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JUNE 4, 2025

Volume 11 • Issue 11

Berne Wood-Fired Pizza Reopens for 2025 with First-Ever Saturday Night Event

West Concord, MN – A favorite summer tradition returns as Berne Wood-Fired Pizza kicks off its 2025 season, bringing together community, music, and delicious wood-fired pizza in the heart of the Minnesota countryside.

(continued on page 7)

Announcements

- **Ginny's (Farmers Market / Crafts / Flea).** Dates: May 28th - September 24th every Wednesday: weather pending. Time: 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Set up Starts at 2:00 p.m. Location: 213 Ellington Street West Concord, MN 55985 (Empty Lot Behind Ginny's's Drive-In).
- **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

Preserving the Past

By Tyler Weeks

When the Mantorville Opera House began in 1918, no one truly recognized its future significance. However, after facing the effects of a changing nation and many years of neglect, the building slowly fell into disrepair. Under the burden of looming roof repairs and several other needs, the city decided to deed the decrepit building to the emerging Mantorville Restoration Association. Immediately recognizing the building's historical value, members of MRA quickly began their rehabilitation efforts. Following a careful restoration of the roof, utilities, and a specially refurbished interior, the Opera House has returned to its original glory, where it now serves as a space for rent and the Mantorville Theater Company's year-round plays.

(continued on page 5)

Pictured to the right:
The famous Mantorville Opera House,
established in 1918



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.

(continued on page 3)

Summer Fun starts this week

What to do this summer. The Natalie Webb Family Aquatic Center in Dodge Center is open for the summer.



New music stage in Mantorville

(continued on page 3)

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The Good News



By Jon Dudek, co-founder of Isaiah Ministries, bringing Biblical teaching to help overcome life's everyday challenges.
www.isaiahministries.cc

My focus in this article will be on the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ—something very important for the body of Christ to understand.

The gospel literally means “good news.” What is this good news? It’s that Jesus is the Savior. Savior from what? Savior from darkness, turmoil, and hopelessness. Most importantly, He is the Savior from sin. We all are sinful people. Sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4). Some of those sins would be breaking the Ten Commandments. When we sin, it separates us from God because nothing unholy can be in His presence (Revelation 21:27). Therefore, if you die in separation, you die apart from Him, meaning you do not have access to

heaven.

The good news, though, is there is a way to not be separated from God, a way to be forgiven of your sin. Since the penalty of sin is death, Christ came to this earth to be the perfect lamb (John 1:29, 36) and took on death. He died for us on the cross and then resurrected three days later (1 Corinthians 15:4).

When we accept this, it bridges the gap between God and us. We can then be in God’s presence because we are forgiven of sin. This is a free gift, and it is for anyone who believes the things previously mentioned, repents from sin, and confesses that Jesus is Lord (Romans 6:23b).

Here are some additional verses to guard our hearts and minds with truth.

• John 14:6 says, “I am the way, the truth,

and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

• John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

• Romans 10:9–10 says, “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

• Ephesians 2:8–9 says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

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Ann Traxler
Attorney

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DODGE CENTER

Faith Lutheran Church
308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center
507-374-2174

Traditional Worship 9 a.m.; Fellowship 10 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

404 Central Avenue N, Dodge Center
Rev. Elliott Malm • 507-633-2253
https://gracedc.church

Worship 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Praise Fellowship Church

602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center
Roger Langworthy • 507-374-6400
Kidz Church 9:15 a.m.; Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Dodge Center Methodist Church

201 1st St. NE, Dodge Center
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Sunday Morning Worship at 8:30 a.m., Fellowship Time Following

St. John Baptist De La Salle
20 2nd St. NE, Dodge Center • 507-374-6830
Mass Saturday 5 p.m.

Living Water Assembly Church

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

Dodge Center SDA Church

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

Anchor of Hope Church, a 7th Day Baptist Congregation

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

Bible Lutheran Church

(American Assoc. of Lutheran Churches)
11 1st Ave. N.E., Dodge Center
www.biblec.org • 612-803-1212
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.; Worship 10:30 a.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
Mark Martig, Pastor

Area Church Directory

I Am God's Chosen Possession

He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. — Ephesians 1:4

The Bible explains that believers have been freely and generously chosen by God. This choosing is not based on our appearance, intelligence, personality, status, or anything else. It's not something we earn or deserve. Instead, it's a purely gracious act.

God, in his great love, initiates the process of salvation. By his sovereign will and good pleasure, God has decided to save us, making rescue and redemption possible for all who have been made in his image (Genesis 1:26-27). Even though we were ensnared in sin, Jesus died to deliver us from the curse of sin and death to make us holy in God's sight.

Being chosen by God is an overwhelming blessing that fills us with humility and helps us see that there is no room for pride or boasting. It also instills in us a sense of security and confidence, recognizing that our salvation is not based on our religious performance. Instead, as God's chosen possession, we belong to him. Body and soul—in life and in death—we are his, and nothing can snatch us from his hand (John 10:28-30).

What an exhilarating honor—to be chosen, wanted, and valued by the most significant being in the universe!

Gracious God, thank you for choosing us. Thank you for being the author, perfecter, and finisher of our faith. May we live with the assurance that you will complete the good work you have begun in us. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

CLAREMONT

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www.fcwc.org
Facebook: WC Faith Community Church

Hegre Lutheran, ELCA

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

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301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778
Pastor Chad Christensen • trinitychurchwc.net
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:
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at church and via Zoom
Call church for more information on ministries and events.

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Pastor Peter Moen
9:00 a.m. Sunday School; 10:00 a.m. Worship
concordchurchmn.com

Zwingli United Church of Christ

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23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340
Pastor Tom Isaacson
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship; Find us on Facebook

Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the The Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Allen A. Armour

Allen A. Armour, of Mukwonago, formerly of Waukesha, died on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at the age of 90. He was born on August 29, 1934, in Rochester MN, the son of Myron L. and Orma M. (nee Heinck) Armour. He attended public school in Dodge Center, MN, graduating in 1952. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the U. S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict and served 4 years as a grounds crew chief on B-47 jet aircraft. On May 5, 1956 he married Georgia (nee Holland) Armour, who preceded him in death on May 20, 2012. He attended UW-Eau Claire from 1956-1957 and then transferred to UW-Stout where he graduated in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts Education. He began teach-



ing in the Waukesha Public School system in 1960 where he remained until his retirement in 1990. He also worked as a part-time carpenter at Carroll College/University from 1965-1990, then full time until 1999 before returning to part-time from 2000-2023. He is survived by his children Keith (Lori) Armour of Spicewood, TX, Dale (Dana) Armour of Village of Vernon and Cheryl (David) DeShambo of Lake Geneva, WI. He is further survived by his grandchildren Samantha Armour, Aaron Armour and Daniel DeShambo, many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his brothers William, Myron, Rodney and Rollo Armour, and sisters Evalyn Langworthy and Jean Adele LaPorte. No formal services will be held. Randle-Dable-Brisk Funeral Home, Crematory and Preplanning Service is honored to serve the family. For further information, please call the funeral home at 262-547-4035 or visit us online at www.randedable.com to

leave the family an online tribute message.

Arnold "Abe" Charles Abrahamson

Arnold "Abe" Charles Abrahamson passed away on Friday May 16th, 2025, after an illness of cancer. He was born on July 4, 1945 in Chariton Iowa to Pearl and Dorothy Abrahamson.



The family moved to Dodge County, MN in 1951 where he was raised on the family farm. He graduated from West Concord High School in 1963 and joined the Navy right out of school. After serving four years in the Navy Seabees and serving in Vietnam, he worked as a carpenter and farmed. Abe married Judy Heath on June 4, 1989. After they retired, they moved to Cape Fair MO., where he enjoyed his love of fishing, reading, building and all things antique'. Abe is survived by his wife, Judy, and sister, Cindy Tate. He is preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Gary; and his sister,

Delia Doffin. Arnold was loved by several nieces and nephews. Arrangements have been entrusted to Midwest Cremation and Funeral Services of Springfield, MO.

Lora Katherine Johnson

Lora Katherine Johnson, 54, of Dodge Center, MN passed away on Sunday, June 1, 2025, at her home in Dodge Center, MN. A visitation will be held from 12:30-2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South St SW in Dodge Center, MN. Interment will follow in Wildwood Cemetery in Wasioja, MN. Lora's family is composing her obituary and it will be available soon. 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.



Welcome Summer with Dodger Days

(continued from page 1)

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. 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.

Summer Fun starts this week

(continued from page 1)

Open swim hours are noon to 7pm and the food court is open daily from noon to 6pm. Swimming lessons start June 16th. The West Concord Swimming pool is currently undergoing repairs but plans are to be open by June 13th. Hours will be Monday – Friday 1 to 5pm and 6:30 to 8:30pm and Saturday & Sunday from 1 to 7:30pm. The Music in Mantorville Summer series will offer free music in Riverside Park on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:30pm. There will be Yoga from 4:30 to 5pm. Food vendors will be open from 5 to 8pm and the Farmers Market

will be open from 4 to 8pm. June 10th music is by Lost Faculties, June 17th will be Becky Schlegel, Bryan Akervik on June 24th and the Rockin' Hep Cats on July 1st. Look for the Berne Wood Fired Pizza and concert series activities and schedule starting on page one of this issue as well. The Pine Island Cheese Fest is this weekend June 5 through the 8th in Pine Island. Dodger Days in Dodge Center will be June 12th – 15th. Dennison Days will be June 20th & 21st in Dennison Minnesota. Schedules for those events are also included in this issue.

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**Roger Barr
Visits
West Concord
Library during
National
Library Week**

On April 10 during National Library Week, we had West Concord native Roger Barr visit our library and talk about his 40+ year career as a writer. We had a packed house. Roger Barr is a 1969 graduate of West Concord High School.



**Doug Ohman Speaks at
West Concord Library**



On April 29 we had Minnesota historian and photographer Doug Ohman back at our library. This year he spoke about Cemeteries of Minnesota. He is standing by several of the books he has published over the years.

**THE LIBRARY WILL
BE CLOSED
SATURDAYS FOR
THE SUMMER**

May 31 is our last
Saturday open for
the season.

Beginning June 1 our hours will be
Monday-Friday 9:30am-5:00pm

Preserving the Past

(continued from page 1)

Its story reveals but one of the Mantorville Restoration Association's many efforts to promote, preserve, and protect the history and culture of Mantorville's historic district. Before progressing this mission through annual events and fundraisers, the MRA began as a humble group of changemakers hoping to spark interest in local historical sites. Since their first meeting at a crowded cafe in 1963, membership exploded with a second meeting of 250 people and the purchase of the original Restoration House. With the hope of preserving the downtown area's integrity, they be-

came a part of the National Register of Historic Places and further expanded preservation efforts. Mantorville's historic district began in 1974 with five new properties centered around Main and 5th Street. To better inform community members of their efforts, the association's monthly paper updates members on progress while sharing insights into the 24 structures as old as 1850. Even before the buildings received new signs in 2021, their illustrious past stood out to members, tenants, citizens, and visitors for their well-known ghost stories and history. As a result, a large chunk of the board's budget lies in restoration projects like improving the Greek Revival House, tuck-pointing the basement of the Opera House, roofing the Normal School, cleaning up flood damages, and much more. Guided tours set up through the organization's website are a big part of this economic growth, helping to attract tourists drawn in by their intriguing

tales. When asked to comment on these structures, Vice President Chris Pluto emphasized the vast historical and present differences in their scope. Despite these distinctions, each building closely works with each other and the Dodge County Historical Society to reflect its living history and support community members. Chris Pluto: "We first purchased the Restoration House to serve as a museum. The log house, meanwhile, acts as a working building for the brewery. Functions of a one-room schoolhouse are highlighted by the Normal School's interior. Before it was demolished, we saved the Greek Revival House and transformed it into an event area. Meanwhile, the Opera House manages the Mantorville Theater Company and the gambling side of things. Finally, income generated by Hawk Horvath's ghost adventures in the Carriage House and other buildings supports events, civic assistance, and playground equipment." Funding these ventures requires more community interaction than one might expect. Alongside its many annual events and fundraisers, members rely on charitable gambling approved by MGCB regulations, generous donations, and further involvement in the community. To spark mutual change, the MRA funds local high school scholarships and the widely celebrated "National Night Out" event. Going through the restoration committee's yearly calendar, the town kicks off its year with its annual Mulligan Stew at the Hubbel House. While supporting a good cause, community members gather here for cocktails, wine, stew, and a live auction

whose funds go directly toward supporting Mantorville's preservation. Though weekly raffles and bingos make a difference, much of their funding derives from charitable gambling operations featured at the Mantorville Saloon, Harold's Club, and Dodge Center's Plaza Morena. To utilize the beautiful downtown of Mantorville, the association hosts its annual Stagecoach Days from June 24th to the 26th. It's unlikely that the Victorian frontier era promoted by this three-day spectacle would shine without the surrounding area. Meanwhile, the regionally renowned Marigold Days occur every weekend after Labor Day. What initially began as a flower show to promote marigolds has transformed into one of southern Minnesota's most attended festivals, in which people will soon gather for its 60th anniversary to enjoy food, flowers, and flea markets on September 6th and 7th. Like Mulligan Stew, the Merry Hour caps off an eventful year with drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and a live auction of holiday decor. One of the only year-round drivers behind the city's economic growth has been the Mantorville Theater Company, which hosts its melodramas, musicals, and comedies in the historic Opera House. Although the building has mostly returned to its former glory, over a century of damage has taken its toll on the roof. Temporary fixes may have stifled the damage caused by recent storms, but replacing the structure's rock, top layer, patching, and rubber will likely cost the board around \$50,000. Generating so much funding is only possible through the Mantorville Restoration Association's events, charitable raffles and gambling, and the generous donations of sponsors and individuals. Whenever community members attend events like the Marigold Days, play pull tabs at the saloon, or participate in weekly bingo nights, they actively help preserve what would have been a near-forgotten history. Beyond their restoration projects, this income allows the non-profit to pay taxes and rent, give their accountants and employees wages, and fund more games and events. Preserving the history of Mantorville or any town is a communal effort- not just a corporate one.

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2025 HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE

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

*Weather Dependent



Hey! West Concord Business Owners

The Façade Improvement Program is now Available.

This initiative offers 0% forgivable loans to businesses within city limits to support street-facing exterior improvements. Details about loan awards and the application process can be found online at www.westconcordmn.com/economic-development-authority-eda



Peril at Pumpernickle Pass kicks off the Summer Melodrama Season!

June 13-29: Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 pm and Sundays at 2:00 pm.

It's summertime which means it's melodrama time at the Mantorville Opera House! The first melodrama is Peril at Pumpernickle Pass by Tim Kelly, directed by Beth Regener.

About the show: Waldo Weasel, that cobra in human form, shows up in Pumpernickle Pass with a phony gold map. He talks lovely Buttercup O'Shay into staking him. Alas, the

gold strike doesn't pan out. But no matter! Waldo discovers Buttercup has a paper proving that her ancestor, the first governor of California, lent the new state a small fortune. The sum is so great that it can't be paid back, so the heir will own California! Since Buttercup will refuse his oily offer of marriage, Waldo plots to get rid of her and marry the next heir in line, Stella Dimdome. By the time the villain is defeated, all manner of hilarity has broken out!

Waldo Weasel is played by Kcin Siegele. Buttercup O'Shay is played by Em Mercer and her cousin, Stella Dimdome, is portrayed by Savannah Potter. Buttercup's friends include Pearl Ruby Diamond played by Rebecca Bromelkamp, Minnie portrayed by Cheryl Frarck, Widow Begley personated by Madysen Nelson, and Mattiwalda Cribbs played by Meredith Tuntland. The Sheriff is portrayed by Ilyas Ali and Scott Regener plays the barber Snipper Bayrhum. Town vis-



itors include Gentleman Dan played by Kaiden Beliveau, Buffalo Binnie portrayed by Catherine Williamson, and Annie Oatmeal personated by Grace Reed. The show will come alive with the help of our pianist Kristie Moody and stage manager Nathan Elias.

Melodramas are family friendly; tickets are \$10. Reservations can be made online at www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com or by phone (507-635-5420). Walk-ins are also welcome! All seats are general admission. There are volunteer slots open for the entire summer to help usher. Volunteers get to watch the show for free! You can find the sign up links on our website.

PERIL AT PUMPERNICKLE PASS



By Tim Kelly
Directed by Beth Regener

Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, CO.

Mantorville Launches First-Ever "Music in Mantorville" Summer Concert Series

Free Tuesday Night Performances at Riverside Park Begin June 3

his summer, the historic town of Mantorville (only 20 minutes west of Rochester) invites music lovers, families, and friends to gather along the riverside for its first-ever outdoor concert series, Music in Mantorville. The free series kicks off Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in Riverside Park's newly built bandshell and will run weekly through August 26.

Held every Tuesday evening during the summer, Music in Mantorville will showcase a diverse lineup of Minnesota musicians, including everything from bluegrass and country to jazz, rock, and acoustic singer-songwriters. Opening night will feature Brandon & John from Six Mile Grove, sponsored by KM Telecom. The series finale on August 26 will spotlight Clay Fulton, sponsored by The Hubbell House.

Beyond the music, attendees can enjoy:

- a vibrant local farmers market: 4:00 - 8:00 pm

- Yoga in the park: 4:30 - 5:30 pm
- Delicious eats from beloved local vendors including The Hubbell House, Hidden Pines, and the Mantorville Saloon: 5:00 - 8:00 pm

- LIVE MUSIC: 5:30 - 7:30 pm

The weekly event is entirely free and community-driven. Visitors are encouraged to

bring blankets, lawn chairs, and a relaxed mindset to enjoy the summer evenings by the river.

Known for its charming architecture, rich history, and small-town hospitality, Mantorville continues to build on its reputation as a cultural hub with this new summertime tradition.

Follow @MusicInMantorville on Instagram and Facebook for schedule updates and artist announcements. For more information, contact Music in Mantorville at amandalaurenfreund@gmail.com or the City of Mantorville at info@mantorville.com.

Got a Great Local News Story?

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Faith Community Church, West Concord

Meets 1st and 3rd
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**Berne
Wood-Fired
Pizza Reopens
for 2025
with First-Ever
Saturday Night
Event**

(continued from page 1)

This seasonal outdoor venue, nestled in rural Dodge County, transforms every Wednesday night in June, July, and August into a celebration of food, fellowship, and rural charm.

This year’s season includes something extra special: Berne’s first-ever Saturday night event on June 28 from 5–10 PM—Battle of the Tribute Bands—featuring Tumblin’ Dice: The Rolling Stones Experience and Dust n’ Bones: A Guns N’ Roses Tribute. The evening also includes craft beer from SxSE MN Brewing Company of Pine Island, MN.

Berne Pizza is operated solely by volunteers and raises money for nonprofit organizations across SE Minnesota. “I love meeting new people and working side by side with them,” said Patricia Derby, event coordinator. “Seeing people visiting, dancing, and little kids playing brings me joy. Many people have told me they’re busy on Wednesdays, so I’m excited we can welcome them for this one special Saturday night this season!”

In addition to the Saturday event, the 2025 season promises a vibrant lineup of weekly live music, family-friendly fun, and special



themed tribute concerts.

2025 Tribute Concerts:

- June 4 – Tribute to Heart
- June 11 – Tribute to Queen
- June 18 – Tribute to Johnny Cash
- August 13 – Tribute to Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young
- August 20 – Tribute to ABBA

Additional Special Events:

- Monthly Classic Car Cruise-Ins (June 25, July 30, and Aug. 27)
- Salute to Veterans Event (July 2)
- Kids’ Night with Zollman Zoo (July 9)
- Artisan Market Night (Aug. 6)

Each night features seven specialty pizzas, which can be purchased upon arrival or in ad-



vance on Eventbrite. Pizzas range from the traditional pepperoni and sausage, meat lover’s, and bacon cheeseburger to Hawaiian, Greek, or barbeque. All events are free to attend and offer a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere. Visitors can enjoy handcrafted wood-fired pizzas, made fresh on-site, while soaking in the sights and sounds of summer.

About Berne Wood-Fired Pizza

Berne Wood-Fired Pizza is a seasonal outdoor pizza venue located in rural West Concord, Minnesota, known for its handcrafted pizzas, weekly live music, and warm community spirit. Berne has become a beloved destination each summer for residents and visitors alike. Learn more at www.bernepizza.org.



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DENNISON DAYS

June 20 & 21, 2025

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**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
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FRIDAY, JUNE 20 KICK OFF

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

LIVE MUSIC



ANDY TACKETT

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
- 6:30p.m.

Key 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

We Thank All Of Our Sponsors & Supporters

625 Bar & Grill Ag Partners Alan D. King Construction Big R Service Center Brekken Farms and Trucking Bryan Eggum Dekalb CannonBelles Cannon Falls Beacon Cannon Falls Trailer Sales Cannon Tackle Supply Capital Construction	Castle Rock Bank CFS City of Dennison Clutchmen Car Club College City Beverage - Budweiser Community Resource Bank Cub Foods D & S Sign Dennison Community Church Dennison Depot Dennison Meat Locker	Dennison Tire & Repair Dohman Concrete Enterprises Farmers Mill Firehouse Liquor Fireside Lounge & Supper Club Flom Dairy Flom Disposal Flom Septic Frandsen Bank Garner's Upholstery Geno Peterson	GVF Herefords - Dennison Held Bus Heritage Bank Holden Farms How-Flat Farms, Tim Howle IMS Contracting Interstate Lumber - Cannon Falls Kenyon Ace Hardware Kenyon Veterinary Clinic Kenyon VFW KYMN 95.1	Lake Country Bank Mainstreet Messenger Merchants Bank Midwest Machinery Co. - John Deere Nerstrand Agri Center Nerstrand Fire Dept. Nerstrand Meats Nest Woodworking Northfield Lines Northfield Retirement Center Parkside General Store - Nerstrand	Paul's Plumbing Pro Built Construction River Country Coop River Road Repair Security State Bank Kenyon Severs Appraisal Specialized Floor Coverings Streitz Heating & Cooling Strese Tree Service Sviggum Insurance Sweet Shibui Photography	Syngenta Tatge Jewelry Taylor Truck Lines Traxler Power & Equipment Wood Doc Construction - Emery Maher <i>If we missed your name, please accept our apology. Your support is appreciated.</i>
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For updated info. go to www.dennisondays.org

Spring Projects and Wetland Protection: What Landowners Need to Know



By Al Henderson,
Resource Specialist

Spring is starting to make an appearance here in Minnesota. The trees are starting to leaf out, flowers are beginning to bloom, and the birds are chirping! For many, spring is a busy time to start projects around your property, whether you're getting ready for the crop season, wanting to start a new construction project, or maintaining existing projects after the long winter months.

It is important as a landowner to know the regulations involving your land. One of the regulations to consider is the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). The WCA was enacted in 1991 and designed to protect wetlands in Minnesota. Wetlands provide several benefits to the environment including, but not limited



Before you dig, ditch, tile, fill, or excavate, it is important to identify the wetlands on your property and obtain the proper permits.

to, flood control, wildlife habitat, and improved water quality. The protection of these unique ecosystems is done by regulating draining, filling, and excavating activities in a wetland area.

While some wetland areas have long periods of standing water and aquatic vegetation, other wetland areas aren't as obvious. As planting season kicks into gear, many Rice County farmers and rural landowners are out preparing fields, repairing tile lines, or planning new construction. But before digging, ditching, tiling, or filling any low-lying areas, it's important to consider potential wetland areas.

Whether you're new to rural landownership or have been farming for decades, understanding how wetlands interact with your land is key to avoiding surprises.

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GRANDSTAND EVENTS NOTE NEW LINEUP!

- ★ Bull Riding with Fireworks Following
- ★ Stock Car Races
- ★ Auto Cross Races
- ★ Trailer Races
- ★ Demolition Derby

NEW ATTRACTIONS Commercial Vendors & Most New Attractions located in and around Ice Arena

- ★ Pretty Bird Paradise
- ★ Foam 'N Fun Zone
- ★ 2U Entertainment Gaming Trailer
- ★ Booze 'N Tuna Band
- ★ Magic Village
- ★ Jolly Pops sponsored by Kasson Public Library

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JULY 16 - 20

Kasson • MN
Celebrating 168 Years

MORE FEATURE EVENTS

- ★ 4H & FFA Shows
- ★ Speed Puzzle Contest Friday
- ★ Kiddie Pedal Pull
- ★ Ragtown Band
- ★ JT & The Gunslingers Band
- ★ Accentra Bean Bag Tournament Saturday
- ★ Community Celebration Church Service

OPEN CLASS BUILDING EXHIBITORS:

REGISTRATION MONDAY, JULY 14
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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

ADVANCE RIDE TICKETS

MEGA \$70 • SPECIAL ARM BAND \$25 • 6 RIDES \$20

Tickets sold at local stores, the fair office and online at
www.dodgecountyfreefair.com

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

Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol



Question: I read your last article about road construction and work zones. Can you talk about the zipper merge? It seems like a lot of people don't know what it is or can't figure it out. Thank you.

Answer: The "Late Merge - Zipper Merge" is a driving strategy that requires drivers to change their mindset about merging. Traditionally, drivers have been taught to merge early when a lane is ending. Early merging leads to longer backups, more crashes and road rage incidents.

Zipper Merge Procedure

- When you see the "lane closed ahead" sign and traffic is backing up, stay in your current lane until the point of merge.
- Take turns with other drivers to safely and smoothly merge into the remaining lane.
- When traffic is heavy and slow, it is safer to remain in your current lane until the point where traffic can take turns merging orderly.

Benefits of the Zipper Merge

- Reduces the difference in speeds between

two lanes, making lane changes easier and safer.

- Reduces the overall length of traffic backups by up to 40 percent.
- Reduces congestion at freeway interchanges, especially in metropolitan areas.
- Creates a sense of fairness when all lanes are moving at the same speed.
- Reduces incidents of road rage.

Question: I drive truck for a living. Can you write about people that cut us off? These big rigs can't stop on a dime. It's frustrating because when they do that it can cause a wreck.

Answer: Changing lanes and cutting in too close in front of another vehicle is always dangerous, but it's especially dangerous to cut off a commercial bus or truck. If you move in quickly from either side, you're likely to be in a blind spot, so the driver may not see you in time. Even if you're visible, the vehicle may not be able to slow down quickly enough to avoid a crash because of the time it takes to stop.

Commercial vehicles need more stopping distance than cars.

- **Stopping Distance:** An average passenger car traveling at 55 mph can stop within 130 to 140 feet. A fully loaded tractor-trailer may need more than 400 feet to stop completely.
- **Safe Following Distance:** Following a commercial vehicle too closely reduces your ability to see the road ahead. Maintain a safe following distance and position your vehicle so the driver can see you in their side mirrors. This will also give you time to react if the commercial vehicle stops suddenly.
- **Headlights at Night:** Commercial vehicles have large side mirrors that can reflect light. When following a commercial vehicle at

night, always dim your headlights to avoid blinding the driver.

- **Merging:** When a commercial vehicle merges into traffic, it needs more time than a car to accelerate and reach normal speed. Be prepared to slow down or change lanes to allow the truck to merge safely.
- **Stopping on an Upgrade:** If you stop behind a commercial vehicle on an upgrade, allow space for the truck to roll back slightly when it starts to move. Position your vehicle on the left side of your lane so the driver can see you in the side mirror.

Question: I have been receiving text messages about an "E-Z Pass Final Reminder." It's something about having an outstanding toll and submitting payment. I was told it was a scam. Can you get me more information on this?

Answer: Here is information from the Minnesota Department of Transportation E-ZPass page.
<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/ezpassmn/news.html>

Scammers are sending fake messages pretending to be MnDOT, E-ZPass or other tolling agencies. These messages claim you owe money and direct you to a payment link. This is a scam! We will never text or email you asking for payment or personal information. If you receive a suspicious text or email message, delete and do not respond. Don't set up an account due to a text or email scam.

Scam information:

- Minnesota E-ZPass (MnDOT) will never email or text you for payment or personal information.
- Text numbers and email addresses are chosen at random, and they are targeting everyone—not just E-ZPass users. There is no data breach.
- Delete and don't click on anything that seems off or suspicious. Report as "junk" or "spam" if your device has this option. This helps your device recognize spam.
- Do not set up a new or different E-ZPass account due to a text or email scam.
- If you clicked on a link or provided information, take efforts to secure your personal information and financial accounts.
- You can report fraud activity to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center or the Federal Trade Commission.

If you have questions or concerns, check your account through the secure customer portal, or contact us (MNDOT E-ZPass) directly.

Sometimes scam artists send what looks like an invoice in the mail. Scam letters will include a bogus or questionable URL link and will often have a sense of urgency. Minnesota E-ZPass, MnDOT, or other agencies may send a letter in the mail, but it will look official including agency letterhead, detailed information, and multiple methods for contacting and/or remitting payment to the agency. If you receive a letter in the mail, confirm it is legitimate and always verify information directly with the agency.

Question: I caught part of the news the other night and heard something about the 100 deadliest days. Can you get me more information on that?

Answer: I certainly can. Here is some information we shared on the Minnesota Department of Safety blog. The Minnesota State Patrol is urging drivers to make smart, safe



decisions as the state enters what is known as the "100 deadliest days" on the road.

This stretch, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, is the most dangerous time of year to travel in Minnesota. It coincides with peak travel nationwide and a troubling spike in fatal crashes.

In 2024, Minnesota saw 151 traffic deaths during this period. By year's end, at least 479 people had died on the state's roads.

"Our troopers work hard every year to keep fatalities down, but last summer was especially hard," said Minnesota State Patrol Col. Christina Bogojevic. "These are not just statistics — they are lives, families and communities forever changed."

The four main contributors to fatal crashes remain consistent: speed, alcohol, lack of seat belt use and distraction. Last year, each played a major role in Minnesota's traffic deaths:

- Speed: 138 fatalities
- Alcohol: 124 fatalities
- Unbelted: 108 fatalities
- Distraction: 29 fatalities

"These are the leading killers on our roads," Bogojevic said. "And we see the consequences play out every day — in the Twin Cities and rural counties across Minnesota."

She said troopers continue to encounter drivers making dangerous choices — speeding down highways, texting behind the wheel, not buckling up and driving impaired.

The state patrol and more than 300 agencies across Minnesota plan to increase enforcement over the summer. Expect more patrols, targeted campaigns and greater coordination with local agencies.

"If you're speeding, driving impaired, unbelted or distracted, expect to see us," Bogojevic said.

But law enforcement says it can't turn the tide alone. They are asking all Minnesotans to do their part.

- Slow down and give yourself time to get where you're going
 - Stay off your phone
 - Buckle up — everyone, every time
 - Never drive impaired, by alcohol or drugs
- "If every driver made those choices, we could flip the script," Bogojevic said. "This summer doesn't have to be deadly. It can be the safest."

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

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

Buckle Up: A Simple Click Can Save a Life

A seat belt is one of the simplest and most effective ways to protect yourself in a crash — and it only takes a second to click.

In 2024, 106 traffic fatalities involved unbelted drivers or passengers in Minnesota. These deaths were 100% preventable. If you won't buckle up for yourself, do it for the people who count on you.

Child passenger safety is equally critical. From 2019 to 2024, only 68% of children ages 0 to 9 involved in crashes were properly secured. Of those who were, most (87%) were not injured, and the rest had only minor injuries. Morgan's Story is a powerful reminder of why properly securing a child in a car seat matters. On June 3, 2024, she buckled her three young daughters in before leaving her mom's house in Lamberton. Just 12 minutes later, a crash took Morgan's life. Her daughters survived without a scratch — thanks to her care in securing them properly.

Minnesota's updated child restraint law includes these key points:


- **Rear-Facing:** Keep your child rear-facing for as long as possible, at least until age two, AND until they've outgrown the seat by weight or height according to the manufacturer. This is the safest position for your child's head, neck, and spine.
- **Forward-Facing:** Once your child has outgrown their rear-facing seat and is at least two years old, they can transition to a forward-facing seat with a 5-point harness. They should stay in this seat until at least age four AND until outgrown by height or weight.
- **Booster Seat:** Children must use a booster until at least age nine or until they've outgrown the booster AND can pass the 5-Step Test.
- **Back Seat:** Kids under 13 must ride in the back seat whenever possible.
- **Restraint Requirement:** All children under 18 must be properly restrained in a car seat, booster, or seat belt, depending on their size and age.

For more info and safety tips, visit:

- BuckleUpMN.org
- BuckleUpKids.dps.mn.gov

Let's work together to keep ourselves and each other safe — one click can save a life. Buckle up — every trip, every ride, front seat and back seat. Together, we can drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.





Dakota County Sheriff's Office

Joe Leko, Sheriff

REWARD OFFERED

Bulletin #24-4
10/01/2024


ENDANGERED MISSING PERSON

Nicole "Nikki" Anderson

- 5' 10"
- 135 lbs
- Last seen wearing a long grey sweater and camouflage pants.


Nicole Anderson was last seen in Randolph Township in Dakota County the morning of Saturday, July 6, 2024.

She was on foot and does not have her cell phone, wallet, or medications.



Last known image of Anderson ^
on 7/6/2024 at 08:54 hours.

The Dakota County Sheriff's Office is offering a reward of \$5,000 for information regarding Nicole Anderson's whereabouts or the prosecution of those involved in her disappearance. Private parties have pledged an additional \$40,000 reward to be distributed independently of the Sheriff's Office. Only tips received through the Dakota County Sheriff's Office or Crime Stoppers that lead to the location of Nicole Anderson or the prosecution of those involved in her disappearance are eligible for the reward.



Anyone wishing to provide a completely anonymous tip may contact Crime Stoppers at, 1-800-222-TIPS, or www.CrimeStoppersMN.org

1-800-222-8477

Reference DCSO Case # 24-000819

Dakota County Sheriff's Office | 1580 Highway 55, Hastings, Minnesota 55033

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Peter Brehmer, APRN


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JULY 4th: DAVE CARPENTER BAND 2:00-5:00 PM

JULY 5th: THE CHUBS 8:30 PM

JULY 6th: BLYND EYE 8:30 PM

BRYAN ANDERSON 8:30 PM

WWW.CANNONVALLEYFAIR.ORG

Legal Notices

June 4, 2025

- DODGE CENTER, CLAREMONT, WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

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TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SUMMARY SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 21, 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 April 21, 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.

Present: Wendy Kenworthy, Rebecca Knutson, J. Jensen, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Brian Ginder, Scott Curran, Craig Schlichting, Luke Lutterman, Shane Van Beek, Tina Kozisek, and others.

The School Board approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda including the March 24, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented; budget update; claims and bills; treasurer's report; donations; open enrollment/nonresident

agreements for students #042125A, #042125B, #042125C, #042125D, #042125E, #042125F, #042125G, #042125H, #042125I, #042125J, #042125K, #042125L, #042125M, #042125N, and #042125O; contracts for Destiny Olson, Taryn Werneke, and September Wilson as Cobra Kids Assistants; resignations for Matthew Paquin as Bus Driver effective June 9, 2025 and Christi Runnels as High School Counselor effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and extra-curricular contracts for

Wes Oakland as JH Girl's Basketball Coach, Brady Essig as Assistant Girl's Basketball Coach, Phil Hammitt as C Girl's Basketball Coach, and Beth Hammitt as Head Girl's Basketball Coach;

- Students to attend an overnight trip for the Super-

mileage Contest May 11-12, in Brainerd, MN.
Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The Annual Consumer Confidence Report for the City of West Concord's

Drinking Water is available online at <https://www.west-concordmn.com/public-works> or a hard copy at City Hall (180 Main Street, West Concord) during business hours.

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Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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Friday & Saturday JULY 11 & 12, 2025

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

Friday, July 11

Saturday, July 12



2 DAY OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL!

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