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MARCH 19, 2025

Volume 11 • Issue 6

Come on out to the Business Expo!



By Cheri Roshon

Well, here in the Dodge Center area, you know spring is on its way when you realize the Dodge County Expo is happening again. *(continued on page 6)*

Dodge Center Citizen of the Year



Dodge Center Lions are seeking nominations for Citizen of the Year for 2025. Community members may nominate someone for the honor. *(continued on page 11)*

Announcements

• GriefShare support group meeting Mondays, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Anchor of Hope Church, 203 East Main Street, Dodge Center, MN. Contact Pastor Emeritus Dale Rood at 507-633-2772 for more information. Registration is available on the GriefShare website, by calling Pastor Rood, or at any session. This is for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one, friend, or other significant person in their lives.

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

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

Grace Lutheran Science Fair



By Cheri Roshon

On Monday, February 24th, the students of Grace Lutheran Church in Dodge Center presented to their parents and others who are in-

terested in getting their kids registered for next year, a science fair showcasing what they have worked hard to learn.

Currently the church holds classes for pre-school to 3rd grade, but they want to know if there is interest in having a 4th grade class to add to the curriculum. *(continued on page 21)*

Claremont Chamber of Commerce Donates \$8,000 in Honor of David Hanson



Damon Bryngelson, Claremont Chamber of Commerce gambling manager, David Hanson, and Dean Schuette, President and CEO of Claremont Chamber of Commerce, at the Jan. 27 Dodge Center Lion's Club. Hanson passed away on Feb. 28.

(continued on page 3)

482 Meals Served at Annual Triton FFA Steak Feed



The Triton FFA held their annual steak feed on Saturday February 22nd in West Concord at the Faith Community Church from 4 to 7pm. *(continued on page 6)*

Happy Birthday

Doris Veermeersch has a birthday on **March 29th.**

Send her a card at:
P.O. Box 95
West Concord, MN 55985

DCSO CHAPLAINS PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Sunday, March 30th 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

- Dodge Center Fire Hall
- Free Will Donations
- Pancakes, eggs, and sausage!

All proceeds go toward training and tactical gear!



Donate Today!



Church Youth Group—Strange, Peculiar, and Catching the Faith!

By Pastor Chad Christensen

"For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth" Psalm 71:5, NRSV.

I remember it clearly. My first youth group event at our Lutheran church in a small town of 800. I was in the 9th grade and our church had a 9-12 grade youth group, similar to the Luther League model from bygone years. Two young men who were local school teachers were our church youth leaders: Dan and Lon. I had Dan for chemistry, and Lon was the director of music and our One-Act and Senior high plays. We had four youth from each Senior high grade, so about 14-16 youth were there, along with Dan, Lon and Pastor John.

The night had kind of a rocky start for our budding new youth leaders. Dan and Lon burned the pizzas enough so that a light haze of smoke entered the dining area from the church kitchen. Then Dan thought that it would be good to kick off the year at this meeting to show the movie "Kujo". It was about a rabid St. Bernard dog who terrorizes a farm family--a horror movie! We all left the church that night scared out of our wits!! (Sometimes church youth events get wacky. I wondered what kind of adventures our next youth meetings would hold, and Dan and Lon did not disappoint). By the way, they did help us envision some objectives for the year, taught us things about faith from their own

perspective—we saw them in a different light than in the classroom, and they walked with us as we discussed questions about matters of faith and spirituality.

The measure of a good youth group meeting seemed to be: "If it was memorable and no one got hurt then it was a success" we joked. But as youth we knew something bigger was going on. Through the strange and peculiar, we were brought to faith in Christ in unique ways—by story, by scripture, by teamwork in accomplishing goals (through neighborhood clean-up projects, or painting the Sunday school rooms). I look back on those days and smile.

Our churches provide a number of min-

istries for young people--worship, confirmation, youth outings like local, national, and international mission trips, recreational trips like skiing or going to a Twins game, movie nights, and even overnight lock-ins at the church. Preceding these experiences is the foundation laid down by church school or Sunday school education, learning about God, forming relationships, making connections with each other and engaging in meaningful listening. Someone has said, "faith is caught more than it is taught." An interesting way of looking at faith formation for our young people. I still think it is a both/and concept. Faith can certainly be caught in the atmosphere of fun, the sometimes strange

discussions, and through meaningful connections with one another. Faith is also taught in the myriad ways through the Bible and church traditions new and old.

In addition to the clergy, there will always be need for lay people to engage in visioning, dreaming, planning, and conducting spiritual exercises from which our young people can learn. Efforts of time, thoughtful imagination and talent, and perhaps a little bit of financial contribution can go a long way toward inspiring adolescents and young adults in growing their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Have you yet to pick up the mantle of youth ministry? You won't be disappointed by your time given to such ministry.



Organist Wanted



**Holden Lutheran Church
Rural Kenyon**

~

Interested contact:
holdendalesecretary@gmail.com



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Attorney

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DODGE CENTER

Faith Lutheran Church
308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center
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

So Much More to Come!

"There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." ... "I am making everything new!" — Revelation 21:4-5

Jesus has removed the barrier to reconciliation with God, so we can enjoy fellowship with God and abundant life in his kingdom even now. And yet there's much more to come! When a believer in Christ dies, we grieve their loss. But we know they are in the Lord's presence in a greater way than we experience now. So while death brings sadness, it has become, through Christ, a bridge into God's presence.

And there's still more! When Jesus comes again, all believers—those who have died and those who are still alive—will be transformed physically and spiritually, with glorious, imperishable bodies (1 Corinthians 15:50-55).

God will bring his "New Jerusalem" to a renewed earth, where he will live with his people forever. There will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain, because the Lord will make everything new.

What about Judgment Day? Yes, it's coming (Revelation 20:11-15), but "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). So it's crucially important that we surrender ourselves to Christ and accept his free gift of salvation.

Then we can serve him with our whole lives, urging everyone to turn to God in repentance and faith so that they too may have eternal life. In the Lord we can live in hope and anticipation and without fear.

Lord Jesus, transform us so that we may live fully for you, sharing your love and good news everywhere. 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.

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY IS SPONSORED BY:



160 26th St NE, Owatonna
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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:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com*

Elden Wayne Ehrich

Elden Wayne Ehrich, 73, passed away on Friday, March 7th 2025 at his home in Kenyon, MN. Elden was born December 1st 1951 in Faribault, MN to Arnold and Marilyn (Kubista) Ehrich of rural Kenyon. He graduated from West Con-

cord High School in 1969, after graduation he went to Rochester Vo-Tech to study auto and diesel mechanics. Elden and his brother, Myron Ehrich, joined the Marine Corps under the buddy system in July 1972. Elden married Eileen Ruth McAdams in Warminster, PA on August 5th, 1978.

He was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in January of 1986. Elden moved to Skyberg, MN in January 1986, after this he joined the Army Reserves and retired from the military in April of 1997. He was a farm machinery mechanic for over 25 years. He enjoyed his hobby farm raising sheep, he was active in boy scouts as a leader of troop 232 in Kenyon and then a unit commissioner for the Goodhue County Boy Scouts. Elden was active in the Cannon Valley Marine Corps League of Faribault, the 40 & 8 in Faribault, the Kenyon Color Guard, and the American Legion in Kenyon.

He enjoyed going to his grandchildren's activities, camping, word searches, sudoku, and knitting hats for Hauge Lutheran Church of Kenyon for Mission in Alaska.

Elden is survived by his wife Eileen Ehrich; sons, Wayne (Amy) Ehrich of Kenyon; Brian (April) Ehrich of Kenyon; and grandchildren Jayden, Sydney and Wyatt; his sister, Vivian Meech; brothers, Myron (Mary) Ehrich, Harvey Ehrich, Earl Ehrich, Paul Ehrich and many extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents Arnold and Marilyn Ehrich and grandparents Fred and Veronica Ehrich.

A special thank you to Larry Grove, Loren Bauer and the congregation of Hauge Lutheran Church of Kenyon for all of their prayers and support during his illness.

Elden generously donated his body to the University of MN Anatomy Bequest Program. A celebration of life for Elden Ehrich will be from 1pm to 4pm on Saturday, March 29th, 2025 at the VFW in Kenyon, MN with military rights at 2:30pm. Inurnment will be in MN state Vetrans Cemetery in Preston at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Kenyon VFW furnace fund or donor's choice. Blessed be his memory.

David Hanson

David Hanson, 90, longtime resident of Dodge Center, Minn., passed away February 28 at Prairie Meadows Senior Living in Kasson, MN.

He was born March 6, 1934, in Hutchinson, MN. David spent some of his childhood in Salt Lake City, Utah, where his family lived in a house on the edge of town. He was allowed to raise chickens, and thus began his love of agriculture. He served in the Army for two years and became a member of the American Legion. He then attended Iowa State University and graduated with a bachelor's in agricultural education. He was a member of Farm House fraternity.

He met his future wife, Ruth Dickerson, at the university. They were married for 65 years until her passing in 2022. Soon after graduating from Iowa State, David became a University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension agent. He and Ruth moved their young family to Dodge Center in 1966, when David became the Dodge County Extension Director. He served in this position for more than 23 years. Later, he was elected to the Dodge County Board of Com-

missioners.

He had a great devotion to his family and to the Dodge County community. He ran an apple orchard at his hobby farm near Dodge Center from the 1990s until 2023. He named it Apple Acres Farm, and had as many as 200 apple trees. Apple Acres became a popular Dodge Center amenity and is now being operated by its new owners. He loved to hunt, fish, and ski.

He was a member of the Dodge Center Lions Club for more than 50 years and served on the board of the Dodge County Historical Society. He worked innumerable hours as a volunteer and won many honors. He had a particular interest in the historic towns of Wasioja and Mantorville. He was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Kasson, attending services there from the 1960s through the week he passed away.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth; two sisters, Adelle and Muriel, and a brother Mark; a daughter Cindy, and a granddaughter Britta.

Survivors include a brother Rod; three sons, Ken, Bob (Wendy), Jim (Barb), and a daughter Deb Achenbach (Rodney); and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 22, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 101 First St. NE, Kasson, MN with Rev. Colin Maltbie officiating. Military honors will be provided by the Dodge Center American Legion at the church following the service. Visitation will be at the church from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, March 21, and one

hour prior to the service on Saturday. A private inurnment will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to the Dodge County Historical Society, St. Peter's Episcopal Church or the charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements are by Dibble Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 213 W. Main St., Kasson MN 55944.

Stephen Craig Agerter

Stephen Craig Agerter, 78, passed away at his home in Rochester, MN on March 7th, 2025. Stephen was born in Owatonna, MN on February 18, 1947.

Stephen is survived by his step children, James Dwyer, Julie Madsen, Carmen Radke, Carla Dwyer, and several grandchildren. He is survived by his sister Maryanne Agerter (John Walton), brothers Ronald Agerter, Stewart Agerter (Darlene), and Dr. David Agerter (Barbara), sister-in-law Mischelene Agerter. Stephen was preceded in death by his parents Walter and Alice Agerter, his wife Frances Agerter, his brother Lawrence and his sister-in-law MaryKay.

Stephen was an avid sports fan and enjoyed watching the Timberwolves, Minnesota Twins and Vikings. He was employed at Walmart North for over 25 years. He was a dedicated employee and enjoyed his coworkers. Stephen will be deeply missed by family and friends.

There will be a grave site memorial and a private celebration of his life for Stephen in the near future. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

Claremont Chamber of Commerce Donates \$8,000 in Honor of David Hanson

(continued from page 1)

The Claremont Chamber of Commerce donated \$8,000 in honor of David Hanson at the Jan. 27 Dodge Center Lions Club meeting. Hanson passed away on Feb. 28.

The funds are earmarked to restore the landscaping and trees damaged at Dodge Country Club by storms and disease last year. Hanson and his family came to Dodge Center in the late 1960s, the same time the local golf course was being established. He was an active member was a grounds consultant to Rick Schletty for many years. He served with the Dodge Center Lions Club for decades.

"We acknowledge Dave's leadership activ-

ities with the Lions, in particular the yearly tree planting," said Dean Schuette, Claremont Chamber of Commerce President and CEO. "We are honored to recognize Dave in this meaningful way that will have an impact for generations to come."

The Claremont Chamber of Commerce conducts charitable gaming (including electronic games, Bingo and paper pull-tabs) locally at Dodge Center American Legion and Dodge Country Club, BP Tavern and Claremont Pub. In 2024, more than \$364,562 was donated to support local schools and non-profit organizations.

Do You Have An Announcement?
Email:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Minnesota Farmers Union

RURAL HEALTH FORUM

April 5, 2025
8:30 - 11:30 AM
The Midway Building
Dodge County Fairgrounds
100 11th Street NE, Kasson, MN

Join Dodge and Olmsted County Farmers Unions in Kasson to learn more about health care services in your area!

Exhibitors Include: Zumbro Valley Medical Society, Dodge County Public Health, Center Clinic, Kasson-Mantorville FFA, Dodge County Environmental Services, 10,000 Families Study, U of M Extension

ADMISSION IS FREE!

LIVE MUSIC at THE ANNADINE!

Friday, March 28th
7:00-10:00PM
THE FARMERS MARKET RAMBLERS

EVERY TUESDAY
CARDS • GAMES (SCRABBLE ETC.)
ARE AVAILABLE, OR BRING YOUR OWN!

Mimosa Bar, Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Hot Tea, Wine, Beer

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Cabin Fever
Tuesday Bluesday
2:00-5:00 PM
2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the Month

March 20 from 7-10PM
OPEN MIC

That's the Latest Radio



By Emery Kleven

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

I've mentioned how I got interested in radio when I had to do a report in Mr. Bob Doyle's Social Studies class in 9th grade. The assignment was to write a paper on some occupation. We were allowed to choose any occupation. I told my classmate Louie Loosbrock during a study hall session that I had no idea what I was going to write about. Louie thought for a second and he goes: 'How 'bout disc jockey?' I go yes, that's what I'll write about. And that's where the spark started the fire. Little did I know that assignment led me to a career in radio. I followed up after high school by going to radio school, Brown Institute, in Minneapolis.

Over the years, I met several people in radio or former radio people who also got their start at Brown. When I lived and worked in Nebraska, I would interview U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel, who later was Secretary of Defense. We got talking and it turned out that he also was a graduate of Brown Institute. Hagel had a great voice and could have been another Tom Brokaw but he took a government job. That was a good choice on his part. Later when I was in Washington D.C. with the Nebraska Corn Growers Association, we were doing some Capitol Hill visits and Hagel's office was one of our stops. Chuck saw me and remembered our connection of being 'Brownies' and when I asked if we could do a short interview he took me into a side room where we probably did a 10 to 12 minute interview.

Then he walked out and met with the corn growers who had been waiting in his office for him to show up. I stood in the back of the room while they talked to him about their concerns and then he had to leave. Some of the corn growers asked if I was going to get an interview with him. I told them I already did an interview, that's why he was late to your meeting. Well that cost me the first round of beers later that night.

I never thought that a farm kid from Minnesota would be able to meet and talk with so many influential people. Leaders from the agriculture sector to the government sector from townships all the way to the White House. I also got to meet and interview some in the entertainment sector with most of those



During Cheers night in Sioux City, Emery went as postal worker Cliff Kleven, actually Claven. Emery also got to throw out the first pitch as his radio station was the sponsor of Cheers night. A San Diego Padres scout in the stands said he would have put his radar gun on his pitch, but it didn't register such a slow pitch.

in the country music industry. There was Alan Jackson, Lee Greenwood, LeRoy Van Dyke and Kenny Rogers, just to drop a few names.

One of the pictures with this column shows a couple of government leaders that I got to know and interview. Ann Veneman was Secretary of Agriculture during my 3 years as a national officer in the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB). Tom Ridge, former Governor of Pennsylvania, was the nation's first Secretary of Homeland Security during this time. One of the real highlights which I've written about before was to be one of the few farm broadcasters back in 2000 to be invited to the White House to take part in an East Room meeting about trade relations with China. In the receiving line after the meeting, I got to meet and shake hands with 3 Presidents, Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford. Here was this nerdy farm kid from little old West Concord, meeting Presidents in the White House. Talk about a fish out of water...that was me!

4 years later, I invited Gerald Ford's son Steve to come and speak at our NAFB annual meeting in Kansas City. We stayed in touch for a few years after that. Steve, in his younger days, was a professional horse trainer and he was tutored in rodeo bronc riding by Casey Tibbs. Tibbs, if you are not familiar, was from Fort Pierre, South Dakota, and was a 9 time World Champion. The Casey Tibbs Museum, which I've been to, is in Fort Pierre. Tibbs was also an actor appearing in a few movies.

I was a good friend with fellow farm broadcaster Cliff Mitchell from Albany, Minnesota. Cliff, along with his radio work, was an auctioneer and was a rodeo guy when he was young. His claim to fame was that one time in a rodeo competition; he defeated Casey Tibbs, which almost never happened.

So kids, if you're reading this, do your Social Studies homework, you never know what it might lead to. I know I didn't.



This picture from USDA headquarters was taken in 2003. Front row l to r: Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, Ag Secretary Ann Veneman, Farm Broadcaster Ron Hayes. Back row l to r: Emery Kleven, Tom Brand, Jeff Nalley



This picture from 1994 at the Woodbury County, Iowa County Fair is Emery Kleven interviewing Country singer LeRoy Van Dyke



In his radio career, Emery partook in a keg throwing contest during Cheers night at the Explorers Stadium in Sioux City, Iowa. Emery won the event over a former champion who was a beer distributor

Museum Musings

JUST A GIRL WHO LOVES PLAYING BASKETBALL THE SEQUEL

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

One of the reasons I've enjoyed writing "Museum Musings" for these past years is I learn from every article I write. Sometimes it's my readers who teach me more and that's exactly what happened after "Just a Girl Who Loves Playing Basketball" was published.



**Rose Robinson
Wichser's
WCHS Class of 1929
Graduation Picture**

After reading "Just a Girl . . ." last month, a friend of mine texted me and asked if I was familiar with the book, *Daughters of the Game* by Marian Johnson and Dorothy McIntyre. I had come across a description of the book in my research. Published in 2005, I knew that it told the story of the first era of Minnesota girls high school basketball from 1891-1942. What I didn't realize was that one whole page and parts of two others were devoted to the story that Rose Robinson Wichser, WCHS Class of 1929, told about her basketball days at West Concord from 1925-1929. Before I knew it my friend had shared her copy of the book with me and I was excitedly reading Rose's story. Her words made that era of WCHS basketball come alive for me.

Here are a few new things I learned from Rose. When the WC girls played home games they dressed for the game at the West Concord Hotel, just across the street from City Hall, where the home games were played—very convenient. In Rose's second year of playing, the team got new uniforms. They were the only team in Dodge County to have the newfangled short uniforms. Rose and the other girls felt embarrassed at first to have so much skin showing. They pulled their socks up as high as they could to be as modest as possible. Completing their uniforms were high-topped tennis shoes.

I'd forgotten about City Hall also being the town's movie theater—the games were actually played in a movie theater. Rose said that the baskets were in front of the movie screen and the front door. To keep everyone warm there was a stove in the NE corner and one in the SW corner. The only place spectators could sit was "around the edges and in the movie projector area", according to Rose. Not many people came to watch,

but Rose did think that getting the new "short" uniforms increased attendance by young men in the area. The boys and girls games were played on the same night, the girls first, then the boys. Rose remembered the boys and girls being very supportive of each other because they made up most of the spectators. Most parents never attended any games—Rose's never saw her play.

No water drinking was allowed during the games. It was believed that exercising hard, combined with drinking water, would make players sick. Instead, players were given a fourth of a lemon at intermission to refresh them. Wouldn't that cause a stir at games today?

Rose was given the nickname "Popsey" as a player because she could pop out of nowhere on the court. Her position was center forward. The games were played with three guards and three forwards and only forwards could score. After every basket a jump ball took place, with signs given by the jumping center—Rose, of course. When passing, the ball was held chest high in both hands. When shooting free throws, hands were held low.

The social aspects of being on the basketball team provided extra fun. After games the players might stop at a local restaurant and have, in Rose's words, "a 15 cent soda."

Laura Peters, West Concord girls basketball coach, wrote this explanation in the 1929 WCHS school yearbook of the new age that had dawned for girls in the 1920's. Titled "Girls' Athletics" it explained a new understanding that unfortunately would not last long enough.

Now that the day of languid helpless girls has passed, a new healthy, active girl has taken her place. This new type of girl is not satisfied with a slow game of croquet, but prefers active team games which were formerly reserved for boys. Formerly the girl who developed her body was considered mannish and unladylike, and was looked upon as more or less of a tomboy. Next, when the number of girls interested in active life increased, interclass activities were organized. But these sports were only minor attractions in which the adherents played at the games rather than acquired a great deal of skill. Today girls' athletics is at a state of metamorphosis where sports for girls is beginning to be recognized on a plane equal to that of sports for boys. Each season brings its own type of games so that everyone interested may participate. It depends whether the girls taking part in athletics are willing to undergo the stern test of loyalty to coach and team, teamwork, subordination, responsibility and dependability so that girls' athletics may continue to grow.

We know that Rose and the other players on the girls' teams of the 20's and early 30's had exactly the "right stuff" that their coach was talking about, but society had other ideas. Gladys Clark of Cromwell, MN relayed the story that was soon to be repeated over and over: "We were told in the fall of 1932 that there would be no more basketball games for the girls. Excuses were plenty. Girls did not have the stamina, it wasn't good for our health, it was not ladylike and more." Girls would have to wait until the 1970's to have equal opportunity back for participating in sports. If you had the chance to watch the Girls State Hockey or Basketball Tournaments earlier in this winter, you know for sure that girls are back and powerfully thriving.

This short poem in the 1929 WCHS Yearbook says it all about our Rose.

ROSE

*Rose the jumping center
Wins the Seniors' fame
Her clever B.B. stuff
Always wins a game.*

Thanks for being a trailblazer, Rose!



Far left: Edna Jaeger, ?, Rose, ?, ?, Margaret Whiting



The Concord Hotel where players dressed for games



There was no gymnasium in town —
games were played here

482 Meals Served at Annual Triton FFA Steak Feed

(continued from page 1)

They served 482 meals that evening. The event was well attended and they would like to thank the following people and organizations who supported and provided products, services and donations to make this possible.

Marv Hansen who assisted with facilities management of the church and providing parking for workers. Faith Community Church for hosting our steak dinner. Ann Fitzgerald and Brianna Fitzgerald for managing the kitchen. Dave Kenworthy for managing the grill. Jaime Geers for assisting with cashiering. Ellingson Companies for providing plates and cups. Hometown Messenger for providing advertising for the steak feed. Gochnauer Farms for providing hot dogs. Kwik Trip for providing milk. Hy-Vee Kasson for providing cookies. Blondies Catering for procuring all food items for the steak dinner. And all the people from the community who turned out to support the students and the Triton FFA program.



Come on out to the Business Expo!

(continued from page 1)

This year marks the official 25 year anniversary of this show started by Jerry Fahning, to exhibit all that the county has to offer. Vendors of every kind come together to show you what they have in the way of businesses in the area. There will be restaurants, law offices, tax preparation, and retail establishments. Scouts of America will be on hand to tell you about the projects they will be doing to help the community. Future Farmers of America will present you with information about their events and meetings. Over 100 vendors will fill the gymnasiums for you to peruse!

All this is happening this year on Saturday, March 29th from 8 am to 2 pm at the Triton School. The address is 813 w. Highway Street in Dodge Center, and we encourage you to rise early and join the FFA for a twenty five cent breakfast! The breakfast is sponsored by KMtelecom, and served by the FFA group from 8 am to 9:30 am, or until the food is gone. They will be serving up eggs, toast, breakfast potatoes, sausage, milk and coffee. For more details on this and other information, you can go to www.dodgecounty-expo.com.

There will be a food court featuring many of the restaurants and food trucks in the area in one of the gyms, and entertainment in another, so bring your dancing shoes and prepare for a bunch of fun! The entertainment for the day will be:

Boogie -from 8 am to 10 am- what is this? Come out and see!

The Rockin' Hep Cats -from 9:30 to 11:30.

Sounds like here's where the dance shoes come into play!

Chris Rollo -from noon to 2pm

Just for Kix Dancers -noon

And Rookie the Clown will be hanging around for the entire show!

The food court will offer delights from HammerQ BBQ, Plaza Morena and County Seat Cafe, as well as the Washington DC Fundraiser menu.

As you can see, the day will be filled with good food, fun events, lots of entertainment, gift bags from select vendors....and it's all FREE, except the food! So come on over and join the 3,000 or more neighbors who come to this event every year, and who knows? You may even learn something new about the community you live in!



Pancake Breakfast for Dodge County Chaplains



On Sunday March 30th a fundraiser will be held at the Dodge Center Fire Hall to raise funds for the Dodge County Sheriff's Department Chaplains. These funds will be used to purchase tactical vests

for use by the Chaplains while they are completing their duties with the department. The breakfast will include pancakes, eggs and sausages and is served from 8am to 1pm. A free will donation will be accepted. All the proceeds go toward training and gear.

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office Chaplains is a volunteer group of 8 pastors/ministers serving the Dodge County Sheriff's Office. Chaplains are dispatched to serve with emotional and spiritual support to the people involved in critical incidents. They

serve the Emergency Service Providers, whether it be First Responders, Fire, Ambulance, Law Enforcement Officers and Dispatch Personnel. Chaplains also provide these services to the Victims, Patients, and Family Members of these Critical Incidents. When an unexpected death has occurred, Chaplains are dispatched along with a Law Enforcement Officer to notify Next of Kin. There is much training for Law Enforcement Chaplaincy effectiveness and ongoing training in specific types of critical incidents. This fundraiser is for the purpose of funds for continued training as well as tactical equipment. At present, all Chaplains are going to be fitted with duty vests. These provide safety for the Chaplains when they do ride alongs with Law Enforcement Officers, or in the case of being dispatched to the scene of an active shooter or a standoff. Dodge County Sheriff's Office Chaplains is a Nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

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Upcoming Events in West Concord

West Concord is a vibrant community with lots of activities happening. If you haven't checked out one of our events, why not get involved in 2025!

Library Events

- April 10: Minnesota Author Roger Barr presents Murder on the Hill at 2:00 PM
- May 12: Minnesota's Hooded History – the KKK in 1920s Minnesota at 6:30 PM (in conjunction with the WCHS)
- June 11: Summer Reading Kick-off with "Will Sings Songs" at 10:00 AM
- July 26: National Eagle Center Presentation (as part of Survival Days; presentation in Historical Society Gym) at 1:00 PM
- July 30: Raising Hope Ranch: Parrot Facts & Big Laughs at 10:00 AM
- August 12: Dazzling Dave Yo-Yo Performance & Workshop at 1:00 PM
- September 25: Folky Duck Painting Workshop at 5:00 PM

Community Events & Celebrations

- April 19: Easter Egg Hunt at Lion's Park
- April 26: Tree Planting around the City (tentative)
- May 10: Community Clean-up and Spring Fling
- May 17: Burger Night with the Fire Department
- June 19: Open Swim at Memorial Park
- July 24-27: 40th Annual Survival Days
- August 5: National Night Out
- September 20: 4th Annual OktoberFest
- December 6: Christmas in West Concord



City Hall Updates

Utilities

Our utility billing software update, originally scheduled for March 1st, has encountered some issues during the conversion process. As a result, online payments are currently unavailable. However, you can still make payments over the phone by calling City Hall at 507-527-2668 and using a credit card. We appreciate your patience and are hopeful that the new system will be ready soon.

If you'd prefer to receive your utility bill via email instead of traditional mail, please contact City Hall by phone or email to provide your email address.

Reminder: Water/Sewer bills are due by the 21st of each month. Payments made after this date will incur a 10% late fee on the current charges. Accounts that remain unpaid for 90 days will be subject to service disconnection.

Permits, Licenses, and Park Rentals

ATV/Golf Carts: With warmer weather approaching, it's time to prepare for outdoor activities! Please remember that all ATVs and golf carts operated within the West Concord city limits must be licensed. Annual permits are available at City Hall for \$25. To obtain a permit, bring your driver's license and proof of insurance.

Compost Site: Compost site stickers are available at City Hall and are valid through December 31, 2025. The cost is \$15 for residents and \$30 for businesses providing services to city residents. Only small brush, leaves, and yard clippings are permitted. Please refrain from dumping trash at the site.

Building Permits: Considering a home addition, new garage, or exterior updates such as siding, windows, or roofing? West Concord offers both flat fee and value-based permit costs depending on your project. While fences under 6 feet do not require a permit, it's always best to contact City Hall with any questions about building codes or permit requirements.

Park & Bell Tower Rentals: Need a venue for your next event? West Concord offers several options for family gatherings, parties, or weddings:

- Park Shelters can be rented for \$35.
- The swimming pool is available for \$60/hour.
- Bell Tower rental costs vary based on space usage and hours.

For additional details or to reserve a space, please contact City Hall.

New for 2025: City Hall now accepts credit and debit card payments for all services mentioned above. Please note that a small processing fee will apply.

NEW HOURS

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Open 7 days a week

MONDAY: 4 PM - 9 PM

**TUESDAY - THURSDAY:
11 AM - 9PM**

**FRIDAY - SATURDAY:
11 AM - 12 AM**

SUNDAY: 11 AM - 5 PM

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Join Our Team: Volunteer EMTs and Firefighters Needed!

Are you ready to make a difference in your community? We are seeking dedicated and passionate individuals to join our team as volunteer EMTs and firefighters. We are looking for volunteers that are available during the daytime, which is our greatest need, but don't let that stop you from reaching out to us. This is your chance to gain valuable experience, develop new skills, and help save lives.

Why Volunteer with Us?

- Make a positive impact in your community
- Receive professional training and certification
- Work alongside experienced emergency responders
- Flexible scheduling to fit your availability
- Build lifelong friendships and connections

Requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Commitment to training and scheduled shifts
- Strong desire to help others
- Ability to work well in a team

No prior experience is necessary—we provide all the training you need!

How to Apply:

If you're ready to take on this rewarding challenge, contact us today! Email us at ambdirector@westconcordmn.com or call us at (507) 527-2176 for more information.



West Concord Native to Read at Our Public Library

West Concord, MN - Award-winning author Roger Barr, a 1969 graduate of West Concord High School, returns to his hometown on April 10, 2025, to read from and talk about his work.

Barr will appear at the West Concord Public Library, which is co-sponsoring the event with the West Concord Historical Society. Starting time is 2:00 p.m. The event is free.

"We're excited to have Roger, one of our own, return to West Concord to share his writing journey and books with us," said Colleen Hayne, president of the library board. "Roger is a storyteller you won't want to miss."

For Barr, it is a rare opportunity to share his work with a hometown audience.

"I've lived in St. Paul for many years, but I'm still a farm kid at heart," Barr said. "Figuratively speaking, I've never quite cleaned all of the dirt out from under my fingernails. Farm values have guided my life and they appear in my work."

Barr will talk about his 40+ year career as a writer, and explain the differences between writing fiction, non-fiction, plays and journalism. He will read a selection from his newest book, *A Murder on the Hill: The Secret Life and Mysterious Death of Ruth Munson*, a non-fiction account of the unsolved

1937 murder of St. Paul resident Ruth Munson. Published by Minnesota Historical Society Press, the book appeared on area best seller lists last summer and was a 2025 Minnesota Book Award nominee.

Barr will also read a selection from *Farm Stories*, an as yet unpublished work, which is actually set in the West Concord area.

"As a writer, I've always followed my heart," Barr said. "That has resulted in an eclectic body of work." He is the author of eleven published books, 36 published short stories, an award-winning play and countless newspaper and magazine articles. His other books include *The Treasure Hunt*, a novel about the annual treasure medallion hunt that takes place during the St. Paul Winter Carnival, and two collections of Christmas stories, *Getting Ready for Christmas* and *The Christmas Promise*. He has authored seven non-fiction books for young adults on such topics as the Vietnam war, Richard Nixon and Malcolm X. Barr's short story "Puzzle Pieces" received the nationally recognized 2021 Hal Prize for short stories. His story "March Madness in a Small Town" won The Loft's writing contest in 2013. His award-winning play *Decoration Day* has been produced several times.

Copies of *A Murder on the Hill*, *The Treasure Hunt* and the two Christmas collections

will be available for purchase at the event.




NEW HOURS

The new hours at the WCHS office are:
Monday through Friday
9:30am to 1:30pm

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*with Historian and
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TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025 at 6:30 PM

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Find more library events in the SELCO region at legacy.selco.info/calendar

Join West Concord Native and Author

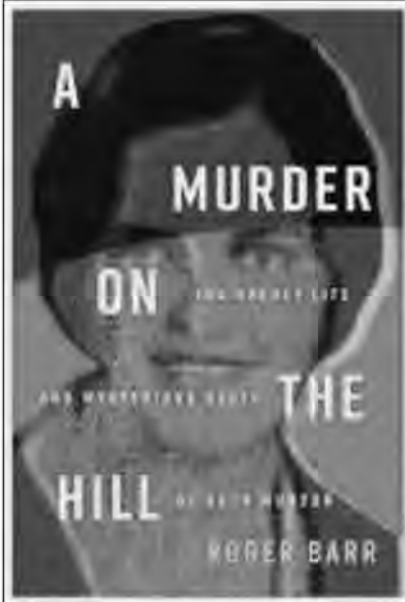
ROGER BARR

for a reading and discussion
Thursday, April 10, 2025, 2:00 pm

At the
West Concord Public Library
Free admission



**Roger will talk about his writing career
and read selections from his work**



Award-winning author Roger Barr, a 1969 graduate of West Concord High School, returns to his hometown to talk about his writing career and read from his work. He'll read from his most recent book, *A Murder on the Hill: The Secret Life and Mysterious Death of Ruth Munson*, which chronicles the investigation of an unsolved 1937 murder in St. Paul. He'll also read from an as yet unpublished work set in the West Concord area. Roger is the author of eleven books, 36 published short stories, an award-winning play and countless newspaper and magazine articles. Copies of his books will be available at the event for purchase.



Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library Saturday, April 5 from 9-10am

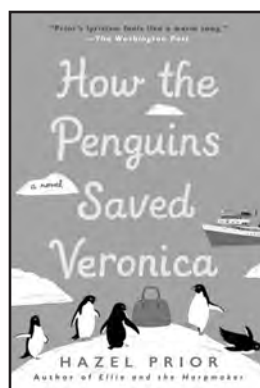
How the Penguins Saved Veronica by Hazel Prior #1 Veronica McCreedy Series

Eighty-five-year-old Veronica McCreedy is estranged from her family and wants to find a worthwhile cause to leave her fortune to. When she sees a documentary about penguins being studied in Antarctica, she tells the scientists she's coming to visit—and won't take no for an answer. Shortly after arriving, she convinces the reluctant team to rescue an orphaned baby penguin. He becomes part of life at the base, and Veronica's closed heart starts to open.

Her grandson, Patrick, comes to Antarctica to make one last attempt to get to know his grandmother. Together, Veronica, Patrick, and even the scientists learn what family, love, and connection are all about.

Genre: Fiction

First Published: March 2020, 355 pages (paperback)



Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library Wednesday, April 9 from 4-5pm

Bad Liar by Tami Hoag Broussard and Fourcade #3

Small town labels are hard to shake. Hometown hero. Fallen angel. Can anyone ever escape their past? A murder victim dumped at the dead end of a lonely country road, face and hands obliterated by a shotgun blast, is not the way sheriff's detective Nick Fourcade wants to start his week. His only lead takes him to the family of a hometown hero suddenly gone missing. Marc Mercier left his home for a weekend hunting trip and hasn't been seen since.

Meanwhile, sheriff's detective Annie Broussard begins her first day back on the job after suffering a brutal attack by taking on the case of B'Lynn Fontenot, a mother desperate to find her grown son, a recovering drug addict. Robbie Fontenot has been missing for eight days, but the local police have no interest in the case, telling B'Lynn that an adult has the right to disappear, and a missing addict is no big surprise. But B'Lynn swears her son was turning his life around. Sympathetic to a mother's anguish, Annie agrees to help B'Lynn. As Annie searches for Robbie Fontenot and Nick investigates the disappearance of Marc Mercier, it quickly becomes apparent that nothing is as it seems in the lives of either man. And it's still not clear whether either of them – or neither – might be the unidentified murder victim. Old jealousies and fresh deceptions, family loyalties gone wrong and love turned sour, all lay a twisting trail that leads deep into the Louisiana swamp, endangering all who cross the path of a bad liar.

Genre: Mystery

First Published: September 2024, 416 pages (hardcover)



West Concord City Hall Update

The City has been updating a number of software systems that we use. Our current utility billing software will no longer be supported. Online payments via our website are not currently active. If you would like to make a payment with a credit or debit card, please call City Hall (507-527-2668) during business hours and we can process it for you.

We can also process credit card payments for permits, license fees, park rental, etc. There is a \$10 minimum and a convenience fee of 4% added to all credit/debit payments.

The Municipal On & Off Sale has installed a new Point of Sale system, as well. We welcome all visitors but ask for patience while our bartenders learn the system.



2025 HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE

April	21-23
May	19-21
June	23-25
July	21-23
August	25-27
September	22-24
October	20-22
November*	17-19

*Weather Dependent

Wine Tasting

Come out for an enjoyable evening of wine tasting, hosted by the parents of students traveling to Washington, D.C.! Sample a variety of red and white wines while learning about different flavors, pairings, and wine education. Don't miss this chance to sip, socialize, and support a great cause!

Friday, March 21, 2025

7pm to 9pm

Dodge Center Legion, Dodge Center

Limited seating
Secure your spot now
Contact Mandy at
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Daily Features

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THURSDAY - \$3.50 All Taps, Domestic Bottles, Rail Drinks! Taco Specials! Fajita Specials! 16oz. Margarita Special

FINALLY FRIDAY - All You Can Eat Fish Dinner




SATURDAY - Hand Battered Jumbo Shrimp or Slow Roasted Prime Rib

SUNDAY - Enjoy Our Sunday Breakfast Beginning at 9a.m. and Sunday Supper Features, including 1/2 Price Bottles of Wine (after 4p.m.)




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Ellington Township Presents Dave Wetzstein with 50 Year Service Plaque



At the Ellington Township's annual meeting on Tuesday March 11th, Dave Wetzstein was presented a 50 year service plaque. Here Tom Coffman is presenting the plaque to Dave Wetzstein



Left to right: Kathy Meyer treasurer, Dave Wetzstein sitting, Tom Coffman supervisor; Whitney Kylo clerk; missing that evening was supervisor Grant Erler

BARNETT BROS/LOSS LAKE FARM ESTATE AUCTION

AUCTION LOCATION 41375 State Hwy 13, Kilkenny, MN 56052 **Live & Online Auction: Thursday April 3, 2025 at 9:30am**
For Complete Details and Bidding, go to HMAuction.com

JD Tractors

- 1984 JD 4850 MFWD Tractor, 20.8x38 Axle Duals, 1944 Hours Showing, Approx. 8600 Hrs
- 1975 JD 4630 2WD Tractor, 8668 Hours Showing, 8 Speed Power Shift, Rock Box
- 1972 JD 4320 2WD Tractor, 3476 Hours Showing, Full Cab, Factory Fenders, Rock Box
- 1963 JD 5010 2WD Tractor, Full Cab, 8656 Hours, 20.8x34 Factory Hub Duals, 3pt.

Dozers, Excavator, Grader, Scraper

- 1988 Cat D5H LCP Crawler Dozer, 12,676 Actual Hours, New Power Shift Transmission
- 1974 Cat D5 96J Crawler Dozer, 8477 Hrs Showing, Actl Unkn, 4 Way Blade With Root Rake Blade, 3306 Cat Engine
- 1995 Kobelco SK220LC Mark IV Excavator, 13,786 Hours, Cummins 5.9L, One Owner, Full Belly Pan, Cab, Track/Undercarriage Work
- 1976 Cat 12G 61M Motor Grader, 14' Blade, 5613 Hours Showing, 6 Speed Power Shift
- 1990 Terex TS14C Motor Scraper, (2) GM 4-71T Diesel Motors, 9185 Hrs Show, Hyd Dwn Press
- Pull Type Sheep's Foot Packer

Pickups & Farm Grain Trucks

- 1994 Chevy K1500 Pickup, Ext. Cab, 5.7L V8, 4x4, 175,120 Miles, Auto, Fuel Tank, Tool Box
- 1997 Chevy 2500 Pickup, 4x4, 170,812 Miles, 5.7L V8, Auto, Long Box, Aux Fuel Tank
- 1989 Chevy 3500 Pickup, 4x4, 5.7L V8

- 1998 Chevy 3500 Cargo Van, 5.7L V8, Auto
- 1985 International S1900 Grain Truck, DT466
- 1976 Chevy C65 Grain Truck, Twin Screw

Antiques & Collectibles

- 1930 Nash 4 Door Sedan Car, Older Restore
- Belle City Hart Threshing Machine on Steel
- JD B Styled Tractor, Older Restoration
- McCormick 10-20 Tractor On Steel, Rebuilt
- Farmall Super A Tractor, WF, New Tires, Nice
- Farmall C tractor, NF, 8' Mounted Cultivator
- Farmall B Tractor, Woods Belly Mower
- Farmall F-20 Tractor
- Willys Jeep, Non-Running
- 1953 Chevy BelAir Parts Car
- (2) Wayne Model 440 Gas Pumps
- Case 2x14's Plow, pull type
- Township Road Grader, Steel Wheels,
- (3) Horse Drawn Buggies, Wooden Wheels

Tillage & Planting, Livestock, Trailer, Bunks, Bins

- JD 722 Soil Finisher, 18.5', 5 Bar Harrow
- Gehl 100 Mixer Mill, Hammer Never Turned
- 1990 Kiefer Built Kargo King Livestock Trailer
- Nu-Built Gravity Wagon, JD Running Gear
- Demco 200/400 Saddle Tanks with Mounts
- Demco 28' Mounted Spray Booms
- Better Bilt 2100 Gallon Slurry Tank, 540PTO
- EZ-Flow 300 Gravity Flow Wagon
- H&S 180-79 Single Axle Manure Spreader

- JD RM85 Flat Fold Row Crop Cultivator
- JD 100 Field Cultivator, 24.5', 3pt.
- JD 915V Ripper, 9 Shank, Pull Type
- JD 200 Stacker, 540PTO
- JD Stack Mover, 19', Hyd. Draw Bar
- 4 Section Drag on Transport
- Hiniker 15' Stalk Chopper, 1000PTO
- JD 15' Tandem Disc
- 300 Gallon Poly Tank
- 20.8x38 Band Duals
- 10' Front Mount Blade for JD Tractors
- 500 Gallon LP Tank
- Bulk Feed Bin 2 Ton
- Harvestore 30' Silo, no unloader
- Sidewinder Brush Mower, 3pt.
- Sioux Livestock Gates, Other Stl & Wdn Gates
- (4) Cement H-Bunks, 32' Total Length
- Livestock Loading Chute, On Transport
- Round Bale Feeders
- Poly/Steel Feed Bunks

Mower, Snowmobile, Boat

- Ex-Mark LazerZ Zero Turn Lawn Mower, 44"
- 1991 Artic Cat Jag AFS, 290 Actual Miles
- JD JDX4 Snowmobile
- Polaris Indy 400 Snowmobile
- Artic Cat El Tigre 5000 Snowmobile
- Artic Cat Pantera Snowmobile
- Crestliner Aluminum Fishing Boat, 14', Trailer



Preview Dates: Saturday
March 29 thru April 2 from
8:00am to 5:00pm
Barnett Brothers and Loss Lake
Farms, Owners/Sellers



Matt Maring Lic# 25-28 | 507-951-8354
Kevin Maring Lic# 25-70 | 507-271-6280
Adam Engen Lic# 25-93 | 507-213-0647
Bill Hilton Lic# 50-24 | 507-279-9600
Andrew Hamilton Lic# 50-128 | 507-438-6693

Go to HMAuction.com for more details or call 800-801-4502

Dodge Center Citizen of the Year

(continued from page 1)

If you are aware of an active community volunteer, please submit a letter of nomination stating the reasons you believe that person is a good candidate to be named Dodge Center Citizen of the Year. Active couples in Dodge Center may be nominated together. Nominations must be submitted to Dodge Center Lions Club, PO Box 364, Dodge Center, MN 55927 by May 16, 2025.

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Dark Sky Delights

By Cheri Roshon

By now, most of the Messenger readers know that I am always out looking for new things to explore and write about, so I can share them with you. This month, a friend of mine who has lived in the area all his life told me about an observatory only a few miles from West Concord, so I got the directions, and off I went.

As I have been exploring the history of old ghost towns in our area, I will say that the Cherry Grove Observatory is located between Ayr and Fair Point. For those of you who are not familiar with the old sites, the address is 8485 520th street, Kenyon. You will easily find it if you take County Road 1 all the way

to its southernmost point, which would intersect 520th street if it continued on, which it doesn't.

Once holding a small schoolhouse, the land was gifted to the state as a place for the public to do with as they saw fit. The schoolhouse eventually was abandoned as new schools popped up in the area, and the land lay fallow until the people who owned the adjacent property decided to sell and found out that the land they thought was theirs, wasn't. So, it came back to the state as public property, never to be sold.

The Minnesota Astronomical Society (MAS) found out about the unobstructed views and the "dark skies" due to lack of city lights, and suggested an observatory be installed for the public to enjoy the night skies, and perhaps learn more about the stars. Since it could be open to the public, it was approved, and now the observatory is the southern most site of 5 observatories used by the MAS, and a favorite because of the views to be had. There you will be able to see various nebulae, galaxies and star clusters. You



can bring your own telescope or come to an event and learn how to use the telescopes available. There are several to learn how to operate. In 2013 one of the buildings was finished that has a roll off roof for the largest telescope, but the smaller ones include a 12" Meade SCT, a 16" Meade SCT and a 24" B.A.D. Star Master Dobsonian that can be rolled out onto one of the concrete pads for use under the stars. Also onsite are 2 "onsite loaner" scopes. One is an 8" Zhumell, and a 10" Meade Star Finder for member's use while at Cherry Grove. Both scopes are equipped with optical finders & Tellrads, a collection of eye pieces, filters, star charts, a planisphere and a red flashlight. On the grounds is a handicap accessible Port O Potty, a warming house with a coffee pot, and a microwave. There are electrical outlets on

the outside of the warming shed and a picnic table.

Over the years, improvements have been made, and telescopes bought or donated so all could learn more about astronomy. Astronomers from beginners to advanced star gazers gather here for special events and monthly meetings that are run by MAS, but open to the public. For a list of events and meetings go to their website at mnastro.org/cgo.htm, or you can write to them at info@mnastro.org. On the website you will not only see pictures of the Cherry Grove site but also learn about the star gazing events that are open to the public or learn how to become a member with extra privileges. A whole new world of exploration can be had for everyone who desires to know more about our universe.

From the simplest residential closing, to the more complex commercial or farm real estate transaction, Dodge County Land Title Company is committed to providing real estate transactional expertise and personal customer service.



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Does Your Dog Fear Going to the Vet?



Vet visits are challenging for many dogs, which means those important trips can also be stressful for us humans too! While the best dog treats may be enough to keep some canines calm, other pups become highly stressed and anxious whenever they set their paws into vet clinic.

Thankfully, expert trainer and behaviorist Renee Rhoades has shared three tips that can help make trips to the vet that little bit easier.

1. Stay in the room with your dog: Unless it's an emergency, Rhoades recommends you stay in the room with your pup and here's why. "Dogs can go into behavioral shutdown when separated from you," she explains. "The vets always comment about how "good" my Nero is but the truth is he shuts down completely making it easier for the vets to do whatever they need to do. When he stays with me in the room I can watch his body language to know when he needs a break or comfort him."

2. Minimize unnecessary handling: "A special hot tip that I have is using your awesome camera on your phone to take pictures of things that you want your vet to see on your dog's body before you get to the vet," says Rhoades. "Yes, they still might want to see or touch that area, but this can also cut down on the physical handling the vet needs to do. Many dogs reach their limit when there is a lot of touching so cutting back on it could help your dog."

3. Use situational medication: While many of us would prefer to not medicate our pups unless absolutely necessary, a trip to the vet is one instance where Rhoades has seen medication come in handy. "This one for me is a no-brainer... if your dog is just a little bit uncomfortable imagine the potential for them to feel even more comfortable with situational medication on board. I've seen many instances where dogs go from fearful to actively liking the vet because intervention was quick," she explains.

Anxiety in dogs is more common than you might think, so as well as trying the tips Rhoades suggests above, we highly recommend speaking with your vet if your pup continues to experience high levels of stress when they visit for routine or emergency medical procedures.

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The Difference Between Day Camp and Overnight Camp: Choosing the Right Fit for Your Child



By Samuel Smith
Overnight and Marketing Director
at Camp Victory

Signing up for summer camp for the first time is an exciting opportunity for children to develop new skills, make friends, and enjoy outdoor adventures. However, parents often face the difficult decision between sending their child to a day camp or an overnight camp. Each option offers unique benefits and caters to different needs, preferences, and comfort levels. Understanding the differences

between these two types of camps can help parents make an informed decision that best suits their child.

Day Camp: A Fun and Flexible Option

Day camps are structured programs that run during the daytime and allow children to return home in the evening. These camps are typically designed for younger children, first-time campers, or those who prefer staying close to home. Day camps can last anywhere from a few days to a full week. They usually offer a variety of activities, such as arts and crafts, sports, nature exploration, and educational programs.

Benefits of Day Camp:

- **Easier Transition for First-Time Campers:** Day camp provides an excellent introduction to the camp experience without the commitment of staying overnight. Children can enjoy structured activities while maintaining the comfort of returning home at the end of the day.

- **Lower Cost:** Compared to overnight camps, day camps are generally more affordable since they do not include lodging and meal expenses. This makes them a budget-friendly option for families.

- **Family Routine and Stability:** Since children return home each evening, they can continue with family routines and responsibilities while still enjoying the excitement of camp activities.

- **Opportunities for Socialization and Skill Development:** Day camps offer children the chance to interact with peers, learn teamwork, and develop new skills without

the challenge of adjusting to an extended stay away from home.

- **Local Convenience:** Many day camps are located within or near communities, making transportation easier for parents and reducing the need for extensive travel planning.

Overnight Camp:

A Deeper Immersive Experience

Overnight camps, also known as sleepaway camps, involve children staying at the camp facility for a set period, typically ranging from a few days to several weeks. These camps provide a more immersive experience, fostering independence and personal growth. They typically offer similar activities to Day camp programs, but will have special evening programs like night games, campfires, talent contests, or lip-sync battles. The longer periods of time at camp also allow for skills campers choose to be explored to more depth.

Benefits of Overnight Camp:

- **Fosters Independence and Responsibility:** Being away from home encourages children to develop self-reliance, manage their daily routines, and take responsibility for their belongings and decisions.

- **Strong Sense of Community and Friendship:** Living together for an extended period allows campers to form deep friendships and build strong bonds with their peers and counselors, often leading to lifelong connections.

- **Broader Activity Options:** Since overnight camps operate around the clock, they offer a wider range of activities, includ-

ing nighttime programs, extended outdoor adventures, and team-building exercises that wouldn't be possible in a day camp setting.

- **Encourages Personal Growth and Confidence:** Stepping out of their comfort zone helps children gain confidence, resilience, and problem-solving skills that will benefit them in school and future endeavors.

- **A Break from Technology:** Many overnight camps have limited or no access to electronic devices, allowing children to disconnect from screens and immerse themselves in outdoor play, creativity, and social interaction.

Choosing the Right Camp for Your Child

When deciding between day camp and overnight camp, consider your camper's personality, age, and comfort level while being away from home. Younger campers or those who have never attended camp before may find day camp a great introduction, while older or more independent campers might thrive in an overnight setting. Your camper may feel ready for an overnight experience after gaining some confidence after experiencing a week of Day camp.

Additionally, consider the goals you have for your child's camp experience. If you seek an enriching program that allows for flexibility and continued family time, day camp may be the best fit. However, if you want your camper to develop independence, confidence, and long-lasting friendships, overnight camp may provide the ideal experience.

(continued on page 15)

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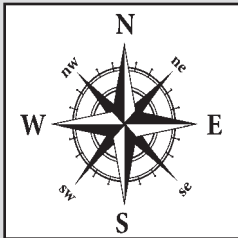
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SUMMER CAMP 2025

Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes When the Levee Breaks



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.

Tennessee is a state with lots of lakes and rivers. It also gets lots of rain at times. Six inches of rain overnight is not an unusual occurrence. And it has to go somewhere, and there is always downstream. Because much of the state is quite hilly to kind of mountainous, the rain can runoff very rapidly.

Brings to mind the old song written about the 1927 flood of the Mississippi River. That year the water was fifty-six feet about flood level on the Cumberland River at Nashville. One hundred and forty-five levees were

washed out by the flood waters and the resulting damage flooded 27,000 square miles and displaced 700,000 people from their homes. 14% of Arkansas was under water and the Mississippi was 80 miles wide at Memphis. On Good Friday, 1927 New Orleans received 15 inches of rain. The Mighty Mississippi can be an uncontrollable monster at times.

Herbert Hoover was the Secretary of Commerce under Calvin Coolidge, and his leadership in resolving the issues from this devastating flood was instrumental in him being elected President of the United States in 1928.

Memphis Minnie and Kansas Joe McCoy penned the blues song about the experience in 1929 and named it "When the Levee Breaks." It was about a man who lost his home and family when the levee broke. You may not remember that version, but Led Zeppelin recorded the song in 1971 on their fourth album.

Since I have been living in Tennessee I have witnessed a number of flood events. The first was the flood in Waverly, Tennessee. Waverly was about twenty-five miles east of us. We had a friend who lived there so we were a little familiar with the area. They received 17 inches of rain after midnight and by 10am the levee washed out and sent a tsunami like wave into town flooding it out within five minutes. Nineteen people lost their lives in the disaster.

Clarkesville, just twenty-five miles northeast of us has had two floods in the last six months when the Cumberland River overflowed its banks from seven inches of rain overnight. I watched news reports as the Buffalo Trace Distillery office in Kentucky slid into the river as the bank washed away in the flood.

This last month the city of Rives, a town of 300 just seventy miles west of us on the Obion River, was obliterated when the levee broke after seven inches of rain over night. All 105 homes were flooded and everyone was evacuated just before the levee was breached for fear that they would be washed away.

Of course, everyone in the country watched as Johnson City, Tennessee was washed away from the once in a thousand-year flood from Hurricane Helene last fall.

I drove across the Cumberland River last month during the weekend of the heavy rains and saw that the boat launch was completely under water. The dock was forty feet from the bank, with the approach completely sub-



merged. People couldn't get to the marina where their boats were berthed because of the high water. Our neighbors who live on the Tennessee River watched as their dock floated up so high it came off the bolsters and floated out into the bay. We live on Kentucky Lake and are upstream from the Kentucky Dam, which was completed in 1944 and is the largest east of the Mississippi. It is 8,422 feet wide and creates Kentucky Lake which is one of the largest artificial lakes in the United

States, encompassing 160,000 acres and stretching for 184 miles. It is a hydroelectric plant which uses 1 million gallons per second and increased the discharge to over 2 million gallons per second during the February floods.

All this makes the Led Zeppelin song seem more sinister than it did when I listened to it as a kid. But the natives simply take it in stride and deal with it. I am just glad we live on high ground.

The Difference Between Day Camp and Overnight Camp: Choosing the Right Fit for Your Child

(continued from page 14)

Ultimately, both day camps and overnight camps offer valuable opportunities for campers to grow, learn, and create lasting memories. By carefully evaluating the benefits of each type, parents can select the camp experience that will best support their child's needs and interests, ensuring a fun and fulfilling summer adventure.

A Minnesotan: False Spring



By RosaLin Alcoser

False spring happens nearly every year. Whether it be in February or mid March we always have one week out of the winter here in Minnesota that warms up and lets you think that Spring just might be here. Before BAM! It snows again.

While this did not happen last year as the entirety of last winter was False Spring. If you can even call how warm it was last winter in Minnesota. It left more like the winters I experienced while I was living in the heart of the Ozarks.

When the coldest it gets it is in the mid to upper 30s and it rarely ever snows. I can recall winter days in the upper 40s. The

kind of weather where Minnesotans would be walking around in a T shirt and I would watch everyone else still huddling in their coats saying it was cold. I would not be in a T shirt, but I would be in a jacket instead of a coat.

Yes, sometimes it would snow or worse it would ice. Trust me when I say ice is the worst. Take it from someone who's lived through many proper Minnesota winters and southern ice storms. I will take Minnesota winter over an ice storm every single time.

This year has been more like winter than last year. Even though we have still lacked snow from winter's past. However, it has been cold this year. Very, brutally cold. I think that I have spent most of this winter huddled in my parka just trying to stay warm. So for now at least I will welcome this false spring while it lasts and hope that we're at else done with the sub zero weather.

My guess, as I write on an unseasonably warm February day in the low 50s, is that it will be followed by snow. Or at least the part of me that cares about the water levels and the grouse wants to think that it'll snow more after this false spring. Either that or I'm completely wrong and this isn't a False Spring. It's simply the start of Spring.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of Dodge Center, Minnesota, will meet in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit by Patrick Brown for the rental of and potential office use of 32 West Main Street.

All persons desiring to be heard with reference to the above-named request should attend this meeting or submit a written comment to the Community Development Technician. Written comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2025, at Dodge Center City Hall, c/o Planning and Zoning, 35 East Main Street, PO Box 430, Dodge Center, Minnesota, 55927.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of Dodge Center, Minnesota, will meet in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit by Mike Purinton for the purpose of constructing a rabbit hutch at 412 8th Street Northwest.

All persons desiring to be heard with reference to the above-named request should attend this meeting or submit a written comment to the Community Development Technician. Written comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2025, at Dodge Center City Hall, c/o Planning and Zoning, 35 East Main Street, PO Box 430, Dodge Center, Minnesota, 55927.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota, will meet in Claremont City Hall on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. to hold a Public Hearing. The purpose of the public hearing shall be to consider adopting City Code Section 4.70. Regulation of Cannabis Businesses.


All persons desiring to be heard with reference to the above-named hearing should attend this meeting. Written comments must be received by 3:00 p.m. on April 1, 2025. Comments can be sent to Claremont City Hall, 140 W Front St, P.O. Box 235, Claremont, MN 55924.


Elizabeth Sorg
City Administrator



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**TRITON
CLASS OF
2025**

SENIOR
SPOTLIGHT

FAMILY

Angeleigh Chinn is a senior at Triton High School. Her parents are Jane and Cody. She has two sisters, Gwen and Erin.

ACTIVITIES

Angeleigh has been active in trap shooting since the tenth grade.

HOBBIES

Her hobbies are crochet, scrapbooking, reading and enjoying the outdoors.

FUTURE PLANS

After graduation she plans to enter the workforce.



Angeleigh Chinn

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Legal Notices

March 19, 2025

- DODGE CENTER, CLAREMONT, WEST CONCORD MESSENGER-

Page 17

City of Claremont, Minnesota Statement of Net Position Proprietary Funds December 31, 2024			
	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds		
	601 Water Utility	602 Sewer Utility	Total
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 139,315	\$ 133,163	\$ 272,478
Receivables			
Accounts receivable	17,289	14,173	31,462
Prepaid items	3,923	5,752	9,675
Total Current Assets	160,527	153,088	313,615
Noncurrent Assets			
Capital assets			
Building and improvements	2,690,784	2,809,614	5,500,398
Machinery and equipment	24,858	33,149	58,007
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,382,040)	(1,225,310)	(2,607,350)
Total Capital Assets (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	1,333,602	1,617,453	2,951,055
Total Assets	1,494,129	1,770,541	3,264,670
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	745	543	1,288
Accrued interest payable	9,603	14,742	24,345
Bonds payable - current portion	71,000	71,000	142,000
Total Current Liabilities	81,348	86,285	167,633
Noncurrent Liabilities			
Bonds payable - long-term portion	1,017,304	1,295,399	2,312,703
Total Liabilities	1,098,652	1,381,684	2,480,336
Net Position			
Net investment in capital assets	245,298	251,054	496,352
Restricted			
Water infrastructure funds	1,509	-	1,509
Unrestricted	148,670	137,803	286,473
Total Net Position	\$ 395,477	\$ 388,857	\$ 784,334

City of Claremont, Minnesota Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Position Proprietary Funds For the Year Ended December 31, 2024			
	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds		
	601 Water Utility	602 Sewer Utility	Total
Operating Revenues			
Charges for services	\$ 177,291	\$ 153,204	\$ 330,495
Operating Expenses			
Supplies	8,495	4,849	13,344
Utilities	12,553	19,083	31,636
Other services and charges	88,913	108,537	197,450
Depreciation	66,954	76,664	143,618
Total Operating Expenses	176,915	209,133	386,048
Operating Income (Loss)	376	(55,929)	(55,553)
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)			
Investment earnings	3,064	3,549	6,613
Property taxes	65,354	97,869	163,223
Other receipts	1,695	1,013	2,708
Amortizations of bond discounts	(438)	(367)	(805)
Interest and other costs	(24,904)	(36,766)	(61,670)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	44,771	65,298	110,069
Income (Loss) Before Contributions	45,147	9,369	54,516
Capital Contributions			
Intergovernmental	12,089	-	12,089
Change in Net Position	57,236	9,369	66,605
Net Position , January 1	338,241	379,488	717,729
Net Position, December 31	\$ 395,477	\$ 388,857	\$ 784,334

City of Claremont, Minnesota Statement of Cash Flows Proprietary Funds For the Year Ended December 31, 2024			
	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds		
	601 Water Utility	602 Sewer Utility	Total
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers	\$ 178,196	\$ 153,755	\$ 331,951
Payments to suppliers and vendors	(110,578)	(133,300)	(243,878)
Other receipts	1,695	1,013	2,708
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	69,313	21,468	90,781
Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities			
Property tax levies	65,354	97,869	163,223
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities			
Intergovernmental	12,089	-	12,089
Acquisition of capital assets	(12,424)	(52,496)	(64,920)
Bond proceeds	3,022	-	3,022
Bond principal	(67,434)	(50,000)	(117,434)
Interest and other costs paid on long term debt	(25,271)	(37,190)	(62,461)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Capital and Related Financing Activities	(90,018)	(139,686)	(229,704)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Interest received on cash and investments	3,064	3,549	6,613
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Temporary Investments	47,713	(16,800)	30,913
Cash and Temporary Investments, January 1	91,602	149,963	241,565
Cash and Temporary Investments, December 31	\$ 139,315	\$ 133,163	\$ 272,478
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities			
Operating income (loss)	\$ 376	\$ (55,929)	\$ (55,553)
Adjustments to reconcile excess of operating income (loss) to net cash provided (used) by operating activities			
Other income related to operations	1,695	1,013	2,708
Depreciation	66,954	76,664	143,618
Changes in assets and liabilities			
(Increases) decreases in assets			
Accounts receivable	905	551	1,456
Prepaid items	(143)	(73)	(216)
Increases (decreases) in liabilities			
Accounts payable	(474)	(758)	(1,232)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	\$ 69,313	\$ 21,468	\$ 90,781
Schedule of Noncash Capital and Related Financing Activities			
Amortization of bond premium (discount)	\$ (438)	\$ (367)	\$ (805)

City of Claremont, Minnesota Summary Financial Report Receipts and Disbursements For General Operations - Governmental Funds For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023			
	Total 2024	Total 2023	Percent Increase (Decrease)
Receipts			
Taxes	\$ 472,413	\$ 455,608	3.69 %
Special assessments	21,807	15,298	42.55
Licenses and permits	13,032	38,312	(65.98)
Intergovernmental	222,483	214,328	3.80
Charges for services	34,598	36,439	(5.05)
Fines and forfeits	717	183	291.80
Investment earnings	33,234	49,812	(33.28)
Miscellaneous	63,845	81,605	(21.76)
Total Receipts	\$ 862,129	\$ 891,585	(3.30) %
Per Capita	1,717	1,735	(0.99)
Disbursements			
Current			
General government	\$ 172,762	\$ 196,342	(12.01) %
Public safety	212,557	181,160	17.33
Streets and highways	132,013	114,040	15.76
Culture and recreation	27,727	20,138	37.68
Economic development	2,500	9,584	(73.91)
Capital outlay			
General government	3,697	2,649	39.56
Public safety	30,275	12,563	140.99
Streets and highways	50,138	85,382	(41.28)
Culture and recreation	60,022	103,204	(41.84)
Debt service			
Principal	113,000	114,000	(0.88)
Interest and other costs	14,498	17,356	(16.47)
Total Disbursements	\$ 819,189	\$ 856,418	(4.35) %
Per Capita	1,632	1,666	(2.06)
Total Long-term Indebtedness	\$ 193,000	\$ 306,000	(36.93) %
Per Capita	384	595	(35.42)
General Cash Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 917,588	\$ 830,520	10.48 %
Per Capita	1,828	1,616	13.12
The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of financial information concerning the City of Claremont to interested citizens. The complete financial statements may be examined at City Hall, 140 Front Street, Claremont, Minnesota, 55924. Questions about this report should be directed to Elizabeth Sorg, Administrator/Clerk at (507) 528-2137.			

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**WEST CONCORD CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2025
7:00 P.M.**

**BELL TOWER CENTER
401 MAIN STREET
WEST CONCORD**

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Johnson, Koeckeritz, and Nielsen.

ABSENT: None
ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator/Clerk Paula Even Trenda, Ambulance Director Adam La Plount, Police Chief Shannon Boerner,

Maintenance Supervisor, Keith Clemmer, Library Director, Heather Frederick, Deputy Fire Chief Jake Froyum, Chris Sanders from Peoples Services, and Tom Weimer and Tanner Young from CMS.

Prior to regular meeting, Jeff McCool and Jeff Burse signed and took their oath of office for reelection.

Regular Meeting began at 7:00 PM

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE: Karen Johnson sworn in as new

councilmember
PUBLIC COMMENT - Doug Weimer – Owns building next to city hall and will have a retail space and small apartment in building. Currently no place to park in front of building for overnight and during snow event. Mayor McCool explained parking restrictions and why. Explained where municipal lots were located. After a brief discussion, the council agreed they would not enforce parking restrictions, allowing them to park

at city lot by Casey’s and the Municipal unless it became an issue. However, in the event of a snow event, parking restrictions would be enforced.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA;

MOTION: Motion to approve the agenda as presented

Consent Agenda

- Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2024
- Approval of Truth in Tax-

ation Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2024

- Approval of Ordinance Special Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2024

- Approve Payment of Claims, dated 12-13-2024 – January 10, 2025, in the amount of \$428,179.70 which includes the following bond payments:

- 2024A in the amount of \$42,021.67 (interest only)
- 2024B, in the amount of \$9,683.67 (interest only)

- 2021A, in the amount of \$72,238.00
- 2020, in the amount of \$91,688.75
- 2017A, in the amount of \$127,612.50
- 2014A, in the amount of \$50,587.50 (final payment)
- Approval of salary increases, effective January 1, 2025 in accordance with approved 2025 Budget
- Approve City Paid Cell Phone for Ambulance Director

(continued on page 19)

**DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, February 24, 2025**

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the February 24, 2025, Dodge Center City Council regular meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us.

Present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Braedon Dostal, Lee Mattson, Jodi Hill, Mark Barwald, Vanessa Hines – Widseth, Kathy Freeman and others.

Absent:
City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda to include: Minutes from February 10, 2025, City Council Meeting; January 15, 2025 Airport Board Meeting and Libraries October 10th, November 14th and December 12, 2024 and January 9, 2025 Board Minutes; Library Board re-appointment – Dave Wahlstrom; City Hall Sprinkler Replacements; 2025-2026 Garbage Haulers License Renewals and Payment of Bills;
 - Amendment to the assessment roll in the calculation of assessment to 507 1st St NW;
 - Resolution 2025-006 Resolution Setting a Public Hearing on Proposed Assessments for the 2025 Improvement Project – March 24, 2025;
 - Resolution 2025-007 – A Resolution Declaring Costs to be Assessed and Ordering Preparation of the Proposed Assessment;
 - 2025 salary increase for the Water/Wastewater Supervisor of \$89,872, retroactive to the 2025 Salary Plan date;
 - Authorizing staff to adjust water bills during freezing weather months as recommended by Mattson;
 - Authorizing staff to remove the fencing project, add storm removal equipment project and shuffle gears as needed to make the funding of the Airport CIP work.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

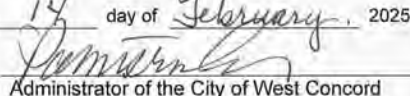
**Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property
This may affect your 2025 property taxes.**

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

Date/Time: April 22, 2025 at 5:30 pm
Location: City Hall

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

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

Given under my hand this 14 day of February, 2025

Administrator of the City of West Concord

Public Notice of Hearing on Proposed Assessment

Dodge Center, Minnesota March 5, 2025

Notice is hereby given that the Council will meet at 6:00 P.M. on March 24, 2025 at the Dodge Center City Hall located at 35 East Main Street, Dodge Center, to consider, and possibly adopt, proposed assessments for the 2025 Street Improvement Project, the improvement of:

- 1st Street NW between 3rd Avenue NW and 6th Avenue NW
- 6th Avenue NW between 1st Street NW and 2nd Street NW

Adoption by the Council of the proposed assessment against abutting, benefited properties may occur at the hearing.

Such assessment is proposed to be payable in equal annual installments extending over a period of fifteen (15) years, the first of the installments to be payable on or before the 1st Monday in January, 2027, and will bear interest at the rate of four and a half (4.5) percent per annum commencing on November 15, 2026. To each subsequent installment when due shall be added interest for one year on all unpaid installments.

You may at any time prior to certification of the assessment to the County Auditor, pay the entire assessment on such property, with interest accrued to the date of payment, to the City Administrator. No interest shall be charged if the entire assessment is paid prior to November 15, 2026. You may at any time thereafter, pay to the Dodge County Finance Director the entire amount of the assessment remaining unpaid, with interest accrued to December 31 of the year in which such payment is made. Such payment must be made before November 15 or interest will be charged through December 31 of the succeeding year. If you decide not to prepay the assessment before the date given above the rate of interest that will apply is four and a half (4.5) percent per year. The right to partially prepay the assessment is available.

The proposed assessment roll is on file for public inspection at the City Administrator’s office. The total amount proposed to be assessed is \$228,901.19. Written or oral objections will be considered at the meeting. No appeal may be taken as to the amount of an assessment unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner is filed with the City Administrator prior to the assessment hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing. The Council may upon such notice consider any objection to the amount of a proposed individual assessment at an adjourned meeting upon such further notice to the affected property owners as it deems advisable.

Under Minn. Stat. §§ 435.193 to 435.195, the Council may, in its discretion, defer the payment of this special assessment for any homestead property owned by a person 65 years of age or older, one retired by virtue of a permanent and total disability, or a member of the National Guard or other reserves ordered to active military service for whom it would be a hardship to make the payments. When deferment of the special assessment has been granted and is terminated for any reason provided in that law, all amounts accumulated plus applicable interest become due. Any assessed property owner meeting the requirements of this law may, within 30 days of the confirmation of the assessment, apply to the City Administrator for the prescribed form for such deferral of payment of this special assessment on his/her property.

An owner that has filed a written objection may appeal an assessment to district court pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal upon the Mayor or Administrator of the City within 30 days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the district court within ten days after service upon the Mayor or City Administrator.

Lee Mattson, City Administrator

Legal Notices

March 19, 2025

- DODGE CENTER, CLAREMONT, WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

Page 19

WEST CONCORD CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(continued from page 18)

MOTION: Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Johnson Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Johnson, Koeckeritz, and Nielsen

Nays: None
Motion passed

CITY BUSINESS

A: Discussion with Council regarding Dan Rabes Land Lease for 2025 and lease approval

Dan Rabe rents 6 acres for hay production in the city owned Organ land. Dan requested changing contract for payment due April 1 from February 1.

Motion made by Councilmember Nielsen to approve 2025 lease and terms. Second by Councilmember Johnson.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Johnson, Koeckertiz, and Nielsen.

Nays: None
Motion passed

B. Tom Weiner of CMS to discuss updates to Construction Management Services

Tom Weimer talked briefly about CMS and the transition of Jay Krueger into retirement. He introduced Tanner Young, who will be out new building inspector. Tim discussed that CMS was keeping fees the same for 2025, as they were in 2025. He talked about the option for the city to pay a lump sum service fee to CMS versus per permit. This manages costs throughout the year but can be more the first year. He also discussed pros and cons of going to an online permitting tool. Administrator will work with CMS to see if lump sum or online tool will be a cost savings for 2026 budget this summer.

C. Resolution 25-01: Designations of City Officials

MOTION: Resolution 25-01: Approve Designation of City Officials

Motion made by Councilmember Nielsen. Second by Councilmember Koeckeritz.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Johnson, Koeckertiz, and Nielsen.

Nays: None
Motion passed

D. Resolution 25-02: Appointment of Acting Mayor

A brief discussion on why we appoint an acting mayor. Councilmember Nielsen was recommended by fellow councilmembers.

MOTION: Resolution 25-02: Appointment of Councilmembr Nielsen to be Acting Mayor

Motion made by Councilmember Johnson. Second by Councilmember Koeckeritz.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Johnson and Koeckeritz.

Nays: None
Abstain: Councilmember Nielsen
Motion passed

E. Resolution 25-03: Authorization and Approval for City Administrator to Pay Incidental Bills

A brief discussion on why we authorize city clerk/administrator to pay bills.

MOTION: Resolution 25-03: Authorization and Approval for City Administrator to Pay Incidental Bills

Motion made by Councilmember Johnson. Second by Councilmember Burse.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Johnson, Koeckeritz and Nielsen.

Nays: None
Motion passed

F. Resolution 25-04: Stat-ing City Council Assignments

Mayor McCool explained why he chose the people he identified for the various roles and asked if any of them had any objections. The council committee assignments are:

Sidewalks & Streets – Council Members Burse and Koeckeritz

Police – Mayor McCool and Council Member Nielsen

Fire & Ambulance – Council Members Johnson and Koeckeritz

Sewer & Water – Council Members Burse and Koeckeritz

Park & Recreation – Mayor McCool and Council Member Johnson

Personnel – Mayor McCool and Council Member Nielsen

Library – Council Member Burse and Nielsen

EDA – Mayor McCool and Council Member Johnson

Liquor Store – All Council Members

Planning & Zoning – All Council Members

Budget – All Council Members

Finance Committee – All Council Members

Building Permit Committee – All Council Members

City Ordinance – All Council Members

MOTION: Resolution 25-04: Stating City Council Assignments

Motion made by Councilmember Nielsen. Second by Councilmember Johnson.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Johnson, Koeckeritz and Nielsen.

Nays: None
Motion passed

G. Resolution 25-05: Approval of Code Book Update and Cannabis Ordinance

Minor Changes were needed to bring the code book current including updating of council members, meeting dates/locations, some staffing additions/changes, and addition of the cannabis ordinance. Additional large scale changes relating to building code and water will be worked on over the next 3-4 months.

MOTION: Resolution 25-05: Approval of Code Book Update and Cannabis Ordinance.

Motion made by Councilmember Nielsen. Second by Councilmember Burse.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Johnson, Koeckeritz and Nielsen.

Nays: None
Motion passed

H. Motion to approve Fire Relief Association Members for 2025 and Fire/EMS Officers

Jake Froyum was in attendance to announce the Fire Relief Association Members for 2025. They are:

Jake Froyum, President: Term Expires 12/31/26

Jeremy Chilson, Vice President: Term Expires 12/21/27

Matt Coy, Treasurer: Term Expires 12/31/25

Kayla Woodcock, Secretary: Term Expires 12/31/27

Rick Braithwaite, Trustee: Term Expires 12/31/26

Dylan Persinger-Woodcock: Term Expires 12/31/25

Chad Finne, Fire Chief; Galen Koeckeritz; Councilmember, and Karen Johnson, Councilmember

Fire Department Officers for 2025:

Chief: Chad Finne, term expires 12/31/25

Deputy Chief: Jake Foryum, term expires

12/31/26

Deputy Chief Ambulance: Peter Moen, term expires 12/31/26

Fire Captain: Rick Braithwaite, term expires 12/31/25

Ambulance Captain: Kayla Woodcock, term expires 12/31/25

Secretary: Joe Boudin, 1 year

MOTION: Approve Fire Board Members and Officers

Motion made by Councilmember Nielsen. Second by Councilmember Koeckeritz.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Johnson, Koeckeritz and Nielsen.

Nays: None
Motion passed

I. Motion to approve Library Board Members for 2025

There was no change to the Library Bord Members for 2025. They are:

Colleen Hayne, President
Karen Peterson, Vice President

Michelle Lee, Secretary
Kayla Froehlich Burse

Pat Hanson
Heather Phillips

Lois M. Johnson
Crystal Nielsen, City Council

Jeff Burse, City Council

Heather Frederick, Library Director

MOTION: Approve Library Board Members for 2025

Motion made by Councilmember Johnson. Second by Councilmember Koeckeritz.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Johnson, Koeckeritz and Nielsen.

Nays: None
Motion passed

J. Resolution 25-06: Acceptance of Police Department donations

Chief Boerner received two donations - \$2500 for the National Night Out and \$500 for general police department use.

MOTION: Accept Police Department donations

Motion made by Councilmember Koeckeritz. Second by Councilmember Johnson.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Johnson, Koeckeritz and Nielsen.

Nays: None
Motion passed

K. Resolution 25-07: Acceptance of Refuse Hauling bid

Only one contractor submit-

ted a bid for a 3-year contract. Terms of the RFP were provided to the council.

MOTION: Acceptance of Refuse Hauling bid from Skjeveland Enterprises for 3-years

Motion made by Councilmember Koeckeritz. Second by Councilmember Burse.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Johnson, Koeckeritz and Nielsen.

Nays: None
Motion passed

L. Discussion to Raise Flags for January 20:

Karen Johnson brought forth the raising of the flag from half-mast for former President Carter to full mast for Inauguration on January 20th only. A discussion was held by council regarding US flag code. Councilmember Koeckeritz had some additional information. Council decided since Governor didn't ask to have it raised it should stay at half-mast. No further discussion was had.

REPORT OF OFFICERS ADMINISTRATOR/CLE RK REPORT:

The Historical Society donated \$2,932.59 for December gambling rents for the Municipal.

Monthly Municipal Report: Inventory went smoothly and quickly. New POS system is on the way and hopefully installed soon. Financials will be including starting in February. Year-end was good and should allow Municipal to repay another large position to city.

2025 Dodge County Local Board of Appeals and Equalization will be held on April 22nd at 5:30 PM.

LIBRARIAN REPORT:

Heather Fredericks presented her report. The month has been quiet.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Maintenance Supervisor Keith Clammer presented his report. Doing carpet cleaning on January 17. Starting at Bell Tower and then City Hall. He presented an update on the Water Tower Inspection. KLM did their drone report. The tower is in good shape, but there is a fair amount of sediment. They will have a quote before February meeting for a full clean out this summer.

PEOPLESERVICE REPORT:

Chris Sanders was present. Required meeting readings,

water sample pulls, etc. have all been included. New pump for well house #2 was ordered. Due to a chlorine leak, the air return was left open in well house #3. Due to the very cold weather, the pipes in well house #3 burst. Peoples Service repaired all pipes, the tank gasket, and returned the well house to operation at their expense.

It was asked about sludge hauling and Chris said we typically haul 2-3 times a month in summer and 1 a month during the winter.

POLICE CHIEF:

Police Chief Boerner provided monthly call log to council.

FIRE CHIEF:

Deputy Fire Chief Froyum said 2024 saw 162 total runs with 23 Fire/Rescue and 9 mutual aide. Changing demographics in West Concord can be attributed to the decrease, as well as partnering with Dodge Center.

AMBULANCE

DIRECTOR:

Director La Plount was present and provided council with an update on his first few weeks and what he will be working on in the coming weeks. His goal is to have daytime coverage by April 1, so that we can discontinue service with Dodge Center.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ice Rink Attendants were hired: Parker Nielsen (paid) and Doug Krueger (volunteer). A motion was made by Councilmember Koeckeritz to approve the hires. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Burse. Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse and Koeckeritz.

Nays: None
Abstain: Councilmember Nielsen & Johnson
Motion passed

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion to Adjourn at 8:20 pm.

Motion made by Mayor McCool, seconded Councilmember Johnson.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Councilmembers Burse, Koeckeritz, Nielsen and Johnson.

Nays: None
Motion passed

By: _____
Mayor Jeffrey McCool

Attest:
By: _____
Paula Even Trenda
Clerk/Administrator

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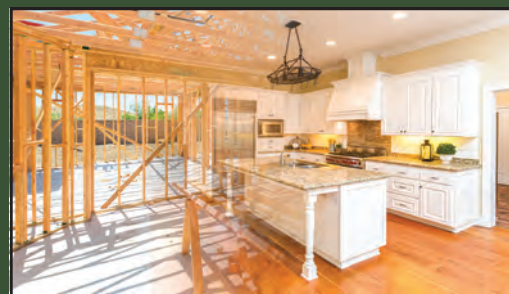
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Grace Lutheran Science Fair

(continued from page 1)

Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Registrations are being taken starting now for next year's enrollment. You can call Patty Marquardt at 507-259-3106 if you have any questions about the school, the enrollment, the curriculum currently in place, or with any questions you may have.

The kids were so cute as they stood beside their desks, and people came by and asked questions about their projects. I was im-

pressed just listening to them explain why they chose the project they did, and how grown up they sounded when answering the questions. There were treats for everyone who attended, and a talk to the parents and interested parties of what to expect if they chose to enroll in a Christian based educational program. The school has grown over the years, and is a wonderful addition to the community.

(additional pictures on page 22)



Chaos and comedy collide: Neil Simon's "Rumors" hits Mantorville!



The "Rumors" cast rehearses a scene at the historic Opera House in Mantorville. The comedic farce by Neil Simon runs March 21-April 6. Friday and Saturday at 7 and Sunday at 2.

Imagine a high-society anniversary party gone hilariously wrong. The host is found bleeding, and the hostess is missing. The first guests, lawyers Ken Gorman and his wife Chris, scramble to get "the story" straight before the other guests arrive. As the confusion and miscommunications mount, the evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity.

Ryan Frank and Beth Regener star as the Gormans, who kick off the evening's chaotic cover-up. Lenny Ganz, the accountant, and his gossip wife Claire are brought to life by Nick Rudlong and Lindsay Herr. Joel Starks and Mary McPhee play psychiatrist Ernie Cuzack and his cooking show host wife, Cookie. Drew Adams takes on the role of Glenn Cooper, a state senate candidate, while the fiery Cassie Cooper is portrayed in alternating performances by Rebecca Bromelkamp and Raquel Hellman. Bob Soland plays the skeptical Officer Welch, and the role of Officer Pudney is shared by Annie Johnson and Rebecca Bromelkamp. All this comedic mayhem unfolds under the direction of Bill Schnell.

Secure your seats now at mantorvilletheatrecompany.com or leave a message at 507-635-5420. The play runs Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m., March 21- April 6, at the historic Opera House, 5 ~ 5th St., Mantorville. Send any inquires to mantorvilletheatre@gmail.com.

"Rumors" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Local Businessmen Organize Raffle for St. Jude's Children's Hospital



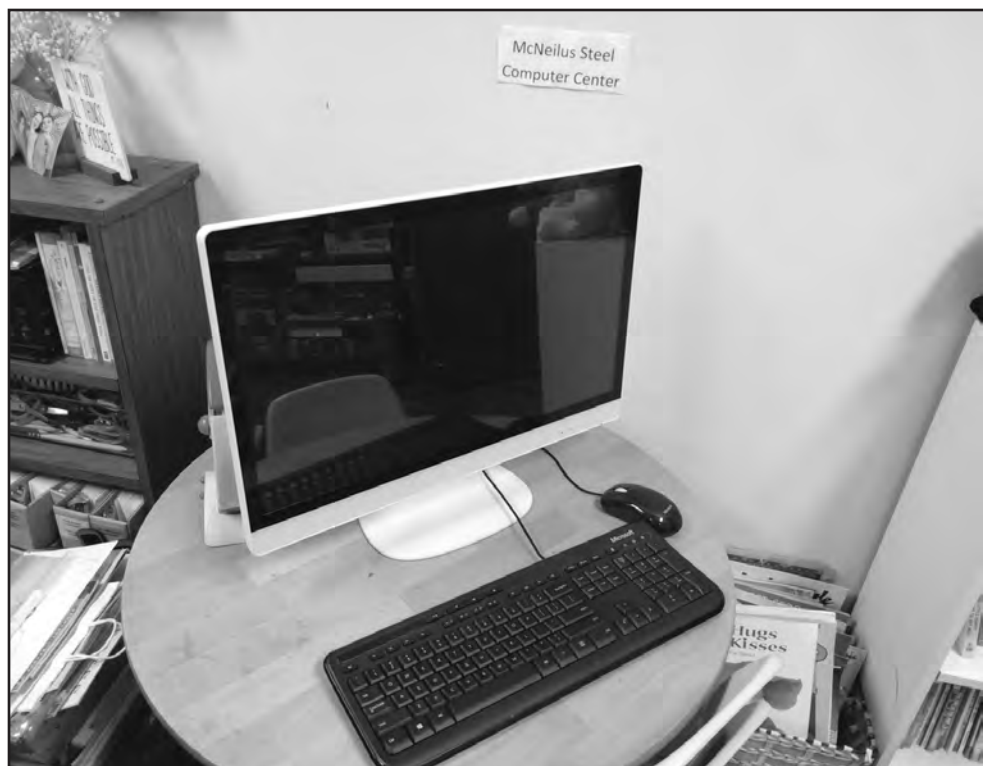
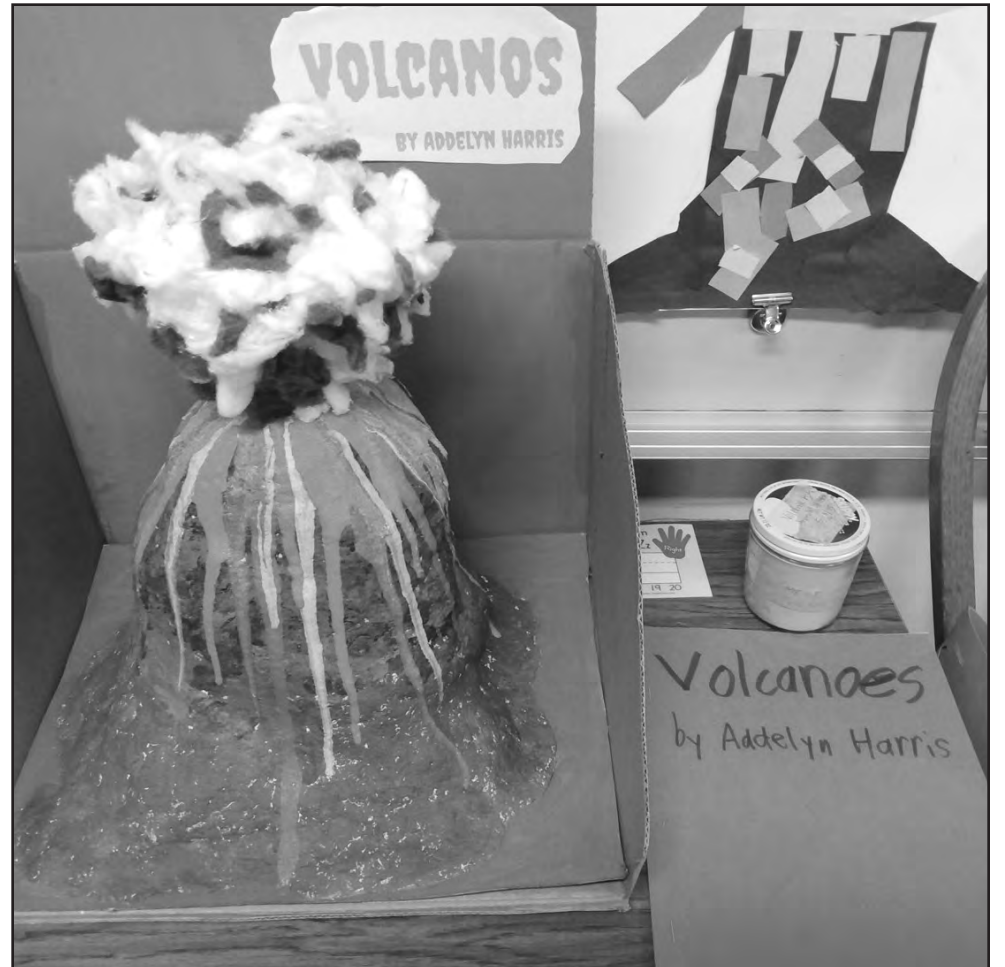
Dustin and Drew Cook organized a raffle again this year to raise funds for the St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The two brothers are competing in the Dick Hiley Memorial Fishing tournament in Wabasha on May 3rd and 4th. This is the world's largest fundraising fishing tournament and attracts over one hundred teams and is expected to raise more than a \$1 million this year.

The Cook brothers own and operate the Concord Store and Locker and it is the third

year they are using the raffle to support the cause. They sold 750 tickets for \$20 each and total donations for the cause amounted to \$12,144.00.

Eight people or groups are being acknowledged for donations over \$500 in this effort. Concord Store and Locker, Holly J Burow CPA LLC, Alex Schmidt Memorial Fund, Fargaze Farms, Fred Braegelmann, Erik Gunhus, Dave Sathrum and VanZuielen Family Farms.

Grace Lutheran Science Fair



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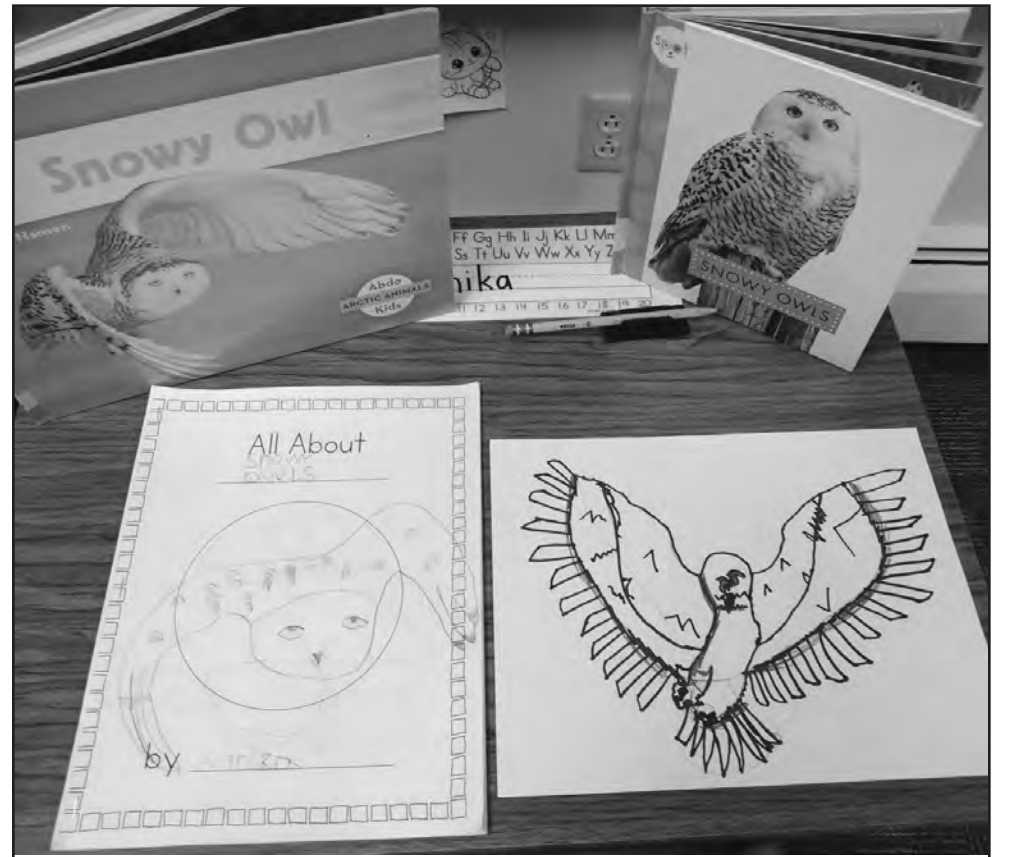
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Grace Lutheran Science Fair



TRITON CLASS OF 2025

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Anna Anderson

FAMILY

Anna Anderson is a senior at Triton High School. Her parents are Sara and Randy Anderson. Anna has one brother, Raymond.

ACTIVITIES

She is active in BPA, Link Crew, Student Council, Yearbook and all the plays, Fall Play, One Act and Musical.

HOBBIES

She enjoys reading, doing crafts, painting and playing video games. Her favorite movie is My Neighbor Totoro.

FUTURE PLANS

After graduation she plans to work towards a degree in Veterinary medicine.

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1. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Have you heard of Food Stamps? That's SNAP—a monthly cash stipend, now distributed via an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, that recipients can use to buy groceries at participating retailers. Because SNAP is a federal program administered by each individual state, eligibility depends on where you live. That said, the average monthly benefit for enrolled older adults can approach or even exceed \$100—an amount that can make a measurable difference when it comes to putting food on the table every day.

2. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Also known as the "Senior Food Box" program, this federal benefit provides a monthly package of groceries at no cost to enrollees. The United States Department of Agriculture distributes surplus commodity food and administrative funding to individual states, who then partner with public and nonprofit agencies to assemble and distribute the boxes. Common items include shelf-stable meats, fish, and vegetables, as well as canned fruit, dry beans, cereal, and other staples.

The Senior Food Box program is meant to fill in the gaps left by other food assistance programs. That means you can participate even if you already receive SNAP. Check with your local Agency on Aging, senior center, or even community health center to see if there's a CSFP program near you.

3. The Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)

Funded by the Farm Bill and administered in partnership with individual states, the SFMNP helps limited-income older adults buy fresh, locally grown vegetables, fruits, herbs, and honey at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture programs (CSAs). Seniors who already are enrolled in SNAP may automatically qualify for this program.

That said, state participation in SFMNP is voluntary, so you'll need to check the USDA's state agency contact map to see if there's a program in your area.

4. The Home-Delivered Nutrition Program

Meals on Wheels is perhaps one of the best-known grantees of this federal program, which provides funding for community-based organizations to plan, prepare, and distribute free or low-cost meals to eligible older adults.

In general, there are no income requirements to qualify for the Home-Delivered Nutrition Program, but participants must be over the age of 60 and be at risk of losing their independence. The best way to find out about home-delivered meal programs near you, including specific eligibility requirements, is to contact your local Agency on Aging. Visit the Eldercare Locator to search online using your ZIP code.

5. The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

Whether or not you qualify for or receive SNAP benefits, you still may struggle to put food on the table. That's where the Emergency Food Assistance Program comes in.

Funded federally, TEFAP directly supports food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, and other community-based partners who feed people in need, including older adults. You don't need an EBT card to participate; if you qualify, you can shop at your local food shelf or eat a meal in a congregate setting without having to exchange anything.

Generally speaking, qualifying for TEFAP is straightforward and the burden of proof is low. However, the process and requirements can vary depending on where you live, so it's best to contact your State Distributing Agency for the most recent guidance in your area.

6. Visiting your local food banks

Though not an actual food assistance program, if you live on a fixed income, visiting a food bank is a smart decision—especially if you consider it as part of your overall meal-planning strategy.

"Make a point to visit the food bank before you go grocery shopping," Hodges advised. "That way, the items you pick up there can inform your weekly menu, and anything you buy at the grocery store will supplement the recipes you've planned out, which can save you money at the register."

And remember: there's no rule preventing you from visiting more than one food pantry. You can locate those nearest you by visiting Feeding America's website and typing your ZIP code into the search bar.

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TRITON CLASS OF 2025

SENIOR
SPOTLIGHT

FAMILY

Anastazia Kozisek is a senior at Triton High School. Her parents are Jason and Tina Kozisek. She has one brother, August.

ACTIVITIES

Anastazia is active in BPA, theater and MHS.

HOBBIES

Her favorite pastimes are reading, drawing, puzzles and playing video games. Her favorite movies are the How to Train Your Dragon trilogy.

FUTURE PLANS

After graduation she plans to go to college and study actuarial science.

#WeAreTriton

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Triton BPA Celebrates Unprecedented Success with 10 State Champions and 14 National Winners

Dodge Center, MN – The 2025 Business Professionals of America (BPA) State Leadership Conference was held March 6-8 and saw over 2,000 members compete from 80 chapters across the state, and the Triton High School chapter came away with a truly dominant performance. Triton crowned a historic and whopping 10 State Champions, including the first ever 2X State Champion, 14 National Trip Winners, and 14 Top 10 Finishers.

“I honestly can’t find the words to describe everything I’m feeling right now,” said Advisor Rebecca Goossens. “We had a third of our chapter who just won State, almost 50% won trips to Nationals, and roughly 85% of our students competing placed in the Top 10. I’m just awestruck.” *(continued on page 29)*



Abrielle Emanuel and Jessica Hukee prepare for their events; Anna Anderson, Ollie Akkerman, and RoseLyn Liudahl serve as State Officer Voting Delegates; Frankie Gann and Logan Skjeveland show off their projects; Global Marketing Team State Champions Camila Medina and Corey Lilledahl; State Champion in Fundamental Desktop Publishing Salma Fernandez; Katya Wheeler becomes a 2X State Champion in Computer Modeling; Alisson Velasco, Bryar Quimby, Ashley Romero, and Anyely Dominguez-Marquez win Website Design Team; Ashley Romero was a double State Champion in Advanced Desktop Publishing and Website Design Team; Vika Kundel is State Runner-Up in Spreadsheet; State Runner-Up Abigail Wirkus in Health Admin Procedures; AJ Kozisek places fifth in Payroll Accounting; Ortiz, Ibarra-Castillo, Harvey, and Okeefe place in Top 10 for Broadcast News; RoseLyn Liudahl, Dora Chable, and Jade Scovill earn Top 10 honors in Website Design Team

Upcoming Testing Information and Academic Achievement

By Luke Lutterman, Shane Van Beek, Tricia Johnson

Spring is in the air, and it is a very exciting time at Triton Schools. We are pleased to report that our students continue to do a great job! *(continued on page 36)*

Cobra Communications



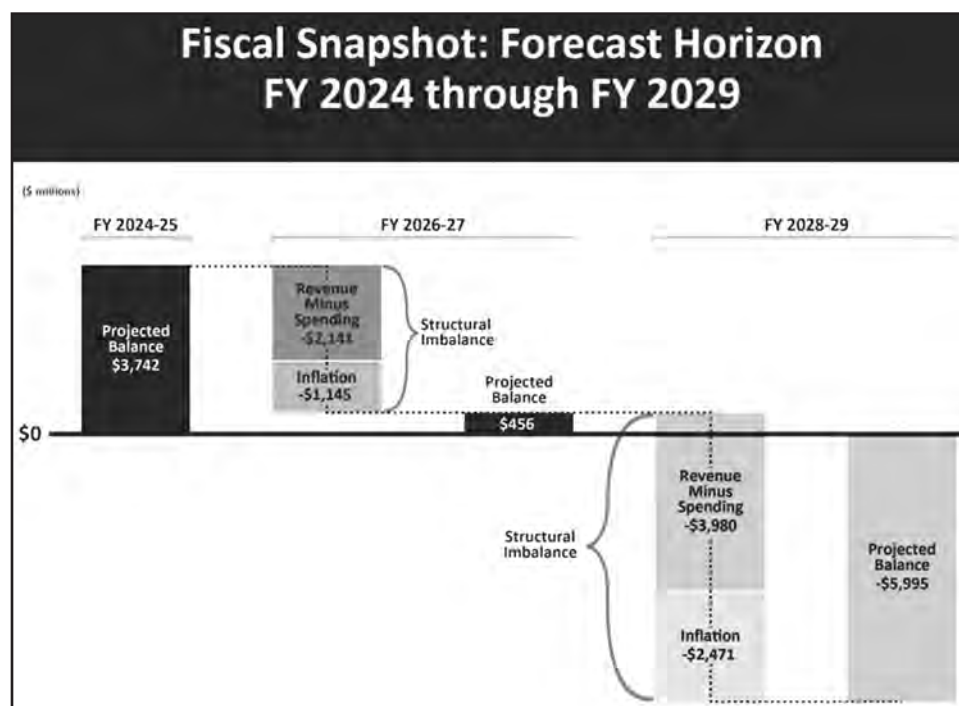
Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

In November, the state was projected to face a 5.1-billion-dollar deficit for FY 28-29. The new budget forecast was released on March 6th. The surplus for the next biennium has gone down. The new projected deficit for the second biennium has now increased to almost 6 million as shown in the picture below that was shared to us from the state. In my article last month, I shared the number of mandates that were imposed on our school system that will cost the school district money that will necessitate our district to make cuts. When you need to make cuts, it requires staff reductions since over 80% of our budget goes to salaries and benefits for our employees. When you look at the historic fund balance that we had prior to the last budget cycle of nearly 18 billion dollars, you must ask, where did it go? The reports are that schools received historic funding, the state government had historic spending, but it did not result in historic

revenue for schools.

I shared some of the ways this surplus was spent in relation to school funding in my last article. Much of it required additional expenditure for the school district because the mandates were either not funded at all, or only partially funded. Now, when I look at the looming deficit ahead, I wonder what will happen when all that money that was in a surplus has already been spent. What frustrates me even more is that our property taxes are increasing, and our local taxpayers’ contributions to the school are increasing, which allows the state’s portion of their contributions to go down. Then, when the state fails to properly fund education, school districts can either cut or ask for additional operating revenue by going to the voters in our community to ask them to vote yes to raise their taxes. Even though I strongly believe in public education and the amazing things that we do for our students, I understand why people are frustrated when we ask them to vote yes for an increase in their taxes. The only positive thing is that when you vote yes, you know where the money is going.

When a neighboring superintendent sent out a survey recently to see how many districts were making cuts this next year, we



had 21 districts that responded, and 19 of them were making budget reductions this next year in Southeast Minnesota. I think this is a simple data point that helps explain how schools have been impacted by the legisla-

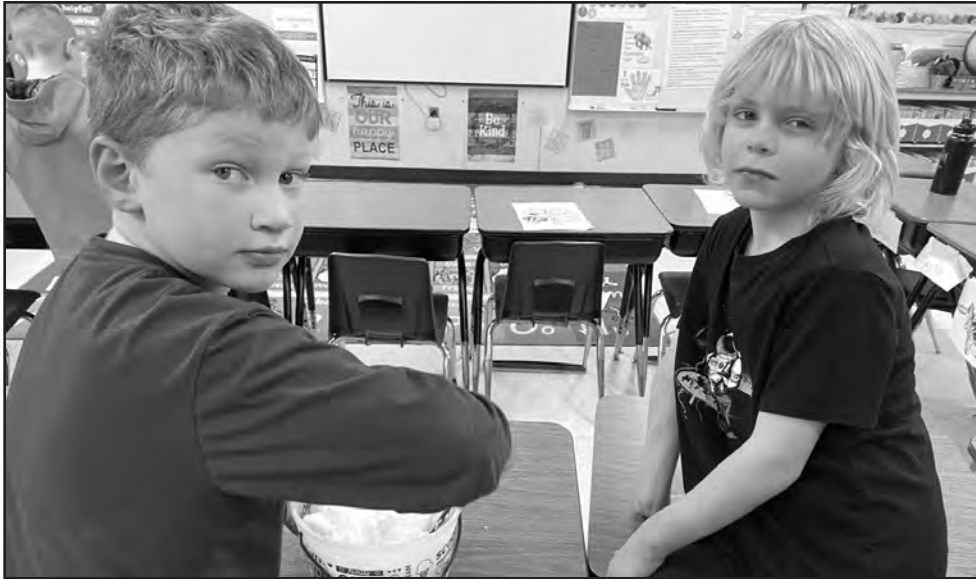
tion that passed the last session. Here is a great link to a video that was recently shared with me to help explain my point. <https://youtu.be/QI8SMmB0MHU>

(continued on page 28)

SNOW Much Fun with Nature Buddies!

By Alli Horejsi

After our most recent snow event (and subsequent snow day) the Nature Studies class collaborated with their nature buddies in Mrs. Wohlfiel's second-grade classroom to make snow ice cream. The students followed a simple recipe that consisted of milk, sugar, salt, and vanilla. After mixing those ingredients, they ventured outside to collect their snow. Once back inside, a lot of mixing was involved. Thankfully all the kids were able to help with that step. Once mixed, the students got to enjoy it with some tasty toppings as well! As high school student Avery Rieser said, "This was actually really good!" The students seemed to all share that sentiment when they asked for seconds!



Triton Public Schools - www.triton.k12.mn.us

TRITON PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION



Class options 2025-2026

- 3 years old -- Tuesday and Thursday 8:00-10:30am
\$105/month
- 4 & 5 years old -- 3 mornings/week--Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8-10:30am \$145/month
- 4 & 5 years old --4 afternoons/week
Monday through Thursday 12:30-3:00pm
\$185/month
- 4 & 5 years old -- 5 half days/ week
Monday-Friday 8-10:30 am OR 12:30-3:00pm
\$225/month

\$50 non-refundable registration fee for all students. This covers registration, snack and milk for the year.

All children must potty trained!

Scholarships are available.

Registration opens March 17th!

Link will be posted at

<https://www.triton.k12.mn.us/page/preschool>

SUMMER PRESCHOOL

Join Mrs. V for a Summer Filled
with Fun, Learning, and
Exploration!



Highlights:

- Outdoor Adventures
- Fine Motor activities
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Fun with Friends
- Snacks provided!



\$210 per session

8:30-11:30am daily

- Session One: June 16, 18, 20 & June 23-26
- Session Two: July 21-24 & July 28-31

Limited scholarships available.

Register at triton.k12.mn.us/page/preschool

More Information:

507-418-7550

The Coffee Cart

Every Friday morning, as the sun rises over Triton Public Schools, a group of students are busy brewing up more than just coffee. They are brewing confidence, social skills and job readiness for themselves—and caffeine for the staff of course.

The Coffee Cart is a little operation that is run by students with special needs in the Elementary School, with the assistance of Triton High School. These students are delivering caffeine to the working teachers and staff, but also serving up vital life skills.

As the cart wheels down the hallway, the students are not only delivering coffee and treats but also smiles and giggles. It has been frequently heard throughout the halls as the students enter into the different classrooms “Oh yeah...its’ my favorite day of the week...Coffee Cart day!” For the staff it has become a beloved “perk” to their teaching jobs. This has been an inaugural year, but we have had great success and look forward to continuing on with this in the future.



Triton Times

Craig J. Schlichting, Superintendent

Triton Public Schools: 813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927

Office – 507-418-7530 • Fax – 507-374-2447

schlich@triton.k12.mn.us

Produced and published for Triton School District by Mainstreet Publishing

P.O. Box 1, West Concord, MN 55985

E-mail: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Phone/Text: 507-649-3327 • Fax: 507-645-9878



Welcome to the 2025 Cobra FUNDrin



TEAM Elementary, in partnership with Boosterthon, is thrilled to kick off our third annual fundraiser in support of our amazing students and staff. This year, our goal is to raise \$15,000 to upgrade our media center (library) and support general school needs.

Thanks to past fundraising efforts, we've been able to provide:

- free homecoming events for families
- field trip funding
- donations to the Nature Kindergarten program
- smart boards for classrooms
- an end-of-the-year trip to Air Insanity
- meals for teachers during spring/fall conferences
- book fair certificates for students

While Boosterthon does take a percentage of the funds raised, this contribution directly benefits our students providing a Fun DJ, exciting prizes, and event coordination to ensure a fantastic Cobra FUNDrin experience.

Event Information

Kick off date: 3/25

Event date: 4/3, during students' special hour

More information will be sent out in the next few weeks. Be sure to check rooms announcements and student folders. Please feel free to reach out to TEAM: testeam@triton.k12.mn.us

We appreciate your support in making this fundraiser a success for our TEAM elementary. Let's make this year our best year

- If you would like to donate, but not through boosterthon, TEAM accepts checks as well. Please write out to TEAM and drop off at school

EXCITING CHALLENGE ALERT!

If we reach our \$15,000 fundraising goal, our very own Principal Mr. Van Beek will take a wild adventure—sleeping on the school roof!!!!

But that's not all! To make the night even more special, he will read a bedtime story to all students from up high

Our online registration for the Kindergarten 25-26 school year is OPEN!

Register your student at:

<https://www.triton.k12.mn.us/page/enrollment>



**Must be 5 years old on or before 09/01/2025
*The Elementary Office **MUST** have a copy of your child's birth certificate.*



Triton Public School 

Kindergarten Round Up

Monday April 7th, 2025

6-7pm

Main Cafeteria

Triton Elementary **must have a copy** of your child's birth certificate & an updated immunization record before your child can start on Sept. 4th, 2025!!

Cobra Communications

(continued from page 25)

My hope is that as a school district; by explaining these things, it helps our community understand the difficult situation that is impacting our school district. We are required to follow the laws that are passed, and it seems our situation needs an explanation. I want our

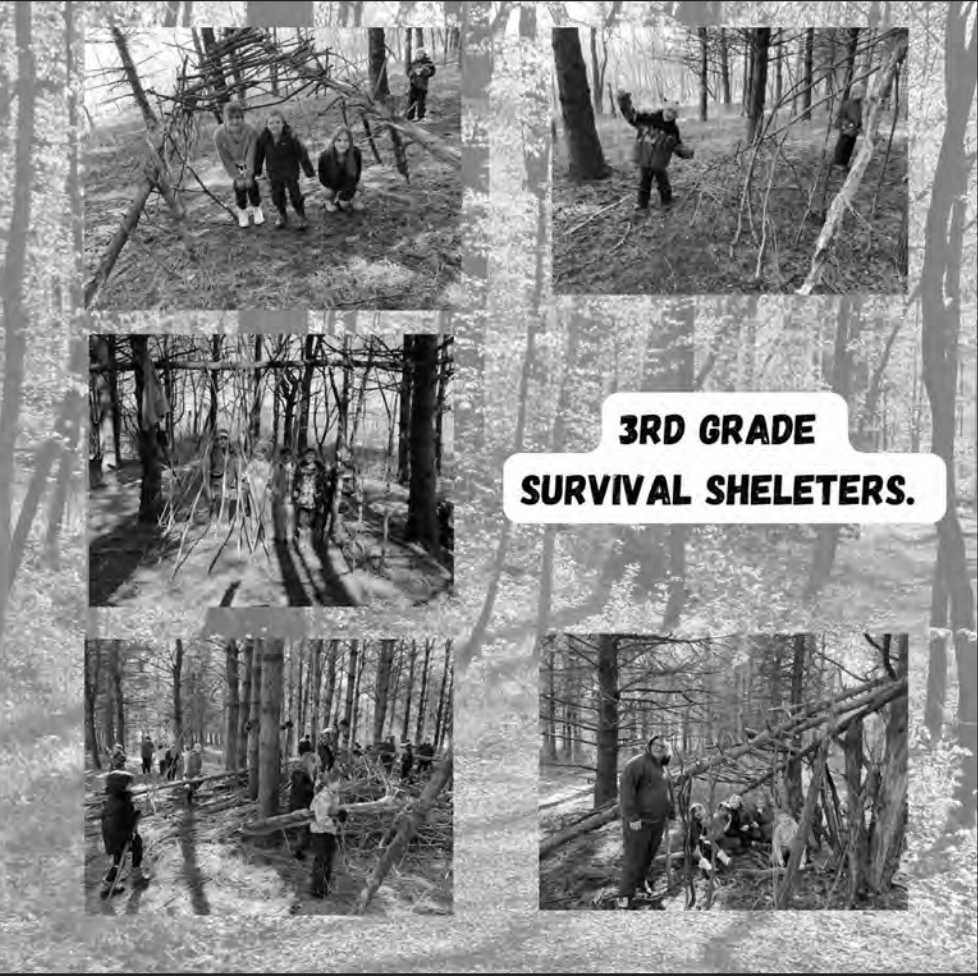
community to understand that making cuts is necessary to balance our budget. Making cuts is not easy and has an impact on our district. It is important to contact the people that were elected to represent you to share your thoughts. I do believe in the fact that advocating for our public schools makes a difference.

I believe in the young people that are in our school district and believe that they deserve a quality education. The learning that takes

place in our district is truly amazing, and we do a great job of preparing our students for their future. The evidence that I see when I sit in on the mock interviews for our seniors is amazing. I am so proud to be a part of their educational experience. I am excited to hear about the amazing careers that our Triton graduates are pursuing. We are doing a great job here at Triton, and I am thankful for the people that we employ to teach and guide our students. I am so proud of the hard work that our staff does here at Triton Public Schools. I am thankful that I have been able to spend

my career in such a wonderful community. 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 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



TRITON ELEMENTARY!!!!!!!!

★ We gave you options, you picked the one you wanted & the results are in.....

If we raise our goal of \$20,000 to update our MEDIA CENTER during our Boosterthon fundraiser March 25th- April 1st.....

MR VAN BEEK IS SLEEPING OVERNIGHT ON THE SCHOOL ROOF!!!

*He will also record a bedtime story & send it to our families (Per our students requests)

Elementary Students, families & friends- Can we make this happen during MARCH 25TH- APRIL 1ST!?

Mr. Van Beek has been egged & he's been slimed!
Lets make him sleep on the roof!!



Triton BPA Celebrates Unprecedented Success with 10 State Champions and 14 National Winners



Back Row: Jade Scovill, RoseLyn Liudahl, Holly Harvey, Miley Dostal, Diego Ibarra-Castillo, Vika Kundel, Broden Dicke, Frankie Gann, EJ Okeefe, Abigail Wirkus, Salma Fernandez, Logan Skjeveland, Angel Mata Colin, Hector Ibarra, Alan Oritz, Ollie Akkerman, Anna Anderson, Jessica Hukee, Abrielle Emanuel. Front Row: Genevieve Starkson, AJ Kozisek, Alisson Velasco, Anyely Dominguez-Marquez, Katya Wheeler, Camila Medina, Corey Lilledahl, Ashley Romero, Bryar Quimby



MINNESOTA
BUSINESS
PROFESSIONALS
of AMERICA

Triton High School



STATE COMPETITION

STATE CHAMPIONS

ADVANCED DESKTOP PUBLISHING- ASHLEY ROMERO
COMPUTER MODELING- KATYA WHEELER
FUNDAMENTAL DESKTOP PUBLISHING- SALMA FERNANDEZ
GLOBAL MARKETING TEAM- COREY LILLED AHL + CAMILA MEDINA
MN TRADING PIN DESIGN CONTEST- LOGAN SKJEVELAND
WEBSITE DESIGN TEAM- ANYELY DOMINGUEZ, BRYAR QUIMBY,
ASHLEY ROMERO, ALISSON VELASCO

SECOND PLACE

FUNDAMENTAL SPREADSHEET- VIKA KUNDEL
HEALTH ADMIN PROCEDURES- ABBY WIRKUS

THIRD PLACE

GRAPHIC DESIGN- BRYAR QUIMBY

FIFTH PLACE

PAYROLL ACCOUNTING- AJ KOZISEK

TOP 10 FINALISTS

ADMIN SUPPORT RESEARCH PROJECT- ABRIELLE EMANUEL
BROADCAST NEWS TEAM- HOLLY HARVEY,
DIEGO IBARRA-CASTILLO, EJ OKEEFE, ALAN ORTIZ
FINANCIAL MATH + ANALYSIS- AJ KOZISEK
GRAPHIC DESIGN- FRANKIE GANN
HEALTH ADMIN PROCEDURES- GENEVIEVE STARKSON
PAYROLL ACCOUNTING- VIKA KUNDEL
PRESENTATION INDIVIDUAL- COREY LILLED AHL
PRESENTATION INDIVIDUAL- LOGAN SKJEVELAND
WEBSITE DESIGN TEAM- DORA CHABLE,
ROSELYN LIUD AHL, JADE SCOVILL

PARTICIPANTS

OLLIE AKKERMAN, ANNA ANDERSON,
BRODEN DICKIE, MILEY DOSTAL, HECTOR IBARRA,
JESSICA HUK EE, ANGEL MATA COLIN

NATIONAL TRIP WINNER

(continued from page 25)

Katya Wheeler became the first ever Triton 2X State Champion in Computer Modeling, and Ashley Romero had the distinction of being crowned a “Double” State Champion by winning both Advanced Desktop Publishing and Website Design Team along with teammates Anyely Dominguez-Marquez, Bryar Quimby, and Alisson Velasco. Also claiming the top title were Salma Fernandez for Fundamental Desktop Publishing, the Global Marketing Team of Corey Lilledahl and Camila Medina, and Logan Skjeveland for the MN Trading Pin Design Contest.

Vika Kundel in Fundamental Spreadsheet and Abigail Wirkus in Health Administration Procedures claimed spots as State Runner-Ups, and Bryar Quimby’s third-place performance in Graphic Design and AJ Kozisek’s fourth place in Payroll Accounting rounded out Triton’s National Trip Winners. Also gracing the stage at the Grand Awards Ceremony were Abrielle Emanuel in Administrative Support Research Project, the Broadcast News Team of Holly Harvey, Diego Ibarra-Castillo, EJ Okeefe, and Alan Ortiz, AJ Kozisek in Financial Math & Analysis, Frankie Gann in Graphic Design, Genevieve Starkson in Health Administration Procedures, Vika Kundel in Payroll Accounting, Corey Lilledahl and Logan Skjeveland in Presentation Individual, and the Website Design Team of Dora Chable, Rose-

Abrielle Emanuel and Jessica Hukee prepare for their events

Lyn Liudahl, and Jade Scovill.

“We have such a rich and successful BPA track record at Triton that I think our students sometimes forget how just qualifying for State is a huge accomplishment itself,” said Goossens. “This level of success is uncommon for other schools, and I’m just so, so proud of all our members on their achievements, no matter their results.”

(continued on page 30)



Triton BPA Celebrates Unprecedented Success with 10 State Champions and 14 National Winners

(continued from page 29)

BPA’s competitive events program allows students to compete in nearly 70 events focused in the areas of business administration, finance & accounting, information technology, video production, human resources, computer programming, graphic design, marketing & entrepreneurship, and health services. The competitions are designed to prepare students to succeed and assess real-world business skills and problem-solving abilities. After qualifying earlier this year, regional winners put their talents to the test during the State Leadership Conference.

This May, Dominguez-Marquez, Fernandez, Kozisek, Kundel, Lilledahl, Medina, Quimby, Romero, Skjeveland, Velasco, Wheeler, and Wirkus will travel to Orlando, FL to compete with thousands of top students from across the United States, Puerto Rico, and internationally at the 60th Annual National Leadership Conference – the pinnacle of BPA competition.



AJ Kozisek places fifth in Payroll Accounting



Anna Anderson, Ollie Akkerman, and RoseLyn Liudahl serve as State Officer Voting Delegates



Frankie Gann and Logan Skjeveland show off their projects (1)



State Runner-Up Abigail Wirkus in Health Admin Procedures



RoseLyn Liudahl, Dora Chable, and Jade Scovill earn Top 10 honors in Website Design Team



Alisson Velasco, Bryar Quimby, Ashley Romero, and Anyely Dominguez-Marquez win Website Design Team



Global Marketing Team State Champions Camila Medina and Corey Lilledahl

Triton BPA Celebrates Unprecedented Success with 10 State Champions and 14 National Winners



Katya Wheeler becomes a 2X State Champion in Computer Modeling



Ortiz, Ibarra-Castillo, Harvey, and OKeefe place in Top 10 for Broadcast News



Ashley Romero was is a double State Champion in Advanced Desktop Publishing and Website Design Team



State Champion in Fundamental Desktop Publishing Salma Fernandez

Curtain Rises on The Wizard of Oz March 26!

You won't want to miss this entertaining show, put on by the Triton High School thespians. The shows are March 27, 28, and 29 at 7:00 p.m. (doors will open at 6:30), and ticket information can be found below. Additionally, a free senior citizen matinee on Wednesday, March 26 at 1:00 p.m. No tickets are needed for the senior citizen matinee. Hope to see you on the yellow brick road!

The Wizard of Oz ticket information:
May be purchased at the high school office from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. starting March 17th.

Tickets are \$5 for students and \$8 for adults
Separate tickets will be available for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; purchase the ticket for whichever night(s) you plan on attending
Once 400 tickets are sold for a performance night, then we are "sold out"
Provided there are tickets still available, you may purchase your ticket at the door.

TRITON THEATER
PROUDLY PRESENTS...

THE WIZARD OF OZ

March 27-29, 2025
at 7:00 p.m.

\$5 for students; \$8 for adults

FREE Senior Citizen matinee
Wednesday, March 26 @ 1:00 p.m.



The Cobra Track Fam is back in action!



The spring weather has arrived just in time for spring activities to begin at Triton, and the track and field team has enjoyed some great outdoor practices already! With a record number of athletes out, we can't wait to see what the season holds – and how much growth and improvement we'll be able to see over the next few months!

The Cobras will kick off the season on Saturday, March 22 with a Gopher Conference indoor meet at Minnesota State University Mankato. Outdoor meets are set to begin the following week, with a junior high meet at Elgin March 25.

We're looking to our seniors to step into leadership roles this year, and they're already doing a fabulous job setting the tone. Craig Knutson, Olivia Weber, Romina Medina, Miguel Martinez, and Isaiah Selthun bring positive energy to practice, and are also some of our key returners in both track and field events.

Returners that already hold places on the all-time Triton top-10 lists are Pierce Petersohn (400, 800, 1600, HJ), Brady Staub (discus), Knutson (discus and shot put), Weber (100 and 300 hurdles, HJ), Autumn Froyum (800, 1600), Avere Henslin (100, 200, 400), Angel Mata Colin (1600). They'll all look to improve their positions, while other athletes will look to break into the record books.

The coaching staff is looking forward to working with all of the athletes – one of the best things about track and field is that times and distances keep improving for all athletes throughout the season. Returning coaches include head coach Kim Swanson, and assistants Shelly Bungum and Tony Bendickson. Returning volunteer coaches are Bruce Huber and Greg Selthun, and we're excited to welcome Adam Anderson, Carolyn Isaak, and Lauryn Nauman to our crew. That's a lot of



years of track and field passion to share with our kids!

Triton is set to host 8 meet dates throughout the season, including the Section 1A Championship meet May 27 and 29. Regular sea-

son meets will be March 27 (JH), April 3 and 11 (varsity), April 22 and May 2 (JH), and May 16 (varsity). It takes a village to host these meets; if you'd like to be part of the action and help out with measuring, moving

hurdles, or announcing, reach out to Coach Swanson at kswanson@triton.k12.mn.us. We'd love to get you involved!!!

GO COBRAS!!

Triton has their first State Champion wrestler!



At the MSHSL Girl's State Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, March 1st, 2025, Adriana Kunz won three matches to become the 100 lb. State Champion. Adriana dominated on the mat wrestling for a total of 6:08. A season of hard work ends with Adriana on top of the podium!

Congratulations Adriana!

Triton
Public Schools
www.triton.k12.mn.us
#WeAreTriton
#SomosTriton



TRITON HIGH SCHOOL'S
HYGIENE
DRIVE

DONATE to our **HYGIENE DRIVE!**

March 3 to March 21

Elementary, Middle School, & High School offices

DROP OFF at your **OFFICE:**

- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes
- Wet Wipes
- Lotion
- Shampoo
- Razors
- Toothpaste

- Paper Towels
- Soap
- Body Wash
- Shaving Cream
- Tampons
- Feminine Pads
- Conditioner

SPONSORED BY **MHS**

Adriana Kunz

2025 MSHSL 100lb.
Girl's State Champion
Triton High School

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: Carolina Olveda
Graduation Year: 2022

Current City: Rochester, MN

When Carolina thinks of her time at Triton High School, she remembers all the pep rallies as her favorite times because they were so interactive and fun. Academically, her favorite teacher was Mr. Boe because "he was the kindest and sweetest soul." She says he knew how to make class fun, had a great sense of humor, explained assignments well, and had so much passion for what he taught. In addition to Mr. Boe, Carolina said the Family and Consumer Science (FACS) classes, taught by Ms. Breer, were her favorites. Carolina took Basic and Advanced Foods and Child Development 1 and 2 during her time at Triton High School. She remembers these classes as her favorites because they were interactive classes, and she created a lot of good memo-

ries. "The cooking was my favorite part and just learning new ways to cook and try new foods," she says.

Nowadays Carolina is a business assistant at Northwest Dental Group. A lot of what she is doing at her job requires computer skills, communication skills, basic math and many skills she learned at Triton. She also shares that personal finance and English classes (writing emails and texts using proper grammar, etc.) helped her to be ready for day-to-day activities in her adult life. Carolina's words of wisdom for the current Triton High School students are to enjoy every experience you have in high school and to do what you want (without getting into trouble, of course). She shares that at times she still wishes she could go back and enjoy it. She shares some very wise advice, "Growing up comes fast and it isn't necessarily scary, but at times it will be. ... Don't get too stuck on the bad things, because if you look back at it from 4 or 5 years ahead, you're going to think 'why was I even worried or so hung up about it?'" Truer words have never been spoken.



Pancake

BREAKFAST!

8-12

23 MAR

IN MEMORY OF ERIN BROSE

All profit goes to the Brose Family

\$8 Adults | \$6 Kids and Senior citizens

Dodge Center City Hall | Hosted by Triton Student Council

Pancake Breakfast

Toppings

- Chocolate chips
- Butter
- Flavored syrups
- Fruit
- Whipped cream
- Sprinkles

Drinks

- Milk
- Orange Juice
- Coffee
- Water

Sides

- Sausage
- Hashbrowns
- Bananas

Upcoming Testing Information and Academic Achievement

(continued from page 25)

A lot of the attention during this time of the school year goes into planning and executing successful testing experiences (MCAs, ACCESS, ACTs, ASVAB, Pre-ACTS). Although accountability measures for public schools continue to change, the mandate of using state standardized testing remains. We will continue to view these tests as opportunities for students to demonstrate what they know and how hard they have worked. Regardless of the situation, we want students to be prepared to do their best.

Results from high stakes testing and, in our case, the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) are the most well-known and public measure of student achievement. We will never deny these results are important and will continue to use these results as an indicator of school success. Educational best practices call for engagement, differentiation, innovation, and creativity. Although we all want to see great achievement gains, it is also

important to remember that the practices that lead to improved achievement will continue to be what we focus on.

Standardized testing and traditional school evaluation focus on a one-size-fits-all approach. We know that there is more to each student than a test score. That is why we also measure student career and college readiness through Redefining Ready. Redefining Ready has additional research-based indicators that determine if students are college, career, and life-ready. Some of these indicators are (GPA, AP courses, Algebra II passing rates, concurrent college credits, industry credentials, attendance, community service hours, and participation in extra/co-curriculars).

We have seen improvements in numerous standardized test areas. Although improvements are nice, we want to prioritize instructional practices that lead to long-term success. Our district aims, goals, and Profile of a Graduate set the foundation for helping students develop the skills needed to be suc-

cessful lifelong learners. We want to continue to help students develop the academic skills needed for success and the human being skills required to apply this knowledge appropriately.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article and for your continued support.

Questions: Call 418-7550

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-3:30 pm

Check Out Our Website:
www.triton.k12.mn.us and click on the
Community Education tab

TRITON COMMUNITY ED'S

ANNUAL OUTDOOR CRAFT AND VENDOR MARKET

DODGER DAYS 2025!

Saturday, June 14

Noon-5PM

at the Dodge Center North Park

VENDORS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING SHOULD CONTACT

KRISTY FABER AT TRITON COMMUNITY ED:

KFABER@TRITON.K12.MN.US OR 507-418-7550



JUNE 13-15, 2025

COMING SOON!

LISTING OF EVENTS



SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL

EQUIPMENT SWAP

Do you have equipment that could be put to use by someone else?

Are you looking for equipment to use this season? We can help!

***DONATE YOUR QUALITY USED EQUIPMENT**
4/3 AND 4/7 FROM 3:30-6PM
4/5 FROM 8AM-2PM

***TAKE EQUIPMENT THAT YOU NEED**
5/3 FROM 8AM-NOON
TRITON ACTIVITIES AREA

Contact Terri at
tflicek@triton.k12.mn.us
for questions or needs

TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Pokémon Game Coding

Grades 2-6


In this class, we introduce students to programming concepts using Scratch. Learn to create an interactive 2D video game using your FAVORITE Pokémon characters. Scratch is a drag-and-drop creative coding platform developed by MIT.

Additional Technical Requirement:
Scratch and scratch account- Instructions will be emailed PC Needed (Windows or MacBook), will not work on Chromebook, tablets, or phones.

Cost: \$28

Saturday, April 12
8-9:30AM

An email with information and links will be sent to the email address you provide the week prior to the class. It is the parent's responsibility to read the email prior to the class and follow any preparation steps prior to the start of the class.



Triton Community Ed and the Green Shack

Spring Class for Youth

Dig into Gardening!

Grades K-5

Join Brittany from the Green Shack and start growing your own garden now! She will show help you plant 8 seed starts of a variety of veggies, flowers and herbs.

Each participant will bring home their own garden starters and information on how to grow their plants .

20 Max class size

Cost: \$28

March 25
3:15-4:15PM
TES Art Room



Community Ed. Track & Field

Boys and Girls grades 2-6

Once again this spring the Triton Track and Field program will be sponsoring the second through sixth grade community education track and field program. The participants will get a t-shirt with their timely registration and payment. **The deadline to register and receive a shirt is March 24.** There is no guarantee of a shirt after this deadline.Participants will learn and work on skill development in the high jump, long jump, shot put, hurdles, block starts and relays.

Cost: \$34, include a t-shirt if registered by the deadline of March 24.

Practices will be on Wednesdays, from 3:15 – 4:30PM
We will meet in the Small Elementary Cafeteria each practice and walk to the Track together. Parents should pick their child up at the track field after each practice.
Practice dates are: April 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14

****Practices and/or meets cancelled due to inclement weather will not be made up.
All cancellations and communications will be done by email
You will be required to check email regularly regarding these types of communications.

We will also be hosting **two Saturday morning meets** that all are invited to participate in on **May 3 and 17 at 9AM.** More information will come home prior to each meet.



COMING SOON!

SUMMER

YOUTH BASEBALL

TBALL

LITTLE COBRAS LEAGUE

WATCH FOR

REGISTRATION

FORMS IN

BACKPACKS

&

SCHOOL

OFFICES



Triton's Business Professionals of America Club

is raising funds for an unprecedented

14 high school students competing at it's

NATIONAL COMPETITION in Orlando Florida

KIDS

CARNIVAL

March 29 - 9AM-1PM

Dodge County Business Expo

Triton High School

KID'S

ACTIVITIES

FUN +

GAMES!

FACE


PAINTING

TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550



Dodge County's Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is in need of replenished funds.
In order to continue this service of providing FREE books monthly to children ages 0-5 in Dodge County we need to raise \$16,000.
If an individual or business is interested in donating to this cause, please use the QR code or log into:
<https://donate.imaginationlibrary.com/?country=US&affid=MNDODGE>

"You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children."



Learn More at imaginationlibrary.com



Thank you to all of our local sponsors!



Triton Community Ed Presents:
A TWO Day Trip!

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

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

After Dinner we will enjoy the Musical Production of Oklahoma!---
It's an American classic! It's the show that first introduced the immortal writing team of Rodgers and Hammerstein! It's the show that ushered in the Golden Age of American Musical Theatre! It's OKLAHOMA! This bright, brassy, boisterous musical comedy is filled with colorful costumes, breathtaking dancing, side-splitting humor, and a musical score featuring such hits as "People Will Say We're in Love," "Surrey With the Fringe On Top," and the rousing title number "Oklahoma!" The original production won a Pulitzer Prize and various Broadway revivals have won multiple Tony Awards. Now The Fireside presents a fresh, new, not to be missed telling of this time-honored musical. We will return to our hotel for a great night's sleep.

Day Two:
We will enjoy a complimentary breakfast at the hotel, and then depart for West Salem, Wisconsin. We will make stops at Le Coulee Cheese Castle and Linda's Bakery for shopping and have lunch. Then we will make our trip back home!

September 18 and 19, 2025
Limit 40 people

Options: Total Cost per person: Includes coach bus, hotel stay, Fireside Theatre dinner and show ticket.


Single Room Stay (1 person in the room): **\$385/person**

Double Room Stay: (2-4 people in the room, 2 queen beds): **\$345/person**
*** Please indicate who you are rooming with when registering

A \$150 per person non-refundable deposit is due by July 17, 2025. The final balance is due by August 22, 2025.

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

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



Triton Community Ed Trips

You must Call Triton CE at 507-418-7550 to register for this trip!


Church Basement Ladies
Plymouth Playhouse, Plymouth MN

The Ladies are back at the **Plymouth Playhouse** with the musical that started it all! The church basement kitchen throughout much of America is often the heart and soul of any church. In Church Basement Ladies we meet the pastor, three kitchen cooks and one daughter who run the kitchen and care for the congregation by preparing and serving the food. Like any great kitchen, problems are solved here as well. We see the four women handle a Lutefisk dinner, a funeral, an Easter fundraiser, and a wedding. They stave off potential disasters, have fun, share and debate recipes, instruct the young, and keep the pastor on due course. This musical comedy based on recipes, food, and change in the church is funny, heartwarming, and down to earth. It will bring back memories of many people you know from churches everywhere.

We will have a catered lunch prior to the show. The buffet style menu includes: Buttered Penne Pasta, Meatball Marinara, Chicken Alfredo, Caesar Salad, Parmesan Cheese, Croutons, Buttered Green Beans, Breadsticks, Brownie Bites, Coffee and Bottled Water.

August 6, 2025
Cost: \$92/person, including coach bus, lunch and ticket to the show.

Bus	Departs	Approx Return
Byron Middle School Parking Lot	10:45AM	6PM
Kasson Football Field Lot	11AM	5:50PM
Dodge Center Triton Schools Activities Entrance	11:15AM	5:40PM
Owatonna Target Parking Lot closest to Hotel	11:40AM	5:15PM



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
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!



Saturday 8AM-2PM
March 29th

25 Cent
 Breakfast
 8-9:30AM

Scavenger
 Hunt for
 the kids!

**Free
 Admission**

**Live
 Music**

**Over 100
 Local
 Vendors**

Food
 Court



Triton High School • 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 813 West Hwy Street, Dodge Center
www.dodgecountyexpo.com

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ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP MARCH
29TH AT TRITON HIGH SCHOOL



BOOGIE 8AM
TO 10AM



THE ROCKIN' HEP CATS
9:30AM TO 11:30AM



CHRIS ROLLO 12PM
TO 2PM



JUST FOR KIX
DANCERS 12PM



ROOKIE THE
CLOWN 8AM TO
2PM

Quality that extends beyond our windows and doors.

A black and white photograph of a large potted plant in a sunlit room. The plant is in the foreground, and in the background, there are large windows looking out onto a garden.

A black and white photograph of a woman and a young child in a kitchen. They are standing at a counter, looking at something together. In the background, there is a window with a decorative pattern.

A black and white photograph of a woman and a young child in a bedroom. They are standing in front of a bed, looking at something together. In the background, there is a window.

A black and white photograph of a man and a woman on a balcony. They are standing and looking out at a garden. In the background, there is a large glass door or window.

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**DISCUSS YOUR PROJECT
WITH A MARVIN EXPERT**

The logo for Probuilt Construction LLC. It features a stylized 'P' that incorporates a house silhouette. Below the 'P' is the word 'PROBUILT' in a bold, sans-serif font, and below that is 'CONSTRUCTION LLC' in a smaller, all-caps font.

Probuilt Construction LLC
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Dundas, MN 55019
507-200-1545
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BC807868

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BUCKET OF BEERS \$17.00
During Happy Hour

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Hours: Closed Sundays & Mondays; Tuesday-Saturday 11am-Close

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DAILY SPECIALS

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15% OFF Wednesday, Thursday with ad
10% OFF Friday, Saturday, Sunday with ad

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FAMILY
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Thank You

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Hours: Sunday-Thursday 7am-3pm; Friday-Saturday 7am-8pm
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THEME: MARCH MADNESS
- ACROSS
- Giant Himalayan
 - *M in MAC
 - Bathtub libation
 - Joie de vivre
 - Do like fly fisherman
 - East side of Jersey
 - Tucked in
 - Diva's solo
 - Length of a forearm
 - *_____ Sunday
 - Osiris' wife
 - Freshwater fish
 - Stir fry pan
 - Victorian era overcoat
 - Smallest
 - *Like attending band at the NCAA Tournament
 - Kaa of "The Jungle Book"
 - Great Lake
 - Prep mushrooms for steak, e.g.
 - Cooking fat
 - Bible song
 - Second to last word in some fairytales
 - False
 - Dip oreo into milk, e.g.
 - Tiresome
 - Hoariest
 - NBC's sketch comedy show
 - Misrepresent
 - South American monkey
 - *2025 NCAA Championship game venue
 - Renaissance fiddle
 - "To _____ and to hold"
 - ____-friendly
 - Founding Father Thomas _____
 - Damien's prediction
 - Reunion group
 - Bancroft to Hoffman in "The Graduate"
 - Agreement word
 - Ages and ages

- DOWN
- Nay opposers
 - River in Bohemia
 - 1.3 ounces, in Asia
 - Owes money (2 words)
 - Angelina Jolie's 2024 singing role
 - "Kick the bucket," e.g.
 - *_____ Smith, coach of 2 champs and 11 Final Four teams
 - Mongolian desert
 - Fleur-de-lis
 - *Cut down at end of last game
 - Like rheumy eyes
 - Descendant
 - *2024 winners
 - Thin pancake
 - *_____ and move on
 - *Cinderella's victory
 - Furlough
 - Spew, past tense
 - Cough syrup balsam
 - Use other end of pencil?
 - Farm structures
 - Dangle a carrot
 - *_____ up or evenly matched game
 - Step on it
 - *2024 Most Outstanding Player Newton
 - Paralyzing disease, for short
 - Afghan monetary unit
 - Neolithic tomb
 - "Riunite _____, that's nice"
 - Figure out
 - Scapegoat's due
 - Roof overhang
 - Salty drop
 - Avian wader
 - Sailor call
 - Capital of Norway
 - Statistics calculation
 - Sea eagles
 - Dashboard acronym

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



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