



Serving the Triton Area

# The Messenger

Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord

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MAY 14, 2025

Volume 11 • Issue 10

## INTRODUCING THE Class of 2025

(pages 18-23)



## Area Memorial Day Services

(see page 25)

## 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

## Welcome Summer with Dodger Days



Dodge Center's Dodger Days will be held June 12th thru 15th. Thursday kicks off with city wide garage sales. Look for the QR code on the full page ad on page 42 of this issue for locations and times. There will be open Pickleball at the North Park from 6:30 to 8:30pm for all ages.

Friday June 13th will feature a Fireman's Feed at the Dodge Center Fire Hall starting at 4pm. The Annadine will host Music on Main Street starting at 6pm with an outdoor show. Food trucks will open on Main Street as well

at 6pm.

Saturday June 14th will start with Yoga in the Park from 8:30 to 9:30am. There will be a Venom softball tournament starting at 9am. A free Dodger Days photo booth will be open all day for photo shots. Food trucks open on Main street at 10am. From 10am to 2pm Rookie the Clown, Bounce Houses and face painting will entertain the kids. There will be Bingo from 10am to noon under the new pavilion. Olmsted County will have a K-9 demonstration at 11am.

The Triton Community Ed will have a vendor's market from noon to 5pm. Paws and Claws will hold an adoption event from noon to 2pm. There will be a free swim at the pool starting at noon. A drone demonstration by the Dodge County Sheriff Department will be held at 1pm. There will be free music for

the whole family starting at 5pm with the Rockin' Hep Cats and the Poor Boy Ramblers at 7:30pm. Bring your own lawn chairs and Harold's Club beverage truck will be serving. Fireworks will start at 10pm.

(continued on page 3)

## More Than Merriment



West Concord outfield during Venom Softball's "Friday Night Lights" event

By Tyler Weeks

It's often challenging to view sports as anything other than entertainment. However, when Tom Bond began the non-profit Venom Softball in 2012, it was the start of something much more than a simple sports team. The Triton Youth Fastpitch Softball Association, commonly known as TYFSA, allowed young ladies and their parents to grow relationships with other like-minded people.

(continued on page 26)

## Local Church Bids Farewell to Pastor

By Tyler Weeks

Retirements are a sometimes scary and intimidating thing. Having to step out of your everyday work and live without a clear-cut structure is a daunting thought for many, and it's usually why people prolong their retirement and continue working for longer. For Reverend Karen Larson, however, her farewell from the Zwingli United Church of Christ doesn't mean the end of her continually growing relationship with Christ. After replacing Viktor Jortak as the head pastor in 2017, she has continued to lead Sunday messages at the colloquially known Berne Church with a fervent dedication to the community. Through music, wood-fired community pizza, and several other initiatives, Karen has connected kids and adults with the Word and made Sunday services welcoming and relevant to all. The following paragraphs reveal her backstory, future, and May 18th retirement in greater detail.



Reverend  
Karen Larson

(continued on page 3)

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## The Gift of Life and a Tribute to Mothers



By Pastor Roger Langworthy  
Praise Fellowship Church

When God created Adam from the dust of the earth his masterpiece was complete when, as it says in Genesis 2:7... He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person. Then after God created Eve from the rib of Adam, God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth." Within the design of humankind God gave the gift of life through procreation.

It is in this process of procreation that we give such honor to mothers who have within their bodies and within their psyche the capacity to nurture a child within and outside of the womb. Even though God has entrusted this gift to mothers, he remains part of the process as it says in Psalm 139:13 "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb." At the moment of conception human life begins. From the moment fertilization takes place, the child's genetic makeup is already complete. Its gender has already been determined, along with its height and hair, eye and skin color.

The only thing the embryo needs to become a fully-functioning being is the time to grow and develop. Thank you, mothers for being the servants of God to nurture your children and see them birthed into this world.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 says, "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die..." Although each of us will die physically, that is not the end of life. God has a gift of eternal life for those who receive his salvation. Jesus said in John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying." The operative phrase in Jesus' words is "anyone who believes in me..." Because Adam and Eve sinned, they gave birth to children with

the same sinful nature as they possessed. That sinful nature would separate us from God for eternity as it says in Romans 3:23 and 6:23 that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glorious standard of God, and that the wage of our sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God not only gave us the gift of life here on earth for the years that we have, but he also gave us the opportunity to receive eternal life. But it is your choice. You can die in your own sin, not having received the gift of God, or you can be forgiven of your sin, making Jesus your Savior and Lord, and live with him for eternity. Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 says, "Yes, remember your Creator now while you

are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken. Don't wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well. For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it."

When you die, your spirit will return to God. He is the one who gave life to your body. It is at that point that you will give an account as to whether you received the gift of God for eternal life or if you chose to pay your own wage for your own sin and your death means eternal separation from God. Choose this day! Choose life that you may live forever even after your body has breathed its last breath!

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Keep It  
**Local**

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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

**Thomas**

*Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.*  
— John 20:24

I can understand Thomas's doubt. For whatever reason, he wasn't with the other disciples when Jesus first visited them after his resurrection, so he hadn't seen Jesus firsthand. Maybe he should have taken the disciples' word for it when they told him they had seen Jesus. Maybe he should have had more faith. Or maybe he was just an untrusting sort of person. Whatever the case, Thomas said he just couldn't believe Jesus was alive until he saw Jesus for himself.

When Jesus came again and Thomas could see him, Jesus was patient with Thomas. Jesus even showed Thomas what he said he needed to see in order to believe. But Jesus also noted that all who believe without seeing him will be blessed.

Today that includes you and me. Belief without seeing is the nature of our faith most of the time. We probably won't see Christ in person until we join him in eternity. Until then, though, we believe even though we have not seen.

We are called to have faith in Jesus for who he is, all he has done, and all he has promised. We believe because others have seen, because others have witnessed, and because their testimony is in God's Word to us, along with all of God's promises. We believe because the Spirit of God guides us into the truth of God's Word and gives us faith (see John 16:7-15; Ephesians 2:6-10). And in believing we are blessed.

*Lord, help us to believe even though we have not seen. By your Spirit, lead us to know the truth that brings life in you. Amen.*

### CLAREMONT

**1st Presbyterian Church**  
200 East Street, Claremont • 528-2320  
Pastor Doug Walters  
Sunday Worship at 10:00a.m.

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

### WEST CONCORD

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

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

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

**Church of Christ**  
55087 200th Ave., West Concord • 507-527-2723  
Pastor Peter Moen  
9:00a.m. Sunday School; 10:00a.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

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schedule, etc. to the The Messenger at:  
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## Local Church Bids Farewell to Pastor

(continued from page 1)



Before entering ministry, Karen lived with her community service-oriented family on a farm near Rice Lake. As a dairy farm girl, she regularly attended and volunteered at the First Presbyterian Church in Clare-

mont, which her family encouraged alongside an enthusiastic curiosity about the world. After getting an education at Owatonna Public Schools and U of M, she pursued a secular career in advertising and worked for agribusiness companies. Karen spent the next twenty-five years raising two daughters who now work as teachers and social workers. Although her non-religious career provided stability and some enjoyment, she kept returning to the meaning and purpose of these past times. Fueled by several factors, Karen felt called to steer her life into a new direction and meaning. After enrolling in the United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, she pursued a career in ministry despite her original goals and became ordained as a pastor in 2012.

"Big mid-life questions led me to seminary and the ministry, where I served widely different churches- a big steeple congregation in downtown Minneapolis and then two small congregations in rural Nebraska. When it came to Berne Church, I felt that God was calling me home to southeast Minnesota to walk with and inspire others."

A part of what drew Larson back to her home state was her sister, whose regular appearances at the church's fundraiser, Berne Wood-Fired Pizza, drew her in. Curious about how a small church could pull off such a massive summer event every week, Karen applied as a pastor and quickly developed relationships with the rural people. By teaching the Word to older congregants and finding new ways to uplift youth, she quickly realized how warm, caring, and grounded the people of Berne Church were. Using her previous knowledge as a pastor, Karen sought to strengthen what the people were already

## Welcome Summer with Dodger Days

(continued from page 1)

On Sunday June 15th there will be a fly-in at the Dodge Center airport with breakfast served from 7am to noon. A quilt and fabric art show will be at the Fire Hall from 9am to 1pm. At North Park church will be held under the tent at 10am. The food trucks will open at 10am as well. The tractor show will be held by the Fire Hall from 11am to 1pm. Touch a Truck event will be held from 9am to noon and Bingo will be at the Fire Hall from 11am to 1pm.



doing- building a healthy community and combining faith and energy with spiritual support. When asked about her experience with the community over the years, she responded with the following statement.

Karen Larson: I started serving Berne Church at the end of 2017 and have experienced the pandemic, anti-racism movement, and heightened political division together. There were dozens of personal and family crises alongside blessings of new babies and neighbors. While challenging at times, all of this has helped me grow spiritually, and I hope it has deepened the congregation's faith and connections just as much. I'm proud of the church for their overwhelmingly positive vote to become Open and Affirming- welcoming everybody and anybody into life and leadership in the community. We also worked incredibly hard to stay connected during the lockdown, allowing folks unable to attend in person to worship live on Facebook.

Throughout these hardships and high moments, one of the most fulfilling and enjoyable parts of her time was the community's "Messy Church" program. Its many projects that youth and their families create act as means of communication, allowing people's incredible creativity to shine. Using their community's differences to embrace all people has allowed them to utilize their unique gifts and love as God loves them. Berne Church's valuable size is "big enough to do God's work" but, as their motto says, small enough to know community members. As her retirement on May 18th comes nearer and nearer, Karen expressed plans to take a hiatus to spend time with her two-year-old grandson and replenish her faith. Throughout the summer and into the fall, she hopes to use her

time to slow down, using rest, prayer, discernment, and writing to grow with God. Whatever the next opportunity brings, she trusts that the Lord will provide her with the right family time and use her gifts adequately.

Karen Larson: Throughout my life, God has always come through. There are moments when I may get confused about His intentions, but then the next step becomes clear. Although there is much to be worried and angry about in our world today, the Creator made every human being and all of nature in a self-giving act of love. Jesus Christ has shown us how to live together peacefully, and we can use the Holy Spirit to build more fruitful lives and relationships. Greater purpose for our bodies and rest for our souls comes when we give our hearts to Him.

As Karen says goodbye to Berne Church, her story reminds us that retirement may only mean the beginning of another journey waiting to unravel. If you'd like to thank her for her unwavering dedication to the community, stop by one of Berne Church's Sunday services between now and May 18th. Even beyond then, however, the Zwingli United Church of Christ will continue to fulfill the mission Karen Larson maintained so faithfully- to ground themselves in Christ, give from their hearts, joyfully worship, and contribute to a more just world. Many small towns gather at this sanctuary on the hill, using their rural setting and unique faith journeys to grow their relationship with God. If we can take anything from Karen Larson's incredible contributions to this mission, it's that a united community starts with a united church.

## Spring Senior Hymn Festival

### Thursday May 15, 2025

### 2:00 pm

Faith Community Church  
305 State Street N.  
West Concord, MN

Come and Celebrate in song at our  
Spring Senior Hymn Festival!

Devotional-Pastor Dave

~Refreshments following the program.~

Our facility is completely handicap accessible. We are  
located on the North side of West Concord, on Highway 56.



## Beatrice Irene Conrad

Beatrice Irene Conrad, age 92, passed away on Thursday, May 1, 2025, in Santa Barbara, CA.



Beatrice Irene Conrad was born January 6, 1933, in Dodge Center, MN to Marvin and Charlotte (Langworthy) Lindahl. She grew up the only girl between two brothers, Robert (Bob), her older brother and Merwin, her younger brother. As a toddler Merwin was unable to say "Beatrice," he called her "Reenie." So she went by Irene after that and continued to do so for the rest of her life.

Irene met her future husband at the age of 16 in 1949. Then, on August 19, 1950, she married Devon Conrad in her parents' home. They joyfully celebrated 70 years of marriage in 2020.

Irene postponed her desire to become a nurse many years in order to raise her three children. But she did work during that time as a nurse's aide on the night shift at the Rochester State Hospital to satisfy her desire for service until Devon's job transferred the family to California in 1963. Irene eventually did get her nursing degree in 1970 and worked at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara, CA as an Intensive Coronary Care nurse for 25 years giving her great satisfaction. In those years she also developed a china painting hobby and, along with her husband, a love of extensive international and domestic travel.

In 1988, Irene and Devon relocated to a senior living community in Whitewater, WI where they resided for 22 years. In 2020, they moved back to California to live with their son and daughter-in-law, cherishing her time close to family again.

She is survived by her sister-in-law, Arlys Lindahl; oldest daughter, Karna Williams and husband Scott, daughter, Bonnie Messina and husband Ron, son, Mark Conrad and wife Ronni; four grandchildren, Deonne Williams, Dr. Christopher Williams, Steven Conrad and Holly Conrad; six great-grandchildren, Felix, Gage, Noelle, Alexander, Benjamin and Alexis; and many nieces and nephews.

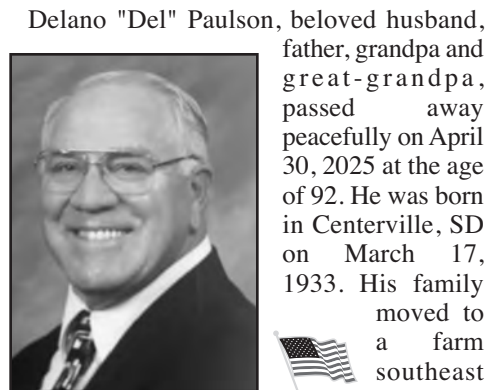
Irene was preceded in death by her husband; her two brothers, Bob Lindahl and his wife Lois, and Merwin Lindahl; two brothers-in-law, Lyle Conrad and wife Mary, Lotis Conrad and wife Jackie; and a great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Thibodeau.

The funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at Seventh Day Baptist Church, 203 E Main St in Dodge Center, MN with Pastors Dale Rood and Frank Bernau officiating. Visitation was from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at Czaplewski Funeral Homes, 25 South St SW in Dodge Center, MN and one hour prior the service at the church. Inter-

ment will be in Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center, MN.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit <http://www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com>. Czaplewski Funeral Homes, 25 South Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927 (507)374-2155. Blessed be her memory.

## Delano "Del" Paulson



Delano "Del" Paulson, beloved husband, father, grandpa and great-grandpa, passed away peacefully on April 30, 2025 at the age of 92. He was born in Centerville, SD on March 17, 1933. His family moved to a farm southeast of West

Concord, MN when he was 9 and he lived in that area for the rest of his life. He built a family home in 1960 and lived there with his family until he and wife Joan moved into Prairie Meadows Senior Living in 2022.

He grew up in a loving family where he was taught the Christian faith and values that would shape his life. He was the third of five strapping boys born to GI and Ida Paulson. He shared a loving bond with his brothers Leroy, Duane, Russ and Glendon. He married his high school sweetheart, Joyce Knipple, in 1954 after he came home from serving in the Marine Corps. They had 3 kids (Brad, Sonja and Glenda) and were enjoying raising their young family when Joyce found out that she had cancer. After fighting the disease, she passed away in 1967.

Later Del was introduced to Joan Bruce, a nursing instructor from Rochester, MN and they eventually married in 1968. They were married for 55 years and they added 3 more children (Timothy, Lance and Bruce). Timothy passed away from complications a week after he was born. In all Del had 14 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. His family was his pride and joy, and he loved to cheer on his kids, grandkids, great-grandkids, nieces and nephews in their activities including sports, music, plays, dances, church events, school events, their careers, starting their own families, and especially in their own faith journeys. He loved to get together with his many

Paulson relatives and his extended cousins from the large extended Rude family relations. He and Joan would host gatherings at their house and he really enjoyed getting a game of volleyball started in the backyard.

He attended a small, country elementary school where he was allowed to skip the 6th grade because there weren't any boys in his grade. Because of this he graduated from Dodge Center High School in 1950 at 17 years old. He was ready to join the Marine Corps, but his mother wouldn't sign the papers to allow him to join early so he had to wait until his 18th birthday to enlist. In 1951 he shipped out to Camp Pendleton in southern California where he served his 3-year service commitment. He was an instructor and worked with thousands of recruits every 3 months on their way to Korea. He enjoyed this time of his life so much that it's hard to believe that he was actually in the old-school, leatherneck Marine Corps because it sounded so fun. He talked about playing volleyball on the beach near San Clemente on his free time and was a proud Marine for the rest of his life.

In 1954 Del left the glamorous life of guns and beach volleyball to come home and marry his sweetheart, Joyce. Soon after they started a family and he began farming with his oldest brother Leroy. Later on, he got out of farming and into government work. After that, he did several different jobs in his life from selling cars, to doing construction and contracting work, to selling insurance & securities. Del got involved in politics and ran for president of the National Farmer's Organization (NFO) in 1975. He was a consistent volunteer for elections and other grassroots political work for most of his life.

His faith in Jesus Christ defined his life. He loved and served his family, his church and community. Del was extremely friendly and outgoing and had a way to connect with anyone whether they were a young kid, a stubborn teenager, or a senior citizen. Throughout his life he served in his local church in many roles including as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, Bible study leader, and more. Del was actively involved in Gideon's International and enjoyed speaking at churches around southeastern Minnesota about the need to spread God's word with Gideon Bibles. Some of his community service activities included serving on the local school board, the Camp Lebanon board, the Marine Corps League and on the board of the West

Concord Historical Society. He was always ready to do heavy yard work or projects for his family and friends, even well into his 70s and 80s. He loved to work with Joan to take care of their apple trees and tend their large vegetable garden.

All of his kids still quote him saying "Stand up straight and pull your shoulders back" as he tried to turn us into good, little Marines. He made an impression on everyone he met as he'd walk up to them, give them a firm handshake and say "Hello. I'm Del Paulson. What's your name? And where are you from?" We can picture him going around heaven and doing that right now. He had a deep, baritone voice and used it singing in church choirs and men's quartets. Sports was another favorite pastime of his, including playing volleyball and watching his kids and grandkids play on their various teams. Del was an encourager and liked to share his appreciation for the skills and effort he saw others demonstrate. He was also a helper and he liked to give advice from his vast store of wisdom. Del never lost his quick wit even when his memory was fading and he continued to win people over with his funny and endearing quips. His family and friends will miss how he could light up a room with his presence and how special he made everyone feel.

Del was predeceased by wife Joan Paulson, wife Joyce Paulson, son Timothy Paulson (infant); parents GI and Ida Paulson; brothers Leroy (Helen) Paulson, Duane (Doris) Paulson, and Glendon Paulson (age 13).

He is survived by his children Brad (Susan) Paulson of West Concord, MN; Sonja (Gary) Cowles of Staples, MN; Glenda (Dave) Andrews of West Concord, MN; Lance (Kristen) Paulson of Chaska, MN; and Bruce (Kathy) Paulson of Woodbury, MN; brother Russ (Lois) Paulson of Mount Pleasant, SC. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Del's life was held at 1:30 PM on May 6, 2025 at Faith Community Church (West Concord, MN) preceded by a visitation from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Faith Community Church (West Concord, MN), the Gideons International, and the West Concord Historical Society (West Concord, MN).

**DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?**  
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## Lisa Sherrington

“Faith Over Fear.” Those were the words Lisa Sherrington lived by—even when life handed her far more than her share of challenges. Her faith was fierce, her humor unforgettable, and her love for her children steadfast.

If you knew Lisa Sherrington, chances are she made you laugh—whether she was dressed as the coronavirus for Halloween, cracking a sarcastic one-liner and telling her favorite joke of the day. Lisa loved hard, lived creatively, and fought fiercely—right up until the end.

Lisa died on May 8, 2025, at Edenbrook Nursing Home in St. Cloud, MN, after a long and courageous battle following a major stroke in 2016.

Born on February 21, 1964, to Larry and Sandra Schaefer of West Concord, MN, Lisa Renae Schaefer grew up on a dairy farm as the second of six siblings. She graduated from West Concord High School in 1982, attended Spencer Business School in Spencer, IA, and later earned a bachelor’s degree in social work from Winona State University. During her career, Lisa worked as the Director of Junior Achievement and for Olmsted County Public Works in Rochester, MN, where she lived for three decades raising her family.

Lisa’s proudest role was being a mom. She made every celebration special for her children whenever she could. Every birthday “week” was celebrated with streamers throughout the house and being woken up to her playing “Happy Birthday” on the keyboard bright and early on the morning of their

birthdays.

Lisa was known for her sharp wit, her love of crafting, and her unwavering faith. Even after a massive stroke in 2016 left her physically limited and living in care facilities for nearly a decade, she remained determined to live fully. She decorated her space for every holiday and season, continued to give herself facials and manicures, cheered for her beloved Vikings (in purple, of course), and made crafts and gifts for staff, family, and fellow residents.

Lisa befriended many residents and their families, and despite her own challenges, became a vocal advocate for better care and dignity for people living with disabilities in nursing homes.

One of the Bible passages that gave her strength in her darkest hours was Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Lisa’s life wasn’t easy, but she met it with grit, humor, and heart. Her story is one of fierce love for her kids, hard-earned faith, and the kind of strength that leaves a mark.

She leaves behind three beloved children: Joshua Schaefer (Ali) of Rochester, MN; Jessica Campbell of Bloomington, MN; and Jonathan Sherrington of Duluth, MN. Her children were her world, as evident in her frequent Facebook updates on their lives. Her love for her kids ran deep and they were the reason she never stopped fighting.

Lisa is also survived by her five siblings: Lori Schaefer of Minneapolis, MN; Tom Schaefer (Amy) of Galesville, WI; Tim Schaefer (Dani) of Carlsbad, CA; Tracy Schaefer of Lafayette, MN; and Kristine Lynam (Ben) of Rosemount, MN. She also leaves behind six nieces and nephews—Sophie, Lexi, Tucker, Amanda, Marissa, and Jacob—and four grandnieces and grandnephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Larry and Sandra Schaefer.

Family and friends attended visitation on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 p.m. at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE in Kasson, MN. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held for Lisa on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church, 1904 Mantorville Ave in Kasson, MN, with burial immediately following at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Cemetery in West Concord. Visitation at the church will be available from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. prior to the funeral.

In remembrance of Lisa, the family asks that you wear purple (Lisa’s favorite color) or tell someone you love them. Memorials can be directed to the Minnesota Elder Justice Center to support Lisa’s passion and advocacy for vulnerable adults.

## Samuel Jonathan Finne

Samuel Jonathan Finne: September 25, 1998 – April 30, 2025.

We are very sad yet full of hope and faith to announce that our son, Samuel Jonathan, received his angel wings on April 30th.

Sam was born on September 25, 1998. He came meekly like a lamb, yet soon we learned that he was fierce like a lion. Sam was born with a special heart. Due to that, Sam lived a life of appointments, procedures, imaging, shots, poky things, surgeries (6 heart surgeries), hospital stays, and the list goes on and on... But Sam did not allow that to label him. Instead, Sam grew into a young man that shared so much of himself with others. Sam was quiet but mischievous, he was full of humor and would tell jokes with a twinkle in his eye, he cared and loved people, he was devoted to his “acquaintances”, he was sensitive to others’ needs, and so much more. During his last hospital stay, he had befriended so many of his caregivers, all of them describing him as remarkable. They all knew what he was facing, but so often he would ask them, “Are you doing ok?”. Throughout this hospital stay, even when he wasn’t feeling his best, he always had a smile on his face and made sure that everyone around him was happy and feeling good. He cherished his time with family and made sure everyone left with a smile on their face.

Sam loved sports, however, could not participate in them like he wished. So instead, he did what he could to enjoy them. He played basketball until his doctor said no more. He was a videographer for his brother’s basketball teams. He enjoyed the game of golf from middle school to adulthood. And mostly, we will all remember Sam, as a loyal, committed Michigan State Sparty fan!!

Sam enjoyed theater and was active in

many plays and musicals. He always found that moment in his role to make the audience roar with laughter. As parents, we loved hearing from other parents that they always looked forward to that moment when Sam would look at the audience, with some goofy look and line that would have them belly laughing.

Sam was a Mayo Clinic Desk Operation Specialists for almost 5 years. Sam completed his training at Rochester Community and Technical College to qualify for this job. Sam was so proud to have applied, interviewed and acquired this job, all during COVID. He loved his work; he loved his team; and he loved his supervisors. Most importantly, he loved the patients he served. As he would tell us all the time, he understood the “patient experience” and he wanted to make sure each patient he served had a warm, caring and supported experience.

And lastly, Sam had his faith...his relationship with God. Nothing that he talked much about with others, but as parents we got a glimpse of it. In this final medical journey, that relationship was on display like never before. He knew what he was facing.

Our family will always remember his smile, his smirk, and his hugs. We will miss our Sammy J but will make sure his memory lives on.

Sam is survived by his parents, Terri and Guy, his big brother Alex, his future sister-in-law Olivia and his girlfriend Abby, his godparents Tammy and Bruce Barry and Chad Finne, his grandparents Sharon Hodgman, Russell and Audrey Finne and Kevin Callister. His many uncles, aunts and cousins who adored and loved him.

Sam was preceded in death by his Grandpa Frank Hodgman and Aunt Teri Grose

A Visitation and A Celebration of Faith and Life will be held. The Visitation will be on June 2nd from 4pm – 7pm. The Celebration of Faith and Life services will be held on June 3rd at 11:00 am. Both events will be held at Faith Community Church in West Concord, MN. In honor of Sam, feel free to wear your favorite Big 10 team gear! We hope his family and friends will be able to attend to celebrate all that Sam was. It will be Sam’s opportunity to ask, “Are you doing ok?”.

Please no flowers. Tied to the celebration event will be an opportunity to contribute to Sam’s medical and funeral expenses



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## That's the Latest Concord USA



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.

Six years ago, a retired high school history teacher from Concord, Massachusetts, Rob Morrison, visited the West Concord Historical Society Museum. This was one of the many Concords that he visited over the past 8 or 9 years. This fascination started because he had to drive his daughter's car to Arizona. He thought that on the way, he and his wife could visit other Concords. He thought that since they would be in the neighborhood, kind of, he would stop and see what these other Concords are like. Well this particular trip included visits to about 7 Concords. Texas alone has 13 known Concords. Why Texas



Parade participants from Concords around the country including Emery Kleven representing West Concord and Concord, Minnesota

has so many is a story for another time.

Fast forward to today; Rob has visited 98 different Concords across the country. Some were cities, such as Concord CA, northeast of San Francisco, which is the biggest Concord in the U.S. at 122,000 population. Some Concords were dots on a map such as Concord, Maine. The entire township has just

over 300 people. As far as Rob explained it to me, there are two West Concords in the entire country, one in Massachusetts and one in Minnesota.

This year was a grand celebration in Concord, MA, as it was the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the Revolutionary War. The North Bridge at Concord was where the 'shot

heard around the world' was fired. It was the beginning of the fight for independence from England and the formation of the United States. Concord, MA celebrates every year and Rob invited people from all the Concords (and West Concords) to come to Massachusetts and help celebrate.

(continued on page 7)

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## That's the Latest

(continued from page 6)

I did not meet Rob when he and his brother visited Minnesota. Colleen Hayne gave them a tour of our Museum and then they walked Main Street and then out to Concord to visit the Concord Locker, the Town Hall and the Cemetery.

Rob's invitation came to the Museum and I decided to take him up on his offer. What a trip back in history it was. It was my first time to Massachusetts. That made number 40 of the 50 states I've been to. While I was there, I made it up to 44 with visits to Kennebunkport, Maine, Concord (where else) New Hampshire, Putnam, Connecticut and Providence, Rhode Island.

My first stop when I got to Concord was their Museum. I saw one of the two lanterns that Paul Revere used to notify people that the British were coming. Remember it was 'One if by land', 'two if by sea'. Well, the British were coming by sea, so two lanterns were used. A historian at the Museum told me that the whereabouts of the second lantern is unknown. But the first one is behind glass and preserved for all to see. Concord, MA, is home to 3 very famous authors; Henry David Thoreau, Louise May Alcott and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Schools, streets, many other things are named after them around Concord. Emerson's house is just across the street from the museum. A living room is set up in the Museum with the furniture that Emerson used in his house back in the day.

After the Museum, I traveled all the way to West Concord, which is just under 3 miles away. About the same distance that Minnesota's Concord is from West Concord. Officially West Concord, MA is a village but it's more like a neighborhood. They don't have a post office or a zip code, much like Minnesota. They do have some nice shops on the main street. I had dinner on the Thursday night I was there as Rob had set up a Concord host for each of the out of state visitors. My hosts were Deb and Mark Richardson. Their friend Polly and Jerry joined us, so I have 4 new West Concord friends.

I also made a stop at the Concord Country



The historic Wright Tavern in Concord, Massachusetts

Club. A private golf course established in 1895. I purchased some items that said Concord Country Club on them as Minnesota doesn't have a Concord Country Club, at least not yet.

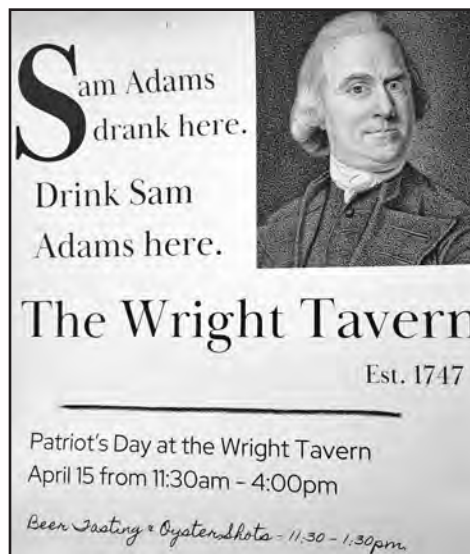
On Friday, I started the day by doing a radio interview on a nationally syndicated program called First Thing Today, hosted by Joe Thomas, who is based in Charlottesville, Virginia. He had set up in the Wright Tavern, an establishment started in 1747. Sam Adams, John Hancock and others from our historic past would meet here to draw up plans for an independent country. Then it was on to many historic places in and around Concord including the North Bridge, where the first shot was fired. Several ceremonies were held there during the weekend.

Friday night, Rob held a gathering at his house on Monument Street, not far from Monument Square in the center of town and not far from the north bridge. All of the people from the visiting ConCORDs and West ConCORDs have a chance to visit with everyone.

April 19 is the actual date of the start of the Revolutionary War. It happened to fall on Saturday this year for the 250th anniversary. A parade was held in the morning, a 3 hour, five mile parade. It turned out to be a beautiful day, 83 degrees and sunny. The days before and the days after the weather was not



The famed North Bridge in Concord where the Revolutionary War started.



Poster inside the Wright Tavern

as nice so the Concord Chamber of Commerce was smart to order ahead for a nice day. Various events took place through the day with a concluding drone light show.

My last day, I travelled to my 43rd and 44th states visited, Connecticut and Rhode Island before returning to Boston for an early morning flight the next day. It was a vacation trip



Lantern

On the afternoon of April 18th, British Regulars assembled a fleet of small boats on Boston's Back Bay. Provincials realized that the long-expected British raid of Concord was underway and that it would begin with a crossing of the Charles River. Two lanterns—including this one—shone from the steeple of Boston's North Church, a prearranged signal meaning "by water."

Boston, about 1775  
Tinned iron, glass  
Gift of Cummings E. Davis (1886)  
M400a1

Paul Revere's lantern on display at Concord Museum

I never thought I would do but with inspiration from Rob's invitation, I'm glad I made the effort. The history that I've only read about came alive being out there. I don't have plans to go back...yet, but I didn't even make it to Lexington, which has more of the history that I've read about.



Emery doing a radio interview with nationally syndicated radio host Joe Thomas from the Wright Tavern in Concord, MA.



Museum Musings



It's That Pie Plant Time of Year

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

Yesterday I looked at the rhubarb in my garden and said, “Yes, it’s time to pull some.” Greg now has been treated to his first rhubarb pie of the year and won’t be at all content unless there are more to follow. He loves rhubarb so much that I have one recipe file of just rhubarb recipes. Novelist and cookbook author, Judith Fertig, wrote in her book The Memory of Lemon: “I loved rhubarb, that hardy, under appreciated garden survivor that leafed out just as the worst of winter melted away.” Rhubarb promises a growing season to come and puts a smile on a gardener’s face.

It seems that so many people raise rhubarb in Minnesota, it must be a native plant. But actually it was first grown in Asia, according to “Plant Science at the Dinner Table”, an article from Michigan State University. It has been grown in Mongolia, Siberia, and the cold regions of China for almost 5000 years, mostly for medicinal purposes. Since rhubarb does grow wild in Alaska, it possibly is a native plant there. Siberia and parts of Alaska are definitely at the same latitude.

So how did rhubarb get to us in Minnesota? In the 14th century, trade over the Silk Roads brought rhubarb from Asia to Europe. Until the early 1800s rhubarb was only used for its therapeutic properties: sometimes worn as a necklace to prevent stomach cramps and aid in digestion, often used as a salve to heal wounds, and commonly used as a laxative. At the Museum we have a wonderful old book published inn 1869, Our Home Physician, written by Dr. George Beard. In the pharmaceutical section, Syrup of Rhubarb and Soda is listed as a child’s laxative. Ninety grains of powdered rhubarb, thirty grains of sulfate of iron, forty grains of soap, and enough water to make a pill for pale and debilitated patients is another rhubarb remedy in the 1869 book. To generally feel more vigorous, this intriguing tonic was recommended: four parts sulfate of iron, ten parts extract of rhubarb, and five parts conserve of roses (rose jam). Who knew?

It took a London nurseryman, Joseph Myatt, to convince people in 1824 that rhubarb, combined with something sweet, was delicious. At the turn of the century sugar became a staple of everyday people, not just the aristocracy, so Myatt’s timing was perfect. You need sugar to enjoy rhubarb! The fact that rhubarb was a fresh food, ready before anything else in the spring garden, gave it a boost, too. In the 1700s rhubarb seeds were given to American Botanist, John Bartram in Philadelphia. Some were sent by a friend and some by none other than Ben Franklin. Bartram had great success with rhubarb and soon many in the Eastern U.S. were growing it. Rhubarb became known as the “pie plant” as it was used almost exclusively for tasty pies and tarts back then.

Rhubarb proved to be a tough, prolific plant with great survival attributes. Immigrants to the Midwest brought rhubarb roots or seeds with them from Europe and maybe that’s how I got my rhubarb. The Sathrum Farm in Ellington Township was established by my Norwegian great-grandparents in 1878. Did they bring rhubarb with them to our farm? When their rhubarb reached old age, were the seeds collected for new plants or the roots divided? During my lifetime, there’s always been rhubarb at the farm. When we built our retirement home, I dug some rhubarb roots up from the farm and planted them where I now live in Concord Township and they seem as happy as can be. Does your rhubarb have a story?

The success of rhubarb in Minnesota can’t be understated. I got out my 1968 Hegre Church Cookbook, my 1981 Berne Cookbook, and the West Concord Library’s Long Overdue Cookbook. As I paged through I compiled a list of the rhubarb recipes I found.

Here they are: rhubarb pie (straight up), rhubarb custard pie, cream rhubarb pie, rhubarb crunch, rhubarb dessert, rhubarb cake, rhubarb delight, frozen rhubarb dessert, rhubarb cobbler, rhubarb torte, rhubarb crisp, rhubarb bars, rhubarb jam, rhubarb sauce and pink rhubarb punch. I’m sure you could add more to that list. Everyone seems to have their favorite. Beyond that, there are all the other delicious recipes combining rhubarb with strawberries.

The 1950 cookbook published by the West Concord Methodist Church has a recipe called Pie Plant Pie. The recipe is credited to Deine Sheils, born in 1888, three years after her father and uncle established the second store in West Concord, a general store on the NW corner of Main and State Streets where the Veterans Memorial Park is now. Like so many early recipes, Deine’s assumes that you would know at what temperature and how long to bake your pie and you would know what to add to egg whites to make a meringue.



Deine Sheils, West Concord’s Pie Plant Recipe Author

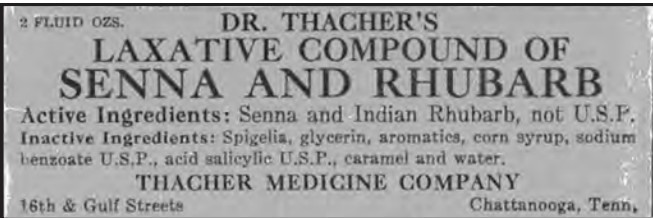
Here’s Deine’s Recipe:

Pie Plant Pie

- 1 1/2 cups diced pie plant
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon flour
- Yolks of 2 eggs
- Pinch of Salt

Mix altogether and pour over the diced pie plant. Place in a pie crust and bake until done. Use the two egg whites for the top when pie is cool.

Some say, “Rhubarb makes life perfectly tart and sweet.” *Enjoy the season!*



The writer’s rhubarb plant, May 7, 2025, Concord Township, Minnesota



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New York, NY — Together for Safer Roads (TSR), a leading non-governmental organization dedicated to advancing road safety through cross-sector collaboration and technological innovation, proudly announces the addition of Oshkosh Corporation as its newest member. Oshkosh’s deep and longstanding

commitment to best-in-class innovation and design in the transportation sector aligns closely with TSR’s commitment to advancing global fleet safety and will further strengthen the organization’s various initiatives.

Oshkosh Corporation and its global reach spans numerous brands, all leaders in vehicle design centered on safety, technology, and sustainability. From its standard, automated, and heavy-duty collection trucks, to the all-electric Volterra refuse trucks, to next-generation zero-emission delivery vehicles, to the advanced S-Series Concrete Mixer and a variety of specialty trucks, designs purpose-built vehicles and equipment with advanced technology that empowers everyday heroes by making some of the most challenging jobs in the world safe, intuitive and productive.

“We are delighted to welcome Oshkosh Corporation as the newest member of Together for Safer Roads,” said Peter Goldwasser, TSR’s Executive Director. “The company’s leadership and expertise on innovation, developing high-vision vehicles, and

integrating cutting-edge safety technologies for operators across industries will significantly contribute to our ongoing fleet safety initiatives. Working together we will advance our shared road safety goals.”

**In particular, Oshkosh subsidiary McNeilus, headquartered in Dodge Center, Minnesota, has long been recognized for its dedication to designing and manufacturing refuse collection vehicles with enhanced visibility, ergonomic driver experiences, and advanced safety features.** With a focus on reducing blind zones, integrating collision mitigation systems, and utilizing telematics for fleet safety optimization, McNeilus continues to be a leader in building smarter and safer vehicles for the waste and recycling industry.

**“Safety is at the core of everything we do at McNeilus,” said Lee Dreas, McNeilus Truck and Manufacturing, Inc. VP & General Manager. “Joining Together for Safer Roads allows us to further our mission of making fleets safer by sharing our expert-**

**ise and collaborating with industry leaders to advance road safety solutions. We look forward to working together to improve fleet and workplace safety and protect drivers, pedestrians, and communities alike.”**

“We are delighted to welcome Oshkosh and its deep knowledge and expertise to TSR. As leaders in dynamic vehicle design and safety innovation, we know they will provide invaluable leadership and real-world insights across our programming,” added Andres Peñate, Together for Safer Roads Board Chair and Global VP Corporate Affairs at Anheuser-Busch InBev.

Oshkosh’s membership follows their appointment last month as a co-chair of one of TSR’s newest initiatives: The Direct Vision Leadership Council, a group of leading stakeholders from across the industry who will work to expand the use of safer, high-vision trucks in the North American market.

## Summer Heat

### Field Cooling Methods for Working Dogs

Heat injury is a serious risk for working and sporting dogs. High environmental temperatures plus heat generated through exercise can overheat these dogs. A dog’s core body temperature can easily reach over 105 degrees Fahrenheit during exertion. However, heat injury typically occurs only when physical activity continues and/or the dog’s ability to dissipate heat becomes compromised.

#### Definitions

- Hyperthermia: increased core body temperature.
- Heat stress: the initial pathologic response to increased core body temperature.
- Heat injury: a sustained increase in core body temperature resulting in changes in physiologic function and mild to moderate organ damage.
- Heat stroke: heat injury with neurologic signs and organ damage.

The American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC) recommends the strategy of ‘cool first, transport second.’ Handlers should immediately begin cooling a dog showing signs of heat stress and then transport to a veterinary facility. Current effective cooling methods include:

#### Providing rest and shade

- Immersion in cool water or wetting the dog’s skin and using a fan to increase air circulation around the dog
- Wetting the paw pads with isopropyl alcohol
- Placing ice packs in the armpits and groin

There have been few scientific studies to compare these various cooling methods and confirm the best approach for cooling dogs with exertional hyperthermia. One must also recognize that access to water may be limited in working environments, eliminating the option of full-body water immersion for over-heated dogs. To find answers and improve outcomes for at-risk dogs, the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) awarded funding for a pilot study conducted at the Penn Vet Working Dog Center. Investigators compared four different cooling methods to assess their effect on core body temperature after exercise in working dogs.

#### Study Methods

The cooling strategies examined were:

- 1) Ice packs around the dog’s neck
- 2) A water-soaked towel around the dog’s neck
- 3) A water-soaked towel in the dog’s armpits (axillae)
- 4) A voluntary head dunk into tepid water (70 degrees Fahrenheit)

Participating dogs were exercised by doing warm-ups and recalls until their core body temperature reached over 105 degrees Fahrenheit or until they showed two or more signs of heat stress. They participated in one of the cooling strategies for 30 seconds and were monitored for 40 minutes. Over four weeks, each dog participated in all four cooling methods. (Water immersion and other cooling methods were used for any dog whose core body temperature exceeded 107 degrees Fahrenheit or whose core body temperature remained over 103 degrees Fahrenheit after 40 minutes.)

All four cooling protocols successfully returned the dogs’ core body temperature to baseline after 40 minutes. However, only the voluntary head dunk behavior lowered core body temperature in the first 30 seconds and created a lower body temperature during the rapid cooling period in the first 5 minutes after intervention.

Investigators suggest several physiologic factors that may explain the superior results following a voluntary head dunk in cool water. When a dog experiences heat stress, blood vessels dilate in the muzzle, ears, and limbs, increasing blood flow to these peripheral areas where heat can dissipate through convection and radiation. The skin on a dog’s head is also relatively thin compared to other parts of the body, allowing for more rapid heat exchange from this region. Finally, blood in the nasal cavity is cooled by airflow before it travels to the brain, providing yet another way of protecting the brain from heat injury. For all of these reasons, cooling methods that target a dog’s head and neck may be most effective at reducing the core body temperature and preventing heat injury.

#### Teaching the Voluntary Head Dunk


To use the voluntary head dunk method in the field, dogs must first be trained to retrieve a toy or piece of food from the bottom of a bucket of water. It is important to note that this cooling method can only be used for dogs with a normal mental status who are willing to participate and can stop panting long enough to dunk their head. If any dog is not mentally appropriate, emergency cooling measures and rapid transport to a veterinary facility are required.

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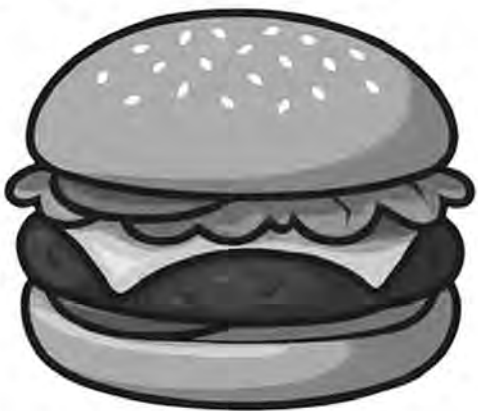
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## The Evolution of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Celebrating EMS Week

### A Brief History of EMS

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) have a rich history that dates back over 150 years. The origins of EMS can be traced to the Civil War, where Major Jonathan Letterman established the first organized ambulance corps within the Army of the Potomac in 1862. This innovation allowed for the triage and treatment of wounded soldiers on the battlefield, significantly improving survival rates[1].

In 1865, the first civilian ambulance service was established in Cincinnati, Ohio, followed by New York City in 1869, which boasted a 30-second response time[1]. The early 20th century saw the development of volunteer rescue squads and the use of motorized ambulances, which replaced horse-drawn carriages[2].

The modern era of EMS began in the 1960s, spurred by the publication of the "Accidental Death and Disability: The Neglected Disease of Modern Society" report in 1966. This landmark study highlighted the need for a coordinated emergency response system and led to the establishment of standardized training programs for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and paramedics[2]. The introduction of the 911 emergency call system in 1968 further revolutionized EMS by providing a quick and reliable way for the public to access emergency services[1].

Over the decades, EMS has continued to evolve, incorporating advanced medical technologies and protocols to provide high-quality

pre-hospital care. Today, EMS professionals are highly trained and equipped to handle a wide range of medical emergencies, from cardiac arrests to traumatic injuries.

West Concord Fire Department, which was first formed in 1898 as a volunteer department, added an ambulance in 1969 which was also staffed by volunteers. The West Concord Fire and Ambulance Department has continued to be staffed by volunteers to this day. The West Concord Fire and Ambulance Department covers a service area of 120 square miles of northern Dodge County. Providing services for approximately 2,500 citizens.

The members are trained as Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), as well as Fire Fighters. The members continue to train to maintain high proficiency in their skills and to add advanced skills to provide the best care for the community.

### Celebrating EMS Week May 18 – 24, 2025

EMS Week, celebrated annually in May, is a time to honor the dedication and hard work of EMS professionals who provide lifesaving care every day. This week-long celebration, established by President Gerald Ford in 1974, aims to raise public awareness about the critical role of EMS in the community and to show appreciation for the sacrifices made by EMTs, paramedics, and other EMS personnel[3].



# EMS WEEK

## May 18-24, 2025

We Care. For Everyone

Each day of EMS Week is dedicated to a specific theme, such as Health, Wellness and Resilience Day, EMS Education Day, and EMS for Children Day[3]. These themes highlight different aspects of EMS work and provide opportunities for public education and community engagement.

EMS Week is not only a time to celebrate the past achievements of EMS but also to look forward to the future. As we honor the legacy of those who have paved the way, we also strive to advance the EMS system to meet the evolving needs of our communities.

By celebrating EMS Week, we acknowledge the invaluable contributions of EMS professionals and reaffirm our commitment to supporting and improving emergency medical services for all.

The West Concord Fire and Ambulance Department is always looking for volunteers to

join in serving the community. We are looking for volunteers who are available during the daytime, which is our greatest need, but would be happy to have help anytime. If you are interested or have questions, please contact us via email at [ambdirector@westconcordmn.com](mailto:ambdirector@westconcordmn.com) or call (507) 527-2176.

As we start the summer, I want to remind everyone that the West Concord Pool Passes are available at City Hall or the Pool. The Pool will be hosting an open swim on June-teenth from 1 pm to 8:30 pm.

[3]: National EMS Week - National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians [1]: EMS HISTORY – EMS Memorial [2]: A Brief History of Emergency Medical Services in the United States

#### References

[1] EMS HISTORY – EMS Memorial

[2] A Brief History of Emergency Medical Services in the United States

[3] National EMS Week - National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

### 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](mailto:ambdirector@westconcordmn.com) or call us at (507) 527-2176 for more information.

## 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

- 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

- 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



# Spring Fling in West Concord



Daniel Switch

photos by Emery Kleven



Harold Osborn, WCHS Class of 1946. Emery Kleven, WCHS Class of 1971







# DENNISON DAYS

June 20 & 21, 2025

RAIN OR SHINE

SATURDAY  
FOOD STANDS  
OPEN AT 11AM!



All You Can Eat  
**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Includes Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage  
& Beverages

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21**  
**8:00 AM to 11:00 AM**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 21**  
**CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

**8:00 AM**

**Trophies at 1:00 PM**

**ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULL**  
**10:00 AM**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21**

**KIDS PEDAL  
TRACTOR PULL**  
**11:00 AM**

**BE IN THE PARADE**

**SATURDAY at 1:30 PM!**

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

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

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

**Call 507-645-9992**

**Dennison Lions Club  
DENNISON DAYS  
RAFFLE**

**1st Prize: \$500 Cash**

**2nd Prize: \$200 Cash**

**3rd Prize: \$100 Cash**

**4th Prize: \$50 Cash**

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

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

**FRIDAY, JUNE 20 KICK OFF**

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

**LIVE MUSIC**



**ANDY TACKET**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21**



*presents*  
**Russ Franek  
& The Biscuits**  
**7:00PM-Midnight**



**Saturday Schedule of Events**

- 8-11a.m.

**All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast** Under Mainstreet tent. Hosted by Nerstrand-Dennison Fire Dept., and Dennison Community Church. \$12 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 & under, 3 & under FREE. Includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, juice, milk
- 8a.m.

**Farmers Market Downtown**  
**Citywide Garage Sales**  
**Classic Car Show on Mainstreet** Presented by Clutchmen Car Club. Registration \$10. Trophies at 1p.m. Contact Jason Aldorfer 612-203-4172
- 8:30a.m.

**Euchre at Fireside Lounge** For information, contact Jen Eggum 507-649-0602
- 9:00a.m.

**Scavenger Hunt - \$100 Cash Prize!** Meet and sign up at the tent. Hunt will begin at 9am.
- 10a.m.

**Antique Tractor Pull Begins on the Hill** Sign up begins at 8:30a.m.  
**Cow Milking Contest** Main Street, hosted by David Flom Dairy
- 11a.m.

**Food Stands Open**  
**Kids Pedal Tractor Pull on Mainstreet (At Mainstreet intersection)** Sign up begins at 10:30a.m.
- Noon

**Kids Bingo** Under the tent. Presented by Dennison Lions. Ages 3-11  
**Kickball Tournament** Hosted by 625 Bar & Grill. Sign up at 625 Bar & Grill
- 1:00p.m.

**Car Show Trophies Awarded**
- 1-3p.m.

**Kids Carnival**
- 1:30p.m.

**Parade Downtown - A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade** (Ages 12 & Under)  
**\$100.00 Prize for Best Parade Entry!** Sign up at Noon. South Mainstreet. Call 507-645-9992
- 2:30p.m.

**625 Bar & Grill Bags Tournament - Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place!** Sign up at 625 or call 507-782-9061
- 4:00p.m.

**Purse & Gift Card Bingo** Presented by Dennison Lions & Fireside Lounge
- 6:00p.m.

**Pie Eating Contest - \$250 Cash Prize!** Under the tent. Sign up at 625 Bar & Grill
- 6:30p.m.

**Keg Toss - \$150 Cash Prize!** Across from Fireside Lounge
- 7:00p.m.-12a.m.

**Live Music - Russ Franek & The Biscuits** 18+ event. No Cover Charge. 21 to drink.  
Presented by ProBuilt Construction and Fireside Lounge & Supper Club

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- If we missed your name, please accept  
our apology.  
Your support is appreciated.*

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



## The Life-Changing Benefits of Working at a Christian Summer Camp



By Emmarie Moon  
Director of Discipleship  
and Recruiting at Camp Victory

Every summer, my job is to convince young adults to trade traditional internships or seasonal jobs for something more meaningful: working at a Christian summer camp. While camps are known for offering children and teens a place to grow in faith, friendships, and

fun, the staff behind the scenes often experience just as much—if not more—personal and spiritual transformation. Whether you're considering it for the first time or returning for another summer, there are many reasons why working at a Christian camp might be one of the best decisions you ever make.

### 1. Spiritual Growth

At a Christian camp, faith is woven into the daily routine—through morning devotionals, chapels, small group discussions, and prayer. As a staff member, you're not just facilitating these activities for campers; you're also participating and growing spiritually alongside them. This experience deepens your relationship with God and strengthens your ability to lead others in faith.

Being responsible for the spiritual guidance of young campers is a humbling and formative role. You'll learn how to lead Bible studies, pray publicly, and share your testimony. These are valuable skills that will serve you in church, school, and future leadership positions.

### 2. Building Lifelong Friendships

The bonds formed at camp are often among the strongest you'll ever make. Living and working in close quarters with like-minded peers—often through late nights, challenging days, and incredible highs—creates a unique environment for authentic connection. Many staff members leave camp with friends who feel like family and a support system that lasts long after the summer ends. This is the most common reason why staff come back to work at Camp. They love the community.

Even after moving states and into my young adult years, I am still friends with people I worked at camp with eight summers ago. From different states, weddings, kids and jobs, the bonds formed at camp are strong.

### 3. Making an Eternal Impact

Few jobs give you the opportunity to make such a direct and lasting impact on someone's life. As a counselor or staff member, you're a role model, mentor, and spiritual guide to the campers in your care. Whether it's through a late-night conversation by the campfire, a moment of prayer, or simply being a consistent source of kindness and encouragement, your influence could help shape a young person's faith for life. This is the reason many campers return to camp to work on staff, their life was impacted by a summer staff member and they want to give that experience to campers too.

### 4. Developing Real-World Skills

Christian camps provide hands-on training in areas like communication, conflict resolution, teamwork, time management, and adaptability—the top 5 most sought-after skills in the workplace. From organizing events and leading activities to handling unexpected situations, the job pushes you to grow in confidence and competence. A camp alumni and area school principal says this of camp staff: "When you see camp experience on an applicant's resume you pay attention. Camp staff are energetic problem-solvers, and the ultimate team players. They have an attitude of joy that comes from serving a higher purpose. That skill set raises their ap-

plication to the top of the list."

Plus, many camps offer certifications in areas like first aid, lifeguarding, or ropes course instruction, which can be valuable resume additions for jobs beyond the summer.

### 5. A Break from the Digital World

Unlike many jobs that revolve around screens and office spaces, working at a camp immerses you in nature and face-to-face interaction. The simplicity of camp life—free from technology and distractions—gives you space to reflect, connect with others, and be fully present.

### Final Thoughts

Working at a Christian summer camp is more than just a job—it's a calling and a journey of transformation. It challenges you, grows you, and blesses you in ways few other experiences can. Whether you're drawn by the opportunity to lead, grow in your faith, or serve others, one summer at camp could leave an eternal mark on your life—and the lives of others.

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# Camp Victory

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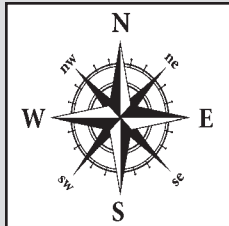
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

### My First Mini Bike



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.*

Growing up a farm boy, I was intrigued by anything with an engine. Tractors, combines, swathers, skid loaders, etc. Grease and gasoline smelled wonderful to me. And diesel fuel smoke was the best. So, anything that was not foot powered had my attention. My dad had a Harley-Davidson Type 74 before he had a family, so maybe the idea of a two-wheeler was in my blood.

In the 1960's many companies made mini-bikes. Basically, made of a leftover lawnmower engine and wheels. But they were fun

to zoom around on. I already had horse, but a mini-bike didn't require any feed when not in use. One day I looked at the hardware flyer from Beaver's Hardware in Kasson, and there was a new in box minibike for sale that week. My father took me in and we ordered it. I was so excited and couldn't wait for it to come. I had heard that some people go to the factory to see their vehicle assembled and I got to do the next best thing. I convinced him to let me ride along in the truck to bring it back.

My dad would drive a large cattle truck to the twin cities to haul freight back to the local retailers when he wasn't busy farming. I loved to ride along with him whenever I could. He would load livestock at local farms and deliver the cattle or hogs to the South Saint Paul Stockyards. Next the truck box was blasted clean with a high-volume water hose at a truck wash. Then he would drive all over the twin cities loading on freight for Kasson and Rochester retailers. It was so much fun to ride from warehouse to warehouse getting the truck filled with huge boxes. Every week there was a shipment hauled back to the hardware stores in Kasson. There was the Gambles Store, Erickson's Our Own Hardware and Beavers Hardware.

The shipment was rather anti-climactic. Except for a small picture on the side, one wouldn't know what was inside the large brown cardboard box. It was partially disassembled and completely in a box. And we still had to bring it home from the store and unpack it. Once the handle bars were installed, oil added to the crankcase and fuel tank filled, it was ready. A couple pulls on the recoil start and it roared to life.



I drove that mini bike all over the farm. In the woods, through the creek and out to the field. It crossed the river and went up every hill just to prove it could be done. My dad was quite the stickler for obeying the law and explained that I must get off and push the mini-bike across the highway. It wasn't street legal and I was expected to abide by man-made rules. At least when he was watching, anyway. But that smooth asphalt road was so much better to ride on. If I looked both ways and there was nothing approaching, I would head right down Highway 57 to the field drive, instead to riding down the road ditch.

Soon I learned a few things about that little gas engine. I still have a scar on my wrist from where I touched the exhaust pipe as I checked the oil on a hot engine. I also discovered that touching the spark plug while the engine was running was a shocking experience. I could override the governor and that little 3 1/2 horse power engine would double the top end speed. I would just put my foot up and push governor over and that thing would fly. I never thought about the little Tecumseh engine flying apart from the high rpm's. Coming back down the field drive I felt like I was flyin'.

One day I was heading back from the hog barn and I realized too late that the electric fence gate was closed at the driveway. I locked up the brake and laid the mini-bike down, sliding right under the wire. To my amazement I came back up on two wheels and continued on. That little blue mini-bike gave me hours of fun as a kid.

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**Judging begins at 11:00AM - Awards at 1:00PM**

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## A Minnesotan: Mother's Day



By RosaLin Alcoser

May is here which means Mother's Day is once again upon us. I for one am looking forward to spending time with my own mother this Mother's Day.

Now that we're adults my mom generally spends one year with me and the other with my sister. Partly to be fair, but mainly because we live in two different states with Iowa in the middle. So unless one of us travels to the other she only gets to see one of us at a time. And she always insists on coming to us. I think it is mainly a ploy to get us to take her out to different ice cream places then she has where she lives. Which is besides the point.

These days mother's day typically means I take my mother out to brunch if she's visiting me or sending her something I know she'll enjoy if she's with my sister. But when I was little it meant making cards,

little tinkety things that we picked out for mom and homemade gifts. My mom even has a couple of the tissue paper flowers I made for her one year.

However, every once in a while when I was a child we would get her a nice gift. Which often meant doing something with my older sister or our dad getting involved. I was probably about eight the year I decided to get her a really nice gift all on my own.

After months of saving up to buy her something really nice. I managed to talk my dad into taking me into town to buy mom's Mother's Day gift at the JC Penny in Rochester. Where I picked out a pair of tiny opal earrings for her; which she still wears every Mother's Day.

I picked those earrings out from the jewelry counter at JC Penny's. Not from one of the display tables, from the counter. I looked into the case and told the lady working the counter which ones I wanted to buy. Then I paid for them all by myself.

Those earrings cost eight year old me about \$30; which is a lot of money if you're an eight year-old circa 2005. But I was so excited to give them to her, because I bought them myself without any help from my dad or older sister.

While taking my mom out to brunch doesn't have the same thrill of giving her my first big deal gift I had bought her myself. I am still looking forward to getting to spend this Mother's Day with her.

*Happy*  
**MOTHER'S DAY!**



# Summer Evenings by the River: Music in Mantorville Kicks Off June 3

Enjoy live music, yoga, farmers market and food vendors every Tuesday

The historic town of Mantorville, known for its charming architecture and vibrant community, is launching a new summer concert series, Music in Mantorville. This inaugural event will take place every Tuesday evening from June 3 to Aug. 26, 2025, at the newly constructed bandshell in Riverside Park.

Each week, the series will feature live performances from a diverse lineup of talented local musicians, ranging from singer-songwriters to bands, covering genres such as country, bluegrass, jazz and rock.

Attendees can also enjoy yoga sessions, a farmers market and a variety of local food

vendors such as The Hubbell House, Hidden Pines and the Mantorville Saloon.

The concert series kicks off on June 3 with Brandon & John from Six Mile Grove, sponsored by KMTelecom. Other notable performers include Becky Schlegel, an acclaimed singer-songwriter who has performed on national stages, and The Lost Faculties, a local favorite known for putting a twist on classic rock, blues, country and pop hits. The series will conclude on Aug. 26 with a performance by Clay Fulton, sponsored by The Hubbell House.

The event is free to attend, and visitors are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs to enjoy the performances comfortably.

“We are excited to create a space for the community to come together, by the river, and listen to some good music,” said Amanda Freund, committee member. “Summer nights in Minnesota are the best, and Music in Mantorville is the perfect way to experience them.”

For more information and updates on the concert schedule, follow @MusicInMantorville on Instagram and Facebook.

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### SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

## MUSIC IN MANTORVILLE

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| DATE    | LIVE MUSIC                           | SPONSOR                               |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| JUNE 3  | BRANDON & JOHN FROM SIX MILE GROVE   | KMTelecom                             |
| JUNE 10 | LOST FACULTIES                       | Home Improvement Professionals        |
| JUNE 17 | BECKY SCHLEGEL                       | Dynamic Masonry Products              |
| JUNE 24 | BRYAN AKERVIK                        | MBT Bank                              |
| JULY 1  | ROCKIN' HEP CATS                     | Bigelow Homes                         |
| JULY 8  | CLAY FULTON                          | NextEra Energy Resources              |
| JULY 15 | UPTOWN JAZZ                          | Hawkins Ash CPA                       |
| JULY 22 | VINTAGE TONES OF SPIELZEITEN UND PAU | Preferred Heating & Cooling           |
| JULY 29 | ROSIE DAZE BAND                      | Mantorville Restoration Association   |
| AUG. 5  | COULEE REGION STEEL BAND             | Pure Rock Studios                     |
| AUG. 12 | NANCY TOBIASON                       | Midwest Fiber Solutions & Tree Studio |
| AUG. 19 | NATHAN'S JAZZERS FT. MARIAH          | Mrs. Patty's Sweet Treats & KLG       |
| AUG. 26 | CLAY FULTON                          | The Hubbell House                     |

**@MusicInMantorville**

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*Aliyah Bennerotte*



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*Jack Brose*



*Courtney Chicos*



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to the

Class of 2025!



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# TRITON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



Craig Knutson



Cole Kodada



Anastazia Kozisek



Madilyn Lahr



Carly Landsteiner



Shane Lasker



Naomi Lebak



Corey Lilledahl



Khloe Lorentzen






Giavanna Lundi



Cooper Majerus




Miguel Martinez




# Happy Graduation


★ Congratulations to the ★  
**Class of 2025**




To the  
**Triton Class of 2025**  
and their families,  
best wishes and  
happy celebrating!




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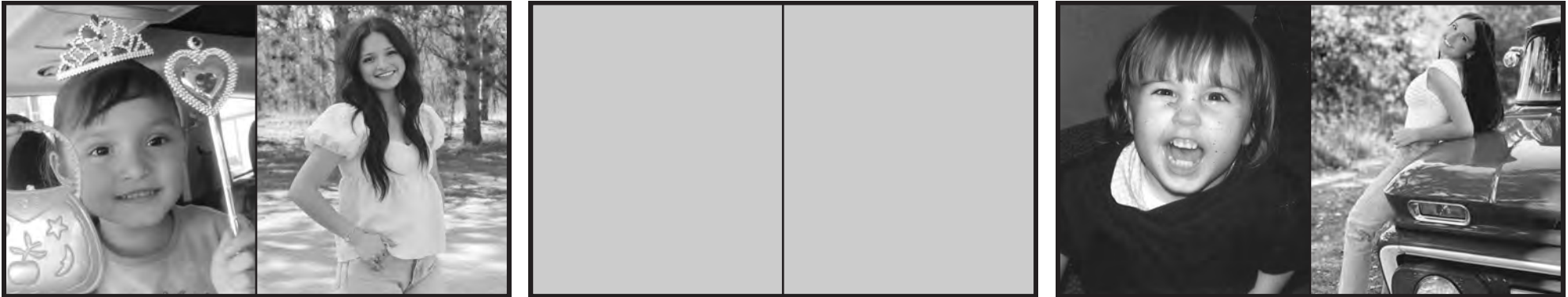
# TRITON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



Kileyah McChesney

Jaden Meaney

Camila Medina Romero



Romina Medina Romero

Guadalupe Mendoza

Alyssa Mulder



Brody Munnikhuysen

Daniel Orozco


Mitchell Peterson



Madeline Price


Bryar Quimby

Kaden Richardson




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## CLASS OF 2025

At this exciting time, we'd like to offer our congratulations to all of this year's hardworking graduates.



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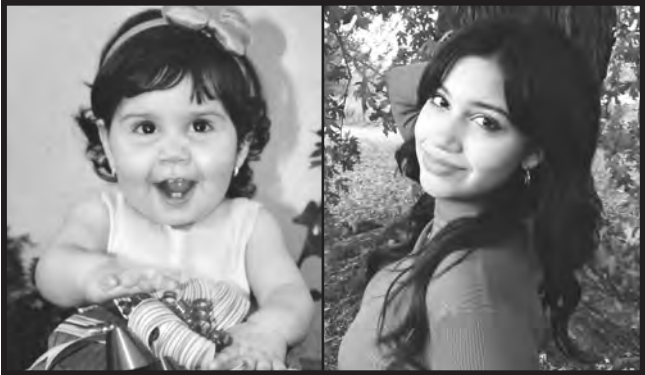
# TRITON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



Aram Rodgers



Steven Rodriguez



Ashley Romero



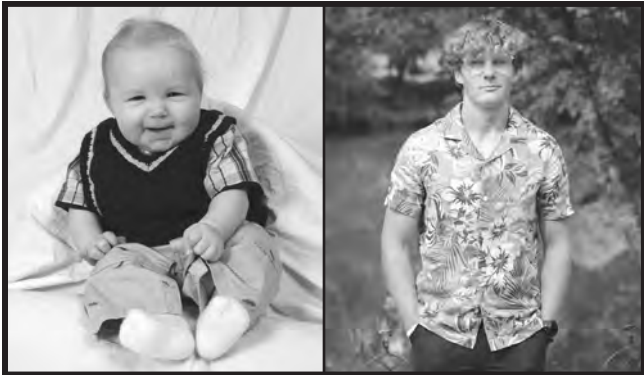
Spencer Rudesill



Jacob Saxton



Christian Schrom



Isaiah Selthun



Kianna Skalicky



Jacob Sultze



McKenna Swenson



Brynn Thomas



Tessa Tushaus



# Congratulations


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# HAPPY GRADUATION

Best wishes to all the  
2025 Triton High School seniors!





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[holly@hollyjcpa.com](mailto:holly@hollyjcpa.com)

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Fax: 507-527-2445



# TRITON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



Alisson Velasco



Cooper Vermilyea



Olivia Weber



Katerina Wheeler




Brennan Wiest



Skyler Wrolstad

*Congratulations  
& Best Wishes,*  
**GRADUATES!**



**Triton High School  
Commencement Exercises**  
May 30, 2025 • 7 p.m.

**CLASS MOTTO**  
“In the end, it’s not the years in your  
life that count. It’s the life in your years”  
-Abraham Lincoln

**CLASS FLOWER**  
Rose

**CLASS COLORS**  
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**CLASS  
OF 2025**



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# HONORING OUR GRADUATES

*We'd like to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Triton Class of 2025.*

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



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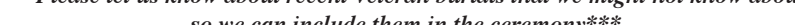


**By Nan Babcock**

Helen was a “Rosie the Riveter,” as a young woman, along with many other women who worked for the U.S. government constructing military necessities, including airplanes and guns. She worked in California and later in Ogden, Utah, where she met her future husband, Merlin. Helen used a rivet gun that weighed more than ten pounds, and due to her

The DCHS Museum in Mantorville will open for the season on Thursday, May 22. Open hours will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons 1 to 4 p.m. through mid-October. To visit at other times, please make an appointment by calling 507-635-5508 or leave a message or email [dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).




**Claremont American Legion Memorial Day Services**  
**May 26, 2025**  

**Claremont Street Cemetery 8:00am**  
**Moland Church Cemetery 8:30am**  
**Rice Lake Cemetery 9:00am**  
**St. John's Church Cemetery 9:30am**  
**Hillside Cemetery 10:00am**  
 Refreshments at the Legion after services.  
 In the event of inclement weather 10:00am service at the Claremont Legion Memorial.  
*\*\*\*Please let us know about recent Veteran burials that we might not know about,  
 so we can include them in the ceremony\*\*\**



© 20258 T-92 in Concord

Langemo Post 295 Legion & Auxiliary invite everyone to the Hall  
 @ 133 East Main for refreshments from 8:00 - 10:00 AM



## More Than Merriment

(continued from page 1)

Through this opportunity of competitive softball, they gradually elevated their athletes' skills and sense of sportsmanship to further levels. As the years went by and the team continued to expand in number, TYFSA further supported its mission with fundraising events. Weekly meat raffles and summer competitions have helped sustain their team of seventy families through the years, allowing them to expand and upgrade their fields. Whether in West Concord or their north and south fields in Dodge Center, the team allows anybody in the Triton area to develop their skills in a healthy environment.

Chris Pluto was among the first to enroll his daughters to join the community and connect with the newer teammates. Many other parents followed suit, expanding the team into 8 and 18-under sections that played in the spring, summer, and winter seasons. To financially provide for their growing membership, Chris began to help at concessions and other events. Fundraisers of clothing, banner advertising, bingo, and raffles helped keep the team afloat, allowing them to add new locations in Claremont and Dodge Center. Due to the success of their summer "Friday Night Lights" events, TYFSA upgraded their original West Concord field with new dugouts, lights, outfield grass, and spectator stands in 2021. Improvements like these and Dodge Center's new electronic scorecards would not have been possible without their partnerships or food stand.

Chris Pluto: "To handle the increased demand for menu items, we have upgraded West Concord's concession stand to include more options. Now, there are burgers and Venom dogs, which, like twin dogs, are heftier than average. With the help of outreach and events, we are trying to provide safe access and proper softball equipment to our young ladies and their families."

Fundraising isn't only directed at the softball team, however. In recent years, they have

used their relationship with the Mantorville Restoration Association to supply funding to itself and the committee. Gambling sponsors and e-tabs have helped fund upgrades to the Cardinal Club, Claremont Chamber, and other community programs. In exchange for the Zwingli United Church of Christ's financial aid, Venom Softball helps at Berne Wood-Fired Pizza in the summer. When it's open in June, July, and August, this small venue provides the West Concord community with wood-fired pies and a side of some of southeastern Minnesota's best live music. Meanwhile, upcoming horse races and karaoke will help fund their triple-play tournaments on June 14th and 15th, followed by a slow-pitch tournament at the Survival Days on July 26th. With 2025 being Chris' first year doing a tournament at the August Hogfest, the summer season will be particularly eventful.

"Among other things, the support of these organizations has allowed us to supply a water fountain to Mantor Field. One of our main events, Friday Night Lights, helps bring teams and parents to West Concord to watch the girls play at night. Beyond the trophies, concessions, and support for the girls, the event also brings economic growth to the town."

When asked to comment about what made Venom Softball so special, he emphasized the importance of patience. If someone isn't willing to invest their time and practice to hone their skills, they lose a part of the magic that makes softball so gratifying. To him, this progression- seeing the young ladies advance in levels to earn their place on Triton teams- has been the most rewarding part of helping. To the players who hope to make it on a college level, TYFSA provides high school scholarships via their weekly meat raffle at the Harold's Club. Recipients of the award often return to mentor the young ladies in a full-circle relationship. Through it all, the team has constantly backed the Triton school programs with a strong belief in multi-sport participation. A side effect of Venom Softball's unwavering support to the community has been increased economic growth. Regardless of whether they're on the team, the entire Triton area can benefit from the new outfields and increased economic activity.

With upcoming summer events looming around the corner, the opportunity has again opened for new participants to join the Venom Softball team. Alongside building a



Venom Softball 12U



Venom Softball HS

sense of teamwork and sportsmanship, joining one of their many groups requires a blend of strength and strategy that can significantly enhance one's life. They welcome almost any skill level and playstyle, regardless of whether that person hopes to practice casually or competitively or build coordination or relationships. Ultimately, the contributions of the Triton Youth Fastpitch Softball Asso-

ciation remind us that sports are much more than a means of entertainment. While providing areas with economic growth, they are an outlet for some of the best things a town can hope for: communication, coordination, and a sense of community.

To sign up or explore TYFSA's upcoming events, visit [tyfsa.sportngin.com](http://tyfsa.sportngin.com) or its relevant Facebook page.

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## • MAKE SOME MEMORIES! •

### GRANDSTAND EVENTS NOTE NEW LINEUP!

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- ★Stock Car Races
- ★Auto Cross Races
- ★Trailer Races
- ★Demolition Derby

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### MORE FEATURE EVENTS

#### ★4H & FFA Shows

- ★Speed Puzzle Contest Friday
- ★Ragtown Band
- ★Accentra Bean Bag  
Tournament Saturday
- ★Kiddie Pedal Pull
- ★JT & The Gunslingers Band
- ★Community Celebration  
Church Service

### OPEN CLASS BUILDING EXHIBITORS:

REGISTRATION MONDAY, JULY 14  
from 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**NEW!** Online Registration available June 1

### ATTENTION SENIORS:

**FREE LUNCH IN ICE ARENA - COMMERCIAL BUILDING**

Hot Dogs, Chips, Beans & Dessert

**Senior Day, Friday, July 18 at Noon.**

Please confirm attendance by Monday, July 14: 507-634-7736.

**Entertainment at 11:00 AM by Magic Village**

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### TOWNSHIP SQUARE FEATURES:

**Fair Prince & Princess Contest**

Thursday, July 17 at 4:30 PM

**Minnesota State Amateur Talent Contest**

Saturday, July 19 at 12:30 PM

Registration starts at 12:00 PM

More information for both events on our website.



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

[www.dodgecountyfreefair.com](http://www.dodgecountyfreefair.com)

*\*Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of The Messenger.*

#### Letter to the Editor;

Our state legislature is in the process of determining the budget. One item on the table is the funding of benefits for immigrants. I would urge readers to consider the economic benefits that immigrants bring to the United States and Minnesota. Immigrants compose about one-third of the workforce in farming, fishing and forestry, building, grounds cleaning, and maintenance organizations. Immigrants also provide 29% of the textile and garment industries workforce (2018, U.S. Department of Labor Statistics). Immigrants fill an important employment gap in the United States. There is a great demand for low-skilled labor. Immigrants are willing to

fill those positions. Immigrants to the U.S. are also more likely than U.S. citizens to be employed (65.7% for foreign-born, 62.3% for native-born individuals). Immigrant workers help support the aging native-born population (sometimes as direct caregivers in group homes, assisted living, and long-term care institutions). They are willing to take the jobs that retiring baby boomers can no longer fill. Immigrant workers increase the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. (Yes, immigrants contribute to YOUR social security). Immigrants may require SNAP and Medicaid benefits to make ends meet; they are employed at minimum-wage jobs. Most of the immigrants who receive these benefits are employed while receiving benefits or they are married to someone who is working.

As a nurse, a nurse practitioner, and a nursing instructor I have worked with many students who did not begin their lives in the United States. I found them to be dedicated to quality patient care. I have worked with many nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians who immigrated to the United States or those who held work visas. I haven't had any problems working with them. I found them competent, easy to communicate with, and compassionate.

Therefore, I do NOT begrudge immigrants SNAP, Medicaid, and other benefits in Minnesota. When my great-great-grandparents came to the United States, they were immigrants. I am the descendant of immigrants and unless you are a member of one of the indigenous nations who share geography with Minnesota, so are you.

Also, every budget is a moral decision.  
Susan B. Janicke

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## The Savvy Senior How to Make Gardening Easier as You Age



By Jim Miller

*Dear Savvy Senior,  
What gardening tips can you offer to older seniors? I love to putter around and work in the garden, but my back and knees have caused me to curtail my gardening activities, which I miss greatly.*

—Older Gardner

Dear Older,

There's no doubt that gardening can be hard on an aging body. Joints stiffen up, kneeling for prolonged periods hurts, and bending and reaching can strain muscles. But that doesn't mean you have to give up your hobby. You just need to garden differently, add some special tools and know your limits. Here are some tips that may help you.

### LIMBER UP

With gardening, good form is very important as well as not overdoing any one activity. A common problem is that gardeners often kneel or squat, putting extra pressure on their knees. Then, to spare their knees, they might stand and bend over for long stretches to weed, dig and plant, straining their back and spine.

To help protect your body, you need to warm up before beginning. Start by stretching, focusing on the legs and lower back. And keep changing positions and activities. Don't spend hours weeding a flowerbed. After 15 minutes of weeding, you should stand up, stretch, and switch to another activity like pruning the bushes or just take a break.

It's also important that you recognize your physical limitations and don't try to do too much all at once. And, when lifting heavier objects, remember to use your legs to preserve your back. You can do this by keeping the item close to your body and squatting to keep your back as vertical as possible.

### LABORSAVING TOOLS

The right gardening equipment can help too. Kneeling pads can protect knees, and garden seats or stools are both back and knee savers. Lightweight garden carts can make hauling bags of mulch, dirt, plants or other heavy objects much easier. And long-handled gardening tools can help ease the strain on the back by keeping you in a standing upright position versus bent over. There



are also ergonomic gardening tools with fatter handles and other design features that can make lawn and garden activities a little easier.

### EASIER WATERING

The chore of carrying water or handling a heavy, awkward hose can also be difficult for older gardeners. Some helpful options include lightweight fabric hoses instead of heavy rubber hoses; soaker or drip hoses that can be snaked throughout the garden; thin coil hoses that can be used on the patio or small areas; a hose caddy and reel for easier hose transport around the yard; and a self-winding hose chest that puts the hose up automatically. There are also a variety of ergonomic watering wands that are lightweight, easy to grip, and reach those hard-to-get-to plants.

To find ergonomic gardening tools and the recommended watering aids, check with local retail stores that sell lawn and garden supplies or try online retailers like Gardeners.com or RadiusGarden.com.

### CONTAINER GARDENING

If your backyard garden has become too much to handle, you should consider elevated garden beds or container gardening – using big pots, window boxes, hanging baskets, barrels or tub planters. This is a much easier way to garden because it eliminates much of the bend and strain of gardening but still provides the pleasure of making things grow. Trellises are another nice option that would allow you to garden vertically instead of horizontally.



## Vision Care Coverage with Medicare

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**What all does Medicare cover when it comes to vision care? currently have good vision insurance through my employer but will lose it when I retire. —Almost 65**

Dear Almost,

Many soon-to-be retirees are a bit blurry with what Medicare does and doesn't cover when it comes to vision care. The good news is that Medicare covers most medical issues like cataract surgery, treatment of eye diseases and medical emergencies. But unfortunately, routine care like eye exams and eyeglasses are usually the beneficiary's responsibility. Here's a breakdown of what is and isn't covered.

**Eye exams and treatments:** Medicare does not cover routine eye exams that test for eyeglasses or contact lenses, but they do cover yearly medical eye exams if you have diabetes or are at high risk for glaucoma. They will also pay for exams to test and treat medical eye diseases if you're having vision problems that indicate a serious eye problem like macular degeneration, dry eye syndrome, glaucoma, eye infections or if you get something in your eye.

**Eye surgeries:** Medicare will cover most eye surgeries that help repair the eye function, including cataract surgery to remove cataracts and insert standard intraocular lenses to replace your own. Medicare will not, however, pick up the extra cost if you choose a premium multifocal lens that restores full range of vision, thereby reducing your need for glasses after cataract surgery. The extra cost for a premium lens can run \$1,500 to \$4,000 per eye.

Eye surgeries that are usually not covered by Medicare include refractive (LASIK) surgery and cosmetic eye surgery that are not considered medically necessary.

**Eyeglasses and contact lenses:** Medicare will not pay for eyeglasses or contact lenses, with one exception: If you have had a conventional intraocular lens inserted during cataract surgery, Medicare will pay for eyeglasses or contact lenses following the operation.

### WAYS TO SAVE

Although original Medicare's vision coverage is limited to medical issues, there are ways you can save on routine care. Here are several to check into.

**Medicare Advantage plans:** Many of these plans, which are alternatives to original Medicare and sold through private insurance companies, cover routine eye exams and eyeglasses, but coverage is limited so be sure you understand the specifics.

**Purchase vision insurance:** If you get routine eye exams and purchase new eyeglasses annually, a vision insurance plan may be worth the costs. These policies typically range between \$5 and \$30 per month. Most plans will also have copays or deductibles you'll be responsible for.

**Check veterans' benefits:** If you're a veteran and qualify for VA health care benefits, you may be able to get some or all of your routine vision care through VA.

**Find cheaper shopping options:** Many retailers provide discounts – between 10 and 50 percent – on eye exams and eyeglasses if you belong to a membership group like AARP or AAA.

You can also save by shopping at discount retailers like Costco Optical, Sam's Club Optical or Target Optical, which are all recommended by Consumer Reports. Or consider buying your glasses online.

To purchase glasses online, you'll need a valid prescription from an eye doctor (no more than a year old), plus your pupillary distance number, which is the distance, measured in millimeters, between the centers of your pupils in each eye.

**Look for assistance:** There are also health centers and local clinics that provide free or discounted vision exams and eyeglasses to those in need. To find them put a call into your local Lions Club for referrals.



## Dependent



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS  
Licensed Nutritionist

There is a strong drive within many of us to be able to do an activity without the assistance of another. Perhaps this started when you discovered how much more of the world you could explore when you learned to walk, or maybe when you learned to ride a bike without someone holding on to you. As we move into May, many young people will graduate from school and take on new responsibilities and new adventures. We use phrases like “spreading their wings” and “gaining independence.” While it cannot be denied that knowledge and practice lead to new abilities, some reflection will note there are things we are dependent on that should not be forgotten.

Being dependent on something is not a sign of weakness. Recognizing what we are dependent on can give us greater clarity and wisdom on the essentials of life. For example, you are dependent on oxygen. We take this for granted until we get “the wind knocked out” of us, or when we find ourselves in a hospital bed with an oxygen mask. You are dependent on pure water. When you were born, your body was 70% water. How important that you keep pure water flowing through so that you do not become a “stagnant pond” growing all kinds of unhealthy things. The general guideline is half your body weight in fluid ounces, so a 200 pound individual should be drinking around 100 ounces of water a day, which is about 12 cups.

You are also dependent on vitamins and minerals. Most of the vitamins were discovered in science observations during the first part of the 1900s. They were first described

as “vital amines” noting the vital role these nutrients played in providing health and vitality. With each vitamin there is a list of deficiencies noted when the vitamin is absent in a person’s regular diet. Deficiencies point to our dependence on these essential nutrients. When Vitamin A is absent, you may notice night-blindness, or some kinds of skin disorders like eczema or psoriasis. When B vitamins are absent, you will notice mood swings, fatigue, or mental health challenges. When Vitamin C is absent, illness increases and sores develop in the mouth and on the skin. When Vitamin D is absent, illness increases, weight can increase, and insomnia can increase. These are just the beginning of the ABCs and Ds of vitamins.

Minerals are essential for a healthy immune response, promoting energy, and helping the body muscles to function properly. Most Americans do not consume enough magnesium each day. Magnesium is essential for helping you to relax as well as helping the body to produce energy. Zinc is used in more than 300 different reactions in the body, aiding the proper activation of the immune system and helping the digestive process. Iodine is the key mineral for the hormone produced by the thyroid that keeps your metabolism in balance. This mineral tends to be deficient in many clients living in the Midwest region. Minerals and vitamins work as a team to complete the perfectly designed function of your body.

Knowing you are dependent on vitamins and minerals for healthy living should help you to consider the best way to acquire these nutrients each day so that you can be more

independent on other activities. Will taking a multi-vitamin or mineral tablet work best for you? Can you identify those foods that are the best source for these nutrients and make sure to eat them regularly? You will note our great grandparents were strong and lived active lives without supplements, so getting your nutrients from food is possible. In today’s world of convenience foods and fast eating, the nutrient value has significantly declined requiring us to take a closer look at the sources of our food.

If you choose to take vitamin supplements to help maintain a healthy life, make sure to identify a quality supplement that obtains its vitamins from fruits and vegetables. There should be ingredients listed that mention fruits and vegetables on the nutrition label. A simple test on the quality of the supplement is to place a tablet in a glass of water and return one hour later. If the tablet has fallen apart in the water then it is a tablet your body can easily absorb. If the tablet has not fallen apart and remains whole there is a chance you are not getting any nutrients from that vitamin.

I am available to review your questions about supplements, testing, and food plans. Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. I can help you realize greater health freedom in 2025. You can contact me at [nutritionproportion@gmail.com](mailto:nutritionproportion@gmail.com), or check out my website at [www.nutritionproportion.net](http://www.nutritionproportion.net)

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

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11:00am  
FIREWORKS  
SHOW!  
Dusk**

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**Cannon Falls, Minnesota**

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**JULY 3rd: CHICKEN RANCH DUO 8:30 PM  
JULY 4th: DAVE CARPENTER BAND 2:00-5:00 PM  
BRYAN ANDERSON 8:30 PM**

**JULY 5th: THE CHUBS 8:30 PM  
JULY 6th: BLYND EYE 8:30 PM**

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1/2 Chicken with homemade mashed potatoes and gravy, soup & salad bar

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Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
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## 2025 MN State FFA Convention



Emma Kruckeberg was second in the state with her Small Animal Care Entrepreneurship Proficiency. She is an avid rabbit producer, and enjoys showing her rabbits along with helping anyone that wants to learn about rabbits. She also sells rabbits for meat production.

Eleven members from Triton FFA participated in the 2025 MN State FFA Convention Sunday April 27 through Tuesday April 29.

(continued on page 37)

## Triton Track Athletes are Writing Their Names in the Record Books

After a few weather cancelations and a couple of weeks without a meet, the Cobras got back on the track May 1 at Pine Island, and posted a number of all-time top-10 performances.

The 4x800 relay team of Miguel Martinez, Angel Mata Colin, EJ Okeefe, and Nerak Korbisch teamed up to run a time of 9:08.83, good for 6th on the all-time Triton list. Braxton Koss leaped to a personal-best 5 feet 8 inches in the high jump, good for 5th on the all-time best list. Pierce Petersohn continued his record-breaking season, earning spots on the all time best 100 (5th) and 200 meter dash (7th) lists.

On the girls side, Olivia Weber ran a personal best time of 1:01.92, good for a 5th-best all-time Cobra mark. Averee Henslin joined the best Cobra sprinters in the 100 meter dash, racing to a 13.17 time, good for 5th in the record books. Autumn Froyum has had a spectacular season, as well, and has earned spots in the record books in the 800 (2:41.23 – 8th), 1600 (5:56.13 – 5th), and 3200 meter runs (13:20.66 – 5th).

Tuesday, May 6, the Cobras headed to Rushford-Peterson for the Section 1A True Team Championships with 20 other teams from southeast Minnesota. There were several excellent performances on a beautiful day. Top performers for the Cobras were Petersohn (1st in high jump and 400, 2nd in 100, 4th in 200), Craig Knutson (1st in discus), Brady Staub (2nd in discus), Weber (3rd in the 400), Averee Henslin (4th in 200).

Petersohn's 400 meter dash time of 49.57 broke the school record, previously held by Caleb Rissman (49.58 in 2008). The 4x800 team of Okeefe, Alan Ortiz, Martinez, and Mata Colin bettered the season-best time and



jumped into 6th place in the record books. Froyum set personal best times of 5:55.70 in the 1600 and 13:13.96 in the 3200 to keep moving up the record lists in both events.

The Cobras are set to compete at the Gopher Conference Championships Saturday, May 10 at JWP before hosting one final regular season meet Friday, May 16. The sub-

section meet is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21 at Grand Meadow before we return to Triton for the Section 1A Championships May 27 and 29. We'd love to see you out cheering on the Cobras!!

(additional pictures on page 38)

## Cobra Communications



**Craig Schlichting**  
Superintendent

As I conclude my tenure as superintendent of Triton Public Schools, I want to share my heartfelt gratitude and reflections. Mr. Lutterman will be taking over from here, and I am confident he will do an outstanding job. I am excited for him and look forward to seeing the district continue to thrive.

I have truly been blessed to work in such an incredible district. The past 32 years have been a remarkable opportunity, and I feel fortunate to have been part of Triton

since 1993. During my career here, I had the privilege of coaching some outstanding football teams, working alongside amazing coaches and players. The football players will always hold a special place in my heart.

In my first year, the team was not expected to do very well because we were placed in the upper division of the new HVL Conference. Triton opted for the bigger division, despite our school's size suggesting we belonged in a division with smaller schools. The 1993 season was a great start—Triton became known for its creative offense and ability to put points on the board. Unfortunately, we lost a heartbreaker in Zumbrota-Mazeppa in the state quarterfinals.

The following season, 1994, marked our first state championship and an undefeated season. We celebrated with a win against

Zumbrota-Mazeppa in the dome—a memorable highlight. The next year, Triton lost to Kingsland, which went on to win the state title. In my first three years coaching, the team only suffered two losses. What an incredible start to my coaching career!

I have always loved coaching, especially football. In 2000, I served as the defensive coordinator, and we won our second state title. That team still holds some records for allowing some of the fewest points in a great season memory for me. Later, as my family grew and I expanded my role as an administrator, it became more challenging to dedicate time to coaching. Nonetheless, I am grateful to have been part of the 2006 team that again secured a state championship in my role as an assistant coach.

Now, I look forward to spending more time

with my family, pursuing my passions for fishing and hunting, and enjoying other hobbies. Transitioning into this next chapter will be a significant adjustment, but I sincerely thank everyone who has been part of my journey at Triton. I am grateful to have called this district my home and to have enjoyed such an incredible career here.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions about our school district. You can email me at [schlich@triton.k12.mn.us](mailto:schlich@triton.k12.mn.us) or call the district office at 507-418-7530. I would be happy to arrange a meeting with you or your organization. Communication is vital, and I welcome the opportunity to hear your insights.

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



# Preschoolers Take Field Trip to Gochnauer Farms



Triton preschoolers recently took field trips to Gochnauer Farms in West Concord. They hosted three field trips to accommodate all students. The students loved seeing and touching many animals—cows, sheep, horses, a cat and a dog! We saw how a cow is milked and we got to help bottle feed a calf!

*Thank you so much to Jacob and Megan with Gochnauer Farms for letting us visit, and for the yummy treats you sent home with everyone!*





# Triton 5th Grade Math Masters Compete!!

On Thursday April 24, ten 5th Grade students from Triton Elementary School competed in the regional Math Masters Competition in Austin. This year's competition had 100 participants in all! You might be wondering what a Math Master does.

Math Masters is a regional competition where students compete in 3 different areas: Fact drill, individual problem solving, and team problem solving. The fact drill has 75 problems that students have 5 minutes to complete. The facts may start out easy, but they soon become more difficult by using the order of operations! In the individual problem solving competition, students solve 8 problems in 10 minutes. But, that's just one round! Competitors have 4 rounds total to complete! In the final area, teams of 5 students each solve 10 problems in 15 minutes. There are also 3 rounds in that part of the competition. In order to be successful in problem solving, students need to have great understanding in the many areas of math including geometry, algebra, data analysis, and number sense.

Students have been practicing over the last 3 months, meeting once a week. There were many great discussions on the different ways a problem can be solved. The two teams from Triton also had to learn the most effective way to work together as a team! The time went fast!!!

Our Triton students did VERY well this year, especially in the Fact Drill Category. 5 were recognized with awards for placing in the top 10 out of 100 students!!!

Fact Drill:

2nd Place: Max Becker

3rd Place: Bentley Kunz

5th Place: Bryce Blanchard

8th Place: Zander Van Zuilen

9th Place: Izzy Axt

***Both of the Triton Teams placed within the top 10,  
with 6th and 10th place out of 21 teams!***

***Way to go 5th Graders!!***



Front Row: Clayton Klug, Bryce Blanchard, Max Becker, Rafael Jara, and Corbyn Wutschke Back Row: Zander Van Zuilen, Harper Matejcek, Izzy Axt, Corbyn Wutschke, and Bentley Kunz





## **m** MINNESOTA INTRODUCING SUN BUCKS

DHS-8599-ENG 3-25

SUN Bucks (formerly Summer EBT) is an income-based food support program that provides families with \$120 per eligible school-aged child to buy groceries during the summer.



### Who can receive SUN Bucks?

Children can receive SUN Bucks if they qualify between July 1, 2024 and Aug. 31, 2025 in one of the following ways.

#### Children (ages 7-17) who are:

- Homeless, migrant, or in foster care.

#### Children (ages 7-17) in households receiving:

- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Medical Assistance (income limits apply)

#### Children attending a school or early education program that participates in:

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) are eligible if their application for free or reduced-price meals is approved.

There are no age restrictions for children who qualify by participating in NSLP or SBP.

### What to know

- A new SUN Bucks card (similar to an EBT card) will be sent to the child's home address on file. The benefit amount of \$120 can be accessed just like a debit card.
- The child's name and case number will be printed on the front of the new SUN Bucks card.
- SUN Bucks benefits will expire 122 days after the benefits are available to use in the account.
- Families can create an EBT Edge account at [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com) to see their benefit balance and availability date.

### Using your SUN Bucks card

- Use your SUN Bucks to buy healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, meat, whole grains, and dairy. SUN Bucks cards work anywhere SNAP is accepted.



For more information, visit [mn.gov/dcyf/sun-bucks](http://mn.gov/dcyf/sun-bucks)

## **m** MINNESOTA PRESENTAMOS SUN BUCKS

DHS-8599-SPA 3-25

SUN Bucks (anteriormente Summer EBT) es un programa de ayuda alimentaria basado en los ingresos que proporciona a las familias \$120 por niño en edad escolar que reúna los requisitos de participación para comprar alimentos durante el verano.



### ¿Quién puede recibir SUN Bucks?

Sus hijos pueden recibir SUN Bucks si califican entre el 1 de julio de 2024 y el 31 de agosto de 2025 de una de las siguientes maneras.

#### Niños (de 7 a 17 años) que:

- se encuentren sin hogar, sean migrantes o se encuentren en hogares de acogida.

#### Niños (de 7 a 17 años) en hogares que reciban:

- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Medical Assistance (se aplican límites de ingresos)

#### Niños que asistan a una escuela o programa de educación temprana que participe en:

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP) y School Breakfast Program (SBP) tienen derecho a participar si se aprueba su solicitud de comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido.

No existen restricciones de edad para los niños que califican al participar en los programas NSLP o SBP.



### ¿Qué debe saber?

- Se enviará una nueva tarjeta SUN Bucks (similar a una tarjeta EBT) a la dirección de domicilio registrada del niño. Se puede acceder al monto del beneficio de \$120 como si fuera una tarjeta de débito.
- El nombre del niño y el número de caso se imprimirán en el frente de la nueva tarjeta SUN Bucks.
- Los beneficios de SUN Bucks vencerán 122 días después de que estén disponibles para su uso en la cuenta.
- Las familias pueden crear una cuenta EBT Edge en [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com) para ver el saldo de sus beneficios y la fecha de disponibilidad.

### Cómo utilizar su tarjeta SUN Bucks

- Utilice sus SUN Bucks para comprar alimentos saludables como frutas, verduras, carne, cereales integrales y productos lácteos. Las tarjetas SUN Bucks funcionan en cualquier lugar donde se acepte el programa SNAP.

Si desea recibir más información, visite [mn.gov/dcyf/sun-bucks](http://mn.gov/dcyf/sun-bucks)



Para obtener esta información en formatos accesibles o asistencia con mayor acceso igualitario a servicios humanos, envíe un correo electrónico a [DHS.info@state.mn.us](mailto:DHS.info@state.mn.us), llame al 651-431-3040, o use su servicio preferido de retransmisión. ADA1 (3-24)

## 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**



# Triton Grads: Where are they now?

**By Christi Runnells**  
*This is the last edition of this article and we'll end with a 2024 graduate.*  
**Student: Tyler Gnagey**  
**Graduation Year: 2024**  
**Current City: Dodge Center, MN / Mankato, MN**

Tyler Gnagey was a student at Triton just one short year ago. While you would often find him outdoors, at school he was a very gifted student and involved in sports like baseball and basketball and student groups such as Business Professionals of America (BPA) and Minnesota Honor Society (MHS). In fact, Tyler says his favorite memory involved baseball, all the way back to his freshman year when his team beat the #2 ranked team, Rochester Lourdes. While at school, his favorite teacher was Mr. Hanegraaf, who he had a lot of classes with and was his coach. He was his favorite because Mr. Hanegraaf always noticed when students were down and

would reach out if something was going wrong in or out of school. Tyler also says Mr. Hanegraaf is “just an all-around good guy.” Similarly, Tyler’s favorite class was his senior year Teaching Assistant period with Mr. Essig who taught 8th grade gym. Tyler relates, “I had a lot of fun, made some new friends and it’s gym how can you not enjoy it right?”  
One year later, Tyler has just finished his freshman year at Minnesota State University-Mankato, where he is majoring in finance. He is also continuing to work at Jeremy’s Lawn Care. He feels like his high school teachers helped him to prepare for college because, “At Triton a lot of teachers teach you how to apply yourself while learning and this is great advice for college because if you apply yourself during classes, you will do good in every class.” In turn, Tyler would like to share his own advice for current Triton students: “Spend time with your high school friends now because you won’t see them nearly as much once you start working full-time or go to college. Enjoy high school and the sports/organizations you’re in because you will miss them once you graduate.” In other words, this is another reminder to enjoy the present! Thank you for updating us Tyler, we wish you all the best while you continue your education!



Triton

Public Schools

www.triton.k12.mn.us

#WeAreTriton

#SomosTriton

Drive In

Movie

Presented by Triton's Student Council

Now Playing

SHREK

Admissions

Adults \$3 Kids \$2

All concessions \$2

Friday, May 23rd

STARTS AT 9PM

LOCATED IN THE WEST PARKING LOT, TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

IF WE EXPERIENCE INCLEMENT WEATHER, WE WILL ANNOUNCE CANCELLATION ON TRITON COMMUNITY ED'S FACEBOOK PAGE

READY, SET, LEARN OF DODGE COUNTY PROGRAM APPLICATION

The following is a list of items that the Ready, Set, Learn Back to School will likely provide. Items are provided based on availability and current funding, not guaranteed to be provided.

- BACKPACK
- PENS/PENCILS
- COLORED PENCILS
- MARKERS/CRAYONS
- GLUE/GLUE STICKS
- PENCIL CASES/PENCIL POUCHES
- ERASERS
- SCISSORS
- RULERS
- NOTEBOOKS (SPIRAL BOUND, AND COMPOSITION)
- FOLDERS (2 POCKET WITH AND WITHOUT PRONGS)
- LOOSE LEAF PAPER
- DRY ERASE MARKERS
- BASIC CALCULATOR / SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR (NOT GRAPHING CALCULATORS)
- HIGHLIGHTERS
- INDEX CARDS
- PENCIL SHARPENERS
- SHARPIE MARKERS

ATTENTION: SCHOOL STUDENTS

Ready, Set, Learn Back to School Program does not supply graphing calculators to individual high school students. Those students in need of graphing calculators should inquire at the school guidance office regarding their lending program.

READY, SET, LEARN BACK TO SCHOOL WILL NOT PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- CASH FOR SCHOOL TRIPS OR CLASSROOM COSTS
- KLEENEX
- CLEANING WIPES/HAND SANITIZERS
- GYM SHOES
- GRAPHING CALCULATORS
- USB DRIVES
- 3 RING BINDERS/INDEX TAB DIVIDERS/PAGE PROTECTORS

Ready, Set, Learn of Dodge County Program is an independent program that is supported by various funding sources: private citizens, businesses, charitable organizations, & churches serving Dodge County residents. Ready, Set, Learn of Dodge County Program is not a government subsidized program. The role of MN Prairie is limited to handing out and collecting applications. Applications submitted to the Ready, Set, Learn of Dodge County Program are filled on a first come, first served basis which is also based on availability of goods and funding of the program. Submission of application does not guarantee goods will be available.



# Healthy Meals Made with High Schoolers



**By Aidree Van Beek**

The Triton exercise physiology class did a cooking lab on Tuesday, April 16th. Their goal was to make a four-course meal, with all the meals being very healthy. They were limited to using only 5 ingredients in their selected food item. The meal included a main course, a side dish, an appetizer, and a dessert.

The main course consisted of a barbeque chicken personal pizza. They used English muffins as the dough and had barbeque sauce as the sauce. On top of the pizza, it had peppers, cheese, and chicken. The group members included Brady F. Aidan L., Megan R., and Sabree R. Sabree Runnells said, “It was an excellent learning experience!”. The side dish featured a yogurt parfait. This group included Jaiden B., Gunnar R., and Aidree V. Their healthy side dish was comprised of yogurt, strawberries, pineapple, and almonds. The appetizer was homemade chips and salsa. They used whole-wheat tortillas to bake them into homemade chips. Their salsa was made with fresh and canned ingredients, including tomatoes, cilantro, onion, and some spices. The group making this included Reagan E., Austin S., and Casey V. Reagan Essig said, “I didn’t know healthy food could actually be good!”. The last group made the dessert. The group included Faith B., Claire S., and Graden T. They made an angel food cake with fresh strawberries on top. Unfortunately, their recipe ended up taking more time than expected, so we were able to enjoy it in class the following day.

Every student got the experience of trying each of the foods that were made in class. All meals followed the MyPlate guidelines and ended up being very cheap, easy to make, and delicious!



# TRITON

## EDUCATION MINNESOTA

### MEMBER *Spotlight*

#### BRIAN FELTEN

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN TEACHING?**

24 years

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT TRITON?**

12 years

**WHAT AREA/GRADES DO YOU TEACH?**

High School Physics, Chemistry, and Senior Seminar

**WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?**

Teaching is a way to serve others and work to improve our world and society. We can only survive if our posterity is prepared to continue our endeavors, advance our understanding of the world, and show compassion for our fellow humans and nature. I find it particularly rewarding to seeing former students achieve success as adults.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT TEACHING AT TRITON?**

I enjoy the Wolf Ridge trip and working with some dedicated colleagues.

**WHAT IS A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?**

I've received a standing ovation singing karaoke, and I supplement my income with two other jobs.

“BRIAN FELTEN WORKS TIRELESSLY TO SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE FOR OUR MEMBERS IN THE AREA OF MEMBER RIGHTS. HE HAS SERVED OUR UNION IN MANY CAPACITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. MOST NOTABLY AS CO-PRESIDENT OF OUR UNION FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS PRIOR TO THIS YEAR. BRIAN IS RESOURCEFUL AND HAS A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE THAT HE IMPARTS TO BOTH HIS STUDENTS AND COLLEAGUES.”



# 2025 MN State FFA Convention

(continued from page 31)

Five middle schoolers and freshmen participated on the Best Informed Greenhand team. Those members included Hunter Hamm, Brinley Dickie, Lily Klejeski, Brayden Munnikhuysen, and Coy Froyum. Triton had their first choir participant since 2017 in Kianna Skalicky. Jacob and Noah Kasper were delegates for the chapter. Seven of the members served as Courtesy Corp for the Career show and helped with setting up displays along with directing traffic at the show. Those students were Sydney Rysavy, Hunter Hamm, Coy Froyum, Brady Staub, Brayden Munnikhuysen, Lily Klejeski, Brinley Dickie, and Emma Kruckeberg.

Mr. Ickler was recognized by Region 8 for the Honorary MN State Degree.

Two students were state finalists in proficiency areas with Brady Staub placing third in the state for his corn and soybean production enterprise and Emma Kruckeberg placing 2nd and being recognized for her show rabbit and meat rabbit business.


All members have an enjoyable experience and took back ideas to implement next year.



Mr. Ickler received a Honorary MN State Degree



Pictured left to right in the back row: Noah Kasper, Jacob Kasper, Brady Staub, Coy Froyum, Brinley Dickie, and Emma Kruckeberg. In the front row are Brayden Munnikhuysen, Hunter Hamm, Kianna Skalicky, Sydney Rysavy and Lily Klejeski



## ENHANCED DRIVING INSTITUTE


is again offering classes at Triton Schools in June! See the summer class schedule below:

### Triton June Starts June 16th End June 28th

**Instructor Led - In Class Training**  
Make-up Class options available if you cannot attend all sessions.  
Final half of Lesson 10, Parents are asked to join us in class.

| Sunday | Monday                          | Tuesday                         | Wednesday                       | Thursday                        | Friday                          | Saturday                         |
|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1      | 2                               | 3                               | 4                               | 5                               | 6                               | 7                                |
| 8      | 9                               | 10                              | 11                              | 12                              | 13                              | 14                               |
| 15     | 16<br>Lesson 1<br>9:00 - 12:00p | 17<br>Lesson 2<br>9:00 - 12:00p | 18<br>Lesson 3<br>9:00 - 12:00p | 19                              | 20<br>Lesson 4<br>9:00 - 12:00p | 21                               |
| 22     | 23<br>Lesson 5<br>9:00 - 12:00p | 24<br>Lesson 6<br>9:00 - 12:00p | 25<br>Lesson 7<br>9:00 - 12:00p | 26<br>Lesson 8<br>9:00 - 12:00p | 27<br>Lesson 9<br>9:00 - 12:00p | 28<br>Lesson 10<br>9:00 - 12:00p |

For more information and registration go to:  
<https://www.enhanceddrivinginstitute-mn.com/triton>





Brady Staub, pictured with his parents, Chris and Julie Staub, places 3rd in the state with a Diversified Crop Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency. Brady leases land to grow corn and soybeans on each year.



# 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  
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Produced and published for Triton School District by Mainstreet Publishing  
P.O. Box 1, West Concord, MN 55985  
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# Triton Track Athletes are Writing Their Names in the Record Books







# **BIG DREAMS. BRIGHT FUTURES. BEST WISHES!**

**Wherever you go from here, may the memories,  
lessons and friendships you've gained  
accompany you every step of the way.**

**Congratulations  
on your graduation!**

*We wish you success today and always!*

**Craig Schlichting, Superintendent  
Teachers and Staff  
Triton Schools**

#WeAreTriton  
#SomosTriton  
[www.triton.k12.mn.us](http://www.triton.k12.mn.us)





TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Beadwork Crafts with the Green Shack

Join Brittany from the Green Shack and make beading crafts. You will be able to personalize necklaces, bracelets, rings, and keychains. Brittany will have all the supplies; you just need to bring your creativity! Max 10 kids.

Cost: \$28  
Grades K-5  
May 20  
3:15-5PM  
TES Art Room  
Grades 6-8  
May 21  
3:15-5PM  
TMS Media Center

Painting with the Green Shack

Grades 1-5  
Join Brittany from the Green Shack for the final crafting class of the school year. You will paint a watering can planter and make windchimes!  
Maximum 11 kids.

Cost: \$35  
May 29  
3:15-5PM  
TES Art Room



Triton Summer Volleyball Camps!

**Grades Entering 1-4 in the Fall**  
Join The Triton volleyball coaches and players for this fun-filled camp. Players will work on basic foundations, skill development and game play. Kids are guaranteed to “dig” this camp and the sport of volleyball! Each player will get their own soft touch volleyball to keep. The deadline for volleyball is May 26.  
Cost: \$36  
June 9, 10 and 11 (3 days)  
2-3:15PM  
Drop off and pick up at the Triton Activities Area



**Grades Entering 5-8 in the Fall**  
Join The Triton volleyball coaches and players for this fun-filled camp. Players will work on basic foundations, skill development and game play. You are guaranteed to “dig” this camp and the sport of volleyball! Each player will get a T-shirt if they register by May 26.  
Cost: \$46  
June 9, 10 and 11 (3 days)  
Noon-2PM  
Drop off and pick up at the Triton Activities Area

HUS-KEE Volleyball Camp

**Grades 8-12, Fall 2025**  
Join this volleyball camp and fine tune your skills for the upcoming season. This camp is led by Marty Koebel of Maple Lake, and Jason Kaytor of Owatonna. Campers will get a T-shirt.  
Cost: \$68  
July 14 & 15  
9:30-12:30PM both days  
Triton East and West Gyms (Enter through the Activities Doors)  
Registration is due to Triton Community Ed by June 27

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>

TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Aqua Zumba and Aqua Strength Natalie Webb Aquatic Center, Dodge Center

We’re bringing Zumba and Strength Training to the pool! Integrating the Zumba formula and philosophy with traditional aqua fitness disciplines, AnnMarie blends it all together into a safe, challenging, water-based workout that’s cardio-conditioning, body toning, and most of all, exhilarating beyond belief. This is an activity that anyone can do. This co-sponsorship is between Triton Community Ed and the Natalie Webb Aquatic Center. Join us for the greatest exercise party at the pool this summer! Please register through Community Ed. Minimum 10/ Maximum 35.

**Aqua Zumba—**  
**Wednesday**  
**Evenings**  
**7pm**  
**June 11th, 18th, & 25th**  
**July 9th, 16th, 30th & Aug 6th**  
(Make-up date if needed— Aug 13th)  
\$70 for all 7 weeks  
\$13/day for walk-ins



**Aqua Aerobics—**  
**Thursday Evenings**  
**7pm**  
**June 12th, 19th, 26th**  
**July 10th, 17th, 31st & Aug 7th**  
(Make-up date if needed— Aug 14th)  
\$70 for all 7 weeks  
\$13/day for walk-ins



TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT

507-418-7550

**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 LaCrosse 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 travel to Baraboo, Wisconsin and **VISIT THE WISCONSIN OPRY!** We'll Experience down-home, music-filled time on the farm! Enjoy a hayride, lift your heart with a classic LIVE country music show from the Dickinson Family, as well as savor a home cooked meal in our historic barn.



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, The Wisconsin Opry hayride, lunch buffet and show.**

*Single Room Stay (1 person in the room): \$410/person*  
*Double Room Stay: (2-4 people in the room, 2 queen beds): \$370/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 Education  
813 West Highway St, Dodge Center, MN 55927

**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 Lufefisk 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<br>Middle School Parking Lot                 | 10:45AM | 6PM           |
| Kasson<br>Football Field Lot                       | 11AM    | 5:50PM        |
| Dodge Center<br>Triton Schools Activities Entrance | 11:15AM | 5:40PM        |
| Owatonna<br>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](http://triton.k12.mn.us)  
Click on the Menu Tab, and select Community Education under the Community Header, Choose Class + Activity On-line Registration.

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

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

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

**Participant Information:**

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

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

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

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

**Attention SCHA or UCARE Insured Families:**

If your child has South Country Health Alliance (SCHA-could cover up to 5 classes up to \$15 per calendar year) then discounts MIGHT apply. Eligible UCare members may get up to a \$15 discount on many community education classes in Minnesota. Members must have UCare insurance at the time of registration and throughout the duration of the class. Members need to provide their UCare ID number when registering for class. Limits and restrictions may apply. Registration is not complete without this insurance information.  
Call 507-418-7550 with questions-Thank you!



CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES

FLY IN BREAKFAST

FIREWORKS

MUSIC ON MAIN

FOOD TRUCKS

FIREMEN'S FEED at the Firehall



Thursday, June 12

City Wide Garage Sales Start, see QR code for locations and times  
Open Pickleball at North Park (all levels of experience welcome) 6:30-8:30PM

Friday, June 13

Firemen's Feed: 4-7:30PM at the Dodge Center Firehall  
**Main Street Events:**  
Chamber Kick Off on Main St: 11-2 PM  
Music on Main Annadine Show: LP and the 45s: 6PM  
Food Trucks: 6PM on Main Street

Saturday, June 14: All activities located at North Park

Yoga in the Park 8:30-9:30AM  
Venom Softball Tournament: 9AM start  
FREE Dodger Days Photo Booth all day, bring your own camera  
Food Trucks open at 10 AM  
Rookie the Clown: 10-2PM  
Face Painting: 10-2PM  
Chalk Art: 10AM  
Bingo (Claremont Chamber): 10-Noon under the new pavilion  
Bingo (MRA): 2-4 PM under the new pavilion  
Bounce Houses: 10-2PM  
K-9 demonstration with Olmsted County: 11AM  
Triton Community Ed's Vendor Market: Noon-5PM  
Paws and Claws Adoption Event: Noon-2PM  
Drone Demonstration by Dodge County Sheriff's Office: 1PM (weather and emergency permitting)  
Free Swim at pool: Noon  
**Music: Rockin' Hep Cats 5-6:30PM, Poor Boy Ramblers 7:30-9:30PM**  
**FREE Admission and Family Friendly, bring your own blanket/lawn chairs**  
**Harold's Club beverage truck will be serving, ID required for alcohol purchases**  
**Fireworks: 10PM**

Sunday, June 15

Fly In Breakfast at the Dodge Center Airport: 7A-12PM  
**North Park Events:**  
Food Trucks open at 10AM  
Church Under the Tent: 10AM  
Tractor Show: 11-1PM by the Firehall  
Quilt and Fabric Art Show: 9AM-1PM at the Firehall  
Touch a Truck (Fire trucks and Semi trucks, and other large trucks): 9-Noon  
Bingo (MRA): 11-1PM at the Firehall



BINGO

VENDOR MARKET

PAWS AND CLAWS ADOPTION EVENT

FREE SWIM

QUILT and FABRIC SHOW

TRACTOR SHOW





DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, April 14, 2025

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the April 14, 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](http://www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us).

Present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Braedon Dostal, Lee Mattson, John Fox, Mark Barwald, Jeremy Dostal, Meredith Brose, Tim Woessner, City Attorney, Dodge County Sheriff’s Deputy Tyler Vermeesch and Kathy Freeman.

Absent:

City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda to include: Minutes from March 24, 2025 City Council Meeting; March 3, 2025 Planning & Zoning Commission; Mach 11, 2025 HRA Meeting; Community Ed Baseball Field Request; Aquatic Center Free Swim Days; Hire of Season Park Staff and Payment of Bills;
  - Donation to Triton HS Business Professionals of America;
  - Give property owner at 14 1st Ave NE until April 28, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.to get his prop-erty up to code or the property will be abated;
  - Have City Attorney begin housing code violation process on property at 206 2nd St SW;
  - Quote from Smidt Construction in the amount of \$943.00;
  - Up to \$24,500 to complete the work on the pole shed;
  - Resolution 2025-011 Conditional Use Permit for a Residential Apartment Unit at 32 W Main St;
  - Interim Use Permit for 412 8th St NW for two (2) rabbits and authorize staff to amend City Code Animal Section allowing two (2) rabbits only;
  - First Amendment to the lease with L3Harris Technologies, Inc;
  - Wellhead Extension Protection Plan Extension as submitted;
  - State of Minnesota State Airports Fund Equipment Grant Agreement and Resolution 2025-012 Authorization to Execute Minnesota Department of Transportation Grant Agree-ment for Airport Improvement Excluding Land Acquisition;
  - Placement of Farm Bureau’s barn shaped free-library in Butterfly Garden at North Park;
- Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Email:  
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, April 28, 2025

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the April 28, 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](http://www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us).

Present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Braedon Dostal, Lee Matt-son, John Fox, Meredith Brose, Sheriff’s Deputy Tyler Vermeesch and Kathy Freeman.

Absent: Paul Blaisdell

City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda to include: Minutes from April 14, 2025 City Council Meeting; February 13, 2025 Library Board; Mach 18, 2025 Park Board; March 19, 2025 Airport Board; 2025 Pool Wages; 2025 Pool Staff; Music on Main Road Closures; Dodger Days Transfer of Funds; Resolution 2025-013 – 2025 Project Reimbursement Resolution; Approval to Hire Paid-On-Call EMT’s and Payment of Bills;
  - Give property owner at 206 2nd St SW until May 12, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.to get his prop-erty up to code or the property will be abated;
  - Resolution 2025-015 – Providing for the Issuance and Sale of a \$1,754,000 General Obligation Improvement and Utility Revenue Note, Series 2025A. Pledging for the Se-curity Thereof Special Assessments and Net Revenues and Levying a Tax for the Payment Thereof;
  - Quote received from Harris in the amount of \$6,729 for installation of pool heater;
  - Preliminary schedule for Dodger Days;
  - Change to existing Airport Master Plan;
  - Staff and City Attorney working on a lease for Skyventure Aviation;
  - Transfer of airport hangar lease from Scott Lampland to Trevor Lampland.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
2025 STREET & UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS  
CITY OF CLAREMONT  
CLAREMONT, MN

**RECEIPT AND OPENING OF PROPOSALS:** Proposals for the work described below will be received online through QuestCDN.com until 10:00 AM on June 4, 2025 at which time the bids will be opened and publicly read at the office of the City Administrator, City of Claremont, 140 West Front Street, Claremont, MN 55924.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** The work includes the construction of approximately:

| Item  | Approx. Quantity | Unit | Item                       | Approx. Quantity | Unit |
|---|------------------|------|----------------------------|------------------|------|
| Remove Pavement                                     | 4,350            | SY   | Sediment Control Log       | 340              | LF   |
| Excavation – Common (EV)                            | 2,590            | CY   | Turf Restoration           | 3,100            | SY   |
| Excavation – Muck (EV) & Stabilizing Aggregate (CV) | 625              | CY   | 12" Pipe Sewer             | 45               | LF   |
| Geotextile Fabric Type 9                            | 6,000            | SY   | Surface Inlet              | 1                | EA   |
| Aggregate Base, Class 5 (CV)                        | 2,060            | CY   | Sanitary MH Rehabilitation | 1                | EA   |
| Type SP 12.5 Wearing Mix (3,C)                      | 1,100            | TON  | Sanitary Pipe Point Repair | 3                | EA   |
| Concrete C&G (Drive-Over)                           | 140              | LF   | Rebuild/Adjust Storm Inlet | 1                | EA   |
| Concrete Driveway                                   | 30               | SY   | Adjust Casting (Donut Cut) | 1                | EA   |

together with numerous related items of work, all in accordance with Plans and Specifications. This project is subject to Responsible Contractor Certification.

**PLAN HOLDERS LIST, ADDENDUMS AND BID TABULATION:** The plan holders list, addendums and bid tabulations will be available for download on-line at [www.questcdn.com](http://www.questcdn.com) or [www.bolton-menk.com](http://www.bolton-menk.com).

**TO OBTAIN BID DOCUMENTS:** Complete digital project bidding documents are available at [www.questcdn.com](http://www.questcdn.com) or [www.bolton-menk.com](http://www.bolton-menk.com). You may view the digital plan documents for free by entering Quest project # 9685283 on the website’s Project Search page. Documents may be downloaded for \$50.00. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com) for assistance in free membership registration, viewing, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

**BID SUBMITTAL:** A bid shall be submitted online no later than the date and time prescribed. For this project, the Owner will only be accepting online electronic bids through QuestCDN. To access the electronic bid form, download the project document and click the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted.

**BID SECURITY:** A Proposal Bond in the amount of not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid, drawn in favor of City of Claremont shall accompany each bid.

**OWNER’S RIGHTS RESERVED:** The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder if, in their discretion, the interest of the Owner would be best served thereby.

**DATED:** May 6, 2025 /s/ Elizabeth Sorg  
City Administrator

Published:

Hometown Messenger: May 14, 2025  
QuestCDN: May 14, 2025

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
DODGE CENTER, MINNESOTA

ELECTRONIC BIDS will be received through QuestCDN vBid (On-Line Bidding ONLY) by the City Council of the City of Dodge Center until **10:00 AM on the 12th day of June 2025**, at which time the bids will be reviewed for the following public improve-ments;

2025 DODGE CENTER MILL & OVERLAY PROJECT  
Wideth Project Number 2025-10046

The City Council of the City of Dodge Center will consider such bids and the respon-sibility of the bidders after 6:00 PM on the 23rd day of June, 2025 for possible contract award.

The work shall include the following approximate quantities: Mill Bituminous Pavement – 53,060 SY, Bituminous Wearing Course – 6,110 Ton, Adjust Valve Box – 96 Each, Ad-just Frame & Ring Casting – 48 Each, Miscellaneous and Appurtenant Construction Items.

No bid will be considered unless it is electronically submitted through QuestCDN vBid prior to 10:00 AM on the 12th day of June, 2025. No paper bids will be accepted. A Cash Deposit, Certified Check, or Bidder's Bond, payable to the City of Dodge Center, in the amount of not less than 5% of the amount of the bid must accompany each proposal as a guarantee that the bidder, upon award of the Contract will enter into a Contract with the City of Dodge Center and furnish a Performance and Payment Bond along with a Certificate of Insurance if awarded the contract. Both the Performance and Payment Bonds must be written for the full amount of the Contract and will be required with the Contract. The deposit will be subject to forfeiture as provided by law. The deposits from the three lowest bidders will be retained by the City of Dodge Center until it has arranged financing for the project, but no longer than thirty-five (35) days.

The City of Dodge Center reserves the right to waive any informalities, to reject any or all bids and to award the Contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

Complete digital project bidding documents will be available on May 22nd, 2025 at [www.questcdn.com](http://www.questcdn.com). You may download the digital plan documents for **\$30.00** (additional \$25.00 for submitting bid) by inputting Quest project #9685258 on the website’s Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com) for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. An optional paper set of project documents will also be available on May 22nd, 2025 at Wideth Smith Nolting, 3777 40th Avenue NW, Suite 200, Rochester, MN 55901 for a nonrefundable price of **\$75.00** per set. Please make your check payable to the City of Dodge Center and send it to Wideth Smith Nolting, Rochester, MN. Please contact us at 507-292-8743 if you have any questions.

Bids shall be electronically submitted using QuestCDN vBid (On-Line Bidding ONLY). Dated this 9th day of May, 2025.

Lee Mattson, City Administrator, City of Dodge Center



## NOTICE OF WEST CONCORD CITY COUNCIL MEETING CHANGE

The May City Council meeting is moved to May 22, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Bell Tower Center (401 Main St). There will be a public hearing at 6:30 pm on May 22nd to discuss the proposed changes to City Nuisance Codes. The changes to the code are found below.

## CHAPTER VI PUBLIC HEALTH

It is the desire of the City of West Concord to encourage the growth of the city by making West Concord aesthetically inviting to new homeowners and businesses. The intent of the City of West Concord Code Chapter VI is to avoid the obstructions of public streets, sidewalks, improve traffic visibility and maintain the visual harmony and character appropriate in residential and business neighborhoods within the City. The objective within this chapter includes preserving and improving the peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of the citizens while minimizing the adverse effects of litter, vegetation overgrowth, nuisance parking and storage to improve aesthetics of the City and property values therein.

## SECTION 600 – LITTER, OPEN AREAS, NUISANCE PARKING & STORAGE

### 600.01. Definitions.

Subdivision 1. For purposes of this section, the terms defined in this subsection have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. Declaration of a Nuisance. The outside parking and storage on residentially zoned property of large numbers of vehicles, materials, supplies, or equipment not customarily used for residential purposes in violation of the requirements set forth below is declared to be a public nuisance because it:

- obstructs views on streets and private property,
- creates cluttered and otherwise unsightly areas,
- prevents the full use of residential streets for residential parking,
- introduces commercial advertising signs into areas where commercial advertising signs are otherwise prohibited,
- decreases adjoining landowners' and occupants'

use and enjoyment of their property and neighborhood, and

f) otherwise adversely affects property values and neighborhood patterns.

Subd. 3. The term "litter" means:

a) garbage, junk, refuse and rubbish;

b) abandoned property in the form of deteriorated, wrecked or derelict property in unusable condition and left unprotected from the elements. The term "abandoned property" includes, but is not limited to, deteriorated, wrecked, inoperable, unlicensed, or partially dismantled motor vehicles, abandoned motor vehicles, trailers, boats, machinery, refrigerators, washing machines, household appliances, plumbing fixtures and furniture; and

c) abandoned motor vehicles as that term is defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 168B.02

600.03 Open Areas. All open areas and parts of premises shall be maintained and kept in a reasonably clean and neat condition. This requirement shall include, but is not limited to, the removal of inoperable machines, appliances, fixtures, and equipment so damaged, deteriorated or obsolete as to have no substantial value and which constitute junk; the removal of lumber piles and building materials not being used in actual construction on the premises unless such premises are being used by a business dealing in or requiring the use of such lumber and materials; and the removal of tin cans, broken glass, broken furniture, mattresses, box springs, boxes, crates, cardboard, tires, and other debris. Any weeds or tall grass growing upon any lot or parcel of land in the City of West Concord are hereby declared to be a nuisance and dangerous to the health, safety, and good order of the City. Nothing in this section shall restrict the activities of a duly established and licensed junk yard.

### 600.4. Unlawful parking and storage.

• A person must not place, store, or allow the placement or storage of ice fishing houses, skateboard ramps, playhouses, or other similar non-permanent structures outside continuously for longer than twenty-four (24)

hours in the front yard area of residential property unless more than one hundred (100) feet back from the front property line.

• A person must not place, store, or allow the placement or storage of pipe, lumber, forms, steel, machinery, or similar materials, including all materials used in conjunction with a business, household furnishings or appliances outside on residential property, unless shielded from public view.

• Storage Containers. The use of semitrailers, shipping containers, and similar structures or containers for storage on a lot for more than 180 days in any one (1) 12 month period is prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to full enclosed construction storage trailers used onsite during construction provided all building permits have been obtained for the project, the project remains in compliance, and the trailer is removed from the lot upon completion of the project.

• A person must not cause, undertake, permit, or allow the outside parking and storage of vehicles on residential property unless it complies with the following requirements:

• No more than four (4) vehicles per lawful dwelling unit may be parked or stored anywhere outside on residential property, except as otherwise permitted or required by the city because of nonresidential characteristics of the property. The maximum number does not include vehicles of occasional guests who do not reside on the property.

• Vehicles, watercraft, and other articles stored outside on residential property must be owned by a person who resides on that property. All items stored must have current license and registration. Students who are away from school for periods of time but still claim the property as their legal residence will be considered residents on the property.

• Any recreational vehicle designed for sport, amusement or recreation regardless of whether it is eligible to be licensed must be in the rear or side yard provided a 5-foot setback from property lines is maintained.

Snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and boats must be tightly covered to keep out

rodents, rain and be kept free of standing water. All recreational items should be stored to prevent any water accumulation. The recreational vehicle(s) cannot obstruct any walkways or impede any view for traffic or pedestrians. The maximum number of vehicles allowed is three (3) recreational vehicles in good repair and operational. All recreational vehicles must be on wheels or securely attached to a wheeled trailer or wheeled vehicle, with wheels fully inflated. Recreational vehicles cannot be parked on residential streets for longer than forty-eight (48) hours. Recreational vehicles (and campers) are not to be used as a residence for any length of time without a variance from the City.

• Any motorized vehicle located at a residence must be located on a parking area constructed with concrete, asphalt, concrete pavers, brick set in compacted sand or other impervious or semi-impervious material. No portion of the vehicle may extend beyond the paved or rock surface. A motorized vehicle cannot be parked or stored on the front lawn. Motorized vehicles include, but are not limited to passenger cars and trucks, RVs/campers, ATVs, golf carts, and snowmobiles.

### 600.05 Inoperable Motor Vehicles.

• Declaration of nuisance. Any motor vehicle described in this section shall constitute a hazard to the health and welfare of the residents of the community as such vehicles can harbor noxious diseases, furnish a shelter and breeding ground for vermin, and present physical danger to the safety and well-being of children and citizens. Motor vehicles also contain various fluids which, if released into the environment, can and do cause significant health risks to the community.

• Inoperable motor vehicles. It shall be unlawful to keep, park, or store any unlicensed, unregistered or inoperable vehicle, including boats, snowmobiles, trailers or any other means of conveyance, or abandon any motor vehicle that is not in operating condition, partially dismantled, used for repair of parts or as a

source of repair or replacement parts for other vehicles, kept for scrapping, dismantling, or salvage of any kind, or which is not properly licensed for operation within the state, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 168B.011, subd. 3, as it may be amended from time to time.

• Screening. This section does not apply to a motor vehicle enclosed in a lawfully erected building and/or kept out of view from any street, road, or alley. Privacy fencing is permissible.

600.06. Duties of owners and occupants. The owner, lessee or occupant of private property, whether occupied or vacant, must maintain the property free of litter and must not create an unsightly condition.

600.07. Authorized storage. Nothing in this section prohibits the storage of litter on private property in receptacles or containers which meet the requirements of section 610 of this code.

600.09. Removal of litter and nuisance items; procedure; collection of costs.

Subdivision 1. Notice; service. When there exists litter and nuisance items on private property, a notice to remove the litter may be served upon the owner, lessee or occupant thereof by the city. The notice must be served by registered mail, or by personal delivery. When the property is occupied, service upon the occupant is deemed service upon the

owner; where the property is unoccupied or abandoned, service may be by mail to the last known owner of record of the property.

Subd. 2. Notice; contents. The notice required by subdivision 1 must state:

a) the nature and location of the nuisance;

b) that the nuisance must be removed or properly stored within ten days of service of the notice; and

c) that if the nuisance is not so removed or stored, it will be removed by the city and the cost of such removal assessed against the property.

Subd. 3. Costs. The clerk must keep a record of all costs incurred by the city in the removal and disposition of the nuisance pursuant to this section, including all administrative costs involved in the service of the notice required by this subsection, and must report such costs to the city clerk annually not later than August 30.

Subd. 4. Assessment. On or before September 1 of each year the clerk must list the total costs incurred by the city under this section against each separate lot or parcel to which they are attributable. The city council will then spread the costs against each property as a special assessment for collection as other special assessments in the following year, all as authorized by Minnesota Statutes, section 429.101.

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## CITY OF CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025 7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Jared Sultze, City Council Members: Deb Ellis, Krystal Sultze, and Donna Gregory. Currently there is 1 vacant seat.

City staff and others present: City Administrator Elizabeth Sorg, City Attorney Mark Rahrnick, City Engineer Derek Olinger, Sheriff Scott Rose, Timothy Hudson, Jamie Sultze, Elle Leeper, Ethan Johnson, Hannah Behnken, Carter Behnken, Alec Vaughn, Jim Zylstra, Ethan Reed, Denise Schwerling, and Amber Ward.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### AGENDA

Motion by Ellis to approve the agenda with the deletion of the Audit Presentation, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC INPUT

A question was directed to the council regarding the ball field at Harmer Park. Who oversees Harmer Park, the Chamber or City? The council said the city is in charge as the owner of the property. The property owners that live north of the ballfield said Dean Schuette told them a fence would be put up between the properties. The city was not aware of this. Question on whether there will be restrooms, bleachers, concessions, etc. With the donations the city has now, the scoreboard and bleachers are covered and will be installed this spring. Other amenities will be added as donations are received.

### CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included: Minutes of March 4, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, Minutes from March 4, 2025, Special City Council Meeting, Approve Resolution No. 25-10: Resolution Expressing Acceptance of and Appreciation of Donations, Approve Resolution No. 25-11: Certifying Past-Due Bills to Dodge County, Approve Resolution No. 25-12: Resolution Expressing Acceptance of and Appreciation of Donation, and Ap-

prove Automatic Renewal of CD for 6 months. Motion by Ellis to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Nothing currently.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Sultze to approve the financial reports, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ellis to approve payment of the bills including the added bills, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Sheriff Scott Rose was present, he wanted to introduce himself and give a short update on what is happening in the sheriff's department. The implementation of a new CAD (Computer Aid Dispatch) system is being installed. The new system will be a substantial upgrade for the staff and residents. The system will have 3D mapping including crime data mapping. The system will be able to tell the exact location of an officer in a building when they go in. It will also be able to give more detailed reports.

### PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Nothing currently.

### EDA

Nothing currently.

### MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

The maintenance department is requesting a new V-plow. The V-plow would be easier on the roads and cut down the time it takes to clear the roads. Maintenance Director Dahl got quotes for the V-plow. The maintenance department has \$10,000 in their capital outlay budget. A quote from Trucking America comes in at \$9,932.50 (installed) and the other companies were over \$10,000. Motion by Sultze to approve Trucking America for the purchase of the V-plow, second by Ellis. Ayes: K. Sultze, Ellis, J. Sultze. Nays: None. Abstain: Gregory. Motion carried.

### PARKS COMMITTEE

Ethan Reed discussed what additions he will make to the Food Forest out on the walking trail. He is taking care of the area and furnishing the plants, vegetables, and fruit trees.

Once again it is time to check pricing for weed con-

trol and fertilizer at the parks. A quote from TruGreen came in at \$1005 per treatment, 3 times per year and a quote from Corey's Outdoor Services came in at \$854 per treatment, 3 times per year. A question was asked if the treatments are safe for pets and children. This will be tabled for next month's meeting.

The city will check with Dean Schuette regarding a fence between the ballfield and the owners of the adjacent land. Council Member Gregory asked if there would be a fee for outsiders to use the ballfield. Fees and reservations for the use of the park will be discussed at a later date.

### PEOPLESERVICE

Nothing currently.

### CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Olinger looked into extending water and sewer lines over to the ball field for future use. He noted there is no cost difference to wait for water/sewer lines to be extended to Harmer Park, so it will wait.

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The last council discussed installing inclusive playground equipment in Henning Park. Sorg asked if this council agreed, which they did. Administrator Sorg will check to see if there are any grants available for playground equipment.

At the last council meeting restrooms for Memorial Park and Harmer Park were brought up. The T-ball league pays for a porta-potty during the summer up to Hogfest. Council Member Ellis called 3 companies for porta-potty prices. Jeremiah Porta Potty out of Rochester quoted \$459 for 28 days, emptying 1 time a week. Countrywide Rental of Rochester quoted \$275 for 28 days, emptying 1 time a week. On-Site Companies of Rochester quoted \$181.50 for 28 days, emptying 1 time a week. Motion by Sultze to have On-Site Companies bring in 1 handicap Porta-Potty at Memorial Park from Memorial Day until Labor Day and 1 handicap unit for 2 months at Harmer Park from August 1st till Labor Day.

The special election for 1 council member will be on August 12th. For a limited time, the city will need 2 election judges at City Hall

each week for absentee ballots. There will need to be 4 election judges on election day. The city can set a time for the election with the exception that the poll must be open from 5 pm – 8 pm. More information will be provided as it comes up.

The Fire Department was checking prices to add a little addition onto the SE side of the Fire Hall. Thoughts were to add a bathroom in the NE corner of that addition. It is going to cost more for the addition than originally thought (approximately \$67,000) so that won't be happening at this time.

This will be the last year for Terri Schuette to purchase and plant the flowers and the upkeep of them. Keep this in mind so if someone would like to take this over that would be great.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization is April 21 from 2:30 – 3:00 p.m.

### CITY ATTORNEY

Motion by Sultze to Approve Resolution No. 25-13: Procedures for Appointing a Person to Fill the Vacant Council Position, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ellis to Approve Ordinance No. 2025-0401: Procedures and Timing of Special Elections to Fill Declared Vacancies in Elected Offices, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

### OLD BUSINESS

The Advisory Committee had information on microphones and video cameras for meetings. They also talked about putting the meeting on You Tube but weren't sure as you could lose rights to it once it is posted. The microphones cost \$461.53. Other options will be checked out also. The committee has the council's permission to continue working on this project.

A workshop to go over the City Council Code of Conduct will be held on April 21 following the Board of Appeals and Equalization at 3:00 pm.

### NEW BUSINESS

Three people applied to the vacant council seat that was held by Ryan Hedberg: Cindy Johnson, Ethan Johnson, and Alec Vaughn. Motion by Sultze to appoint Ethan Johnson as city council member, second by Ellis. Ayes: Sultze, Ellis, and Sultze. Nays: Gregory. Motion carried. Johnson will be

on the council until the special election.

Motion by Ellis to approve Resolution No. 25-09: Resolution Appointing Vice Mayor, which will be Krystal Sultze, second by Mayor Sultze. Ayes: Ellis and J. Sultze. Nay: Gregory. Abstain: K. Sultze. Motion carried.

Motion by Ellis to open the Public Hearing regarding Adopting Ordinance No. 2025-0402: City Code Section 4.71 Regulation of Cannabis Businesses, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously. No comments were received. Motion by Sultze to close the Public Meeting, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Sultze to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-0402: Regulation of Cannabis Businesses, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

With PeopleService's contract ending April 30, contracts were made for Spencer McDermott at \$1000 per month to oversee and train the maintenance department for water and Chas Schroht will oversee and train for sewer at \$1500 per month. Switching from PeopleService to independent operators is a savings of over \$77,000. Motion by Ellis to approve the Wastewater Contract with Chas Schroht, second by Sultze. Ayes: Ellis, Sultze, and Sultze. Nay: None. Abstain: Gregory. Motion carried. A motion by Sultze to approve the Water Contract with Spencer McDermott, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

All 3 Council Members and the Mayor will be attending the LMC Duluth Annual Conference.

### FINAL WORD

None

Motion by Ellis to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m., second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Deb Ellis,  
Assistant City Clerk  
Jared Sultze, Mayor

**CITY OF CLAREMONT  
LOCAL BOARD OF  
APPEAL AND  
EQUALIZATION AND  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 21,  
2025  
2:30 P.M.**

The Local Board of Appeal

and Equalization of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Monday, April 21, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Jared Sultze. City Council Members Ethan Johnson, Krystal Sultze, and Donna Gregory. Council Members absent: Deb Ellis.

City, County Staff and others present: City Administrator Elizabeth Sorg, Dodge County Assessor Ryan DeCook, Dodge County Appraiser Matt Naatz, Dodge County Appraiser Trainee Erik Hannigan, and Jim Zylstra.

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is to provide a fair and objective forum for property owners to appeal their property valuation or classification. The Board has the authority to decrease, sustain or increase the market value of a property. No letters or calls were received at City Hall. Jim Zylstra, 209 Main Street, questioned his property value. After discussion of comparable properties, motion by Sultze to keep the value the same with no change, second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Sorg checked with both companies that submitted bids for weed preventer and fertilizer for the parks on chemical residue that may affect people/pets. Both companies said once the product dries it is safe. Corey's Outdoor Service said they spray early in the morning once the dew dries and in about ½ hour it is dry and safe. Corey's Outdoor Service's bid was \$854 per treatment and TruGreen's bid was \$1005 per treatment. Motion by Sultze to approve Corey's Outdoor Service's bid, second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

The council reviewed 2 City Council Code of Conduct guidelines. They picked sections from both guidelines to be combined into one. Sorg will have a draft for the May council meeting.

Motion by Sultze to adjourn at 3:21 p.m., second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg,  
City Administrator  
Jared Sultze, Mayor



**TRITON ISD NO. 2125 –  
SUMMARY SCHOOL  
BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR SCHOOL  
BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 24,  
2025 – 6:00 P.M.  
TRITON HIGH SCHOOL  
MEDIA CENTER –  
DODGE CENTER, MN  
& ZOOM VIDEO  
CONFERENCING**

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the March 24, 2025, Triton School Board meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing in the Triton District Office, 813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, or online at [www.triton.k12.mn.us](http://www.triton.k12.mn.us).

Present: Wendy Kenworthy, Rebecca Knutson, J. Jensen, D. Jensen, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Craig Schlichting, Luke Lutterman, Shane Van Beek, Tricia Johnson, Aimee Lake, Tina Kozisek, Corey Lilledahl, and others.

The School Board approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda including the consent agenda including the February 10, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented; budget update; claims and bills; treasurer's report; open enrollment/nonresident agreements for students #032425A, #032425B; #032425C, #032425D, #032425E, #032425F, #032425G, #032425H, #032425I, #032425J, #032425K, #032425L, #032425M; contracts for Chase Landsteiner and Henry Ogren as Cobra Kids Assistant, and Brandon Neseth as Activities Director; extra-curricular contracts Cole Rollins as JH Boys Basketball Coach, Dale Tate as Junior High Baseball Coach, Adam Anderson as G/T Coordinator and Assistant Track Coach, Patrick Floryance as Technovations Advisor, and

Ryan McCabe as Assistant Baseball Coach; resignation for Geoffrey Schlicher as Educational Assistant effective February 28, 2025;

- Resolution Appointing Bond Trust Service Corporation as Fiscal Agent in Connection with Certain Outstanding Obligations;

- Resolution Authorizing the District to Enter into a Line of Credit Agreement with a Financial Institution;

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

- Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Lisa Chicos, a Probationary Teacher;

- Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Morgan Reuvers, a Probationary Teacher;

- Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Katie Nold, a Probationary Teacher;

- Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Katie Fitzgerald, a Probationary Teacher;

- Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Jessie Maes, a Probationary Teacher;

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

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

- Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Christine Deetz, a Probationary Teacher;

- Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Olivia Zwachka, a Probationary Teacher;

- Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Caroline Otto, a Probationary Teacher;

- Resolution Relating to the Termination and Nonrenewal of the Teaching Contract of Julie Fuchs, a Probationary Teacher;

- Resolution Proposing Placement of Kallen Knott, a Tenured Teacher, on Unrequested Leave of Absence;

- 2024-2025 Revised Budget;

- FFA Overnight Trip to the FFA State Convention at the U of M April 28-29, 2025;

- BPA Overnight Trip to the BPA National Convention in Orlando, FL May 6-11, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

**CITY OF DODGE CENTER, MN  
ORDINANCE NO. 165, SECOND SERIES**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 12  
REGARDING THE KEEPING OF AGRICULTURAL ANIMALS**

SECTION 1. The Dodge Center City Council Ordains that City Code, Chapter 12, Section 6, subdivision 1 is hereby deleted and recreated to read as follows:

**Subd. 1.** It is unlawful for any person to keep or harbor any horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, rabbits, chickens, turkeys, mules, donkeys, llamas, alpacas, chickens, other fowl, or other animal commonly kept for agricultural purposes, within the city limits, except as permitted as a Conditional or Interim Use in an industrial zone. Rabbits may also be kept as an Interim Use in a residential zone provided that the number of rabbits does not exceed two.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval and publication, as required by law and/or charter.

Approved by the Council this 12th day of May, 2025.

Bill Ketchum, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lee A. Mattson, Clerk-Administrator

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you can pick-up a hard copy by visiting City Hall, 180 Main Street, during normal business hours; or you may request a copy to be sent to you by calling City hall at 507-527-2668. The CCR will not be sent to customers individually.



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| Std Duty plow (up to 65hp)    | 5' to 7.5' | starting at \$2,575 |
| Heavy Duty (up to 85hp)       | 5' to 10'  | starting at \$2,775 |
| Industrial/Commercial Duty    | 6' to 10'  | starting at \$3,775 |

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