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Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord

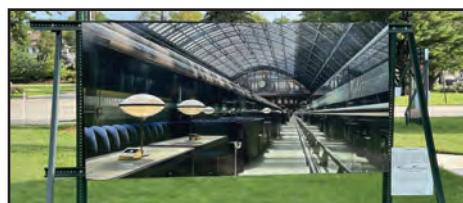
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JUNE 18, 2025

Volume 11 • Issue 12

## Larger than Life



By Tyler Weeks

There's no denying that when a global pandemic such as COVID-19 begins to infiltrate communities, it does much more than lock people indoors.

(continued on page 5)

## Harmer Park Dedication Postponed

City of Claremont, MN

Due to the weather, the Harmer Park Dedication is postponed until Friday, June 20th at 6 p.m.

In case of inclement weather on the 20th, then it will move to Friday, July 11th at p.m. We hope to see everyone there!

## Announcements

• West Concord City Hall/Library are closed on June 19th for the Juneteenth Holiday.

• 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).

• 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

## Triton Superintendent retires After three decades of service

Few people can accurately predict where the future will take them. We may think we have it all figured out, only for our lives to take a dramatic shift and end up far different than expected. Sometimes, this change can

leave us feeling unfulfilled and lost, whereas others can secretly be a blessing in disguise that we didn't know we needed. The latter was especially true for Craig Schlichting when two back-to-back knee injuries pre-

vented him from pursuing professional football. Not letting these setbacks get in the way of life, he decided to turn his college education at the University of Wyoming into a career in teaching.

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Craig Schlichting

## Recognizing Dodge County's Dairy Princesses



Alita Reinhart, Ellie Sauder, Josie Sauder

Josie grew up helping on the family's seventh generation dairy farm, where she works days at the farm milking, feeding calves, and cows and anything else that has to get done. She started milk cows when she was about 9 years old.

Josie recalls that she wanted to be a dairy princess because the dairy farming is something she is very passionate about and loves to share information about the dairy industry.

Josie Sauder is the newest Dodge County dairy princess. She just graduated from High School this year. She enjoys participating in trap shooting at her school. Josie is working on her family's dairy farm and likes hanging out with friends and family in her spare time.

She has four sisters and grew up on my family's dairy farm located near Pine Island, MN.

(continued on page 9)

## Russ Franek and The Biscuits to Headline Dennison Days



Summer festival season kicks off soon as area communities plan their summer events and festivals.

Dennison Days takes place this year Friday and Saturday, June 20 & 21, 2025.



(continued on page 21)

# LD

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## Knowing and Naming What Kills Us

By Elliott Malm  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Dodge Center

On Saturday, June 14, Minnesotans woke up to the horrible news that a man posing as a police officer entered the homes of two of our state lawmakers, shooting them and their spouses. Many appropriately reacted to this heinous crime with shock, grief, and outrage. A number of public officials condemned these violent attacks as serious injustices. While these responses are certainly all valid, they are

regrettably deficient because they fail to recognize and name the cause of this morally evil act: human sin.

One of the most basic teachings of the Holy Bible is that human beings are born in sin. More than a minor problem, the existence of sin within human life is a “spiritual disease.” Left untreated, the presence of sinful thoughts and desires leads to sinful acts. It moves from there to death and then almighty God’s eternal judgment. It is written, “An [evil] desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death (James 1:15).” Martin Luther and his fellow reformers understood a biblical knowledge of original sin is absolutely necessary. “For all have sinned and

fall short of the glory of God... (Romans 3:23).”

Human sin is a global pandemic, a virulent disease that has spread across every nation since it was first contracted. It will never be eradicated by human effort. The medicine which we need can only be administered by Jesus Christ—the lover of sinners and the

One who heals the sin-sick soul. May we pray that God will not only mercifully care for everyone directly harmed by this dreadful sin, but that God would help the people across our nation understand and acknowledge the biblical truth about sin as well as the terrible danger of our denying its existence.

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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://gracede.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 8:30a.m.,  
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**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,  
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Saturday 10a.m. Worship; 11:45a.m. Sabbath School

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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

#### 1st Presbyterian Church

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

#### St. John Lutheran Church

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#### Faith Community Church

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Pastor David Brederland  
Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship; 10:45a.m. Sunday School  
[www.fcwc.org](http://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](http://trinitychurchwc.net)  
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:  
[Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn](http://Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn)  
Sundays 9:45a.m. Worship in building and live streamed on Facebook.  
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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  
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[concordchurchmn.com](http://concordchurchmn.com)

#### Zwingli United Church of Christ

"The Berne Church"  
23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340  
Pastor Tom Isaacson  
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schedule, etc. to the The Messenger at:  
[hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)



## Dorothy Marcella Wendler

Dorothy Marcella Wendler, age 99, of West Concord, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Tuesday, June 3, 2025. The youngest of eight children, Dorothy was born on December 14, 1925, to the late Henry and Augusta (DeCoyer) Van Den Hemel in Madison, SD.

Growing up, the family was farming until moving into town, where Dorothy would find part-time work. In 1944, Dorothy moved to the West Concord area when her sister, Irene, had invited her to meet a young man. Unknown to her, Dorothy would be meeting her husband, William Lambert, and they would marry that year in Claremont at St. Francis De Salle Church. The couple lived on William's generational family farm, raising their six children along with the everyday work of dairy cattle and hogs. After William's accident, Dorothy would care for her husband for 13 years until his passing in 1967.

In 1970, Dorothy married a long-time friend, Allen Wendler, in Austin at Queen of Angel's Catholic Church. Together they would travel for Allen's World War II military reunions, visiting different states. When Dorothy moved into West Concord, she would find work at Fold Craft in Kenyon, building tables and chairs for the factory until her retirement.

Dorothy is the last member that was involved with starting and forming St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church in West Concord. A devoted member, she was involved with the Council of Catholic Women and loved spending time in her church. Dorothy was also a former member of the West Concord American Legion Auxiliary, having devoted her time and hours to the organization. During her life, Dorothy was a homemaker, her children remembering her baking numerous loaves of bread every Monday, the smell always in their memories. She also had a patience of herself, having enjoyed embroidery, gardening, and canning, which she would spend many hours doing.

Dorothy is survived by three children: Barb (Jim) May of Adams, MN, Dianna (Roger) Jax of Rose Creek, MN, and Bill (Judy) Lam-

bert of West Concord; 20 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Bette Lambert; son-in-law, Keith Fabian; brother-in-law, Eugene Wendler; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands, William Lambert and Allen Wendler; two daughters, Marilyn Lambert and Julie Fabian; son, Dan Lambert; her sisters: Irene (Bernard Meyer and Glen) Olson, Margaret (Adolph) Oines, and Loretta (William) Bowman; brothers, Arnold (Regina) and Bernard; two half-brothers, Achille (Cecilia) and Marcel (Margaret); and her numerous in-laws.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00 AM on Monday, June 9, 2025, at St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church in West Concord. A visitation was held from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Sunday, June 8, 2025, at the Michaelson Funeral Home in West Concord. An additional visitation were held from 10:00 AM until the time of Mass. Dorothy was laid to rest at the St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Cemetery with a luncheon following at the West Concord American Legion.

## Ken Ackerman

Ken Ackerman, 86, of Willmar, died Tuesday, June 3rd at Bethesda Grand in Willmar, MN. His funeral service was Friday, June 6th at Living Hope in Willmar at 11:00am. Visitation was Thursday, June 5th at Living Hope from 6:30



– 8:00pm and continued one hour prior to the funeral service on Friday. Burial was on Saturday, June 7th at Concord Cemetery in West Concord, MN at 1:00pm. A fellowship gathering followed at Faith Community Church. Arrangements are with Harvey Anderson & Johnson Funeral Home in Willmar, www.hafh.org

Kenneth Earl Ackerman was born June 6, 1938, to Earl and Florence (Gildon) Ackerman in Detroit, MI. He graduated from Mackenzie High School, joined the Army Reserve, and attended Henry Ford community College. Upon college graduation he was hired by IBM. In the fall of 1958, on a blind date arranged by mutual friends, Ken met Nancy (Ball). They were married on September 9th, 1961. Together they moved several times between Minnesota and Michigan, raising their family while pursuing new opportunities for Ken's career.

Ken enjoyed his career at IBM. He changed jobs within the company many times. He was very fascinated by the advent of business computers and how they worked to improve business transactions. His career began in Detroit by using his talents to maintain the operation of large computer systems and ended in the Development Laboratory in Rochester where he was able to apply all of his accumulated knowledge and experience. He worked on new applications of computers to help prosper businesses, especially enjoying participating in IBM's development of their Optical readers - which are still used in

many retail and business industries today.

After 31 years of service to IBM, at age 53, Ken accepted an offer for early retirement, planning to use his time to work alongside Nancy as they pursued their desire to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ through short term missions. However, God's first mission assignment wasn't a short one. For several years they ministered together to Ken's elderly parents by bringing them into their own home and caring for them until they each died. Upon the passing of Ken's parents, he and Nancy responded to a need at Camp Lebanon, a Christ-centered bible camp in Upsala, MN to serve as camp hosts. This was a year-round volunteer position so they bought a home in the woods next to camp. Ken loved interacting with all of the people that would come to the camp to use its facilities for their program events. After 15 years of resident volunteer service, Ken knew it was time to change focus and serve his Savior Jesus in a slower paced ministry. Ken and Nancy moved to Willmar, MN in 2013 and served their church family at Living Hope in various leadership roles.

Ken cherished his family and was actively involved in supporting his children and grandchildren.

He enjoyed making numerous wooden toys and treasure chests for his grandsons and an elaborate dollhouse for his only granddaughter. He also had lifelong interests in airplanes, kites, and model trains.

An outstanding trait of Ken's was his great sense of humor. He loved to make people laugh and help them look at life from a less serious viewpoint whenever he could. He successfully achieved this goal and there are many accounts of him helping others to look at situations with a smile rather than a frown! Even as his health diminished, God allowed him to produce laughter among others with a witty saying or two. Finally, may it be that Ken is remembered as one who loved Jesus and was blessed beyond measure as a child of God!

Ken is survived by his wife, Nancy of Willmar; sons: Michael (Melanie) Ackerman of Spicer, MN and Robert (Shannon) Ackerman of Litchfield Park, AZ; grandchildren: Ben, Joe (Kinsley), Sam, Molly, Jacob (Lisa), Nathan (Addison) and Ryan Ackerman; great-grandchildren: Chayton, Bexten, Colt, Letty, and Kennon. He is also survived by his sister, Marion Cox, as well as other family and friends.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents, Earl & Florence, and his brother-in-law, Frederick Cox.

## Sherrolynn (Sherrie) Mae Robinson

Sherrolynn (Sherrie) Mae Robinson passed away on Friday, May 23, 2025, at her daughters home in Kenyon, MN. She was born January 7, 1941, to Robert and Jessie (Christoffersen) Northway at her parent's home in Dodge Center, Minnesota. She attended school in several com-



munities and graduated from Kasson Mantorville High School in 1958. Sherrie was a baptized member of the Concord Church of Christ. She was united in marriage to Lowell Richard Robinson on May 22, 1960, at the Congregational Church in Mantorville, Minnesota. Together they raised 8 children and celebrated 55 years of marriage.

Sherrie is survived by her 8 children, Deb (Larry) Robinson, Jim (Sue) Robinson, Tim (Barb) Robinson, Randy (Jessica) Robinson, Susan (Mike) Brual, Sandy (Steve) Foote, Shelly (Jason) Gochnauer, Shane (Jaci) Robinson; two brothers, Robert Northway, Raymond (Susan) Northway, and one sister Marie (Al) Head; one sister-in-law, Shirley Moe; 25 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great grandchild and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lowell Robinson; parents, Robert and Jessie Northway; sister, Bonnie Northway; father and mother-in-law, Archie and Ethel Robinson; brother-in-law, George Moe; sister-in-law, Norleen Northway; aunts, uncles, and beloved cousins.

Sherrie will be remembered for her love of God and love of her family. She provided endless support of her children and grandchildren at their varied sporting, educational, and fair events. She enjoyed nothing more than spending time with her family. She was an avid competitor at the Dodge County Fair with her embroidery and baking. She was a voracious reader, enjoyed watching westerns, attending the Minnesota State Fair, all of God's creatures, and sending Emojis to family and friends. There was no limit to the number of text messages Sherrie could send in a single day. She always did her best.

Sherrolynn's grandchildren and great grandchildren, Mandi & Matt Brown and daughter Faith, Grant Brown & Breanna Klejeski and daughter Oaklee, Rodney & Karlyn Petersen, Darah Petersen, and her children Landen and Conor Andrist, Kari Jo & Pat Fitch and their children Chase and Rylee, Caryn Ramer and daughter Codie, Darrin Robinson, Bobbi Jo and Matt Rohwer and son Brayden, Cruz Robinson, Cori and Brian Hauser and their children Henry and Charlotte, Mackenzie and Brock Franko and their children Briggs and Collins, Maddi Robinson and Dan Strong, Isabel and Nick Roussopoulos, Natalie and Drew Kelly, Michael Brual and Emily Brual, Stephanie & Garrett Schaefer and their children Taydem and Jayce, Heather Foote & Brian Kunz and daughter Lauren Weis and son Brock Kunz, Jordana Foote and son Calum Foote, Jacob and Megan Gochnauer and their children Ryder and Gracie, Elizabeth and Justin Manthey and son Wesley, Samuel Gochnauer and Skye Nelson, Kylie Robinson and Andrew Gaub and son Braxton Robinson, Abrielle Robinson and Eli Magee, Josiah Robinson and Brooklyn O'Brien and son Jasper Robinson, Elyssa Robinson.

Public visitation will be held from 4:00pm-7:00pm on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE in Kasson MN. A private family funeral service will be held. Interment will be in Concord Cemetery in Concord, MN.

(obituaries continued on page 4)

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# Obituaries

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- DODGE CENTER, CLAREMONT, WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

June 18, 2025

## Barbara Ann Flicek

Barbara Ann Flicek, age 85, passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Circle Drive Manor, where she had resided since January 2025. Barb was born on September 9, 1939, in Berne, Minnesota, to Ralph and Elnora Zeller. She grew up on the family farm, where she helped raise her younger sisters. She attended country school in Berne through grade seven and graduated from West Concord High School in 1957, as class Salutatorian.

On August 2, 1957, she married her high school sweetheart, George Thomas Flicek Jr., and together they made their lifelong home in West Concord. They were blessed with four children. Barb's beloved husband, Tom, passed away in 1998, at the age of 59.

Barb was a devoted member of the United Methodist Church, where she held many roles, taught Sunday School, and participated in ladies' aide. She loved reading, sewing, and participating in Card and Study clubs. She was also a dedicated Scout leader and a loyal supporter at countless school and sporting events for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

In addition to raising her family, Barb worked both at home and in the community. She spent many years working at the banks in

town and found deep fulfillment as a child-care provider.

She is survived by her four children: Kathy (Kevin) Tesch of Lake City, David (Deb) Flicek of Rochester, Lisa Schreifels of Rochester, and Nanci (Alex) Nolan of Dodge Center; three younger sisters: Bette (Carl) Horstmeier of Rochester, Sharon (Roger) Hythecker of Dodge Center, and Shirley Schowe of Kansas City, MO; ten grandchildren: Shanna (Malachi) Knutson, Jeremy Tesch, Adam (Dana) Flicek, Daniel (Vanessa) Tesch, Farran (Phillip) Berg, Cody Christian, Blake Schreifels, Garrett Flicek, Paige Schreifels, and Scott Nolan; and thirteen great-grandchildren: Lily and Aubree Knutson; Dorothy, Gabriella, and Gideon Tesch; Maddi, Conner, and Camryn Flicek;

Parker and Ella Tesch; and Reese, Zoey, and Harrison Berg.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Tom; parents, Ralph and Elnora Zeller; in-laws, George Sr. and Lila Flicek; brother-in-law, Jim Schowe; son-in-law, Warren Schreifels; and two great-granddaughters, Sophie and Whitney Knutson.

Visitation will be held at 9:00 a.m. and the funeral service will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at the Bell Tower Center (former United Methodist Church), 401 Main Street, West Concord, MN, with Pastor Roger Langworthy officiating. Interment will follow at Concord Cemetery, with a light lunch served afterward at the Bell Tower Center. Memorials are suggested to the West Concord Library or the West Con-


cord Historical Society. Michaelson Funeral Home in West Concord has been entrusted with funeral arrangements.

## Myrna (Walker) Bowie

Myrna (Walker) Bowie, beloved wife, mother, stepmother, grandmother, great and great-great grandmother, passed away peacefully at her home in Dexter on June 14, 2025, one day short of her 92nd birthday.

A celebration of life will be held on June 28 at 5:00 pm at the Rochester Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 1100 37th St. NW, Rochester, MN.

Memorials are suggested to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church or the Mayo Clinic in honor of the loving care she received there during the past 18 months.



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## Larger than Life

(continued from page 1)

The quarantine limited social interaction, preventing countless events, community-run programs, and shows from happening. Mantorville was no exception to this, but one couple chose to defy the social restrictions of the time with Larger than Life- the open art exhibition in Riverside Park that showcased the community's creativity in a safe and uplifting way. Though they started small, the enlarged art pieces were far from it, helping to attract drivers who would have been kept in their cars to take a stop and enjoy the exhibits. Since then, Larger Than Life has become southeastern Minnesota's largest outdoor art display, featuring dozens of paintings across mediums of photography, acrylic, oil, watercolor, pen, and pencil. The founders, Brian and Mary Jo, will continue the tradition on Saturday, June 28th, by showcasing the work of 27 local artists and one sculptor alongside vendors, live music, and delicious food.

Just as the event has come a long way, the people responsible for its widespread success have also equally progressed. As a long-time resident of Mantorville, Brian Hindal's interest always lay in finding a way for his community to grow, whether through attracting tourists or encouraging new businesses to settle. A part of his responsibility as the chair of Mantorville's Economic Development Association is to achieve this exact task, using his lifelong passion for photography to spur community development. Since his decision to join a photography club in high school, everything seemed to click, including the degree he pursued in college to further develop his skills. The following 35 years consisted of building up a part-time business while professionally working as a patient photographer for the Mayo Clinic. His creative side showed when he was allowed to work at the print shop, creating a wide range of artwork that the clinic still displays today. Doing so has significantly deepened his appreciation of the art form.

Several of Brian's artistic interests coincide with Mary Jo's, who found Mantorville's

small-town atmosphere and rich historic charm too alluring to pass up. Although photography was a passion, she felt under-experienced in taking images from unique perspectives. After the two met on a classic car ride in 2019, Brian's assistance in developing these skills pushed her to move to Mantorville and marry at the town's historic Greek Revival House four years later. Through her remote commercial banking job and Brian's connection with Mayo, the two could freely pursue the arts in their free time. Beyond the acrylics and watercolors she experimented with in high school, Mary Jo found significant interest in the many perspectives of digital photography. Each new position and angle of a picture seemed to tell a slightly different story, and this mindset ultimately led to the idea behind Larger than Life.

Brian and Mary Jo: "When we first thought of displaying art in a large format, our natural thought was to use some of our own photography. The next challenge was figuring out who else could contribute, especially given the pandemic's physical and social restrictions. Despite these hurdles, the idea of publicly sharing art for residents and visitors energized us. We could picture people driving into Mantorville and being surprised and hopefully inspired by these large, vibrant images throughout the park."

Whereas other events closed their doors during the pandemic, Larger than Life began as a reaction to it. To combat the isolation caused by Mantorville's lack of festivals and public activities, the two brainstormed ways to unite the community without risking sickness. Their musings led to the beginning of Larger Than Life: Riverside Park's very own outdoor art exhibit, grand enough to represent the creativity and connectedness of Mantorville. By digitally enlarging a variety of art mediums into high-resolution files, they could print chosen artwork onto durable materials held up by giant metal easels throughout the park. Being right in the middle of nature, this unique, open-air experience allowed visitors to take in the scenery throughout July and August. Whether by viewing the images from vehicles or a socially distanced walk, this first event was a massive success, allowing them to use art to connect all parts of the community.

"After these pieces are taken down on September 1st, they don't just disappear. We move them to buildings around Mantorville



and other spots in Dodge County, where they stay on display as part of a two-year rotation. The artwork returns to the original artist after this two-year cycle. It's a great way to keep art visible and appreciated all year round."

Despite the overwhelmingly positive response, Larger than Life's first year had its share of hurdles. Finding artists to participate and securing funding created the biggest challenge, requiring local fundraisers and marketing efforts to pull together. Thankfully, its initial success drew the attention of the Southeast Minnesota Arts Council, which provided grants from its second year up to 2024. Now lacking their critical support for display and material costs, the event has returned to outreach and various funding methods to keep it running. With the generous help of the community and sponsors, Brian and Mary can step into their sixth year of Larger Than Life with several new activities. Alongside the official unveiling of the artwork on June 28th at 10:00 a.m., visitors can also look forward to the event's first art fair full of handmade goods, creative projects, and delicious food between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Added with the live music beginning shortly after, this entirely free event is one for the calendars.

"It's not just photography anymore; we have pieces in acrylics, oils, watercolors, pen and ink, pencil, collage, digital art, and even sculpture. As the project grew, we started to appreciate the various mediums other artists



use to express themselves. The sheer talent in our community and its surrounding areas has blown us away. It's incredible to see what people are creating, and we love that this event gives them a platform to share it."

Since its simple roots and first diminutive display, Larger than Life has grown into southeastern Minnesota's grandest outdoor art exhibit.

(continued on page 6)

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## That's the Latest Farmlife



**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.*

When it gets to early and mid-June, I harken back to my days on the farm, reminiscing about what I was doing on the farm at this time of year. Some of the things I did are not done anymore or very little of it being done. Cultivating corn for instance; I'm thinking it's done to some extent but not on any of the fields I drive by. I didn't run the corn planter in the spring until after I had graduated high school. Then I learned the rule that if you plant the corn, you have to cultivate the corn because you know where the rows go and when you have to veer left or right a little. I think that rule was made up when I started

running the planter. By then, my dad had cultivated more corn than he ever wanted to cultivate. I was running the cultivator a few years before I did the planting, and it was hard at times to know where the rows went. That's why in the fall; there were a few skips in some rows. It was not the fault of the planter. It was me not knowing where the rows went.

For many years we had wide row corn, 38-inch rows. This was down from the common 40-inch rows way back when. They had to be that wide to have room for the horses to walk while cultivating the corn. Well, as we know, row width kept getting narrower and narrower. We first started getting narrower on soybeans. My dad and Gale Callister converted an old grain drill to plant soybeans 6 rows at a time. The middle 4 rows were 30" apart and the outside two rows were 24". At the time, we had to convert the cultivator to fit this 6 row configuration. This is when we purchased a Lilliston cultivator which used rollers that moved the dirt instead of small 'V' shaped shovels. This roller type cultivator worked well with one exception. If you got the right size rock stuck in one of the roller wheels, it would cause the wheel to stop spinning and would just drag the ground and throw a lot of dirt on top of the row of soybeans. Again, come fall, we would see skips in the rows that were not the fault of the planter, but that of the inattentive tractor driver.

One year we used the same grain drill that we planted oats with to plant soybeans. This meant soybeans in 7-inch rows. I asked my dad if he had a cultivator in mind for this. He

just ignored my question. It was a success though the first year we did this. When the county average yield for soybeans was 35 to 40 bushels per acre we got just over 50 bpa that first year. The average row width today for soybeans across the country is 20 inches, this is up from the national average of 16 inches in the late 1990's

The other thing we did in June was cut and bale the first crop of hay. Hay harvesting has changed a lot over the years but back when I was cheap labor on the farm, we did all the baling behind a New Holland model 270 baler. They might be called small bales but when you lift enough of them, they seem to all feel like big bales. I've mentioned before that Coach Lorry Gunhus would stop out at the farm to make sure I was baling enough hay to stay in shape for the next basketball season. I had a free membership to my dad's

workout gym, which happened to be an open-air 200 acre farm.

I don't remember the year but I'm guessing it was around 1970 when one day we were baling 2nd crop hay. It was the hottest day in July that I can recall. I remember for a fact that the high that day in Owatonna was 108 degrees and I was on the hayrack stacking bales in that weather. I was asked years later, when I was a farm broadcaster and all I had to do was look at all that farm work and just talk about it, what do you miss most about being on the farm? I answered there were a few things I missed, and baling hay was among those things. I just don't miss doing it on a hot July day. One other thing I miss from the farm is the satisfaction of a job done, be it baling hay, harvesting corn or soybeans or just finishing the daily chores.

## Larger than Life

(continued from page 5)

Four artists, eight pieces, and six years later, the current event celebrates Mantorville's incredible creative skills with nearly thirty contributors, paintings, and a sculpture. To Brian and Mary, the most inspiring thing has been watching the exhibit and community support grow year after year. Regardless of how much work it is to assemble, the people's shared enthusiasm for creativity has validated every ounce of their effort. When people see these displays for themselves on June

28th, Brian and Mary hope that onlookers feel inspired to support artists or even create their own art. Regardless of what you do, it's hard to deny the unexplainable magic that occurs when communities gather together. Through conversations, shared laughs, and solemn reflections, events like these bring regular occurrences into larger-than-life happenings.

Below: Artwork from last year's Larger than Life hosted in Riverside Park, Mantorville.

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# Museum Musings

## Mail Order Catalogs Yesterday's Online Shopping

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

You know that I spend a great deal of time reading old newspapers. I was recently doing some research when I happened upon another lecture—this time from the 1927 West Concord Enterprise Editor—about shopping at home on Main Street instead of ordering from mail order catalogs. I'd encountered these reprimands several times before when skimming our collection of newspapers. This scolding proved to be particularly prophetic. Here it is:

*"Every citizen who buys away from home not only helps to wipe out local business but lessens the value of his own home property. The home merchant has just as fine values as the mail order house. In addition he gives you the opportunity to look over his goods, feel the cloth, and estimate the quality. He then gives you credit and delivers the goods to your home. The home merchant pays taxes and makes possible the community. The home merchant, if he is prosperous, is helping the value of every piece of property in the town. West Concord would not be much of a town if the business district were suddenly wiped out."*

The catalog shopping movement began way back in 1872 when Montgomery Ward published the first general merchandise catalog, focusing mostly on rural buyers and offering a wide array of goods from clothing to farm equipment. The expansion of the railroad network across the U.S. was one factor in the flourishing of mail order buying. A farmer could even order a tractor and it could be delivered to West Concord via the railroad. In 1896 Rural Free Delivery was established in the U.S. That meant that farm folks could receive their goods at home instead of going to town to pick them up at the Post Office. What a boost to mail order shopping RFD was! The U.S.P.S. classified catalogs as "aids to the dissemination of knowledge" and charged them a low mailing rate of 1 cent per pound.

The 1902 Sears, Roebuck Catalogue (come look at the reproduction we have at the Museum) cost 50 cents. The catalog went to great lengths and many words to explain why it was not free. The main reason was that by charging for it the catalog only went to buyers and did not waste money and materials on people who had no intention of catalog shopping, thus prices for goods could be kept lower. Apparently this was not a successful promotion, because subsequent catalogs were always sent for free.

All orders needed to be prepaid, but there was an assortment of ways to pay. Post Office Money Orders, Express Money Orders, bank drafts, cash, and postage stamps were all acceptable. Yes—postage stamps. If you used postage stamps as payment you were asked to pay a bit more for the inconvenience to the seller, e.g. for a \$2.00 item you needed to send \$2.10.

What could you order from the "Wish Book" in the early 1900s? Just about anything. Prefabricated kit homes, barns, and gas stations were available from Sears during the years of 1908 - 1940. "Build your barn and all your farm buildings the Sears way and watch your savings grow. Each Sears farm building is a sleek, handsome structure, scientifically designed by men who know exactly what is required of a barn and what farmers' needs are," proclaimed one Sears ad. I wonder if we have any kit houses or farm buildings in our West Concord area?

Skimming the Museum's 1902 Sears catalog I saw everything from buggies and milk wagons to windmills and hay rakes. Clothing, household goods, musical instruments, and cure-all medicines filled the pages. I was curious to see how Sears' prices compared to those of West Concord merchants in 1902. I paged through a whole year's worth of 1902 newspapers to discover that prices were usually comparable, but the convenience of not needing to come to town in the horse and buggy, along with the wider selection in the more than 1000 pages of items in the catalog, was chosen by enough people to keep the mail order business booming.

Yet, I think I would rather have gone to Anna Bostwick's hat store in West Concord to get my summer finery and be able to try on Anna's hats on the spot. She advertised braid hats trimmed in silk flowers and velvet for \$1.50 or a brimmed straw Sailors hat for 25 cents. M.E. Collins, the Orcutts, H. H. Roe, the Martig brothers, and more sold clothing and dry goods in West Concord in 1902. The Cain brothers and J.C. Crossett sold washing machines, stoves, and all kinds of hardware. W. T. Wilson sold corn shredders, mowers, rakes, pumps, and windmills. You could get it all in your hometown if you wanted to.

Although Sears and Montgomery Ward both filed bankruptcy and ended their catalog businesses in the late 20th century and early 21st century, catalog shopping still plays an important part in our lives today. Many catalogs are smaller and specific and many of us go online to order from them, although on-paper ordering is acceptable, too.

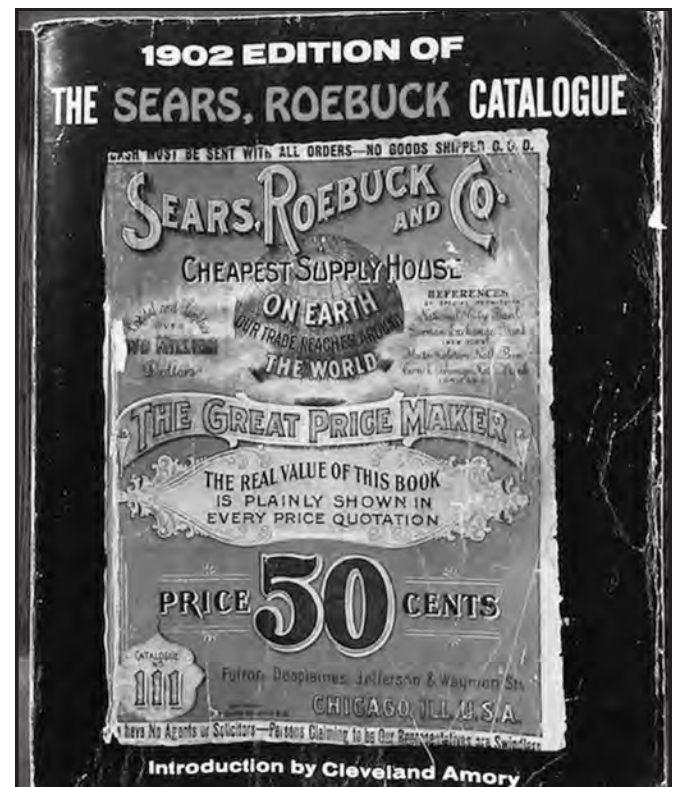
Amazon, ebay and a vast assortment of .coms are America's go-to online "catalog" shopping centers these days. We study the online offerings the same way people used to examine the catalog "wish" books. The vast array of goods offered and the convenience make life easier for us—just the way Montgomery Ward and Sears catalog shopping once did. Yet, the "shop local" movement is alive and well just as it was in the 1902 Enterprise. Two of their mantras are "Good things come to those who shop local" and "When you buy from a small business, an actual person does a happy dance." It puts a smile on my face to think of West Concord's 1902 merchants' pleasure and relief every time folks stopped in and bought their goods. As Dan Rather said, "Supporting small businesses is not just about commerce; it's about community."



Cain Brothers Hardware Store, West Concord  
chock full of merchandise



1902 Ad in the West Concord Enterprise



(additional picture at [www.westconcordmn.net](http://www.westconcordmn.net), [www.claremontmn.net](http://www.claremontmn.net), [www.dodgecentermn.com](http://www.dodgecentermn.com))





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## Recognizing Dodge County's Dairy Princesses

(continued from page 1)

Moving forward she plans to stay on the farm part time and work construction.

**Ellie Sauder** is serving her third year as a Dodge County dairy princess. She grew up on her family's seventh generation dairy farm in Pine Island. Ellie has 4 sisters, and most of them work in some capacity on the farm or in the agriculture industry, alongside many of cousins, aunts, and uncles.

This summer, Ellie will be interning with Midwest Dairy as a farmer relations intern,

working on dairy promotion and the Princess Kay program. In the fall, she will be a junior at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where she is majoring in Agricultural Marketing and Communications with a minor in Agricultural Business.

She grew up showing cattle in 4-H and FFA and helping out around the farm. She now feeds calves and helps with other projects when home from school on weekends and breaks.

Ellie comments that there is never a dull moment on the farm. "From putting cows away when they get out in the middle of the night to preparing cattle for the fair or spending time at the fair with cousins, every day on the farm has some kind of excitement!"

As part of the 6th generation on her family's farm, Ellie saw the Dodge County Dairy Princess program as a great way to advocate for dairy, develop leadership skills, and be involved in her local community. As a county dairy princess, some of her favorite events are during the fair and June dairy month, when they get to talk to consumers about dairy and



The Dodge County Dairy Princesses for 2025 were honored this weekend at the Hubbell House. They are left to right: Ellie Sauder, Josie Sauder, Alita Reinhart

attend many local events. The dairy industry, like all of agriculture right now, is rapidly changing and becoming more innovative to fit current issues and situations. As a dairy princess, Ellie sees a huge need for agricultural education and dairy promotion, and hopes to fill that gap through her role as a dairy advocate.

After finishing her degree at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Ellie hopes to work in communications for an agriculture-related company.

**Alita Rinehart** is also serving her third year as a Dodge County dairy princess.



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**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. **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.  
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Tatge Jewelry  
Taylor Truck Lines  
Terpstra Companies - Dundas  
Traxler Power & Equipment  
Wood Doc Construction - Emery Maher
- 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 Cost of Vandalism in West Concord: A Message to Parents

In recent months, the City of West Concord has seen a troubling uptick in vandalism on city property—from graffiti and broken backboards in our parks to damaged windows and public restrooms. These acts of senseless destruction do more than just mar the appearance of our city—they place a serious financial burden on a community already working with extremely tight budgets.

### Tight Budgets, Rising Costs

Every time city staff must clean up graffiti,

replace broken equipment, or repair a defaced building, valuable taxpayer dollars are diverted from essential services. West Concord does not have deep pockets or unlimited resources; we operate on a limited municipal budget that is carefully allocated each year to maintain roads, parks, safety services, and community programs.

When funds must be redirected to cover vandalism repairs, it means something else in the community goes underfunded. In ad-

dition, repeated incidents have begun to affect our municipal insurance premiums, which is yet another growing cost the city must shoulder—ultimately paid for by all residents.

### Affecting More Than Just Property

Vandalism doesn't only impact city infrastructure—it damages our shared sense of community pride and safety. When playgrounds are defaced, or public spaces trashed, it sends a message that West Concord isn't cared for. That's not the truth—but perception matters. A neglected appearance can lower property values and deter both visitors and future investment.

The emotional toll on city workers and volunteers is real as well. Many of these spaces are maintained by people who deeply care about our community. Seeing their efforts repeatedly undone can be disheartening.

### Parents: We Need Your Help

A significant number of vandalism incidents involve youth—many of them out past

curfew, unsupervised. West Concord enforces a curfew for minors, and we urge parents and guardians to make sure their children are home by then, unless accompanied by an adult.

We're asking all parents to stay involved. Know where your children are, who they're with, and what they're doing—especially during the evening hours. Talk to them about respecting public property and taking pride in the city we all share.

### Community Pride Starts at Home

Preventing vandalism isn't just a job for police or city officials—it's a shared responsibility. We encourage families, neighbors, and community groups to speak up, get involved, and look out for one another.

Our city is small, proud, and built on the values of mutual respect and cooperation. Let's work together to protect what we've built and ensure West Concord remains a safe and beautiful place for everyone—especially our children.

## SURVIVAL DAYS 2025



### Moms, Dads, and Grandparents

Send in a cute photo (no larger than 4x6) of son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter

*(Baby, parents, or grandparents must be West Concord residents.)*

**OPEN TO CHILDREN 0-36 MONTHS OLD as of 7/25/25**

**ALL PICTURES MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOON ON JULY 7, ALONG WITH ENTRY FORM AND \$5 FEE.**

Email to: [wntrbrz@hotmail.com](mailto:wntrbrz@hotmail.com) or Mail to:  
Crystal Winter - 514 5th Street, West Concord, MN 55985  
or drop off at Heritage Bank or City Hall

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE ROYALTY PAGEANT AT LION'S PARK on Friday, July 25th at 6:30pm!**



Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Address, Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted By (if other than parent)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Child \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

More details and additional forms at Heritage Bank and City Hall.

**If you are planning to have a garage sale during Survival Days, contact Kim Jones at [jones.kim@frontier.com](mailto:jones.kim@frontier.com) or private message via Facebook.**

Your ad will be placed in The Messenger paper for no charge, listed on the Survival Days Facebook page, and added to a list of all sales that will be available at City Hall. Deadline is July 11 to be included on the The Messenger listing.



## NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2025 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Survival Days Committee is seeking nominations for "2025 Citizen of the Year" This person does not need to live in the City of West Concord. He or she must have contributed to the West Concord Community.

**Nominations are due by:  
Monday, July 7th, 2025, at 5:00 pm**

Nomination forms and boxes can be found at West Concord City Hall, Casey's, and Heritage Bank. The Citizen of the year 2025 will be announced Friday, July 25th at the Miss West Concord Pageant to be held at Lion's Park at 6:30 pm.





## Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library Saturday, July 19 from 9-10am

### Solito by Javier Zamora

Javier Zamora's adventure is a 3,000-mile journey from his small town in El Salvador, through Guatemala and Mexico, and across the U.S. border. He will leave behind his beloved aunt and grandparents to reunite with a mother who left four years ago and a father he barely remembers. Traveling alone amid a group of strangers and a "coyote" hired to lead them to safety, Javier expects his trip to last two short weeks.

At nine years old, all Javier can imagine is rushing into his parents' arms, snuggling in bed between them, and living under the same roof again. He cannot foresee the perilous boat trips, relentless desert treks, pointed guns, arrests and deceptions that await him; nor can he know that those two weeks will expand into two life-altering months alongside fellow migrants who will come to encircle him like an unexpected family.

A memoir as gripping as it is moving, *Solito* provides an immediate and intimate account not only of a treacherous and near-impossible journey, but also of the miraculous kindness and love delivered at the most unexpected moments. *Solito* is Javier Zamora's story, but it's also the story of millions of others who had no choice but to leave home.

Genre: Memoir, Nonfiction

First Published: September 2022, 384 pages (hardcover)



## Kick Off to Summer Reading at the West Concord Library



Kick off to summer reading at The West Concord Library on June 11 with music by Will Bjorndal. It's not too late to sign up. Stop in the library to get your reading log and earn great prizes for reading this summer!



## Water and Sewer Update – City of West Concord

### Utility Billing Software Upgrade

The City of West Concord has recently upgraded its Utility Billing Software. While we're still ironing out a few details, we expect to provide customers with online access to view, pay, and manage their accounts by mid-July.

In the meantime, if you have questions about your bill, water usage, or any related matters, please contact Beth at City Hall at 507-527-2668.

### Stop Water Leaks — Save Money

Did you know that even a small, unrepaired water leak can significantly increase your water bill?

- A minor drip can waste 120 gallons per day — that's 3,600 gallons per month.
- Toilets are a common source of leaks. A faulty seal can waste up to 100 gallons per hour.
- Even a slow faucet drip can waste 10 to 20 gallons per day.

### Water-Saving Tips:

- Take shorter showers or shallow baths. Aim for 5 inches of bathwater or a 5-minute shower.
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth. Use a glass of water for rinsing.
- Fill the sink with a few inches of warm water to rinse your razor instead of running water.
- Run dishwashers and washing machines only with full loads.
- When hand-washing dishes, fill a second sink with clean water for rinsing rather than letting the faucet run.
- Keep bottles of drinking water in the refrigerator to avoid running the tap for cold water.
- Water your lawn only when necessary and during the coolest part of the day. Water deeply to reach the roots.
- Use a bucket of soapy water to wash your car. Turn on the hose only for rinsing.

### Sewer Maintenance Reminder

As a resident, you play a vital role in maintaining both the City's main sewer line and your own private sewer service line. To avoid costly blockages and backups, never flush or pour the following items down the drain or toilet:

- Diapers
- "Flushable" wipes (they're often not truly flushable)
- Sanitary napkins or feminine hygiene products
- Rags, shop towels
- Automotive products like oil, grease, gasoline, or antifreeze
- Household items such as ashes, corrosives, glass, metals, paint, poisons, or solvents
- Yard debris like sand, soil, or mud

### Why this matters:

Products labeled "flushable" often do not disintegrate like toilet paper. These materials can accumulate in sewer lines and lift stations, causing serious blockages. If a product doesn't fall apart easily when wet or contains cloth or mesh fibers, it should go in the trash — not the toilet.

Flushing non-degradable materials, grease, or similar substances constitutes a "prohibited discharge" and is a violation of the City's sewer use ordinance.

## Memorial Park Paver Fundraiser for the Pool/Park



Memorial Park is taking orders for memorial pavers as an ongoing fundraiser for the pool/park. Cost is \$100. They are a great way to honor a loved one that is longer with us & support your community. If you would like to purchase one, please contact Kim Jones at [jones.kim@frontier.com](mailto:jones.kim@frontier.com) or 507-951-7535. Deadline to order is June 25, 2025.

## 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

- 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

- 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





## West Concord 2024 Drinking Water Report

### Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: two wells ranging from 803 to 821 feet deep, that draw water from the Jordan aquifer.

West Concord works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact Herb Krueger, Operator, at (320) 894-6333 or [hkrueger@peopleservice.com](mailto:hkrueger@peopleservice.com) if you have questions about West Concord's drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### West Concord Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage [Basics of Monitoring and testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html>).

### How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Some contaminants are monitored regularly throughout the year, and rolling (or moving) annual averages are used to manage compliance. Because of this averaging, there are times where the Range of Detected Test Results for the calendar year is lower than the Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result, because it occurred in the previous calendar year.

### Definitions

- **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- **MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MCLG (Maximum contaminant level goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **N/A (Not applicable):** Does not apply.
- **pCi/l (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.
- **ppt (parts per trillion):** One part per trillion is like one drop in one trillion drops of water, or about one drop in an Olympic sized swimming pool. ppt is the same as nanograms per liter (ng/l).
- **ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).
- **ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- **PWSID:** Public water system identification.

### Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances

| LEAD AND COPPER – Tested at customer taps.      |                         |                                |                               |                                  |                                |           |                                  |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year) | EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG) | EPA's Action Level             | 90% of Results Were Less Than | Number of Homes with High Levels | Range of Detected Test Results | Violation | Typical Sources                  |
| Lead (10/17/24)                                 | 0 ppb                   | 90% of homes less than 15 ppb  | 7 ppb                         | 1 out of 10                      | <0.5 - 93.2 ppb                | NO        | Corrosion of household plumbing. |
| Copper (10/17/24)                               | 0 ppm                   | 90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm | 0.5 ppm                       | 0 out of 10                      | 0.05 - 0.65 ppm                | NO        | Corrosion of household plumbing. |

| INORGANIC & ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water. |                         |                   |   |                                |           |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)              | EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG) | EPA's Limit (MCL) | Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result | Range of Detected Test Results | Violation | Typical Sources  |
| Barium (04/24/23)  | 2 ppm                   | 2 ppm             | 0.03 ppm                                      | N/A                            | NO        | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposit. |
| Gross Alpha (2022)   | 0 pCi/l                 | 15 pCi/l          | 3.2 pCi/l                                     | N/A                            | NO        | Erosion of natural deposits.   |
| Combined Radium (2022)                                       | 0 pCi/l                 | 5 pCi/l           | 4.3 pCi/l                                     | N/A                            | NO        | Erosion of natural deposits.   |

| CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION – Tested in drinking water. |                                  |                           |   |                                |           |  |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)                    | EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG) | EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL) | Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result | Range of Detected Test Results | Violation | Typical Sources                            |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)                                    | N/A                              | 80 ppb                    | 8.3 ppb                                       | N/A                            | NO        | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)                                     | N/A                              | 60 ppb                    | 3.2 ppb                                       | N/A                            | NO        | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Total Chlorine   | 4.0 ppm                          | 4.0 ppm                   | 0.82 ppm                                      | 0.16 - 1.39 ppm                | NO        | Water additive used to control microbes.   |

Total HAA refers to HAA5

| OTHER SUBSTANCES – Tested in drinking water.  |                         |                   |   |                                |           |  |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year) | EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG) | EPA's Limit (MCL) | Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result | Range of Detected Test Results | Violation | Typical Sources  |
| Fluoride                                      | 4.0 ppm                 | 4.0 ppm           | 0.81 ppm                                      | 0.40 - 0.68 ppm                | NO        | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth. |

### Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

Fluoride: Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to an optimal concentration between 0.5 to 0.9 parts per million (ppm) to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.





## West Concord 2024 Drinking Water Report

### Monitoring Results – Unregulated Substances/Emerging Contaminants

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water. MDH, EPA, and other health agencies may have developed comparison values for some of these compounds. Some of these comparison values are based solely on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations nor the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. These values may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impractical for a water system to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant). Sample data are listed along with comparison values in the table below; it is important to note that these comparison values are not enforceable.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The significance of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little to no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions-like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity—may need to take extra precautions. We are notifying you of the unregulated/emerging contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the Agency should consider regulating those contaminants in the future.

- More information is available on [MDH's A-Z List of Contaminants in Water](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html>)
- [Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule \(UCMR 4\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html>)
- [Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule](https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule) (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>)
- EPA has developed a [UCMR5 Program Overview Factsheet](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/ucmr5-factsheet.pdf) (<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/ucmr5-factsheet.pdf>) describing UCMR 5 contaminants and standards.

In the past year, your drinking water may have tested for additional unregulated contaminants as part of the [Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule](https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule) (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>) and results are still being processed. The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) Data finder allows people to easily search for, summarize, and download the available [UCMR 5 analytical results](https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder) (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder>).

#### UNREGULATED/EMERGING CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.

| Contaminant    | Comparison Value | Highest Average Result or Highest Single Test Result | Range of Detected Test Results |
|----------------|------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Sodium* (2022) | 20 ppm           | 3.03 ppm   | 2.92 - 3.03 ppm                |
| Sulfate (2022) | 500 ppm          | 62 ppm   | 59.80 - 62.00 ppm              |

\*Note that home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

### Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Learn More about Your Drinking Water

### Drinking Water Sources

Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water, and found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water, and is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How West Concord is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at [Source Water Assessments](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa>) or call 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can cause serious health problems, babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk. You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. There is no safe level of lead.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes from service lines but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** before drinking tap water flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
  - Activities such as taking a shower, doing laundry or dishes help keep water moving in your home system but are not a replacement for running the tap before you drink if it has not been used for a long period of time.
  - The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
2. **Know your service line materials** by contacting your public water system, or you can search for your address online at the [Minnesota Lead Inventory Tracking Tool](https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/) (<https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>).
  - [Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead) (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>) is EPA's step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.
3. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
4. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.
  - Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to purchase a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample: [Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program](https://eldd.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam) (<https://eldd.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>)  
The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
5. **Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run. You can use a filter certified with ANSI/NSF standards 53 and 42 for lead reduction.
  - Read about water treatment units: [Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html>)

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and other steps you can take to minimize exposure are available at:

- Visit EPA [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead) (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>)
- Visit the Minnesota department of Health [Lead in Drinking Water](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>)
- To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit [Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/fs/common.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/fs/common.html>)
- 6. **Be Aware:** Head Start Programs, Child Care Centers, Public and Charter Schools all have requirements to test for lead in drinking water. These programs can learn more about requirements and resources for testing and remediation at [MDH Drinking Water in Schools and Child Cares](https://www.web.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/schools/index.html) (<https://www.web.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/schools/index.html>)

## Service Line Material Inventory

West Concord has completed and submitted our service line materials inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health. The service line inventory is publicly available, and you can check the materials for your service line by visiting the [Lead Inventory Tracking Tool \(LITT\)](https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/) (<https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>). You may also contact us at <Insert Contact Information>. To complete the service line inventory, our system <insert a general description of how the system determined the status of service lines>. As of 10/01/2024, our inventory contains 28 lead, 9 galvanized requiring replacement, 180 unknown material, and 203 non-lead service lines.



The Next Generation of Leadership at SMIF



Tim Penny  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

After 18 years of sharing stories with southern Minnesota readers, this is my last op-ed as President and CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF). As I prepare to retire, I do so with immense gratitude and pride. For nearly two decades, I've had the privilege of working alongside passionate individuals, dedicated partners and visionary communities all unified by a common goal: to build a stronger, more vibrant southern Minnesota. Together, we've championed small towns, nurtured early childhood development and empowered rural entrepreneurs –

creating a legacy that will continue to grow and evolve far beyond my tenure. This journey has been deeply personal and much more than a career – it's been a calling. Growing up near Kiester, and later serving southern Minnesota in Congress, I've long believed in the power and promise of rural places and the people who call them home. At SMIF, I've seen that spirit in action every day. It has been an incredible honor to help lift up those stories, support those dreams, and be part of a shared journey that continues to inspire me.

As SMIF approaches its 40th anniversary, I couldn't be more confident in the road ahead. The Foundation is in exceptional hands, guided by a remarkable team and bolstered by strong community partnerships.

I am so proud to pass the torch on to Benya Kraus, who will be starting as SMIF's next President and CEO in mid-June. Benya has deep family roots in Waseca County, going back six generations. More importantly, she brings with her a fresh perspective and an inspiring track record as a rising leader in rural development, earning national recognition for elevating the value of rural living. Benya represents the next generation of leadership in our region, and I have every confidence that she will bring energy, vision and purpose to the role.

Benya's work is grounded in both lived experience and a deep commitment to community. As a co-founder of Lead for America, she has led efforts to reconnect young people with their hometowns and invest in home-grown leadership. Her values and approach align beautifully with SMIF's mission, and I



know she will honor the Foundation's legacy while charting bold new paths. Southern Minnesota is fortunate to have her, and I look forward to cheering on her success as she helps shape the future of this region we all love.

While I am turning the page on this chapter, I will always be a champion for southern Minnesota, and going forward I will gladly volunteer some time to assist SMIF where

appropriate. In fact, I am excited to share that a new endowed fund has been established in my name to support small towns across our region – ensuring this work will flourish.

I am deeply grateful to all of you for your friendship, your trust, and the chance to serve a place I will always proudly call home.

If you are inclined to donate to the Tim Penny Small Towns Fund, visit [smifoundation.org/smalltownfund](http://smifoundation.org/smalltownfund).

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New Boater Education Law

By Minnesota DNR

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

Starting on July 1, 2025, a new law will require some adults and youth who operate motorboats—including personal watercraft—to have a valid watercraft operator's permit. People who already have a permit are not affected by the law, which is designed to make boating safer by ensuring everyone operating a motorized watercraft knows the rules and is properly trained. Here's a breakdown of the key points:

Adult operators:

Permit requirement: Some adults (defined below) will need a valid operator's permit to drive any motorboat or personal watercraft starting July 1, 2025.

Exemptions: Some adults are exempt from this requirement. Check the law for specific exemptions.

Supervised operation: People without a permit still can operate a boat, but only if there's an accompanying operator (defined below)

onboard.

Young operators:

Restrictions on high-powered watercraft: Young operators (people less than 12 years old), can't operate a personal watercraft or any motorboat with a motor over 75 horsepower.

Low-powered motorboats: Young operators can operate a motorboat that's not a personal watercraft and has a motor under 75 horsepower as long as there is an accompanying operator in the motorboat.

Who is considered an adult operator?

Is 12 years old or older, and

Was born after these dates:

June 30, 2004 (starts July 1, 2025)

June 30, 2000 (starts July 1, 2026)

June 30, 1996 (starts July 1, 2027)

June 30, 1987 (starts July 1, 2028)

This means people born after June 30, 2004, will need a permit to operate a boat starting in 2025. The permit requirement will gradually apply to older age groups over the next few years.

Who is considered an accompanying operator?

A person 21 years of age or older who:

Is in a personal watercraft or other type of motorboat;

Is within immediate reach of the controls of the motor; and

Possesses a valid operator's permit or is an exempt operator.

Who is considered an exempt operator?

"Exempt operator" means a motorboat operator, including a personal watercraft operator, who is 12 years of age or older and who:

Possesses a valid license to operate a mo-



torboat issued for maritime personnel by the United States Coast Guard under Code of Federal Regulations, title 46, part 10, or a marine certificate issued by the Canadian government.

Is not a resident of the state, is temporarily using the waters of the state for a period not to exceed 60 days, and:

- meets any applicable requirements of the state or country of residency; or
- possesses a Canadian pleasure craft operator's card;
- is operating a motorboat under a dealer's license according to section 86B.405; or
- is operating a motorboat during an emergency.

Key takeaways:

Adult and youth permits: Young operators and some adults need a valid operator's permit to operate certain motorized watercraft. For adults born after June 30, 2004, the re-

quirement starts in 2025. The law will extend to older age groups over time.

Youth restrictions: Young operators can't operate boats with more than 75 horsepower. They can operate boats (that are not PWC) with less than 75 horsepower if they're with an accompanying operator.

Gradual rollout: The law will phase in over the next few years. The operator permit requirement starts in 2025 and gradually expands through 2028.

This new law aims to improve safety on the water by making sure everyone operating a motorized watercraft is trained and qualified.

Rentals:

18 and older: Must have a valid watercraft operator's permit.

Under 18: Cannot rent watercraft.

**SIGN UP NOW with this link**  
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boat-water/education.html>.

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**Southeastern  
Minnesota Arts  
Council Awards  
\$345,985 in  
Organizational  
Grants to Support  
Arts Programming  
Across  
Southeastern  
Minnesota**

*52 Organizations Receive  
Funding to Advance Arts  
and Cultural Programming  
in the Region*



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

Rochester, MN – On May 13,

2025, the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) Board of Directors announced the awarding of \$345,985 in arts programming grants to nonprofit organizations and schools throughout Southeastern Minnesota. These grants will support diverse arts and cultural programming and strengthen creative communities across the region.

The funding includes:

18 Legacy Grants to arts organizations totaling \$180,000

16 Legacy Grants to non-arts groups totaling \$79,710

7 Programming Grants to arts organizations totaling \$32,100

11 Small Towns/Rural Areas Grants totaling \$54,175

**Grant Recipients Dodge County:**

Mantorville Economic Development Authority received a \$5,000 Small Towns/Rural Areas Grant for Art in the Park 2026.

Mantorville Theatre Company received a \$4,890 Small Towns/Rural Areas Grant for All Student Theatre Production.

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*Changes in Latitudes,  
Changes in Attitudes*

## New Life for an Old Axe Head



By Terry Campbell

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

Tennessee was settled by pioneers about a century before Minnesota, so there is a wealth of historical items to be found. Daniel Boone had first explored this part of the country in 1760. The area we live in was the site of a significant Civil War battle and items turn up from time to time from that era and before.

One morning I was walking at the northeast end of our property and I saw something



metal imbedded in the ground. After kicking the soil away, I realized it was more substantial than just a tin can. I became more interested by the moment as I extracted it from the earth. Even covered in crusty scales of rust and dirt I could identify what it was. Excitedly, I headed for the shop. That is just where a man goes when he has a project to work on. My mind was imagining all the scenarios that the history of this axe head might have included. I had the foresight to take a picture of it on my workbench before the restoration began.

My mind wandered across axe stories as I pondered the direction I would take with this new project. An axe is the tool of a woodsman. Paul Bunyon had a big axe for shopping down trees in the Northwoods. I used a mattock to chop frozen silage off the silo walls in the winter. We always carried an axe when cutting wood to free a pinched chainsaw bar

from a large tree trunk or limb. I remembered a story from the Bible back in 848 BC when a workman had the axe head fly off the handle and out into the river. The prophet Elisha threw a stick out onto the river and the iron axe head floated to the surface for the man to retrieve. (2 Kings 6:1-6) Axe heads always had value.

I started cleaning the axe head up and then polished the rust off using the wire brush on my bench grinder. It was pitted from years in the mud, but I eventually got down to the bare metal. What began as just another day was suddenly exciting and interesting in a way I had never imagined. I love to work in the shop on most any project and this was a most unusual one. It was by far the oldest artifact I had found here on any of our properties in Tennessee. Once the axe head was cleaned up, I began to think of what to do with it.

I already had nice new hatchet for splitting kindling wood. It was shiny and bright, but had been purchased and not discovered on our property. I bought oak slab wood from the Swift Sawmill to burn in our firepit in the evenings. I would split the wood into small pieces for an easy fire. I started thinking that



this new found axe head would be excellent for that job.

I selected a nice slab of oak board from the firewood rack and began to cut it to size. Measuring and cutting and lots of wood chisel work formed the top of the handle to fit precisely into the opening of the axe head. I drove it firmly into place and trimmed off the excess from the top. Was an enjoyable morning in the shop and I had a new tool from an old relic. Quite satisfying.

### Share Your Good News with the Community!

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## A Minnesotan: Outdoor Weather



By RosaLin Alcoser

Once again it's summer in Minnesota which means that it's time for all Minnesotans to migrate outside. We all know that the four Minnesota seasons are pre winter, winter, still winter and construction season; otherwise known as summer. Which is the cue for all of us to go outside while we can.

We all know that we have to take advan-

tage of the good weather while we have it. After all, we live where it can snow for about seven months out of the year; so we all have to make the best of it when we can.

For some people this means gardening, going to the lake, or biking. When I was a little kid in rural Minnesota this ment us getting sent out to play in the field until supper time. As an older child and teen it meant running around the woods until it was time to come back.

Now that I'm an adult in the Twin Cities it means my household is going hiking nearly every chance we get. Whether it is through the local nature center or on a trail in a State Park we hike as much as possible. From the time that it gets into the 40's, mainly because I'm a translatplant and can't be pried outside until it's at least 40 degrees, onward we hike.

Easy path, hard path, paved, unpaved, even the occausall not quite a path. We will hike it. Until the winter comes around again and all the Minnesotans go back inside for the winter. Except for those of you that are really into winter outdoors activities. However, I think that the rest of us will leave the cold weather outdoor exursions to you.



# *Serving Up* **THANKS** *to Our* **Dairy Producers**



The Dodge County Dairy Princesses for 2025 were honored this weekend at the Hubbell House.  
They are left to right: Ellie Sauder, Josie Sauder, Alita Reinhart

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## Triton Superintendent retires After three decades of service

(continued from page 1)

What started as a desperate plan B led to a job opportunity as a Junior High teacher for Triton Public Schools in 1993. Since then, his life has catapulted into a 30+ year experience with the district, where he has climbed the ranks and improved the educational experience of thousands of students.

Craig's retirement this spring marks the end of a three-decade journey that started in his childhood home in Spring Lake Park, Minnesota. Before dedicating his life to teaching, his interests lay almost entirely in the sports realm. After graduating from his town's school in 1985, the University of Wyoming granted him the incredible opportunity to attend college with a full football scholarship. His mother's unfortunate passing two weeks before the school year began undoubtedly made this a difficult adjustment. While having to start anew, Craig played as a redshirt for the

next four years, competing in the Holiday Bowl against Iowa and Oklahoma State in 1987 and 1988. These initial opportunities led him into an illustrious sports career that allowed him to play in the Blue-Grey Game and Senior Bowl, get drafted into the 8th round of the Minnesota Vikings, and eventually play for teams like the Pittsburgh Steelers, New Jersey Knights, and Cincinnati Rockers in the following years.

So much strain and competition during this time led him to injure both of his knees through different incidents, which served as the initial domino to topple his sports career. Deciding to take advantage of his college education, Craig made the difficult but worthwhile decision to leave his football pursuits behind to teach in his home community. The first of his many positions began when Triton Public Schools hired him as a Junior High PE & Health teacher in the fall of 1993. After

only three years, he received an additional hour to work in the role of "student services." With it came the responsibility to assist those struggling academically to get them back on track. Meeting with these students to discuss how they might improve and create a better future for themselves was tremendously fulfilling. A part of his philosophy was to help students understand that making mistakes is inevitable; "it's what we do after them that's most important." When a student realized the district was here to help, Craig's role helped them make better choices and ultimately live better lives.

His three-decade journey at Triton was far from over, however. After teaching health classes for two more years in the newly remodeled Dodge Center building, Craig briefly served as the Dean of Students and Assistant Principal. From this experience, he found his place as the Middle School Principal in 2002 for twelve years before leading the high school for five. Up to this point, Craig's work in various positions and capacities had amounted to a deep love for the school district. As a result, he decided to apply for the newly opened superintendent position for the 2019-2020 school year, the role he kept for five years up to his retirement. Looking back on this opportunity to serve as the district leader, Craig is incredibly grateful to have been part of such an outstanding district and group of staff. Being involved with the community while watching his four boys grow and learn at Triton has been a massive blessing.

Craig Schlichting: "Having a place for students to develop during their pre-teen years is so important, which is why my proudest achievement is likely developing a genuine middle school. These students are at an age where they are changing and developing more than at any other time besides infancy, and it is critical to provide safeguards to support them as they mature."

Reflecting on his experience with the district over the years, Craig can only point to good things. To genuinely enjoy your job is rare nowadays, but he has found significant fulfillment in serving this community and meeting its amazing people. An inevitable part of being an administrator is making decisions that, while not always popular with everyone, are done with the best intentions in mind for students. Everyone has been a child before, and they know that addressing complicated issues in a student's academic journey often requires equally thorough solutions. By looking back on all his challenges as a youth, Craig aimed to relate with the school and remind them that they were cared



**Craig Schlichting**

for. This idea that assistance was only an ask away coincided with his final goal: to remind students that discipline was not something done to them. Instead, it was for them to help students make better decisions. When asked if he had any final comments on his time, Craig emphasized the importance of finding happiness regardless of our situation.

"I can't help but think about those we have lost. Death can be hard to understand, especially when it happens to a student. It is the most challenging thing I have dealt with in my career, reminding us that we should cherish each day and be grateful for what memories we have. I have always tried to model that as an example for others, and I hope that is what people remember me for."

This feeling of contentment will continue to guide Craig as he stays in touch with Triton Schools after retirement. His incredible contributions to the district will no doubt extend beyond his decades of service. In the coming weeks, however, he plans on taking the opportunity to do something his previous role prevented: disconnect. Unavoidably, being a superintendent requires flexibility to be on-site at a moment's notice. Relaxing in a tree stand, hunting, and fishing without interruptions will help provide him this much-needed time off. Following this, he aims to find fulfillment in another role that allows him to help students on their life journey. From professional football to fulfilling teaching, Craig Schlichting's story precisely illustrates that things won't always end up how we want them to. Storms may come. Challenges will arise. But by seeing things for their benefit and being content with what we have, we can heed the advice Craig often includes by Abraham Lincoln at the end of his emails: "Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

## Russ Franek and The Biscuits to Headline Dennison Days

(continued from page 1)

The Gopher State Garden Tractor Pullers will return to Main Street Friday evening in Dennison, hosted by 625 Bar & Grill.

More information is available at [www.gsctp.com](http://www.gsctp.com).

Following the Pull, 625 will host live music from Andy Tackett.

A full schedule of events will take place Saturday. Kicking off the days will be the annual pancake breakfast, hosted by the Nerstrand Fire Department and Dennison Church.

The Farmers Market is scheduled to return along with The Classic Car Show.

Trophies will be awarded for the Car Show at 1 PM.

Euchre will take place at The Fireside at 8:30. New this year is a Scavenger Hunt at 9 AM. Those wishing to participate should sign up at the Mainstreet Tent to learn about the search area. The First person to find the treasure will win \$100.00.

The Antique Tractor Pull begins on the hill at 10 AM. The Cow milking Contest hosted by Flom Dairy will be at 10 AM downtown.

The Kids Pedal Pull will take place at 11 AM, and Kids Bingo under the tent will be at noon. A kickball tournament will be at Noon in the city park area. The kids carnival will be from 1-3 PM, with the parade on mainstreet at 1:30. Be a part of the parade! Best Parade entry can win \$100.00. A Bags tournament will start at 2:30 hosted by 625 Bar & Grill.

Other activities on the afternoon calendar include Purse & Gift Card Bingo at 4 pm.

The Keg Toss returns at 6:30 across from Fireside, and the day rounds out with local musicians, RUSS FRANEK and THE BISCUITS playing entertaining for the evening. A Full Schedule is available at [www.dennisondays.org](http://www.dennisondays.org).

Also watch for any updates on the website and on Facebook!



**Andy Tackett will perform during Dennison Days Friday, June 20th at 625 Bar & Grill**



## Circus Returns to Dennison July 31



Thanks to the sponsorship of the Dennison Lions Club & Fireside Lounge, the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus, America's Favorite Big Top Circus is coming back to Dennison, MN – Thursday July 31, 2025 to the lot across from the Dennison Community Church located at 37514 3rd Ave. C&M Circus has been providing quality, local family entertainment for 37 years.

This authentic One-Ring, BigTop Circus has been featured on the A&E Special: Under the Big Top, Nick News: On the Road with CircusKids and most recently OETA's Big Top Town.

This year, we're very excited to bring you our performance featuring Big Cats presented by Trey Key, our Aerialist Extraordinaire Simone on the trapeze, 10th generation Loyal Bareback Horse Riders, the Perez Daredevil



Duo on the Tight Rope and Wheel of Destiny, Elizabeth Ayala's incredible foot juggling and hair hang and everyone's favorite Circus-Clown Leo Acton.

### Circus Day Schedule

9:30 a.m. - Tent Raising & Tour

Everyone is invited to watch the Big Top rise! You'll also get a chance to tour the grounds and get a behind-the-scenes look at our show! Learn about life on the road and the care our animals receive.

4:00 p.m. - Midway Opens

Pony Rides, Moon Bounce, Giant Slide, Face Painting, Concession Stand and Box Office open up for some extra fun!

5:00 & 7:30 Circus Performance

Get ready for an amazing show the whole family will love! Each show lasts about 90 minutes.

Our performers are sure to amaze, delight and entertain the audience members of all ages beyond your wildest imagination.

Advance Tickets Prices

Adult Ticket - \$13; Child (2-12) or Senior (65+) - \$8

(continued on page 23)

**THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO DENNISON!**

**THURSDAY, JULY 31**

**2 Shows! 5:00pm & 7:30pm**

Tickets Available At:  
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Parkside General Store - Nerstrand

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

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Dear Savvy Senior,

**What kinds of legal documents do I need to help my family take care of me in my elder years? I would like to get my affairs in order but could use some help.**

—Approaching 80

Dear Approaching,

All adults, especially an older adult like yourself, should have at least five legal documents to protect yourself and your family. These documents will make sure your wishes regarding your estate are legal and clear and will help minimize any conflicts and confusion with your family and your health care providers if you become seriously ill or when you die. Here are the key documents you need, along with some tips to help you create them.

**Durable Power of Attorney:** This document allows you to designate someone you trust to handle your financial affairs if you become incapacitated.

**Advance Directive:** This includes two documents that spell out your wishes regarding your end-of-life medical treatment. The two documents are a "living will" which tells your doctor what kind of care you want to receive if you become incapacitated. And a "health care power of attorney" (or health care proxy), which names a person you authorize to make medical decisions on your behalf if you're unable.

To complement your advance directive, you should also consider getting a Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment. This is a state specific form that your doctor would fill out that translates your end-of-life wishes into medical orders to ensure your wishes are carried out.

**A Will:** This lets you spell out your wishes of how you'd like your property and assets distributed after you die, whether it's to family, friends or a charity. It also allows you to designate an executor to ensure your wishes are carried out and allows you to name guardians if you have dependent children.

In addition to a will, if you own real estate or have considerable assets, another option you may want to consider is a "revocable living trust." This functions like a will but allows your estate to avoid the time and expense of probate (the public legal process that examines your estate after you die) and helps ensure your estate's privacy.

**HIPAA Release:** This form gives your healthcare provider permission to discuss your medical care and medical bills with those you designate. You may need specific HIPAA release forms for each medical professional or health care establishment you deal with.

**Do-It-Yourself**

If you have a simple estate and an uncomplicated family situation, there are do-it-yourself resources that can help you create all these documents for a few hundred dollars. Some top-rated options to consider include Quicken WillMaker & Trust software, Trust & Will and Legal Zoom.

**Get Help**

If, however, you want or need assistance or if you have a complicated financial situation, blended family or have considerable assets, you should hire an attorney. An experienced lawyer can make sure you cover all your bases – especially when writing a will or living trust – which can help avoid family confusion and squabbles after you're gone.

Costs will vary depending on where you reside, but you can expect to pay somewhere between \$500 and \$2,000 for a basic estate plan that includes a will, power of attorney and advance directive. If you want your estate plan to include a living trust, that can run anywhere between \$1,500 and \$5,000.

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils are two good resources that have directories on their websites to help you find someone in your area.

If money is tight, check with your state's bar association to find low-cost legal help in your area. Or call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 for a referral.



## • MAKE SOME MEMORIES! •

### 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



## 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  
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**

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

## Circus Returns to Dennison July 31

(continued from page 22)

Advance tickets can be purchased **BEFORE** Circus Day from these locations:

Heritage Bank Dennison  
Dennison Depot  
Fireside Lounge & Supper Club  
Parkside General Store -Nerstrand  
A higher percentage of advance tickets

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Facebook: Culpepper & Merriweather  
Circus

Instagram: @cmccircus

E-mail: [cmccircus@gmail.com](mailto:cmccircus@gmail.com)

Phone Number: 580-326-8833

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2025

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## Ghost Poops?? Allergy Season, Worst Ever?



By Shauna Burslem, D.C.

What Foods Trigger the Greatest Cravings, Leading to Overeating? Researchers at the German Center for Diabetes Research have found that just five days of overeating ultra-processed snack foods can alter how insulin functions in the brain—even before you notice a single pound gained. Insulin isn't just about blood sugar; it's a hormone that helps the brain manage hunger, satisfaction, and that all-important feeling of self-control after eating. When insulin's signaling breaks down, that gentle nudge telling you "enough for now" goes silent. Suddenly, you find yourself craving more food, regardless of real hunger

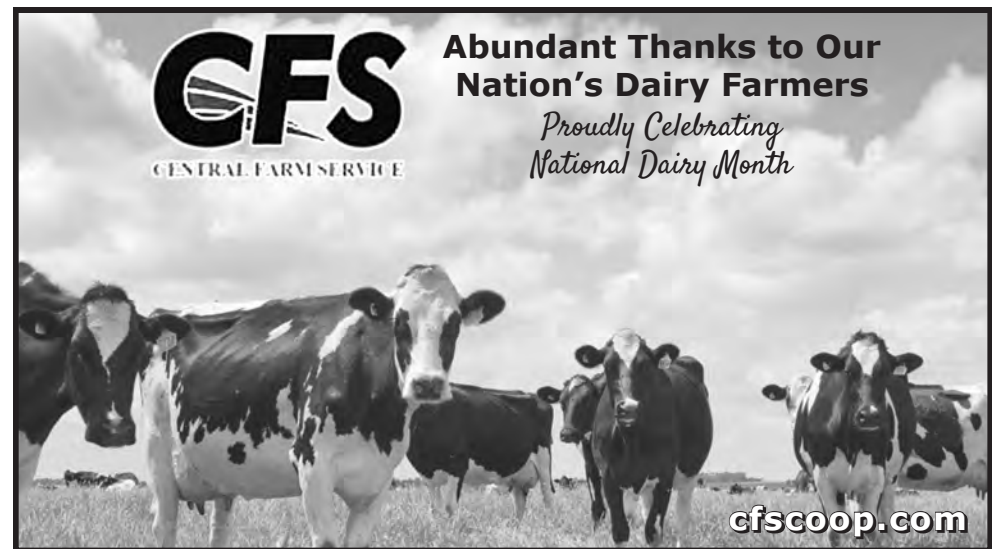
or need. What really surprised me about this study, published in *Nature Metabolism*, is how the negative effects on the brain outlasted the unhealthy eating itself. After returning to a regular diet, the brain scans revealed lingering disruptions in areas tied to memory, decision-making, and reward—actually resembling patterns seen in obesity. This tells us that even short encounters with ultra-processed foods can leave a mark, echoing long after the bags and boxes are emptied. The environment doesn't help matters. The smell of cookies in the air, a well-placed ad, or even the crinkle of packaging works like Pavlov's bell, triggering the brain to seek out food, hunger or not. All of this manipulates our natural satiety cues, teaching us to eat for reasons other than nourishing our bodies. Even more, these ultra-processed snacks light up dopamine pathways in the brain, similar to addictive drugs, driving us to crave more—even if the reward fades with each bite. Restoring a healthy relationship with food begins with honest, mindful choices. I've seen it firsthand; swapping out ultra-processed snacks for whole foods, slowing down to appreciate each meal, and adding some daily movement can reignite your body's natural signals. It's a process that's as much about tuning into your own experience as it is about nutrition science. After all, reclaiming your appetite isn't just about food, but about finding satisfaction and control in the everyday moments at the table. Here are

some examples of ultraprocessed foods. Ready-to-eat meals and snacks: Frozen pizzas, instant noodles, ready-made pasta dishes, and packaged soups. Sweet and savory packaged snacks: Chips, chocolate, candy, biscuits, and pastries. Breakfast cereals and bars: Often sweetened with additives and preservatives. Processed meats: Cold cuts, ham, sausages, hotdogs, chicken nuggets, and fish sticks. Mass-produced bread and baked goods: Including packaged breads, buns, and pastries. Carbonated drinks: Soda, energy drinks, and sports drinks. Ice cream and frozen desserts: Often

containing numerous additives. Sweetened and flavored dairy products: Such as fruit-flavored yogurts. Sauces and condiments: Ketchup, mayonnaise, and other packaged sauces.

What Ghost Poops Say About Your Digestion and Gut Health. Ghost poops, also known as "no wipers," are those rare, deeply satisfying bowel movements that leave no residue behind when you wipe and sink straight to the bottom of the toilet. To me, that's not some fluke of nature; it's a sign your gut is truly thriving.

(continued on page 25)



## 10 Healthy Fruits for Dogs

Have you ever caught your dog eyeing your fruit bowl with those irresistible puppy eyes? It's tempting to share a juicy slice with your furry friend, but not all fruits are safe for dogs. Some fruits can boost your dog's health and happiness, and here are ten that are safe for them

**Blueberries** are more than just a delicious snack—they're little bursts of health for your dog. Packed with antioxidants, they help fight cell damage and support your dog's immune system. Blueberries are also a great source of fiber and vitamin C, which can aid digestion and keep your pup's coat shiny. Even better, these berries are low in calories, making them perfect for training treats. Just offer a few at a time, as too much fiber can cause tummy troubles.

**Apples** are a classic snack for humans and dogs alike. They provide vitamin A, vitamin C, and plenty of fiber, all of which help keep your dog's digestive system running smoothly. The crunchy texture also helps clean their teeth as they chew, which is a bonus for oral health. Always remember to remove the seeds and core before serving, as apple seeds contain cyanide and the core can be a choking hazard. A few apple slices are a fresh way to reward your dog or jazz up their mealtime.

**Bananas** are a soft, sweet treat that most dogs can't resist. They're loaded with potassium, vitamin B6, and vitamin C, all of which support muscle function and boost energy. The smooth texture makes bananas easy for dogs to eat, especially older pups with sensitive teeth. However, bananas are high in sugar, so moderation is key—think of them as a special treat, not a daily snack.

**Watermelon** is a summertime favorite, and dogs love it just as much as we do. It's full of vitamins A, B6, and C, and because it's mostly water, it helps hydrate your pup on hot days. Always remove the seeds and rind, as these parts can cause digestive issues or choking. Offer small, seedless chunks as a refreshing treat, especially after a long walk or playtime. Not only is watermelon tasty, but it's also low in calories, so you don't have to worry about overindulging your pooch.

**Strawberries** are a safe and delicious fruit option for dogs. Full of fiber and vitamin C, they also contain an enzyme that can help whiten your dog's teeth. Just like with other fruits, moderation is important due to their natural sugar content. Slice fresh strawberries and offer them as a snack, or blend into a homemade dog smoothie. Avoid canned or sugared strawberries as these can harm your pet.

**Pineapple** is a tropical treat that provides vitamin C, thiamin, riboflavin, and folate, all of which help support your dog's immune system and digestion. Make sure to remove the tough skin and core, as these can be hard for dogs to digest. Offer small, bite-sized pieces to avoid any choking hazards.

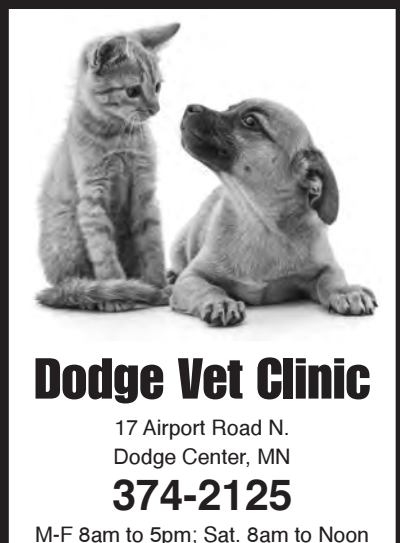
**Pears** are gentle on your dog's tummy and packed with fiber, vitamin C, and vitamin K. These nutrients support bone health and boost your dog's immune system. Always remove the seeds and core before serving, as they can be harmful. Cut pears into small pieces for a safe, easy-to-eat snack.

**Cantaloupe** is a hydrating fruit loaded with vitamins A and C. Its high water content makes it perfect for keeping your dog cool and refreshed. Remove the rind and seeds before offering cantaloupe to avoid stomach upset. Serve small cubes or scoop out bite-sized balls for a fun, mess-free snack.

**Mangoes** are a safe fruit for dogs when given in moderation. Rich in vitamins A, B6, C, and E, mangoes can help promote eye health, boost immunity, and keep your dog's skin healthy. Always peel the mango and remove the pit before offering any to your dog, as the pit can be a choking hazard. Serve small, soft pieces, especially for smaller dogs.

**Cranberries** are a great source of antioxidants and vitamins C and E. These nutrients can help support your dog's urinary tract health and overall immune system. Offer fresh or dried cranberries in small amounts, but avoid any that are sweetened or mixed with raisins (which are toxic to dogs).

### Brought to You By:





## Ghost Poops?? Allergy Season, Worst Ever?

(continued from page 24)

Experts like Dr. Ira Leeds and Julia Barten actually describe these as “nirvana poops”—the kind of thing we should all strive for, not dread. It’s about what you don’t see or feel after using the bathroom. No endless wiping. No evidence left on the bowl. Just a clear sign your digestive system is firing on all cylinders. It’s not as simple as luck or genetics, though. Over the years, I’ve seen people struggle with their gut because of stress, dehydration, lack of movement, or a diet that doesn’t quite suit their needs. These factors can all disrupt the gut microbiome, making the elusive ghost poop almost impossible to achieve. Gut health, I’ve learned, is about much more

than just how often you go; it’s about how well your body processes what you eat and drink. A surprising insight? Many people try to fix their digestion by piling on the fiber, but if your gut’s already out of balance, that can make symptoms worse. From personal experience and plenty of research, I’ve found that increasing digestible carbohydrates (usually 200 to 350 grams per day) helps heal the gut more effectively. And don’t underestimate the power of posture; using a footstool or leaning forward can open up the colon and lead to more complete, easy elimination. Signs like floating or sticky stools are red flags—that your body isn’t absorbing fats properly or that there’s gut inflammation. But hitting those regular ghost poops? That’s the body’s way of telling you everything is humming along just as it should. For anyone seeking a clear gauge of gut health, skip the fancy tests and look for what’s not left behind.

As we’ve seen, our gut health has a huge impact on our overall well-being.

And while there are many factors that can affect it, maintaining regular and healthy bowel movements is one of the most important things we can do for our digestive system.

But beyond just physical health, having a happy gut also means feeling more energized, focused, and emotionally balanced. It’s no coincidence that the phrase “gut feeling” exists – our gut is often referred to as our “second brain” because of the strong connection between the two. So next time you’re experiencing bloating or discomfort in your stomach, remember that it’s not just about finding temporary relief. It’s about tak-

ing care of.

Allergy season is now longer and more intense due in part to our milder winter weather.

Warmer weather and higher carbon dioxide levels help plants produce more pollen for longer periods, which means spring allergies start earlier and last into fall. Pollen counts in North America have jumped more than 20% in the past 30 years, and the season itself is about two weeks longer than it was two decades ago.

Doctors recommend beginning allergy precautions like saline nasal sprays, before symptoms hit. Keeping your room pollen-free, shutting windows, and changing clothes after being outdoors can also help manage symptoms like sneezing, itchy eyes, and congestion. Chiropractic care may offer notable benefits for individuals dealing with allergies. By focusing on the alignment of the spine and the functionality of the nervous system, chiropractic adjustments can help reduce stress on the body, which in turn may support a more robust immune response. Since the nervous system plays a key role in regulating the immune system and its reactions, enhancing its function through spinal adjustments may help the body respond more effectively to allergens. Additionally, chiropractic care can alleviate tension in the neck and upper back, where sinus drainage and nasal passages are often affected, potentially reducing symptoms like congestion and sinus pressure. While it’s not a direct cure, chiropractic care can be a helpful part of a comprehensive strategy to manage allergy symptoms.

COVID-19 Treatment News: J. Hatfill, a

seasoned virologist with a history of advocating for hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) as an early treatment for COVID-19, has stepped into a major public health role as the special adviser for pandemic prevention at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). For those who followed his previous tenure as a White House adviser during the Trump administration, you might recall his controversial—but steadfast—defense of using HCQ based on thousands of peer-reviewed studies, some of which he personally referenced in a recent interview. Hatfill points to the fact that even President Trump took the drug under doctors’ guidance, standing by its safety when administered appropriately.

Hatfill is now just beginning his work at the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), where he’s eager to join forces with other experts. The agency operates several centers focused on tackling pandemics—including those on biomed research and our national stockpile. This new role, as he expressed, isn’t just about COVID or influenza but encompasses preparedness for emerging global threats of all kinds. Throughout his career, Hatfill has advocated for thoroughness and awareness in pandemic science; it appears he’s bringing that same mindset to HHS as he helps our country brace for whatever comes next. Dr. Mary Talley Bowden, an ear, nose and throat specialist in Houston, Texas, reported, “I treated over 6,000 COVID-19 patients during the pandemic, a large number of those patients took hydroxychloroquine.

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

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JULY 3rd: THE BOOZE CRUIZERS 9:00 PM

JULY 5th: THE DAD'S BAND 8:30 PM

JULY 4th: CURSED BY LIGHTNING 8:30 PM

JULY 6th: MARK PERKINS 8:30 PM

**WWW.CANNONVALLEYFAIR.ORG**



## More Than Marshmallows: How Summer Camp Builds Lifelong Friendships



By Sam Smith  
Program Director Camp Victory

For many kids, summer camp is a place of adventure, discovery, and marshmallow-fueled campfires. But beyond crafts, canoe trips, and cabin games, camp offers something even more enduring: friendship. In a world where social interactions are increasingly filtered through screens, summer camps provide kids with a rare and vital opportunity to build deep,

in-person relationships that often last a lifetime.

### A Natural Setting for Connection

Summer camps are uniquely designed to foster relationships. Removed from the pressures of school, extracurricular schedules, and technology, kids find themselves in a setting that encourages authenticity. They eat together, sleep in the same cabins, overcome challenges as a team, and support each other through new experiences. This constant proximity and shared routine naturally lead to bonding.

Without phones and the internet to distract them, campers rely on face-to-face interaction, eye contact, and real conversations. This environment helps kids develop interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence—foundational elements for meaningful friendships.

### Shared Experiences Create Strong Bonds

One of the most powerful catalysts for friendship is a shared experience. At camp, kids aren't just hanging out, they're navigating obstacle courses, working on group skits, competing in friendly games, and maybe even singing off-key in front of an entire dining hall. These moments, big and small, create memories that glue kids together.

Conquering a ropes course or staying up late during cabin night can turn casual acquaintances into trusted allies. These shared adventures often forge connections deeper than those formed in typical day-to-day school life, where academic pressures and social cliques can create barriers.

### Everyone Starts on Equal Footing

Camp is a great social reset. Whether a child is shy or outgoing, athletic or artistic,

every camper begins their experience on relatively equal footing. Most campers don't know each other when they arrive, which eliminates the pre-existing social hierarchies that often dominate school life.

This leveling of the playing field gives kids a chance to be themselves, discover who they are, and be accepted for it. When kids are free to express themselves without fear of judgment, they often find friends who appreciate them for exactly who they are.

### Counselors: Role Models in Friendship

Camp counselors play a huge role in modeling healthy, supportive friendships. These leaders often demonstrate what it looks like to communicate openly, resolve conflicts kindly, and support one another. Their guidance helps kids learn how to navigate the inevitable ups and downs of friendship in positive ways.

Many camps also include specific programming around empathy, teamwork, and inclusion. These intentional efforts teach kids how to be good friends—skills that stay with them far beyond the summer.

### Diversity and Exposure to New Perspectives

Camps often bring together kids from different cities, backgrounds, and cultures. This exposure helps campers develop empathy, respect, and appreciation for people who are different from themselves. When kids spend weeks living and learning together, they realize that deep connections can be formed across all kinds of boundaries.

This kind of early exposure to diversity strengthens social skills and prepares kids to thrive in a global society. And many campers

find that friendships formed in this kind of open-minded environment are more meaningful and lasting.

### A Network That Extends Beyond Summer

Ask any former camper, and they'll tell you: the friendships made at camp don't end with the final campfire. Many kids stay in touch with their camp friends for years, visiting during the school year, connecting through letters, texts, or video calls, and reuniting summer after summer. Some even end up attending the same colleges, becoming roommates, or standing beside each other at weddings.

These relationships, forged in shared experience and sincere connection, often last far beyond the years of bunk beds and bug spray.

### Final Thoughts

In a world where kids are often overwhelmed by academics, sports, and social media, summer camp offers something simple but profound: a space to connect, laugh, grow, and make friends who feel like family. Whether it's a quiet chat in a hammock, a goofy campfire song, or a tearful goodbye at the end of the session, these moments lay the foundation for lifelong relationships.

Camp is more than just a place—it's a community where kids learn that friendship isn't about popularity or perfection. It's about showing up, sharing experiences, and being yourself. And for many, the friendships made at camp become the most treasured relationships of all.

# Camp Victory

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## Triton Triumph: BPA Members Secure National Runner-Up and Finalist Spots



Katya Wheeler, Bryar Quimby, Camila Medina, Logan Skjeveland, Salma Fernandez, Anyely Dominguez-Marquez, Genevieve Starkson, Ashley Romero, Alisson Velasco, Vika Kundel, Corey Lilledahl, Abby Wirkus, Rebecca Goossens, and AJ Kozisek

Dodge Center, MN – Triton High School's Business Professionals of America (BPA) chapter continued to shine at the 2025 National

Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida from May 7-11, where six of the thirteen students who won trips claimed the title of Na-

tional Finalist, and Abigail Wirkus walked away as a National Runner-Up in Health Administration Procedures.

Placing as National Finalists were the Website Design Team of Anyely Dominguez-Marquez, Bryar Quimby, Ashely Romero and Alisson Velasco, who locked in a fourth-place finish, Katya Wheeler, who placed fifth for Computer Modeling, Genevieve Starkson, who placed sixth in Health Administration Procedures, and Bryar Quimby placing 10th in Graphic Design. Also competing and representing Triton were Salma Fernandez in Fundamental Desktop Publishing, AJ Kozisek in Financial Math Concepts and Payroll Accounting, Vika Kunda in Fundamental Spreadsheet, Corey Lilledahl and Camila Medina in Global Marketing Team, Ashley Romero in Advanced Desktop Publishing, and Logan Skjeveland in Digital Communication + Design.

"It has been an absolute joy and privilege to advise these students," said Advisor Rebecca Goossens. "Their talent, grit, and passion awes me, and I am so inspired by them and so grateful to call them mine."

(continued on page 32)

## Cobra Communications



**Luke Lutterman**  
*Incoming Triton Superintendent*

Center, and West Concord. I have been

I hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of summer. I am excited to begin working with our school board, wonderful staff, and community as Superintendent. It is an honor to have the opportunity to serve the Triton communities of Claremont, Dodge

Center, and West Concord. I have been blessed to have the unique experience of growing up in the school district, graduating from Triton, and also serving as a Principal here for the past nine years. I am thrilled to begin this important journey and for the opportunity to lead and give back to the place that has been very special to me and my family.

Our work and priorities should match our community's expectations, aspirations, and goals. Although I have been employed at Triton for the past nine years, I must emphasize being a listener first. One major task as we begin this journey together is to learn more from our community members, families, and staff about what we are doing well


and also what needs to be improved or changed. We also face the reality of increased costs, decreased enrollment, and budget reductions as we head into the school year.

Over the next few weeks, our school district will mail a community survey to all residents within the district. The goal of the survey is to gather input regarding how to best address our district's operational needs. School Perceptions is an independent education research firm that we are working with to administer the survey.

Thanks in advance for your feedback and participation.




# Congratulations On Your Retirement



**Craig Schlichting**  
From  
**Luke Lutterman, Incoming Triton Superintendent**  
**Teachers and Staff, Triton Schools**

# 6th Grade at the Capitol






## INTRODUCING SUN BUCKS

MINNESOTA

**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.**



**New Summer Grocery Benefit**

### 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)**



## PRESENTAMOS SUN BUCKS

MINNESOTA

**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.**



**New Summer Grocery Benefit**

### ¿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)



# 8th Grade Last Day of Middle School



## READY, SET, LEARN OF DODGE COUNTY PROGRAM APPLICATION

This program provides school supplies and a backpack for children attending pre-school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Any child in need of living or going to school in Dodge County is eligible to participate.

When filling out the application with our program, you are automatically approved.

Please direct questions to program coordinator Tanya Young at (316)-390-5368 or [tyoung8550@yahoo.com](mailto:tyoung8550@yahoo.com)

**Submit completed application to:**

Drop off: Minnesota Prairie County Alliance, 22 6<sup>th</sup> St E, Dept. 401, Mantorville, MN 55955

**Drop off: St. John's Lutheran Church, 301 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Kasson, MN 55944**

**Drop off: Ziebell Law Office 13 W. Main Street, Kasson, MN 55944**

Mail to: Ready Set Learn/Tanya Young, 906 8<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Kasson, MN 55944

Parent/Guardian Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list information for children needing school supplies:**

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for submitting applications is Monday, July 25th 2025 at 5pm**

## PROGRAM PICK UP DATES

**Where: St. John's Lutheran Church**  
301 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW, Kasson

**When:** Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

## 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**


**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.





### Dodge County Beekeepers Association – Intro to Beekeeping

Interested in honeybees? Join the Dodge County Beekeepers Association for a beginner-friendly beekeeping class every Monday in September, starting September 8th, from 6–7 PM. Learn about the bee life cycle, basic anatomy, essential tools, hive components, and the many products bees provide. Great for curious beginners and future beekeepers alike!



Classes are FREE!  
Located at the Green Shack  
To Register contact: [bwilcox@thegreenshack.net](mailto:bwilcox@thegreenshack.net)

## Triton Middle School Quarter 4 Honor Rolls

### A HONOR ROLL

#### 6th Grade

Beauchamp, Josie  
Dostal, Norah  
Erler, Laryssa  
Fate, Finley \*  
Finger, Braden  
Garness, Garet  
Hanegraaf, Blakely \*  
Johnsen, Brody  
Klein, Anya  
Marquardt, Addelyn  
Ortiz, Izabella  
Saxton, Griffen  
Strand, Charlie  
Thiemann, Adelynn  
Van Wyhe, Dawson  
Wernecke, Taytum  
Wilson, Wyatt  
Wondra, Kaiven

#### 7th Grade

Axt, Emma \*  
Burt, Clara  
DaCamara, Nicole  
Fate, Jaxon  
Flowers, Addison \*  
Henslin, Charlotte \*  
Klein, Liam  
Korbisch, K’stin \*  
Koss, Kinsley  
Marquardt, Quinn  
Reyes, Jema  
Rosenau, Ryan  
Scanlan, Clay  
Schleusner, Connor  
Schley, Layla \*  
Snyder, Griffin  
Wolf, Rebecca

#### 8th Grade

Dupey, Kayleah  
Fate, Dylan  
Fate, Jayln  
Felix, Cinthia  
Frederick, Natalie  
Ginder, Rory  
Horejsi, Mathea  
Jara, Matias  
Kraemer, MiKayla \*  
Laue, Aubrey  
McNeilus, Andrew

#### Mechtel, Brooklyn

Orozco, Oscar  
Sanson, Kimber  
Stanton, Julia  
Van Beek, Kenzie  
Van Zuilen, Ivy  
Vermilyea, Colby \*  
Wennes, Siri  
Wilson, Samantha

\*Denotes a 4.0 GPA

### B HONOR ROLL

#### 6th Grade

Austin, Gavin  
Bulow, Lily  
Cameron, Alexis  
Deters, William  
Duenes, Elijah  
Felix, Nicole  
Garness, Beckett  
Groe, Taiden  
Hamm, Hudson  
Hinck, Crio  
Hodgman, Olivia  
Johnson, Olan  
Keller, Asher  
Knott, Kaitlynn  
Krekelberg, Adam  
Louks, Colton  
Marquardt, Brooke  
Medina, Regina  
Pearson, Claire  
Peterson, Kyrie  
Pflaum, Wyatt  
Powell, Preston  
Ramirez Rosales, Zoe  
Reiser, Alexander  
Rohwer, Morgan  
Sorenson, Arella  
Spencer, Harmony  
Terwilliger, Codatthew  
Valdez, Jaelynn  
Weatherly, Phoebe  
Wilks, Brielle

#### 7th Grade

Becker, Garrison  
Blanchard, McKinly  
Boysen, Westen  
Cochran, Leighton  
Dickie, Brock

#### Dupey, Bryce

Floen, Ronan  
Freiderich, Lillie  
Gonzales, Savannah May  
Groe, Raelynn  
Hall, Myles  
Heaser, Brooklynn  
Kruckeberg, Scarlett  
Kunz, Adriana  
Lutterman, Isabella  
Milner, MacKenzie  
Phillips, Camdyn  
Phillips, Carter  
Richardson, Reilly  
Rohwer, Patrick  
Sherman, Kaecyn  
Skalicky, McKenna  
Vagt, Josiah

#### 8th Grade

Adreon, Kaiden  
Arneson, Cameron  
Bishop, Tiana  
Cain, Cruz  
Chable, Darvelia  
Chicos, Emma  
Curran, Alayna  
Davis, Patrick  
Dickie, Brinley  
Dominie, Aiyanna  
Edge, Maurice  
Erler, Preston  
Fate, Cooper  
Freerksen, Josslyn  
Froyum, Coy  
Gonzales, Landyn  
Hernandez, Sophia  
Himli, Whitney  
Jeter, Faith  
Laue, Peyton  
Lee IV, Gerald  
Madsen, Tenley  
Mealy, Mason  
Olevson, Bode  
Price, Samuel  
Robertson, Cora  
Scheppmann, Alyvia  
Sletten, Bristol  
Thomas, Logan  
Zrucky, Kaylee




# Triton Times

Luke Lutterman, Incoming Triton Superintendent

Triton Public Schools: 813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927  
Office – 507-418-7530 • Fax – 507-374-2447


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





# TRITON EDUCATION MINNESOTA

## MEMBER *Spotlight*



### HALEY ROSSI

“HALEY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM. SHE IS A WONDERFUL TEACHER WHO STUDENTS FIND ENGAGING AND HELPFUL. SHE CAN ALWAYS BE COUNTED ON TO HELP BOTH STAFF AND STUDENTS. WITH HER CALM DEMEANOR AND INSIGHTFUL THOUGHTS SHE MAKES TRITON MIDDLE SCHOOL A BETTER PLACE TO BE.”

#### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN TEACHING?

12 years

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

10 years

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

I teach 7th grade Language Arts and 8th grade Reading. Previously, I've taught 6th, 7th and 8th grade Language Arts.

#### WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

I believe that education is extremely important. Education is a tool that can benefit others in so many ways. I also enjoy seeing my students grow into individuals while I help them on their journey. I know that I am just a small part of their life, but I hope that I can do my best for them.

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

I enjoy the small community & seeing the connection between my students. I also have great coworkers who I enjoy working with every day.

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

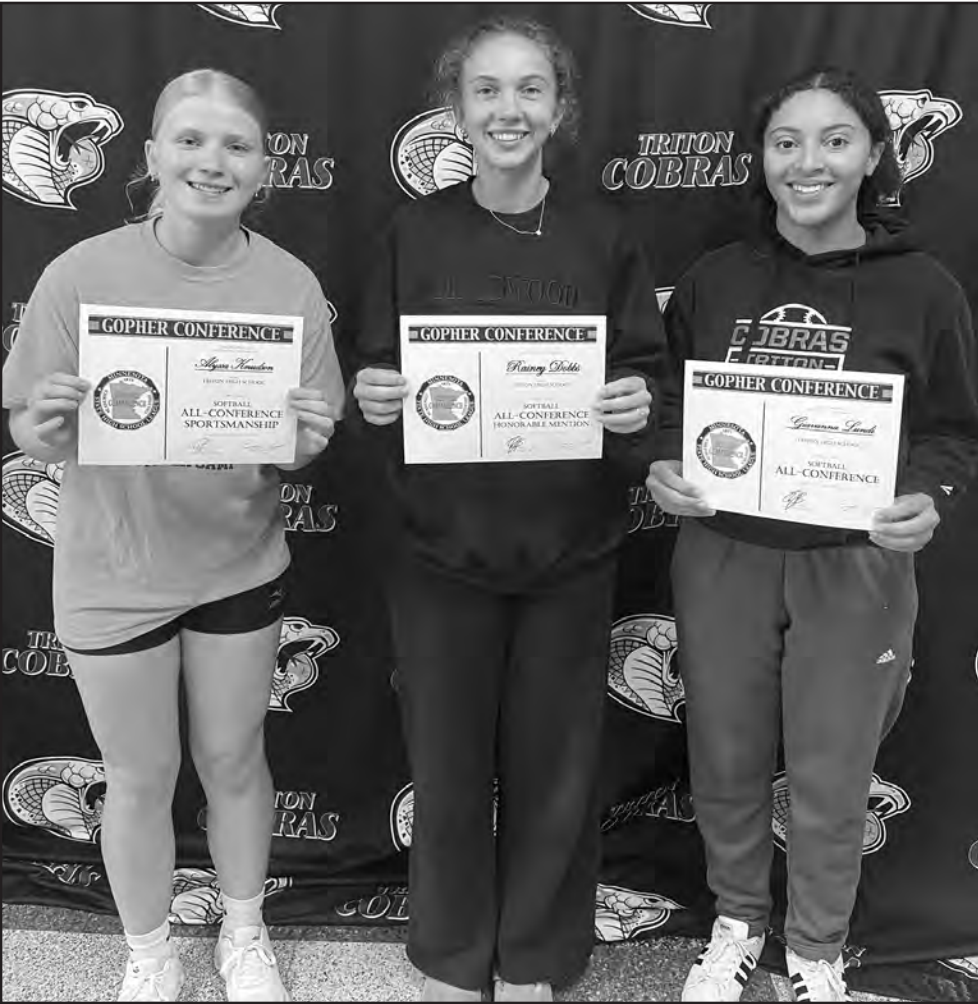
I volunteered at my college's radio station, helping to set up studios for recording sessions.



# Triton Softball Award Winners



Congratulations to the these ladies who won our teams awards this spring in softball. From left to right, Gigi Lunde (12th) Silver Slugger Award (Best Hitter) Ally Knudson (12th) Most Valuable Player, Rainey Dobbs (11th) Gold Glove (Best Fielder), Reagan Essig (10th) Most Improved, Aubrie Sanson (9th) Silver Slugger (Best Hitter).



Congratulations to these three ladies who earned all conference honors this spring in softball. From left to right, Ally Knudson (12th) received the sportsmanship award for the Gopher Conference, Rainey Dobbs (11th) received All Conference Honorable Mention for the 2nd year in a row, and Gigi Lunde (12th) was awarded All Conference this season. All three were not only statistically great players for us this spring, but positive team members that helped build a strong culture.

## Triton Public Schools

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

#WeAreTriton #SomosTriton



### Triton Supermileage Club



The Triton Supermileage Club is a student-led team dedicated to pushing the boundaries of sustainable transportation through the design, construction, and testing of fuel-efficient vehicles. With a focus on maximizing fuel efficiency, the club makes a single-passenger, fuel-efficient car capable of achieving extraordinary mileage(This year's average was 205.72 Miles/Gallon). Driven by a passion for creating solutions to address global energy challenges, the Triton Supermileage Club empowers students to lead the way toward a more sustainable future, one mile at a time.

This year, Triton Supermileage has made two cars, which we brought to Brainerd, MN, to compete in the MTEEA(Minnesota Technology Engineering Educators Association) Supermileage Challenge in May. This year, we decided to make a YouTube channel, which will be down below. We currently have 8 members, but we would always be open to more. Especially because we bought some tools that we do not want to just sit in the shop after we graduate.

Contact us: [tritonsmc2025@gmail.com](mailto:tritonsmc2025@gmail.com) or (507)261-4374(Mr.Bendickson - Advisor)

Follow Us On YouTube:  
Or <https://www.youtube.com/@TritonSupermileage>

**Thank you to the  
Supermileage Club Sponsors:**  
**Claremont Service Center, Boe Auto Center,  
Swarts Fabrication, McNeilus Steel,  
and Lloyd Henslin**





# BPA Members Secure National Runner-Up and Finalist Spots



Abby Wirkus is National Runner-Up in Health Administration

(continued from page 27)

No matter the results, they are always #1 in my heart, and I am so proud of them.”

Triton was among the nearly 7,000 attendees representing over 850 school chapters across the United States and in Canada, China, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Singapore, South Korea, and the United Kingdom, where students vied for top honors in BPA’s Workplace Skill Assessment Program competitions, which cover the areas of business administration; digital communication and design; finance; health administration; information technology; and management, marketing and communication. Conference participants also had opportunities to network with other BPA members and business leaders, complete certification exams, elect national officers, visit famous attractions in the region, and participate in several community service activities honoring the Special Olympics and local shelters.

“The National Leadership Conference is a milestone moment for our student members and advisors, representing a year of dedication, growth, and achievement,” said Devin Alexander, BPA’s Interim Executive Director. “This event is more than just competitions—it’s about developing leadership skills, earning industry certifications, and celebrating the hard work that sets our members up for future success.”



Bryar Quimby shows off her 10th place Graphic Design project

The 2025 National Leadership Conference was presented by Certiport, a Pearson VUE business, the leading provider of certification exam development, delivery and program management services. BPA’s 2026 National Leadership Conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, from May 6 to 10, 2026.



Abby Wirkus shows off her National Runner-Up trophy and Genevieve Starkson (far right) earns a finalist medal for placing 6th

## NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE RESULTS



### NATIONAL RUNNER-UP

Abby Wirkus - Health Administration Procedures

#### 4TH PLACE

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

#### 5TH PLACE

Katya Wheeler- Computer Modeling

#### 6TH PLACE

Genevieve Starkson- Health Administration Procedures

#### 10TH PLACE

Bryar Quimby- Graphic Design

#### PARTICIPANTS

Salma Fernandez- Desktop Publishing

AJ Kozisek- Financial Math + Payroll Accounting

Vika Kundel- Fundamental Spreadsheet

Corey Lilledahl + Camila Media- Global Marketing Team

Ashley Romero- Advanced Desktop Publishing

Logan Skjeveland- Digital Communication + Design

#### THANK YOU SPONSORS!







The Website Design Team of Ashley Romero, Anyely Dominguez-Marquez, Alisson Velasco, and Bryar Quimby placed 4th



# BPA Members Secure National Runner-Up and Finalist Spots



Camila Medina and Corey Lilledahl competed in Global Marketing Team



Logan Skjeveland competes in Digital Communication and Design



AJ Kozisek competed in Financial Math + Payroll Accounting



Katya Wheeler receives 5th place in Computer Modeling



Salma Fernandez captured the moment competing in Fundamental Desktop Publishing



# Cobra Track and Field wraps up a remarkable season at the state meet



The Cobra Track and Field team missed quite a few meets due to weather cancellations this spring, but that didn't stop our athletes from posting numerous personal records, and setting several school records as the season wrapped up over the past few weeks.

The remarkable post season started when the boys took home the subsection championship as a team for the first time in school history. Nearly every athlete that competed in the meet scored team points by finishing in the top 8, and those that finished in the top-4 had the opportunity to compete in the Section 1A Championships hosted by Triton the last week of May.

The Cobras made the most of their section opportunities, as well; the boys placed 4th and the girls 13th in the loaded field of 27 teams. Highlights from sections included state meet berths for five Cobras – the most individual qualifiers in Triton history!! For the girls, Avere Henslin qualified for state in the 200 after finishing 5th in the section and running qualifying standard time, and Olivia Weber qualified in the 400 by finishing 2nd in a personal record time of 1:00.28. On the boys' side, Brady Staub and Craig Knutson both qualified in the discus; Brady was the section champion with a personal-best and school record throw of 154' 6", and Craig finished fourth in the section, qualifying on standard with a throw of 146' 4". Pierce Petersohn had a phenomenal section meet, qualifying for state in all four of his events after winning the high jump (6' 8"), 400 (BIG PR and school record of 48.41),

and 200 (personal record of 22.33), and placing second in the 100 (11.24).

This week, those 5 Cobras represented Triton at the state meet at St. Michael/Albertville High School. On Tuesday, Weber (400 – 1:00.43) and Henslin (200 – 26.06) ran very well in their preliminary races, each running the second-best times of their careers. While they both moved up from their seeded placements, they did not qualify for finals. Petersohn ran well enough to qualify for finals in all three of his running events (100 – 11.23, 200 – 22.37, 400 – 48.43).

Thursday, all three boys competed. And all three earned all-state honors in their events. For the first time in Triton history, TWO individuals qualified in the same event – the discus – AND both medaled! Staub shattered his own personal (and school) record with a toss of 165' 7", finishing in second place. Knutson also had a big personal record, throwing the discus 154' 4", earning the 7th-place medal.

Petersohn had a legendary day, beginning with high jump, which was moved indoors due to rain. He took a break from the high jump to head outside to run the 100 meter finals, and his first medal of the day came by finishing 6th in that race (moving up from his 8th-place seed). He maxed out at 6' 4" in the high jump, good for 4th place. He followed that up by shattering his personal (and the school) record in the 400, finishing second in 48.16 seconds (this time would have been first in both class AA and AAA!). Finally, he ended the day with another personal record, this time in the 200, as he raced to a 4th-place

finish in 22.18. His efforts earned the team 25.5 points and meet MVP status as he was the biggest individual point-scorer in the Class A meet.

Petersohn, Staub, and Knutson combined

to score enough points to earn a 4th-place team finish for the Cobras! This ties the highest team ranking the Cobras have achieved at the state meet (previously 4th in 2008). Congratulations!!

## Triton High School Semester 2 Honor Rolls

### TRITON HIGH SCHOOL "A" HONOR ROLL - SEMESTER 2 3.667 - 4.000

**GRADE 9**  
Emanuel, Abrielle  
Henslin, Avere  
Hukee, Jessica  
Johnson, Keanna  
Keener, Jenae  
Knutson, Aaron  
Louks, Collin  
Maes, Maddison  
Maes, Mason  
Matejcek, Aunika  
Ogren, Henry  
Okeefe, Elijah  
Pearson, Christine  
Rudesill, Brooklyn  
Sanson, Aubrie  
Skalicky, Danika  
Vallejo, Maya  
Wirkus, Elliot

**GRADE 10**  
Baumgartner, Jaiden  
Essig, Reagan  
Froyum, Autumn  
Iverson, Harper  
Kundel, Viktoriia  
Matejcek, Mya  
Molina, Keanna  
Reiser, Avery  
Runnells, Sabree  
Solano, Emanuel  
Starkson, Genevieve  
Thiemann, William  
Thomas, Graden  
Van Beek, Aidree  
Vermilyea, Casey

**GRADE 11**  
Akkerman, Ollie  
Ascencio, Emanuel  
Behne, Nola  
Bills, Mason  
Dobbs, Rainey  
Holtet, Andrew  
Kanzenbach, Damian  
Maldonado, Lily  
McMahan, Kerisma  
McMartin, Henry  
McNeilus, Cohen  
Nauman, Candon  
Oakland, Addison  
Orozco, Judith  
Petersohn, Pierce  
Scovill, Jade  
Stanton, George  
Wilson, September  
Wirkus, Abigail

**GRADE 12**  
Dearborn, Lily  
Fitzgerald, Jack  
Heimer, Ryann  
Herrick, Hayley  
Holmes, Jaden  
Johnson, August  
Klejeski, Macy  
Knutson, Craig  
Kozisek, Anastazia  
Lasker, Shane  
Lebak, Naomi  
Lilledahl, Corey  
Lorentzen, Khloe  
Lundi, Giavanna  
McChesney, Kileyah  
Medina Romero, Camila  
Mendoza, Guadalupe  
Mulder, Alyssa  
Munnikhuysen, Brody  
Orozco, Daniel  
Price, Madeline  
Quimby, Bryar  
Rudesill, Spencer  
Saxton, Jacob  
Swenson, McKenna  
Thomas, Brynn  
Tushaus, Tessa  
Vermilyea, Cooper  
Weber, Olivia  
Wheeler, Katerina

### TRITON HIGH SCHOOL "B" HONOR ROLL - SEMESTER 2 3.666 - 3.000

**GRADE 9**  
Bluhm, Elliot  
Dahl, Avery  
Freiderich, Allie  
Hamm, Hunter  
Klankowski, Abe  
Klemmensen, Jayden  
Kodada, Addison  
Korbisch, Nerak  
Locke, Averie  
Lopez, Elijah  
Michog, Mackenzie  
Ortiz, Leibert  
Rose, Isabella  
Schrom, Elijah  
Spencer, Teagan  
Waters, Justin  
Weber, Casey

**GRADE 10**  
Abbott, Colton  
Burt, Emitt  
Cain, Nallah  
Cummings, Riley  
Dickie, Broden

Felix-Miramontes, Angel  
Gomez-Thompson, Jesenia  
Horejsi, Neven  
Koss, Braxton  
Kruckeberg, Emma  
Landsteiner, Chace  
Lindquist, Kylie  
Lutterman, Aidan  
Madison, Lydia  
Nelson, Colton  
Nordstrom, Gabriella  
Reid, Hailey  
Rieck, Megan  
Ronken, Aden  
Rysavy, Sydney  
Sackett, Hayden  
Scanlan, Austin  
Scudamore, Abigail  
Stevenson, Claire  
Thompson, Candice  
Van Zuilen, Aiden  
Wolf, Jason  
Young, Gavin

**GRADE 11**  
Burshem, Emily  
Chable, Dora  
Deml, Wylie  
Freiderich, Norah  
Garness, Hunter  
Heroff, Mason  
Holtet, Wade  
Ibarra-Castillo, Diego  
Jackson, Varzaes  
Jensen, Garett  
Kasper, Noah  
Liudahl, Roselyn  
Luhman, Morgan  
Noaeill, Mason  
Ortiz, Alan  
Reniker, Brylee  
Richardson, Hailey  
Staub, Brady

**GRADE 12**  
Anderson, Anna  
Chicos, Courtney  
Chinn, Angeleigh  
Dominguez-Marquez, Anyely  
Dostal, Miley  
Fernandez, Salma  
Gonzalez, Giselle  
Hodgman, Gracelyn  
Knutson, Alyssa  
Kodada, Cole  
Landsteiner, Carly  
Majerus, Cooper  
Peterson, Mitchell  
Romero, Ashley  
Selthun, Isaiah  
Velasco Castaneda, Alisson



# Cobra Track and Field wraps up a remarkable season at the state meet





TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Sunset in Paradise and/or Sog The Frog

Join Sunshine and Roses to paint and create on canvas. Classes are open to all ages (adults too) and you do not need any painting experience! (Ages 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult).



Choose Class 1, 2 or both!  
\*\*\*Classes are back to back, students taking both classes will remain in the room in between.

Patriotic Sunset and or Polly The Panda

Join Sunshine and Roses Traveling Art Studio to paint and create on canvas. Classes are open to all ages (adults too) and you do not need any painting experience! (Ages 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult).



Choose Class 1, 2 or both!  
\*\* Classes are back to back and students taking both classes will stay in the room in between.

A Few Openings Left in Preschool Classes

We still have a few openings in each of our preschool classes. Some sections have very low availability. If you are interested in your child attending preschool, please visit our website, <https://www.triton.k12.mn.us/page/preschool>, as soon as possible!

Early Childhood Screening is open for fall appointments. If you have a child who will be age 3 by October 24, 2025, please consider signing up for a screening appointment: <https://www.triton.k12.mn.us/o/tps/page/childhood-screening>.

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 8-10:30 am \$145/month
- 4 & 5 years old --4 afternoons/week
- Monday through Thursday 12:30-3:00pm \$185/month
- 4 & 5 years old -- Monday-Friday 12:30-3:00pm \$225/month

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

All children must potty trained!

Triton Community Ed Office Hours: M-F 8am-3:30 pm

Check Out Our Website  
[www.triton.k12.mn.us](http://www.triton.k12.mn.us)  
and click on the  
Community Education tab

Crafting With the Green Shack!

Cross stitching  
Grades 4-8

Cross Stitching you can either follow a pattern (brought in or picked from my stash) or draw your own. I will provide everything you need for your project whether it's cross stitching on a pillow case, wall art, or kitchen towel— please specify when registering).  
\$53  
June 17-20 (3 days, no class 6/19)  
9-11 AM  
THS Art Room



Crochet an Amigurumi Monster  
Grades 4-8

Crochet class we will be working on an Amigurumi Monsters! Participants must know beginner level crochet to attend.  
\$53  
June 17-20 (3 days, no class 6/19)  
1-4 PM  
THS Art Room



Macrame class  
Grades 4-8

Macrame class will be working on various creations using rope and beads throughout the week.  
\$53  
July 8-11 AM (4 days)  
9-11 AM  
THS Art Room

Crochet a wearable top!  
Grades 4-8

Crochet class will be working on a wearable top throughout the week. Participants must know beginner level crochet to join this class.  
\$53  
July 8-11 (4 days)  
1-4 PM  
THS Art Room

Making a mosaic  
Grades 4-8

Making a mosaic we will explore various ways of making mosaic art work from paper to glass and stone.  
\$53  
August 12-15 (4 days)  
9AM-Noon  
THS Art Room

Crochet a shawl or lap-blanket  
Grades 4-8

I will answer any questions on previous classes throughout the summer and we will work on a shawl or lap blanket using new and various stitches. Must know beginner level crochet.  
\$53  
August 12-15 (4 days)  
1-4PM  
THS Art Room

Each class maximum is 12 kids in order to provide as much personal attention as needed.



TRITON COMMUNITY ED

ADULT ENRICHMENT

507-418-7550

Questions Call 418-7550

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8am-3:30 pm

Check Out Our Website

www.triton.k12.mn.us

and click on the

Community Education tab

Aqua Zumba and Aqua Strength

Natalie Webb Aquatic Center, Dodge Center

Ann Marie Brownlow

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 30.

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

Virtual Workshops with LeeAnne Krusemark

Join LeAnne via a secure Zoom Education Account or any of these exciting classes . Log in information will be sent to you prior to class by Community Ed. You will also receive digital handouts as a pdf download in the Zoom session.

LeeAnne’s Bio:

LeeAnne is an author, speaker, business owner, Chamber of Commerce Past President, and guest instructor at more than 200 colleges and other institutions from Maine to Hawaii, as well as an adjunct online professor of publishing through Ed2Go at more than 2,000 facilities worldwide, including Harvard.

Introduction to Journaling: A Beginner’s Guide

Journaling is simply recording your thoughts, feelings, and insights in a written, drawn, or typed format. It can be done on paper or on a computer, and it's a low-cost way to improve your mental health. Journaling can help you reduce stress, improve your self-awareness, as well as prioritize problems, fears, and concerns, and provide an opportunity for positive self-talk. You’ll learn how to start journaling (even when you don’t know what to write), the 10 most popular types of journaling, how to kick-start self-reflection and self-discovery, and track your progress and personal growth. Informative handouts for future use are included.

Tuesday, July 22

3-5PM

Cost: \$32

Save \$Money\$ with Extreme Couponing!

Learn how to save \$\$\$ every day with extreme couponing. Coupons are NOT just for groceries. The savings can add up to HUNDREDS or even THOUSANDS of dollars every year. This comprehensive workshop will teach you:

- \* where to find all different types of coupons, even for high ticket items
- \* how to find the best coupon apps and websites
- \* how to match coupons with sales for maximum savings

This workshop is taught by someone who has used many couponing secrets to save thousands. Informative handouts for future use are included.

Thursday, July 10

3-4PM

Cost: \$25

Writing for Online Blogs, Magazines & Websites

You don’t need a journalism degree or previously published articles to write for anyone’s online blog, magazine, or website. Some opportunities offer exposure, while many pay well -- \$1 a word and more. In this fast-paced session, you will learn how to: find ideas, sources, and more than 1,000 opportunities that pay, conduct interviews and create interesting content, protect your copyright, write query letters, and then use this credibility to sell other articles or even your self published novel. Informative handouts for future use are included in class fee.

Wednesday, July 16

4-6PM

Cost: \$35

Start your own Online Business: A Beginner’s Guide (including the top 25 online businesses to start)

Looking for ways to make money online? Turn your ideas or homemade products into income by starting an online business. You will learn how to:

- find a gap in a niche market and fill it;build your own website, and market your business effectively (including SEO) so potential customers will find you; take care of business forms and taxes; create multiple sources of income

(including Affiliate commissions). You’ll also get info about the 25 most popular online businesses to start. Informative handouts for future use are included.

Wednesday, July 23

4-6PM

Cost:\$35

50 \$Money\$ Making Side Hustles for Teens

Hey, Teen! What's the fastest way to make money as a teenager? The answer is a side hustle. Fortunately, you don’t have to wait till you're over a certain age to earn \$\$ with side hustles that can easily fit into your teen life — between all the classes, chill sessions, and extracurricular activities. And, most of these side hustles don’t require you to study more, won’t interfere with your social life, and can help you hit any financial goal — maybe even get that car! You’ll leave class loaded with information about how to fill out any legal forms to get the business started, and details about 50 profitable side hustle ideas to get you going fast. Informative handouts for future use are included in class fee. The instructors include a guest teen entrepreneur.

Tuesday, July 8

6-7PM

Cost: \$25

Make Money Pet Sitting (after school/work)

Do you love animals...especially dogs? Learn how to make extra money after school or work by watching dogs or other pets, usually in the pet’s home. You will learn about feeding, watering, and exercising pets, how to make a good impression as well as what questions to ask when interviewing for a pet sitting job, and what to do when a dog has behavioral issues. You will also discover other services you can offer to make more money, such as dog walking, grooming, puppy training, etc. Informative handouts for future use are included in class fee.

Tuesday, July 29

5-7PM

Cost: \$35



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 Lutfisk 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  
Click on the Menu Tab, and select Community Education under the Community Header,  
Choose Class + Activity On-line Registration.

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

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

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

Participant Information:

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

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

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

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

Attention SCHa or UCARE Insured Families:

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

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



## TRITON CLASS OF 2025

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### Fair Housing

DATE: June 4, 2025

Finding affordable housing can be an overwhelming project these days. Imagine finding a home that you like and can afford, and not be allowed to live there. This is a reality for some, and it is caused by discrimination. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) wants the public to know that discrimination in the sale or rental of housing, or against individuals seeking a mortgage or housing assistance, is illegal.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits this discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and sexual harassment), familial status, and disability. A variety of other federal civil rights laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, prohibit discrimination in housing and community development programs and activities, particularly those that are assisted with HUD funding, Fair Housing: Rights and Obligations | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

If you believe you have been discriminated against, in violation of any of these fair housing laws, you can file a complaint with HUD's office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO). You can file a complaint in a variety of ways, including online, by email, phone, or mail. The public is encouraged to visit the website, File a Complaint - Main Page | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for specific information. There are time limits on when a complaint can be filed with HUD after an alleged violation, so you should submit a complaint as soon as possible.

This public service announcement is presented as part of the requirements of the HUD funding received for the Dodge Center Housing Rehab Program. To speak with an FHEO intake specialist call 1-800-669-9777 or 1-800-877-8339.



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### Friday, July 11



**Rumbleseat 7:00 PM**



**Diamond Rio 9:00 PM**

### Saturday, July 12



**Noah Alexander Music 3:00 PM**



**Wade Hayes 7:00 PM**



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



**The Bellamy Brothers 9:00 PM**

## 2 DAY OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL!

*Held at the Green Lantern  
9 miles East of Brainerd on Hwy. 18*





**TRITON ISD NO. 2125 –  
SUMMARY SCHOOL  
BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR SCHOOL  
BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 19, 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 May 19, 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, Jim Jensen, Dale Jensen, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Brian Ginder, Scott Curran, Craig Schlichting, Luke Lutterman, Shane Van Beek, Tricia Johnson, and others.

The School Board approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda including the April 21, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented; budget update; claims and bills; treasurer’s report; donations; open enrollment agreements for students #051925A, #051925B, #051925C, #051925D, and #051925E; contracts for Lesley Vander Waal as THS School Counselor, Morgan Coy as TMS & THS Band Director, Mason Maes, Dylan Fate, and Madison Maes as Cobra Kids Assistants; resignation/retirement for Deb Clark as Bus Driver/Transportation Assistant effective June 12, 2025; maternity leave/FMLA request for #051925A effective October 31, 2025-June 30, 2026;

- Resolution Placing a Continuing Contract/Tenured Teacher on Unrequested Leave of Absence Upon Acquiescence of Such Placement;

- Changing the June 16 meeting date to June 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**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](http://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.

**CITY OF CLAREMONT  
CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 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, May 6, 2025, at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Jared Sultze and City Council

Members: Ethan Johnson, Krystal Sultze, and Donna Gregory. Absent: Deb Ellis.

City staff and others present: City Administrator Elizabeth Sorg, City Attorney Mark Rahrlick, City Engineer Derek Olinger, Jamie Sultze, Ed Krenke, Elle Leeper, Hannah Behnken, Carter Behnken, Alec Vaughn, Jim Zylstra, Ryan Hedberg, Robin Hedberg, and Elise Ness.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA**

Motion by K. Sultze to approve the agenda, second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Jim Zylstra stated he heard CHS was leaving town, and he is urging the council to make sure their property is checked for any residual chemicals before they leave.

Ryan Hedberg said the goal of the special election was for the mayor’s seat and since it is a city council seat the taxpayers shouldn’t have to pay for a special election.

Alec Vaughn agreed with Hedberg stating the election would have been pertinent for a mayor’s seat but not a council seat.

Jim Zylstra stated the people should have a voice and a special election should be held.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda included: Minutes of the April 1, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting and the Minutes from April 21, 2025 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization and Special City Council Meeting. Motion by K. Sultze to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

**2024 AUDIT**

**PRESENTATION**

Layne Kockelman with Abdo presented the 2024 audit. The audit shows that the city should review water rates as the operating costs exceed the receipts.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS  
PERSONNEL  
COMMITTEE**

Nothing at this time.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

Motion by Johnson to approve payment of the bills including the added bills, second by K. Sultze. Motion

carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEALTH &  
SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Nothing at this time.

**PLANNING & ZONING  
COMMITTEE**

Nothing at this time.

**EDA**

Nothing at this time.

**MAINTENANCE  
DEPARTMENT**

Nothing at this time.

**PARKS COMMITTEE**

Ethan Reed wasn’t able to be present but submitted a memo to the council on what has been planted at the Food Forest and the maintenance he has done and will be doing. There are some chives that are ready if anybody wants some. There are also some wild grapes growing out there and he asked if he could put some posts there to help support them. The council is in support of that as long as he stays on city property.

Last year the city council discussed having a dedication or open house for Harmer Park once it was ready to be played on. The council asked Sorg to plan the first or second Friday in June at 6 p.m. She will check on the best date so that the Chamber can attend.

**PEOPLESERVICE**

The contract with them expired April 30.

**CITY ENGINEER**

Bids for the 2025 street and utility improvement project will be opened June 4th. A special meeting will be held on June 9th at 6 p.m. to award the project and call for an assessment hearing. Motion by K. Sultze to approve Resolution No. 25-14: Resolution Approving Plans and Specifications and Ordering Advertisement for bids, second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
REPORT**

Maintenance Supervisor Dahl ordered a bench and picnic table for the walking trail. They have been put together and are out there now.

The last council discussed installing inclusive playground equipment in Henning Park. Sorg applied for a grant for 4 nature-themed outdoor musical instruments at Henning Park.

Memorial Park needs more base under the playground equipment. The maintenance department tried to “fluff” it up but there isn’t really anything there to work with. The

playground mulch is \$48/yard from McNeilus. Maintenance will haul it and spread it around the play area spending approximately \$200.

The scoreboard at Claremont Field will be going up soon.

When PeopleService was the city’s water/wastewater operators, they should have been checking the flow meter at the lift station to make sure it doesn’t get wet as it is in a pit. It wasn’t checked, it got wet and is now damaged. Calibrations and Controls (C&C) submitted a quote to fix it, and it is \$10,495. C&C will submit information on how it got damaged. The council will bill PeopleService for the repairs.

The transition from PeopleService to the city has gone smoothly. Administrator Sorg asked the maintenance department to make a list of the things they did in April and a list of daily and weekly chores that need to be done at the water plant, wastewater plant, and general maintenance. Both employees have been working 35-40 hours every week. Per City Policy, an employee working 32 hours or more is considered full-time. Before PeopleService, the city had 2 full time employees in the maintenance, water, and wastewater operations. There is a savings of over \$66,000 with the full-time status vs PeopleService. Since Rich Klindworth is working over 32 hours,

motion by K. Sultze to move Klindworth to a full-time status, second by Johnson. Ayes: K. Sultze, Johnson, and Mayor Sultze. Nay: Gregory. Motion carried.

A resident has applied for a food truck license and asked to park at the old school for visibility reasons. She didn’t state if she wanted to be on Front Street or East Street. The council concurred that she could go on East Street in the parking spots, as long as the owner of the old school is fine with it.

The Dodge County Ambulance received the new 2025 ambulance they ordered a while ago for \$249,000. They will be setting up another meeting in June or July. Currently, the price will be \$63 per household to support the ambulance.

Deb Ellis, Assistance Clerk, is currently off on a leave. Sorg has PTO that she likes to use in the summer, so some days City Hall might need to be closed. It will be posted well if City Hall will be closed.

**CITY ATTORNEY**

The council previously asked City Attorney Rahrlick if they could put a question on the election ballot of whether the council should hold a special election for vacant council seats. Rahrlick’s opinion is that it is not allowed as there are statutes that allow special questions on the ballot and that question is not one of them.

(continued on page 41)



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CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL

(continued from page 40)

OLD BUSINESS

The city council held a special meeting on April 21 to review City Council Code of Conducts and Sorg drafted one as council discussed. Motion by Johnson to approve the City Council Code

of Conduct. Ayes: Johnson, K. Sultze, and Mayor Sultze. Nay: Gregory. Motion carried.

Alec Vaughn spoke for the Advisory Committee on information on microphones and video cameras for meetings. Mayor Sultze donated a Meeting Owl to the city which will do audio and vi-

sual recordings. Vaughn did check into putting the media on YouTube, but then YouTube could sensor it and the city would lose rights to it. He briefly checked into other cloud solutions or trying something to subscribe by paying a subscription. The Mayor suggested trying Go To Meeting or something

similar. The Owl will be set up and more information will be pulled together.

Sorg met with the SOS Office and the Dodge County Election Official regarding the special election. She prepared a calendar of important dates that City Hall would need to do for the special election. Council Member Sultze said she has not heard from anybody that wants excess resources to go towards a special election for such a short time for that council seat. There would be wages going towards a ballot board and judges. City Hall has not received any comments in support of a special election. Sorg stated some weeks she will be working overtime to get the special election duties

done in addition to her normal work.

Council Member Gregory stated she has talked to many people that want the right to vote, and they want change. Council Member Johnson personally felt that the council has gone this far so they might as well continue. A visitor asked if the people felt so strongly about having the special election, why aren't they at the meeting in support of it? Another visitor asked if the council could take a poll on whether they want to have it or not. The SOS Office stated they must know by May 7 (tomorrow) if the city will proceed with the election or not. Johnson stated he has only heard of 1 person for it and a lot of people against it.

Motion by K. Sultze to not hold the special election, second by Mayor Sultze. Ayes: K. Sultze and Mayor Sultze. Nay: Johnson and Gregory. Motion failed. Motion by Gregory to approve Resolution No. 25-16: Resolution Declaring a Special Election and Setting Forth Deadlines for Said Special Election, second by Johnson. Ayes: Gregory and Johnson. Nay: Mayor Sultze and K. Sultze. Motion failed.

Rahrick prepared a resolution approving and appointing Ethan Johnson to the council that states "Ethan Johnson is hereby appointed to fill the vacant council seat until such time as the seat is filled by a special election." The words "a special" will be removed. Motion by K. Sultze to approve Resolution No. 25-15: Appointing Person to Fill Vacant Council Seat with the words "a special" removed, second by Mayor Sultze. Ayes: K. Sultze and Mayor Sultze. Nay: Gregory. Abstain: Johnson. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Triton Summer Recreation requested financial support and use of the ballfield on Monday evenings June 16 through July 21 for t-ball. Motion by K. Sultze to donate \$500 and approve use of the field, second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Rahrick was requested by the council to research information on a complaint that a resident submitted regarding a fence with symbols on it and some fence posts that may be taller than allowed.

FINAL WORD

A resident spoke regarding the council and residents needing to support each other, work together, and support principles (like the Declaration of Independence).

Motion by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m., second by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously. ATTEST: Elizabeth Sorg, City Administrator Jared Sultze, Mayor

SUMMARY PUBLICATION ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WEST CONCORD CITY CODE PERTAINING TO MANAGED NATURAL LANDSCAPES

On May 22, 2025, the West Concord City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2025-02, the title of which is stated above. The ordinance amends Chapter 8 of the West Concord City Code. The ordinance aligns the City Code with state law related to managed natural landscapes and prohibits certain tall grasses and weeds. The ordinance also makes certain minor and clerical amendments. A full copy of the ordinance is available for public inspection at the West Concord Public Library during business hours.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Administrator/City Clerk is directed to keep and post a copy of the Ordinance at the West Concord Public Library for public inspection and to post a full copy of the new code provisions on the City's website.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West Concord, Minnesota, this 22nd day of May, 2025.

SUMMARY PUBLICATION ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WEST CONCORD CITY CODE PERTAINING TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND NUISANCES RELATED TO OPEN AREAS, UNLAWFUL PARKING AND STORAGE, AND INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLES

On June 2, 2025, the West Concord City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2025-03, the title of which is stated above. The ordinance amends Chapter 6 of the West Concord City Code. The ordinance establishes certain nuisances related to related to open areas, unlawful parking and storage, and inoperable motor vehicles. The ordinance also makes certain minor and clerical amendments. A full copy of the ordinance is available for public inspection at the West Concord City Hall during business hours.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Administrator/City Clerk is directed to keep and post a copy of the Ordinance at the West Concord City Hall for public inspection and to post a full copy of the new code provisions on the City's website.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West Concord, Minnesota, this 2nd day of June, 2025.

Notice of Hearing on Proposed Assessment

Claremont, Minnesota

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that the council will meet at 6:00p.m. on July 15, 2025 at City Hall, 140 West Front Street to consider, and possibly adopt, the proposed assessment for the 2025 Street & Utility Improvements including the following:

- 3rd Street (Wheat St to East St)
- Oak Street (2nd St to Front St)
- Paukert Ave (Church St to 4th Pl) – new gravel road construction

by pavement reconstruction (unless noted otherwise above) and sanitary sewer repairs, and other minor pavement and sanitary sewer repairs in localized areas throughout the City.

Adoption by the council of the proposed assessment may occur at the hearing. The following is the area proposed to be assessed includes properties abutting 3rd Street and Oak Street.

Such assessment is proposed to be payable in equal annual installments extending over a period of 15 years, the first of the installments to be payable on or before the first Monday in January 2026, and will bear interest at the rate of 6.0 percent per annum from the 1st Day in January 2026. To each subsequent installment, after the initial installment, when due shall be added interest for one year on all unpaid installments.

You may at any time prior to certification of the assessment to the county auditor, pay the entire assessment on such property, with interest accrued to the date of payment, to the City of Claremont. No interest shall be charged if the entire assessment is paid within 30 days from the adoption of this assessment or by November 15, 2025, whichever date is later. You may at any time thereafter, pay to the County Auditor the entire amount of the assessment remaining unpaid, with interest accrued to December 31 of the year in which such payment is made. Such payment must be made before November 15 or interest will be charged through December 31 of the succeeding year. If you decide not to prepay the assessment before the date given above the rate of interest that will apply is 6.0 percent per year. The right to partially prepay the assessment is available.

The proposed assessment roll is on file for public inspection at the city administrator's office. The total amount of the proposed assessment is approximately \$137,000. Written or oral objections will be considered at the meeting. No appeal to district court may be taken as to the amount of an assessment unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner is filed with the municipal administrator prior to the assessment hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing. The council may upon such notice consider any objection to the amount of a proposed individual assessment at an adjourned meeting upon such further notice to the affected property owners as it deems advisable.

Under Minn. Stat. §§ 435.193 to 435.195 and the Claremont Assessment Policy the council may, in its discretion, defer the payment of this special assessment for any homestead property owned by a person 65 years of age or older, or one retired by virtue of a permanent and total disability. When deferment of the special assessment has been granted and is terminated for any reason provided in that law, all amounts accumulated plus applicable interest become due. Any assessed property owner meeting the requirements of this law and the Claremont Assessment Policy, may, within 30 days of the confirmation of the assessment, apply to the city administrator for the prescribed form for such deferral of payment of this special assessment on his/her property.

An owner may appeal an assessment to district court pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal upon the mayor or administrator of the city within 30 days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the district court within ten days after service upon the mayor or administrator.

Elizabeth Sorg  
City Administrator

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1. 100 lbs.
2. Elders' teachings
3. Kind of history
4. Widower's feelings
5. Forest spirit
6. Worked over with scythe
7. UN labor org.
8. Sun-dried brick
9. Exclamation, with Louise
10. Palm tree berry
11. \_\_\_\_ Mall, London
12. Ensign, for short
15. a.k.a. Lighthouse of Alexandria
20. \*Provide with shin guards, socks and uniform, e.g.
22. Drake's genre
24. Playing roulette
25. \*FIFA Women's World Cup current champion
26. Rome's Colosseum, e.g.
27. Singular of cornua
29. Kill (2 words)
31. "By \_\_\_\_ of" or "by means of"
32. "The \_\_\_\_," Dostoyevsky's novel
33. U in UV
34. \*Lionel \_\_\_\_
36. Coloring substances
38. Teenager's breakout
42. Relating to blood
45. Dwell
49. African National Congress
51. Central American wildcat
54. Get \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ of someone
56. Highway patrolman's gun
57. "Germinal" author mile \_\_\_\_
58. Desire
59. \* \_\_\_\_ Madrid
60. \*C in AFC Richmond
61. Puff of marijuana
62. Spin, past tense
63. The Herm s Kelly, e.g.
65. Itty-bitty
67. Invoice qty.

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





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