



Serving the Triton Area

# The Messenger

Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord

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JUNE 5, 2024

Volume 5 • Issue 11

## Dairy Day at Gochnauer Farms in West Concord



Dodge County Dairy Princesses Cadence and Ellie were there to greet everyone.

(additional pictures on page 9)

## Triton BPA Crowned National Runner-Up!

Dodge Center, MN – Students from Triton’s Business Professionals of America (BPA) chapter were among the 6,500+ attendees representing nearly 800 school chapters across the United States, China, Puerto Rico, and South Korea who attended the 2024 BPA National Leadership Conference in Chicago, Illinois from May 10-14, where the Small Business Management Team of Danielle Hallaway and Corey Lilledahl was crowned the National Runner-Up!

Also finding success was the Video Production Team of Noah Kleinwort, Alex Ortiz, and Quinn Short, who were named National Finalists and graced the stage at the Grand Awards Ceremony. Additionally, the following Triton students earned trips and competed: Camila Medina in Graphic Design, Corey Lilledahl in Presentation, RoseLyn Liudahl and Jade Scovill in Website Design Team, and Bryar Quimby and Ash-

ley Romero in Visual Design Team.

“Triton BPA has such a rich history of competitive excellence that I think sometimes, our students don’t fully grasp the scope of their accomplishments—particularly how big of deal it is to even qualify for Nationals,” said BPA Advisor Rebecca Goossens. “For perspective, Texas BPA alone has over 10,500 members, which means our students competed against (and beat!) individuals/teams who were considered the best out of tens of thousands. Needless to say, I am so, so proud of their leadership and learning—they’re all #1 in my book!”

While in Chicago, participants also had opportunities to network with other BPA members and business leaders, complete certification exams, elect national officers, visit famous attrac-



Triton NLC Participants- Advisor Rebecca Goossens, Corey Lilledahl, Camila Medina, Bryar Quimby, Alex Ortiz, Ashley Romero, Quinn Short, Dani Hallaway, Noah Kleinwort, RoseLyn Liudahl, Jade Scovill

tions in the region, and participate in several community service activities honoring the Special Olympics, BPA’s national service project.

(continued on page 8)

## Announcements

- 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

## Claremont History Chat and Museum Opening



The Museum in Mantorville

One of our current projects at the Dodge County Historical Society is collecting history of the Claremont area.

We’re interested in the city’s history as well as what happened in the townships around Claremont. Our first history chat in March brought out a good sized crowd of people with history to share. Another get-together is planned for Thursday, June 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the park pavilion in the Claremont business district. If you’re interested in history, or have stories to tell, please join us, all are welcome!

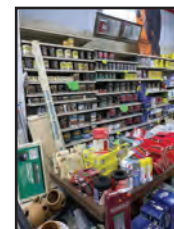
The Historical Society’s Museum is open to visitors during the summer, with regular hours of 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

(continued on page 4)

## Big Remodeling Sale on at Dodge Center Hardware Hank

By Cheri Roshon

If "Ace is the Place With the Helpful Hardware Man", then what is Hardware Hank? The official slogan is, "We've got a lot more going for you at Hardware Hank", but Chris likes his Mom's version better!



(continued on page 6)

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## Day of Victory

By Pastor Elliott Malm  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Dodge Center

Eighty years ago, a man from the small town of Abilene, Kansas, was in Southern England about to make the biggest decision of his life. As Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in World War II, General Dwight D. Eisenhower had been burdened with the responsibility of deciding when the invasion of Western Europe would be launched in the summer of 1944. The day of the invasion would be a pivotal day in the war and world history. After years of careful planning and months of preparation, in consultation with the other commanding officers, he weighed this decision, knowing that it would cost many soldiers their lives. Then, with over 2.8 million troops waiting to be deployed, he made his decision and gave the official order before dawn on June 5.

On the eve of the June 6 (D-Day) invasion, a leaflet of General Eisenhower's "Order of the Day" was distributed to the soldiers about to go into battle. In it, he famously wrote, "We will accept nothing less than full Victory!" Involving approximately 160,000 Allied troops, 5,000 ships, and 11,000 airplanes, the assault that took place on the beaches of Normandy is believed to be the largest amphibious invasion in history. The bloody engagement resulted in 10,300 casualties, but the Allied troops were indeed victorious.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent Ernie Pyle, who arrived the day after the invasion, documented the event for Americans back home. "In this column I want to tell you what the opening of the second front in this one sector entailed," he wrote, "so that you can know and appreciate and be forever humbly grateful to those both dead and alive who did it for you." Forty years later, President Ronald Reagan stood overlooking the beach of Normandy, expressing our nation's gratitude, and asking a question of those who

fought: "Why? Why did you do it?" He went on to assert, "It was faith and belief. It was loyalty and love." The Allied victory—which Pyle called "a pure miracle"—happened because, in Reagan's words, "The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead, or on the next."

In the Holy Scriptures, "faith" is a word that has incredible spiritual importance. More than an idle knowledge of history, faith is animating principle which "liberates from death and produces new life in hearts." Through faith, a person becomes justified, or made right with God, receiving the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Specifi-

cally, this happens through the work of God in Jesus Christ. Without faith, human beings are a weak and sorry lot; they are unable to receive the virtues that proceed from saving faith. Jesus said to the disciples, "You believe in God; believe also in me" (John 14:1, NIV) because He wanted them to receive what He had to give them: mercy, abundant life, and eternal salvation. St. John writes, "Everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" (1 John 5:4, ESV). A person with faith receives what God promises to everyone who believes in His Word.

As we mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the military invasion in World War II that would lead to the liberation of Europe,

let us also remember the faith that spiritually comforted and morally guided so many of the men who sacrificed their lives to win the war. For it was in AD 33, nearly 2,000 years ago, that another man from a small town in the ancient world called Nazareth made the biggest decision of His life, which was to face a battle that belonged to Him and die on a cross outside the walls of Jerusalem. This was the beachhead where Christ, the only begotten Son of God, had come to die in battle so that He could be raised triumphantly from the dead and proclaim total victory over sin, death, and the devil. "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57, ESV).



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### DODGE CENTER

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center  
Pastor Jessica Bakken Busch • 507-374-2174  
Traditional Worship 9a.m.; Fellowship 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  
Kidz 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](http://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](http://www.congregationalchurchdc.com)  
Keith Mosier, Pastor

### Area Church Directory

**Keep Up the Good Work!**

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*  
— Galatians 6:9

It can be hard not to grow weary of doing good. Physically tired, emotionally and spiritually drained, we might be ready to give up.

The brokenness in our world knows no end. There is always another hungry person to be fed. No sooner is a hospital bed open, and another person fills it. Someone who is healthy today will be sick tomorrow. In a sinful and broken world, there will always be hungry, sick, lonely, imprisoned, or impoverished people. Wars and rumors of wars will always produce refugees. The world's problems will last until Jesus returns. In the meantime, though, we are encouraged, "Do not grow weary of doing good!" And only in God's strength can we continue. We may certainly resign from a committee, leave a specific ministry of mercy, and stop volunteering at a soup kitchen. But we must not grow weary of doing good! If we change ministries, we can still continue to minister in other ways. In the end, as we become people who must be fed, clothed, and visited, our ministry may be reduced to a smile, an encouraging word, or a prayer. And that may be our most effective ministry of all. By God's grace, may we all rejoice to hear the words "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

*Dear Jesus, sometimes we grow weary and discouraged. Help us, in the power of your Spirit, to press on. Thank you for giving us eternal life and for welcoming us into your kingdom. 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.

### 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](http://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](http://trinitychurchwc.net)  
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook  
[Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn](http://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](http://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, schedule, etc. to the The Messenger at: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)*

Serving the Triton Area

## The Messenger

Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord

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## Barbara Joan Gilliland

Barbara Joan Gilliland, 91, passed away on May 18, 2024, at St. Mary's Hospital. She was born in Knox, Indiana on December 3, 1932, to Chester Arthur and Thelma Mae Bennett. After graduating from Knox High School, she attended Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri. She married Robby Gilliland on January 16, 1953. Together, they made their home in Dodge Center, Minnesota where he was employed in electrical contracting and construction. During her working life, Barb was an accountant and business owner. She owned and managed the Red Horse Restaurant and later the In-Town Floral.

Barb served her community and state through memberships, elected positions, and volunteerism.

The American Legion Auxiliary, Eastern Star, Dodge County Historical Society, Lion's Club, Monday Musicale, United Methodist Church, and Library Board were but a few of the organizations to which she belonged. She served on the School Board and City Council. She devoted her life to helping others, that is her true legacy.

Barb is survived by her two sons Bennett (Pamela) of Dodge Center, MN, and William (Kathleen Uhl) of Selbyville, DE; grandchildren Eric Hoffmann (Jodi), Hillary Laue (Cody), Robby Gilliland (Courtney), Carly Petterson (Adam), Sydney Gilliland, Abby Gilliland, Kelsey Leo (Sean Reilly); nine great grandchildren, one great-great granddaughter; one sister Bernice Koby; one brother Norman Bruce Bennett; and many nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her husband Robby; daughter Jayne; parents; brothers

Chester Bennett and Ben Bennett; and sisters Beverly Minix and Betty Osterreicher.

Barb had many passions to include needlework, knitting, bridge, gardening, reading, and traveling.

But her greatest joy was spending time with her family. She also established many long-standing friendships throughout her life. To them, she was a friend like no other.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Dodge County Historical Society or Dodge Center United Methodist Church.

A visitation was from 4:00pm to 7:00pm Thursday, May 23, 2024, at Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes in Dodge Center. A memorial service was held at 1:00pm Friday, May 24, 2024, at Dodge Center United Methodist Church. Following the service there was a luncheon at the American Legion in Dodge Center to celebrate and share stories of her life.

## Mary Marcella (Van Den Hemel) Schnorenberg

Mary Marcella (Van Den Hemel) Schnorenberg passed away on Monday, May 27, 2024, at Oak Terrace Memory Care in North Mankato, MN.

Mary was born on May 25, 1933, in Ramona, SD. When she was a child her family moved to Dodge Center, MN and she graduated from Dodge Center Public Schools. While working at IBM in Rochester, MN, she met Francis Laverne Schnorenberg. They were married on November 26, 1960, and lived in Rochester, Kasson, Hayfield, Mantorville, and North Mankato.

Mary was a 4-H leader for 20 years and a member of the Southeast Minnesota Sheep Producers Association, Inc. and served as

SEMSPA Secretary and "Flock Talk" newsletter Editor. She served as the Secretary of the Fairview Cemetery Association of Hayfield, Inc. and she was a volunteer for many years with the AARP Driver Safety Program.

Mary was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church and was a lifetime member of the American Legion Auxiliary, AARP, and MN 4-H Volunteer Association.

Mary is survived by her sons, Roger of Olivehurst, CA and Gary (Sandi) of Mankato, MN along with daughters, Lori (Mike) Hartley of Buffalo, MN, and Lisa (Jon) Christensen of Kasson, MN; grandchildren also survive her: Mathew (Emily) Schnorenberg, Kevin (Amanda) Schnorenberg, Steve (Jaydee) Hartley, Joe Hartley, Sarah Hartley, Tyler (fiancé Dani) Christensen, Ashley, and Wes Christensen. She also had two beautiful great-granddaughters, Adalyn and Amelia.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Francis.

A private family service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to Catholic Charities.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit [www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com](http://www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com), Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE Kasson, MN 55944 (507)634-6510. Blessed be her memory.

## Claude "Les" Riker

Claude "Les" Riker, 84, of Dodge Center, MN passed away peacefully in his sleep on the morning on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at Our Home Memory Care in Austin, MN to natural causes.

Les was born on April 25, 1940, in the city of Kalamazoo, MI, to parents Claude and Opal (Bunker) Riker. Les's formative years were spent in Michigan where he developed his lifelong passion for

the automotive industry. He met Nancy Greenslade-Kelly in 1968, by the encouragement of his sister, Myrna. Soon after, Les and Nancy made the decision to move to Minnesota to raise their families jointly, where their relationship blossomed into a 56-year marriage. In 1975, Les accepted a position as a mechanic for Pepsi-Cola in Rochester, which led them to Kasson, MN. While in Kasson, Les pursued his desire to start his own automotive repair business from his home garage. In retirement, Les spent his free time camping, assembling puzzles, putting around in the garage, and spending time with his family.

Les is survived by his loving wife, Nancy Riker; children, Brian Riker of Missouri, Julie (Brian) Duerr-Riker of Rochester, MN, Joe (Joanie) Riker of Rochester, MN, Shawn (Raelynn) Kelly of Lakeville, MN, Chad Riker of Colorado, Lynae Kelly of Austin, MN, and Ben (Jill) Riker of Mantorville, MN; 18 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Claude and Opal and siblings, Bill and Myrna.

A visitation was held from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE in Kasson, MN.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit [www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com](http://www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com), Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE Kasson, MN (507)634-6510. Blessed be his memory.



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**West Concord Legion Hall**

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**Pre-orders: Linda @ 507 951-1805**



## Claremont History Chat and Museum Opening

(continued from page 1)

Located in Mantorville, on Highway 57 across from the Courthouse, the Museum is housed in a building that was originally built and dedicated as an Episcopal church. Parking is located in the alley behind the building. It's possible to get here in spite of this season's road construction.

The Museum is home to several permanent exhibits.

A wooden dugout canoe hangs on the east wall, discovered in Dodge County on the eastern shore of Rice Lake and donated to the Historical Society in the 1990s, was made by indigenous people who harvested wild rice on Rice Lake. According to carbon dating, it was created between 1790 and 1850.

A collection of machine guns, mostly from the World War I era, is in the basement.

A collection of artifacts that belonged to Col. James George, a veteran of the Mexican American War and the Civil War, is located in the basement. Col. George was the attorney who owned the law office in Wasioja that became the Civil War Recruiting Station.

A new exhibit of community bands in our county a hundred years ago includes instruments, uniforms and photos of town bands of that era.

We have extensive records of the people



The Col. James George exhibit

who have lived in Dodge County since the 1850s, and we welcome visitors who are doing family research.

As well as the regular open hours, we're happy to make appointments for guests at other times. Phone or email a day or two in advance, and we can arrange a time for your visit. Phone and leave a message at 507-635-5508 or email [dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).



Several exhibits on the main floor of the Museum

## Memorial Park in West Concord



Memorial Park is taking orders for memorial pavers as an ongoing fundraiser for the pool/park. Cost is \$100. They are a great way to honor a loved one that is no longer with us. If you would like to purchase one, please contact Kim Jones at [jones.kim@frontier.com](mailto:jones.kim@frontier.com) or 507-951-7535. Deadline to order is June 15.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "TIME LAB"

June 10-14 from 6:00-8:00 PM  
at Praise Fellowship Church, Dodge Center

We are encouraging the children to get ready to launch into hyperdrive at Time Lab, where we'll discover Jesus from eternity past to eternity future!

These children will become "Time Travelers" to experience Jesus from Genesis to Revelation.

It's about time that we learn how much God loves us and has expressed his love in the past, in the present, and in the future through his son Jesus.



For further information about our VBS use the QR code or go to [www.pfc-of-dc.org](http://www.pfc-of-dc.org)



## West Concord Native Wins Iron Man Competition

Matt Hanson, who grew up in West Concord and graduated from Triton won the fifth race in the Iron Man Pro Series at the 2024 Qatar Airways triathlon in Chattanooga, Tennessee last month. Hanson, who started competing in the Iron Man won his first pro series triathlon beating the course record by four minutes. The next two closest finishers were a minute behind his time. Hanson slipped

back in the bicycle riding event and overcame a four-minute deficit to clinch the victory.

Hanson wrestled in High School and college, but ran all of his life. He commented that he took up running as a kid, to spend time with his father, who also ran. At the age of 16, Matt set a goal to compete in an Iron Man competition and bought a used bike at the age of twenty-five to begin training.

Hanson was a former professor of Exercise Science, but retired to coach other triathletes. At thirty-nine years old he has been competing in the Iron Man races for ten years and has a goal to win a national title.

The Iron Man is a combination of swimming, cycling and running for a total of 140.6 miles. The swim course is 2.4 miles, the cycle course is 112 miles and the running course is 26.2 miles. A good athlete could finish the course in 12 to 14 hours. Hanson's final time was three hours and 41 minutes. His time for the swim portion was 24 minutes, the cycling was two hours and 4 minutes and the running time was one hour and 9 minutes.

### Do You Have An Announcement?

Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)



## BERNE Summer 2024 Concert Series

FREE MUSIC WEDNESDAYS 5-8 PM

Date	Opening Band 5:00 PM	Headliner 6:30 PM
June 5th -	Lost Faculties	Uptown Jazz
June 12th - <small>Swiss Heritage Exhibit</small>	Thomas & the Shakes	Branded: Hot Country
June 19th - <small>Art &amp; Alpacas</small>	Foster Grand	Crazy on You: A Tribute to Heart
June 26th - <small>Classic Car Cruise &amp; Country Night</small>	507 Country	County Line Drive
July 3rd -	Rockin' Hep Cats	Old Country Boys
July 10th - <small>Kids Night w/ Zoolman Zoo</small>	The Vintage Tones	The Soul Train
July 17th -	Orchid Jane	Incognito
July 24th -	Collective Unconscious	The Stella Vees
July 31st - <small>Classic Car Cruise-in</small>	Cosmic Orphan	Retro Soul & the Westside Horns
August 7th - <small>Artisan Market</small>	My Grandma's Cardigan	Six Mile Grove
August 14th -	The Chubs	The Local Hooligans
August 21st - <small>Swiss Breakfast</small>	True North	fABBAulous
August 28th - <small>Classic Car Cruise-in</small>	Jeremy Jewell & the Co-Dependents	Nite Shift

LOCATION: Zwingli UCC  
23148 Co. Hwy. 24 West Concord, MN 55985



WWW.BERNEPIZZA.ORG



## "Coffee in the Country" at Berne Wood-Fired Pizza

Berne Wood-Fired Pizza is cooking up more than pizza this summer. Located just west of Pine Island, Berne will now host "Coffee in the Country" every other Friday morning from 8:30-11AM beginning June 14th on its beautiful grounds. Enjoy coffee and pastries sold from Papa's Roast Coffee Trailer, Trail Creek Coffee Roaster, and/or Rise Above Baking Company. Music will be played on the grounds through our sound system and picnic tables are provided. Lawn chairs and yard games are welcome. Kids are welcome too, as there will be sidewalk chalk, hoola hoops, and lots of green space for play. Invite family, friends, and neighbors and make the most out of summer mornings in Minnesota with coffee and conversation! For more information, visit Berne Wood-Fired Pizza's Facebook page.



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## Big Remodeling Sale on at Dodge Center Hardware Hank

(continued from page 1)

"If we don't have it, you don't need it!" And if perchance, they don't have what you need in stock, they can most likely order it for you.

I stopped in to the Dodge Center Hardware Hank store to see what this big sale I had heard about was. I was pleased to see a whole wall, plus tables set up when you first walk in to the store, of 50% off items! Lots and lots of items!!! I just happened to need some outdoor stain and sealer, and my favorite brand, Cabots, was one of the many items at 50% off! Score!!

Most of the time when a store has such a good sale, it is winter clothes when summer is upon us, or lawn mowers at the end of the season. Things you probably don't need at the time. But this is the time of year when you need exterior paints, stains and sealers, so why are they half off?

I asked Chris and Nikki Runnells who are the owners of the store, why the huge sale?

"We are getting ready for some major updates," Chris replied. "We need to make room for new inventory, and the floors are being redone on June 8th.

We need to move a lot of things out, so we are having the sale."

There you have it, Folks! The sale is on until June 14th, so go on down to the store and see what bargains you need before the Grand Re-Opening!

Chris told me of all the renovations they were doing, and said he was calling it the Grand Re-Opening, because they were doing so many updates. The store has looked the

same for the past 50 years, since before his Mom and Dad owned it.

Chris and Nikki are Dodge Center natives. They bought the store in 2016. Chris' dad was going through some medical issues, and needed to retire. Chris had been working for Ellingson for the past 5 ½ years, and doing a lot of travelling. He and Nikki decided it would be best to buy the store so Chris could be home instead of on the road. Nikki had been working at Main Street Dental for the past 11 years, and after a year and a half of owning Hardware Hank, she joined Chris in the family business. Their daughter Sabree comes in for a few hours a day when she isn't playing or practicing for volleyball and softball. They are lucky to have Marie, Chris' mom, come in to help when they are busy, or when Chris needs a fishing or hunting get away for a few hours! They also "inherited" Wendy Stroebel to help with the bookkeeping, and that is the entire staff right now, along

with the store greeters, Copper and Boomer!

If you are from Dodge Center, then you probably know that Hardware Hank is a very giving local business. They donate gift cards for fundraising and events in town. They gave cash to help fund Dodger Days, and are always willing to go the extra mile for the town and the people who live here. Shopping local not only helps small business owners, but creates a sense of community. We all know that small businesses have been on a downhill slide since the quarantines and online shopping in the past years, so I think it's time to get back to shopping local and helping our friends and families get back on track. The Grand Re-Opening will be sometime in June, so it's literally a fresh new beginning for your local hardware store! Come on down and check out the sale now, and the new inventory soon to be! And, hey..... tell them Cheri sent you!

## Directors, Costumers, Set Builders, MTC Needs YOU!



We are actively seeking directors for our 2025 season. Our Artistic Vision committee and our Board will be selecting shows for the spring, fall, and holiday timeframes. We would appreciate prospective directors for our summer melodramas to also list shows that they would like to direct (or we can select from our large prior repertoire, if need be.)

We are also actively seeking people to manage costumes for shows in our 2024 and 2025 seasons, as well as set designers/builders for the same periods.

Interested parties should contact us at [MantorvilleTheatre@gmail.com](mailto:MantorvilleTheatre@gmail.com).

## Minnesota Music Teachers Association State Piano Contest

By Cindy Breederland

On Saturday, March 2nd, Benjamin Perry participated in the MMTA State Piano Contest held at the University of Minnesota. Students first compete at the local level and the winners selected then compete at the state level. Benjamin was declared a winner at the state level and will now perform at the Minneapolis Convention Center on June 1st in an ensemble performance with 20 grand pianos and a conductor. Ben is the son of Bert and Connie Perry of Mantorville and the student of Cindy Breederland of West Concord. Congratulations, Ben!



Benjamin Perry

### Cindy's Music Studio News

The students of Cindy's Music Studio held their Spring Recital on Saturday, May 11th at Faith Community Church in West Concord. Many awards were given out, starting with the Federation Festival. This is an event that is sponsored by the Southeast Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs. Participants receiving a 5 point Superior Ratings were: Julia Compton, Emma Moen, and Hannah Moen. Participants receiving 4 point Excellent Ratings were: Joshua Todor, Corbin Dressel and Elshana Todor. Corbin and Elshana received their Gold Cups for Piano Solo.

MMTA Awards were also given, including participation in a District Preliminary Contest held in Rochester. Hannah Moen and Ben Perry competed, with Ben going on to the State Contest.

Piano Exams is another program that MMTA offers, with the purpose of developing proficiency and musicianship through eleven levels of curriculum. When taken in conjunction with the Piano Theory examinations, they are intended to provide a comprehensive musical education. This year, Hannah Moen passed the Level 1 Theory Exam with High Distinction; Joshua Todor passed the Level 1 Theory Exam with Excellence; Adelyn Marquardt passed Level 1 Piano Exam with Excellence and Haydynne Langworthy passed Piano Exam 7 with High Distinction.

Thank you to all for a wonderful recital and congratulations to all of the students who participated in the Federation Festival and MMTA programs – Well Done!



## Dodger Days Schedule 2024

### Thursday, June 13

- 8am City Wide all weekend Garage Sales Begin—See QR code.
- 11am-2pm Dodge Center Chamber of Commerce Dodger Days Kick-Off on Main Street  
MBT Bank – Customer Appreciation Lunch-lunch served by Plaza Morena  
Safeway Insurance Agency, KMTelecom, Weber, Leth & Woessner Law Office, and Harold's Club – Root beer Floats, Bounce House, and Miss Patty's Ice Cream Truck  
Green Shack – Cotton Candy and Bunnies  
Huckleberry Floral – Vintage Bike Rally  
Freerksen Trucking Enterprise – Big Truck Display  
Rolling Hills Transport – Truck/Bus Display  
Fahning & Associates, LLC – Scratch Art Activity  
Plaza Morena – Margarita Special-Thursday through Saturday  
Plus More – Come check it out!
- 6pm Open mic at the Annadine

### Friday, June 14

- 1-3pm Free Ice Cream at the Dodge Center Library
- 4-8pm DC Fireman's Feed at the Firehall
- 5-7pm Silent Auction for Triton Wrestling at the DC American Legion
- 5pm Registration for Triton Wrestling's Corn Hole Tourney at the DC American Legion
- 6pm Triton Wrestling Corn Hole Tourney Starts
- 7-10pm Street Dance/Beer: The Poor Boy Ramblers (Country Music) under the tent at North Park
- 9:30-Midnight Thomas and the Shakes (Reggae Music) at the DC American Legion

### Saturday, June 15 NORTH PARK EVENTS

- 9am Venom Softball Tournament Starts
- 9am All Ages FREE Yoga and Breakfast in the park (bring a mat or towel)
- 9am Chalk Art Contest
- 10am Food Trucks Open (see list)
- 10am Free Bounce Houses
- 10am-11am Family Bingo under the new pavilion by the Claremont Chamber and Triton Boys/Girls Basketball
- 10am Rookie the Clown Balloon Art
- 10am 4-H Canine (Dog) Show
- 11am K-9 Unit from Olmsted County Demonstration
- Noon Free Swim at the DC Aquatic Center
- Noon-5pm Triton Community Ed's Annual Craft and Vendor Market
- 1pm Re-dedication of the Veteran's Memorial by the DC American Legion featuring the Bell of Honor
- 1-4pm Family Bingo by MRA under the new pavilion
- 6pm Music on Main- LP and the 45's at the Annadine on Main Street
- 10pm Fireworks by McNeilus Steel at the North Park

### Sunday, June 16

- 7am-Noon Fly-in Breakfast at the DC Airport
- 10am Church in the Park by Praise Fellowship Church, under the tent at the North Park



## Aspelund Peony Gardens

By Cheri Roshon

One of the things I like to do is take drives around the land surrounding Wanamingo, and not only take in the beauty of the landscapes, but learn things about the people who live here. On one of my day trips, I saw a sign that said Aspelund Winery, and being a woman who enjoys her wine, I pulled in the driveway. The land was so beautiful, with the fruit trees, and landscaping using all kinds of interesting plants, but nobody was home. I looked around for a moment, just enjoying the peaceful setting, and went on my way.

Come to find out, the winery was no longer operating, but the farm was still operational..... with prize winning peonies! Located at 9204 425th street outside of Kenyon, it is a site to behold!

Bruce and Dawn Rohl moved to this idyllic farm in 1992, and literally cleared the land for what was to become their home. They bought the land in 1992, and lived in a mobile home until they built their house in 1996, all the while tearing down old buildings, and making room for flowers and trees! One interesting point I learned while visiting the farm is

that their home was the last one built in Goodhue County using trees taken from their own land!

One of Bruce's interests is peonies, so the couple planned and cultivated space to start growing them. As they were getting settled into their home, in 1996 they purchased 13 root bundles of different peonies from Tischler Gardens in Faribault, and that was to be the beginning of Aspelund Peony Gardens.

With their children, Ben and Samantha, they began the process of dividing the plants and making new beds until they ended up with over 2,000 plants with several species, including some very rare ones. As we chatted about the history of the enterprise, I learned so much about the curation of the flowers, and the specialization of hybrids, and cultivating the new varieties. It takes years to come up with new varieties, and you can learn more about this process at the talks they occasionally give, or on some of the websites dedicated to the craft. Or pop in for a visit, and ask away!

Ben worked on the farm and raised the flowers for a 4H project, and entered his flowers in the County Fair. His project was to raise them from seed, and as I learned, there is a lot to doing so. As the gardens grew, people started wanting peonies for their own enjoyment, so in 2007, they decided to sell root stock.

So, here's how it works.... The first 3 weekends in June, you will come out to the farm between 10 am and 5 pm to walk the beds and write down which varieties you are drawn to. Once you have made that difficult



decision from 140 varieties currently in the beds, you purchase the root stock which will be ready in the fall. Fall is the best time to transplant, so you pick them up, take them home, and pop them in a hole. You will water well to get the air pockets out, and let them hibernate for the winter. In the spring, they will come up as one of the first perennials, and your garden has begun! About ¾ of them will bloom the first year. However, the different species bloom in a succession, so you may want to come out more than just one weekend! When you come back to pick up your plants, you will be shown how to plant, and given an instruction sheet on what you need to know to be successful in growing your own. To schedule a group tour, or a specific time to come out, call (507) 824-2935.

The flowers will bloom from around Memorial Day until Father's Day, with slight variations due to the weather that year. I saw

some blooming on May 6th! All the varieties on the farm stay standing up, not falling over during bloom time like many that you see. The one question I had to ask was "Why do the ants have to open the petals?". Bruce laughed and said that was a frequently asked question. Dawn answered that the ants do not open the petals, but are harvesting the nectar from the buds. There you have it! Another wives tale dispelled!

So, I encourage you to make a day plan to come out to the garden and enjoy nature's beauty. Talk to Bruce and Dawn, and learn something new. Take pictures with your family, and relax in the beauty the Rohl's have created. For more information on the flowers themselves, you can go to [Americanpeonysociety.org](http://Americanpeonysociety.org), or [Mnpeony.org](http://Mnpeony.org). You can also visit Facebook and go to Aspelund Peony Gardens for more info on the farm. Happy Spring to you all!



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# Triton BPA Crowned National Runner-Up!



Video Production Team of Quinn Short, Alex Ortiz, and Noah Kleinwort were named National Finalists

The Small Business Management Team of Corey Lilledahl and Danielle Hallaway are crowned National Runner-Up!

(continued from page 1)

“Participating in the National Leadership Conference is the culmination of a year’s work for our student members and their advisors,” said Dr. Steven J. Mitchell, BPA’s Executive Director/CEO. “We applaud all of these members who demonstrated workplace skills in competitive events, gained new insights by participating in workshops, earned valuable industry certifications, or were recognized for individual or chapter achievements.”



**NATIONAL RUNNER-UP**  
Small Business Management Team-  
Dani Hallaway + Corey Lilledahl

**FINALISTS**  
Video Production Team-  
Noah Kleinwort, Alex Ortiz + Quinn Short

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**  
Camila Medina

**PRESENTATION**  
Corey Lilledahl

**VISUAL DESIGN TEAM**  
Bryar Quimby + Ashley Romero

**WEBSITE DESIGN TEAM**  
RoseLyn Liudahl + Jade Scovill

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## Doubletree Leatherworks class on May 9 at The West Concord Public Library



## Dairy Day at Gochnauer Farms in West Concord



There were cows to touch, things for the kids and ice cream treats for all.



## Let's Go Swimming!

### Dodge Center

- M-Sun. 12-7 PM
- Daily Admission: 1-4 years old \$3 & ages 5+ \$6
- Under 1 year of age FREE
- ONLY cash or check
- Free swim days: June 11th, June 15th, July 9th, August 6th

### West Concord

- M-F. 1-5 PM: \$5 child & \$6 adult
- M-F. 6:30 - 8:30 PM: \$4 child & \$5 adult
- All day M-F: \$8 child & \$9 adult
- Sat. - Sun. 1 - 7:30PM: \$8 child & \$9 adult
- ONLY cash or check



## Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin

*After-hour Adventures  
(There are no  
after-hours on a farm)*

By Monica & Claudia Vanderborght

Monica can be a very sound sleeper. There have been many nights when Claudia climbed the stairs from her living space (basement) to Monica's (first floor):

Knock, knock, knock. "Monica, wake up! Someone has been mooing for 20 minutes." Indigo had delivered her first calf at 2:00 A.M. and she wanted to show it off.

Knock, knock, knock. "Monica, wake up! The chickens are screaming!" A fox had broken into the coop.

Knock, knock, knock. "Monica, wake up! The cows are making a racket." Half the herd had broken out of the pasture into the neighbor's cornfield and the other half complained LOUDLY that it wasn't fair.

Knock, knock, knock. "Monica, wake up! There's a critter under my bed."

Now, Monica is one tough cookie. Runny spring cow manure and mud leaking into her worn-out muck boots doesn't bother her. Goat afterbirth smeared all over her shirt and arms doesn't faze her. Trying to tuck a chicken's prolapsed uterus back into place doesn't make her blink twice.

But snakes and rodents just give her the

creepy crawlies.

Technically, opossums aren't rodents. They are marsupials – like kangaroos. But they sure look more like large rats than kangaroos.

We knew there were opossums on the farm. Rarely we would see one scamper along the tree line. Occasionally, we'd find evidence of their thievery (empty broken eggshells) in the laying boxes. Once, Monica even got to pet an opossum when she reached into a laying box for an egg and felt fur instead of feathers. Did you know that possums hiss when they are upset? The neighbors (two miles away) probably heard that scream!

Monica was awake. "What do you mean, there is a critter under your bed?"

"I think an opossum came through the cat door and ate all the cat food. Then – looking for more – wandered all the way through the downstairs and couldn't figure out how to get back outside."

Getting out of bed, Monica said, "Okay. Let me get the .22."

Claudia returned downstairs – how to get the critter outside? No way would we move it from the bedroom to the hallway, past the laundry room and the kitchen, through the living room and screened porch, onto the lawn. We had no problems moving 20 cows where we wanted them (goats were a bit trickier). But a single opossum in the middle of the night would be a challenge.

By the time Monica clomped down the stairs in her knee-high muck boots (the good ones), Claudia was ready. The other back door (thankfully just beyond Claudia's bedroom) was propped open. All downstairs



doors were tightly shut. The halls were blocked off. And Claudia was armed with the longest broom she could find.

Monica stationed herself outside the back door, 0.22 in hand, thigh-length nightshirt flapping in the breeze (picture Elmer Fudd). Claudia returned to the bedroom – also in muck boots and nightshirt – broom at the ready (picture Lucille Ball).

Poke, prod, poke under the bed. Hiss, hiss was the answer.

Poke, prod, poke. Hiss, hiss.

Claudia was going to have to get on her hands and knees and actually look under the bed to deliver more accurate blows.

Ew!!

With the opossum in sight, Claudia was able to poke and prod more effectively. (Don't come this way! Please, don't come this way!!)

Finally, the opossum waddled out of the bedroom, down to the back door, and out onto the lawn. Monica dispatched him before he could scurry away.

Needless to say, getting back to sleep after all that was a challenge, but we had another great farm story to share with all of our suburbanite friends!

Gold Star Amusements on the midway! Rides will run from 1:00pm-10:00pm

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## Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,  
Minnesota State Patrol



*Question: Can you talk about drug use and impaired driving. It seems like I am seeing more and more of this.*

**Answer:** Drug-impaired driving is as dangerous as alcohol-impaired driving. Minnesota law prohibits driving while impaired by controlled or intoxicating substances. These substances include illegal drugs, prescription drugs, and over the counter drugs (cold medicines), as well as household products. These substances can cause drowsiness and impair a driver's mental and physical ability to safely operate a vehicle and to respond to driving conditions.

Legal drugs that may not cause impairment alone can produce powerful intoxicating effects when mixed with alcohol. The safest rule is do not mix drugs with driving at all. Use of drugs can lead to traffic crashes resulting in death, injury and property damage. It can lead to arrest, fines and jail sentences.

Pay attention to warning labels for legitimate drugs and medicines and to doctor's orders regarding possible effects. Stay away from illegal drugs. Don't use any drug that hides fatigue - the only cure for fatigue is rest.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson — Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

## Excuses Won't Save You in a Crash

Seat belts save lives, yet some people still make excuses for not wearing them. Excuses won't save you in a crash. Preliminary numbers show that 281 unbelted motorists died on Minnesota roads over the last three years. These are such tragic deaths. Seat belts are designed to help prevent them from even happening.

Here's why excuses for not wearing a seat belt don't hold up:

**Concern:** I don't need to buckle up because my car has air bags.

**What you need to know:** Air bags are designed to work with seat belts, not replace them. If you're unbuckled, the force of being thrown into a rapidly opening frontal air bag could injure or kill you.

**Concern:** I don't need to buckle up because I'm not going that fast or driving too far.

**What you need to know:** Most fatal crashes happen within 25 miles from home and at speeds of less than 40 mph.

**Concern:** I don't want to buckle up because I could get trapped if my car is on fire or under water.

**What you need to know:** Crashes involving fire or water represent 1/2 of 1 percent of all crashes. You can't escape from a crash unless you're conscious. Wearing a seat belt gives you a much greater chance of being conscious and able-bodied.

**Concern:** My seat belt can hurt me in a crash.

**What you need to know:** Everything in your car can potentially hurt you in a crash, but your seat belt is one of the few things that can save you. It is your first line of defense and last line of defense when something bad happens.

No matter the excuse, not wearing a seat belt is never worth the risk. Protect yourself and your loved ones. Buckle up, every trip, every time. Together, we can drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.



## Do You Have An Announcement?

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## U.S. Senator Tina Smith Leads 29 Colleagues in Push for Robust Rural Housing Funding

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-Minn.) led 29 of her Senate colleagues in a push for more funding for rural housing programs in the FY2025 Appropriations bill. In their letter, the Senators noted that rural communities saw only a 1.7% increase in the number of housing units between 2010 and 2020, with almost half of states seeing a decrease in the number of rural units. According to Minnesota Housing Partnership, every county in Minnesota has a shortage of affordable and available rental homes for extremely low-income households. 79% of counties have a shortage that exceeds

100 homes, and 31% have a shortage exceeding 500 homes.

“Without a safe, decent, affordable place to call home, nothing in your life works – not your job, your health, your education or your family,” said Senator Smith. “While the housing crisis is hurting communities across the country, the burden has been especially hard on small towns and rural communities. The severe shortage of affordable housing is hurting rural America’s ability to prosper, and it is imperative we direct more funding to address this housing shortage and finally bring our communities some relief.

“Against this backdrop, federal rural housing programs have shrunk to the point that only about 3,500 direct loans are available for low-income families to purchase or build their own home, the lowest level since 1957. Funding to preserve rental and farm labor housing is meager by any standard and by no means adequate to provide new housing opportunities or preserve existing housing resources,” wrote the Senators. “In the coming years, the number of maturing Section 515 mortgages will only accelerate, resulting in an even worse state of rental housing in rural America as some rural communities’ only source of affordable housing is lost.”

“In Minnesota, rural residents are desperate for homes they can afford and many of our affordable homes are substandard or ready to exit affordability terms. We need all hands on deck to provide more affordable homes to rural residents and preserve the ones we have to be healthy and stable,” said Elizabeth

Glidden, Deputy Executive Director for Minnesota Housing Partnership. “Increasing resources for rural housing and rural development is a practical solution that works to keep residents in their homes and rural communities thriving - we applaud these efforts to focus on the needs of rural communities across the U.S.”

“There is ample evidence that Senator Smith’s efforts are sorely needed. Over 1.5 million occupied substandard housing units in rural areas, and over 750,000 units lack piped water. A rising tide of maturing U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) rural rental housing loans threatens the availability of affordable housing. The number of USDA rural home mortgages for low and moderate-income households is at its lowest level since the mid-1950s,” said Bob Rapoza, Executive Secretary of the National Rural Housing Coalition. “We very much appreciate the Senator’s leadership and good work on rural housing.”

The letter specifically requests:

\$1.585 billion for section 502 direct homeownership loans, including \$20.8 million for the Native American Relending Pilot Program;

\$40 million for section 523 Mutual and Self-Help Housing;

\$76 million for home repair through section 504 and section 533;

\$200 million for Section 515 rural rental housing loans;

\$90 million for multi-family preservation; \$1.69 billion for Section 521 rural rental as-

sistance;

\$68 million for farm labor housing loans and grants authorized under section 514 and 516;

\$1.61 billion Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program loans and \$726 million in grants; and

\$22.745 million for the Rural Community Development Initiative.

The letter was signed by Senators Tom Carper (D-DE), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Angus King (I-VT), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Ed Markey (D-MA), Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Peter Welch (D-VT), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Jon Tester (D-MT), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), Gary Peters (D-MI), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Chris Coons (D-DE), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).

Senator Smith has long been a champion of expanding affordable housing programs. Her bipartisan legislation with Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) would improve federal rural housing programs, cut red tape, and strengthen the supply of affordable housing. The legislation would represent the most significant Rural Housing Service reforms in years.



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**TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SUMMARY SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 15, 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 April 15, 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](http://www.triton.k12.mn.us).

Present: Wendy Kenworthy, Duane Bartel, Dale Jensen, Jim Jensen, Rebecca Knutson, Brian Ginder (via ZOOM), Craig Schlichting, Luke Lutterman, Corey Black, Corey Lilledahl, Tina Kozisek, others.

The School Board approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda including: March 22, 2023 regular meeting minutes and April 5, 2023 study session minutes as presented; budget update; claims and bills; treasurer's report; donations; open enrollment/non-resident agreements for students #041524A, #041524B, #041524C, #041524D, and #041524E; contracts for Gabriella Molina as Cobra Kids Assistant, Katie Fitzgerald as TMS/THS Ag Teacher, Taylor Kraemer as Cobra Kids Assistant, and Autumn Dean as Cobra Kids Assistant; long-term substitute agreement for Lesley Vander Waal; resignation for Jacob Johnson as THS Business Education Teacher effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year, and extra-curricular contracts for Jeremy Himli as JH Girls Basketball Coach, Jamie Bodenstab as Cheerleading Coach, and Jaime Geers as Cheerleading Assistant Coach;

- Setting the time of the May 1 Special Meeting for 7:00 p.m.;

- Students to attend the Supermileage Contest May 12-14.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

**TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024 – 7:00 P.M. TRITON HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER – DODGE CENTER, MN**

-Meeting Proceedings-

Chair Kenworthy called the special meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Those members present: Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Jim Jensen, Wendy Kenworthy, Dale Jensen, Rebecca Knutson, and Duane Bartel; absent: Brian Ginder. Also present: Tina Kozisek and 3 visitors.

After discussion and a vote of 6:0; D. Jensen/J. Jensen motioned to approve entering into negotiations for superintendent with Luke Lutterman. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Jensen/Bartel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

School District Clerk

**WEST CONCORD COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 18, 2024 7:00 P.M. CITY OF WEST CONCORD BELL TOWER CENTER**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Ripley, Peterson.

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Nielson

**ALSO PRESENT:** Joe Palen of Stantec, Maintenance Supervisor Keith Clammer, Interim Administrator/Clerk Sandra Borders and Police Chief Shannon Boerner, Fire Chief Chad

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA;**

Mayor McCool removed Item C from the Consent agenda for a separate vote.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion made by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Ripley, Peterson

Nays: None Motion passed

**PUBLIC COMMENT - Representatives from Lamae's Bright Light 5k run were present to request that they be allowed to conduct the 5k run during the Survival Days events to be held on July 27, 2024. The run would start at Lions Park. The run is to help with the awareness of Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood.**

Consensus of the Council to allow the 5k run.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approve of Council Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2024

- Approval of Special Council Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2024

- Resolution 2024-17: Affidavit of Ripley Electric for Services

- Resolution 2024-18: Acceptance of Donations to the City

- Resolution 2024-19: Hiring of Bartender Crystal Massey

- Resolution 2024-20: Hiring of Probationary Fire Fighters Mike Naze and Grant Erler

- Approval of Payment of Claims: 04-05-2024: \$46,784.53; 04-04-2024: \$2,936.00; 04-11-2024: \$16,775.54

• 04-17-2024: **MOTION:** Motion to approve Consent Agenda as amended.

Motion made by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Ripley, Peterson

Nays: None Motion passed

**Item C of the Consent Agenda Resolution 2024-17: Affidavit of Ripley Electric for Services**

**MOTION:** Motion to approve Resolution 2024-17 – Affidavit of Ripley Electric for Services

Motion made by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burseim

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Peterson

Nays: None Abstention: Ripley Motion passed

**CITY BUSINESS**

**2023 Annual Audit Report:**

Greg Burkhardt was present from Burkhardt & Burkhardt, certified public accountants, to present the 2023 Audit report. He explained the financial reporting and summarized the audit results. He explained that the general fund revenues exceeded the budget by \$55,000 and that the city has a lack of segregated duties because of the limited staff. A copy of the complete audit is available at City Hall. The Council by consensus accepted the 2023 Annual Audit.

**2024A and 2024B Bond Issues:**

Todd Hagen, from Ehlers was present to discuss the issuance of the bond issues for the 2024. Mr. Hagen explained the Post-Issuance Compliance Policy, Post-Issuance Compliance Procedures, Presale Reports for the 2024A and 2024B Bonds. The city will be issuing a \$1.5 million dollar bond for the street, water, sewer, and storm water project within the city. The bonds will be issued for 15 years. The 2024B bond in the amount of \$335,000 will be used for the improvement to the municipal liquor store parking lot and alley and for Phase 2A improvement on South Street.

**Resolution: 2024-22: Providing for the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Abatement Bonds, Series 2024B in the Proposed Principal Amount of \$355,000**

**MOTION:** Motion to Resolution 2024-22 providing for the issuance and sale of the General Obligation Abatement Bonds, series 2024B.

Motion made by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Ripley, Peterson

Nays: None Motion passed

**Resolution 2024-23: Providing for the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Abatement Bonds, Series 2024A in the Proposed Principal Amount of \$1,500,000**

**MOTION:** Motion to Resolution 2024-23 providing for the issuance and sale of the General Obligation Abatement Bonds, series 2024A.

Motion made by Councilmember Burse, seconded by Councilmember Peterson

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Ripley, Peterson

Nays: None Motion passed

**Resolution 2024-21: Setting a Date for the Public Hearing on Tax Abatement and Issuance of Bonds**

The Public Hearing will be held at the Bell Tower Center on May 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm or shortly thereafter regarding the proposed property tax abatement and issuance of bonds.

**MOTION:** Motion to Resolution 2024-21 Setting the Public Hearing on the Tax Abatement and Issuance of bonds for May 18, 2024 at 7:00 pm or shortly thereafter.

Motion made by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Ripley, Peterson

Nays: None Motion passed

Nays: None Motion passed

**Resolution 2024-24: Credit Enhancement for 2024A Bonds and the MN Public Facilities Authority Credit Enhancement Program Agreement**

**MOTION:** Motion to Resolution 2024-22 providing for the issuance and sale of the General Obligation Abatement Bonds, series 2024B.

Motion made by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Ripley, Peterson

Nays: None Motion passed

**Resolution 2024- 21: Setting a Date for the Public Hearing on Tax Abatement and Issuance of Bonds**

The Public Hearing will be held at the Bell Tower Center on May 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm or shortly thereafter regarding the proposed property tax abatement and issuance of bonds.

**MOTION:** Motion to Resolution 2024-21 Setting the Public Hearing on the Tax Abatement and Issuance of bonds for May 18, 2024 at 7:00 pm or shortly thereafter.

Motion made by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Ripley, Peterson

Nays: None Motion passed

**Response to New Limits Notification to West Concord Waste Water Treatment Facility.**

(continued on page 15)

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Once again the net proceeds from this year's Minnesota Country Salute CD will go to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation and Minnesota Wheels of Honor. Starting Veteran's Day you'll be able to buy your copy at any one of these locations and make sure the service men and women and first responders of Minnesota have the support they need.

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If you or your business would like to help further this mission, or help distribute the CD, please contact: Neil Freeman, [neil@mybobcountry.com](mailto:neil@mybobcountry.com).





# Legal Notices

## West Concord City Council Meeting

(continued from page 14)

Joe Palen from Stantec was present to present to the council a letter to MPCA regarding the new limits notification letter that the city received. They had provided the MPCA with data. The

city and the MPCA will be working on the issuance of a new permit for the Wastewater Treatment facility.

### Street Sweeping Quotes:

Keith Clammer presented to the Council the street sweeping quotes for the 2024 street sweeping contract. Two quotes were received:

Rochester Sweeping Services in the amount of \$135 per hour and the other one from Groundmaster in the amount of \$200.00 per hour including the trip charge.

**MOTION:** Motion to award the street sweeping to Rochester Sweeping Services.

Motion made by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Ripley, Peterson

Nays: None  
Motion passed

### REPORT OF OFFICERS

### INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

It was reported that the city received from the Historical Society a check in the amount of \$4,358.27 for the gambling rent at the Municipal Liquor store.

**Librarian Report:** The re-

port included that there will be seven legacy programs and a local author will be visiting the library. There will be future programs on bird-watching, leather works, music, magic show, storyteller, and the most haunted places in Minnesota. The library will sponsor a summer reading program with the theme Adventure Begins in your Library.

### PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Maintenance Supervisor Clammer reported that there are two ditches that need to be cleaned and excavated.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the ditch repair work as described by public works.

Motion made by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Ripley, Peterson

Nays: None  
Motion passed

Clammer also noted that on Saturday, April 20th there will be tree planting done in the city. Volunteers from the city and from the University of Minnesota and Tree Trust will be present to help with the planting.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT - CHIEF FINNE

Chief Finne said that they had a controlled burn on some of the grass land in the city.

**POLICE CHIEF:** It was reported that there were 79 incidents during the month.

### MAYOR MCCOOL:

Mayor McCool informed the Council that the Personnel Committee interviewed someone for the Clerk/Administrator position. He suggested doing a second interview with the whole council. Staff will contact the applicant regarding possible interview dates.

### ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Motion to Adjourn.

Motion made by Mayor McCool, seconded Councilmember Burse.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Ripley, Peterson

Nays: None  
Motion passed

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Jeffrey McCool

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandra Borders, Interim Clerk/Administrator

# DENNISON DAYS



**RAIN OR SHINE**

**SATURDAY FOOD STANDS OPEN AT 11AM!**

## June 21 & 22, 2024

**FRIDAY, JUNE 21 KICK OFF**

**Gopher State Garden Tractor Pull**  
6:00 PM

**LIVE MUSIC**  
8:30 PM-Midnight



**Russ Franek & The Biscuits**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 22**

**LIVE MUSIC**  
7:30 PM-Midnight  
Main Street

**Shane Martin**  
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## Saturday Schedule of Events

8-11a.m.	<b>All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast</b> Hosted by Nerstrand-Dennison Fire Dept., and Dennison Community Church <small>\$12 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 &amp; under, 3 &amp; under FREE. Includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, juice, milk. Under Mainstreet tent.</small>
8a.m.	<b>Farmers Market Downtown • Citywide Garage Sales</b> <b>5K Run</b> Begins at Paul's Plumbing Building, North of Dennison Depot. <small>For more information text Ted at 507-301-4314 or e-mail: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com</small> <b>Classic Car Show on Mainstreet</b> Presented by Clutchmen Car Club. Trophies at Noon. Contact Eric Swanson 612-282-6562.
8:30a.m.	<b>Euchure at Fireside Lounge</b> For information, contact Jen Eggum 507-649-0602 <b>Sign Up for Clutchmen Truck &amp; Tractor Pull at Pull Site</b> <small>Truck Pull Mike Beebe 651-341-2424 • Tractor Pull Thad Sonsdahl 507-330-0180</small>
10a.m.	<b>Truck &amp; Tractor Pull Begins on the Hill</b> , sign up begins at 8:30a.m. <b>Cow Milking Contest</b> Main Street, hosted by David Flom Dairy
11a.m.	<b>Food Stands Open</b> <b>Joel Stenhaus &amp; Jim Tracy Memorial Horseshoe Tournament in City Park</b> Presented by the Dennison Lions <b>Kids Pedal Tractor Pull on Mainstreet (At Mainstreet intersection)</b> Sign up begins at 10:30a.m.
1-3p.m.	<b>Kids Carnival</b>
1:30p.m.	<b>Parade Downtown - A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade</b> (Ages 12 & Under) <b>\$100.00 Prize for Best Parade Entry!</b> Sign up at 12:00 p.m. South Mainstreet. Call 507-645-9992
2p.m.	<b>625 Bar &amp; Grill Bags Tournament</b> Sign up at 625 or call 507-782-9061 <b>Live Music at 625 Bar &amp; Grill</b> <b>Kids Bingo</b> Under the tent. Presented by Dennison Lions. Ages 3-11.
4:00p.m.	<b>Purse &amp; Gift Card Bingo</b> Presented by Dennison Lions & Fireside Lounge
5:30p.m.	<b>Game Show TBD</b>
7:30-11:30p.m.	<b>Live Music from "SHANE MARTIN" Alabama Tribute on Mainstreet</b> 18+ event. No Cover Charge. \$1 to drink. <small>Presented by Capitol Construction and Fireside Lounge &amp; Supper Club</small>

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**For updated info, go to [www.dennisondays.org](http://www.dennisondays.org)**



**All You Can Eat PANGAKE BREAKFAST**  
Includes Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage & Beverages  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 22**  
**8:00 AM to 11:00 AM**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 22**  
**CLASSIC CAR SHOW**  
**8:00 AM**  
Trophies at NOON  
**TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL**  
**10:00 AM**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 22**  
**KIDS PEDAL TRACTOR PULL**  
**11:00 AM**

**BE IN THE PARADE**

**SATURDAY at 1:30 PM!**

**A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade**  
(Ages 12 & under)

**Sign up at 12:00 p.m. South Main Street**

**\$100.00 Prize for Best Parade Entry!**

**Call 507-645-9992**

**Dennison Lions Club DENNISON DAYS RAFFLE**

**1st Prize: \$500 Cash**  
**2nd Prize: \$200 Cash**  
**3rd Prize: \$100 Cash**  
**4th Prize: \$50 Cash**

**Drawing held at 9:00p.m. at the Fireside Lounge**

Need not be present to win.  
Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees.  
SPONSORED BY DENNISON LIONS CLUB  
CHARITABLE GAMBLING PERMIT #2762





# HONORING OUR GRADUATES

*We'd like to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Triton Class of 2024.*

*As you celebrate this milestone achievement, please know you have made your community, and your loved ones proud!*



**HERITAGE**  
— B A N K —

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