercial, farm or architectural projects. Replacing existing, worn out doors with a PowerLift hydraulic door will put an end to struggles with older sliding, bi-fold or overhead doors, and each door is custom fit and custom built right here in Dodge Center. The best part of the custom retrofit doors is that it will expand your current clear opening



height and width for improved ease of entry, without having to change the building itself.

Another option would be their Hydaway Hydraulic Walls for more recreational or residential projects. Just like their counterpart, PowerLift Doors, they are custom fit and manufactured in Dodge Center, but think more along the lines of Man Cave, She Shed, Margarita Room, and you begin to see a way to add class to your home. Of course, restaurants, bars and boat houses also can have glass applications to add a cleaner finish with hidden cylinders and a precise fit, and soft close performance. Hydaway Walls recently won Best of Show in the outdoor product division of the NAHB/IBS business show in Las Vegas in 2023!

Rod and his crew will come to your location, measure up the existing opening, and

suggest the best solution for your needs. They will then custom build the door with all welded construction for a precise fit. This ensures that there are no bolts or screws that will come loose over time, and need replacement. Once the door is complete, they will deliver and install it for you, guaranteeing your satisfaction. This isn't a "big box store" type of operation, either. Because each door is personally built, delivered and installed, you know his reputation is based on quality and timely service. Even after the project is complete, Rod is just a phone call away if you have questions.

So if you are thinking of upgrading your present set up, call Rod and let him know what you want to accomplish at (507) 374-9306. And tell him Cheri sent you!

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TRITON CLASS OF 2024

2024 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

GRACE LAU

Grace Lau is a senior at Triton this year. Her parents are Elizabeth and Jeremy Lau. Grace has one brother, Ethan. She is active in Big Brother/Big Sister. After school she works at Cinemagic/Odyssey. Her pastimes include drawing, reading, watching shows and decorating things. Her favorite musicians are Stray Kids favorite song is Zombie by Johnnie Guilbert, favorite movies are A Silent Voice, Alice in Borderland, Sweet Home and Fairy Tail. Her favorite actors are Park Bo Young and Song Kang. After graduation Grace plans to attend RCTC to be a character designer.

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What's Normal?



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

As we progress into the first days of Spring, we look back on a winter season that was not the typical Minnesota winter. We can also look back to the fourth anniversary of the Covid pandemic and the infamous shutdown the entire society endured. As that experience dragged on there was an increasing desire to see things “return to normal.” But how do you define normal?

Normal is “a standard, or regular pattern” according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, and is often associated with a routine, or possibly a habit. One individual online described “normal” as that action or belief that is accepted by 62% of the population. However, what is considered normal may not be healthy, or good for you. How comfortable are you with making a healthy choice that is not be seen as ‘normal’?

The Standard American Diet is a common phrase used by nutritionist with the emphasis on the first letter of each word – S.A.D. The normal choices for food consumption among Americans has resulted in SAD consequences. Back around 1901, the normal consumption of sugar per American was around 5 pounds of sugar per year. Today, the normal consumption of sugar per American is over 100 pounds of sugar per year. Before 1930, vegetable oil, corn oil, soybean oil, and canola oil did not exist. Today, soybean oil and corn oil are the top oils consumed promoting significant inflammation. There are a multitude of foods available in our warehouse grocery depots that our great grandparents would not recognize. What we consider normal today has brought about SAD consequences.

Unfortunately, in our culture, normal is not the same as healthy. Consider some of these examples:

- More than 70% of the American population is overweight or obese leading to heart disease, diabetes, and a weakened immune system
- Premenstrual cramps, headaches, and irritability each month is considered normal
- Constipation with bowel movements less than once a day is considered normal
- Braces to straighten teeth and pulling wisdom teeth is considered normal
- More than 10 prescriptions per American is the current average

To make a healthy choice, or choose a healthy lifestyle is not considered normal. Do some of these healthy choices seem ‘abnormal’ to you:

- Have some vegetables with your break-

fast

- Be sure to drink 8 cups of filtered water (or more) each day
- Eat an apple every day
- Eat only three meals a day with no snacks between meals
- Each meal should include a protein (meat, egg, dairy, or beans)

When what is normal is not a healthy choice, you and I have the opportunity to be an influence to our circle of friends and relatives to help them recognize a healthy option. To be an influencer is to be one who helps others to be interested and to recognize there is another choice available. The normal advertisements and recommendations coming across the television screen are not presenting healthy options, they are presenting normal options. Internet videos presenting extreme diets and exercise are not presenting healthy options, they are sales gimmicks. The healthy options are going to be consistent, natural-based options your great grandparents would recognize. Healthy options are lifestyle choices that promote longevity, fertility, and a healthy environment. You can be an influencer to help move the American culture back to a healthy standard. Perhaps one day, healthy choices will be the “new normal.”

I invite you to join me this spring at the Northfield Holistic Health Summit “New Beginnings” Saturday, May 4, 2024, to learn more about healthy lifestyle choices and the resources available to you. Ten local health practitioners will be presenting information on – herbs, homeopathy, acupuncture, toxins, neurology, allergy therapy, and more. Purchase your ticket today for this event that

includes a healthy catered meal by Café Shawn. Ticket sales close on April 30. More information at <https://www.nutritionproportion.net/healthsummit2024> or scan the QR code.



SCAN ME

Make your health a priority in 2024. Change is required, but the outcome is worth the effort. Little changes can make a big difference over time. If you would like to pursue a healthy lifestyle and increase longevity, I can help.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for 2024. I can help you reach those health goals with whole food plans customized to your specific needs. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net


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TRITON CLASS OF 2024




SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Emma Locke is a senior at Triton this year. Her parents are Tina and Jeff Locke. She has three sisters, Kylee, Jenna and Averie. Outside of school she enjoys babysitting, drawing, crocheting and sewing. Her favorite movie is the Rookie and actors Ryan Reynolds and Tom Holland. After graduation Emma plans to pursue an electrical apprenticeship.

EMMA LOCKE



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93% of Americans concerned about brain health!! Irish Music and Guinness Taste



By Shauna Burslem, D.C.

According to a recent AARP survey, 93% of Americans are concerned about their brain health, yet few understand how to protect it. Research is now showing that canola oil leads to significant declines in memory and has a negative impact on body weight management. This is bad news, as canola oil has always been touted as a healthy oil to use. Most people do not even know where canola oil comes from or even what a canola is. There is actually no such thing as canola. Canola stands for Canadian Oil. It is in reality rapeseed oil which comes from pressing the oilseed rape plant. Canada became the first country in the world to produce large quantities of rapeseed with low erucic acid in the oil and low glucosinolates in the meal. Thus the name Canadian Oil or Canola Oil for short. Canola Oil is not a healthy oil for your brain. It is genetically engineered and altered to reduce toxic to humans erucic acid levels and then processed with several chemical baths before being bleached. Sadly, canola oil is found in almost oil processed

(man-made foods in boxes or bags). And over the years, through proper marketing by canola oil manufacturers, has led us to believe it is a health food. Healthier options include pastured organic butter, virgin coconut oil, ghee, avocado and walnut oil for cooking and olive oil for non-cooking purposes (use olive oil as an added oil once the food is cooked, because olive oil is not supposed to be heated).

68% of adults have damage to the discs in their neck. The discs are cushions between the cervical vertebrae. This condition is called cervical disc degeneration or degenerative disc disease (DDD). If you do not have this condition now, you will likely get it unless you are in a neck mobility program. Early signs of disc degeneration include popping, cracking or gravelly noises in the neck. Chiropractic spinal adjustments either by hand or low force adjusting instruments place motion in the spinal joints which reduces the friction on the surface of the bones. Also helpful is using a cervical pillow at night and performing passive range of motion exercises daily.

There are two types of sugars which you should be aware of. Refined sugar and intrinsic sugar. Refined sugars are linked to health problems and include high fructose corn syrup as one example. Intrinsic sugars are naturally occurring sugars in whole fruits and vegetables. Refined sugars affect the gut by causing endotoxin production which destroys the function of the energy producing cells in the body which then can result in cancer metabolism. Fructose present in whole fruits does not result in the production of endotoxins. Avoid high fructose corn syrup and eat sugars from whole fruits, raw honey or pure organic raw cane sugar.

Mustard seed contains chemical compounds that can enhance the cancer fighting potential of cruciferous vegetables like broccoli, cauliflower and brussels sprouts. Sprinkle mus-

tard seed powder on these vegetables to further reduce cancer risk. A compound in brown mustard seed lowered the risk of bladder cancer by 34.5% and was 100% effective at preventing the spread of cancer into surrounding muscle cells.

Dried plums, aka prunes may help prevent bone loss in older osteoporotic postmenopausal women. In addition, dried plums are loaded with anti-oxidants which are very important for overall health.

Drinking Ireland's Guinness Stout was shown to taste better if you are listening to Irish music. A study from London, England's University of Lincoln, published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology* found that the tastes change when drinking Guinness stout comes down to two psychological factors. The first is called priming. Priming is the idea that exposure to one stimulus may influence a response to another stimulus without guidance or intention. For example, if a wine shop played German or French music in the background of their store, there would be increased interest in wines from those countries. The second factor is called musical fit. This factor state that our brains function better when things are as we expect them to be, or are well put together. For example, people are more willing to pay more for a drink in a bar or restaurant when the music playing fits the décor or foods being sold. The Guinness study showed that certain frequency ranges, tempos, timbres and harmonies are associated by our brains with flavor attributes such as sweetness, bitterness, sourness and perceived body and strength of the beer. For example, a light hearted tune like the Saw Doctors "To Win Just Once," or Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl" make Guinness taste sweeter. On the other hand, Sinead O'Connor or the Cranberries singing "Zombie" would make the Guinness taste heavier, stronger and more bitter due to the heavy guitar and strong emotional content.

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Removing a Tick From Your Dog

Removing ticks from your dog may not be pleasant, but it's important to do it promptly and correctly. Once you know how to remove a tick, it will be a fairly easy process.

Because they can carry infectious organisms, ticks infect thousands of animals and people with illnesses like Lyme disease, babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis every year. Pathogen transmission can occur as quickly as three to six hours after a bite occurs, so the sooner you remove the tick, the less chance there is that your dog will get sick.

A tick has a one-piece body. The harpoon-like barbs of its mouth attach to a host for feeding. Crablike legs and a sticky secretion help hold the tick to the host. Ticks range in size from almost impossible to see with the naked eye, to ones the size of a human fingertip. The United States has about 200 tick species. They can survive—and thrive—in woods, beach grass, lawns, forests, and even urban areas. Ticks also aren't picky eaters; they feed on mammals, birds, and even other insects.

Using a pair of tweezers is the most common and effective way to remove a tick. But not just any tweezers will work. Most household tweezers have large, blunt tips. You should use fine-point tweezers, to avoid tearing the tick and spreading possible infections into the bite area. Spread your dog's fur, then grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible. Very gently, pull straight upward, in a slow, steady motion. This will prevent the tick's mouth from breaking off and remaining embedded in the skin. People often believe it's the head of the tick that embeds in the skin. But ticks don't have heads, in the conventional sense, so what gets inserted into your dog is known as "mouth parts."

Another option that is even easier to master is the use of a tick removal hook. It's especially useful if you live in a tick-dense area where your dog is frequently playing host to the vexing little critters. There are several types of hooks, like the Tick Tornado or the Tick Stick. You simply put the prongs on either side of the tick and twist upward. Never remove a tick with your fingers—it's not only ineffective, but the squeezing may also further inject infectious material.

After you've removed the tick, make sure to wash your hands thoroughly, clean the bite site with rubbing alcohol, and rinse the tweezers or tool with disinfectant.

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Triton Times



Dodge Center, Claremont, West Concord Messenger April 17, 2024

Page 13

Once Upon a Mattress a Success!

The cast, crew, and directors of this spring's *Once Upon a Mattress* ended their successful run on Saturday, April 6th. They performed Wednesday-Saturday, April 3-6, and they had phenomenal attendance and positive comments. Director Anne Wotherspoon remarked, "the students put 9 weeks of hard work into the musical, learning lines, songs, and choreography and building the set and props.

I have a front-row seat to how their hard work has paid off!"

The show featured 45 talented thespians and crew members grades 9-12. Senior Jenna Kenworthy, who played the icy Queen Aggravain, described the musical as "new [and] fresh." She went on to say, "I would also consider it surprising. It is nothing like I ever would have expected it to be." Senior Logan Tufte, who played Prince Dauntless the Drab, reflected that he loved the "high energetic vibe" that the musical brought. And finally, Senior Nancy Fernandez commented that she enjoyed the whole run, saying, "I liked that I got to act with my best friend playing best friends in the play."

Thanks to all those who came and supported the show!

(additional pictures on page 16)



Cobra Communications



Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

In the previous two editions I highlighted some of the great things happening in our elementary and middle school, in this edition I will be highlighting some of the great things going on at Triton High School. The high school years are the end of our formal education system, and graduates have many choices to pursue after they graduate. Our district has started to track college and career readiness with our Redefining Ready Report Card. The goal of the report card is to track the progress of our students using measurements that have been identified to coincide with being successful in a career or college after high school. The measures in the report card go beyond a standardized test score. Research has provided us with measurements that are more meaningful to predict future success. We are in our third year of tracking this data, and we are seeing excellent results. Last year, for the class of 2023 we had 99% of our students that were career ready, and 64% that were college ready.

The picture includes some of the meas-

urements that we are currently tracking to identify areas that our students are doing well in, as well as areas that we can work to improve to have all of our students college and career ready.

One of the greatest advantages our high school students have is the number of college credits that can be obtained without leaving our campus. We have about 52 college credits available to our students. That is an impressive number when you compare that to any other school in the area. I can speak from experience on what a great benefit that is to our students that choose to pursue a college degree. The courses that are offered cover a variety of content areas. Currently, a student can be very close to having a two-year associate degree just by taking the classes that are available here at Triton High School. We have a great group of staff that have committed to furthering their education, in order to be eligible to provide these courses at our school. These credits transfer toward a four-year degree as well and can save students a great deal of money if they choose to get a college degree.

Preparing students for life after high school includes career preparation. Our senior capstone experience is designed to help students explore career opportunities and give them valuable experiences while still in high school. In addition, the high school also offers academies that focus learning on career



clusters. These clusters are designed to help them better understand the career that they are exploring. The Senior Seminar class also provides learning experiences that focus on life skills that students need including personal finance and interviewing skills. The opportunities go beyond the regular school day for students that want to learn and showcase their abilities in FFA and BPA. Triton students in these programs are consistently competing at the championship level for a variety of their talents. The Triton School District also has a rich tradition of achievements in both the fine arts and athletics. The Triton School District has many so many things to offer our students, and speaking from my

own personal experience, it has provided an amazing place to work and raise my family.

Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have regarding our school district. You can email me at schlich@triton.k12.mn.us or you can call me at 507-418-7530 to reach me at the district office. I would be happy to set up a time to meet with you or your organization. Communication is an important aspect of my job responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to gain experience from your perspective. GO COBRAS!

#WeAreTriton

Triton High School Concurrent Classes

By Christi Runnells

Each issue of this school year's Triton Times, I'd like to highlight Triton High School's concurrent course offerings available to our students. A concurrent course is a class that upperclassmen can take to earn both high school and college credit—FREE, right at Triton, taught by a Triton teacher to only Triton students. Teachers must have a master's degree and a minimum of 18 graduate credits in that field. This month we'll look at two classes taught in our English department that offer non-English college credit.

Concurrent Speech is the equivalent of Rochester Community & Technical College's COMM 1114 Fundamentals of Public Speaking. Successful completion of this semester course earns the student 3 credits and satisfies the speech requirement that many colleges have. This course is open to juniors and seniors, but no further eligibility is required. We are excited that this is our first year to offer this course to Triton students! Jennifer Ryg is teaching this class for the first time at Triton this semester, though she has previously taught public speaking at other schools. Ms. Ryg enjoys teaching this class because it's rewarding for her to "see students find their voices through public speaking." She feels this class is very empowering for students and increases their confidence in expressing themselves and ideas that matter to them. Ms. Ryg states that she believes all students would personally benefit from taking this class, and adds that it is a financial benefit to those planning to attain a college degree


that requires this class as well.

First Year Experience, or FYEX as it's more commonly known, is a class in which a college instructor comes to Triton for one quarter to teach students strategies to be successful academically and in their career decision-making, as well as learn more about themselves and how they learn best. This class is the equivalent of RCTC's FYEX 1000 course that offers students 1 college credit upon successful completion of the class. In addition to Concurrent English 1 (showcased in October), Ms. Kleinwort also teaches FYEX. We first offered this course in 2016 and Ms. Kleinwort was the high school instructor for the course, but this is the first year she is teaching the college portion of this course, while Ms. Wotherspoon teaches the English 11 components. Ms. Kleinwort states that FYEX is about personal growth and she

enjoys teaching it because many students go on to take more college classes after this because they realize they can do it! She feels that this class is valuable for Triton students because each one that this class learns about themselves and grows in their confidence. Ms. Kleinwort says, "This is one of my favorite classes to teach because 100% of the students grow in ways they did not expect." It's no surprise that she believes that all students should take this class, so it's very exciting that this year all of our 11th grade students are either enrolled in Concurrent English or English 11 and FYEX. This means every 11th grader will earn at least 1 college credit this year. It's always an awesome experience to witness students achieve something they may not have believed they are capable of doing!



Meet The Teacher
Mrs. Ullom
 sullom@triton.k12.mn.us



Hello everyone! I am so thrilled to teach kindergarten this year. We will be working to incorporate lots of STEAM (science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & math) activities throughout our learning journey.

My Favorites
 FOOD: Alfredo
 CANDY: Chocolate
 COLOR: pink

My Education
 10th year of teaching & 3rd year at Triton

Fun Facts
 I enjoy spending time with my family and our dog, along with crafting and baking

"What Happens in Kindergarten lasts a lifetime!"

Meet The Teacher
Mrs. Mueller
 amueller@triton.k12.mn.us



I am excited to be teaching the STEAM Nature Based Kindergarten this year. We will be using the world around us to engage and enrich our learning.

My Favorites
 FOOD: Coffee
 CANDY: M&M's
 COLOR: Yellow & Gray

My Education
 17th year teaching in Early Learning (Kindergarten, preschool, & ECSE) & 6th year at Triton

Fun Facts
 When I am not in the classroom you will find me outdoors with my family fishing or in the kitchen cooking

"Children still need a childhood with play & dirt!"

Meet The Teacher
Mrs. Knoll
 aknoll@triton.k12.mn.us



I am so lucky to be a kindergarten teacher at Triton Elementary! I am looking forward to another fun school year in kindergarten exploring STEAM activities through play!

My Favorites
 FOOD: Lasagna
 CANDY: Reese's Pieces
 COLOR: Blue

My Education
 This is my 24th year of teaching and I have been in kindergarten for 4 years. Most of teaching career has been in first grade.

Fun Facts
 I enjoy watching hockey, baseball, going for walks and hanging out with my family and friends.

"Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning"

Thank You to the Dodge Center Lions



A great big THANK YOU to the Dodge Center Lions for their gift of GED Test Prep Plus Textbooks. These books are an excellent guide for our students and instructors towards achieving their GED. Triton Community Ed provides FREE GED Test Prep and ESL for adults. Call 507-418-7550 for information.

Register your Kindergartner today at Triton Elementary!
ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
 Send an email to whesse@triton.k12.mn.us for the link!!

KINDERGARTEN HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE 24/25 SCHOOL YEAR

- Nature- Based Learning Option
- Play Based Learning for all
- K-5TH
- Physical Education daily
- STEM Class weekly
- Music twice a week
- Art every week
- Technology every week

**All specials are led by a licensed teacher in their area!*

Attention TMS/THS Girls:

The Dodge Country Club Ladies League would like to scholarship one girl who lives in Dodge County with a 2024 golf season pass to the Dodge Country Club. Those interested should contact the DCC Ladies League at: dccladies@gmail.com by May 17. Please include your name, grade, school, contact information, and why you want this membership.

Driver's Education!

Learn how to drive with Mr. Johnson! Enhanced Driving Institute will be holding driver's ed class at Triton from 9-noon this summer.

**Week one: Tuesday June 4th-
Friday June 7th**
**Week two: Monday June 10th-
Saturday June 15th**



The three Behind the Wheel lessons would be held at the Rochester location. If you have questions ask Mr. Johnson via email at jjohnson@triton.k12.mn.us or visit the website for more detailed information and to register at <https://www.enhanceddrivinginstitute-mn.com/triton>.

The MHS Hygiene Drive is a Clean Success!



Left to right: MHS members Gigi Lundi, Corey Lilledahl, and Camila Medina Romero displaying the array of donations received

The Minnesota Honor Society recently concluded their hygiene drive promoted throughout the school. In total, close to 300 items were donated – beating last year's total by 100 additional items! These items will be given to our local Dodge County Salvation Army chapter that will distribute them to people in need our community. "Different situations bring about needs for supplies like these. Seniors on fixed incomes, a family experiencing a recent house fire, single-income parents – there are many reasons as to why these items are needed within our community," stated Tanya Young, the lead liaison for the Dodge County Salvation Army chapter.

MHS would like to thank all those that donated to the drive. It is astounding what can be accomplished when we work together to support those in need!

Triton Middle School

EMMA	AXT	MATIAS	JARA	BODE	OLEVSON
ALAYNA	CURRAN	HOLLY	JARRETT	CHRISTINE	PEARSON
AVERY	DAHL	KADEN	JETER	PATRICK	ROHWER
BRYCE	DUPEY	KEANNA	JOHNSON	RYAN	ROSENAU
ABRIELLE	EMANUEL	KEANNA	JOHNSON	AUBRIE	SANSON
DYLAN	FATE	JOHANN	KLEIN	CLAY	SCANLAN
JALYN	FATE	LIAM	KLEIN	ALYVIA	SCHEPPMANN
JAXON	FATE	AARON	KNUTSON	CONNOR	SCHLEUSNER
CINTHIA	FELIX	K'STIN	KORBISCH	LAVLA	SCHLEY
JOSSLYN	FREERKSEN	KINSLEY	KOSS	ELIJAH	SCHROM
ALLIE	FREIDERICH	MIKAYLA	KRAEMER	GRIFFIN	SNYDER
COY	FROYUM	PEYTON	LAUE	JULIA	STANTON
RORY	GINDER	GERALD	LEE	ISABELLA	TAPIA
GRACELYN	SCHWERING	ALYVIA	LEGLER	KENZIE	VAN BEEK
MYLES	HALL	ISABELLA	LUTTERMAN	IVY	VAN ZUILEN
ABIGAIL	HENSUN	MADDISON	MAES	COLBY	VERMILYEA
AVEREE	HENSUN	MASON	MAES	SIRI	WENNES
CHARLOTTE	HENSUN	NATHAN	MARQUARDT	SAMANTHA	WILSON
REBEKAH	HENSUN	AUNIKA	MATEICEK	ELLIOT	WIRKUS
MATHEA	HOREJSI	BROOKLYN	MECHTEL	REBECCA	WOLF
JESSICA	HUKEE	ELIJAH	OKEEFE	DYLAN	YOUNG

Third Quarter

Triton Middle School

KAIDEN	ADREON	SOPHIA	HERNANDEZ	HENRY	QIGREN
KIMBERLY	BECCERRIL-ORTIZ	WHITNEY	HIMLI	CAREY	OSCARSON
GARRISON	BECKER	JENAE	KEENER	CAMDYN	PHILLIPS
SHELBY	BISHOP	JENAE	KEENER	CARTER	PHILLIPS
MCKINLY	BLANCHARD	JAYDEN	KLEMMENSEN	SAMUEL	PRICE
COLLIN	BULOW	ALEX	KNOTT	JEMA	REYES
CLARA SYLVINA	BURT	ADDISON	KODADA	CORA	ROBERTSON
CRUZ	CAIN	SCARLETT	KRUCKEBERG	BRADY	RONGVE
DARVELIA	CHABLE	MAVRIC	KUBAT	BROOKLYN	RUDESILL
EMMA	CHICOS	ADRIANA	KUNZ	KIMBER	SANSON
LEIGHTON	COCHRAN	AUBREY	LAUE	LANE	SCHWERING
PATRICK	DAVIS	AVERIE	LOCKE	KAECYN	SHERMAN
BRINLEY	DICKIE	COLLIN	LOUKS	DANIKA	SKALICKY
KAYLEAH	DUPEY	ELI	MARQUARDT	NICKOLAS	SUTHERLAND
PRESTON	ERLER	QUINN	MARQUARDT	QUINN	SZMIOT-MCCHESEY
COOPER	FATE	ANDREW	MCNEILLIS	ERIN	THORSON
RONAN	FLOEN	MASON	MEALY	KENDRA	TUSHAUS
LILLIE	FREIDERICH	MACKENZIE	WILNER	JOSIAH	VAGT
RAELYNN	GROE	MILA	NEITZELL	MAYA	VALLEJO
HUNTER	HAMM	SAMANTHA	WOLD	MARTIN	VANEGAS
BROOKLYNN	HEASER				

Third Quarter

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross

Blood Drive Triton High School

Gym
813 Highway 14 West
Dodge Center, MN

Wednesday, April 24, 2024
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Triton HS to schedule an appointment.

Scan to be directed to RapidPass

Make an impact: Come give blood 4/8 to 4/28 for a \$10 gift card by email to a merchant of choice!

Scan to schedule an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

©2018 The American National Red Cross

Once Upon a Mattress a Success!



Cobra Track and Field Program Rising to New Heights

Section 1A in southeast Minnesota is the place to be for premier track and field competition, and the Cobras are excited to see what the season ahead holds. As our team continues to grow, so, too, does the team's success! With seventy athletes on the team (as well as six Cobra Track alumni currently competing at the collegiate level), the coaching staff is excited to see the hard work pay off in both individual and team performances. Our returning athletes brought friends, and the energy and attitudes at practice have been incredible over these first four weeks of the season.

Outdoor competition is set to kick off this week after having a few cancelled meets when the warm spring temps gave way to wintry weather. Our kids have their sights set on breaking personal records by improving their own times, distances, and heights in their events. Many have their sights set higher, on qualifying for sections or state. Still others are already looking beyond high school, setting their sights on earning opportunities to continue their athletic and academic careers at the next level. One of the things we love most about track is that while we have collective goals as a team, we can also support each other in individual goals and clearly track progress.

It's not an accident that many of our kids have visions of competing at the collegiate level. They have several great Cobra alumni as role models. Currently, Nell Graham is wrapping up her final season as a Bison at NDSU, where she has found a tremendous level of success in a wide assortment of events. Chloe Staub continues to compete in the javelin at St. Thomas. Scott Nolan (UW-Stout) has joined their team as a thrower. Owen Petersohn (Triton's first individual state champion) is a hurdler on a very successful Minnesota State Mankato team. Hanna Strom (St. Mary's) and MacKenzie Geers (Viterbo) are in their first collegiate seasons, as well. These young people modeled what it takes to take it to the next level. Our current athletes have a chance to be role models, too, as we

work with community ed to provide track opportunities for elementary-aged kids.

We might be biased, but we think that we not only have some of the best athletes in southeast Minnesota, but we also have some of the best track and field facilities thanks to our community. This, along with the wonderful track and field alumni and supporters that help us make meets happen, are the reason that we are able to continue to host incredible track meet experiences. We invite you to join us to support our kids; this year, we are set to host seven meet dates, including both regular season meets and championship meets. The varsity team will hit the track April 12 and 18, May 7, 17, 28 and 30. The junior high crew will compete at Triton April 22.

Three of those dates are major championship meets. Tuesday, May 7, we're set to host twenty-one Section 1A schools for the section True Team meet. That meet will begin at 1:00pm and is likely to run until about 9:00pm, and as noted above, will showcase much of the best of what Minnesota track and field has to offer, with a focus on team as every competitor scores points for their team.

May 28 and 30, the state-qualifying Section 1A Championships come to Wally Hitt Field. As noted earlier, many athletes have their sights set on this meet and beyond, and we can't wait to have the opportunity to compete on our home track.

We hope that you'll consider checking out the action; if you're interested in being part of the action by moving hurdles, measuring jumps or throws, or being in the middle of the action in other supporting ways, please reach out to Coach Swanson at kswanson@triton.k12.mn.us. We are so appreciative of the support our athletes receive from the community and can't wait to see you at the track!

If you can't make it to a meet but want to follow along with the team online, follow us on Facebook @TritonTrackandField. GO COBRAS!!!



TRITON COBRAS

TRACK & FIELD

#WeAreTriton

2024 VARSITY SCHEDULE

<p>APRIL 2nd Stewartville H.S.</p> <p>APRIL 9th K-W H.S.</p> <p>APRIL 12th Triton H.S.</p> <p>APRIL 16th Medford H.S.</p> <p>APRIL 18th Triton H.S.</p>	<p>APRIL 23rd R-P H.S.</p> <p>APRIL 25th Grand Meadow H.S.</p> <p>MAY 2nd Lake City H.S.</p> <p>MAY 7th Triton H.S. True Team</p> <p>MAY 11th Maple River H.S. Gopher Conference Meet</p>	<p>MAY 17th Triton H.S.</p> <p>MAY 22nd Chatfield H.S. Sub-Section Meet</p> <p>MAY 28th & 30th Triton H.S. Section Meet</p>
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Stay Up-to-date with Triton News!

Visit Our Website www.triton.k12.mn.us

#WeAreTriton #SomosTriton

Baseball Varsity Schedule (as of 04-02-24)

Date	Type	Time	Opponent	Location	Leaves	Dismissal
04-18-24	Game	4:30PM	Away vs. Waterville-Elysian- Morrystown	Waterville-Elysian- Morrystown High School	2:35PM	2:25PM
04-22-24	Game	4:30PM	United South Central	Triton High School - Triton High School Baseball Field (V) North-FIELD E		
04-26-24	Game	5:30PM	Away vs. Sibley East	Sibley East - Walsh Field in Gaylord	2:55PM	2:45PM
04-29-24	Game	4:30PM	Blooming Prairie	Triton High School- Triton High School Baseball Field (V) North-FIELD E		
05-02-24	Game	4:30PM	Away vs. Hayfield	Hayfield High School	3:15PM	
05-06-24	Game	5:00PM	Lake Crystal- Wellcome Memorial (next SY)	Triton High School Baseball Field (V) North-FIELD E		
05-09-24	Game	4:30PM	Janesville- Waldorf- Pemberton	Triton High School - Triton High School Baseball Field (V) North-FIELD E		
05-10-24	Game	5:00PM	Cotter Schools	Triton High School Baseball Field (V) North-FIELD E		
05-13-24	Game	4:30PM	Away vs. Kenyon- Wanamingo	Kenyon- Wanamingo Elementary School (Wanamingo)	3:05PM	2:55PM

Golf Boys Varsity Schedule (as of 04-02-24)

Date	Type	Time	Opponent	Location	Leaves	Dismissal
04-18-24	Meet	4:30PM	Away vs. Multiple Schools	Blooming Prairie Country Club	3:15PM	3:05PM
04-22-24	Invitational	10:00AM	Away vs. Multiple Schools	Zumbrota Golf Course	8:30AM	
04-25-24	Meet	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Dodge Country Club		
04-29-24	Meet	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Dodge Country Club		
05-02-24	Meet	4:30PM	Away vs. Multiple Schools	Prairie Ridge Golf Course	3:00PM	2:50PM
05-09-24	Conference Meet	10:00AM	Away vs. Multiple Schools	Mankato North Links Golf Course	8:00AM	
05-13-24	Conference Meet	10:00AM	Away vs. Multiple Schools	Austin Country Club Course	8:20AM	8:10AM

Golf Girls Varsity Schedule (as of 04-02-24)

Date	Type	Time	Opponent	Location	Leaves	Dismissal
04-17-24	Invite	12:30PM	Away vs. Multiple Schools	Willow Creek Golf Course	11:15AM	11:05PM
04-18-24	Meet	4:30PM	Away vs. Multiple Schools	Blooming Prairie Country Club	3:15PM	3:05PM
04-22-24	Invitational	10:00AM	Away vs. Multiple Schools	Zumbrota Golf Course	8:30AM	
04-25-24	Meet	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Dodge Country Club		
04-29-24	Meet	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Dodge Country Club		
05-02-24	Meet	4:30PM	Away vs. Janesville- Waldorf- Pemberton	Prairie Ridge Golf Course	3:00PM	2:50PM
05-09-24	Conference Meet	10:00AM	Away vs. Multiple Schools	Mankato North Links Golf Course	8:00AM	
05-13-24	Conference Meet	10:00AM	Away vs. Multiple Schools	Austin Country Club	8:20AM	8:10AM

Softball Girls Varsity Schedule (as of 04-02-24)

Date	Type	Time	Opponent	Location	Leaves	Dismissal
04-18-24	Game	4:30PM	Waterville- Elysian- Morrystown	Triton High School - Triton High School Softball Field (V) East-FIELD A		
04-23-24	Game	5:00PM	Away vs. United South Central	U of M, Jane Sage Cowles Stadium	2:15PM	2:05PM
04-25-24	Game	5:00PM	Away vs. Kasson- Mantorville	Kasson-Mantorville Elementary Fields	3:45PM	
04-26-24	Game	4:30PM	Cannon Falls	Triton High School Softball Field (V) East-FIELD A		
04-29-24	Game	4:30PM	Plainview-Elgin- Millville	Triton High School Softball Field (V) East-FIELD A		
04-30-24	Game	4:30PM	Away vs. Blooming Prairie	Blooming Prairie High School	3:00PM	2:50PM
05-02-24	Game	4:30PM	Hayfield	Triton High School - Triton High School Softball Field (V) East-FIELD A		
05-06-24	Game	4:30PM	Away vs. Maple River (next SY)	Maple River High School	2:20PM	2:10PM
05-07-24	Game	5:00PM	Away vs. La Crescent-Hokah	La Crescent High School - Small Gym	2:30PM	2:20PM
05-09-24	Game	4:30PM	Away vs. Janesville- Waldorf- Pemberton	Janesville-Waldorf - Pemberton High School	2:40PM	2:30PM
05-11-24	Game	12:00PM	Medford	Triton High School - Triton High School Softball Field (V) East-FIELD A		
5-13-24	Game	4:30PM	Kenyon- Wanamingo	Triton High School - Triton High School		

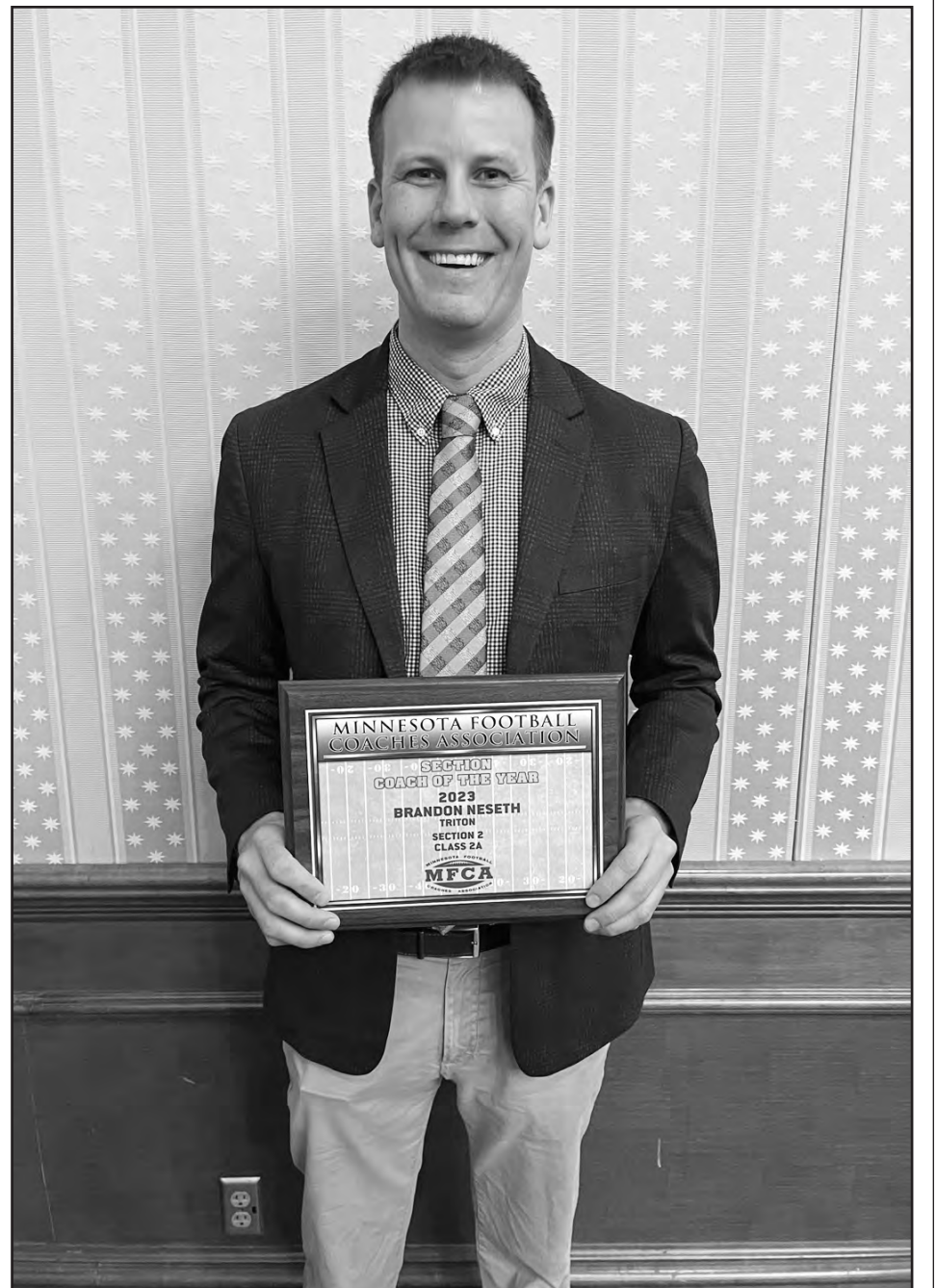
Track Varsity Schedule (as of 04-02-24)

Date	Type	Time	Opponent	Location	Leaves	Dismissal
04-18-24	Meet	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Triton High School Track		
04-23-24	Meet	4:30PM	Away vs. Multiple Schools	Rushford Peterson High School		
04-25-24	Meet	4:30PM	Away vs. Multiple Schools	Grand Meadow High School Gym	2:45PM	2:35PM
05-02-24	Meet	4:15PM	Away vs. Multiple Schools	Lake City Football Fields	2:30PM	2:20PM
05-07-24	True Team 1:00PM		Multiple Schools	Triton High School Track		

Triton Fine Arts and Other Events

Thursday April 11th - HS Band and Choir Concert, 7pm Triton PAC
 Thursday April 18th - 2nd and 4th Grade Music Concert, Triton PAC
 Saturday April 20th - Prom Grand March, 3:30pm Triton East Gym
 Sunday April 21st - FFA State Convention
 Tuesday April 30th - 1st and 3rd Grade Music Concert, 6pm Triton PAC
 Monday May 6th - MS Band and Choir Concert, 7pm Triton PAC
 Thursday May 9th - 5th Grade Band and Concert, 6pm Triton PAC
 Thursday May 9th - Fine Arts Awards Program, 7:30pm Triton PAC
 Friday May 10th - BPA National Convention
 Tuesday May 14th - HS Pop Concert, 7pm Triton PAC

Congratulations to Brandon Neseth on receiving the 2023 section 2, class 2A football coach of the year!



This past fall, the Triton football team went on a run during the section playoffs leading them to win the section championship for only the 10th time in school history.


TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Triton Community Ed Little Cobras Baseball League

Boys and Girls entering Grades 2 and 3-- as of September 2024. Coaches pitch to batters. Practice/Games will be on Mondays at 7:30-8:30 PM. The season will run for 5 weeks: June 10, 17, 24, July 8, 15, make up date for any weather cancellations will be July 22. All teams will be scheduled to play in Dodge Center, Claremont and West Concord.

Cost: \$43, includes a t-shirt. Kids must bring own glove and wear Tennis shoes. **VERY IMPORTANT:** A sign up deadline of May 8 will be upheld. Anyone registering after May 8 WILL NOT GET A T-SHIRT. Cost to register after May 8 will be \$55.

A Kick off meeting will be held June 3th at 6:30PM in the TTS Gym. Kids will get their teams/shirts/schedules and meet the coaches. Coaches will leave with all of their equipment.



We need parent volunteers as coaches!

Triton Community Ed Little Cobras League Registration

Cost: \$43 NO LATER than May 8 for a shirt, \$55 after May 8 and NO SHIRT and no refunds.

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Current Grade/Teacher: _____
 Phone: _____ Parent Cell: _____ Parent email: _____
 Name of any siblings that will also be in Little Cobras and should be placed on same team: _____
 Child T-shirt Size: XS YS YM YL AS AM AL
 Yes, I'd like to volunteer coach: Name _____ Coach t-shirt size: AS AM AL XL ZXL
 Coach email: _____ Cell: _____

Participants assume the risk of injury en route to and from as well as during practices and games, and by registering waive any suit due to injury. Parents/guardians must sign this permission slip before their child may participate in the program.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____
 If registration is done on-line, your payment is considered an auto signature for this waiver.


South Country Insurance/SCHA (SCHA could cover up to 5 classes up to \$15 per calendar year) discounts MAY apply. Registration not complete without insurance information. Call 418-7550 with questions. Thank you!

Getting Crafty with The Green Shack

A TMS After School Event!

Grades 6-8

Join us in the TMS Library after school and let your creativity flow! Brittany from the Green Shack will bring everything you need to make keychains that reflect your personal style. You can make them for yourself or for a gift! Hang out, get crafty and have some fun after school! A light snack will be provided.



Cost: \$11
May 14

3:20 (right after school)-5PM
 TMS Library
 Questions? Talk to Mrs. McMartin in the Library!

TMS After School Crafting with the Green Shack

Please return to Triton Community Ed or Mrs. McMartin in the Library


Name: _____ Grade: _____
 Phone: _____ Parent Email: _____

Cost: \$11/person, checks made to Triton Community Ed

All participants will need a plan for getting home after class promptly at 5PM

Plan: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____



TRITON PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Open Now!

Class options:

3 YEAR OLDS:
 Tues & Thurs. mornings-- 2 sections!

4/5 YEAR OLDS:
 Mon, Wed, Fri mornings
 4 afternoons/week (Tuesday-Friday)
 5 afternoons/week-WAITING LIST

Transportation & Scholarships available!
triton.k12.mn.us/page/preschool



SUMMER PRESCHOOL

Experience what preschool is like in this 4 week summer educational experience! Meet new friends and have lots of FUN!

\$100/PER WEEK
Scholarships Available

ACTIVITIES	DATES
• Nature/Outdoor Lessons	*JUNE 17,18,20,21
• Social-Emotional Activities	*JUNE 24, 25, 26, 27
• Fine Motor Practice	*JULY 22,23,24,25
• Crafts	*JULY 29,30,31 AND AUG 1
• Exercise	
• Snack Provided	
• Play	8-11:30AM

MINIMUM ENROLLMENT REQUIRED FOR CLASS TO OCCUR

Learn to crochet!

Brittany Wilcox, The Green Shack

Brittany will bring all of the supplies needed to learn basic crochet, as well as help kids advance to more complicated projects as they are ready. Everyone will work at their own pace.

Bring a snack! Max 8
 Cost: \$32
 April 22-25
 3:10-5PM
 TES Media Center
 ****This can be for beginners, and those with experience will start trying more advanced projects



Painted Stained Glass

Brittany Wilcox, The Green Shack

Join Brittany and learn the art of Painted Stained Glass. She can work with all levels of skill from beginner through experienced. Brittany will bring the supplies and the "know how", and you will enjoy a night of exploring a new hobby!

Cost: \$34
 April 30
 3:10-4:30 PM
 Triton's Room 403

Triton Community Ed and The Green Shack

Triton CE and The Green Shack Youth Offerings

Please send completed form and payment to Triton Community Ed

Name: _____ Grade: _____
 Teacher: _____
 Parent Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Crochet (\$32) Painted Stained Glass (\$34)

Total Due: \$ _____

Attention SCHA or UCARE Insured Families:

If your child has South Country Health Alliance (SCHA-could cover up to 5 classes up to \$15 per calendar year) then discounts MIGHT apply. Eligible UCare members may get up to a \$15 discount on many community education classes in Minnesota. Members must have UCare insurance at the time of registration and throughout the duration of the class. Members need to provide their UCare ID number when registering for class. Limits and restrictions may apply.

Registration not complete without this insurance information.
 Call 507-418-7550 with questions-Thank you!



Triton Times

Craig J. Schlichting – Superintendent
 Triton Public Schools:
 813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927
 Office – 507-418-7530 • Fax – 507-374-2447
 schlich@triton.k12.mn.us

Produced and published for Triton School District by Mainstreet Publishing
 P.O. Box 1, West Concord, MN 55985 • E-mail: hometownmessenger@gmail.com
 Phone/Text: 507-649-3327 • Fax: 507-645-9878

TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Safe Driving Class Jim Jensen

In the Safe Driving Class, you will learn driving strategies that can keep you safer on the road. You will learn updates to traffic laws, how to reduce distractions to driving and how to navigate different intersections. Driver's aged 55 years old and older who successfully complete the Safe Driver Class will qualify for reductions in their automobile insurance premiums. Please remember to bring your driver's license with you to class. It's important to pre-register so that Jim can ensure accommodation for all. Please call Triton CE at 507-418-7550.



Cost: \$20, checks should be made to Jim Jensen
 4-Hour Refresher Course
 (for those that have taken the 8-Hour before)
 April 25
 5-9PM in the THS Media Center



DODGER DAYS THE CENTER OF SUMMER FUN

Dodger Days is June 13-16, 2024. Anyone from the Dodge Center community wanting their garage sale posted on the events listing, please send your address, phone number and a brief description using 10 words or less to Amanda at: Dodgecenter@sunshinefoodstore.com

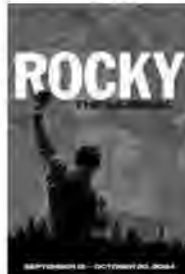
The deadline for having your address included in our printed materials is May 6.

**Triton Community Ed Presents:
 Rocky and the (Mississippi) River!—A TWO Day Trip**

Join Kristy on an overnight adventure in Wisconsin.....


Day One:
 On our first day, we will travel to Fort Atkinson Wisconsin, stopping in Tomah for lunch. Next, we will check into our overnight accommodation at the **Fort Atkinson Country Inn and Suites**, where we will be greeted with cookies and a punch reception. That evening we will have a beautiful experience at the Fireside Dinner Theatre. We will eat at the Signature Buffet featuring: The Signature Salad topped with Papaya Chutney Dressing and served with Freshly Baked Breads. On the Buffet, you will choose from these Fireside favorites: Barbecued Pork Back Ribs, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Beer Batter Fried Cod, Shrimp and Scallops Fusilli with Tomato Butter Sauce, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Beef Tenderloin and Roast Turkey from the Carving Station, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Whipped Idaho Potatoes and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Homemade Apple Pie for Dessert. Coffee, Tea, and Milk are included.

After Dinner we will enjoy the Musical Production of Rocky---
 Entering the ring is a hard-hitting yet tender musical adaptation! Rocky Balboa is a small-time Philadelphia boxer who is chosen to take on the reigning world heavyweight champion, Apollo Creed, when the undefeated fighter's scheduled opponent is injured. As he diligently trains for the fight, Rocky begins a relationship with Adrian, a wallflower who is tired of being pushed around by her brother. As their love grows, Rocky and Adrian each find their inner strength and bring out the best in each other. With equal parts grit and heart, Rocky is about the triumph of spirit, strength, and love.



Day Two:
 We will return to our hotel for a great night's sleep. We will enjoy a complimentary breakfast at the hotel, and then depart for La Crosse, Wisconsin. We will enjoy an hour and a half River Boat Cruise on the Mississippi River via the La Crosse Queen. We will enjoy a catered meal while we cruise along enjoying the beauty around us. This meal will feature Carved Baked Ham and Swedish Meatballs, along with sides and coffee or iced tea.

Finally, we will make a stop at the La Crescent Apple Stand for a little shopping. Then we will make our trip back home!



September 19 and 20, 2024
 Limit 30 people

Options: Total Cost per person: Includes coach bus, hotel stay, Fireside Theatre dinner and show ticket, La Crosse Queen cruise and lunch.

Single Room Stay (1 person in the room): \$440/person

Double Room Stay (2-4 people in the room, 2 queen beds): \$375/person
 *** Please indicate who you are rooming with when registering)

A \$150 per person non-refundable deposit is due by July 17, 2024. The final balance is due by August 22, 2024.

Bus	Departs	Approx. Return
Dodge Center	9:30AM	4:30PM
Kasson	9:45AM	4:15PM
Byron	10AM	4PM
Rochester	10:30AM	3:30PM

YOU MUST CONTACT TRITON COMMUNITY ED TO REGISTER FOR THIS TRIP: 507-418-7550



DODGER DAYS THE CENTER OF SUMMER FUN

JUNE 13-16, 2024

COMING SOON!

LISTING OF EVENTS

Questions: Call 418-7550
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-3:30 pm
 Check Out Our Website:
www.triton.k12.mn.us and click on the Community Education tab

TRITON CLASS OF 2024

2024

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Abigail Lecy is a senior at Triton this year, Her mother is Melissa Jennings. She has one brother Ian and a sister Skylar. She is active in cheerleading, dance team and the musical. Outside of school she enjoys dancing and is involved in Just for Kix. Her favorite artists are Noah Kahan and Drake. After graduation she plans to attend NDSU for a career in nursing and hopefully be on the dance team.

ABIGAIL LECY

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507-528-2233

Anhydrous Safety Should be Top Concern This Spring

The MDA offers safety tips for those maintaining equipment and applying and transporting NH3

Many farmers and applicators will soon apply anhydrous ammonia (NH3) prior to planting or sidedress after planting. Even with a rush against time and the weather, safety should never be compromised. Accidents involving anhydrous ammonia have proven how dangerous and deadly the chemical can be when not handled properly. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is providing the following tips to farmers and applicators so they can safely apply anhydrous ammonia. Always wear appropriate goggles and gloves. Never wear contact lenses. Be sure to have a clean, adequate emer-

gency water supply of at least 5 gallons. Exercise caution when making connections and disconnections as if lines contain anhydrous ammonia. Stand upwind when connecting, disconnecting, bleeding lines, or transferring NH3. Also, close, bleed, disconnect, and secure valves and transfer lines when taking breaks or disconnecting lines, and be sure to handle the hose end valve by the valve body. Position equipment away and downwind from homes, people, and livestock. Safety is also key to those maintaining anhydrous ammonia equipment. Never assume NH3 lines are empty, always wear proper protective equipment, and have access to safety water. When towing a nurse tank down the road, drive sensibly. Do not go any faster than 30 miles per hour, display a slow-moving vehicle (SVM) emblem visible from the rear, and be sure the tank is secured to the tractor or truck with two separate, independent chains that supplement the hitch pin/clip. If an accident or spill occurs, immediately call 911 and then the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798 or 651-649-5451. You can find more safety, storage, and transportation information on the MDA's website at www.mda.state.mn.us/nh3.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com



Garden Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: May 11, 18 • Sundays: May 12, 19
Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

Take a drive in the country and shop in our log cabin filled with crafts and antiques!



Potpourri Mill Log Cabin
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2290 County 49 Blvd., Dennison, MN
Email: cabincrew@frontiernet.net
or call 507-649-1009

Treat Mom to Sunday Brunch at Its Best!

Mother's Day Brunch Menu

Sunday, May 12th Serving 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.
Call 507-645-9992 for Reservations
Regular Menu Available 3:00-8:00 PM

Daily Features

WEDNESDAY Enjoy Our Jumbo* Wings Specials! BBQ Rib Dinner - 1/2 or Full Rack (begins at 4:00p.m.)
THURSDAY \$3.50 All Taps, Domestic Bottles, Rail Drinks! 16oz. Margarita Special! Taco Specials! Fajita Specials!
FINALLY FRIDAY All You Can Eat Fish Dinner
SATURDAY Hand Battered Jumbo Shrimp or Slow Roasted Prime Rib
SUNDAY Enjoy Our Sunday Breakfast Beginning at 9a.m. and Sunday Pasta Features



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Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 AM-8:30 PM
Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM-9:30 PM; Sunday 9:00 AM-8:00 PM
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Prairie Meadows Senior Living Partners with Dodge County Historical Society to Bring Local History to Residents

KASSON, MN – Prairie Meadows Senior Living, managed by Jaybird Senior Living, is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Dodge County Historical Society. This collaboration aims to bring history and connection to the residents of Prairie Meadows, fostering community engagement and preserving local heritage.

The partnership began when members of the Dodge County Historical Society attended a "Sipping with Seniors" event at Prairie Meadows. From there, the idea emerged to bring elements of local history directly to the senior living community.

Aligned with Jaybird Senior Living's year-long celebration titled "A Tapestry of Time: Stitching Together Our Story" which honors the diverse stories of the past, the partnership with the Dodge County Historical Society feels like a natural fit. Residents will have the chance to engage with history through curated exhibits and informative displays.

As part of the collaboration, Prairie Meadows will feature a portion of an exhibit curated by the Dodge County Historical Society. This exhibit will include informative posters and artifacts, providing residents with insights into the region's past. Additionally, new items will be periodically introduced to keep the experience fresh and

engaging.

Jason Burmeister, Director of Prairie Meadows Senior Living, expressed his enthusiasm about the partnership, saying, "We're excited to bring a piece of our community's history into Prairie Meadows. This collaboration allows our residents to connect with their roots and learn more about the area they call home."

The partnership between Prairie Meadows Senior Living and the Dodge County Historical Society highlights a shared commitment to enriching the lives of seniors and preserving local history in the Kasson community.

About Dodge County Historical Society

The Dodge County Historical Society (DCHS) is committed to preserving and sharing the history of Dodge County, Minnesota. Through a public museum, historic structures, and events like the Dodge County Fair showcases, DCHS provides access to exhibits, research archives, and educational programs. For more information, visit dodge-county-historical.mn or contact them at 507-635-5508 or dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

About Prairie Meadows Senior Living

Prairie Meadows Senior Living is a resident-centric senior living community offering Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Respite Care staffed with trained professionals 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Contact Blaire Schewe, Community Relations Coordinator, by phone at 507-634-9513 or email at welcome@prairiemedowsskasson.com to schedule a tour or visit our website for more information.

About Jaybird Senior Living

Prairie Meadows Senior Living is operated by Jaybird Senior Living. Jaybird Senior Living provides innovative, compassionate, resident-focused healthcare and management services for upwards of 40 Senior Living communities throughout the states of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. To learn more about Jaybird Senior Living, visit www.jaybirdsl.com.



Members of the Prairie Meadows Senior Living community and the Dodge County Historical Society gathering together to celebrate the partnership. From left: Blaire Schewe, Community Relations Coordinator at Prairie Meadows Senior Living; Lois Hancock, member of the Dodge County Historical Society; Dave Hanson, resident of Prairie Meadows Senior Living; Eleanor Engresser, member of the Dodge County Historical Society



A glimpse of the Dodge County Historical Society's featured exhibit showcased in the lobby of Prairie Meadows Senior Living

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<p style="text-align: center;">Insurance Brokers of Byron</p> <p style="text-align: center;">505 Frontage Rd NE Byron MN 55920 Phone: 507-775-7280 Email: a.sanders@insurancebrokersmn.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">North Risk Partners Rochester</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2048 Superior Drive, Suite 100 Rochester, MN Phone: 507-288-7600 Email: jesse.stenke@northriskpartners.com</p>



By Jim Miller

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Melissa
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Retirement is not "golden" for all seniors.

More than 25 million Americans age 60 and older are living with limited assets and incomes below \$30,000 per year. And even with a higher income than that, it can be difficult to make ends meet.

There are numerous financial-assistance programs, both public and private, that can help struggling seniors, as well as give relief to family members who help provide financial support for their loved ones. And because of a comprehensive resource called BenefitsCheckUp.org, a free service of the National Council on Aging, locating these benefits and applying for them have never been easier.

Here are some benefits that a senior may be eligible for...

Food assistance. Programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—previously known as "food stamps"—can help pay for groceries. The average monthly SNAP benefit currently is around \$126 per person. Other programs that may be available include The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)...Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)...and the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP).

Health care. Medicaid and Medicare can help or completely pay for out-of-pocket health-care costs. And there are special Medicaid waiver programs that provide in-home care and assistance.

Prescription drugs. There are hundreds of programs offered through drug companies, government agencies and charitable organizations that help reduce or eliminate prescription drug costs, including the federal low-income subsidy known as "Extra Help" that pays premiums, deductibles and prescription copayments for Medicare Part D prescription drug plan beneficiaries.

Utility assistance. There's the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), as well as local utility companies and charitable organizations that provide assistance in lowering home heating and cooling costs.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Administered by the Social Security Administration, SSI provides monthly payments to very-low-income seniors, age 65 and older, as well as to people of any age who are blind or who have disabilities. SSI pays up to \$733 per month for a single person and up to \$1,100 for couples.

What would happen if you or someone close to you could no longer drive? Here's a rundown of transportation solutions...

Family and friends. Include all possible candidates you might call on for rides, and determine their availability and contact information.

Ride-sharing services. The two biggest ride-sharing services are Uber and Lyft, which operate in major cities across the US. You request a ride from a driver who uses his/her vehicle to transport you. Ride requests with Uber are made using the Uber smartphone app or at the Uber mobile website...with Lyft, you use its smartphone app only. Costs are comparable to taxi fares.

Private transportation services. Some hospitals, health clinics, senior centers, adult day centers, malls and other businesses offer free transportation for program participants or customers. And some nonmedical home-care agencies offer fee-based transportation services.

Work Zones are Temporary. Actions Can Last Forever.

Spring weather signals the start of road construction season! National Work Zone Awareness Week runs Monday, April 15 through Friday, April 19, and reminds drivers to use extra caution and drive safely in work zones. The Minnesota Safety Council and the Network for Employers for Traffic-Safety (NETS) developed a Work Zone Safety Toolkit. It includes tips and resources to help keep you and others safe. Please share as you wish.

Work zones can present many challenges – narrow lanes, sudden stops, traffic pattern shifts and uneven road surfaces. This means that drivers need to be on the lookout for flaggers and road signs that indicate changes to the speed limit, detours and changing traffic patterns.



Brush Up on Safety Tips:

- Obey posted speed limits. The fine for speeding in a work zone is \$300.
- Drive undistracted. Cell phones, mobile devices, adjusting the radio – even eating – should be avoided in work zones.
- Stay alert, especially at night.
- Be patient. Expect delays, especially during peak travel times.
- Expect work zones to constantly change. Day to day you could experience lane shifts, closures or moving workers and vehicles.
- Don't make unnecessary lane changes.
- Never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

Everyone plays a role in work zone safety! It is critical that drivers slow down and pay attention to help keep construction, utility and other workers in work zones safe, especially as the construction season ramps up.



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\$1.1 Million to be Awarded to Southern Minnesota Businesses

Competitive grants to support existing operations or planned growth

By Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

Through a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) will award \$1.1 million in competitive grants to businesses in southern Minnesota to invest in existing operations or planned growth.

Grant awards will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 and can be used for working capital to support payroll expenses, rent or mortgage payments, utility bills, equipment, and other

similar expenses that occur in the regular course of business.

Grant awards will be limited and approved on a competitive basis. Not all eligible businesses will receive a grant. Primary business operations must be located in SMIF's region, which includes 20 counties and one Native nation. Businesses must earn \$750,000 or less in gross revenue (based on 2021 taxes) to be eligible. Additional eligibility requirements are listed on SMIF's website.

The grant cycle opened March 27, 2024 and will close on April 24, 2024. For the application and guidelines visit smifoundation.org/promise. Contact Melissa Langer (melissal@smifoundation.org) or Brian Conzemius (brianc@smifoundation.org) with questions.

The PROMISE Act is funded by one-time allocation from the State of Minnesota Legislature in partnership with DEED. This program looks to drive economic recovery in our region through grants to small businesses in south central and southeastern Minnesota experiencing lack of access to capital, loss of population or an aging population, or a lack of regional economic diversification.

"We are honored to, once again, partner with MN DEED to support entrepreneurs in southern Minnesota," said Tim Penny, presi-



dent and CEO of SMIF. "This will be an important boost for economic development in our region."

The PROMISE Act Grant is a statewide program with multiple partners accepting applications throughout Minnesota. SMIF is one of six Minnesota Initiative Foundations (MIFs) that will accept applications through this program, in addition to the Neighbor-

hood Development Center, which will accept applications in certain areas of the Twin Cities metro.

For businesses that are not located in SMIF's region, please consult the following website to determine who to contact for this program: <https://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/promise-grant/>



Business Link

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 • Randolph • Wanamingo • West Concord • Zumbro Falls •

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SATURDAY Hand Battered Jumbo Shrimp or Slow Roasted Prime Rib

SUNDAY Enjoy Our Sunday Breakfast Beginning at 9am.
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Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM-9:30 PM, Sunday 9:00 AM-8:00 PM
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Free Entrance to Minnesota State Parks on April 27

Minnesotans are encouraged to explore outdoors with friends and family



Each spring, Free Park Day is held on the Saturday after Earth Day. Earth Day is a great time to remind visitors to always recreate responsibly to protect natural resources. For example:

Spring is a time of increased wildlife activity; respect wildlife by observing from a distance.

Please stay on trails when hiking or biking to avoid erosion and damage to sensitive plants and wildlife habitat.

Love the blooming spring wildflowers? Resist the urge to pick – take a photo instead. Leave flowers, rocks and other natural objects as they were found.

Interpretive naturalists at some park locations have planned programming for the Free Park Day. There is no cost to participate in these events. Find more details about these highlighted events or see the full state park events calendar online.

The DNR recommends visitors wear clothing appropriate for the weather and bring water and snacks. Spring brings a variety of weather conditions, and trails could be muddy. Check for updates in the visitor alerts on park websites.

While a vehicle permit is not needed for park admission on Free Park Days, additional fees for things like camping reservations and equipment rentals still apply.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 74 state parks and recreation areas on Saturday, April 27.

This “Free Park Day” is one of four days each year on which the DNR waives the requirement for a vehicle permit at state parks and recreation areas. The four fee-free days are spread out over the year, giving folks an opportunity to visit a state park for free in each season of the year.

“Minnesota state parks and recreation areas are great places to make memories with loved ones,” said Ann Pierce, director of the DNR Parks and Trails Division. “Spring is an ideal time to reconnect with the natural world and enjoy the beauty of Minnesota’s state parks and recreation areas. I encourage visitors to look for signs of spring like early-blooming wildflowers, migrating birds, and the opening of green leaves on trees. Our goal is for those who visit on Free Park Day to be inspired to come back again soon.”



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TRITON CLASS OF 2024



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Jenna Kenworthy is a senior at Triton this year. Her parents are David and Wendy Kenworthy. She has one brother Isaac. She is active in Triton theater, FFA, MHS and Dance Team. Outside of school she enjoys reading, gardening and hiking. Jenna’s favorite movies are Pirates of the Caribbean 1-3 and her favorite music depends on the day. After graduation she plans to attend the Mortuary Science Program at the U of M Twin Cities.

JENNA KENWORTHY

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West Concord City Council Meeting February 15, 2024 7:00 PM

Meeting was held at the City of West ConCORDS Bell Tower Center

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk – Treasurer Lauren Highfill, Joe Palen of Stantec, City Maintenance Supervisor Keith Clammer, Library Director Heather Frederick and Chief of Police Shannon Boerner, Interim Clerk/Administrator Sandy Borders

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Sandra Sullivan presented her concern regarding the 2024 Street Reconstruction Project. She provided the City Clerk and City Council with data requests and asked questions pertaining to the contingency cost and estimated amounts. Joe Palen with Stantec commented that the awarded BID will stay within the quoted cost contingency.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve Special Council Meeting Minutes of January 5th, 2024
- Approve City Council Meeting Minutes of January 18th, 2024
- Approval of Payment of Claims dated, 01-20-2024 in the amount of \$2,213.94
- Approval of Payment of Claims dated, 01-26-2024 in the amount of \$40,628.41
- Approval of Payment of Claims dated, 01-29-2024 in the amount of \$34,907.67
- Approval of Payment of Claims dated, 01-31-2024 in the amount of \$3,445.00
- Approval of Payment of Claims dated, 02-01-2024 in the amount of \$ 11,919.46
- Approval of Payment of Claims dated, 02-07-2024 in the amount of 11,100.36
- Approval of Payment of Claims dated, 02-08-2024 in the amount of \$4,330.00
- Acceptance of the EDA Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2024
- Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the Presidential Nominating Primary (March 5th, 2024), General Primary Election (August 13th, 2024) and the General

Election (November 5th, 2024).

- Resolution 2024-08: Approval of Hiring of Full-time Police Officer David Myrom
- Resolution 2024-10: Donation to the City of West Concord Public Library, in the amount of \$100.00, from the West Concord Study Club and a donation in the amount of \$50.00, in Memory of Ginny Sendle to the West Concord Fire Department.

MOTION: Motion to approve Consent Agenda.

Motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Jeff Burse

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

CITY BUSINESS JOE PALEN, STANTEC: RESOLUTION 2024-09 APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ORDERING ADVERTISEMENTS FOR BIDS FOR THE CITY'S 2024 UTILITY AND STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND SCHEDULING A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Resolution 2024-09 was presented to approve plans and specifications and order advertisement for bids for the city's 2024 Utility and Street Improvement Project. As a part of the resolution a Special Council Meeting was requested at the Bell Tower Center on March 28th, 2024, at 7:00pm to consider bids.

MOTION: Motion to approve Resolution 2024-09 Approving Plans and Specifications and ordering Advertisement for Bids for the City's 2024 Utility and Street Improvement Project and scheduling a special council meeting as described in resolution 2024-09 on March 28th at 7:00pm.

Motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Jeff Burse

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

PROPOSAL FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST CONCORD TO ACCEPT STANTEC TO ASSIST WITH CHLORIDE AND SULFATE EFFLUENT LIMIT PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

Joe Palen of Stantec presented his proposal to assist the City of West Concord with management of the water/wastewater chloride and sulfate effluent limit .

MOTION: Motion to approve the Stantec proposal to assist in the process of managing Minnesota Chloride and Sulfate Effluent limits.

Motion was made by Councilmember Christina Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WATER SERVICE INVENTORY AND ASSISTANCE GRANT

MOTION: Motion to approve the Minnesota Department of Water Service Inventory and Assistance Grant.

Motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Christina Peterson

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

MOTION TO EXECUTE THE NOTICE ORDER FOR THE MINNESOTA DOT PROJECT S.P. 2006-32 (T.H. 56)

A contract was presented to the city council regarding the construction project on Trunk Highway Number 56 to begin on August 12th, 2024.

MOTION: Motion to approve the Notice Order for the Minnesota DOT Project S.P. 2006-32 (T.H. 56)

Motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Jeff Burse

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember

Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

DISCUSSION REGARDING CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES (CMS) FEE SCHEDULE

The city council was presented with updated service charge options from CMS. The council unanimously agreed to continue with the current fee schedule that includes a 10% increase in service cost that started in 2024. No motion was necessary to continue the current services.

REPORT OF OFFICERS REQUEST FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE A ONE-DAY SPRING FLING LIQUOR LICENSE AT THE WEST CONCORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MOTION: Motion to approve One Day Liquor License for the West Concord Spring Fling on May 11th, 2024.

Motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Christina Peterson

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32pm

MOTION: Motion to Adjourn.

Motion was made by Mayor McCool, seconded by Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

By: _____

Mayor Jeffrey McCool

Attest:

By: _____

Lauren Highfill, City Clerk-Treasurer

CITY OF CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024 7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Tasha Dahl, City Council Members Jacob Klejeski and Krystal Sultze. Council Members absent: Deb Ellis. There is 1 vacant seat.

City staff and others present: Administrator Elizabeth Sorg, Maintenance Director Casey Dahl, City Attorney Mark Rahrck, Ryan Hedberg, Matt Durand, Allen Greenslade, and Donna Gregory.

AGENDA

Motion by Sultze to approve the agenda, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Donna Gregory would like to know what chemicals are in the water. Sorg will mail her a copy of the Consumer Confidence Report.

VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

One person, Ryan Hedberg, applied for the vacant council seat previously held by Hunter McGovern. Motion by Sultze to approve Resolution No. 24-12: Resolution Relating to the Appointment of Ryan Hedberg to Fill the Vacant Council Position, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously. Ryan Hedberg took his oath and took a seat on the council.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of: Minutes of the February 6, 2024 City Council Meeting, Minutes of the February 14, 2024 Emergency City Council Meeting, and Resolution No. 24-13: Assessing Past Due Bills to Dodge County. Motion by Klejeski to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Klejeski to approve the financial reports, (continued on page 21)

Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property

This may affect your 2025 property taxes.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the City of West Concord shall meet:

Date/Time: April 23, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Location: City Hall

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

Given under my hand this 20 day of March, 2024

Sandra Borders
Administrator of the City of West Concord

Legal Notices

CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(continued from page 20)

second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Klejeski to approve the amended list of bills to be paid, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

TruGreen and Corey's Outdoor Services submitted quotes for fertilizer and weed control in the 3 parks. The total for TruGreen's quote was \$5470 and Corey's Outdoor Services quoted \$3287. Motion Klejeski to approve Corey's Outdoor Services quote without grub control, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

EDA

Matt Durand was present to give an update on his housing project. He has been working with the building official on 3 housing permits and has ordered them. He has 2 signed purchase agreements and is working to get the 3rd house sold. He will be breaking

ground April 22 and plans on setting the modulars on the foundations in June. The council agreed to extend the Developer's Agreement until August 31 for those 3 properties.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Maintenance Director Dahl is getting an estimate to fix the concrete and add onto the small basketball area for a full-size court in Henning Park. He will be ordering bases for Claremont Field. He will also be ordering a steel drag and a lawn sweeper to keep the parks looking nice. He will look into getting an estimate from John Deere for a dethatcher attachment for the mower.

PARKS COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

PEOPLESERVICE

The Operations and Maintenance Agreement with PeopleService adjusts annually every May. The contract states that the adjustment is based on consumer price index, which is 3.1%, plus 1%. This new Agreement is \$150,624 for the year.

Earlier today, Qualify Flow found out the Hayes Street

lift station needs a primary level control and a backup level control. The total cost is \$4895.

Their monthly reports were in the packet.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Nothing at this time.

CITY ATTORNEY

Nothing at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Sorg included information for a city-wide clean up day. Skjeveland charges hourly for the truck plus the dump charges. The average price for the last 4 times the city held clean-up day was \$3200. Motion by Sultze to have a city-wide clean-up day on Monday June 6, second by Hedberg. Sultze amended her motion to the correct date of Monday, June 10, second by Hedberg. Motion carried unanimously.

SEMMCHRA requested the council hold a public hearing for the April council meeting.

As part of the Small Cities Development Program Grant, a public hearing must be held in the 2nd or 3rd year of the grant to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the program. Motion by Mayor Dahl to have the SCDP public hearing April 2, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sultze to close the meeting at 8:07 p.m. for an employee performance review, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Sultze to open

the meeting at 8:23 p.m., second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mayor Dahl to give Administrator Sorg a 3% increase effective immediately, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sultze to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m., second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg,
Administrator

Tasha Dahl, Mayor

TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SUMMARY SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

TRITON HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER – DODGE CENTER, MN & ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING (WOODSPRING SUITES 121 WELLS ST., WILLISTON, NE 58801)

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the March 18, 2024, Triton School Board meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing in the Triton District Office, 813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, or online at www.triton.k12.mn.us.

Present: Wendy Kenworthy, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Duane Bartel, Dale Jensen, Jim Jensen, Rebecca Knutson, Brian Ginder (via ZOOM), Craig Schlichting, Luke Lutterman, Shane Van Beek, Corey Black, Aimee Lake, Tina Kozisek, others.

The School Board approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda including: February 12, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes; budget update; claims and

bills; treasure's report; donations; nonresident/open enrollment agreements; resignations for Stephanie Terwilliger as TMS Paraprofessional effective February 22, 2024, Tyffanie Heublein as Agriculture Teacher effective June 4, 2024, and Cayla Heald as Paraprofessional effective 15, 2024; extra-curricular contracts for Shelly Bungum as Assistant Track Coach, Anthony Bendickson as Assistant Track Coach, Jacob Johnson as Assistant Track Coach, Patrick Floroyance as Technovations Advisor, Dale Tate as JH Baseball Coach, David Mulder as Assistant Golf Coach, Cole Rollins as C Boys Basketball Coach, Sam Storlie as Assistant Boys Basketball Coach, Brady Essig as Assistant Girls Basketball Coach, Phil Hammitt as C Girls Basketball Coach, and Marit Lang as Math Masters Advisor;

• Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Olivia Zwaschka, a Probationary Teacher

• Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Anthony Bendickson, a Probationary Teacher;

• Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Gareth John Hager, a Probationary Teacher;

• Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Ryan McCabe, a Probationary Teacher;

• Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Elle Siewart, a Probationary Teacher;

• Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal

of the Teaching Contract of Lisa Chicos, a Probationary Teacher;

• Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Jill Lutterman, a Probationary Teacher;

• Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Adam Anderson, a Probationary Teacher;

• 2023-2024 revised budget;

• Students to attend the FFA State Convention at the U of M April 21-23, 2024;

• Students to attend the BPA National Convention in Chicago, IL May 10-14, 2024;

• Table the legal newspaper decision;

• GoFan Digital Ticketing proposal;

• Adult ticket price increase from \$7 to \$8;

• Setting a Special Meeting for April 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SUMMARY SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

TRITON HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER – DODGE CENTER, MN

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the April 10, 2024, Special Triton School Board meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing in the Triton District Office, 813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, or online at www.triton.k12.mn.us.

Present: Wendy Kenworthy, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Duane Bartel, Dale Jensen, Jim Jensen, Rebecca Knutson, Craig Schlichting, Shane Van Beek, Tricia Johnson, and Tina Kozisek.

The School Board approved the following items:

- Posting the position of Superintendent internally
 - Authorize Superintendent Schlichting to advertise the position of Superintendent beginning April 11, 2024, with an end date of April 24, 2024 at the end of the school day, and to hold interviews May 1, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Concord Township Residents

Chloride application forms and stakes will be available at the town hall starting April 15, 2024. Forms and payment must be returned by May 10th to:

Gregory Hayne
21746 570th St.

Dodge Center, MN 55927

Chloride application date will be dependent on weather and rock spreading.

DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, March 25, 2024

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the March 25, 2024 Dodge Center City Council meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us.

Present: Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen via video, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas, Lee Mattson, Mark Barwald, AJ Gengler, Jeremy Dostal, Deputy Josiah Rehmann, Daren Meier - Widseth and Kathy Freeman

City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda to include March 11, 2024 City Council Minutes, February 20, 2024 Park Board Minutes; Library Board Minutes from November 9, 2023, December 14, 2023, January 11, 2024 and February 8, 2024; Minutes from the February 28, 2024 EDA Meeting; Payment of Bills; Relay for Life Donation Request, Community Education Funding and Community Education North Field Use;

- Planned use by the Fire Department of the 2023 Emergency Funding from the State of Minnesota;

- Purchase of a new pool vacuum for the Aquatic Center;
 - Purchase of a Kubota V Series Utility Vehicle;
 - Funding attendance at a Honkers game for Ambulance Services staff;
 - Resolution 2024-011 A Resolution Declaring Costs to be Assessed and Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessment Roll;
 - Resolution 2024-012 A Resolution Setting a Hearing on the Proposed Assessment as amended;
 - City Administrator and City Attorney to work on an ordinance regarding pallet fences.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm

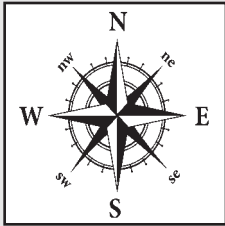
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Rock and Roll Hotel



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

We like going to rock concerts. One of our favorite bands is the southern rock group, Blackberry Smoke. Always a great show every time we see them and we are willing to travel see them perform. So, when my wife got tickets to see Charlie and Benji doing an acoustic two man show in Decatur, Alabama I was ready to go.

The Princess theater was a four-hour drive from our home in Tennessee, so we figured an overnight trip was in order. Driving back in the middle of the night after a show is not fun anymore. She booked a hotel overlooking the Tennessee River, the same river that our home in Tennessee is on. I am a farm boy and she is a city girl. Hence a room on the fifth floor seems like a great idea to her but not so much to me. A great view is not as important as keeping my feet on the ground.

When we checked in at the front desk a couple came in behind us. She was young, excited all and caught up in the moment. Her boyfriend was Benji Shank's brother and they were opening for the band that night. And here were fans coming to see the show and her exuberance could hardly be contained. Her boyfriend gave her the look like she was a bad dog. Maintain your composure and don't interact with the common folk. She suddenly looked a little downcast. After I saw their performance, I thought he should have let her have her 15 minutes. They were a long

way from the level of talent required for anyone to notice or remember them.

We ate at the Magic Mushroom pizza restaurant just around the corner from the theater, saw a great show and headed back to the hotel. That is where the events got a little weird. At 2am I was jolted out of a sound sleep. And nothing to do with mushrooms, either.

I woke up to a strange popping sound and then smelled smoke. I sat up and looked at the cabinet where the television was mounted and saw smoke rolling out of the door. I looked at the hotel room door and realized it was partially open. My next epiphany was that my wife wasn't there. I am sitting on the edge of a bed in a hotel room, alone on the fifth floor with windows that I already knew wouldn't open. There was a burning smell, smoke rolling out of the credenza in front of me and still an occasional popping sound. The door was propped open and my wife was nowhere to be found. My mind processed the information and analyzed that she wouldn't have fled a fire without waking me up. I hoped anyway. I opened the cabinet door to find a microwave complete with a microwave popcorn package inside way past the two minutes necessary to pop the popcorn properly. In fact, it was just about to the point where it would set a hotel room on fire.

Now I have been able to wake up out of a deep sleep to run out and chase cattle in the middle of the night. But this event was giving my brain a while to process. At the moment none of it made any sense. Fortunately, at this point my wife walked back in the door to explain the circumstances I was witness to. She wanted a snack in the middle of the night and started the popcorn, when she realized we had no drinks in the hotel room so she headed out the door to the vending machine around the corner which turned out to not be operating so she took the elevator down to the next floor to find a soda, and at that time not realizing that the microwave had been set to twenty minutes instead of two. Since hotel rooms always smell pretty funky anyway, the burned popcorn was kind of an improvement. It didn't set off the smoke alarm so we were able to resolve the incident without anymore excitement. The popcorn was beyond edible, but there was still the leftover pizza.

A Minnesotan: Matters of Turkeys and Armadillos



By RosaLin Alcoser

Over the years I have discussed geese, ducks and of course goats. However, what I have yet to discuss are turkeys.

My current neighborhood has a roaming gang of wild turkeys that has at least ten members. Which I go to great lengths to avoid as they are wild turkeys. With good cause too as I once watched them chase a college student down the street. As I watched from my living room window it got me thinking about two encounters that I've had with wild turkeys. Except mine were both out in rural Minnesota rather than being chased down a Twin Cities suburban street.

My first encounter was when I was about

five or six years old. I had gone with my father to the farm of one of his church members at the time. This particular member did not keep a dog but still needed something to keep wild animals out of his chickens. So he kept an attack turkey.

This attack turkey was a big old Tom that was roughly the same size that I was at the time. And this turkey did his job well and pretty much attacked anything that it saw. Including me.

Well that big old Tom came running at me and I ran as fast as my little legs could carry me until it was called off. It felt like I had been chased forever. In reality it probably only chased me for all of one to two minutes but it felt like forever.

About 10 years later I had my second encounter with a wild turkey. I was walking outside with my mother and sister when I saw something stirring in the brush out of the corner of my eye. Then suddenly it moved and like any logical person would do I screamed "Armadillo!" Well the screaming caused it to fly up into the air right in front of me. To which I screamed again "Flying armadillo!"

Of course as this is Minnesota and not the South it was in fact not an armadillo nor can armadillos of any kind fly. As you might have already guessed it was in fact a turkey. More especially it was a mother hen who thought I was after her nest and was doing her best to get me to move away from it.



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