



Serving the Triton Area

# The Messenger

Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord

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## SERVING OUR HOMETOWNS

We want to Thank You for your continued support of The Messenger, serving our Triton Hometowns of West Concord, Dodge Center and Claremont.



As we began publishing The Messenger twice each month last year, becoming a legal newspaper expanded our hometown coverage with expanded news and marketing reach. *(continued on page 11)*

## The Wait is Over!

By Cheri Roshon

After almost 2 years of planning and waiting, and waiting...Union Coffee Cafe has finally come to fruition! Here is a sneak preview of the end product, and I'm happy to say, it is worth the wait.



At first, word on the street was it would be named Area 56.

*(continued on page 15)*

## 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](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## Memories of Christmas Past

Each year we visit with some of our senior citizens and relate their tales of Christmases long ago. Here are four stories from years in the past.

Judy remembers celebrating the same Christmas traditions each year with her family. There was a bustle of cooking going on in the kitchen and her mother would suggest the kids go decorate the tree as a way to keep them distracted and out of the kitchen.

They always had a short needle evergreen tree and all the kids would help to put the decorations, old fashioned light bulbs and icicles on the tree.

They celebrated with their extended family of thirty plus people. They would eat supper consisting of turkey with all the fixin's including rice pudding for dessert, starting at 6pm and afterward do the dishes before singing carols and opening gifts. The fun



lasted until bedtime around ten pm. Judy would play the piano while the family sang Christmas carols. Her cousin even wrote a poem about the family event. She usually received clothes but one year she recalls that she and her sister both got the same kind of doll. The kids would play games like canasta, cards, puzzles and board games.

*(continued on page 14)*

## Claremont's Next Mayor or Not?



The newspaper formerly known as the Dodge County Independent printed an article on the write-in candidate in the Claremont mayoral race last week. We met with Casey Striver, the mayor-elect of Claremont

to get some clarification on the issue. The article last week dwelt on numerous subjects unrelated to the candidacy of Mr. Striver. Allegations of vehicles on Striver's property, back taxes, aliases and even not voting in the last election were the staple of the front-page story in question.

First, it seems questionable to launder the previous four issues which have no bearing on the candidacy of the mayor-elect.

*(continued on page 25)*

## Dodge Center Craft Fair

By Cheri Roshon

Ho Ho Ho, the holidays are upon us, and it's only days away from that "Giving" time of year! The Triton School and the Dodge County Chamber of Commerce have joined



together to make this a special holiday event for the whole family! *(continued on page 12)*



## Concord Church Packs Christmas Shoe Boxes

Christmas is surely in the air as Concord Church of Christ packed Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes on Wednesday, Nov. 20! We had a great crew sort, pack, and pray over 33 boxes that will bless children the world over.

*(continued on page 5)*

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## How God Loved the World



By Pastor Roger Langworthy  
Praise Fellowship Church

At Praise Fellowship Church we have been developing a Christmas Theme with a Christmas Team. What I mean by a team is that as my wife Melanie and I have been serving together in Pastoral Ministry to the congregation, we have been able to receive Pastoral Assistants of Pastors Israel and Maleca Walters. Israel grew up in our church, recognized the call on his life for ministry and went to Bible College to be trained in the Scriptures. There he met the young lady, Maleca, who would become his wife and the two of them studied together for Pastoral Ministry. Upon graduation, we invited them to return to our church to assist us in Pastoral leadership to Praise Fellowship Church. With the various things we do and direction of teaching and ministry, we have been approaching it as a team. We meet weekly for training and prayer and seeking direction from the Lord.

As we approached this Christmas season, Pastor Maleca, asked that we might ask the Lord for a theme to direct us in ministry as we share the responsibilities of teaching on Sunday mornings. As we did, we started sharing various thoughts that the Lord was imparting to us individually. And it all culminated together in the passage of scripture from John

3:16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

This passage of scripture will be expounded upon on the Sundays of December 8, 15 and 22 and then our Christmas Eve Service of December 24. If you don't have a church home, we invite you to come and join us as we explore the expression of God's love through the gift of His Son, Jesus.

We see God's motivation of love for all that He does and the great sacrifices of His Son, Jesus. Understanding that Jesus' existence did not start with the conception in the womb of the virgin Mary, but that He was with God and a part of the Godhead from the begin-

ning. John 1:1 "In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:14 "So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."

Philippians 2:6-7 "Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,"

Because of God's love He GAVE His Son. Because of Jesus' love He GAVE UP His divine privileges to become human. This is the only way that people could be saved from

their sin and have eternal life. This happened when Jesus GAVE UP His life with His death on the cross.

When John 3:16 says "everyone who believes in him...will have eternal life" it is more than just giving mental assent to the historical person of Jesus Christ, it is described best in Romans 10:9-10 "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved."

Receive God's love and salvation through the gift of His Son, Jesus. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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**Ann Traxler**  
Attorney

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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  
Kids Church 9:15a.m.; Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.

##### Dodge Center Methodist Church

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

##### St. John Baptist De La Salle

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

##### Living Water Assembly Church

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

##### Dodge Center SDA Church

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

##### Anchor of Hope Church, a 7th Day Baptist Congregation

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

##### Bible Lutheran Church

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

##### First Congregational Church

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

#### Area Church Directory

##### God, the Provider (II)

"Do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say." — Luke 12:11-12

There is a common misunderstanding in many churches. Many Christians think there is a big difference between proclaiming God's Word from a pulpit and sharing his truth in a conversation. Similarly, lots of Christians think the apex of evangelism happens on a Sunday morning in a sanctuary and not in a coffee shop or in a car ride to work.

As Christians, we often think that to share the gift of salvation with someone, we first have to be qualified academically or be trained in a special way. As a result, we can get tangled up in our inabilities, bogged down by our insecurities, and overwhelmed with fears of failing ourselves, others, or—even worse—God.

But you aren't called because you're qualified; you're qualified because you've been called. Your life, regardless of religious education or ability to speak in public, is a testimony in itself. It's the story of God's redemption and restoration plan in you.

God knew you even before he established the foundations of the earth. He created you, wired you, and called you by name. God has adopted you as his child into his eternal family, and he has entrusted you with his kingdom work, which simply means sharing with someone the good news of forgiveness from sin and of new life in Christ forever. So share the good news today!

God, thank you for qualifying all of us whom you have called. Strengthen us by your Spirit to share the good news of 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  
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; 10:00a.m. Worship  
concordchurchmn.com

##### Zwingli United Church of Christ

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

Email your church announcements,  
schedule, etc. to the The Messenger at:  
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## Patricia "Pat" Sue Rongve

Patricia "Pat" Sue Rongve passed away peacefully at her home in Dodge Center, MN on Monday, November 25, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. She was 66 years old.

Pat was born on August 23, 1958, in Owatonna, MN to Ole and Bonnie (Schuster) Garness.

She was raised in nearby Dodge Center, MN. She attended Dodge Center High School, graduating in 1976. She enrolled at Rochester Community and Technical College, where she excelled in the legal secretary program, achieving Dean's List honors. Patricia spent five years working as a legal secretary in Rochester, MN, before she decided to expand her skills and opportunities and became a medical transcriptionist at the Mayo Clinic, a role she held for 20 plus years until her retirement.

Pat had many joys, talents, and things she loved but above all, Patricia's greatest joy came from being a mother and grandmother. She dedicated her life to her family, creating countless cherished memories with her 11 grandchildren. She had a unique ability to turn simple moments into extraordinary experiences, whether it was setting up cups in the kitchen and having her kids find whatever they could use as a bowling ball to knock them over or crafting custom Halloween costumes for her children. Her generosity of her time, spirit and unwavering commitment to family made her an incredible influence in all of their lives.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents, Ole and Bonnie Garness and her beloved granddaughter, Jaelyn Laue.

Pat is survived by her loving, caring, selfless husband of 42 years, Donald Rongve; and their four children, Jennifer (Scott) Melder, Melissa Rongve, Kristina (Eric) Sorum, and Daniel Rongve; 10 cherished grandchildren, Deric (Jocelyn) Melder, Devon Melder, Alexis Melder, Austin Melder, Trey Theobald, Hanna Sorum, Camden Sorum, Brady Rongve, Kendall Sorum, and Bonnie Rongve; siblings, Steve (Shari) Garness, Dan (Sara)

Garness, Bill (Tami) Garness, and Linda Garness.

Despite the challenges she faced later in life with Alzheimer's and Lewy Body Disease she never stopped showing her strength, her love, and she always remembered those that were by her side throughout her illness. She will be deeply missed but will never be forgotten. Patricia's light will continue to shine through the memoirs and love she shared with all of us.

A funeral service where family and friends gathered to celebrate Pat's life and legacy was held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at First Congregational Church, 12 2nd St NW in Dodge Center, MN. Pastor Keith Mosier officiated. Visitation was 4:00-7:00 p.m. Monday, December 2, 2024, at Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street SW in Dodge Center, MN and one hour prior to her service at the church.

The family of Patricia would like to acknowledge each and every person that helped her through her battle with Alzheimer's and Lewy body's disease. The caregivers she had in her life will forever be remembered and the family will be forever grateful for their service.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit [www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com](http://www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com), Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South St SW Dodge Center, MN 55927, 507-374-2155. Blessed be her memory.

## Lloyd William Rohwer

Lloyd William Rohwer, 96, of Dodge Center, MN, passed away on Monday, November 25, 2024, at Circle Drive Manor Assisted Living in West Concord, MN.

Lloyd was born on September 5, 1928, to William F. and Mable (Barwald) Rohwer in Dodge Center, MN. Lloyd attended District #53 Country School and graduated from Dodge Center High School in 1945.

Lloyd was in the U.S. Army from 1951-1953. He served during the Korean Conflict in Ludwigsburg, Germany and discharged as a Private First Class.



Lloyd was born on September 5, 1928, to William F. and Mable

Lloyd married Beverly Jean Radke on July 5, 1953. They had 3 sons and farmed near Dodge Center until retiring. He introduced Ridge-Till farming practice to Minnesota in 1970. He was a member of the Dodge County Corn Growers, and received the Conservation Farmer Award from Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District. Lloyd enjoyed golfing, cross country skiing, bicycling, hunting, and traveling in the camper with Bev.

Lloyd is survived by his sons, Scott (Cathy) Rohwer and Charles (Sue) Rohwer both of Dodge Center, MN; 4 grandchildren, Tanya Rohwer, James (Brittany) Rohwer, Ashley Rohwer, and Andrew Rohwer; 4 great-grandchildren, Madilyn, Kaden, Camilla, and Lucas.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Beverly; and son, Roger.

A memorial service was held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, December 2, 2024, a Faith Lutheran Church, 308 2nd St NW in Dodge Center, MN. Pastor Chad Christensen officiated. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service at the church. Inurnment was in Wildwood Cemetery in Wasioja, MN with military honors provided by the Dodge Center American Legion Post #384.

In lieu of flowers, the family would prefer donations to the Dodge Center American Legion, West Concord Ambulance, or donor's choice.

A special thank you to Bryan and Melissa and Staff at Circle Drive Manor and Mayo Hospice for the wonderful care Lloyd received.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit [www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com](http://www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com), Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South St SW Dodge Center, MN 55927, 507-374-2155. Blessed be his memory.

## Charles "Charlie" Endres

Charles "Charlie" Endres, age 74 of Faribault, died on December 1, 2024, at Milestone Senior Living, Faribault.

Memorial services was held at Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault on Friday, December 6, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. Interment

will be at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis at a later date.

Memorial visitation was at the funeral home for one hour prior to the service on Friday.

Charles William, the son of Hartwig and Ruby (Jungbult) Endres, was born on September 3, 1950, in St. Louis Park. He married Laura Robinson in Minneapolis on July 15, 1974. Charles served in the U.S. Army in Germany. Following his service, he owned

E&R Shell gas station in Hutchinson. Later, he was an electrician for Jungbult Electric, Dodge Center and Cedar Lake Electric, Faribault for over 35 years. Charles enjoyed fishing and spending time at Cokato Lake Resort and his Dr. Pepper.

He is survived by his wife, Laura of Faribault; children, Tom (fiancé, Ashley) Endres of Volga, SD, Bill Nagel of Faribault and Jena (Jon) Flicek of Faribault; grandchildren, Brady Endres, Jonathan, Justin and Jasmin Flicek, Keya Smith and Tommy Stone; five great grandchildren and sister, Barb (Steve) Endres-Erickson, St. Louis Park.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, James.

BoldtFuneralhome.com for information and guest book.

## Daniel Glenn Ebenhoh

Daniel Glenn Ebenhoh, 74, of Claremont, passed away on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at St. Marys Hospital.

He was born August 18, 1950, in Owatonna, Minnesota the son of Glenn and Donajean (Vosburgh) Ebenhoh. Dan graduated from Claremont High

School in 1968 and pursued agricultural studies at Ag School in Austin, graduating in 1970. After completing his education, Dan returned to Claremont, dedicating his life to farming. Dan participated in many boards and proudly volunteered as an EMT with the Claremont Ambulance. He achieved several awards throughout the years for his contributions to farming. In his free time Dan loved woodworking and tending to his crops, mowing the yard and spent numerous hours restoring his blue Chevy truck. Many also would remember watching him compete in tractor pulling events around the area and driving his muscle cars.

Daniel was very proud of his children and grandchildren and brought lots of joy to their faces every time they talked to him or saw him in person. They remember his perfectly made chocolate malts and buttered popcorn. He was well-known for his creative problem solving and being a technology savant.

He is survived by his daughters, Jennifer (and Travis) Hodgman, Alyson (and Ben) Carroll, Adrienne (and David) Morgan, Ashley Ebenhoh (and Kellen Johnson); grandchildren, Denver Bruessel, Maren Hodgman, Samuel and Elliana Carroll, Gracelyn and Tucker Hodgman, Lux and Olin Johnson; sisters, Victoria (and Lowell) Berge, and Constance Bagley; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Glenn and Donajean Ebenhoh; brother, Thomas Ebenhoh.

Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home on Thursday, December 5, 2024, from 4PM to 7PM. Funeral services were held on Friday, December 6, 2024, at 11AM at Michaelson Funeral Home with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment was in the Rice Lake Cemetery in Claremont. Memorials are preferred to the Rice Lake Church.

(obituaries continued on page 4)

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**NOTICE**

The Concord Cemetery Association will be having it's annual meeting on **Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Concord Church of Christ 55087 200th Ave. West Concord, MN 55985**

**Got a Great Local News Story?**

Tell us about it today!

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

## James Emerson Cain

James Emerson Cain passed away peacefully on Monday, June 26, 2023, at Priddy Manor Assisted Living in King, North Carolina.

Jim is survived by Shirley, his wife of 66 years; daughters Nancy (Jean-

Pierre) Helsly of Pontivy, France; Mary Reynolds of Atlanta, Georgia; Julie (Ronnie) Hill of Pilot Mountain, North Carolina; five grandchildren: Steven Helsly, James Helsly (Fanny Le Pimpec), Kristen Reynolds, Erin (Brandon) Grant, Brian (Katie) Hill; six great-grandchildren: Connor Claxton, Rylee Grant, Axel Helsly, Harper Grant, Cooper Grant, and Zoé Helsly; brothers- and sister-in-law Mark (Mary) Kindseth and Bruce Kindseth; and many nieces, nephews and other family members.

Jim was born on March 16, 1933, in Faribault, Minnesota, to Mabel (Emerson) Cain and Clarence Cain and raised in West Concord. He was baptized and confirmed at Hegre Lutheran Church in Kenyon, Minnesota. After graduating from West Concord High School in 1951, he attended Mesa College in Grand Junction, Colorado. From 1953 to 1955, he served in the United States Army.

Jim married the love of his life, Shirley Kindseth, at Hegre Lutheran Church on August 18, 1956. They first made their home in Menomonie, Wisconsin, while he was attending Stout State College, and welcomed the first of their three daughters there.

Jim graduated from Stout in 1959 with a degree in Instructional Technology and began his career at AC Spark Plug Division of General Motors in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with his field engineering work spanning such projects as the Thor Missile guidance system, the B-52 Bomber bombing/navigation system, and automobile and aircraft radio-telephone systems. A 1962 General Motors corporate transfer with some developmental automobile and aircraft projects moved the family to GM's Delco Radio Division in Kokomo, Indiana.

During this time, Jim began working with Delco's public relations function, a move that would have long-lasting career benefits. In 1964 Jim joined IBM in Rochester, Minnesota, where he spent 10 years in communications. He remained with IBM working in communications for the remainder of his career, later becoming editor of the company's magazine Viewpoint. In 1974 the family moved to the Atlanta area when Jim relocated to the new IBM divisional headquarters there.

After his retirement from IBM, Jim started his own writing, public relations, and advertising business in 1989. He had many interests over the years, beginning with ham radio, hunting and trapshooting, then photography, antique automobiles, wine, and woodcarving.

He was always a perfectionist and totally invested in everything he did, making sure he had the right tools and collecting books on each subject. Occasionally he combined his interest in fine craftsmanship with his writing skills, contributing articles to national maga-

zines on subjects such as custom-engraved guns or Pierce-Arrow antique cars. He held positions in various clubs over the years and was president of the southeastern region of the Antique Automobile Club of America in 1996.

## Bruce Bungum

Bruce Bungum, 71, of Sargeant, Minnesota, passed away suddenly on Friday, November 29, 2024.

Bruce was born on January 1, 1953, in Austin, MN, to Victor and Arletta Bungum. He was an accomplished country rock and roll musician, known as a singer-songwriter

who made playing the 12-string guitar look effortless. Bruce created and produced "Music's Got the Best of Me" and was the lead for the band Longshot. His performances at countless venues and weddings across Minnesota were legendary for filling the room with joy, getting everyone dancing, and enjoying themselves to the fullest. Bruce attended Mankato State University, where his love for music flourished alongside his education.

Bruce fell in love with his high school sweetheart, Gail. Together, they built a life out in the country, constructing a house that they lovingly transformed into a home, where they raised their family. They created beautiful memories together.

A devoted Christian, Bruce was the epitome of a family man, raising three accomplished sons. They shared passion for football, Bruce especially enjoyed watching his sons play at both the high school and collegiate level. He worked tirelessly for Workforce Development Inc., aiding the southern Minnesota community in job placement and career development. Beyond his professional and musical life, Bruce cherished fishing and spending time with his family at Pelican Lake in Northern Minnesota.

As a loving husband, father, and grandfather, Bruce is survived by his wife, Gail; his sons, Andrew, Matthew (Denise), and Timothy (Lauren); and his cherished grandchildren, Ellis and Rae. He also leaves behind siblings: Carol Braun, Pam (Chuck) Nieman, June (Herb) Howard, Brenda (Gregg) Koch, Dean (Shelly) Bungum, and Lisa Bungum and many nieces, nephews, grand nieces, and nephews.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents, Victor and Arletta, his brother David, his sister Victoria, brother-in-law Gary Braun, and brother-in-law Steve Lambert, and niece Kayla Koch.

A celebration of life service was at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 7, 2024, at the First Presbyterian Church, 109 Main St in Hayfield, MN. Visitation was from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, December 6, 2024, at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 501 2nd St NW in Hayfield, MN and one hour prior to his service at the church on Saturday.

To share a special memory or condolence please, visit [www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com](http://www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com), Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes ~ 501 2nd Street NW ~ Hayfield,

Minnesota, 507-477-2259. Blessed be his memory.

## Phyllis Mae Bahr

Phyllis Mae Bahr, beloved Mother and 'Grannie', went home to her Lord on November 8, 2024 on her 100th birthday.

She was born November 8, 1924 in Lynn Township, McLeod County, MN. She was the daughter of Harry & Mabel (Johnson)

Christensen. She was baptized as an infant and later confirmed in her faith at Vineyard Methodist Church in Hutchinson.

Phyllis graduated from Hutchinson High School in 1942 and furthered her education at the MN School of Business. After finishing her course work, she was employed for a short time in Minneapolis before returning to her hometown accepting an accounting position at Stearns Lumber Co. In 1946, she was married and lived in Winsted, MN. After divorcing in 1951, she returned to her previous job in Hutchinson.

In December 1953, she married LeRoy Bahr and in 1963, the family moved to Le Center where she was employed at First National Bank. In Oct of 1968, the family moved to West Concord where Phyllis was employed at Farmers State Bank until retiring in 1988.

Phyllis was a member of the United Methodist Church in West Concord, the UMW and Eve Circle. In her younger years, she taught Sunday School in her Hutchinson & Le Center churches. She liked working with children.

She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Le Center & West Concord. Phyllis was very patriotic and understood the price paid for our freedom. (the above was written by Phyllis)

Phyllis is survived by her four sons, Terry Bahr (Sue Tewart) of Norwood Young America, MN, Harry Bahr of Fridley, MN, Timothy (Laura) Bahr of West Concord, MN and Thomas Bahr of Dodge Center, MN, 9 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren, 3 great-great grandchildren and 2 great-great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, LeRoy Bahr, her sweet mother and wonderful father, her sister, Iola Henke (Hutchinson, MN) and her brother, Lyle Christensen (Mesa, AZ). She was the last remaining "Bahr" of LeRoy's 14 siblings and their spouses.

Her family adds: It is with grateful hearts that we thank God for blessing us these many years with her gentle love. She so enjoyed the times we shared as family, laughing together and telling stories... some were actual memories, but many were 'tall tales' told by her boys! The laughter would ring out and love would surround us. We will miss her... and we won't forget her caring presence in our lives.

We especially want to thank her newest friends, and family, at Rochester West & Mayo Hospice who, with great kindness, gentleness, and love, helped to make her days

brighter and less confusing.

A memorial service was held at the West Concord Bell Tower Center (formerly the Methodist Church) on Friday, November 29th at 11:00 am with visitation open at 10:00 am. A luncheon followed the service at the West Concord American Legion. Interment will be at Fort Snelling at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the West Concord American Legion or the West Concord Fire Department.

## Blair Edmund Schuck

Blair Edmund Schuck, 79, of Hager City, passed away in his home surrounded by family on November 18, 2024. Blair was born in Rochester, MN on February 2, 1945. He was the youngest of the four children of Haven and Gertrude Schuck.

Blair grew up in Mantorville, Minnesota and attended Kasson-Mantorville high school.

As a kid, he worked with his brothers on a milk route. When he was a teenager, he cleaned the Kasson theater. He was drafted into the army in 1967 and served for two years in the 2nd Squadron 14th Armored Cavalry. He was stationed in Germany and was honorably discharged in 1968. After his service, Blair started working at the Red Wing Shoe Company and retired after 36 years. Blair was married to his wife Sarah in 1972 and they were together until she died in 2014. Together they raised four children in Hager City, WI.

Blair enjoyed collecting and tinkering with old cars, building his collection of coins, and other memorabilia, and spending time with his kids and grandkids. Another hobby of Blair's was his love of euchre and playing cards with family and friends.

Blair was preceded in death by his wife Sarah, his parents, Haven and Gertrude Schuck, his sister Fran Rosener, brothers William Schuck, and George Schuck. Blair is survived by his children Christina Schuck, Haven Schuck, Walter Schuck, and Janeanna Rivera; his sons in law, Matt Sasson, and Matthew Rivera; his daughter-in-law, Alicia Schuck; and his grandchildren, Coby Schuck, Breanna Schuck, Jacob Schuck, Julia Sasson, Jaxson Schuck, and Jolen Schuck; numerous nieces, nephews; and great nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held in early 2025.

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## Concord Church Packs Christmas Shoe Boxes

(continued from page 1)

Our multi-generational group enjoyed Christmas cookies, hot chocolate, and other treats while Christmas music played over the sound system and a fire was projected onto a big screen. Much fun was had by all working

together to provide a bit of Christmas joy to those who might not otherwise receive fun gifts like toys and stuffed animals along with practical items such as school supplies and personal care items.

Samaritan Purse's stated mission for Operation Christmas Child is, "...to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations." Our prayer at Concord Church of Christ is that these children are blessed by the gifts and they are pointed to the greater meaning of Christmas, the love of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.



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## Do You Have An Announcement?

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



*Merry Christmas*  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

The holidays are our favorite time of year because it gives us the opportunity to express our gratitude and let each of you know just how very much we value your generous support.

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MERRY  
*Christmas*  
AND HAPPY NEW  
YEAR



*We hope the cherished traditions of this special season fill your heart and home with enough warmth and happiness to last all year.*

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## That's the Latest Christmas Past



By Emery Kleven

Emery is now a retired farm broadcaster after starting at KDHL in Faribault in 1987. He's a 1971 graduate of West Concord High School. You can view past columns at his website [RoadFarming.com](http://RoadFarming.com). You can email him at [emery@roadfarming.com](mailto:emery@roadfarming.com).

This time of year probably stirs up more family memories than any other time of year. Families gather during this holiday season to share meals together, share gifts, and maybe watch a movie or football game together but mostly to make new memories, especially for the youngest and newest members of a family. My friend and former publicist, Mychal Wilmes, wrote in a recent article in his 'Farmboy Memories' column that he writes

for the Post-Bulletin, about how on the farm, holiday gatherings were an escape from the bitter cold. They were anyway, until it was chore time again.

We 'older' folks will remember that it was snowier and colder back in the day. At least that's what we tell the younger generations. And our parents always told us that in their youth, there was even more snow and cold than what my generation experienced as a kid. If you take the time to look at the weather records, there were certainly years that would say this was true. The late 1880's had some of the worst winter weather on record in the Midwest. It was made worse by the lack of good heating and hot or cold running water that we've grown accustomed to in the recent decades. Back then, and well into the 20th century, you had to, during wintertime, put layers of clothes on to use the bathroom, which for many was the little wooden building behind the house. Bathroom is a misnomer because no one took a bath in there unless you fell in. It was the out-house.

1936 is another year that brings back weather memories. First, it was the decade of the dust bowl era in the U.S. My dad, who grew up in Kanabec County about halfway between Cambridge and Mora, always told me about the winter of 1936, where on the farm near Brunswick, it never got above zero for 6 straight weeks. And to add insult to injury, the summer of '36' was one of the hottest on record. Mychal wrote that his dad, who farmed in LeSueur County, remembered 1936 for the very same reason.

I remember some major winter storms too, but in my day we had more modern conveniences, like indoor plumbing and reliable furnaces. And it was a lot easier to have woodburning stoves and fireplaces. With the advent of chainsaws and wood splitters, harvesting firewood was made easier over the latter half of the 20th century. My dad always told me that if they had chainsaws back in his day, there wouldn't have been any trees left up north. Not sure that's true but it was harder to harvest firewood and have it cured and dry enough to burn.

Hopefully, our memories of Christmas 2024 will not be related to weather issues. My earliest memories of Christmas time on the farm had to deal with food and Santa Claus. My mom was a big lefse maker and it seemed everyone in my family except me couldn't wait to gorge themselves on the Norwegian potato tortilla. That turned out to be a blessing for my mom. Had I liked the lefse, she would have had to make a lot more to have enough for the holidays. I would just look at that lefse and shiver to think people actually liked it. And what really sealed the deal, was to see my dad make a Norwegian burrito by filling a huge lefse with lutefisk. It would be over a foot long with melted butter dripping out the one end while my dad would be taking huge bites off the other end. I have no pictures of this, which I'm not sure is fortunate or unfortunate, but I can picture it in my mind and that conjures up some weird holiday memories. Today, I can tolerate a little lutefisk but the lefse, I still pass on that.

As far as the Santa memories, my parents

told me that since we did not have a chimney for Santa to climb down, he would probably just stop by the front door and leave something for me. I found it strange on one the first years I can remember; Santa brought me a new winter coat and underwear. I thought Santa needed to step up his game here. Eventually he did, but then he forgot about me around the age of ten, but yet he remembered my younger sister Maureen. I thought, even then, that Santa ought to see a doctor about his failing memory. But it's all good, I have many heartfelt and happy Christmas memories and I hope you and yours make more good memories this Christmas.

## BINGO

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January through March  
1:00 p.m.**

**Dodge Country Club**

Must play all games to  
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blackout each week  
to 60 numbers,  
\$1,000 guaranteed.

**Benefitting Triton-related  
groups.**

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### TRITON CLASS OF 2025

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Madison Bishop

#### FAMILY

Madison Bishop is a senior at Triton this year. Her mother is Heather. She has a younger sister Shelby and an older sister Kayleigh.

#### ACTIVITIES

She is active in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

#### HOBBIES

Outside of school she likes hanging out with friends and playing with her pets. Her pastimes are fishing, watching tv and traveling.

#### FUTURE PLANS

After graduation she plans to attend Winona State University for a degree in nursing.

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# Merry Christmas

AND

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

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a wonderful holiday season.



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Dodge Center  
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## Museum Musings

### PUTTING THE “MERRY” IN CHRISTMAS

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne



Chas. E. Sheils

We received our first Christmas card of the season yesterday—from a friend I’ve known since childhood. I know the world is right when her card arrives in the mail. I realize in this day and age many people no longer mail Christmas cards and some send them electronically, but count me as old-fashioned, I still love sending and receiving Christmas cards. We have many vintage holiday cards at the Museum and sorting through them recently made me wonder how the custom of sending Christmas cards began.

According to Smithsonian Magazine there had long been an English custom of sending Christmas and New Year’s letters to friends. In 1843, Henry Cole, the founder of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, found himself with stacks of holiday

letters that he knew he didn’t have time to answer. There were simply too many and yet it was considered very rude to not respond. Cole had a “light bulb” moment that rescued him from his situation. He asked an artist friend to design a 5 1/8” x 3 1/4” illustration (postcard size) featuring a family celebrating the holidays together in the middle of the drawing, flanked by pictures of people helping the needy on either side. At the top was a “To:” line and at the bottom a “From:” line with a greeting of “A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to You” below the family picture. Cole had 1000 copies printed on cardboard and his problem was solved. With the “Penny Post” mail system, the English could send a card or letter anywhere in England for a penny. Christmas postcards remained a popular way to send holiday greetings well into the 20th century. We have many from the first three decades of the 1900’s in our museum collection.

The first Christmas postcard in the United States is believed to have been created by a Prussian immigrant, Louis Prang, at his print shop in Boston in 1875. His card was different from Cole’s because it didn’t have Christmas images on it. Instead it featured a flower. The name Prang might ring a bell with you because today the Prang company still produces quality art supplies. Many of the first American Christmas cards were like Prang’s and featured nature scenes and animals with a simple ‘Merry Christmas’ message.

“So when did the bookstyle Christmas cards I’m used to have their beginning?”, you ask. It all started when the Hall Brothers of Kansas City formed a greeting card company in 1915, later called themselves the Hallmark Company, and introduced a new kind of Christmas card. It was 4” wide and 6” high, folded once, and mailed in an envelope. Sound familiar? It seemed that many Americans wanted more space for writing than a postcard allowed, but didn’t have the time or desire to write full-blown letters. From the 1930s to the 1950s Hallmark Christmas cards were incredibly popular. To keep up with the demand, Hallmark procured famous artists like Grandma Moses and Norman Rockwell to create cards for the company.

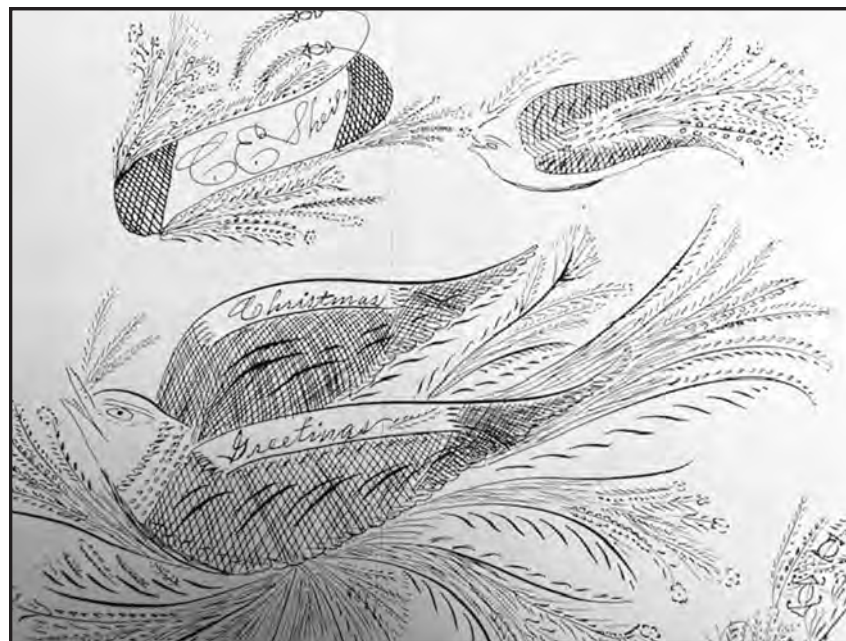
In 1962, due to public clamor, the U.S. Post Office issued its first Christmas stamp, green and white with a wreath and two candles. That year one billion Christmas stamps were printed and as we know, they are still popular today. Before the issuing of Christmas stamps, many people put a Christmas Seal on their Christmas postcards and envelopes as a way to contribute to the fight against tuberculosis, but it had no postal value and a stamp was still needed. Many of our vintage Christmas postcards at the Museum have a Christmas Seal placed next to the actual postage.

Back in the early days of West Concord, a pioneer businessman was creating his own Christmas postcards and we’re fortunate to have some at the museum. Charles Sheils, known as Chas. by friends and family in West Concord, opened the Sheils Brothers General Store in the building most of us knew as Ernie Amundson’s grocery store, where Centennial Park now stands. Born in 1859, Chas. was a classy gentleman who garnered much respect in West Concord and served on the very first West Concord village council. After selling his store to the Amundsons in 1921 he was involved in real estate until his death in 1938. He must have loved drawing because his greeting cards were very detailed and finely etched, as you’ll see in the accompanying picture.

Here is my Christmas wish for you, straight from one of our vintage cards attributed to Clifton Bingham, English poet and songwriter of the late 19th century:

*“A Christmas merry, a Christmas bright,  
So runs the wish of my heart tonight,  
With hope and happiness by your side  
To gladden and bless your Christmastide.”*

**Merry Christmas to all!**



One of Chas. E. Sheils’ Christmas postcards



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About One-Third Off Regular Price, To Close.

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A Few All Wool Ladies’ Tailored Skirts  
**\$5.50 to 6.00, to close \$3.50 to \$4.25.**



**Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library**  
**Saturday, January 4 from 9-10am**  
***The Princess Bride* by William Goldman**

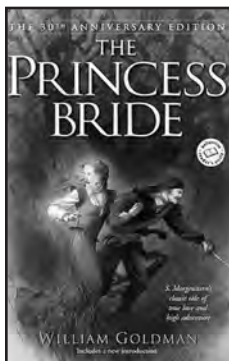
What happens when the most beautiful girl in the world marries the handsomest prince of all time and he turns out to be...well...a lot less than the man of her dreams?

As a boy, William Goldman claims, he loved to hear his father read the S. Morgenstern classic, *The Princess Bride*. But as a grown-up he discovered that the boring parts were left out of good old Dad's recitation, and only the "good parts" reached his ears.

Now Goldman does Dad one better. He's reconstructed the "Good Parts Version" to delight wise kids and wide-eyed grownups everywhere.

What's it about? Fencing. Fighting. True Love. Strong Hate. Harsh Revenge. A Few Giants. Lots of Bad Men. Lots of Good Men. Five or Six Beautiful Women. Beasities Monstrous and Gentle. Some Swell Escapes and Captures. Death, Lies, Truth, Miracles. In short, it's about everything.

429 pages Paperback, First Published January 1, 1973

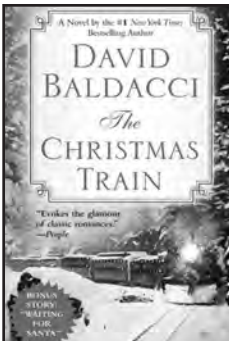


**Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library**  
**Wednesday, January 15 from 4-5pm**  
***The Christmas Train* by David Baldacci**

Disillusioned journalist Tom Langdon must get from Washington D.C. to L.A. in time for Christmas. Forced to travel by train, he begins a journey of rude awakenings, thrilling adventures and holiday magic. He has no idea that the locomotives pulling him across America will actually take him into the rugged terrain of his own heart, as he rediscovers people's essential goodness and someone very special he believed he had lost.

The Christmas Train is filled with memorable characters who have packed their bags with as much wisdom as mischief ... and shows how we do get second chances to fulfill our deepest hopes and dreams, especially during this season of miracles.


260 pages Paperback, First published November 4, 2001



**2024 West Concord Events**  
 • Truth in Taxation Meeting – 6:00 pm on December 19 at the Bell Tower Center

**Checkout the new and improved City of West Concord Website at [www.westconcordmn.com](http://www.westconcordmn.com)!**

It's still a work in progress and new features will be added and updated in the coming month. You can find past meeting agendas and minutes, pay your utility bill, and more!



## Snow Emergencies

It's that time of year again! Although our fall has felt a little more like summer, winter is right around the corner. As a reminder, the City of West Concord has a snow ordinance for all city streets. Every effort is made to keep streets clear of snow and ice during and after a snowstorm. The city can't do it all alone and we rely on you, to help us, by following the snow rules set in place by council.

**Snow Emergencies:** No vehicle or trailer shall be parked on any city street or alley during a declared snow emergency. A snow emergency is defined as any time the quantity of snow warrants the deployment of snowplows. During snow emergencies, no parking shall be allowed on the road or alley for 48 hours after the start of a snowfall. Warnings and/or citations will be issued to vehicle owners parked in the path of snowplow on the first pass. Any vehicle violating this article may be towed without notice to the property owner, at the owner's expense.

**Piling of Snow:** Persons shall not push or deposit snow or ice into a street or alley from private property or public boulevards. Do not pile snow at street corners or at the ends of public drives so it interferes with the view of the traveling public.

Property owners will be charged removal costs if such piles must be removed by City staff or other agent of City.

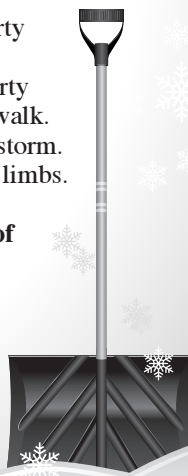
**As a reminder, the city code states:**

**800.01 Repair and maintenance of sidewalks.** The owner of property within the city abutting a public sidewalk must keep the sidewalk in repair and safe for pedestrians. The owner and occupant of the property must use diligence to remove snow, ice, dirt or rubbish from the sidewalk. Snow and ice must be removed within 24 hours after a snow or sleet storm. Sidewalks must be kept free of debris, including the trimming of tree limbs.

**1310.11 Subd. 1 'A "snow removal period" as used in the subsection means a period of time commencing at the beginning of each snowfall and lasting for 48 hours after a snowfall even if the snow has been removed from city streets.'**

**1310.11 Subd. 2 'Parking prohibition.** During a snow removal period, it is unlawful to park or leave standing a vehicle on any street between the hours of 1:00 o'clock a.m. and 6:00 o'clock a.m.

*Thank you for your help in keeping our streets and sidewalks free from snow and ice this winter.*




**Season's Greetings**

We wish you happiness throughout the holiday season and the coming year.

From Mayor, City Council & Staff







# Thank you

Every member of the West Concord Fire Department would like to thank all of the citizens of West Concord, as well as others for honorable donations made during the 2024 year in the name of many different occasions. Some of those being many different fundraisers from throughout the year, in times of need and in the name of simple generosity.

We would like to start by sending out a thank you to the following individuals for donations made during the West Concord Fire Department Annual French Toast Breakfast, Burger Night, and Burrito Breakfast.

- |                         |                             |                          |                          |                      |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Jason and Stacy Newman  | David Morgan                | Dan & Linda Lulf         | Timothy & Mona Geise     | Steve & Linda Bucher |
| Don and Gloria Flicek   | Nathan & Karissa Eipers     | Patrick & June Lafond    | William Smock            | April Kline          |
| Peter McAnally          | Larry & Donna Fitzgerald    | Rick & Wendy Jones       | Kenneth Paulson          | Tom & Lois Turner    |
| Dave & Glenda Andrews   | Barb Loquai                 | Timothy & Laura Bahr     | Mark Wright              | Clyde Eggum          |
| Anthony & Kayla Gengler | Randy & Mary Dessner        | Dale & Patricia Dohrmann | Patrick & Bonnie Redican | Josh Turner          |
| Clint Radke             | Norman & Christina Peterson | Jeremy & Corinne Chilson | Thomas & Darcy Bond      | Matt & Bobbi Rowher  |

We are incredibly grateful to whom had donated in remembrance of:  
Al Gilbert • Moreley Peterson • Carol Degrood • Brian Vail • Gaylord Gossard

With other donations made in the name of simple generosity we thank the following:  
Greg and colleen Hayne • CoBank ACB • Evonne Kruger

A special thank you to Compeer Financial for the grant they provided that helped us obtain new equipment.

Another successful year for the Silent Auction- A special thanks to Gene, Marianna & Jim Herold.

Thank you to Berne Firewood Pizza for having us as the EMT service for the 2024 year.

Fire prevention month is to raise fire safety awareness and help protect homes and families. The goal of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign strived to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home. Without the generosity of our community we would not have a leg to stand on. We lastly want to thank those who donated during our Pancake breakfast.

Doug & Arlene Van Zuilen - VZ Hogs who generously provided door prizes.

- |                          |                            |                          |                         |                          |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Barbara Renken           | Charlie Giesler            | Patrick & Bonnie Redican | Randy & Mary Dessner    | Linda Sendle             |
| Thomas & Maria Coffman   | Allen & Susan Anderson     | Rick & Wendy Jones       | Nick & Vanessa Haltvick | Todd Viker               |
| Harl & Carol Burzloff    | Steve & Karen Wetzstein    | Russell & Audrey Finne   | Rita Gilbert            | Linda Vrieze             |
| Charlie & Sue Rohwer     | Karen Johnson              | Campbell Farms           | Raymond & Carol Six     | Dan & Linda Lulf         |
| Rick & Donna Knobel      | Barbara Loquai             | Timothy & Laura Bahr     | Paula Finne             | Dale & Patricia Dohrmann |
| Rochelle M Grossman      | Don & Gloria Flicek        | Mary Burt                | Margaret Ryg            | Scott McGinley           |
| Bill & Crystal Winter    | James Deflieger            | Delmer & Joanne Paulson  | Jerome Meyer            | Gerald & Linda Roney     |
| Richard Franzen          | David Dengler              | Jake & Naomi Froyum      | Lois Johnson            | Jeremy & Teresa Knutson  |
| William & Cathy Smith    | Daniel & Beverly Chicos    | Roger & Judy Quimby      | Jim & Janice Crowson    | Alan & Lori Callister    |
| Michael & Charleen Louks | Hyland Systems             | Michael & Susan Brual    | James & June Barnick    | Terry & Elaine Krahn     |
| Mark & Angela Loomis     | Larry & Martha Gochnauer   | J & S Pechacek           | Karen Peterson          | Chris & Julie Staub      |
| Marquette Farms          | Eugene Herold              | Steve & Linda Bucher     | Predmore Family Trust   | Bob & Lynn Haltvick      |
| Michaelson Funeral Home  | Thomas & Lois Turner       | Larry Bachman            | Ron & Kathy Meyer       | L&D Recycling            |
| Daniel & Tarra Boyum     | Mark Wright                | Ray & Annalee Thomas     | Eugene Herold           | Ellingson Drainage       |
| Lowell & Victoria Berge  | Jacob & Allison Rislov     | David & Glenda Andrews   | Erik & Denise Rekstad   | Heritage Bank            |
| Karen Zastrow            | Larry & Donna Fitzgerald   | Brad & Michelle Spitzack | John & Tammy Lee        | Rolland Durst            |
| Dennis Bakken            | Matt & Bobbi Rowher        | Mavis Dessner            | Debra Ann Aase          | L Zelinske               |
| Leon & Irene Spreiter    | Kaye D Nelson Living Trust | Nathan & Karissa Eipers  | James & Norma Rumpf     | Doug & Dee Klevos        |
| Barbara Erickson         | Timothy & Mona Geise       | Dan & Donna Kutzler      | Allen & Alice Durst     | William Smock            |

### WCFD Pancake Breakfast Door Prize Winners

- 1/2 Hog, donated by VZ Hogs: Darla Swartzentruber
- 1/2 Hog, donated by VZ Hogs: Cyndie Nosek
- 1/2 Hog, donated by VZ Hogs: Elizabeth Harbaugh
- 1/2 Hog, donated by VZ Hogs: Larry Fitzgerald
- Fire Extinguisher: John Schreiber
- Fire Extinguisher: Franco Schinigo
- Smoke / Carbon Monoxide Detector: Paula Finne
- Smoke / Carbon Monoxide Detector: Deb Boelter

Please reach out to Jake Froyum to claim your prize. 507-273-4068



Again, on behalf of all of us at the West Concord Fire Department we thank everyone in our community, for every ounce of generosity that was given throughout the year of 2024, and may 2025 be just as wonderful.



**A VERY MERRY**



**CHRISTMAS**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

***Sending you our best wishes  
for a beautiful holiday.***

***Thanks for your valued patronage and friendship.***

**From the Staff at MBT Bank**

We will be closed December 25 and January 1 so our employees can celebrate the holidays with their families.



**MBT Bank**

[www.mbtbank.bank](http://www.mbtbank.bank)

## SERVING OUR HOMETOWNS

(continued from page 1)

In an era of online everything, your twice monthly newspaper continues with an unwavering goal to bring hometown news to you. We are glad to work with the Triton School District to

bring you The Triton Times school news to your mailbox each month as well.

Thanks to the local advertisers and your vol-

untary subscriptions, we are in your mail box each month.

Without this support, we would not be here. We hope you continue to see value in the Messenger. While there are plenty of social media sources and on line sites out there, most don't deliver the hometown news and message like we try to do here.

Every year, many local newspapers are forced out of business. We have watched this happen many times in recent years in small rural communities..

With our small staff of 2.5, we understand this challenge first hand here at the Messenger, which is why we publish the Messenger in its bi-monthly format.

Our goal with the Messenger is to help insure our home towns still have a community voice of its own, direct mailing to all resi-

dents in the zip code. This format allows the community to maintain a local paper, and better connect local residents, businesses and the community. We also understand the need for more timely information within the month, so we continue expanding our digital and online offerings, while still maintaining our dedication to our hometowns!

We remain a small family owned business with a goal of supporting our rural communities and businesses. We hope you will continue to support the Messenger with your voluntary subscription again this year.

We are proud to continue to offer you this local hometown paper, in your mail box. Our future success depends on the support of our local community, and we thank you in advance for your continued support of The Messenger!



Thank you for your patronage this year.

We look forward to continuing to serve you in 2025.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



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CONCORDLOCKER

## CASH BINGO!

**Dodge Center American Legion**  
**January 25th • 1:00 PM**  
**\$40 Advance/\$45 at the Door**

**5 Games \$200 • 4 Games \$250 • Last Game \$1000**

Only 230 tickets sold.  
50/50 CASH RAFFLE & CASH DOOR PRIZES!

If less than 75 tickets are presold, event will be canceled and money refunded.  
Additional bingo pack will be available for half price \$20 after you purchase the first one at full price.  
If inclement weather, event will be rescheduled.

Sponsored by Claremont Area Chamber of Commerce License #05159

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our sincerest thanks to all of the people we have been privileged to serve this year.





*Serving the Community for Over 60 Years*

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

We look forward to going the extra mile for our customers in 2025 and beyond.  
*Thanks for your business!*





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MERRY Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR





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## Dodge Center Craft Fair

(continued from page 1)



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From 10 am to 2 pm on December 14th, at 813 West Highway Street in Dodge Center (Yes, the school!), you will find so much to choose from. Featuring local artists, vendors and businesses, you can't help but find the perfect gift, even for those hard to buy for folks. They are offering free pictures with Santa, horse drawn sleigh rides, and cookie decorating. The admission is free to all, and hot beverages will be served by the Dodge County Salvation Army. The Washington DC trip kids for next summer will be selling hot dogs and have a baked potato bar to help raise the funds for the trip.

As you can see, there is something for everyone to do to make this a special day, so come on down and support your friends and neighbors in this holiday kick off event! Hope to see you there!



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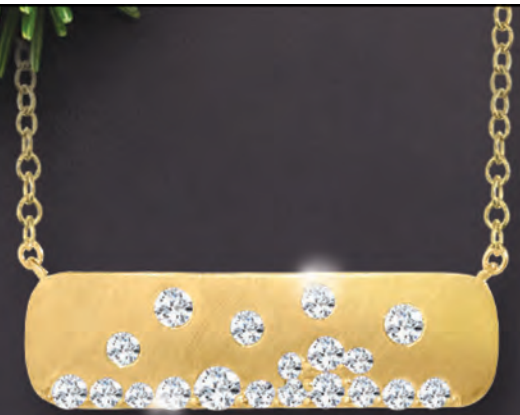
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## Memories of Christmas Past

(continued from page 1)

**Elaine** was the oldest of three and they were the only grandchildren of her mother's parents so they were doted on by the grandparents. Her parents were very Lutheran so she remembers being very involved in the Christmas program and church service. One Christmas eve she played piano and organ for the church program.

Her dad worked for a butcher and also had his own smokehouse where he made sausage and smoked hams for the holiday meals. There was always a big delicious ham for Christmas dinner. In their house they had lots of cookies and her siblings helped make the cookies, decorate the cookies and best of all help eat the cookies.

One year her mother was able to get them a piano for a Christmas gift and their pastors wife gave them all music lessons. The other memorable gift she recalls was when her grandmother gave her a new watch.

**Rosie** was one of six children in her family. They lived on a farm in Iowa but her dad was a preacher. Her grandma and grandpa always spent Christmas with their family. They would decorate the tree three days before Christmas. When her mother wanted to get the kids out from under her feet, she would tell them to go in and decorate the tree.

She still has memories of the wonderful smells of holiday cooking coming from the kitchen. The menu was the same each year. It included turkey, a roast, rolls and pudding.

She can remember Christmas programs at school and church full of music and Christmas plays with kids acting out Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. Her parents didn't have lots of money but they each received a gift. A couple years it was a puppy, and she has done the same for her own children. Some years they all received a new outfit of clothes to wear for the Christmas program. Her siblings and cousins would play outside whenever possible and enjoyed board games like Monopoly when they couldn't go out.

**Don** grew up on a farm with his sister. He recalls when he was a young boy and they would be bad, that someone would dress up in a Santa mask and pound on the side of the house to get the kids attention. Then they would shake their finger at them as if warning them to behave. It always worked and they would be good until after the New Year. One Christmas when he was about six years old the kids were outside making snow angels when a Santa came around the house yelling Ho Ho Ho. He was so scared he ran for the basement.

During the winter of 1968-69 there was so much snow drifted around the house that he helped put up the Christmas lights without using a ladder. One winter when he was about ten years old, he heard sleigh bells and Santa showed up by his house and asked if he had been good.

His father said, "yes he had". That year he received a bicycle.

The family always put up a Christmas Tree around the first of December where it remained until after New Years Day. His mother would tell them where to put the decorations, tinsel and the bulbs. They would just throw the tinsel on, but his mother was very orderly and would make sure it was perfect. They didn't have a fireplace so they hung their stockings on the window on either side of the tree. He would hang a large wool work sock while his sister hung a small dress sock. Don figures she must have been a better child because her sock was always overflowing with stuff, while his had only a few things.

His dad managed the coop and his mom worked nights at the hospital. A high school girl would come and baby sit for him and his

younger sister. On Christmas Eve the baby sitter and her boyfriend would join them and his parents to celebrate the holiday with a meal of chicken. The boyfriend also drove bulk truck for his dad.

On Christmas Day all the extended family would gather for a meal of turkey and home cured ham with mashed potatoes. His sister played the organ and the accordion while they sang Christmas carols.

Beside Christmas memories, Don recalls farming with a tractor and a team of Clydesdales. His dad would plow with the tractor and a two bottom 14" plow. Don drove the work horses and a one bottom sulky plow. It was so much quieter behind the team than the tractor.

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## The Wait is Over!

(continued from page 1)

For those of you who don't know, Area 57 in Wanamingo is one of the most awarded cafes in southern Minnesota, according to the Star and Tribune. It has won awards for "Best Cafe" several years in a row, and believe me, they earn that title. Well, the owners of the cafe decided Dodge Center needed to have one of their cafes, too, so the project began. With supply and demand issues, and permits to be gotten, the process took a bit longer than expected. They started from the ground up, and it truly is a sight to behold.

We will be doing a full article in the next issue of the Messenger, but we couldn't wait to tell you that Union Coffee Cafe is now open for business! They have a menu quite like Area 57, but with added features, appetizers and burgers. I popped in for my sneak preview, and there were quite a few cars still in the lot at 7 pm. It is beautifully designed, and the hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 7:30 pm, and Saturdays from 7:30 am to 3 pm. They will be closed on Sun-



days.

Located at 221 McNeilus Drive in Dodge Center, you can eat in or carry out, and I'd bet my bottom dollar that once you try it, you will become a regular customer.



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## Welcome to Garden View Apartments

By Cheri Roshon

The Sunset Home in Kenyon was sold over a year ago to Jerry Anderson, and a lot of speculation was made about what would happen to the buildings involved in the transaction.

Jerry decided to sell the property, and unfortunately passed away this past year.

There was talk that to renovate the property would cost more than to tear it down and start over. Rumors ran rampant, and as I tried to find out any information about the property, I

kept hitting dead ends, so I finally acquiesced to the impossibility of getting enough information to write an article that wasn't based on rumors.

So...I walked away from the story.

Well, finally I was able to get the story, and I am happy to share with my readers a happily ever after experience that is evolving in Kenyon. Kenyon Real Estate LLC and a company called Revocity purchased the property. These companies are made up of local investors who want to help renovate properties that need new life and will benefit the people who live in the area. Pivotal Management & Consulting is Janna Reese and Chris Viscomi's management company, and they partnered with TREKK to help manage Garden View.

The good news is, this is a unique way to purchase inventory that needs some love and revamp it into something that provides communities with fresh blood. The rest of the

staff there, as well as the investors, decided to pursue the renovations instead of tearing it down.

The result is Garden View Apartments at 215 Huseth Street in Kenyon, and they are now leasing the 1 and 2 bedroom apartments, starting at \$1,060.00 per month. These apartments are handicap accessible, and include full sized kitchens, walk in showers, on-site laundry and parking, a Fitness Center, and your internet is included as well. There will be a few commercial spaces to rent as well, and a few extra special amenities.

I went to the Open House, and it was quite busy. I was able to talk to Janna Reese, who is also the owner of Janna's Market Grill in Faribault. Her husband was a friend of Jerry Anderson, and part of the investment group that purchased the property. "We feel grateful to be here", she said. "The Kenyon Real Estate Fund is here to invest, revitalize and re-purpose properties to bring value to the

community. We feel that redeveloping buildings and properties that have outlived their purpose brings local people and businesses more tangible equity. Locals taking care of each other in so many ways." Think about it. More people in town to buy groceries, gas, hardware, food..... Anything the town has to offer.

There is a \$75.00 fee for background checks, and references to accommodate the safety of the people who live there. She also has contacts with people who can list the properties they currently own with a realtor, and offered her services to help them get moved, and who can do an auction, if that's the way they want to proceed.

For more information about the investment group, or to inquire about the apartments, you can visit [www.kenyonapts.com](http://www.kenyonapts.com) or call (507) 210-8129 and speak to one of the staff. Or you can contact Chris at [chris@pivotalmanagementandconsulting.com](mailto:chris@pivotalmanagementandconsulting.com).

## What To Do When Your Senior Dog Forgets Their House Training

Cleaning up potty accidents is an inevitable part of puppy ownership. But many dog owners can expect a repeat performance when their pet enters their senior years. Older dogs may pee inside the house when they used to exclusively go outside. But don't dismiss house training accidents as a natural part of the aging process. There is likely an underlying health issue at play. If your senior dog is having accidents, they deserve all the support and care you can give them. Just as in humans, as dogs age, they're at greater risk for a variety of health concerns, which can lead to bathroom issues like an inability to hold it, the need to go more frequently, or forgetting the appropriate place to go. All of which lead to accidents in the house, ranging from a few drops of urine in your dog's bed to squatting right in front of you.

Some of the reasons why senior dogs have potty accidents include:

- Pain. If your dog has arthritis or another condition that makes movement painful, squatting or leg lifting can hurt. So, your dog avoids doing it until it's too late. Pain can also prevent your dog from getting out of bed or to the door before they have to go.
- Kidney disease. Chronic kidney disease affects the kidney's ability to filter blood, resulting in increased blood flow to those organs. That leads to greater urine production and therefore more frequent need to pee.
- Hormonal diseases. If your dog's hormones are out of balance, such as with diabetes, hyperthyroidism, or Cushing's disease, it can cause excessive thirst. With more water intake comes a more frequent need to pee.
- Urinary incontinence. This is when your dog loses control of the muscles that hold in their pee. Besides accidents in the house, signs of urinary incontinence can include dribbling when your dog walks, peeing in their sleep, or irritation of the skin around the genitals.
- Bladder cancer. A rare form of canine cancer, bladder cancer can make your dog pee more often and in smaller amounts.
- Sensory decline. Vision loss can make it more difficult for your dog to walk or find a suitable place to go to the bathroom.
- Cognitive decline. Your dog may forget where they are supposed to go or may forget the meaning of body signals that warn them it's time to go.

Finally, many of the above conditions can increase your dog's anxiety levels, which Dr. Denenberg says can further escalate the situation. It's important to be patient with your senior dog, so you don't add to their stress.

As there are so many potential causes of senior dog potty accidents, you can't simply blame it on aging and leave it at that. It's essential you take your dog to the veterinarian to diagnose and address the underlying issue. Dr. Denenberg suggests, "When owners notice that house soiling becomes frequent (e.g., not a one-off accident), they should start to investigate with their vet. To me, a rule of thumb is two to three times a month for a dog who was trained entirely."

Depending on the reason for your senior dog's accidents, treatment will vary. For example, a dog with hyperthyroidism may find relief with medication, whereas cognitive decline will likely continue to get worse as a dog ages. In cases of spayed female dogs becoming incontinent due to decreased estrogen, it's often treated with medications that increase urethral tone or hormone replacement, either alone or in combination. "Not everything is treatable or can be 'cured,' but often, you can manage it rather well. That, of course, depends on the underlying problem, its severity, and its duration. The sooner owners investigate, the better," Dr. Denenberg says.

But what do you do about any accidents that continue to happen? There's no doubt it's stressful cleaning up messes all the time, and it can feel like your dog is willfully disobeying the rules. After all, they were house-trained for years. But in most cases, your dog simply can't help it, and accidents can be quite stressful for them as well. Fearing reprisals from their owner will only make matters worse. Don't punish your senior dog for having accidents.

Instead, consider ways you can help your dog cope. For instance, diapers or belly bands can help some dogs make it through the night or other times when you can't take them outside, although you need to change the diaper or band regularly for good hygiene. You can also place pee pads in the house then train your dog it's okay to go on the pads. For dogs who simply can't hold it until they get outside, this can be a great solution. Or consider another type of indoor potty spot like a litter box or patch of artificial grass on the balcony.

Dr. Denenberg tends to suggest indoor options only when a dog is limited from going outside due to a behavior concern, such as agoraphobia, or due to physical health constraints. With indoor solutions, he advises that owners should be diligent to clean and remove all remnants and odors. "Voiding urine and passing stools are physiological needs; the dog must do that. I don't want to stress the dogs by forcing them to use unhygienic areas."


If a dog is still able to go outside, Dr. Denenberg prefers the owners find a different solution. For example, changing their routine to include more frequent walks, hiring a dog walker when they can't be home, or putting the dog in doggy daycare. In fact, these solutions might prevent accidents from happening at all. For example, if your senior dog has a consistent routine and sufficient opportunities to go out, they might not need to soil inside the house. But realize you need to adapt to your dog's changing needs. A few trips outside a day may have been sufficient before, but your senior dog might need hourly bathroom opportunities now. Work with your vet and experiment with different options to prevent or manage accidents and provide your senior dog with the best quality of life possible.

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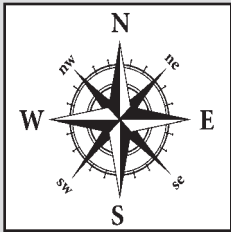
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

# My Best Christmas Ever



By Terry Campbell

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

I always liked Christmas, it was a fun season. I remember going to town and walking the snowy cold streets from store to store and listening to Christmas music playing on the outside speakers. I remember high school girls signing Christmas carols on the bus during the ride home. It seemed like such a happy time. And then there was the anticipation of gifts. I would page through the Montgomery Wards, Sears & Roebuck and J C Penney catalogues and make lists in hope my parents would buy me that special thing I wanted.

My parents on the other hand were frugal.

We were a farm family in the 1960's. There was not a lot of extra money floating around and they didn't feel like gifts were as necessary as a young kid did. So, I learned that many of those dreams were only going to come true if I took care of them myself.

What I really wanted was a snowmobile. So, I read snowmobile magazines and collected snowmobile literature from every dealer we visited. I tried to convince my dad that a snowmobile was a necessity out here on the farm. I couldn't ride my horse in the winter, so there was only one way left to get around in the snow. But I might as well have wanted a space craft, because it just seemed that far out of reach.

My dad was very logical. I couldn't argue with him and win. He said I would need to be big enough to start a snowmobile myself. He proved it by taking me to the dealership and letting me pull on the recoil cord. An eleven year old boy was just not strong enough. He intended to make me self reliant. A good lesson for a kid, but wait until you are older was a hard pill to swallow. So, I hoped and dreamed as I watched snowmobiles ride by the farm in the ditch and just did my chores every night after school.

One cold snowy December evening I was in the farrowing barn cleaning, bedding and feeding the sows. I made my spending money caring for the hogs. Kind of a little prodigal son analogy there that might have been the reason my dad assigned me those chores. I heard a strange sound outside and went out to investigate. Some times a neighbor would swing by on a snowmobile and I was always ready to run out and see it. But this time it wasn't a neighbor, it was my dad. And he was driving a snowmobile.

It was a brand new Ski Doo Olympic 12/3. It was beautiful. I wasn't sure of the circumstances but it was looking good, very good. My dad explained to me that the 12 stood for the horsepower and the 3 indicated that it was a third lighter than the other models. That way I could wrestle it out of a snowbank when it got stuck. And it had a decompressor button, so a young kid like me could start it. Suddenly, I was the king of the world. He explained that I would have to pay for it if I wanted it and we went to the First National Bank in West Concord the following evening and I signed a loan for \$600.

When you are a kid with a tough, rugged



old farmer for a dad, you don't really expect much for a show of affection from him. But he found the snowmobile that would work for me and made it possible for me to have it. When I didn't imagine it would ever happen.

He had been looking out for me the whole time. What a parent does for their child means more than words. It was the best Christmas ever.

## A Minnesotan: Oh Christmas Tree



By RosaLin Alcoser

Once again Christmas is rolling around for the year. Christmas is my father's favorite holiday. He loves the presents and the food, but the thing he gets most into with it is the Christmas tree. He's not into decorating it though, he's into going to pick out the Christmas tree.

Some families pick out a tree from a tree farm or lot all together. In my family my father goes to pick out the tree by himself. There was a brief period in time when the local Boy Scout troop would just set aside a tree for us, but for the most part my father has always been the one to pick the tree.

Every year the tree would either go one of three ways. It would fit perfectly, which was normal in the years the Boy Scouts set aside the tree. It would be way too big, taking up most of the room and occasionally having to be cropped to fit. Or it would be what my mother calls a Charlie Brown Tree.

A Charlie Brown Tree is when you bring home the smallest and most scraggly tree

that you can find. The one that most people would never bring home, but you decided to bring home and try to decorate anyway. Because once you do it will look so much better. In reality it won't but that's what you tell yourself while buying it.

The house I grew up had a big living room with tall 9 foot ceiling. Which was perfect for my father's overly zealous Christmas tree selection. The last Christmas we spent in that house was the year he went the most over the top with the tree. It was bigger than any tree he had brought home before. It was also way too big to fit in my parent's tree stand.

Being too big for the tree, the tree, which at this point only had lights and some glass balls on it, of course fell over in the middle of the night. Glass and sap covered everything in the room and my mom spent the days leading up to Christmas trying to get it off of the floor. After that the tree stand was replaced with a bigger one to accommodate the overly zealous trees.

Which worked most years, except the first Christmas that my older sister came home with her husband. That year my dad brought home a Charlie Brown Tree. That he cut down himself. This tree not only had holes in it, but also was way too small for the tree stand. Causing it to fall down, thankfully undecorated, for the opposite reason of the overly zealous tree for a few years before.

That year the tree ended up being tied to the bannister in multiple places at its base and lashed into the stand. Then to keep the tree from leaning it had to be tied again higher up on its trunk, also to the bannister, with a piece of ribbon.

Since then the tree's he's come home with have been nice and reasonable. However, I'm sure there's another overly zealous and Charlie Brown trees to come down the road.

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## Alcohol Truths



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS  
Licensed Nutritionist

What do you know about alcohol? Is a little alcohol once in while okay? During a physical exam a frequent question asked is how much alcohol you consume, so what is the big deal? Let's identify some truths about alcohol.

Alcohol has been a beverage produced by humans for centuries. When grains or fruits are processed with specific yeast or bacteria the result is the production of alcohol as a byproduct of the fermentation process. A standard US drink contains fourteen grams of alcohol. Fourteen grams of alcohol are in a typical twelve-ounce beer, a five-ounce glass of wine, or a 1.5 ounce shot. The longer the distillation process, the greater the concentration of alcohol in the drink.

The type of alcohol produced from this fer-

mentation is ethanol. Ethanol is the only alcohol considered safe to consume. Other forms of alcohol are fatal if consumed. While ethanol does not immediately cause death, there are some health concerns to consider.

In science laboratories, ethanol is used as a sanitizing agent. To clean lab tools and counter surfaces, ethanol is used to kill anything on the surface. To guarantee a surface is clean and ready for the next science experiment, everything is cleaned with ethanol. Ethanol kills any bacteria cells that may be on equipment or a countertop. If ethanol is trusted as a chemical to kill bacteria, what do you think it does to cells in your body?

To a single cell, ethanol would mean death, but your body does have a way to detoxify from alcohol, but at a cost. The first step changes ethanol to acetaldehyde, which is a known mutagenic agent, which means acetaldehyde can promote cancer. The American Association for Cancer Research published the 2024 Cancer Progress Report and noted an increased risk of six types of cancer associated with consuming alcohol. Those types of cancer include liver, breast, colon, esophagus, stomach, and head and neck cancer. The increased risk is the result of the increased acetaldehyde effecting the cells of the body to promote the development of cancer cells.

In a 2024 study from the UK Biobank, there were 135,103 older adults ranked according to the amount of alcohol consumed and the report of cancer diagnosis. A low-risk drinker was described as an individual who consumed between 1 and 10 drinks per

week. Even at this low consumption level, a low-risk drinker had higher cancer mortality compared to an occasional drinker. With increased alcohol consumption, the cancer risk increased.

In addition to the cancer concerns, alcohol effects the size of your brain. A 2022 study published in Nature Communications reviewed the MRI brain scans of 36,678 middle-aged adults. Even low levels of alcohol consumption resulted in a decrease in gray matter and white matter of the brain. The evidence showed decreased brain volume got worse with increased consumption of alcohol.

Alcohol consumption has negative effects on other areas of the body as well. As noted, alcohol kills bacteria, so the good bacteria in your intestines will be killed also. The result is an imbalance of the bacteria community inside your gut that results in inflammation, decreased immune strength, and increased digestive problems. The balance between testosterone and estrogen is affected by alcohol consumption. Alcohol promotes the

conversion of testosterone into estrogen. Extra high levels of estrogen are associated with increased cancer risk and decreased levels of testosterone effect a decline in muscle mass and fertility. Alcohol also increases the production of cortisol, a hormone related to stress. High cortisol levels are related to sleep disorders, inability to relax, and increased anxiety. None of these goals are on my Christmas list this year.

As you move through the holiday season, consider how you are celebrating. There are many ways to enjoy the celebration and the relationships of the season without using alcohol. Make healthy choices that will benefit you and the ones you love.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. I can help you realize greater health freedom in 2025. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

*\*Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*

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**FAMILY**  
Salma Fernandez is a senior at Triton this year. Her parents are Nancy and Alberto Fernandez. She has one brother, Sergio and two sisters, Samantha and Nancy.



*Salma Fernandez*

**HOBBIES**  
She enjoys traveling and her favorite pastime is sleeping. She loves the movie Ponyo and the music of Brent Faiyaz, Drake, PARTYNEXTDOOR and Bryson Tiller.

**ACTIVITIES**  
In school she is active in Link Crew, AFS, Student Council, SADD, yearbook and BPA.

**FUTURE PLANS**  
After graduation she plans to pursue a career in aviation.

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## Weight Training for Health



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Resistance weight training is a highly effective exercise method that offers numerous health benefits, particularly for those conscious of maintaining their vitality and youthfulness. One of the most impressive advantages is its anti-aging effects. Engaging in regular weight training helps maintain muscle mass and strength as we age, combating the natural decline that occurs over time. This preservation of muscle is crucial not only for physical appearance but also for maintaining functional independence as we grow older. By incorporating resistance training into your fitness regime, you can slow down the aging process and promote a health-

ier, more youthful body.

In addition to its anti-aging benefits, resistance weight training plays a vital role in promoting bone health. It stimulates bone growth and increases bone density, reducing the risk of osteoporosis and fractures, which are common concerns for aging populations. The stress that weight training exerts on bones encourages them to adapt and strengthen, making it an essential exercise for maintaining a robust skeletal framework. This benefit is particularly important for women, who are at a higher risk of developing osteoporosis as they age. By prioritizing weight training, individuals can ensure that their bones remain strong and resilient throughout their lives.

Beyond its impact on aging and bone health, resistance weight training significantly enhances muscle tone and metabolism. Regular lifting results in more defined muscles, contributing to an improved physique and increased self-confidence. Furthermore, the increase in lean muscle mass from resistance training elevates your resting metabolic rate, allowing your body to burn more calories even when at rest. This effect can aid in weight management and fat loss, making it an invaluable tool for those looking to improve their overall body composition. By integrating resistance weight training into your routine, you can enjoy these metabolic benefits while achieving a toned and healthy body.

Scientific evidence shows autism isn't just a neurological condition, according to the authors of a scientific review published on Preprints.org. Science researchers Brian

Hooker, Ph.D, Jeet Varia PhD., and Martha Herbert, M.D, Ph.D, a pediatric neurologist and neuroscientist, co-authored the report, which is undergoing peer review with Development and Psychopathology, a Cambridge University Press journal.

The authors examined the findings of 519 studies to illustrate how autism spectrum disorder (ASD) affects multiple body systems, including the immune, digestive and central nervous systems.

Herbert, an autism researcher since 1995, told reporters the science of autism has become "enormously richer" and ASD "can no longer be considered just a 'psychological' problem — it's a whole-system problem ... involving many systems that influence each other." She and her co-authors also contend that the latest scientific evidence suggests ASD is largely driven by environmental factors. These include exposure to toxins in food, the environment, medicine or personal care products.

COVID-19 vaccines pose a 112,000% greater risk of brain clots and strokes than flu vaccines and a 20,700% greater risk of those symptoms than all other vaccines combined, according to a peer-reviewed study that calls for a global moratorium on the vaccines. The study, published last week in the International Journal of Innovative Research in Medical Science, found reports of 5,137 cases of cerebral thromboembolism after COVID-19 shots over 36 months. This compares to 52 reported cases following flu vaccination and 282 cases for all vaccines over the past 34 years. According

to the study, this represents an "alarming breach in the safety signal threshold concerning cerebral thrombosis adverse events" following COVID-19 vaccination. The research data was collected from the U.S. government's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), for their analysis. This data is published on the CDC website and is collected from doctors and hospitals filing reports on adverse events from the COVID-19 vaccine as well as other vaccinations such as the flu shot. The data also indicated 9,821 reports of atrial fibrillation — an irregular heart rhythm that is "the most common identifiable cause of cerebral arterial thromboembolism"

*\*Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*

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**Julie Fuchs**  
*Preschool and Elementary  
ECSE Teacher*

Julie Fuchs is a new preschool and elementary ECSE teacher at Triton this year

Julie graduated from Mankato State University and has been a para-professional for the past twelve years.

She enjoys keeping the Kindergarten ready for the kids and seeing her students.

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# Legal Notices

## WEST CONCORD CITY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 17, 2024 7:00 P.M.

Meeting held at the City of West ConCORDS Bell Tower Center

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Nielsen and Ripley.

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Administrator/Clerk Paula Even Trenda, Maintenance Supervisor Keith Clemmer, Library Director Heather Fredricks, Police Chief Shannon Boerner, Fire Chief Chad Finne, Chris Sanders of People Services, Joe Palen of Stantec.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA;

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented

#### Consent Agenda

- Approve of Council Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2024

- Approval of Payment of Claims: September 12 – October 11, 2024: \$1,141,334.22 (includes Payment approved for Street Utility Project)

- Approval of Westcon Lanes Liquor License for On-sale & Sunday

- Accepting Letter of Interest for open council seat. Appoint new council member for the remaining 2-year term at the November meeting.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Nielsen and Ripley

Nays: None

Motion passed

### PUBLIC COMMENT -

No Public Comment

### CITY BUSINESS

**Resolution 24-51: Approval for Dan Lulf to partition a 98x121 foot piece from 262510060 and create a separate parcel. No zoning or use changes.**

**MOTION:** Motion to approve Parcel Partition.

Motion made by Councilmember Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Ripley

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Nielsen and Ripley

Nays: None

Motion passed

### Preliminary Review of

**Cannabis Ordinance. We anticipated having the draft ordinance from Dodge County for review and early discussion.** Dodge County has been pushed back. Council was provided samples from the state and will have a draft for November meeting with discussion.

Joe Palen, Stantec: Joe provided a brief recap of project and completion. He requested approval for change order #2, as discussed at previous council meetings.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve change order #2

Motion made by Councilmember Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Nielsen and Ripley

Nays: None

Motion passed

**Joe Palen asked for approval for payment # 6 totaling \$274,010.12.** They city will withhold 2% for retainer.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve payment #6

Motion made by Councilmember Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Nielsen and Ripley

Nays: None

Motion passed

**Resolution 24-43: Acceptance of Councilmembers Peterson's resignation.**

**MOTION:** Motion to accept Councilmember Peterson's resignation.

Motion made by Councilmember Burse, seconded by Councilmember Ripley

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Nielsen and Ripley

Nays: None

Motion passed

**Resolution 24-52: Adoption of Assessment Roll**

As discussed in the public hearing, the resolution for adoption of the assessment roll allows the city to begin the 30 day period for xxx with the ability to add assessment to the property taxes for 2025.

**MOTION:** Resolution 24-52: Adoption of Assessment Roll

Motion made by Councilmember Burse. Second by Councilmember Nielsen.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Nielsen, Peterson and Ripley

Nays: None

Motion passed

**Chris Sanders: Approval of KLM Bid for Water Tower Inspection**

Chris Sanders from People's Service, along with Keith Clemmer, explained the water tower inspection contract has full inspections every 5 years. They would like to do a robotic underwater drone inspection to see if a full cleanout is required or can wait. The cost will not exceed \$3200.

**MOTION:** Approve KLM Bid & contract.

Motion made by Councilmember Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Burse.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Nielsen and Ripley

Nays: None

Motion passed

**REPORT OF OFFICERS ADMINISTRATOR/ CLERK REPORT:**

The Historical Society donated \$2,838.58 for September gambling rents for the Municipal.

The administrator has all bank accounts balanced through September 30, 2024. Included was a YTD Financial Report for the General and Municipal funds. This report included projections for Quarter 4 and year-end. Paula explained areas over budget and under budget that were significant. She is working on ways to reduce costs, specifically in health care coverage and technology for 2025. She explained that a full report like this would be included quarterly for now on. If the council would like other information, she is willing to change the report or include is going forward.

With the current website provider being bought out, the new vendor was requesting a new contract by November 30 for 4 years. Paula went and received bids from 5 suppliers. After narrowing to the top 2, she worked with current volunteer, Dan Lulf to choose CivicPlus with a one-year contract.

**LIBRARIAN REPORT:**

Heather Fredericks presented her update. She had to move October board meeting. She shared the library is looking at new chairs to be bought with donations. She is applying again for the legacy funds for programs like we've done this year, such as the author presentation at the beginning of the month with Min-

nesota's Most Haunted Places.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

Maintenance Supervisor Keith Clammer presented his report. Due to a serious injury with contractor, tuckpointing at city hall needs to be pushed back to spring 2025.

Pool is not yet closed, but it will be. Waiting on some parts and work to be completed.

**PEOPLESERVICE REPORT:**

Wastewater Supervisor Chris Sanders verbally reported on his report. The grit system is down and he is working on it.

**POLICE CHIEF:**

Police Chief Boerner provided monthly call log to council.

Police Boerner said he will have a new jake break ordinance draft for discussion in November.

**FIRE CHIEF:**

Fire Chief Chad Finne mentioned things are going well. The pancake breakfast served over 300 people.

There was a grain bin fire in the last month and a burning ban is in effect. The very dry conditions are not helping.

There have been quite a few ambulance run calls lately, compared to the previous few months.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Tom Bond would like the city to authorize City to pay for engineering and/or permit fees for the ball field to add a storage/concession building along the left field line (near the city maintenance building). Venom Softball has secured \$10,000 in funding towards building, provided the club could raise the additional funds for the building. Based on drawings from Menards, the anticipate the cost to be around \$30,000 with in-kind donations.

Field looks beautiful according to Mayor McCool.

Councilmember Nielson made the motion for the city to cover the engineering and permitting fees necessary to get the project moving forward. Councilmember Burse seconded the motion.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Nielsen and Ripley

Nays: None

Motion passed

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Motion to Adjourn at 7:45 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Burse, seconded Councilmember Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Nielsen and Ripley.

Nays: None

Motion passed

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

Mayor Jeffrey McCool

Attest:

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

Paula Even Trenda

Clerk/Administrator

\*\*\*

## CITY OF CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024 7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Tasha Dahl, City Council Members Jacob Klejeski, Krystal Sultze, and Ryan Hedberg. Council Members absent: Deb Ellis.

City staff and others present: City Administrator Elizabeth Sorg, Maintenance Director Casey Dahl, Maintenance Worker Nate Gustafson, City Engineer Derek Olinger, Ann Zylstra, Jim Zylstra, Jeff Louks, Rick Butler, Jamie Cummings, Donna Gregory, Mike Stupka, Jamie Sultze, Jared Sultze, Bill Thornburg, John Baier, Marie Dodds, Scott Eells, Jim Johnson, Cindy Johnson, Keith Cloutier, Karen Jorgensen with the Dodge County Independent, Sheryl Brekke, Peggy Brekke, Kari Striver, Deputy French, and Deputy Pardoehl.

### AGENDA

Motion by Sultze to approve the agenda with the addition of a fire department applicant and to move Resolution No. 24-27 under City Engineer, I,1, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC INPUT

None

### 2025 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by Hedberg to open the public hearing, second by Sultze. Motion carried unan-

imously.

Following is a list of names, their address and a brief summary of what they said at the public hearing:

John Baier, 215 Wheat St, asked how many years would it be assessed and when would they need to repay, he has lived here for 53 years and the city had many businesses then and water bills were low, now most businesses are gone, taxes are high and water bills are high, he would rather see money spent on getting businesses in town than fixing streets, hold the project off for another year at least, it's not worthwhile.

Mike Stupka, 228 E Front St, what criteria was used to determine what work to do, by state statute assessments can not exceed the amount that the property benefits from the improvement.

Bill Thornberg, 217 Church St, economy hasn't recovered since covid, people are struggling, interest rates are high, Church Street does not need to be redone, 3rd Street could be redone and could pave Paukert Street, he doesn't agree with the other areas.

Jeff Louks, 495 Oakview Dr and owns other lots in Oakview, state statute says assessments may not exceed the special benefit, for example he has a bare lot valued at \$12,000 and the assessments would be \$11,000, which means the lot would need to be worth \$23,000 which it wouldn't be, Oakview road hasn't changed in 10 years, only 1 bad spot on the street, it will not increase the property value.

Jim Johnson, 580 Oakview Pl, the assessment would be 16 times more than what he paid for one of the lots he owns, there is nothing wrong with the road, he is against it.

Jim Zylstra, 209 Main St, there is a lot of traffic on 3rd St which is mostly from the trailer court and since they use it all the time they should pay for it also, lots of semis on 3rd St also, only problem area is 3rd St between Main and Wheat.

Mike Stupka, assess everyone in town, it's really not the time, interest rates are going up, city has bigger things to worry about than the streets.

Jeff Louks, don't put the city in million-dollar debt, do the streets a little at a time.

(continued on page 22)

## CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL

(continued from page 21)

Marie Dodds, 211 Julia St, totally against it, if there are more houses that are going to be built or brought into the RK&T Development those big trucks and construction equipment will wreck the new road, build up Paukert for the trucks, there are only 2 holes on Julia, one by Oeltjenbruns and one by Butler.

Scott Eells, 213 3rd Pl, he owns one of the lots that butts up to Paukert and he would be assessed but even so it should be done for another exit/entry, his special assessment for his lot where the house it isn't worth the amount, but Paukert would be.

Rick Butler, only thing wrong with Julia is the 2 holes that were mentioned before, Paukert should have been done years ago and the trucks should be using that, against the project too.

Keith Cloutier, Oak St, nothing wrong with Oak St in front of his house.

Donna Gregory, 3rd St, who actually votes, the council should vote for we the people, the people have spoken and don't want it so can it be tabled, can the resident's do it themselves, there are 4 council members voting against all the people that don't want it.

Mike Stupka, try for a grant, taxes here are too high already.

Donna Gregory, the incoming president has said we are going slash any kind of additional things.

Bill Thornberg, not against the entire project, sanitary sewer should be addressed but some of the streets don't need to be done yet, put off for another year and see what economy looks like then.

Peggy Brekke, Main St, totally understand what they are all saying but because 3rd Street goes by her house, it needs help now, it is horrible.

Donna Gregory, can't they do the work themselves?

**Truth in Taxation Public Hearing – Thursday, December 19 @ 6pm**  
City Code & Ordinance Updates Public Hearing – Thursday, December 19 @ 6:30pm  
Regular City Council Meeting at 7:00pm

Rick Butler, ask SEMLM for help, they help a lot of other cities, if we all ban together the city will lose, do 3rd St and let the rest go for a few years.

Donna Gregory, hire local people to do the work. After Gregory mentioned this several times the Mayor said a city can't hire unlicensed locals to do the work.

Motion by Hedberg to close the public hearing, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

### CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of: Minutes of the October 1, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting, Resolution No. 24-24: Resolution Establishing Polling Place, and Resolution No. 24-25: Certifying Unpaid Bills to Dodge County. Motion by Sultze to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Klejeski to approve the financial reports, second by Hedberg. Motion carried unanimously.

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

### PUBLIC HEALTH &

### SAFETY COMMITTEE

The fire department would like to get a 20' x 40' shipping container for training, especially since there are new members. The shipping container is a realistic training tool as they add walls, it simulates a real fire, can watch how fire grows, and can be used several times. It would be placed behind the Fire Hall on gravel. It would be \$2100 delivered and would come from the training budget. Motion by Sultze to approve the purchase of the shipping container and approve site placement which is south of the alley behind the Fire Hall, second by Hedberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Nicole Schamp and Nicholas Schamp applied to be on the fire department. They interviewed both of them and the fire department has already approved them, pending city council approval. Motion by Hedberg to approve Nicole Schamp to the fire department, second by Hedberg. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Hedberg to approve Nicole Schamp to the fire department, second by Hedberg. Motion carried unanimously.

### PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

### EDA

Nothing at this time.

### MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Maintenance Director Dahl ordered a new heater for the blower room at the wastewater treatment plant. They installed it today and when they turned it on, the power would shut off. They found a loose screw which caused an arc onto the terminal. Ripley Electric will do a temporary fix by running a small panel next to the original panel for \$1000. Ripley Electric will get a price for a permanent fix.

### PARKS COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

### PEOPLESERVICE

Their monthly reports were in the packet.

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Nothing at this time.

### CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Mark Rahrlick was unable to be present at this meeting.

### CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Derek Olinger explained that they recommend repairing or repaving certain streets so that they don't deteriorate to a worse state causing more costly repairs. Many residents have complained about 3rd Street. There are manholes in Church Street and a few others that are sticking up too far and can wreck the snowplow. When the contractor is in town working, they will show them the manholes that need to be fixed. The council would like Olinger to change the 2025 street and

utility improvement project to: 3rd Street and Oak Street as planned before, 2 patches on Julia Street, and manhole cover repairs. Also, as an alternate bid, establish Paukert as a gravel road to a width of 20'. No assessments on the gravel road as notice was not provided for and it will be gravel.

Al-Corn has contacted City Hall, Olinger, and Dodge County about putting an entrance/exit out to County Road 34 and they are working with the county on it.

### OLD BUSINESS

David Stein at 300 E Front Street was served the court order to abate nuisance. He has answered the order, the garage is down and has given a written statement that he would have it taken care of within 90 days, which would be January 9. Someone commented that the snowplow will hit the trailer that is parked too close to the road. The council felt he has had plenty of time and since snow is coming, motion by Hedberg to give him 30 days from today to get the property cleaned up, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Dodge County's EMS special taxing district discussion will be put off until the beginning of the year.

City Attorney Mark Rahrlick drafted a food truck ordinance. Motion by Hedberg to approve Ordinance No. 24-1114 with the spelling of Harmer Park corrected, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

ried unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS

A write-in candidate received the most votes for mayor. Since the candidate did not fill out an Affidavit of Candidacy it was advised to confirm his qualifications. Motion by Hedberg to have Attorney Rahrlick contact the successful candidate and request documentation to verify his qualifications, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously. Information gathered during that process will be reviewed at the December city council meeting.

There were 254 people voting in the November 5 general election. Motion by Sultze to approve Resolution No. 24-26: A Resolution Certifying Results of the November 5, 2024 Election, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously. Council reviewed and signed the Abstract of Votes Cast from Dodge County.

Motion by Hedberg to approve Claremont Pub's 2025 Off-Sale, On-Sale, and Sunday Liquor License, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Klejeski to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m., second by Hedberg. Motion carried unanimously. ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg,  
City Administrator

Tasha Dahl, Mayor

\*\*\*

### Concord Township Election Filing Notice

Concord Township will be holding officer elections on Tuesday March 11, 2025.

Offices open are: Supervisor – regular 3year term  
Treasurer – regular 2year term

Persons interested in running for office must submit an Affidavit of Candidacy with a \$2.00 filing fee to the Concord Township Clerk. Affidavits may be filed beginning January 2, 2025 and no later than 5:00PM January 14, 2025.

Clerk: Michael Jones  
57302 State Hwy 56  
West Concord, MN 55985  
Ph: 507 273 3903

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The City of West Concord is accepting bids for Refuse Hauling. Proposal packets and application for licensing may be attained from City Hall (180 Main Street, West Concord) or via email from administrator@westconcordmn.com. The license period will be 03/01/2025 through 02/28/2028. Applications are due at the West Concord Government Center on or before 4:00 p.m. December 30, 2024.

Any questions contact the City of West Concord at 507-527-2668.

The City of West Concord reserves the right to reject any or all applications.

### DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Tuesday, November 12, 2024

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the November 12, 2024 Dodge Center City Council special 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](http://www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us).

Present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Cathy Skogen, Gary Trelstad, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas, Lee Mattson, Deputy Tyler Vermeersch, AJ Gengler, Tim Woessner, City Attorney; and Kathy Freeman

Absent:

City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda to include: Minutes from October 28, 2024 City Council Meeting; October 7, 2024 Planning & Zoning Meeting, Memo to Council – Utility FAQ's; Set Public Hearing – Harold's Club Currency License; Memo to Council – 2025 Aquatic Center Pricing; Payment of Bills;
  - Authorizing Tim Woessner, City Attorney, to proceed with an order to have Waltrud fill in basement (property at Airport Dr and Main Street);
  - Authorizing Mattson to offer a purchase price of between \$10,000 and \$12,500 for the property at Airport Drive and Main Street as is. A friendly amendment was offered to the motion authorizing Mattson to offer up to \$12,500 for the property as is;
  - Hiring of Preston Satzke and Delvin Nolt as paid on-call EMR's and Ryan Spahier, a paid on-call EMT;
  - Advertising for a part-time EMT position;
  - Public Hearing set on the Cannabis Ordinance for December 23, 2024;
  - Requests for Annual Leave buy-back payment;
  - Deferred Assessment Application submitted by Richard Burkhart;
- Council went into Closed Session at 6:25 pm  
Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm

# Legal Notices

Filed in District Court State of Minnesota  
Minn. Stat. §§ 524.1-401; 524.3-403, -801 Minn. Gen. R. Prac. 404

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF DODGE DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File No.: 20-PR-24-730

In Re: Estate of David James Buck aka David J. Buck aka David Buck, Decedent.

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on January 21, 2025 at 9:30 AM, via Zoom, see notice of remote hearing, a hearing will be held in this

Court at the Dodge County Courthouse, 22 6th Street East, Dept. 12, Mantorville, MN 55955-2220, on a petition for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of decedent's heirs, and for the appointment of Dorothy Munnikhuysen, whose address is 60499 State Highway 56, Dodge Center, MN 55927, as personal representative of the decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration. This hearing will be held via remote Zoom hearing. Information on how to participate in the remote Zoom hearing can be obtained by calling the Court at (507) 624-7010. Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to

administer the decedent's estate, including the power to collect all assets; pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; sell real and personal property; and do all necessary acts for the decedent's estate. Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Debra A. Groehler Judge of District Court, November 18, 2024

Aimee McCormack Dodge County Court Administrator ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

Rockne Law Office Matt C. Rockne MN# 240527 385 Main Street PO Box 7 Zumbrota, MN 55992 Telephone: (507) 732-5191 Facsimile: (507) 732-7846 e-mail: rocknelaw@hcinet.net

\*\*\*

**TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SUMMARY SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES REGULAR SCHOOL**

**BOARD MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024 – 6:00 P.M. TRITON HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER – DODGE CENTER, MN & ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING**

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the October 21, 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, Rebecca Knutson, J. Jensen, D. Jensen, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Duane Bartel, Brian Ginder, Craig Schlichting, Luke Lutterman, Shane Van Beek, Tricia Johnson, Romina Medina, Tina Kozisek, and others.

The School Board approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda including the consent agenda including the September 16, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented; budget update; claims and bills; trea-

surer's report; open enrollment/nonresident agreements for students #102124A, #102124B, #102124C, #102124D, #102124E, #102124F, and #102124G; contracts for Cayla Edling as Special Education Paraprofessional and Jessica Maes as TES Special Education Teacher; extra-curricular contracts for Jennifer Ryg as Fall Play Director and Christine Deetz as Assistant Fall Play Director, and resignation for Jack Hager as Long-Term Substitute;

- Proposed Certified Staff Seniority List for 2024-2025;
- Proposed Classified Staff Seniority List for 2024-2025;
- Read Act MOU;
- Application for Cooperative Sponsorship – Dodge County Wildcats Hockey;
- Update to Policy 721.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

\*\*\*

**TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES SCHOOL BOARD STUDY SESSION WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024**

**TRITON HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER – DODGE CENTER, MN**

-Meeting Proceedings-

Chair Wendy Kenworthy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those members present: Wendy Kenworthy, Rebecca Knutson, Jim Jensen, Duane Bartel, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., and Brian Ginder; absent: Dale Jensen. Also present: Superintendent Craig Schlichting, Principal Shane Van Beek, and Dean of Students Tricia Johnson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Items discussed:  
High School Building Principal Hiring Process Timing  
Budget Planning  
District Assessment Review Calendar Adjustment – Adding April 22 as a day off  
Retreat Next Summer

Chair Kenworthy adjourned the meeting 7:48 p.m.

School District Clerk

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# Christmas in West Concord

## Community Celebration held December 7th



(additional pictures on pages 26 & 27)

## Claremont's Next Mayor or Not?

(continued from page 1)

Would seem more like post-election mud slinging at best. Mr. Striver produced his driver's license with a Claremont residence, which was issued prior to the deadline for running for office.

But since the "other" newspaper made such a point about the unrelated issues we interviewed Casey Striver to get his side of the story.

Mr. Striver owns a personal automobile collection. That creates a number of vehicles coming, going and being worked on in his property. He owns a commercial building on Main Street in Claremont, which is used for storage. Striver related that he has been required to start every vehicle by representatives of the city to prove they are not junk or abandoned. The "other" newspaper also indicated a dollar amount of unpaid real estate taxes on some of his owned properties. Again, nothing germane to a candidate's legitimacy. Not voting in the last election? What has that to do with a person's qualification? Casey stated that, "I will either win by a large margin or lose by a large margin. What difference does it make if I vote?" That one right there seems like a page out of invasion of privacy. One's vote is supposed to be a personal subject.

The last issue of the aliases is the very heart of cheap journalism. Casey went into foster care at the age of four years old. He was adopted at nine years old and was placed in an unstable family for much of his teen years. Casey finally went to a new family at the age of eighteen. His new father seemed very supportive and co signed a new pickup for him so he could start a home repair business. Not long after the father figure took the truck and split for Florida leaving the mother with the kids. With three dysfunctional families in his past Casey finally took on a new name when he married. He has a wife and two children and a name that reminds him that he has overcome difficulties to become a successful family man and businessman.

Striver has been working on a home he purchased in Claremont. The previous resident had abandoned the property and he was in the process of cleaning out the personal property. After removing four loads of junk which he had collected from the building he found a stop work order on the door. He was not demolishing the structure or remodeling the house. An inspector had been called down from Burnsville to post the notice to cease.

These events caused Striver to consider running for office in Claremont as he felt that his liberties with his own properties were infringed on. Also, he points out that Claremont has an annual budget of \$580,000 and he wants to see where the money is being spent in town. Striver related that he knocked on every door in Claremont during his campaign and talked to each resident who answered. He shared his concerns and vision for the community and asked for their vote. The votes he received would seem to be a barometer of the support for him.

As for the issue of residence, the "other" newspaper stated that the deputy had reported driving past his home address every shift since November 13th and not seeing a vehicle associated with him parked there. Striver's response is that he works seven days a week and he doesn't sit at home.


The Claremont city council will meet on December 17th at 7pm to decide the legitimacy of Striver's candidacy. In the meantime he received a list of twenty questions from the city attorney. Driver's license, social security card, utility bills, pay statements, bank statements, lease agreements, credit card statements, property tax statement, mortgage statement, home insurance policy, proof of mailing address, real estate ownership, family and spouse information, documentation establishing where his spouse has resided in last 120 days, any real estate spouse has ownership interest in, etc. But the Minnesota Secretary of State affidavit of candidacy only requires name, address, phone and e-mail address.

We thought this article may shed some clarification on the events taking place with the Claremont mayor's race.

# Christmas in West Concord



**TRITON**  
**CLASS OF**  
**2025**



**FAMILY**  
Jaden Holmes is a senior at Triton this year. Her parents are Jason and Heidi Holmes. She has two brothers, Devin Fitzgerald and Jacob Holmes.

**HOBBIES**  
Her hobbies are reading books and creating art, going to Wild hockey games with her dad, spending time with her brothers and going out to eat. Her favorite music is rock, favorite movies are Deadpool and Wolverine, The Batman and Joker and favorite actor is Ryan Reynolds.

**ACTIVITIES**  
In school she is active in Yearbook.

**FUTURE PLANS**  
After graduation she plans to attend Winona State University to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in social work.

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# Christmas in West Concord



**TRITON**  
**CLASS OF**  
**2025**

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



**FAMILY**  
Brynn Thomas is a senior at Triton this year. Her parents are Chad and Laura Thomas. She has one older brother, Weston.

**ACTIVITIES**  
She is active in Student Council, Link Crew, SADD, AFS and super fan club. Brynn plays Triton volleyball.

**HOBBIES**  
Outside of school she likes to play Pickleball, hand out with family and play with her dogs. Her pastimes are reading and shopping. She enjoys country music and Disney movies.

**FUTURE PLANS**  
After graduation she plans to attend the University of Minnesota/Rochester and pursue a degree in psychology to become a Child Life Specialist.

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## SEMCAC Welcomes New Outreach and Accessibility Manager



Sharon Mansur

The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) is pleased to announce Sharon Mansur as its new Outreach and Accessibility Manager. In this newly created position, Mansur will work to expand SEMAC's reach and ensure its programs and services are accessible to all communities across the region's eleven counties.

Based in Winona, Mansur is an acclaimed dancer, choreographer, and multimedia artist who also has extensive experience in arts administration, education, and community engagement. Her background includes work with Dance Place in Washington, DC, BAX/Brooklyn Arts Exchange in New York, and several local organizations including the

Frozen River Film Festival and Art of the Rural in Winona. She currently directs The Cedar Tree Project, a creative platform supporting Arab contemporary artists.

"Sharon's background as an individual artist who has received multiple grants, fellowships, residencies, and other support for her work, as well as her experience as an educator, arts administrator, and community organizer make her an ideal person to take on this new position at SEMAC," says Anastasia Shartin, Executive Director of SEMAC. "Throughout its nearly 50-year history, SEMAC has had a two-person staff, making this a significant step for the organization and one that I hope will expand and deepen our impact throughout the region. Sharon's commitment to supporting artists and to engaging rural communities through the arts will help SEMAC achieve these goals."

In this new position, Mansur will focus on developing partnerships, advancing accessibility initiatives, and creating professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations across the region.

SEMAC activities are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

SEMAC serves these eleven southeastern Minnesota counties: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona.

For more information about SEMAC, visit [semac.org](http://semac.org) or contact the office at 507-281-4848.

## THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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### What You'll Pay for Medicare in 2025

**I know there will be a small 2.5 percent cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits next year, but what about Medicare? What will the Medicare Part B monthly premiums be in 2025, and when do the surcharges kick in for higher income beneficiaries?**

--Medicare Beneficiary

Dear Beneficiary,

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently announced their cost adjustments for 2025 and the increases for premiums and out-of-pocket costs for most beneficiaries will be moderate. But if you're a high earner, you'll pay significantly more. Here's what you can expect to pay in 2025.

#### Part B Premium

While Medicare Part A, which pays for hospital care, is premium-free for most beneficiaries, Part B, which covers doctor visits and outpatient services does have a monthly premium.

Starting in January, the standard monthly Part B premium will be \$185, up from \$174.70 in 2024. That \$10.30 bump represents a 5.9 percent increase, which is more than double the most recent Social Security cost-of-living adjustment which was 2.5 percent.

But if you're a high earning beneficiary, which makes up about 8 percent of all Medicare recipients, you'll have to pay more. Medicare surcharges for high earners, known as the income-related monthly adjustment amount (or IRMAA), are based on adjusted gross income (AGI) from two years earlier, which means that your 2025 Part B premiums are determined by your 2023 AGI, which is on line 11 of the IRS tax form 1040.

Here's how it breaks down. If your 2023 income was above \$106,000 up to \$133,000 (\$212,000 up to \$266,000 for married couples filing jointly), your 2025 Part B monthly premium will be \$259.

Monthly Part B premiums for singles with an income between \$133,000 and \$167,000 (\$266,000 and \$334,000 for joint filers) will rise to \$370. Individuals earning above \$167,000 up to \$200,000 (\$334,000 to \$400,000 for joint filers) will see their monthly Part B premium increase to \$480.90.

Those with incomes above \$200,000 up to \$500,000 (\$400,000 to \$750,000 for joint filers), will pay \$591.90 per month in 2025. And single filers with income of \$500,000 or more (\$750,000 or more for joint filers) will pay \$628.90 per month.

#### Part D Premium

If you have a stand-alone Medicare (Part D) prescription drug plan, the average premium in 2025 will be \$46.50 per month for most beneficiaries, down from \$53.95 in 2024. But again, for high earners with annual incomes above \$106,000 (\$212,000 for joint filers) you'll pay a monthly surcharge of \$13.70 to \$85.80 (based on your income level) on top of your regular Part D premiums.

#### How to Contest Income

Beneficiaries that fall into any of the high-income categories and have experienced certain life-changing events that have reduced their income since 2023, such as retirement, divorce or the death of a spouse, can contest the surcharge. For more information on how to do this, see "Medicare Premiums: Rules for Higher-Income Beneficiaries" at [SSA.gov/benefits/medicare/medicare-premiums.html](http://SSA.gov/benefits/medicare/medicare-premiums.html).

#### Other Medicare Increases

In addition to the Part B and Part D premium increases, there are other cost increases you should be aware of. For example, the annual deductible for Medicare Part B will be \$257 in 2025, which is \$17 more than the 2024 deductible of \$240. And the deductible for Medicare Part A, which covers hospital services, will increase to \$1,676 in 2025. That's \$44 more than the 2024 deductible of \$1,632. There are no surcharges on Medicare deductibles for high earners.

For more information on all the Medicare costs for 2025 visit [Medicare.gov/basics/costs](http://Medicare.gov/basics/costs) or call 800-633-4227.

### TRITON CLASS OF 2025

SENIOR  
SPOTLIGHT

Ryann Heimer

#### FAMILY

Ryann Heimer is a senior a Triton this year. Her parents are Bryan Heimer and Jolen Mindrup. She has one brother Bradley and two sisters Michelle and Katrina.

#### ACTIVITIES

She is active in Student Council, MHS, Link Crew and SADD.

#### HOBBIES

She enjoys playing soccer. Her pastimes are spending time with family and friends, horseback riding, going to the lake. Outside of school she works as a CAN.

#### FUTURE PLANS

After graduation she plans to attend college to get her nursing degree.

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## Tara Bradford has received the award of Triton's 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year



Mrs. Bradford has been teaching at Triton Elementary School for 26 years. Only the last few years have been in the current position as the elementary librarian and STEM teacher. All of her previous teaching has been as a Kindergarten teacher.

Tara graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato, where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education, with a license to teach Preschool through 6th grade.

In addition to her undergraduate degree, Tara earned a Masters Degree in Education through Winona State University.

*(continued on page 30)*

## Minnesota Honor Society Induction – A Tradition of Excellence



New members from left to right in the front row: Ollie Akkerman, Anna Anderson, Mason Bills, Rainey Dobbs, Norah Freiderich, Andrew Holtet, Wade Holtet, Diego Ibarra-Castillo, August Johnson. Back row, left to right: Damian Kanzenbach, Rece Langworthy, Roselyn Liudahl, Lily Maldonado, Cohen McNeilus, Landon Nauman, Addison Oakland, Bryar Quimby, Jade Scovill, Brady Staub. Not pictured: Abigail Wirkus.

### By Alli Horejsi, MHS Advisor

Scholarship, service, leadership, and character – these are the pillars that students inducted into the Minnesota Honor Society embody.

On November 19th, 20 new members were received into the Triton chapter. These respective juniors and seniors have attained an unweighted cumulative grade point average of 3.5, in addition to having no Minnesota

State High School League violations. After being invited to apply, they complete an application packet that addresses the remaining pillars of MHS – leadership, service, and character. A faculty council evaluates their applications, and they are invited into the chapter based on their decision. To maintain their membership, students must maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, assist in running our two blood drives during the

school year, and complete a minimum of 15 hours of service, of which 10 of those hours must be serviced within the Triton, Claremont, Dodge Center, or West Concord communities.

We are excited to welcome these new members and look forward to their continued leadership and service within our school and communities.

*(continued on page 32)*

## Cobra Communications



**Craig Schlichting**  
Superintendent

As a result of the unfunded mandates and the lack of adequate funding from the state, our school district is again facing difficult decisions about where to make budget cuts. The reality is that we simply do not have enough resources to fully implement all the new state requirements while also maintaining the high-quality educational programs and extracurricular activities that our community has come to expect. I have never understood how the state can and would continue to require schools to implement unfunded mandates. It forces us to find other areas to cut.

It is certainly a difficult situation, but I am thankful that we are doing as well as we

are. At a recent conference, there was a session offered on S.O.D. (statutory operating debt) for superintendents. To be in S.O.D. the district needs to be at a negative 2.5% fund balance. To my knowledge, this is the first time they had ever offered a session like this at the conference. Last year, there were three districts in S.O.D. and this year there are seven. The projections show that at least 21 districts will be in S.O.D. the next school year. I believe this is a strong indicator of the negative impact that unfunded mandates are having on our schools.

A situation that compounds this situation is declining enrollment. The number of students that are enrolled in your district has a direct impact on the amount of funding that you receive. The last couple of years our Kindergarten class has been around 50, and we are graduating close to 70. This is a reduction of 20 students each year. Losing close to 40 students in a two-year period is a loss of about \$280,000 in revenue.

The biggest expense for any school district

is staffing. It comprises about 85% of our total budget. So, when you look at making changes, the first thing you need to look at is reducing your staff. Over the years, we have made several changes in our staffing to reflect the changes that we have seen in enrollment. This has helped us reduce our overall expenses, but as you all know all the other expenses that we have are also increasing at a rate that exceeds any adjustments we have had in revenue. It creates a very difficult situation that ultimately requires reductions and cuts.

As a community, we must come together to advocate for our schools and demand that the state fulfill its funding obligations. Our students deserve access to a well-rounded, high-quality education that prepares them for success. But achieving that vision requires adequate and consistent resources - something our district is lacking as we rely on funding from the State of Minnesota. A quick email or note to your local legislative representatives goes a long way to helping them

understand the impact of their decisions.

We made reductions of about \$450,000 a couple of years ago and are looking to do about the same in preparation for the next school year. I just want our community to know we are addressing these concerns, and I am glad that we have been able to continue to provide an excellent education for our students. As I am near retirement, I do worry about the future of funding for schools and hope for the day that the state fully funds the mandates that they require.

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

**Go Cobras!**  
**#WeAreTriton**

# Tara Bradford has received the award of Triton's 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year

(continued from page 29)

Along with Mrs. Bradfords teaching responsibilities, she has been involved in many professional activities. Tara has been active in Triton Education Minnesota, the local teacher's union where she served as Co-President. She was a committee member of the PBIS team, Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies, as well as teaching Adult Basic Education classes through Triton Community Education.

As part of the nomination process for Teacher of the Year, colleagues write a brief explanation of who they are nominating. Her colleagues wrote, "Tara has taught in our district for many years as a kindergarten teacher and now as the K-5 STEM teacher. She has filled many roles in our district, one being a former Co-President for our Union. She continues to donate a lot of time to fill union obligations, especially at the Expo in the spring. She always has a smile on her face and always makes other people feel welcomed and valued when she talks with them. She has turned the elementary library into a very fun, engaging place where students enjoy coming to each time. Even when a student struggles in her class, she always puts a positive spin on the situation. Tara has built our school's STEM program from the ground up and often applies for grants to bring fun experi-

ences to our students. Tara goes above and beyond her job description! She is an amazing co-worker and as a teacher who started as a sub here, she was always my go to person. Tara is always willing to help out and is always wanting the best for Triton. She is just AWESOME and is 100% devoted to students at Triton!! I cannot think of another teacher more worthy of this award than Tara."

When asked, "Why did you choose to become a teacher," Tara's response was, "I became a teacher because I've always enjoyed being a student. I learned from some of the best on what great teachers can accomplish. Teaching just seems to make sense to me and I get to share my love of learning with others. When I was a young adult, I taught swimming lessons and I discovered that I thoroughly enjoyed planning and carrying the lessons through. I have been an educator for as long as I have because of the energy and excitement that kids bring into the classroom. There are truly no two days that are the same when you are in education. I am grateful that I get to spend my days as a teacher."

Tara is honored to be recognized by her peers as Teacher of the year. She said, "It is humbling to be nominated and win when I feel like we have so many amazing teachers here at Triton."

In addition to being Triton Teacher of the

Year, Tara will become a candidate for Minnesota Teacher of the Year. The program selects one teacher to represent the state's thousands of excellent educators.

Congratulations Tara Bradford and thank you for serving the Triton community.

#wearetriton

**Save the Date!**

**The 25th Annual Dodge County Business Expo is March 29, 2025!**

**at Triton Public Schools**

**WE ARE HIRING!**

**TRITON'S COBRA CARE CHILDCARE**

Part-time hours  
No evenings or weekends  
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Receive discounts for your child's care while you are working

Call Tiffaney at 507-418-7550 or 507-226-3985  
EMAIL: [tlamoree@triton.k12.mn.us](mailto:tlamoree@triton.k12.mn.us)

**JOIN OUR CHILDCARE TEAM!**

**TRITON EDUCATION MINNESOTA**

**MEMBER Spotlight**

**AMBER FIECK**

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN TEACHING?**  
This is my 4th year teaching.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT TRITON?**  
This is my 2nd year at Triton.

**WHAT AREA/GRADES DO YOU TEACH?**  
I currently teach multilingual learners in grades K-12.

**WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?**  
I have always wanted to have a job where I could help others and make a difference in my community. Growing up, I had a little brother who struggled greatly behaviorally and academically in school. I took it upon myself to teach, encourage, and support him. I helped him discover his strengths and see that he was capable of achievement. While this was challenging at times, I found it incredibly rewarding and purposeful. This inspired me to enter the field of education, where I can continue that mission with students.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT TEACHING AT TRITON?**  
Becoming a teacher at Triton has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. I work with the most amazing group of staff who are knowledgeable, supportive, and kind. I get to learn about cultures and languages from all over the world and build wonderful relationships with students and families. I have even learned quite a bit of Spanish during my time at Triton!

**WHAT IS A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?**  
My husband's family owns Zadeos Pizza, in Rochester. I still help out there and have worked there for 14 years.  
I used to be a school bus driver and then I joined the US Army, where I was a Dental Specialist.

*I NOMINATED AMBER FIECK FOR THE FIRST TEM SPOTLIGHT BECAUSE I THINK SHE IS DOING A GREAT JOB OF ENCOMPASSING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN EXCELLENT TRITON EDUCATOR. AS A K-12 TEACHER, SHE CAN BE PULLED IN MANY DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, AND SHE ALWAYS SEEMS TO MANAGE THAT VERY WELL. SHE IS AN EXEMPLARY ADVOCATE FOR HER STUDENTS AND PUSHES FOR THEM TO HAVE THE SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES THEY NEED TO BE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR CLASSES. SHE IS WONDERFUL TO COLLABORATE WITH, TAKES ON NEW CHALLENGES, AND REALLY GETS TO KNOW HER STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. I HAVE APPRECIATED GETTING TO WORK WITH HER AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO HAVE HER KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE IN OUR MFL DEPARTMENT AT TRITON.*

# 2024 Triton Cobra Football Wraps up Season



**2024 All-District Southeast (White) winners this fall**

From left to right, Brody Munnikhuisen (12th, RB/S), Craig Knutson (12th, OL/DL), Graden Thomas (10th, WR/S), Andrew Holtet (11th Grade, OL/LB), Garett Jensen (11th Grade, WR/CB), and Pierce Petersohn (11th Grade, QB/S)

**By Coach Neseth**

The 2024 Cobra Football team celebrated the season with a banquet in November. This fall the Cobras went 6-2 in the regular season and improved each week. The Cobras were able to secure section victories over JWP (66-7) and WEM (52-20). The Cobras won Section 2AA again in 2024, making it the first time since 2007-2008, that the Cobras won the section in consecutive years. Unfortunately, the Cobras were stopped in the quarterfinals of the state tournament by a strong Chatfield squad. The Cobras played a great game and were leading much of the game, but the Gophers made the plays when it mattered to end the Cobras season. The Cobras were led by a small, but strong senior class, Cole Kodada, Craig Knutson, Miguel Martinez, Brody Munnikhuisen, and Isaiah Selthun, all played a vital role in our success this fall, not only from their play, but their leadership throughout the season. Some of the accomplishments the Cobras had this fall included having an 8-3 record and advancing to the state tournament. Statistically, the Cobras were well-balanced like they were in 2023, having a passer throw for nearly 1,500 yards (Pierce Petersohn) and a rusher (Brody Munnikhuisen) rush for over 1,100 yards.

Garett Jensen and Graden Thomas were the leading WRs in our district and both went off for over 600 yards, Garett had 6 TDs receiving, while Graden had 9. Defensively, Hunter Garness, Andrew Holtet, and Wade Holtet led our team in tackles, with Graden Thomas leading our team in turnovers, with 6 INTs on the season and remarkably 3 defensive TDs on the season. It was a special season, where the Cobras defended their section title, defeated Caledonia for the first time in school history, and had a strong Chatfield team on the ropes in the state tournament. This group's resilience, work ethic, and mental approach to the game were a sight to behold and a big reason for them accomplishing all they had done this fall. A special thanks to all the seniors for everything they have done for Cobra Football and for the special memories we made the last two seasons. I also want to thank the coaching staff, Coltt Ullom (defense), Sam Storlie (special teams), Cole Rollins (JV DC), Brady Essig (JV OC) your hard work and dedication to the program were instrumental in our success this season. The future of Cobra football is bright and we are excited to continue to build on the success we had this fall next year!



**2024 Team Award Winners this fall**

All of these awards were voted on by their peers and the individuals that received these awards were all integral parts of our success this fall. From left to right, Brody Munnikhuisen (12th, RB/S) won the coveted MVP award, Angel Felix (10th., RB/LB) won the Scout Team Player of the Year Award, Hunter Garness (11th, FB/LB) won the Most Improved Award, Pierce Petersohn (11th., QB/S) won the Offensive Player of the Year Award, Andrew Holtet (11th, OL/LB) won the Defensive Player of the Year Award. All of these student-athletes did it the right way this fall and were positive role models for our younger Cobras.



**2024 District Players of the Year Winner**

In 2022 and 2023, we didn't have a player receive a district player of the year award, that changed in 2024, when Pierce Petersohn was selected offensive player of the year for the entire district. Pierce was the only junior to receive any district player of the year award this fall as all the other winners (MVP, Defensive Player of the Year, Lineman of the Year) were all seniors. This fall, Pierce Petersohn had 1470 yards passing with 17 TDs and just 4 INTs. He also added 398 yards rushing and 9 TDs. Pierce was sacked only 8 times this season, his OL (Wade Holtet, Andrew Holtet, Austin Scanlan, Isaiah Selthun, Craig Knutson, and Cole Kodada) all played well this fall and gave Pierce plenty of time to find his receivers.



## Triton Times

**Craig J. Schlichting, Superintendent**

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Office – 507-418-7530 • Fax – 507-374-2447  
schlich@triton.k12.mn.us

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

# Cooking Healthy with High Schoolers



In conjunction with their unit on nutrition, the high school Exercise Physiology class conducted a cooking lab. Students were broken into groups and assigned a particular dining course to create a recipe from. Using the MyPlate cooking guidelines and recipes, students created a meal incorporating whole grains and various fruits and vegetables. Their meal consisted of an appetizer of teriyaki lettuce wraps, a main course of lentil spaghetti with whole-grain pasta, and a smoothie dessert based on summertime fruits.



The students greatly enjoyed this activity as it allowed them to apply what they were learning all about. As junior, Brianna Anguiano stated, "I thought it was neat to be aware of all the healthy foods you can use when cooking. Our food item (teriyaki lettuce wraps) was very good!" Austin Fassberger echoed Brianna's sentiments by adding, "It was a fun experience because we got to make our own healthy and affordable

food with friends in class. Surprisingly, our healthier food options weren't that bad at all!"

If you are interested in exploring some of these recipes and many more, please check out <https://www.myplate.gov/myplate-kitchen/recipes>.



## Minnesota Honor Society Induction – A Tradition of Excellence



New inductees complete the pledge as they are inducted into the society

(continued from page 29)

New members will have their first opportunity to serve their community, as an MHS member, at our upcoming Red Cross blood drive.

Please mark your calendar as this will be hosted at Triton on Wednesday, December 11th. We would love your continued support of this event!

**Prom Dress ReSale**

BRING IN YOUR USED PROM GOWNS AND WE WILL FIND THEM NEW HOMES!  
[A7] TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOLS MAIN ENTRANCE

|                       |   |                   |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| <b>Dress Drop-off</b> |  | <b>Dress Sale</b> |
| 12/20: 2PM-6PM        |   | 1/10: 3:30PM-7PM  |
| 12/21: 11AM-1PM       |   | 1/11: 10AM-2PM    |
| 12/22: 11AM-1PM       |   |                   |

-ACCEPTING CASH ONLY

If the provided drop-off dates are not suitable for you feel free to reach out  
Email: [macyklejeski@gmail.com](mailto:macyklejeski@gmail.com)

-70% OF THE SELLING PRICE GOES TO THE SELLER

-30% OF SELLING PRICE GOES TO LOCAL WOMEN'S SHELTER

**See you there!**



# Triton Grads: Where are they now?

By Christi Runnells

Once the senior class graduates, I always wonder where they end up and what they're doing these days. This school year I'd like to showcase some of our awesome Triton alums!

**Student: Molly McCool**

**Graduation Year: 2019**

**Current City: Kasson, MN**

When Molly thinks back to her time at Triton High School, she most fondly remembers Mrs. Kleinwort. "I really enjoyed her class because of her upbeat and positive attitude! She took the time to not only teach her students, but get to know them, which I know can be very difficult, especially when you have multiple classes to keep track of. This is something I always really admired that she was

able to do." Molly also remembers art classes as her favorites, when she was able to get them into her schedule. She says she especially enjoyed the dedicated time to create different things with different materials, such as clay. Molly's favorite memories of Triton were the homecoming pep rallies. "I loved the community involvement and how interconnected all three schools were throughout Triton Public Schools as a whole. Many schools do not have the luxury of all being connected and therefore having easy access to multiple grade levels and experiences." She noted this is something she misses now that she herself is teaching, in a school that is in a separate building from the rest in the district.

Molly is currently a Kindergarten teacher at Byron Primary School. This is her second year of teaching and she loves it! "It can be challenging, as any job can," she says, "but it is also one of the most rewarding jobs you can have!" I'm sure many educators could agree with that statement. Molly reflects that her experiences at Triton have prepared her well for her current teaching job. "Through Triton, I was able to gain really beneficial opportunities to work with younger students, including participating in Big Brothers/Big Sisters." Molly also mentions the opportunity to take concurrent classes (college credited classes that happen at Triton during the normal school day) and how getting some of her college credits completed in high school was such a benefit to her. "I was able to graduate a semester early from college." Molly was able to save time and money through participation in Triton High School's concurrent program.

To current Triton High School students, Molly encourages them to live more in the moment! "Take time to enjoy the small moments, such as by joining clubs, attending sporting events or even participating in fun building activities." She shares that she worried too much about the future, robbing of her



Molly McCool, Triton Class of 2019

some time to appreciate the present. "The future can always wait a day or two. It will always be there, so spend as much of your life living in the moments." While many current high school students may feel high school is moving too slowly and they can't wait to be done. Many graduates would agree with Molly that high school, especially senior year, goes way too fast! Soak up the moments! Thank you for sharing with us Molly. We wish you continued success in your teaching career and time to enjoy your small moments of today as well.

**Triton Public Schools**

**www.triton.k12.mn.us**

**#WeAreTriton**

**#SomosTriton**

Join us for

# BINGO!

Every Saturday  
January, February and March

Dodge Country Club, 1 pm

Meat raffles

Must play all games to qualify for Blackout

Progressive number Blackout each week until \$1,000 is won guaranteed

Benefitting Triton-related activities

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## Dodge County Salvation Army Light Show Fundraiser

December 13th, 14th, 20th, & 21st  
5-9PM Drive Through

The Green Shack in Dodge Center  
20658 County Highway 34

We will be collecting cash donations, Hygiene items for our closet, and non-perishable food donations for the food shelves in Dodge County.

**Volunteer Sign Up for Event**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4CA8AA2FABF58-51231517-christmas>

# TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

## WHEN PARENTS KNOW, CHILDREN GROW

Is your child on track?





help me **GROW**

helpmegrowmn.org/ helpmeconnect.web.health.state.mn.us/



### Story Book Theatre & Triton Community Ed Present:



**Goldilocks & The Three Bears**

Order! Order in the courtroom! Today, we will be hearing the case of the Bear Family against one Goldilocks. But the question is... Will it be a fair trial? Goldilocks is so cute... And doesn't she know it?! However, when the Bear Family accuses her of breaking and entering, robbing them of their favorite meal and property damage, it looks like Goldi might be in over her head. The only problem for the Bear Family is that everyone loves Goldi! Will they be able to convince a jury of their peers that she isn't as sweet and innocent as she seems?

Join us in this thrilling whodunnit to figure out who exactly broke into the Bear Family's home are their porridge, sat in all of their chairs, and slept in their beds! Both sides will have to remember their day exactly as they happened to prove that they are right. In the end, will Goldi be found guilty, or will the Bear Family's case against her be dismissed?

Cost: \$42 per child, family max \$84

**Auditions (EVERYONE GETS A PART):**  
**Monday, January 27**  
 3:15PM-7:15PM

**Practices:** Tuesday, January 28-Thursday, January 30 from 3:15-7:30PM each day.


\*\*\*\* PLEASE SEND A SNACK OR DINNER each day as we will take a meal break around 5PM each day\*\*\*\*

**Performances:**  
 Friday, January 31 at 7PM and Saturday, February 1 at 2PM  
**Admission to the show: \$5 Adults, \$3 Students**

### Triton Community Education Pre K-6th Grade Youth Wrestling 2024-25

**Kick Off Meeting: November 12, 6 PM in the Triton Main Cafeteria**

Please attend this mandatory meeting as this is when you will receive singlets as well as important information! At this meeting parents will need to provide a \$50 deposit check for each singlet. This check will only be cashed if you do not return the singlet at the end of the season. Also, please bring any headgear or shoes that you would like to donate to the kick off!



**OPEN PRACTICES/TRY-IT NIGHTS:**  
 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-7PM November 19-December 19  
 There is **no fee** to participate in the open practices/try-it sessions, all are invited to walk-in and try it out  
 Bring a partner if possible

**Season:** January 7-April 3  
**Everyone:** Tuesdays and Thursdays  
**PreK-2nd Grade:** 6-7PM  
**Grades 3-6th:** 7-8:15PM

**Cost: All wrestlers \$60/wrestler— \$100 Family Cap**  
**\*Fee due when the season starts in January**

All practices are located in the Wrestling/Multipurpose Room. Enter through the Activities Entrance located on the North side of the school. The room is the first door on the right.

Please register your wrestler with Community Ed by November 8, so that we can be prepared with enough materials for all participants!  
 If registering on-line please update your child's grade and sizes so that we have accurate information.


**10 Reasons Youth (Boys & Girls) Should Wrestle.....**

1. Wrestling develops basic athletic skills
2. Wrestling develops personal responsibility
3. Wrestling develops mental toughness
4. It teaches about nutrition and weight management
5. It develops leadership skills and strong camaraderie
6. Wrestling develops discipline
7. It brings people together from all backgrounds
8. Wrestling promotes self-mastery and focus
9. It provides opportunities to travel and further education
10. **WRESTLING IS FUN!**

### Evening Adventures..... Winter Edition!

**Children aged 2-5 and an adult**

Join us this session with your preschooler, ages 2- 5 years (not yet in kindergarten). Mrs. Vermilyea will plan a special evening centered around a theme. You will participate in activities, games, explorative play, reading and art around the same topic. Mrs. V has also invited many experts from our community to join you and share their knowledge and resources to make these truly amazing experiences for all who participate. Snacks will be provided, so PLEASE alert us if your child has any allergies or sensitivities to food. Please pre-register for each of these classes, so that we can provide the appropriate number of materials and supplies needed.



Cost: \$8/class or \$20 per semester/family


Dates:  
 January 15, 29 • February 12, 26 • March 5, 19  
 April 9, 23 • May 7

6-7:30PM  
 All classes will be in Mrs. Vermilyea's Room #315 in the Elementary School.

# TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

### Parenting Book Club with Mrs. V!

Explore parenting topics with other parents in this casual and supportive atmosphere, led by Mrs. Vermilyea. The group will individually read an assigned section of the book, followed by a discussion session each Monday. Participants are welcome to join this group in person or join by Zoom each week. Each book club will be a 6-week session. We will order the book for you, which will be yours to keep.



Book:  
 Deadline so that we make sure to get you your book on time: December 30  
 Cost: \$21, includes book

Mondays:  
 January 13, 27  
 February 3, 10, 24  
 March 17, 24  
 April 7, 14, 28  
 May 5  
 Noon-12:45PM, in person at Triton Room # 315 or Via Zoom

### Baby Steps with Mrs. V

**Parent/Caregiver and Infants ages 0-12 months**

This class is for parents/caregivers looking to connect with other adults and talk about all things infants. The class will include open discussions on infant development, offer activities and resources to support your family and give you a space to relax while connecting with your infant.



Cost: \$20 for all 8 meetings

Mondays:  
 27  
 February 10, 24  
 March 3, 17  
 April 14, 28

1-2PM  
 Triton Elementary Room #315

# TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

## Safe Driving Class: Jim Jensen

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

4-Hour Refresher Course (for those that have taken the 8-Hour before)

Cost: \$20, checks should be made to Jim Jensen

January 23 from 5-9PM in the THS Media Center



### A Perfect Wedding

Side Kick Theatre, Masonic Heritage Center, Bloomington, MN

The big day gone hilariously wrong!  
A groom wakes up on the morning of his wedding day with a hangover and a strange woman in his bed. Mix in the bride, her mother, the best man, and a maid that knows too much, and you have a recipe for disaster. Wedding bells or running for the hills? Their big day will be far from a piece of cake! We will have buffet lunch in the ballroom prior to the show.

**Cost: \$92**, includes guaranteed coach bus, lunch and ticket to the show.

**April 23, 2025**

| Bus   | Departs  | Approx. Returns |
|---|----------|-----------------|
| Byron<br>Middle School Parking Lot                  | 9:30AM   | 5:15PM          |
| Kasson<br>Football Field Lot                        | 9:45AM   | 5PM             |
| Dodge Center<br>Triton Activities Entrance          | 10 AM    | 4:45PM          |
| Owatonna<br>Target Parking Lot closest to the Hotel | 10:25 AM | 4:20PM          |

**YOU MUST CALL TRITON COMMUNITY ED AT 507-418-7550 TO REGISTER FOR THIS TRIP!**



## Pickleball! Open Gym

Pickleball has become a favorite for all ages. It's easy to learn and play. This open gym format will be a 2-hour pickup game style for indoor pickleball. There is no formal instructor, however there are some volunteer community members willing to welcome new and seasoned players alike. Participants are encouraged to bring their own paddles, but some will be on hand to borrow. Please wear clean shoes and bring a water bottle.



Cost: \$30

Sunday nights from 6:30-8:30PM in the Triton WEST GYM, enter through the Main ACTIVITIES DOORS

January 5-February 9

Triton WEST Gym  
Enter/Exit through the Main ACTIVITIES Doors

### Grease, The Musical

Chanhassen Dinner Theatre

Greased-back hair and leather jackets, ponytails and poodle skirts, fast cars and rock 'n' roll, Grease is back at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres! Experience the nostalgia of high school in the '50's—peer pressure, love, and teenage life set against the campy backdrop of Rydell High! Discover the drama, comedy, and pop-culture satire that has made Grease one of the most popular productions of all time! Don't forget the music with songs like "Summer Nights," "We Go Together", "Greased Lightening" and "Beauty School Drop Out". Have fun as you groove and bop along! Lunch is included, and you will order off the menu. Soda, alcohol and dessert are extra and will be at the individual's responsibility. 45 tickets available so don't delay!

**February 26, 2025**

**Cost: \$115**, includes guaranteed coach bus ride, lunch and ticket to the show. Please indicate all who will be in your party when you register so that we seat you together.

| Bus   | Leaves | Approx. Return |
|---|--------|----------------|
| Byron<br>Middle School Parking Lot                  | 8:45AM | 5:30PM         |
| Kasson<br>Football Field Parking Lot                | 9AM    | 5:15PM         |
| Dodge Center<br>Triton Activities Area              | 9:15AM | 5PM            |
| Owatonna<br>Target Parking Lot closest to the Hotel | 9:45AM | 4:30PM         |

**YOU MUST CALL TRITON COMMUNITY ED TO BOOK THIS TRIP AT 507-418-7550**



### Registration

- \*Walk in/Drop off at the Triton Community Ed Office, located in the Elementary Building.
- \*Call us at 507-418-7550
- \*Go On-line at [triton.k12.mn.us](http://triton.k12.mn.us)  
Click on the Menu Tab, and select Community Education under the Community Header, Choose Class + Activity On-line Registration.

**Please note that for students the software does not automatically update their grade, teacher, age or shirt size. Please update these pieces of information each year.**

**Mail the registration form to:**  
Triton Community Education  
813 West Highway St  
Dodge Center, MN 55927

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Participant Information:

First/Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade if a student: \_\_\_\_\_

First/Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade if a student: \_\_\_\_\_

First/Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade if a student: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Information: Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Attention SCHA or UCARE Insured Families:

If your child has South Country Health Alliance (SCHA-could cover up to 5 classes up to \$15 per calendar year) then discounts MIGHT apply. Eligible UCare members may get up to a \$15 discount on many community education classes in Minnesota. Members must have UCare insurance at the time of registration and throughout the duration of the class. Members need to provide their UCare ID number when registering for class. Limits and restrictions may apply. Registration is not complete without this insurance information.

Call 507-418-7550 with questions-Thank you!



TRITON CE'S ANNUAL

# Holiday MARKET



**FEATURING LOCAL**



**ARTISTS, VENDORS &**



**BUSINESSES**

**PARK AND  
ENTER AT  
THE  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

SHOP FOR GIFTS AND DECORATIONS WHILE SUPPORTING LOCALS

**DECEMBER 14**

**FROM 10 AM TO 2 PM**

ADMISSION IS ALWAYS FREE TO THE PUBLIC!



FEATURING:

PICTURES WITH SANTA, SLEIGH RIDES  
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DODGE CENTER**



INTERESTED VENDORS SHOULD CONTACT TRITON COMMUNITY ED  
AT 507-418-7550 OR KFABER@TRITON.K12.MN.US

SAVE THE DATE!  SAVE THE DATE!

## Flake Out Festival & Winter Parade

Saturday, February 1, 2025  
Dennison, MN

**HOT DISH COOK OFF**

**RAFFLE**

**EUCHRE**

**11th Annual DENNI DAZZLE PARADE**

**LIVE MUSIC From The Devney Brothers**




# Holly Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: November 30, December 7, 14  
Sundays: December 1, 8, 15  
Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

Call 507-649-1009 to set up other dates and times to shop in our cabin.

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



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

By Hays '16

*A legendary musical experience*

# ★ ICONIC FEST ★

EST. 2015

**EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

**Friday, July 11**



**Rumbleseat 7:00 PM**



**Diamond Rio 9:00 PM**

**Saturday, July 12**



**Noah Alexander Music 3:00 PM**



**Wade Hayes 7:00 PM**



**Leavin' Page Town 5:00 PM**



**The Bellamy Brothers 9:00 PM**

**Friday & Saturday  
JULY 11 & 12, 2025**

For More Information & to Order Tickets Go To  
**www.iconicfest.com**

**2 DAY OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL!**  
*Held at the Green Lantern*  
9 miles East of Brainerd on Hwy. 18



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*Latin American Fusion*

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Noon Buffet 11am to 2pm

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SPORTS BAR & GRILL

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Sundays & Mondays  
for the winter  
Tuesday-Saturday  
11am to Close

Event Center  
400 people capacity

**Full Lunch & Dinner Menu**

Daily Specials!  
Full Bar Available!



• Happy Hour 3-7pm Weekdays •



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BAR & GRILL

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TAKE OUT  
WEEKLY SPECIALS**



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LUNCHES

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507-214-0701  
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FAMILY RESTAURANT  
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Generous portions, friendly service and delicious homestyle cooking anytime!

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BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY!

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HAPPY HOUR Weekdays 5-6pm

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THEME: SPORTS

ACROSS

1. Combat vehicle
5. Semi
8. \*Biathlon gear, sing.
11. Keiko of "Free Willy"
12. \*Ashi Waza and jugodi sport
13. Audiencia's approval
15. Tandoori bread
16. Ned Stark's daughter, "Game of Thrones"
17. R'ntgen beams
18. \*Warning track sport
20. Monetary "thank you," pl.
21. Indigo dye shrubs
22. "Arabian Nights" bird
23. Destroyer
26. Danced to certain Polish music
30. Crematorium container
31. One without magic powers in Harry Potter stories
34. Largest volcano in Europe
35. Do nothing (2 words)
37. Singer Yoko
38. Be at the helm
39. Tropical tuber
40. \*Player who delivers in a crucial sports moment
42. Recipe qty.
43. Display proudly (2 words)
45. Smells
47. Lake, in France
48. Clean a spill (2 words)
50. #8 Across, pl.
52. \*Cornerback and direct snap sport
55. Russian pancake
56. Pasta option
57. Go cold turkey
59. \*Reward for multiple sports championships, pl.
60. "Breaking Bad" victim
61. The Beehive State
62. King Kong, e.g.
63. Type of lightbulb, acr.
64. Spooky

DOWN

1. Boatload
2. Riyadh native
3. \*Collegiate sports grp.
4. Topeka native
5. Not urban
6. Short poems of pastoral life
7. \*Hockey score
8. \*Powerful shot in hockey
9. 11th letter of Roman alphabet, pl.
10. Elvis' " \_\_\_\_ Now or Never"
12. White and black stork
13. Glorify
14. \*Gully and deep mid wicket sport
19. Foe
22. Fish eggs
23. Corrodes
24. Heep of "David Copperfield"
25. Preface
26. Scheme
27. Mr. T's TV show "The \_\_\_\_"
28. Olden days constipation treatment
29. \*Bag of nails and baby ton sport
32. \*Eagle and mulligan sport
33. African migrator
36. \*Turkey and split sport
38. Woody perennial
40. Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.
41. He gets a flag?
44. Reprieve in a desert
46. Not light-transmitting
48. Dots and dashes code
49. Did like goo
50. Women's underskirt
51. Plural of cow, arch.
52. \*Sports transgression
53. Plucked string instrument
54. Pinocchio, e.g.
55. Type of undergarment
58. Olden day "your"

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