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2024 Hogfest

This year the weekend of August 2nd through 4th will be the annual Hogfest celebration in Claremont. On Friday August 2nd the festivities will kick off at 5pm when the beer garden and food vendors open. The outhouse races begin at 5pm as well. At 6pm the garden tractor pulls begin and the first clues of the medallion hunt and kid's scavenger hunt are announced. The street dance starts at 8pm and will continue until midnight. The food trucks close at 11pm.



On Saturday breakfast burritos and a bake sale will be available from 8 to 11am at the Pavilion. At 9am the antique tractor pull starts and coffee and rolls will be served at the venue. The vendor market will be open from 9am to 5pm. At 10am the beer sales will start. At 10am the kids can find coins in the sand enjoy a petting zoo until 2pm. There will be face painting from 11am to 3pm, a silent auction from 11am to 4pm and food vendors from 11am to 11pm on Saturday.

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Fenders & Fibers

By Cheri Roshon

Mark your calendars for July 28th as the Dodge County Historical Society brings you Fenders & Fibers from 11am to 4 pm! This is the 3rd annual fundraiser to benefit the Historical Society and keep things running smoothly, just like the vintage tractors and classic cars on display!

The call is out! If you have a vintage tractor or car that you would like to put on display for the public to enjoy, just call 507-635-5508 and get the details from one of the staff. They welcome all to show off their Big Boy Toys for everyone to ogle!

There will be a larger than life quilt display in the Bartel Gardens across from the Fender display, so if you have a quilt you would like to show or sell, either call, email or go on FaceBook to let them know you'd like to join



Dodge County Free Fair next week



The 167th Dodge County Free Fair, the oldest in Minnesota, will be July 17th through July 21st. Grandstand shows this year include Bull Riding on Wednesday evening at 7pm with mutton busting for entertainment during the intermission followed by fireworks. Thursday is the Thunderbirds open stock care races at 7pm. Friday the Dodge Mayhem trailer races start at 7pm. On Saturday Demolition Derby begins at 6pm. Sunday at 3pm will be Auto Cross races. Breakfast is served from 7 to 10am at the Grandstand concession stand each day.

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in the fun! There will also be vintage quilts in the Wasioja Church on display.

DCHS will be providing brats at the food tent this year. The Onion Creek band from Ames, Iowa will be back to entertain you in the shade of the gardens. Bruce Ebnet will be giving miniature horse and wagon rides. Dean Jirousek will have a Civil War era coin collection on display at the Recruiting Station. The 3 historic buildings, the school, the church and the Recruiting Station will all be open for you to look through. Vendors will be set up to sell their wares, and there will be a variety of things to choose from!

If you would like to volunteer to help this year's event, call the number listed above and find out what you can do to help make this event special for everyone! Hope to see you there!

Announcements

• 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

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What are you doing God?

Have you ever wanted to ask God a question? Like why? Why is there pain and suffering? Why is the grass green? What is your plan? When are you coming back?

Joseph was a dreamer. Joseph was daddy's favorite. And besides being the favorite son of Jacob-whom his father gave him a one-of-a-kind special coat- he also alienated his brothers by ratting them out when they did something wrong! Joseph's brothers had built a strong resentment and hatred toward their brother. When Joseph began having his dreams- he chose to announce them to his family. Both dreams indicated that his brothers and his parents would one day be bowing down to him. Pretty heady stuff for a 17-year-old man.

Joseph's brothers conspired together to get rid of him- to get rid of the dreamer- their little brother Joseph. The plan was to kill him and tell their father that a wild animal must have killed him. When Joseph appeared in Dothan where they were tending the sheep- they saw their chance. They grabbed him and threw him in a dry cistern- Nine of the brothers were having a lunch break when they saw a band of Ishmaelite traders heading their way- Judah came up with an even better plan than killing their brother- let's sell him off as a slave- then our hands will be clean and we'll be a few coins richer as well! So that's what they did. We've fixed him now- we won't have to give him a 2nd thought- for all practical purposes Joseph is dead to us and good riddance! They take his robe- bloody it up and bring it to their father Jacob, who goes into an extended time of mourning for his favorite son.

In a moment, Joseph's life was changed from being the beloved son to a slave in the unknown land of Egypt. Upon his arrival his sightseeing was cut short because he was sold to Pharaoh's captain Potiphar to be a servant in his house, but the Lord was with Joseph.

God was still working- did it feel like it? I doubt Joseph was thinking- 'this is great- I'm so glad I can be a part of this plan and be a slave in Potiphar's house.' There were good

days and bad days there- but things began to shape up for Joseph. Joseph had a good work ethic- he was faithful- he didn't slack off or sabotage his relationship with his master- he served him as he was taught- he served him as he would serve his father and his God. Despite not understanding the 'why am I here' question- Joseph did the next thing.

Joseph remained diligent and industrious in his dealings despite being a slave. And because of his work and his integrity Potiphar entrusted him with charge of all of his house affairs. Pretty amazing! A Jewish slave with responsibility in the house of a powerful Egyptian. Well, it was better than being the guy that cleaned the latrines-but he was still a slave. He still had no rights and no voice. He wasn't paid for his work either- in fact, he was probably given more work to be responsible for. It would seem that Potiphar would acknowledge his hard work and maybe give him his freedom... Not happening!

Instead, Joseph was being sexually harassed- without any protection from the system. He was a slave- without any rights or voice. He avoided his boss's wife for a long time- she was persistent though and when she finally had him alone in her house- she tried to force him into a relationship right then and there. Instead of succumbing and being her 'slave' he ran! He saw the temptation for what it was and avoided it at all cost. And cost him it did! Due to the false

accusation of Potiphar's wife to her husband, because Joseph would not sleep with her, Joseph was cast into prison. At this point you might argue, why didn't God rescue him from his troubles? Joseph found favor with the guards in prison and things were going well for him, despite being in prison.

James wrote in the book of James, "Don't run from tests and hardships, brothers and sisters. As difficult as they are, you will ultimately find joy in them; if you embrace them, your faith will blossom under pressure and teach you true patience as you endure. And true patience brought on by endurance will equip you to complete the long journey and cross the finish line—mature, complete, and wanting nothing"

Many Christians assume that when things are difficult, when there seems to be roadblocks, that in these situations that God is not with them. That He has forgotten them and that His plans are either impossible- or that we heard Him wrong. Most of us forget that the message of Scripture is very clear that God is most powerfully present in these tough situations.

I find it inspiring that through all the trials and temptations that Joseph was faced with; he showed integrity, honesty, solid work ethics, his actions showed a confidence in God, and he was faithful to God even when it didn't feel like God was being faithful to him. Wow!

When you find yourself in a situation

where you feel like God doesn't care, go back to the Bible. Remember the character of God. Put your faith in what Scripture tells us about the nature of God. Remember, "He will never leave you or forsake you."

When you wonder why God allows bad things to happen to good people, consider these four things about the bad things that happen:

- Bad things may happen to good people in this world, but this world is not the end.
- Bad things happen to good people, but God uses those bad things for an ultimate, lasting good.
- Bad things happen to good people, but those bad things equip believers for deeper ministry.
- Bad things happen to good people, and the worst things happened to the best Person. (Jesus)

God allows things to happen for a reason. Whether or not we understand His reasons, we must remember that God is good, just, loving, and merciful.

It's ok to ask the question- "What are you doing, God?" God hears and He will answer. Joseph kept the faith. He continued to walk in integrity and each day to do the next thing. He chose not to 'worry' about tomorrow, but to leave it in the hands of God.

We too are called to walk by faith, not by sight. When we are afraid or confused- trust, believe- remember God and His promise. Hebrews 13:5, "God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

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://gracede.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 • 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.congregationalchurchdodge.com
Keith Mosier, Pastor

Area Church Directory

Sleep of Exhaustion

He lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

— 1 Kings 19:5
Yesterday I mowed our overgrown lawn, cleaned our cluttered garage, and washed some of the filmy windows on our house. Physically exhausted at the end of the day, I fell asleep as soon as my head hit the pillow.

In our reading for today, Elijah is exhausted and falls asleep under a bush in the wilderness. But Elijah isn't exhausted from doing chores. He has just had a dramatic confrontation with the priests of Baal (see 1 Kings 18:16-46), and now he is fleeing for his life from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Totally shattered—physically, emotionally, and spiritually—Elijah asks God to take his life.

Yet God doesn't answer his plea. Instead, through an angel, God provides Elijah with sustenance for the road ahead. Then, after some more restful, restorative sleep and more food and drink from the angel, Elijah sets out on the journey ahead of him.

What can this extraordinary story teach us? We are reminded of our basic need for sleep and its restorative benefits. Even more importantly, we see that God tenderly cares for us, feeds us, and watches over us—even in our deepest, darkest moments. Through our own story may not be as dramatic as Elijah's, God will provide what we need so that we too can take up the journey ahead of us. In fact, God has already provided for us through his Son, Jesus, who invites us to come and rest in him (Matthew 11:28-30).

Lord, our only hope for true rest is in you. As you reach out to us, help us to come to you. 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
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

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Beverly Marie Plevke

Beverly Marie Plevke, 97, of West Concord, died Monday, June 24, 2024 at Fairview Care Center, Dodge Center.



She was born January 25, 1927 in Northfield the daughter of Everett and Mabel (McEathron) Kleeberger. When Beverly was four, her family moved from Northfield to the West Concord area, settling in Ellington Township. She attended various school districts including Old Concord, Eagle Valley and District 75. She moved to Rochester at the age of 16 and worked at the Capital and Green Cafes as a waitress. On December 2, 1945 she married Willmer "Tom" Plevke in Zumbrota. The couple lived in Zumbrota for a short time before moving back to West Concord where Bev worked for Gladys and Hap Olson at the local restaurant, did the apron ironing for Maricle's Store, as well as laundry and house cleaning for local West Concord residents. Bev started work at the Faribault State Hospital in 1961 and retired in 1989. During that time she was very proud that she obtained her GED in November of 1970. After retirement Bev continued to work part time waitressing and was a Hospice volunteer.

Bev was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and the West Concord American Legion Auxiliary. She enjoyed gardening, yard work, canning, sewing, embroidery, bowling, painting, reading and scrapbooking.

She is survived by her daughters, Pam Hartman of Kasson, Phoebe (and Murali) Srinivasan of Shakopee, Paula (and Charlie) Giesler of West Concord; grandchildren, Heather Schandorff, Darrin (and Carrie) Giesler, Greg (and Calli) Giesler, Brian Giesler, Joseph (and Kelly) Kvam, Jacob Kvan, Samantha Srinivasan, Shawn (and Holly) Busby; great grandchildren, Taylor and Kennedy Schandorff, Gavin and Addison Giesler, Corbin, Cale and Gretta Giesler, Urijah and Londyn Giesler, Samuel Kvam, Arianna Winkel, Ed and Sam Remine and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Tom Plevke; daughters, Penny Royle, Prudi Giesler; brothers, Roger Kleeberger, Dahl

"Pete" Kleeberger, Billy Kleeberger; sister, DeLores Gillard.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, July 13, 2024 at 11am at Trinity Lutheran Church, West Concord with Chad Christensen officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to West Concord American Legion Auxiliary.

Larry James Lulf

Larry James Lulf, age 79 of Lakeville passed away on July 4th 2024. Preceded in death



by wife Joan, parents Harry (Esther) Lulf and Dorothy (Dutch) Mittlestadt. Survived by his two children Allen Lulf and Kristine (Troy) Carlson, grandchildren Chloe Henderson,

Trevor Knaack, Whitney Knaack and Jaxson Lulf, siblings Carolyn McDaniel, Janet Tate, Dan (Linda) Lulf, Boni Moon, Wanda Jensen.

Larry grew up in West Concord Minnesota. He married his sweetheart Joan Exe of Hayfield in 1967 after serving four years in the Air Force. They began their life together in Lakeville Minnesota where Larry worked at Honeywell, EMR and Sperry Univac in the computer field. He was very active in the community as he was a part of the American Legion, Lakeville Sno Trackers, Yellow Ribbon, Lakeville Park and Recreation, All Saints Catholic Church and the Old Flames Car Club.

Larry enjoyed snowmobiling, motorcycling, restoring his 1967 El Camino and attending numerous classic car shows. He also enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren, family and friends. He was always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need.

Visitation will be held on July 14th at White Funeral Home from 1-5pm located at 20134 Kenwood Trail Lakeville MN 55044. Funeral will be held on July 15th at All Saints Catholic Church located at 19795 Holyoke Ave. Lakeville MN 55044 with visitation from 10-11am, funeral at 11am. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a military organization in honor of Larry.

Carl James Martin Jr.

Carl James Martin Jr., 75, died Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at Pine Haven Nursing Home in Pine Island.

He was born February 21, 1949 in Brainerd the son of Carl and Dorothy (Wheeler) Martin. Carl graduated from West Concord High School with the Class of 1967. Carl earned a certificate of Bible and Business at the University of Northwestern in Saint Paul attending from 1974 - 1976. He received a BA in Public Administration and a Minor in Business at the Upper Iowa University in 1981. He earned his M.A. in Theology/Ethics and History from WCBS in 1984.

After serving as a pastor at the Evangelical Free Church from 1981 to 1991 he became an electrician. Carl served as contract/arbitrator and conflict specialist for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 292 from 1992 until 2010 and worked as a union electrician until his retirement. Carl had a passion for performance automobiles and owned and operated Concord Motorsports from 2008 taking his mobile dyno trailer to many car events. In the end he donated the equipment to an automotive educational school because of his love for the sport.

Carl married Victoria Kay Anderson on July 11, 1981 at Wooddale Baptist Church. He enjoyed fishing and loved old cars. Carl could always be found visiting acquaintances, debating politics and religion and was a friend to many.

He is survived by son, Alexander Martin; cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Victoria.

A graveside memorial service was held Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM in the Pine Island Cemetery, Pine Island Minnesota.

Ronald Jerome Ross

Ronald Jerome Ross, 89, of Claremont, died Monday, June 17, 2024, at Seasons Hospice Home in Rochester.



He was born July 12, 1934, in Nicollet County, Minnesota the son of Carl and Edna (Rydeen) Ross. Ron moved with his family in 1946 from St. Peter to their farm located in rural Claremont, where he lived until his passing. Ron graduated from Claremont in 1952. He served in the Army. Ron and Ardis (Schmoll) were married on August 15th, 1958, at Grace Lutheran Church in Dodge Center. They were married for 50 years.

He farmed, owned his own well repair business, and finally was a heavy equipment operator. Ron was a member of Grace Lutheran Church for over 60 years. He liked to stop by Wobbrock Trucking in Claremont and visit with the guys. In his later years, he enjoyed tinkering around the farm and having coffee at the Service Center in Claremont. Ron enjoyed a lively conversation and could hold his own in a card game. He was a jack-of-all-trades and could repair almost anything. He always had a soft spot for his grandkids and great-grandkids.

He is survived by his children, Craig (Alli-

son) Ross of Claremont, Clem Ross of St. George, UT, Carrie (Tom) Johnson of Rochester; grandchildren, Andrea "AJ" (and Chris) Franko, Brandon Ross and Family, Andrew Johnson, Brittany (Andrew Wagner) Johnson, Rebekah (Kade) Gwin, Carly Johnson; great-grandchildren, Reeve, Sawyer, and Brooks Franko; sisters, Margaret Prusha, and Carol Hames.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ardis Ross; parents, Carl and Edna Ross; granddaughter, Melissa Ross; sisters, Edie Sinell, Arlene Anderley, Shirley Ross, Judith Ross; brother, Stanley Ross.

Visitation was at Grace Lutheran Church Dodge Center on Thursday, June 27th, 2024 from 1PM to 3PM. Funeral services were held on June 27, 2024, at 3PM at Grace Lutheran Church Dodge Center. Pastor Elliott Malm officiated. The interment was in the Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center. Memorials are preferred to a place of the donor's choice.

Lyle E. Paulson

Lyle E. Paulson, 80, of West Concord, MN passed away June 27, 2024 at his farm surrounded by family.



He was born February 2, 1944 in Byron, MN to Elmer and Alice (Blanchard) Paulson. At an early age, Lyle started his life of farming and continued throughout his life.

Lyle raised three daughters, who were his whole world. The girls worked alongside their father for years learning the importance of having a strong work ethic.

In May of 1991, he married Maria, fondly called Cori. Theirs was a "love affair to remember." They traveled back to the Philippines several times and to many other states and countries.

In addition to farming, Lyle enjoyed going to machinery auctions to buy and sell equipment, always finding a way to make a couple extra bucks. He also enjoyed fishing, playing cards and spending time with family and friends. Lyle absolutely loved being a grandpa and great-grandpa. He delighted in taking them out for suppers, going fishing, and watching them grow up.

He had a great sense of humor, and he could talk to anyone, often making friends wherever he went.

Lyle is survived by wife Cori, daughters Lynn (Steve), Kari (Jim); grandkids Ashlee, Kymber and Wyatt; great-grandkids Laycee, Amelia, Alexa, and Sawyer; brothers Haven, Delmer (Joanne), and David (Lois), sisters Delores and Patti. He was greeted in Heaven with open arms by his parents, daughter Lonna, grandson Cody and numerous crops waiting to be harvested with his John Deere tractors.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, July 3, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Church of the Resurrection Catholic Church with a visitation one hour prior to the service.

The family would like to thank the many people, family, kind neighbors and special friends who reached out, stayed by their side, and helped them during the past few months.

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Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin Construction Projects - Another Adventure in Learning

By Monica & Claudia Vanderborght

Both Monica and Claudia were more adept at construction projects than the average suburban gal. Our father was an architect and engineer – always working on some building or mechanical project when we were growing up. Our mother was a seamstress by trade and taught us both to sew when we were young. So construction came quite naturally to us and Monica frequently said, “The only difference between working with wood and fabric is that sewing requires a 1/8” seam allowance.”

Well, the tools and the materials are somewhat different too. But for both sewing and construction you need a plan (patterns vs. blueprints), materials (fabric vs. 2x4s), fasteners (thread vs. nails), and tools (scissors and sewing machines vs. circular saws and nail guns). We grew up watching father study and revise the blueprints on his drafting table and watching mother design and sew all of our dresses and coats. But to put it simply, both are: measure, cut, attach.

The chicken coop was the first farm construction project. Good friends Norm and Dawn promised to help Monica build the shed; in return, Monica would help them build a similar one on the far end of her property as their personal hunting blind. Perfect! Material lists were made; everything was ordered and delivered. Monica decided that the best location was between the pasture’s water hy-

drant and the pole barn – not too close to the house, not too far. Feed could be kept in the barn and a hose could easily be run from the hydrant.

Sections were laid out and air-nailed together in the pole barn – electricity and the air compressor were close at hand, and the barn kept everything (and us) protected from the March weather. An air framing nailer can be a bit intimidating at first, but it’s so fast! Monica (a bit impatient and an efficiency lover) quickly became quite adept at using it. Everyone – including the grandkids – helped carry the framed sections out to the location and secure them together. The younger kids helped nail the plywood siding to the frame; Monica’s college-aged grandson helped with the roofing.

By the time the exterior was finished, Monica felt completely competent (she’s a very good seamstress). Racks for the laying boxes were measured, cut, and assembled. Doors were constructed and hung. (Hinges are tricky – there is no sewing equivalent to hinges.) Used dog kennel panels made a lovely, protected run for the chickens.

By this time, Monica had added bottle-baby goats to her farm; soon they would need grass and hay, and the cattle feeders were just too big for the goats. And by winter the goats would need an enclosure in the barn, separate from the cattle. Monica had learned a lot building the chicken coop with Norm, but this was different. These things didn’t come with set patterns – they had to be designed from scratch – which she thought was half the fun.

And it was fun! Well, except that when you are designing and building, your initial plans don’t always work out. Monica quickly learned that removing nails that had been put in with compressed air was not at all fun ... nearly impossible. So the air nailer was aban-



doned and torx-head screws (and her faithful Ryobi impact driver) were embraced. Easy in and easy out! Coming home from the next trip to Menards, Monica had six different varieties of screws and a second battery for the impact driver. She was ready!

The first goat feeder (designed to be part of the goat enclosure – very efficient) was perfect. Until the goats started climbing on it. And in it. Well-fed baby goats get bigger, and heavier, and love climbing up and over anything – hay feeders, hay bales, even cows eating hay. The goat feeder / enclosure was going to have to be redesigned (more than once over the years). Thank goodness for the screws.

Chickens grow too. They can easily hop onto the workbench in the pole barn – knocking and moving anything that was left loose (particularly screws which roll off the counter onto the dirt floor and threaten to puncture vehicle tires). Back to Home Depot for hold-



ing containers and magnets and more screws. And more 2x4s and plywood, of course. But all that wood takes up an inordinate amount of floor space and the next thing Monica built was a rack to hold all the new and scrap wood that was waiting for the next project idea.

Claudia didn’t really enjoy construction projects (she doesn’t like tools and doesn’t care much for sewing either). But she was great at finding lost screws with magnets (well, most of them), and reorganizing the work benches when they became piled with stuff (screws and discarded pieces of 2x4s and tools ... “Hey Claudia! Have you seen the T-square? I can’t remember where I put it.”). And usually by the time construction

was over for the day, Monica was done-done. To the rescue came Claudia – cleaning up all the scraps and putting the tools away. For Monica it was like having a fairy-godmother with a magic wand.

The sisters became quite a team! Claudia would hold the end of the tape measure while Monica designed the new screen room / firewood shelter on the deck. Or Monica would cut the plywood with the circular saw while Claudia steadied the 4’x8’ sheet. And Claudia would stand on the ladder, holding one end of the 2x4, while Monica attached it. Measure, cut, and fasten. Construction and sewing are very similar – except for that 1/8” seam allowance.

Funding Available for Community Development Financial Institutions to Support Farmers

New technical assistance grants will help expand agriculture-focused services

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) foster economic opportunity for diverse communities around Minnesota, and new funding is available to help them support more of Minnesota’s farmers. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for its CDFI Technical Assistance Grant, aimed at helping Minnesota’s certified CDFIs expand their agriculture-focused services.

The MDA expects to award approximately \$260,000 in one-time funding through a competitive review process, with individual grants of between \$10,000 and \$200,000 available for certified CDFIs in two main areas of technical assistance:

Technical assistance provided by CDFIs to farmers (e.g., assisting farmers with loan readiness or expanding outreach efforts toward targeted groups with agriculture-focused financial services).

Technical assistance for CDFIs to increase their own capacity to serve farmers (e.g., to develop their agriculture lending program or internal knowledge and processes as a foundation to provide financial services to farmers).

The deadline to apply for the grant is 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2024. The MDA will notify applicants in October about whether their proposal was funded.

Full grant details and the request for proposals (RFP) can be found on the MDA website.

Applicants must be certified CDFIs who serve or intend to serve farmers in Minnesota and have participated in at least one U. S. Department of Agriculture grant or loan program. A certified CDFI is defined as a bank, credit union, microloan fund, or venture capital provider who has completed a certification process with the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s CDFI Fund.

An online public information session about this technical assistance grant will take place at noon on Wednesday, July 31, 2024. The MDA will review basic information included in the RFP including applicant eligibility, funding timelines, and application questions. Registration is required.

Stay Cool this Summer



Dodge Center pool is open seven days a week from noon to 7pm for open swim. The food court is open noon to 6pm daily. Lap swim and water aerobics are held from 11 to 11:50 Monday - Thursday. Pool fees are \$6.00 per day for five years through 65 years old. 13 months to four years and senior citizens are \$3.00 per day. Evening passes are \$3.00 and a season pass is \$75 per person and \$40 for senior citizens. There are swim lessons yet for July 22-25 and July 29-August 1. For more information call 507-633-6300.

Where to go to beat the heat in West Concord

The West Concord pool is open Monday through Friday from 1 to 5pm and also 6:30

to 8:30 pm. Saturday and Sunday hours are 1 to 7:30pm. Pool fees for a day pass is \$9.00 for adult and \$8.00 for child. Afternoon only is \$6.00 for adult and \$5.00 for child. Evening passes are \$5.00 for adult and \$4.00 for child. Season pass is \$95 for a single and \$155 for a family. Second session of swimming lessons will be August 5-9 for evening lessons with sign up July 24th Pool parties can be scheduled at \$50 per hour outside of regular pool hours. Call 507-527-2935 for more questions.



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 & Alpacas</small>	Foster Grand	Crazy on You: A Tribute to Heart
June 26th - <small>Classic Car Cruise & Country Night</small>	507 Country	County Line Drive
July 3rd -	Rockin' Hep Cats	Old Country Boys
July 10th - <small>Kids Night w/ Zollman 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</small>	Cosmic Orphan	Retro Soul & the Westside Horns
August 7th - <small>Asian Market</small>	My Grandma's Cardigan	Six Mile Grove
August 14th -	The Chubs	The Local Hooligans
August 21st - <small>St. Joe Brewfest</small>	True North	fABBAulous
August 28th - <small>Classic Car Cruise</small>	Jeremy Jewell & the Co-Dependents	Nite Shift

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



WWW.BERNEPIZZA.ORG



Area Student Receives NDSU Scholarship

Fargo, N.D. - Maxwell Olson-Ramer, son of Tony and Candy Mulholland, Dodge Center, Minnesota, received the NDSU Presidential Honor Award at North Dakota State University. The award recognizes Students who scored a 29-31 on the ACT and 3.5+ high school GPA or 3.8-3.979 high school GPA.

Olson-Ramer will enter NDSU in the fall and major in computer science. In high school, he was active in Honor Society and Business Professionals of America. He was also awarded four time Academic Letter winner.



Maxwell Olson-Ramer,

WEST CONCORD LIBRARY SURVIVAL DAYS USED BOOK SALE

In the Lobby of City Hall
Wed. July 24----10-5
Thurs. July 25----10-5
Fri. July 26----10-5
Sat. July 27----10-12

*Free will donation!
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Dodge County Free Fair next week

(continued from page 1)

Grandstand events are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids 6-12 years old. Bicycles will be given away each night at the grandstand shows.

Wednesday is military public service day with music scheduled in the Township Square from 11:30 am through 9:30pm. Thursday is kids and family day with fun events planned like a watermelon eating contest at 12:15, the fair prince and princess contest at 4:30pm, the mayor cow milking contest at 6pm and an amateur talent contest from 7 to 9pm. Friday is senior citizen day with music at the Township Square at 11 am, 3pm and 6pm. Saturday will be the cities of Dodge County starting with a donut eating contest at 11am, The Circus Science Spectacular, Blue Lotus Dance and Just For Kix during the afternoon. The Jaggedease will provide live music starting at 6pm. Sunday will be the hot dish and pie baking at 10am and Community Celebration Church service at noon. Jeff Reinartz Music will perform from 2 to 5pm.

The Beer Garden opens at 10am daily and live music starts at 8pm every evening. The

K-M Snowdrifters provide the Pull Tabs all week and a chain saw carving silent auction ends at 6pm Sunday.

The Dodge County FFA and 4-H clubs will have livestock shows and judging in the main arena all week with exhibitor's cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, goats, rabbits and chickens in the barns to see. Wednesday the horse show starts at 9am in the horse arena. The 4-H ribbon auction is Saturday at 9am and the open class ranch and game horse show in the horse arena starts at 9am.

There are fun things to do all over the fair every day. The midway opens at 5pm on Wednesday, noon on Thursday, 1pm on Friday and noon on Saturday and Sunday. New are rubber duck races for the kids and returning is the favorite Little Farmers Barn. A free senior citizens lunch will be served at noon in the Beer Garden on Friday by Uncle Mony's Restaurant. Face painting for kids on Saturday at the Little Farmers Barn and a kids pedal at 4pm on Saturday in front of the Grandstand. Gopher State Garden Tractor pull will be held at 11:30am on Sunday in front of the Grandstand.

Got a Great Local News Story?

Tell us about it today!

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Dodge County Cowboy Church

2ND SUNDAY NIGHT

July 14

5:30 Music

6:00 Cowboy Church

All musicians welcome to play, sing and share!



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901 8TH AVE NW
KASSON MN 55944
Marette Jorgenson. 507-421-4761

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GRANDSTAND EVENTS

- ★ Bull Riding/Mutton Busting
- ★ Fireworks
- ★ Stock Car Races
- ★ Trailer Races
- ★ Power Wheels Derby
- ★ Demolition Derby
- ★ Auto Cross Races

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

- ★ 4H & FFA Shows
- ★ Circus Science Spectacular
- ★ Eli Alger & Faster Horses Band
- ★ 507 Country Band
- ★ Antique Tractor Display
- ★ Bean Bag Tournament
- ★ Garden Tractor Pulls



OPEN CLASS BUILDING EXHIBITORS:

REGISTRATION MONDAY, JULY 15
from 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM

NEW! Online Registration available June 1

ATTENTION SENIORS:

FREE LUNCH catered by Uncle Mony's & UCare on
Senior Day, Friday, July 19 at Noon.

Please confirm attendance by Monday, July 15: 507-634-7736.
Music by 'Wendinger Band' from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

TOWNSHIP SQUARE FEATURES:

Minnesota State Amateur Talent Contest

Thursday, July 18 at 7:00 PM
Registration starts at 6:00 PM

Hotdish/Pie Competitions
Sunday, July 21 at 10:00 AM

More information for both events on our website.



For complete schedules, entry forms, advance carnival tickets and sponsorships, visit us at:

www.dodgecountyfreefair.com

Survival Days is just around the Corner

This year the annual West Concord Survival days will be the last weekend in July. The celebration starts on Thursday July 25th with a Guns vs Hoses softball game at 7pm with donations going to mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Watch for clues at city hall and on facebook all weekend for the Medallion Hunt.

Friday from 7 to 11am you can get coffee and donuts at the West Concord American Legion Hall on Main Street. City wide garage sales start Friday at 8am and continue through the weekend. Loot for a listing in the next issue of the Messenger on July 24th. The Historical Society has an open house from 9am to

1pm. The food trucks and beer garden open up on Main Street at 5pm on Friday. A 3 on 3 basketball tournament starts at Memorial Park at 5:30pm. A Garden Tractor pull will be held at 6pm on Front Street. The Miss West Concord pageant will take place at 6:30pm at Lion's Park with a rain venue at Trinity Lutheran Church. There will be live music under the tent from 8pm to midnight and fireworks planned at 10pm.

On Saturday the Fire Department will have a Burrito breakfast starting at 8am. The Scott Hodgman Classic Car & Bike Show will be held on Main Street from 8am to noon. A meat smoking competition will be held in front of the Gochnauer Dairy Barn all day with judging at 4pm. A softball tournament starts at 8 am at the ball field and a 5K run/walk starts at 8am at Lion's Park. A sand volleyball tournament starts at 9am and an antique tractor pull will be held from 10am to 2pm near the dairy barn. A petting zoo will be held at the dairy barn from 10am to 3pm.

A new activity for 2024 will be a kids bounce house and fun games behind the Historical Society from 10am to 3pm. An inflat-



2023 Survival Days

HOGFEST 2024

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2ND

- 5PM Beer Sales Begin
- 5-11PM Food Vendors
- 5PM Outhouse Races
- 6PM Garden Tractor Pulls
- 6PM Medallion Hunt/Kids Scavenger Hunt (Announcement of First Clue)

8-12AM 507 Country (Street Dance, Rain or Shine)



SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD

- 8-11AM Breakfast Burritos (Pavillion)
- 8-1PM Bake Sale (Pavillion)
- 8:30AM Rolls and Coffee (Antique Tractor Pull Area)
- 9AM Antique Tractor Pulls
- 9-5PM Vendor Market
- 10AM Beer Sales Begin
- 10AM Coins in the Sand
- 10-2PM Petting Zoo (Gochnauer Farms)
- 11-4PM Silent Auction
- 11-3PM Face Painting
- 11-11PM Food Vendors
- 12PM Bean Bag Tournament
- 2-6PM Free Gaming Trailer (Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Nintendo Switches, Oculus Quest 2 VR)

- 3PM Mudbogs
- 4-7PM Sweet Corn & Pork Feed
- 5PM Horse Races
- 6-7PM Foam Party for Kids
- 6PM (Register 5:30) Kids Pedal Pull
- 6PM Announcement of Silent Auction Winners
- 7-11PM The Dads Band (Street Dance, Rain or Shine)



SUNDAY, AUGUST 4TH

- 8-12PM Pancake Breakfast (Claremont American Legion)
- 8-11:30AM Car/Bike and Antique Tractor Show
- 8:30-11:30AM Rockin' Hepcats
- 9-2PM Food Vendors
- 9-2PM Vendor Market
- 10-2PM Beer Sales
- 12PM Bald Eagle Encounter
- 1:30PM Parade
- Fireman's Water Fight (After Parade)

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able laser tag course will be open from 10am to 6pm also. The food trucks open at 11am Saturday and the swimming pool hosts a treasure hunt for the 2 through 12 year old kids at 11:30am. The West Concord library will host a magic show at Lion's Park at 1pm. Family Bingo is scheduled under the big tent from 2 to 4pm. The Rochester riders Mud Bog will be held at the old football field behind Hyland Systems from 2 to 5pm.

The beer garden opens up at 5pm Saturday and there will be a dance with a live band under the tent from 8pm to midnight. Excavator rodeo will be held at the east end of Main Street at 7:30pm Saturday.

On Sunday the community worship service will be held at Lion's Park at 9:30am. The food trucks open at 11am and the beer garden opens at noon. A pie and ice cream social will be under the big tent at from noon to 3pm and the grand parade starts at 1pm. The firemen's water fight starts at 2pm at the east end of Main Street.

2024 Hogfest

(continued from page 1)

At noon a bean bag tournament will start and a free gaming trailer open from 2 to 6pm.

At 3pm Saturday there will be competition at the mud bogs and a sweet corn and pork feed from 4 to 7pm. Horse races begin at 5pm, 6pm is the kids pedal pull and silent auction winners announced at 6pm. A foam party for kids will be held between 6 and 7pm. A street dance featuring the Dad's starts at 7pm.

On Sunday August 4th a pancake breakfast is served at the Claremont American Legion from 8am to noon. A car/bike and antique tractor show begins at 8am with the Rockin' Hepcats performing from 8:30 to 11:30am. Food trucks and the vendor market will be open from 9am to 2pm. Beer sales are open from 10am to 2pm and there will be a bald eagle encounter at noon. The parade starts at 1:30pm and the Fireman's water fight follows the parade.

Memories of Dodger Days

By Cheri Roshon

Well, it took more than a rainy day to prevent people in Dodge Center from celebrating Dodger Days this year! June 13th to the 16th was set for the activities for all ages. This was the 3rd year of celebrating Dodge Center, and there were plenty of things to experience. Starting at 8am on the 13th was a city wide garage sale.

From 11 am to 2 pm there were activities like root beer floats, a big truck show, vintage bicycles, and a bouncy house.

June 14th the Fire Hall held a community meal, a silent auction for Triton Wrestling and a street dance /beer tent in the evening. The Poor Boy Ramblers were the providers of lively country music. Following the Ramblers, the American Legion had Thomas and the Shakes playing their brand of reggae music

Starting with morning yoga in the pavillion at North Park at 9 am on the 15th, and continuing through out the day with activities like Bingo, the locals turned out to have a good time. Food vendors, like HammerQ BBQ and Artic Blast snowcones, cotton candy, and even a few die-hard vendors turned out to play in the rain. The swimming pool was a hit, even through the rain drops, and it looked like everyone was having a great time. Fireworks topped off the night, compliments of McNeillus Steel.

On June 16th there was a fly in breakfast at the DC airport from 7 am to noon, and a church in the park was held by Praise Fellowship Church at 10 am on Sunday.

I would have to say, this was a big success in celebrating all the things Dodge Center has to offer! I am already looking forward to next year's celebration!



Melodrama two storms through Mantorville July 12-28

Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2



Mantorville Theatre Company is premiering another original play written by Victoria Carlsen, 100% Chance of Deceit (Say it Ain't Crow)!

About the play: Between the villages of Serenity and Harmony lies the tiny town of Tranquility. The town's weather forecaster, with her faithful crow companion, warn of coming wind and rain while the bell-tower-traumatized pastor and his wife are experiencing stormy weather. "Sigh!" Thunder claps on this quaint community with the arrival of evangelist Augusta Wynd (say this name out loud). "Boo! Hiss!" Will the townsfolk see through this blustering blowhard? "Hurray!" Can the crow communicate Wynd's crookery? Oh! may the sun move the mist away for the minister and his missus! Come watch the drama unfold and boo! hiss! sigh! hurray! at the Mantorville Opera House!

Kcin Siegele plays the phobic Pastor Joe Moody and Savannah Potter is his mildly miffed wife, Misty Moody. The wise weather forecaster Hattie Hamernick is played by Molly Bartz and her crow companion Flappy is flown by Rob Ronnenberg. The evil Augusta Wynd is blown by Kane Kline. Madysen Nelson tips her hat as Tommy Too-good. Church ladies the direct Nancy Pessimancy and the ditsy Fancy Pollyancy are portrayed by Cheryl Frarck and Brook Redding. Jen Gall serves as both director and costumer. Alicia Frarck sets the scenes on the piano keys, and Lycus Flaherty provides the flash and boom on lights and sound.

Melodramas are family friendly, tickets are \$10. Reservations can be made online at www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com or by phone, (507)635-5420.

Despite real rain in the region, the bridge is open and Mantorville road construction is moving ahead. All shops, restaurants, bar, and the Opera House are accessible. Come to Mantorville to shop, eat, and take in a short melodrama (90 minutes or less) this weekend!



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Triton Venom Softball Team



Right to left: Ryleigh Donner, Hudson Miller, Brielle James, Autumn Thissen, Kathrine Ross, Vanessa TerBeest, Lydia Krenske, Alexis Dahlberg, Ellah Oliver, Brielle Dessner, Kayle Langford, Jenna Nelson, Not pictured Kylie Mandelkow, Anika Kirchoff

Venom 8U Green Softball Team



Minnesota DNR Certifies 9 New Record Fish

By Minnesota DNR

After making changes to the record fish program, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has seen steady interest by anglers in documenting their largest catches, as evidenced by the nine new state record fish the Minnesota DNR has certified since March.

“Seeing all these new records is fantastic and we’re really pleased with how anglers have participated in the program so far,” said Mandy Erickson, fisheries program consultant. “We expect to keep posting more records as more anglers hear about how to certify a record and as more time passes.”

The Minnesota DNR in March expanded the catch-and-release record category to add additional species, and also made more space for records in the certified weight category by creating a separate category for records established before a certified scale was required to document a fish’s weight.

The Minnesota DNR has certified the following as new state record fish since March 1.

Certified weight category
Coho salmon – 12 pounds, 5 ounces; June 1, Lake Superior, St. Louis County; caught by Austin Stoltenburg of Iron

Black crappie – 3 pounds, 9 ounces; May 9, Cedar Lake, Rice County; caught by Nolan Sprengeler of Plymouth

Mooneye – 2 pounds, 1 ounce; May 11, Wabasha Creek, Redwood County; caught by Robert Tufts II of Franklin

Yellow bass – 1 pound, 3 ounces; May 11, Clear Lake, Jackson County; caught by Dennis Dangel of Lakefield

Catch-and-release category
Brown trout – 30 inches; April 15, Lake Superior, St. Louis County; caught by Dan

Zelevnikar of Duluth

Lake trout – 42 1/2 inches; April 21, Lake Superior, St. Louis County; caught by Kelsey Vanderheyden of Stanchfield

Shovelnose sturgeon – 34 1/4 inches; March 8, Mississippi River, Goodhue County; caught by Tyler Young of Lakeville

Shovelnose sturgeon – 35 inches; March 12, Minnesota River, Scott County; caught by Elliott Feldman of Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

Smallmouth bass – 22 3/4 inches; June 25, Basswood Lake, Lake County; caught by Xavier Bradley-Rael of Omaha, Neb.

Complete record information, and instructions for how to certify a state record fish, are available on the Minnesota DNR state record fish webpage.

Minnesota DNR webinars focus on southern Minnesota wildlife, and birding

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources invites people interested in wildlife and outdoor skills to check out the summer program schedule for the Minnesota Outdoor

Skills and Stewardship Series.

In a webinar on Wednesday, July 10, DNR wildlife managers will discuss and answer questions about southern Minnesota wildlife and the latest wildlife habitat projects and stories of wildlife found in southern Minnesota’s prairies, wetlands, river valleys and farm country.

In a webinar on Wednesday, July 17, DNR birding expert May Vang will share ways to engage people in bird watching and conservation. Vang will highlight the DNR Nongame Wildlife Bird by Bird program, activities that spark an interest in birds, and tips for youth who are interested in bird observation and identification.

The Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series webinars are free and offered year-round, though registration is required. Visit the Outdoor Skills and Stewardship webpage of the Minnesota DNR website for the registration portal, more information about upcoming webinars and recordings of past webinars.

Position Posting

The City of West Concord is accepting applications for an Accounting Clerk/Administrative Assistant. This full-time position is responsible for a variety of duties related to customer service, communications, accounting, records management and other activities as directed by the City Administrator.

The ideal candidate should have

- Knowledge of standard office practices and procedures
- Knowledge of the functions and activities of the city government
- The ability to speak clearly, understand and respond to written and oral communications concisely, ability to understand and carry out oral and written instructions
- Knowledge of accounting principles and ability to compile and calculate accurate data and research from a variety of resources under a deadline
- Strong attention to detail and organizational skills
- Ability to effectively multi-task and prioritize with frequent interruptions
- Ability to handle transactions with public requiring effective accountability and accurate controls
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others.

For more information, a complete job description, or to apply, visit www.westconcordmn.com, call 507-527-2668, email administrator@westconcordmn.com, or stop by city hall at 180 W Main Street, PO Box 435, West Concord, MN 5598. Please submit cover letter, resume, and completed city application (found on city website) by 5:00 pm on Monday, July 15, 2024. The City of West Concord is an equal opportunity employer.

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Ask A Trooper



By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol

Question: With summer time here and all the construction zones, can you talk about the zipper merge? It's been talked about for a while but a lot of people don't seem to get it.

Answer: The late merge of "Zipper Merge" is a driving strategy that requires a change in the mindset of motorists who traditionally have been taught to merge early when recognizing that a lane will end. The results of early merging are longer backups, an increase in crashes and road rage incidents.

The driving procedure to follow is when you see the "lane closed ahead" sign and traf-

fic is backing up, stay in your current lane up to the point of merge. Then take turns with other drivers to safely and smoothly ease into the remaining lane. When traffic is heavy and slow, it is much safer for motorists to remain in their current traffic lane until the point where traffic can orderly take turns merging. The Zipper Merge benefits drivers by:

- Reducing the difference in speeds between two lanes. Changing lanes when traffic is traveling at approximately the same speed is easier and safer.
- Reducing the overall length of traffic backup by as much as 40%.
- Reducing congestion on freeway interchanges, especially in the metropolitan area.
- Creating a sense of fairness and equity that all lanes are moving at the same rate.
- Reducing incidents of road rage.

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)

Traffic Jam Ahead? Keep Calm and Stay Alert!

Whether it's a trip "up north" or a cross-country adventure, summer road trips create lasting memories. The best memory of all is coming home safe. These tips from the Minnesota Safety Council and the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) can keep you, your family, your colleagues and your friends safe no matter what the conditions. Their DriveSafeMN website also offers additional resources to support a variety of traffic safety topics.

Tips for Safely Navigating a Traffic Jam:

- Brush up on the "zipper" merge. Take turns and merge safely into reduced lanes.
- Use your blinkers when changing lanes or merging.
- Use your mirrors to monitor the areas around your car. Check your blind spots before changing lanes.
- On narrow lanes, make sure you stay centered in your lane and don't cut corners.

Keep calm and stay safe!

- Get road ready. Being well-rested, alert, and attentive keeps you safe and able to handle impatient drivers stuck in traffic jams.
- Check www.511mn.org for the latest info on traffic jams and road conditions before you get behind the wheel. Adjust your route to avoid delays or plan extra drive time.
- Know the meaning of road signs, signals and pavement markings.
- Be aware of road hazards. Trees, utility poles close to the road, sharp curves, work zones and narrow lanes with no shoulders could become a hazard if a vehicle leaves the road.
- Remain calm. Don't let your temper or frustration lead to reckless actions.
- Be courteous and share the road safely. Remember those in the vehicles around you could be your friends, neighbors, co-workers or family members.
- No gawking. Backups and secondary crashes can occur when drivers slow down to look at incidents.
- If you see flashing lights from an emergency vehicle coming up behind you, move over immediately.



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Closed Mondays
Tuesday-Friday: Bar 11am-Close; Kitchen 4-8pm
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BBQ Rib Dinner - 1/2 or Full Rack (begins at 4:00p.m.)
THURSDAY \$3.50 All Taps, Domestic Bottles, Rail Drinks!
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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
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Friday-Saturday 7am-8pm
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rbar.randolph@gmail.com
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Sunday 11:00am-9:00pm

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Family Fare at Great Prices

Hours: Sunday-Wednesday 6:00am-3:00pm
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1160 Frontage Road, Owatonna
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BBQ

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Talking Burn Safety with U of M



Andrew Zinkel, MD, MBA
University of Minnesota
Medical School

Summer is officially here, and with it comes two popular activities that embody the joy and celebration of the season: grilling and fireworks. While these activities add excitement to outdoor gatherings and events, it is essential to keep burn safety in mind.

Andrew Zinkel, MD, MBA, with the University of Minnesota Medical School, discusses proper grilling techniques, fireworks safety guidelines, burn types and how to treat them.

Q: How can I avoid potential burn hazards

this summer?

Dr. Zinkel: The most common safety risks with fireworks and grills are minor to severe burns, but there are ways to mitigate these risks. For both scenarios, always use them outdoors, away from homes, decks or hanging branches, and designate a safety perimeter for pets and kids. This should be at least three feet for grills and up to 35 feet for fireworks.

For fireworks:

Have easy access to water in case of accidents.

Supervise children with sparklers; these can ignite clothing and burn at 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Soak spent and unused fireworks in water before discarding them.

Never hold a firework in your hand when lighting.

Only light one firework at a time.

For grills:

Never leave your grill unattended.

For propane grills, the first time you use your grill for the season, use a mixture of soap and water to look for bubbles (a sign of a leak). The mixture should be applied to the entire hose connection between the propane source and the grill, and the line should be tested each season.

If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid; never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.

Q: What are the differences between first-, second- and third-degree burns?

Dr. Zinkel: Burns are described in degrees



that correlate with skin layer depths based on a clinical diagnosis. First-degree burns are red, painful and tender without blister formation. Second-degree burns are divided into superficial and deep partial-thickness burns. In superficial partial-thickness burns, there is blistering of the skin. The exposed dermis is red and moist at the blister's base and is painful to the touch. In deep partial-thickness burns, the skin may be blistered, the exposed dermis is pale white to yellow and the burned area is absent of pain sensation. Third-degree burns are charred, pale, painless and leathery. Pain is absent and skin grafting is necessary for treatment, resulting in significant scarring.

Q: What should I do if I burn myself — what can I do to treat it on my own?

Dr. Zinkel: Many first- and second-degree partial-thickness burns can be treated at home. Partial thickness refers to a layer preceding a full-thickness burn, and it can be categorized into superficial and deep. The goal is first to control the pain. Cleanse the burn with mild soap and water or dilute with an antiseptic solution. Blisters may be left intact or drained, depending on size and location. Keep the wound covered with a clean, dry bandage and change it twice daily to prevent infection. Burns to your limbs — such as your hands or feet — should be elevated for 24-to-48 hours to prevent swelling.

Q: When do burns warrant a hospital visit?

Dr. Zinkel: Burns that warrant a hospital visit include those that are second-degree deep partial-thickness, third-degree full-thickness burns or pain that is not being controlled by over-the-counter medicines. Hospitalization is necessary for burns affecting the hands, face, feet, perineum and major joints, as well as circumferential wounds encompassing areas such as fingers, toes,

hands, feet, arms, legs, neck, chest or abdomen. These wounds can result in scarring that can reduce blood flow to areas further away from the central body. Additionally, it can result in devastating consequences, including amputation and difficulty breathing, if not treated appropriately and followed closely in the clinical setting.

Q: How does your work at the University support growth in the field of emergency medicine?

Dr. Zinkel: My role as associate professor of emergency medicine allows me to help grow the field of emergency medicine by working closely with the clerkship director, co-directing our administration fellowship program and helping build programs on education in ultrasound, disaster medicine and emergency medicine services. I teach medical students, advanced practice providers, residents and fellows clinically at the bedside. Our highly rated medical student rotation inspires students to go into emergency medicine as their specialty of choice for their future vocation.

Dr. Zinkel is an associate professor of emergency medicine at the U of M Medical School and senior medical director of emergency medicine at the M Health Fairview University of Minnesota Medical Center. In his role at the Medical School, Dr. Zinkel works closely with the medical student clerkship director and is the co-creator and co-director of the University's first fellowship in healthcare administration, leadership and management in conjunction with the Carlson School of Management. As the past president of the Minnesota Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, he has been a fervent advocate on behalf of the specialty and community patient population.

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TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SUMMARY SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.
TRITON HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER – DODGE CENTER, MN & ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE WOODSPRING SUITES 121 WELLS ST., WILLISTON, NE 58801
 This published information

is a summary of the full minutes of the May 20, 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, Duane Bartel, Dale Jensen, Jim Jensen, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Rebecca Knutson, Brian Ginder (via ZOOM), Craig Schlichting, Luke Lutterman, Tricia Johnson, Corey

Lilledahl, Tina Kozisek, others.
 The School Board approved the following items:
 • Agenda and consent agenda including: April 15, 2024 regular meeting minutes and May 1, 2024, special meeting minutes as presented; budget update; claims and bills; open enrollment agreements for students #052024A, #052024B, #052024C, and #052024D; resignation for Tianna Hill as paraprofessional effective

May 3, 2024; maternity leave/FMLA request for #052024A effective July 17, 2024, through December 13, 2024; contracts for Karlyn Buchanan as Title 1 Teacher, Jill Lutterman as ECSE Teacher, Lisa Chiccos as ECSE Teacher, Ryan McCabe as TMS Physical Education and Health Teacher, Anthony Bendickson as TMS Special Education Assistant and THS Construction and Manufacturing Careers, Gareth John Hagar as TMS Special Education Teacher, Katy Nold as TMS Special Education Teacher, Olivia Zwaschka as TMS Science Teacher, Elle Siewert as TMS/THS Art Teacher, McKenzy Purington, Gabby Molina, and Taylor Kraemer as Cobra Kids Assistants; long-term substitute agreement for Jack Hager as THS

Teacher; and extra-curricular contract for Rich West as JH Softball Coach.;
 • Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Stefanie Maas, a Probationary Teacher
 • Updates to policies 203, 213, and 214.
 Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Concord Township Residents Notice

The August regular monthly meeting will be moved from August 8 to August 15 at 7:00PM due to a schedule conflict.
 Mike Jones
 Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE 6-10-24

AA Self Storage will sell at public auction the contents of several storage units in Dodge Center and Claremont on which payment is past due. The auction will be conducted on-line at storagetreasures.com beginning about July 10, 2024.

The contents of these units are unknown, but is believed to be miscellaneous household and personal items.

The names of persons renting the units are as follows:
 David LeVasseur
 Morgan Freyholtz
 Manager Specials 2 units

DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, June 10, 2024

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the June 10, 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, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas, Lee Mattson, AJ Gengler, Jeremy Dostal, Deputy Vermeersch, City Attorney Tim Woessner, Kathy Freeman

- City Council approved the following items:
- Agenda and consent agenda to include: Minutes from May 13, 2024 City Council Meeting, May 20, 2024 Special Council Meeting, May 29, 2024 Special Council Meeting; Payment of Bills; 2023 Transfer – Individual Fund Disclosures; Annadine Music in the Street; Airport Weather Station CATEX; 2024-2025 Liquor License Renewals; Acknowledgement of Living Water Camping Dates;
 - Move forward with the Order to Abate Nuisance – 206 SW 1st St;
 - Ambulance Service Director attend EMS World conference September 9-13, 2024;
 - Sale of Ambulance Services old Stair Chair to Oronoco for trade-in value of \$250;
 - Hiring of Mylie Dostal from Triton High School for intern position;
 - Hiring of Jacob Weiss, Licensed Paramedic pending background check;
 - Ambulance Services Grant application from Minnesota Energy;
 - Tabling discussion on extending agreements with West Concord and Hayfield;
 - Renewal of Ambulance Services Mutual Aid Agreement with West Concord;
 - Hiring of A.J. Gengler as Director of Ambulance Services;
 - Authorize staff to contract for the liquor during Dodger Days;
- Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm

NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2125 CLAREMONT, DODGE CENTER AND WEST CONCORD STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 2125 shall begin on July 30, 2024 and shall close at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 13, 2024.

The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. At that election, three (3) members will be elected to the School Board for terms of four (4) years each.

Affidavits of Candidacy are available from the school district clerk, Triton Public Schools, District Office, 813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927. The summer office hours are 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The office is closed on Fridays. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same general election.

The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 13, 2024.

Dated: June 17, 2024

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
 /s/ Lloyd Henslin, Jr.
 School District Clerk

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Here's Where To Buy Your Minnesota Country Salute CD Buy the FINAL Minnesota Country Salute CD

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.

CD Available at:

About the Minnesota Country Salute CD Project:
 A decade ago while sitting on his porch, Neil Freeman came up with the idea of tying together two groups that BOB FM supports. The Homegrown artists of Minnesota and the military member support organizations. By creating a compilation CD to sell across Minnesota, he nailed it. With the help of many sponsors and listeners who went out and purchased these CDs over the years, BOB FM has donated over \$235,000 to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation, Minnesota Wheels of Honor, and Tribute to the Troops.
 If you or your business would like to help further this mission, or help distribute the CD, please contact: Neil Freeman, neil@mybobcountry.com.






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WEST CONCORD SURVIVAL DAYS 2024

THURSDAY, JULY 25

7:00 pm · Guns vs Hoses Charity Softball Event (Police, Firefighters & EMS)
Donations will be made to Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention





FRIDAY, JULY 26

7:00 am - 11:00 am · American Legion - Coffee & Homemade Doughnuts - Legion Hall, Main St. 
8:00 am · City Wide Garage Sales begin - List available in WC Messenger Newspaper
9:00 am - 1:00 pm · West Concord Historical Society Open House 
5:00 pm · Food Stands & Beer Garden Open
5:30 pm · 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament - Memorial Park 
6:00 pm · Garden Tractor Pull - South on Front Street
6:30 pm · Bean Bag Tournament Registration w/7:00pm Start Time - Grass lot By Legion (If rain, held in Fire Hall)
6:30 pm · Miss West Concord Pageant, Mayor's Key, Citizen of the Year and Baby Contest - Lions Park (by Bell Tower Center) if rain, inside Trinity Church 
8:00 pm - 12:00 am · Live music under the big tent - "In The Fields" - Admission \$10 or A Button
10:00 pm · FIREWORKS - Location behind Gochnauer Dairy Barn (rain day - Saturday) 
12:30 am · Last call, 1:00 am Beer Garden Closes

SATURDAY, JULY 27

7:00 am · Meat Smoking Competition (Judging 4PM) - In Front of Gochnauer Dairy Barn
8:00 am · City Wide Garage Sales Continue
8:00 am · Fire Department Burrito Breakfast (While supplies last)
8:00 am - 12:00 pm · Scott Hodgman Classic Car & Bike Show - Main Street 
8:00 am · Softball Tournament Starts
8:00 am · 5k Run/Walk - LaMae's Bright Light 5k - 7:30am Registration - Start/Finish Lions Park 
9:00 am · Sand Volleyball Tournament begins
9:00 am - 1:00 pm · West Concord Historical Society Open House
10:00 am - 2:00 pm · Antique Tractor Pull (SE Area Tractor Puller Association) South of Gochnauer Dairy Barn
10:00 am - 3:00 pm · Fun on the Farm Petting Zoo - Gochnauer Dairy Barn - East end of Main St
NEW! 10:00 am - 3:00 pm · Kids Activities and Bounce House - WC Historical Society Yard 
10:00 am - 6:00 pm · Laser Tag - Inflatable Course - WC Historical Society Yard 
11:00 am · Food Stands Open
11:30 am · Treasure Hunt at the Swimming Pool - ages 2-12 are welcome, bring a swim suit
1:00 pm · Library Program - Magic Capades Magic Show - Lions Park (Rain-Bell Tower) 
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm · Family Bingo - Hosted by WCHS - Under the tent on Main St
2:00-5:00 pm Rochester Rough Riders "Mud Bog"-- Hyland Systems (Old Football Practice Field)
5:00 pm · Beer Gardens Open
7:30 pm · Excavator Rodeo - East end of Main St 
8:00 pm -12:30 am · Dance under the tent - "Travis Thmert" - Admission \$10 or A Button 
12:00 am · Ticket Sales End, 12:30 am Last call, 1:00 am Beer Garden Closes 

SUNDAY, JULY 28

9:00 am · Softball & Volleyball tournaments resume 
9:30 am · Community Worship Service - Lion's Park - Bring a lawn chair- (Rain Site - Bell Tower Center)
11:00 am · Food Stands Open 
12:00 pm · Beer Garden Opens 
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm · Trinity Lutheran Pie & Ice Cream Social - Under the tent 
1:00 pm · Grand Parade - Route: Streets (Main/Front > Main > Third > Eugene > First > Olive > Front > Main)
2:00 pm · Firefighters' "Water Fight" - East end of Main St
4:30 pm · Beer Garden closes

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Page**



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ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION

WEST CONCORD: 181 Main Street 507-527-2236

NORTHFIELD: 1520 Clinton Lane 507-645-6736 DENNISON: 37470 1st Ave. Ct. 507-645-5929 