



Serving the Triton Area

# The Messenger

Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord

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SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Volume 11 • Issue 18

## West Concord native to Appear on the Voice

Cori Kennedy will be appearing on the 28th season of "The Voice" which airs starting in September. Cori graduated High School in 2015 and attended Minnesota State University – Mankato. Kennedy has always had a dream of music but also had an impressive run as a softball player at Mankato State. (continued on page 9)



Cori Kennedy

## A Super Super for Triton

By Cheri Roshon

As many of you know by now, Luke Lutterman has taken the position of Triton's Superintendent. Most people know Luke from one of his previous positions at Triton, which

began in the 10th grade! Luke grew up here, in Wasioja, and attended Triton School for his entire K through 12 education. As a 10th grader, his title was Community Education Recreational Assistant, and he went along on

field trips, etc. He graduated in 2000. In his summers between college years he was one of the custodians at the school.

After high school, he attended St. Cloud State University for Health and Physical Education, and received his Master's degree in curriculum and instruction. From 2005 until 2010 he taught Physical Education and Health in St. Cloud at Stride Academy and was also the activities Director. From 2010 to 2013 he was given the opportunity to be the Principal and Athletic Director at Rushford-Peterson. He was also the Activities Director at Sauk Rapids-Rice from 2013-2016. (continued on page 24)



Luke Lutterman

## Triton Welcomes New Principal



Tanisha Fox

Tanisha Fox is the new High School principal at Triton this year. She was born and raised in Richmond, Minnesota, near St. Cloud, and graduated from ROCORI High School. Tanisha is the youngest of three children, her older brother now lives

in Wells, MN, where he serves as the Superintendent at USC, and her sister is a Doctor of Nurse Practicing in Wahpeton, ND. While in her first year of college, her dad remarried, and she gained three step-sisters. They've grown into one big, blended family.

For college, Tanisha attended North Dakota State University in Fargo, where she majored in English Education. (continued on page 24)

## Announcements

• **GriefShare support group meets Monday evenings, 6:30-8:30 pm at Anchor of Hope Church, 203 East Main St, Dodge Center, for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one, friend, or other significant person.** Contact Dale E. Rood at 507-633-2772. Registration is available at the GriefShare website or by calling Pastor Rood.

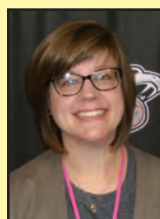
• **Ginny's (Farmers Market / Crafts / Flea).** Dates: May 28th - September 24th every Wednesday: weather pending. Time: 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Set up Starts at 2:00 p.m. Location: 213 Ellington Street West Concord, MN 55985 (Empty Lot Behind Ginny's's Drive-In).

• **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.**

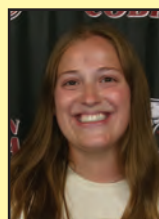
Do you have an announcement?  
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

## Triton Welcomes three new teachers this year

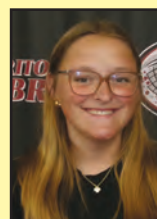
Lesley VanderWall is the new High School counselor. Lesley is from North Mankato and earned her bachelor's degree at Augustana College – Sioux Falls and her masters at Walden University. She lived in Colorado, Illinois and Michigan before moving back to Minnesota in 2021. She is married with 3 kids and a dog currently resides in Hayfield. Her hobbies are reading, crafting and taking walks with their dog. (continued on page 24)



Lesley VanderWall



Amelia Spilde



Morgan Coy

## Faith in Action

By Cheri Roshon

Have you ever thought about how you can make someone's life a little easier? Or wondered if there is a place you can volunteer in your community to help others? Or maybe you know of someone who could use a bit of help with their living situation?



(continued on page 4)

Chris Olson is ELVIS  
www.espsking.com

# THE KING

with

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LOUNGE AND SUPPER CLUB

4th Annual

# OKTOBERFEST

September 20

3PM - 7:30PM

DRINKS • FOOD • MUSIC • GAMES

UNDER THE TENT AT THE WEST CONCORD MUNI

The West Concord American Legion will be serving Brats, Kraut, German Potato Salad and non-alcohol drink for \$12 (serving 4-7pm)

THIS FREE EVENT OFFERS FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

# The Dan Stursa Band

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS of Owatonna



## Fall Clothing for All

By Pastor David Breederland  
Faith Community Church

School is now underway and so we should get a break from all the “back-to-school” ads which have been running since July. Many of those ads promoted the latest fashions and footwear for fall. However, school is a long look back in the rearview mirror for some of us, therefore there’s no need to try and acquire the latest looks.

Fashions come and go. Seasons change and so must our attire. When winter comes, it is time for wool socks, sweaters, down parkas and Carhartts to appear. During winter in Minnesota, warmth is never out of fashion.

Now, what does this have to do with followers of Jesus? One of the images in the New Testament for the Christian is clothing and being clothed. A quick search in the Bible reveals that we’re clothed with Christ by faith (Galatians 3:26-27), we’ve got conscious clothing choices to make daily (Romans 13:14), and we’ve got some heavenly clothing coming (2 Corinthians 5:2-4; 1 Corinthians 15:53-54).

The Bible also teaches us that as Christians, we’ve got some required clothing. Some might even call it a “dress code” befitting our status as God’s children. The biblical text is Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

The “well-dressed” Christian and the “well-

dressed” church will be found wearing compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness, and love. (The verb clothe in Colossians 3:12 is in the imperative mood - it is a command. Also, the verb’s voice is middle - meaning each of us must dress ourselves with these characteristics.) As we begin to establish new routines for the fall, as ministries restart in our churches, let us each strive to wear proudly the clothes of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness, and love. It won’t always be easy to dress in this way. There will be times we’d prefer to be dressed in our vests of vengeance, our robes of wrath, our aprons of anger, coveralls of complaining or whatever

else our old nature tells us is “right” for the occasion. But those old clothes must be taken off just as barn clothes must be removed before entering the house, so we don’t stink it up.

These character qualities of Colossians 3:12-14 are to be worn daily by us through the power of the Holy Spirit, and we’ll never

outgrow them! Perhaps others would ask us where we got those clothes (e.g., “How could you forgive so and so?”), and we could tell them of Jesus and his love. This fall, choose to dress in God’s best daily. God’s clothing for us is always fashionable and in season. The world needs Christians dressed in God’s everyday best. What will you wear today?

## Sidewalk Pastor



Do we understand the meaning of God's Grace, and what it means to us. I know we often talk about this in church. When i studied this here is something I found out.

Grace is a blessing we dont deserve. We grow in God's Grace through prayer. God says he resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. (James 4:6)

Over the years God has blessed me many times. I am sure many of you remember my story I wrote about, years ago. I will write about it again in the near future.

I want to share with you something that has just happened to me. For two months I struggled with double vision, this had stopped me from driving. When my first story was put in the messenger I talked about how we need to be so grateful for Jesus, right after that, my double vision disappeared. Another gift from God. I am so grateful. We need to live our lives through Jesus Christ. I hope you all think about this. If you know me, get back to me. We will talk about this.

Your friend,  
Larry Blood

**West Concord  
Rosary Rally  
to pray for America**  
**Saturday, October 11**  
**Noon-1:00 PM**  
**Centennial Park**  
**Corner of Hwy. 56 & Main St.**  
Come, join us!  
No need to sign up, just show up.  
**Questions?**  
**Contact Karen Johnson-Kruger**  
**319-239-4639**

### DODGE CENTER

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

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

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
404 Central Avenue N, Dodge Center  
Rev. Elliott Malm • 507-633-2253  
<https://gracedc.church>

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

**Praise Fellowship Church**  
602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center  
Roger Langworthy • 507-374-6400  
Kidz 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.,  
Fellowship Time Following

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

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

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

**Anchor of Hope Church,  
a 7th Day Baptist Congregation**  
203 E. Main St., Dodge Center • 507-374-6755  
Saturday 10a.m. Worship; 11:45a.m. Sabbath School

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

**First Congregational Church**  
12 Second Street NW  
Dodge Center, MN 55927 • 507-633-6873  
[www.congregationalchurchdc.com](http://www.congregationalchurchdc.com)  
Mark Martig, Pastor

### Area Church Directory What to Say?

*“When they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit. . . .”*  
— Matthew 10:19

Are you ever at a loss for words? I am, at times, in difficult or sensitive situations, where the cost might be high. In our reading for today, we see Peter and John living out a promise that Jesus had given them—that the Holy Spirit would provide them with words in difficult situations.

Jesus had commissioned his disciples to continue his ministry (Matthew 28:18-20), and now they were doing as he had taught them. They were healing people and proclaiming his forgiveness of sins and his resurrection from the dead.

But Peter and John were arrested and brought before the religious authorities in Jerusalem, and those leaders wanted to know how the disciples had the authority to heal a lame man. The critical moment had come, and Peter, “filled with the Holy Spirit,” proclaimed boldly that they had healed the man in the name of Jesus Christ, who had risen from the dead, and that salvation is found only in him.

Unlike Christians in parts of the world that are hostile to the church today, most of us have not been called to account for our belief in Jesus. We can be grateful, though, for the faithful witness of Jesus’ followers. And we can trust that the Spirit will give us what we need when we too may be called on to share the truth about our Lord and Savior.

*Jesus, help us to trust you and the Spirit to help us speak with love and boldness when are called to do so in your name. Amen.*

### CLAREMONT

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

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

### WEST CONCORD

**Faith Community Church**  
305 State Street N, West Concord • 507-527-2244  
Pastor David Breederland  
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](mailto:trinitychurchwc.net)  
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:  
[Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn](https://www.facebook.com/Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn)  
Sundays 9:45a.m. Worship in building and live streamed on Facebook.  
Sunday School 10:30a.m.  
Tuesday Men’s Bible Study, 7:00a.m.  
at church and via Zoom  
Call church for more information on ministries and events.

**Church of Christ**  
55087 200th Ave., West Concord • 507-527-2723  
Pastor Peter Moen  
9:00a.m. Sunday School; 10:00a.m. Worship  
[concordchurchmn.com](http://concordchurchmn.com)

**Zwingli United Church of Christ**  
“The Berne Church”  
23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340  
Pastor Tom Isaacson  
Sunday 10:00a.m. Worship; Find us on Facebook

Email your church announcements,  
schedule, etc. to the The Messenger at:  
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**For advertising information  
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Morgan George Chladek

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Morgan George Chladek, from Claremont, Minnesota. Morgan was a beloved father, brother, grandfather, and friend, who left us on August 30th, 2025. He was 59 years old.

Morgan was born on April 25th, 1966, in Owatonna, Minnesota to Terrance George Chladek and Carolyn Jean Chladek (Ohrmann) and lived a life full of laughter, adventure, and love. Known for his bright spirit and infectious sense of humor, Morgan could always be counted on to bring joy and positivity to any room he entered. He was a man who loved the simple pleasures of life, whether it was riding his motorcycle, casting a line on a fishing adventure, or most importantly, spending quality time with his family and friends. His love for his children and grandchildren was unwavering, and he took great pride in them all. Morgan

spent 20 years in construction before spending the last decade pursuing his passion of helping others through their road to recovery from addiction, as he himself, navigated. He credited his relationship with God through Jesus Christ as the guiding force that led him away from substance abuse and into nearly a decade of sobriety. This transformation was not just personal—Morgan dedicated himself to helping others struggling with substance addiction, offering mentorship, friendship, and hope to those seeking to change their lives.

Morgan was preceded in death by his father, Terrance George Chladek and mother, Carolyn Jean Chladek. Morgan is survived by his six children: Brooke Ranvek of Knoxville, TN, Tani Chladek of Madison, WI, Colton (Emily) Chladek of Zumbrota, MN, Tori Chladek of Kasson, MN, Taran Busby of Kasson, MN, and Nolan Chladek of St. Charles, MN; 14 grandchildren: Alexis, Alyssa, Ashton, Kalia, Tayen, Elijah, Kerrigan, Kendrick, Harlem, Thaiya, Kambryn, Raya, Remi, and Paris; one great grandchild, Zaylen; sisters, Caryn Iacovino (John) of Owatonna, MN and Lynnette Petersen of Owatonna, MN; and many close friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the American Heart Association or Valley View Recovery Center in Cannon Falls, MN, something Morgan deeply cared about and supported.

Morgan will be deeply missed but never forgotten. His laughter, generosity, and love will remain in our hearts forever.

A funeral service was held at 2:00 pm on Monday, September 8, 2025, at Michaelson

funeral Home in Owatonna. A visitation was held from 1:00 pm until the time of service.

Jack Alan Medved

Jack Alan Medved, born on January 17, 1963, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin walked the “Stairway To Heaven” on September 5, 2025, in Rochester, MN after a 1 ½ year battle with Pancreatic Cancer. He was the beloved son of Judith Fries and Gerald

Medved and the loving husband of Donna Medved.

Jack was a shining light in the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him. His journey on this earth was one marked by a “Whole Lotta Love,” compassion and faith in God. His passing has left a void in the hearts of his family and friends. We ask that you remember him not for the way his life ended, but for the way it was lived, and for the impact it had on the lives of those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

During his “Seasons In The Sun,” Jack attended and graduated from West Concord High School, which he often said were some of the best times of his life and where he met some of his closest lifetime friends. After school, Jack embarked on a successful career in the mortgage loan business. Jack’s passions involved music (he was Shazam before

the Shazam app was ever heard of). He was a true “Magic Man” when it came to music knowledge. He also loved baseball and the Minnesota Twins; and took great pride in his role as “Pastor Jack,” marrying several family members and friends during his lifetime. He was most passionate about his family (his daughters were the apple of his eye), and his close friends, including Scott Glarner and Matt McKittrick – who were both by his side until the end.

Jack is survived by his mom and dad, Judith Fries and Jerry (Jody) Medved, his wife, Donna Medved, his daughters Madison Medved and Morgan (Dustin) Brinkman, his stepchildren Jenny (Casey) Hamborg, Jennie (Kyle) Kiefer and Ryan McNeilus. He was the outnumbered brother in a sea of sisters – Joy (Chad) Wolney, Robin (Todd) Fries Marquardt, and Joanna Jellison. Jack was the cherished grandfather of Amaya, Rylee and Esme. He also leaves behind aunts, uncles and cousins who shared in his joyful spirit. He was predeceased by his grandparents, Stella, Charles, Audrey and Joseph; stepfather, Bob; uncle, Rocco; and brother-in-law, Garrett.

A Celebration of Life to honor the life of Jack was held on Sunday, September 14, 2025. The family received friends from Noon – 3pm at LC Venue at 316 Broadway Avenue South in Rochester, MN. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-jacks-journey-through-cancer>

The funds raised will go towards the costs of the celebration of life and to support Jack’s family.

### Got a Great Local News Story?

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## 32nd Annual Turkey Dinner

RAFFLE TICKETS \$5.00 EACH

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**Sunday, September 21, 2025**

**11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

**St. John Baptist de la Salle Catholic Church**

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## West Concord Fire Department Annual Pancake Breakfast


**Sunday, October 12th from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**at the West Concord Fire Department**

Serving: Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs & Sausage

Cost: \$10.00 suggested donation for adults; \$6.00 for kids ages 6-12 (children 5 & under free)

A fundraiser for the West Concord Fire Department Relief Association



## You're Invited!!!

Join us for our **ANNUAL FUNDRAISER COMMUNITY DINNER**

**United Methodist Church** 20 1st Street NE, Dodge Center

**September 17, 2025**

**5:00-6:00pm** (serving until gone)

**Pork Loin; Mashed Potatoes & Gravy; Green Beans & Dinner Roll; Choice of Dessert: Bars**

**\*\*\*DINE IN & takeout available (no pre-sales)\*\*\***

Suggested \$15.00 donation (Open to anyone in the community)

Scan me!





## — 49th Annual — DODGE CENTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

**All You Can Eat Pancakes, Biscuits & Gravy**

**Sunday, October 5th • 8am to 12:30pm**

\$8.00 adults • \$6.00 kids  
Dodge Center Fire Hall

**SILENT AUCTION TO RAISE FUNDS FOR "OLD 31"**





## Faith in Action

(continued from page 1)

Well, I just found out about a volunteer service in Dodge County that has been around since 2002 that does just that! It is called Faith in Action, and it is an interfaith service to help others stay at home as long as possible. Faith in Action provides a multitude of services tailored to our seniors in each community in Dodge County. It is a program under the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and helps older adults with tasks that aren't as easy as they used to be.

Their mission is to provide a variety of volunteer services to enrich their clients' lives in a safe atmosphere. Local Faith in Action programs bring interfaith volunteers in to care for neighbors who may be isolated, and living with chronic health issues or disabilities. With volunteer assistance, community members with long or short term health needs can maintain their independence for as long as possible.

Faith in Action Dodge County was selected as a grant recipient from Community Services/ Community Service Development, and the grant helped to enhance the services they provide in Claremont, Dodge Center, Hayfield, Kasson, Mantorville and West Concord. Currently there are no automatic funding programs in place, so all monetary needs are

funded through individual donations and fundraisers. One of the popular fundraisers is the annual Soup and Pie Fundraiser. This year it will be held at the Kasson Methodist Church at 801 5th Avenue NW, across from Prairie Meadows. Come join them from 4:30 to 7 pm on Monday October 13th. Not only is this a chance to help the program financially, but you will be able to meet some of the volunteers and ask questions that you may have about their services, or for information on volunteering, which can also be found on their website below.

There are several local organizations that sponsor Faith In Action. Some of these benefactors are the Lions Club, Kasson/Mantorville Care and Share, Berne Pizza, KMTelecom, the United Way, and several

area churches.

Anyone can volunteer to provide care for our elderly neighbors. No matter what skills you may have, you can put them to work! Are you a good listener? Do you have a car to transport people to appointments or shopping? Are you good at beauty services? Maybe you like to play cards, or do puzzles? You are invited to join our team of volunteers and see the difference you can make in the lives of others. When you sign up to volunteer, you choose how many hours you would like to donate, and what kinds of activities you would be most comfortable sharing with our clients. Some of the categories are Transportation, Respite Care for caregivers, Visiting with homebound clients, Housekeeping, Running Errands, Yard work or Handyman

services. There are so many ways you can help those who are in need. One volunteer said, "This is the easiest program to volunteer for. If someone calls and asks if I can volunteer on a day or at a time that doesn't work for me, I just say I am not available at that time, and please call me next time." Most of the requests are for transportation, but you won't ever need to load or unload wheelchairs.

**To learn more about this much needed program, you can call (507) 634-3654, check out their website at [www.fiadodge-county.org](http://www.fiadodge-county.org), their email at [fiadodge@kmtel.com](mailto:fiadodge@kmtel.com), or write a letter to FIA Box 246 Kasson MN 55944.**

**Just think how your own life will be enhanced by being of service to others.**

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507-322-4241

### OWATONNA

685 Bridge St. Suite 1B  
507-451-3879

### WASECA

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507-521-2758

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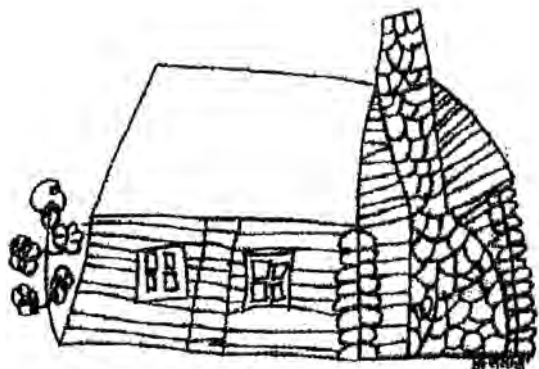
211 Main Street • PO Box 585  
West Concord, MN 55985  
Office: 507-527-2898 Cell: 507-838-2970  
Fax: 507-527-2445

# Harvest Thyme Craft Show

**Saturdays: September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25**

**Sundays: September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26**

**Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.**



Place:

Lori & Darwin Amy

2290 County 49 Blvd. Dennison, MN 55018

Phone: 507-649-1009

Email: [cabincrew@frontiernet.net](mailto:cabincrew@frontiernet.net)



Look Us Up on Facebook Under Potpourri Mill

## The Annual Lutefisk and Norwegian Meatball Supper Vang Lutheran Church

2060 County 49 Blvd  
Dennison MN 55018

**Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 2025**



### Menu:

Lutefisk with melted butter, Norwegian Meatballs with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Cole Slaw, Fruit Soup, Lefse and Norwegian baking's

**Join us for our annual supper, buffet style**

**New for 2025; Continuous seating no reservations needed: 11:00am, thru 1:00pm seating times and 4:00pm thru 6:00pm seating times.**

**Home or business delivery by reservation**

**11:00-2:00pm/4:00pm-6:00pm**

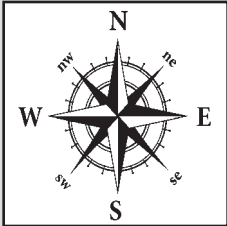
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes I Was Born a Cowboy



By Terry Campbell

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

I have always loved horses. My dad bought my older brother a Welsh pony when I was in Third grade. It was my first hand me down horse. We only rode it bareback. It was a good trainer horse. I learned how to fall off and survive. I found that to be very important in life.

In Fifth grade I bought a cob horse from my best friend for \$100 and a new saddle from Wayne Abbey's tack shop in Pine Island for \$40. Best starter horse ever. In seventh grade I bought a quarter horse gelding for \$400 and

put thousands of miles on him. The Dodge County Saddle Club would have trail rides each month starting at the Bringgold farm. I would ride him up there and join everyone for a couple hour ride through Buehler's Woods, and then after a late night hot dog roast I would ride him three miles back home in the dark.

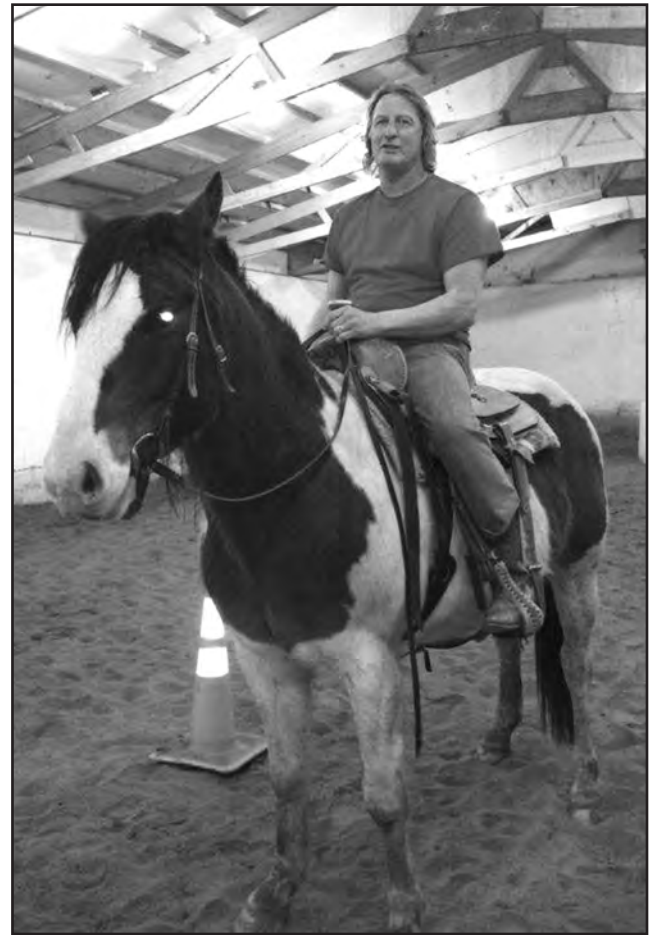
Every horse has a warm place in my memory. A 3 year-old un broke Appaloosa I bought from my best friend was my project in the mid 80's. I broke him to ride in a couple weeks and he never gave me a bit of trouble. He was a cow horse and when it was time to cut cattle he knew exactly what to do. If there were beef to herd you learned to have a firm grip on the saddle horn when your foot hit the stirrup or he was going to accelerate right out from under you.

I got the idea I wanted a draft horse to ride and bought a 5 month-old Clydesdale about 2005. That was the first time I had to halter break a colt that outweighed me by a couple times. He walked right over me for the first month before he learned to respect the lead rope. I ended up riding him bareback most the time because I couldn't get my foot high enough to reach the stirrup.

In 2007 I traded a cob horse for a 5 year-old un broke Paint gelding. His name was Mayson and he was beautiful. Not being under a saddle for 5 years presented a challenge. We went through a month during training where he did his best to shed both saddle and rider. I won and he became a terrific horse.

But my best horse story happened when I was 18 years old. I found a quarter horse for sale outside of Zumbrota. My dad and I went to check it out. It was a college girl selling her horse after winning a blue ribbon at the Goodhue Fair. My brain shut off when I saw her. The girl, not the horse. Instead of listening closely that this was halter class only, I said I wanted to ride it. They had no saddle and only an old bridle with twine string reins. My teenage boy brain still didn't get it. It was a pretty girl and I was clearly not thinking about the horse. Ignoring common sense, I pulled the reins up, grabbed the mane and vaulted onto its back. We headed down the drive and up the ditch. Once out of sight of the girl I began to understand the situation I was in. This horse did not respond at all to the bit or the reins. After a short way down the road, the horse decided to head back to the farm at a full gallop. After thundering down the driveway and skidding to a stop in front of the surprised family, I dismounted and said they were asking more than I was interested in paying.

We got back in my truck and headed home. Once we turned onto the road my dad began to laugh uncontrollably. He said family was



shocked that I would even consider mounting the horse as no one had ever ridden it before. They were certain the horse was going to return without the rider. He wasn't sure himself that I was coming back. Unfortunately, I knew a lot more about horses than girls.

## TRITON SENIOR Spotlight



### MORGAN LUHMAN

Morgan Luhman is a senior at Triton this year.

Her parents are Sarah & Jordan Bowers.

She has two sisters, Leandra and Caitlyn and two brothers Trent and Jacoby.

Morgan is active in FFA, cheer and trap.

Outside of school she likes to work.

Her pastimes are working on her truck and hanging out with her family.

She enjoys country music and especially Jessie Murph.

After graduation she plans to attend a trade school.



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## A Minnesotan: Canning Season



By RosaLin Alcoser

Now that Fall is rolling around and the county fairs have come to an end. Or if you live anywhere near a lake the cabin people have started to go home. That means one thing in rural Minnesota. It's nearly harvest time.

I grew up in rural Minnesota, but I was not a farm kid. So outside of my family's massive garden, I never participated in harvest. I did, however, grow up between farms so there was a time or two in my teen years that I was called upon to watch younger children during harvest. Outside of that late Summer and early Fall usually

meant something very different at my house. It meant it was canning season.

As previously mentioned my family had a massive garden and my father was very good at procuring large quantities of apples. Looking back at it all, the amount of apples he was able to get a hold of was extremely impressive. Which did mean we spent a good portion of the Fall canning nearly all of the vegetables from the garden but also making everything apple that could be canned. We're talking applesauce, apple butter, apple pie filling, and apple jam. Now if you've never made any of these things I can tell you that it is a long and time consuming process. Which can also be quite explosive.

Once when my older sister was a teenager she was keeping an eye on a round of apple butter that was in the middle of the canning process. It was in the pressure cooker when it exploded, getting apple butter all over the kitchen. All the way up to the ceiling; which was quite impressive, considering it was a 9 foot ceiling.

Needless to say that the apple butter explosion of 2005 is probably part of the reason she doesn't can or make apple butter. Not that I do either of those things, but my apartment also doesn't have the counter space. Nor do either of us have our father's gift for being able reasonably to get that many apples at once.



## That's the Latest On the Radio...Again



**By Emery Kleven**

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

I drove out to Nebraska to visit family recently. My oldest grandchild, Noah, is now a 5th grader. He'd been in school a little over 3 weeks when I asked him if he'd gotten into trouble yet. I asked that because I remember my 5th grade with Mrs. Nina Noser. Between me and my classmates Joel Sackett and Grant Ness, I think we set a school record for getting into trouble in 5th grade. So my grandson Noah answers that after just 3 weeks he got in trouble once where the teacher had to yell at him or scold him or correct him or whatever they do these days. I had to high-five Noah and told him he could be on his way to a record. Come to find out, I got in trouble for doing the high-five. His mom didn't like me to encourage him. I thought 5th graders needed some kind of encouragement but evidently not that kind.

Noah wasn't in big trouble. He said he accidentally hit a kid. I told him that sounded like a fair excuse but how do you 'accidentally' hit someone? He said he was running and couldn't stop in time and ran into his classmate kind of hard. I high-fived him again and that went over like a lead balloon in front of mom. Well he's a good student and I think my fifth grade record will stand for another year.

I did some roadfarming as I went out to Omaha. That's where you guess what the

fields of corn and soybeans are going to yield based on how it looks through the windshield. I saw pretty good crops across the Midwest. In fact, the Department of Agriculture agrees with me. Looking at the latest USDA crop production report, they see good crops too. And they actually get out of the pickup and walk in the fields to do their guessing.

Corn production across the U.S. is expected to be up 13% from last year, forecast at 16.8 billion bushels; soybean production could be down 2% from last year because of less acres. Average soybean yields per acre could be a record for about 10 states including Minnesota.

Minnesota's corn expected to have an average yield of 199 bushels per acre (bpa) for total production in the state projected at 1.67 billion bushels. Minnesota corn last year average 174bpa. The national average for this year is estimated at 186.7bpa. 10 states could see record corn yields too. The rain makes grain adage holds true this year. Minnesota's soybeans are expected to yield 53 bushels per acre, last year it was 45bpa. Nat'l soybean yield projected at 53.5bpa.

During West Concord's Survival Days, I had the chance to be on the radio again. Corey Harguth, reporter and meteorologist for the Linder Farm Network in Owatonna was broadcasting under the tent at the Muni on Saturday morning of Survival Days. Two of the radio stations in the same building near the Steele County Fairgrounds are the frequencies that I first worked at back in 1974 when 1170 KOWO and 92.1FM KQDE were located across the street from the Waseca County courthouse. 1170 is now KFOV and does sports radio. KQDE is now KRUE. Corey was doing broadcasts from West Concord on KRUE and also KOWZ 100.9.

On the air, we talked about the history of Survival Days and how it came about. This year, highway 56 was closed briefly right before Survival Days just to give a flavor of how Survival Days came about 40 years ago. I also gave Corey a brief history of the town and we talked about the WC Historical Society and how the old school became the Museum. It was fun to be on the air again but I did not get the itch to do it long term again. I did not like getting up at 3:30am to be on the air at 5am. I'll leave that to the younger crowd.



Linder Farm Network's on-air personality and meteorologist Corey Harguth was broadcasting from Survival Days 2025. Emery Kleven, long time radio broadcaster, joined him on the air to talk about the history of Survival Days and the history of the town.

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## Museum Musings

# A Long Journey Home

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne



**Beth and Brad meet Sue Armintrout, the donor of the Clifford Bed, and her brother, Gerry Day in Dallas, Oregon**

I have a story to tell you today—a story that makes me smile. It's about the goodness of people and West Concord's history besides.

At the Museum this summer we received an “out of the blue” phone call from a gentleman named Gerry Day who lives in the state of Oregon. His sister, Sue Armintrout, had inherited from their mother, Irma Day, a beloved antique walnut bed with a West Concord connection. When Irma bought the bed in Salem, Oregon in 1970, the following letter came with it:

### The Clifford Bed

*Made in 1842, by A. French Clifford in Bangor, Maine. Carved from black walnut with the footboard of oak, bowed to fit the frame, and with the design of pre-Victorian fleur-de-lis and medallions. (Early Victorian influences were felt, however, in the carvings). This is the original finish as handed to my grandfather, Dr. Frank F. Clifford, who used it in his guest room in West Concord, Minnesota. Upon inheriting the bed, my mother used it in the main bedroom before she raised a family and was able to buy other furniture. She kept it for about 60 years, waxing and polishing it, but retaining the original finish.*

(Signed by Beth Dow, Dr. Clifford's granddaughter)

Gerry and Sue very much wanted the bed to go to a good home where it would be cherished in its original condition, not cut up or painted. Through research they discovered our Historical Society and offered to donate the bed to us if we could find a way to transport it from Oregon to Minnesota.

The Museum indeed wanted the beautiful bed with its Dr. Clifford connection and set out exploring ways to get it to West Concord. Every avenue explored was far too expensive so one of our Board Directors suggested we put a plea on Facebook for someone who might be taking a road trip to the Pacific Northwest and would be willing to bring the bed back with them. It was a long shot, but two very supportive and kind community members answered the call to service. Beth Hodgman and Brad Johnson absolutely warmed our hearts, when—although they weren't planning a road trip to Oregon—decided to take one, just to help us out. Where can you find people like that? With loving care Beth communicated with Sue in Dallas, OR and coordinated plans for the bed pick up. Brad and Beth traveled 4065 miles over Labor Day week and on Monday, September 8th, the Clifford Bed arrived at the museum. It is set up in the Heritage Room and looks so much like it was always meant to be there. We're happy to say that Beth and Brad did get to see some sights and have some adventures, too. We will always be grateful to them.

So you may be asking, “What's all this hubbub anyway about something that belonged to Dr. Clifford?” I can't overstate what Dr. Clifford meant to West Concord from 1892 to 1938. He arrived in West Concord only 7 years after the founding of the town. In his 46 years of medical practice he was a most important member of the West Concord community. He took on many roles—from Mayor to Fire Chief to School Board member to Postmaster—he served in a multitude of capacities. He also took on leading roles in the West Concord Dramatic Club's plays. He even played tuba in the Modern Woodmen of America band in town. Dr. Clifford donated the land where the Methodist Church (now the Bell Tower Center) was built. His lovely home stands today directly south of the church on Irvin Street.

At that very home in September of 1933, the West Concord Enterprise reported that “One of the most beautiful home weddings that ever has taken place in West Concord, occurred Tuesday afternoon at the home of Dr. F. F. Clifford, when his daughter, May, was united in holy matrimony to Mr. Bert K. Johnson.” We have come full circle. Sue and Gerry's mother, Irma, in Oregon purchased the bed from May's daughter, Beth, and now the bed has come home.

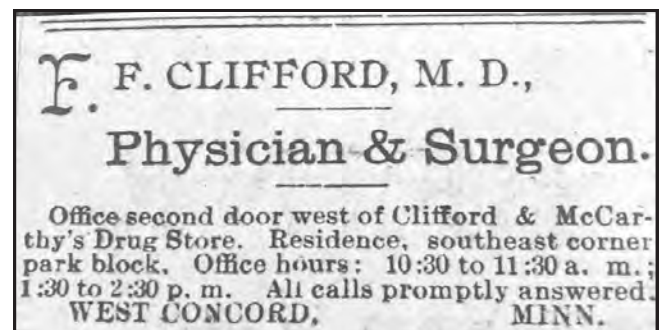
*Next month's article will be about Dr. Clifford's life in West Concord—there is so much to tell. In the meantime, please come visit the Museum to see the bed at home in the Heritage Room. Somehow it feels like the Clifford Bed is glad to be back.*



**Beth and Brad's rig ready for picking up the bed in Dallas, Oregon**



**The Clifford Bed now at home in the Heritage Room at the West Concord Historical Society**



**Dr. Clifford's weekly advertisement in the 1900 West Concord Enterprise**





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## The King with Cash & Diamond Show Returns to Dennison at the New Sapphire Event Room

The popular Vegas Style Tribute Show featuring the music of Johnny Cash, Elvis, and

### West Concord native to Appear on the Voice

(continued from page 1)

She headed out to Los Angeles this week to participate in the national stage of the NBC television show.

Cori loves telling stories with her original country songs and has released a couple compositions playing on U Tube and Spotify. "Hey, Who Shot the Water Tower" and "Lawless" have been racking up views since being released this spring.

Season 28 of The Voice will air every Monday and Tuesday on local NBC station KTTC in Rochester. You can follow her on Facebook at Cori Kennedy Music.



Neil Diamond returns to Dennison Saturday, September 27th. This years show will move next door inside the new Sapphire Event Room and Cocktail Lounge. Tickets are available by calling Fireside Lounge during nor-



mal business hours at 507-645-9992.

For fans young and old, if you have ever been to the popular Breezy Point Resort up north in Minnesota, you may have caught The Memories of Elvis Show ([www.espking.com](http://www.espking.com)).with Chris Olson on the dockside bar at Breezy Point or the popular up north spot, Zorbaz. Chris Olson performs this entertaining tribute of The King, and will be bringing his talents and show back to DENNISON, MINNESOTA on Saturday, September 27th. Show time will be at 7:30p.m, this year next door to the Fireside at the all new Sapphire Event Room and Cocktail Lounge, the areas newest event space located on main street in Dennison.

Doug Allen Nash will again join the show this year with is tribute to Neil Diamond and

also his "Johnny Cash Tribute - American Icon". ([www.dougallen-nash.com](http://www.dougallen-nash.com)).



**Advance tickets are just \$35.00. Call Fireside at 507-645-9992 during normal business hours, or e-mail them at [firesideloungedennison@gmail.com](mailto:firesideloungedennison@gmail.com) to order tickets.**

**You can also make dinner reservations at The Fireside Lounge & Supper Club that evening ahead of the show. Space is limited, so guests will want to make their reservations early, as Fireside Lounge celebrates 23 years of Amy Family Hospitality, Saturday, September 27th.**

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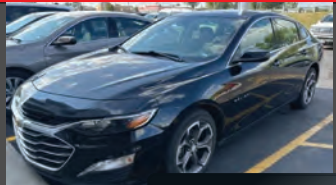
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## How Property Tax Levies Work in Minnesota — and What They Pay for in West Concord

Property taxes in Minnesota are raised through a system of local levies. Each levy is set by a local taxing authority—in our case, the City of West Concord—certified to the state, and then apportioned to property owners

based on assessed value and statewide tax formulas.

Locally raised property-tax dollars fund essential community services. In West Concord, your city tax levy supports:

- Police, fire, and emergency response
- Street maintenance, including snow plowing, lighting, and traffic control
- Water and sewer bond payments for infrastructure improvements
- Parks, recreation programs, the city library, planning, and code enforcement
- Economic development initiatives
- City administration and capital projects, such as streets and municipal buildings

### Enterprise Funds

Not everything is covered by property taxes. West Concord operates several enterprise funds, which must be self-supporting:

- Water and Sewer Funds: These are funded through utility rates. Property taxes are not used for daily operations, but they can be applied to bond payments for large infrastructure projects.
- Municipal Liquor Store (“The Muni”): This is also run as an enterprise fund. Unlike a private business, profits don’t go to an owner—they return to the city and help support the general fund.

### How We Budget in West Concord

The City begins its budgeting process each July. Department heads review their expenses

line by line, outlining both needs and “wish list” items for the coming year. These requests are brought to public budget planning meetings, where the Mayor and City Council meet with department heads for discussion and long-range financial planning.

- September Council Meeting (this year: September 18): A preliminary budget and levy are presented to the council and residents. Once approved, this becomes the maximum levy the city can set. The certified levy is then sent to Dodge County.

- October–November: Refinements continue as the council reviews and adjusts spending priorities.

- December: The council adopts the final budget and levy. By law, the levy certified in September can only be reduced—not increased—when the final budget is approved.

Property taxes in West Concord directly fund the core services and infrastructure that keep our city running—from emergency response to street repair to recreation. Meanwhile, enterprise funds like water, sewer, and the liquor store operate more like businesses, ensuring that costs are covered fairly and any profits are reinvested into the community.

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Do you have a few questions on the system? Take a look at some of the common questions we get asked. Please note, you will need your account number to guest pay and set-up an account. Call City Hall or look on your postcard bill for your account number.

### UTILITYCONNECT PAYMENT PORTAL FAQ’S

**What is this new payment portal - Citizen Portal?**

Citizen Portal is an online payment portal that we have partnered with Paya, a Nuvei company, for our utility bill payments. You access your account from this website: <https://westconcordmn.payacp.com/home>

**Do I have to create a new account in Citizen Portal to make a payment?**

No, you can use the Guest Pay option to make a payment without logging in: <https://westconcordmn.payacp.com/guest>

**How can I see my full billing and payment history?**

To see all your billing and payment history, you will need to Register, and then Login to your account.

You can Register here: <https://westconcordmn.payacp.com/portal/signup>

[cordmn.payacp.com/portal/signup](https://westconcordmn.payacp.com/portal/signup)

You can Login here: <https://westconcordmn.payacp.com/portal/login>

**If I was previously enrolled in Auto-Pay with UBMax do I need to re-enroll in the new portal?**

Yes, the Auto-Pay does not carry over, so you will need to enroll in Auto Pay once you create a new account in Citizen Portal (see above).

**Are there fees associated with making a payment through the Portal?**

Yes, there are processing fees that will be assessed. Those fees are 3.95% of payment amount for credit/debit card transactions and a flat fee of \$1.99 per transaction for bank account (ACH) transactions. These fees also apply to any auto-payments that are made.

**What payment methods can I use?**

You can pay your utility bills with a credit/debit card, or through a checking or savings account. We also offer an Auto-Pay or a Text & Pay option that allows you to use your preferred method of payment.

**What information is available in the Portal?**

Account balance, bills and payments history, are available as well as the ability to enroll in Auto-Pay or Text & Pay. Portal users can also see their current billing address on file, as well as update their phone number and email address on file.

**Is my information safe?**

Absolutely. All the transactions are handled on secure servers and are fully PCI compliant (Standards set for ensuring secure transactions). What is PCI Compliance?

## Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library Saturday, October 4 from 9-10am

### James by Percival Everett

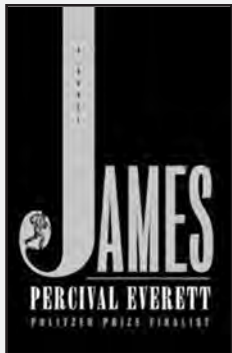
Pulitzer Prize winning fiction novel for 2025. A brilliant reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn—both harrowing and satirical—told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

When Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs away until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck has faked his own death to escape his violent father. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

Brimming with nuanced humor and lacerating observations that have made Everett a literary icon, this brilliant and tender novel radically illuminates Jim's agency, intelligence, and compassion as never before. James is destined to be a major publishing event and a cornerstone of twenty-first-century American literature.

Genre: Historical Fiction

First Published: March 2024, 303 pages (Hardcover)



## Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library Wednesday, October 15 from 4-5pm

### The Couple Next Door by Shari Lapena

Your neighbor told you that she didn't want your six-month-old daughter at the dinner party. Nothing personal, she just couldn't stand her crying.

Your husband said it would be fine. After all, you only live next door. You'll have the baby monitor and you'll take it in turns to go back every half hour.

Your daughter was sleeping when you checked on her last. But now, as you race up the stairs in your deathly quiet house, your worst fears are realized. She's gone.

You've never had to call the police before. But now they're in your home, and who knows what they'll find there.

What would you be capable of, when pushed past your limit?

Genre: Mystery Thriller

First Published: July 2016, 308 pages (Hardcover)



*Save the Date!*

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Saturday, October 18, 2025

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Live Music by **Steve & Steve Co**

Food Truck **TacoLab**

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## Cardinal Club Literacy Grant "Jump Start to Reading"

The Cardinal Club of West Concord is proud to announce receiving a literacy grant from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF). The grant includes 350 English Books and 50 Spanish Books!

The Cardinal Club is in partnership with our public library to promote literacy.

**When:** Drop into the West Concord Library anytime to sign up for two (2) thirty-minute reading slots where you will read to your children. Once your two times are completed your child will be able to pick out two (2) books to take home and keep for free! This is available to all Dodge County Residents.

The goal of this grant is to help parents to engage with their children 0-8 (all ages welcome), to spark families into the habit of reading together at home and by visiting the West Concord Public Library.

Watch for us also at Cardinal Club Events throughout the year!

Made possible with a grant from SMIF



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

The Cardinal Club cordially invites you  
to a get to a know us event on  
**Saturday, October 11th, 3:00 pm at the  
Bell Tower Center (401 Main Street).**



This event will highlight what we do for this community, allow for socialization, and tell how you can participate with and/or become a member of this great organization! No membership fees!  
***This is a public event, so we hope to see you there!***

## West Concord Upcoming Calendar of Events

Thursday, September 18	City Council Meeting at the Bell Tower Center	7:00 pm
Saturday, September 20	4th Annual OktoberFest at the Muni	3:00 – 7:30 pm
Tuesday, September 23	West Concord Community Foundation Planning Meeting at the Bell Tower	7:00 pm
Thursday, September 25	Folky Duck Painting Workshop (register at the Library)	5:00 pm
Monday, October 6	EDA Meeting at City Hall	6:15 pm
Sunday, October 12	Fire Relief Assoc Pancake Breakfast	7:00 am
Thursday, October 16	City Council Meeting at the Bell Tower Center	7:00 pm
	TRITON Referendum Presentation (immediately following the Council Meeting)	8:00 pm
Saturday, October 18	Twig Fest 2025 at the Muni featuring Taco Lab and Live music by Steve & Steve Co	6:00 pm
Tuesday, October 21	MN Author Tour: Marcie Rendon	6:00 pm
Tuesday, November 11	City Hall & Library Closed for Veterans Day	
Thursday, November 20	City Council Meeting at the Bell Tower Center	7:00 pm
Thursday, November 27	City Hall, Library, & Municipal Closed for Thanksgiving	
Friday, November 28	City Hall & Library Closed for Thanksgiving	
Monday, December 1	EDA Meeting at City Hall	6:15 pm
Saturday, December 6	Christmas in West Concord	

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## USDA Declares Minnesota Dairy Herds Unaffected by H5N1 Virus

*Change comes after four consecutive months of no detections*

After four straight months of testing raw milk samples from Minnesota cow dairy farms for the avian influenza A (H5N1) virus without any detections, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has changed Minnesota's status from Affected to Unaffected in their National Milk Testing Strategy (NMTS).

That means that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will reduce how frequently it tests milk samples from once a month to approximately once every two

months. Federal restrictions on animal movement between states remain in effect.

In February 2025 the MDA, in cooperation with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH), joined the NMTS to begin conducting H5N1 virus surveillance and prevent its spread to unaffected dairy herds and poultry flocks.

"We and the Board are extremely grateful for the dairy industry's cooperation in achieving this important milestone and for supporting the health and vitality of Minnesota's livestock and poultry industries," MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen said.

After one case of H5N1 was detected in a dairy herd in March, there have been no other Minnesota detections. The USDA approved Minnesota's status change on August 22.

The MDA may further reduce testing frequency if results continue to show no detections through the fall, but continued monitoring is required until all 50 states have reached Unaffected Status.

Dairy farmers don't have to do anything to help with sampling or testing, as they are done in cooperation with industry laboratories who routinely test for other purposes.

While H5N1 is still an emerging disease in dairy cattle, most affected herds in the U.S.



have fully recovered. This is good news for the dairy industry, but H5N1 remains deadly in poultry and capable of causing human illness. It is important to prevent the spread of the virus whenever it is detected in livestock animals.

If tests detect H5N1 in a dairy herd, the MDA or BAH assigns a case manager to guide the farm through the response, which includes a quarantine period and follow-up testing.

## Minnesota Agriculture Takes the Stage at Farm Aid 40

*MDA sponsorship highlights farmers, local food, and community well-being*

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is proud to be a sponsor of the 40th Annual Farm Aid Music Festival, coming to Minnesota on Saturday, September 20, 2025. As Farm Aid marks four decades of supporting family farmers, MDA staff will be on hand offering fun and interactive ways for festivalgoers to connect with Minnesota agriculture and discover resources that support farm families year-round.

"Minnesota is honored to welcome Farm Aid on its milestone 40th anniversary," said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. "Family farmers are the backbone of our state's economy and culture, and Farm Aid shines a spotlight on the essential role they play in feeding our communities. We're proud to showcase Minnesota agriculture on this national stage."

The MDA will host a tent at Farm Aid 40 featuring representatives from the Emerging Farmers Office and Minnesota Grown, helping visitors discover everyday ways to support local farmers year-round. In addition, the MDA will host a Fan Mail for Farmers activity in Farm Aid's HOMEGROWN Village. There, festivalgoers can learn about some of the daily challenges farmers face and write a postcard of thanks or encouragement to a Minnesota farm family.

Farm Aid's work aligns closely with MDA's mission to enhance all Minnesotans' quality of life by equitably ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength and resilience of our agricultural economy.

If you or somebody you know is struggling with mental health, help is available. Call the Minnesota Farm and Rural Helpline at 833-

600-2670 or visit [minnesotafarmstress.com](http://minnesotafarmstress.com) for resources and support 24/7.

### About Farm Aid

Farm Aid's mission is to build a vibrant, family farm-centered system of agriculture in America. Farm Aid artists and board members Willie Nelson, Neil Young, John Mellencamp, Dave Matthews and Margo Price host an annual festival to raise funds to support Farm Aid's work with family farmers and to inspire people to choose family farm food. Since 1985, Farm Aid, with the support of the artists who contribute their performances each year, has raised more than \$85 million to support programs that help farmers thrive, expand the reach of the Good Food Movement, take action to change the dominant system of industrial agriculture and promote food from family farms. See the full Farm Aid 40 lineup at [FarmAid.org](http://FarmAid.org).

## Know Where, When to Apply Fall Nitrogen Fertilizer

*Reminder: restrictions went into effect September 1*

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) reminds farmers and commercial applicators that fall nitrogen fertilizer applications are restricted in some areas of the state. Under the MDA's Groundwater Protection Rule, fall nitrogen fertilizer application is prohibited in vulnerable areas of Minnesota based on environmental concerns or risks. Areas with coarse-textured soils, shallow soils to bedrock, or karst geology are the most vulnerable to nitrate-nitrogen loss and groundwater contamination.

The restrictions begin September 1 each year. Farmers are encouraged to check the online map before fall application to determine if their fields are subject to these restrictions. View a map of the vulnerable regions of the state ([mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/fertilizers/nutrient-mgmt/nitrogenplan/mitigation/wrpr/wrprpart1/vulnerableareamap](http://mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/fertilizers/nutrient-mgmt/nitrogenplan/mitigation/wrpr/wrprpart1/vulnerableareamap)). For more information on the restrictions outlined in the Groundwater Protection Rule, visit [mda.state.mn.us/nfr](http://mda.state.mn.us/nfr).

In other areas of the state where fall nitrogen fertilizer application is allowed, the MDA advises farmers and commercial applicators to check soil temperatures and wait until the average soil temperature reaches 50

degrees F or cooler before applying fertilizer. Research shows that delaying fall application of anhydrous ammonia and urea fertilizer, as well as manure, reduces nitrogen loss, protects water quality, and ensures more nitrogen will be available for next season's crop.

To assist tracking soil temperature, the MDA provides access to real-time, 4- and 6-inch soil temperatures at 70 locations across the state. View the interactive map to find the current 6-inch soil temperature and the past week's history ([gis.mda.state.mn.us/mda-soiltemp/](http://gis.mda.state.mn.us/mda-soiltemp/)).

Although the soil temperature network was established to support application of nitrogen fertilizer, it is equally useful for those applying manure in the fall. University of Minnesota Extension recommends the same temperature delay (after soil temperature is below 50 degrees F) to prevent leaching losses.

For more information on the Six-inch Soil Temperature Network visit [mda.state.mn.us/soiltemp](http://mda.state.mn.us/soiltemp).

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## MomCo

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Faith Community Church, West Concord

**KICK-OFF**

Friday, September 19th  
 9:30-11:00 AM

\*Meeting every 1st & 3rd Friday throughout the school year

CONTACT: Cindy Brederland 507-272-2600  
 or Louise Severud 623-695-3813.



## Free Water Testing for Southeast Minnesota Private Well Users

*Water treatment funding assistance available*

Private well users in Southeast Minnesota can receive free water testing kits and analysis through the TAP-IN Safe Drinking Water Program. If test results show contaminants in the water, homeowners and renters can apply for funding assistance to remediate the issue. Priority will be given to those facing financial hardship or households with pregnant women or infants under 12 months.

The TAP-IN program is a collaborative effort between Southeast Minnesota's Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), county environmental services, and county public health departments. It is funded by the State of Minnesota.

"To keep our communities healthy, the TAP-IN program helps ensure residents have equi-

table access to safe drinking water," said Olmsted SWCD Water Resources Supervisor Caitlin Meyer. "Through this partnership, we are protecting our water sources which helps improve quality of life for those in Southeast Minnesota."

The karst landscape in Southeast Minnesota has many sinkholes, springs, caves, and other features that make it easy for contaminants to get into the groundwater. Well users should test their private well regularly to ensure its safety.

### Free private well test kits available

Private well users can request a free test kit through the Minnesota Department of Health. To be eligible, a household must meet both of the following criteria:

- Rely on a private well as their drinking water source.
- Be located in Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Wabasha, or Winona counties.

Due to high demand, there may be a 2-10 week wait for delivery.

### What to do if nitrate is present in well water

If test results show high nitrate levels (greater than 10 milligrams per liter), residents can apply for a reverse osmosis water treatment system at no cost through the TAP-IN program.

"If you are drinking water from a private well, it's a great idea to have your water tested annually," said Goodhue County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Beau Kennedy. "If your well is contaminated with Nitrates, there are assistance programs

available for you. The TAP-In program is helping residents of SE MN have access to safe drinking water."

### How to apply for a water treatment system if your nitrate concentration is greater than 10 milligrams per liter.

**To apply for a reverse osmosis system through the TAP-IN program, participants must:**

- Use a private well for drinking water in Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona counties.

• Provide a certified lab test from an accredited laboratory, dated on or after January 1, 2019, showing a nitrate concentration greater than 10 milligrams per liter.

• Submit an application and lab test report. Well owners with contaminants above a health risk limit (other than nitrates) may also qualify for financial assistance for remediation.

*If you have questions or need help applying, contact*  
*health.privatewells@state.mn.us or*  
*(651) 201-5594.*

## MDA Seeks Partners to Deliver Dairy Profitability Program

*Up to \$500K to help Minnesota dairy farms increase profitability*

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the Dairy Profitability Enhancement Grant. This funding is available to regional or statewide organizations to administer and deliver the Dairy Profitability and Enhancement Program (DPEP).

DPEP is intended to provide information and technical assistance to dairy farms of all sizes to enhance their financial success and long-term sustainability.

### Eligible projects must:

Offer technical assistance to dairy farms of all sizes delivered individually, as a team, or through other proven methods

Serve dairy farms located in Minnesota

Begin only after the grant contract has been signed by all parties and the start date has been reached

Eligible expenses must directly support the Dairy Profitability Grant program and may include, but are not limited to:

Staff time and travel (out-of-state travel requires prior approval)

Promotion of the program

Staff training and professional development

Equipment and supplies

There is \$500,000 available per year in fiscal year 2026 and 2027. Applicants may apply for a minimum of \$25,000 and a maximum of \$500,000 for each year. All information about the program is available on the program's webpage. Applications will be accepted until September 24, 2025, at 4 p.m. CT.



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## Apples



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS  
Licensed Nutritionist

You probably have heard the rhyme, “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.” But what does an apple really do for you? Does any apple work, or only certain kinds? Let’s dig a little deeper.

**Medications** - A 2015 study published in JAMA Internal Medicine by Davis et al observed that those who consumed one apple a day required less prescription drugs. Those who eat one apple a day probably make other healthy choices as well that contribute to this positive association between apples and reduced drugs.

**Heart Disease** - A 2017 study published in Molecular Nutrition Food Research by Bon-donno et al compared apples high in flavonoids, which are found in the apple skin, with apples low in flavonoids and observed

improved blood flow through the brachial arteries when the high flavonoid apples were eaten. In other words, these apples improved the blood flow through the body. The apples with high flavonoid content will typically be darker red apples that are not too sweet.

**Cholesterol** - The healthy control of cholesterol has also been improved with an apple a day. A 2017 study in the Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture by GC Tenore compared modern apples with the Annurca apple and observed that two small Annurca apples a day significantly lowered the bad cholesterol and increased the good cholesterol. The Annurca apple is known for its higher flavonoid content. Older, heritage apples typically have high flavonoid and polyphenol content.

**Blood Sugar** – Those individuals who had a daily intake of apple polyphenols, which are from the skin of the apple, had an improved ability to manage blood sugar compared to individuals who did not consume the polyphenols. This observation was reported in a 2017 study published in Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice by Shoji et al. One possible reason for this improved sugar control is the polyphenols seem to reduce the sugar absorption ability of the intestines by closing the primary “door” that sugar uses to pass through the intestines, according to Schulze et al in their 2014 published study in Molecular Nutrition and Food Research.

**Colon Health** – The ability of the polyphenols of apples to “close the door” on sugar transport to cells is one of the pathways to



stop the growth of cancer cells in the colon, as observed in a 2016 study by Lin et al in the Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry. A cancer cell has many more “doors” to bring in sugar to accelerate growth, so polyphenols help to close these doors and inhibit the growth of cancer cells. The peeling of the apple contains the highest content of effective polyphenols with antioxidant activity, anti-bacterial activity, and anti-cancer activity, which was documented in a 2016 study by Lin et al in the Journal of Food Science.

**The older apple varieties that have high polyphenol content include** – Braeburn, Jonathan, McIntosh, Gravenstein, and Annurca. Avoid the newer varieties that have been bred for increased sugar content and size.

An apple a day is the eighth guideline in the Foundation to Thrive program, a whole food

lifestyle program providing personal coaching to help you succeed in your goal to live a healthier life. This program provides a personalized meal plan based on your unique blood chemistry. Those who have followed their personal plan have observed blood sugar levels become controlled, cholesterol levels improve, inflammation decreased, acid reflux disappear, and the body shifts to a healthy weight.

Every health challenge you face in the year ahead has a nutritional answer to it. Your health challenge can be successfully addressed with a quality nutrition plan. Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. I can help you realize greater health freedom in 2025. **You can contact me at [nutritionproportion@gmail.com](mailto:nutritionproportion@gmail.com), or check out my website at [www.nutritionproportion.net](http://www.nutritionproportion.net)**

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

## Choosing the Right Food for Your Senior Dog

There are practical aspects of feeding your dog to consider, too. Senior dogs may have dental problems that make chewing difficult or uncomfortable. Very old dogs also often lose their appetite. Warming the food can increase its aroma and may help stimulate the appetite, while cooling it may make it less nausea-inducing in dogs with sensitive stomachs or frequent nausea.

Dry dog food is a common choice for dogs throughout their lives. But dry dog food for senior dogs isn’t always the right choice. Depending on the dog, it can be difficult for senior dogs to chew and swallow. Especially if they have dental issues, chewing kibble can be hard for older dogs. Even getting smaller-sized kibble can help them more easily enjoy dry food. Adding water to their food to soften it can also help make it easier for senior dogs.

Dry dog food has benefits that can extend to senior dogs. The solid corners help reduce plaque on your dog’s teeth and rub off tartar. It’s also easy to use as a treat to give your dog, since you can give them small pieces instead of treats if they’re food-driven.

If your dog has special dietary restrictions or has developed them as they’ve gotten older, there are options. Senior dog foods also come in specialty diets like grain-free, organic, weight management, gluten-free, or veterinary diet foods.

Senior dogs may be uncomfortable bending down to the food bowl or standing for long periods to eat. Try serving their meals on a raised platform or encourage them to eat lying down. In some senior dogs, their “hunger mechanism” and food drive may not be working correctly. If you’re having trouble getting your senior dog to eat, talk to your vet about options to help them eat so they get the nutrients that they need.

Senior dogs often have conditions like dog obesity, sensitive stomachs, canine arthritis, osteoarthritis, heart disease, and kidney disease. Some dog foods that are made for senior dogs have ingredients included that can help reduce inflammation, help maintain weight, and boost immune systems. Some senior dog foods also specifically work to help dog cognition, digestive health, joint health, mobility, and keeping their skin and coat healthy.

Healthy seniors need more protein, not less, in order to fuel muscle. Loss of muscle mass is a major problem in older dogs. Some seniors lose so much muscle they can no longer walk unassisted. According to Veterinarian Ernie Ward, older dogs need about 50% more protein to maintain muscle mass compared to younger ones. But, diets formulated for adult maintenance diets often don’t have enough protein to satisfy these needs. Dr. Ward, founder of the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention, recommends 28 to 32% protein on a dry-matter basis for healthy older dogs, especially in those cases where weight loss is needed.

Younger seniors tend to be overweight. But, very old dogs tend to be underweight.. So the same senior food may be a great choice if your dog needs to lose weight, but it may be a bad choice if they need to gain weight.

Good care for senior dogs starts in youth. Don’t forget that the time to consider calories is well before old age sets in. Restricting calories throughout life can improve longevity and reduce illness.

Some senior foods include supplements such as glucosamine and chondroitin in an effort to combat osteoarthritis. Unfortunately, the evidence that these supplements actually work is limited. However, they won’t hurt—except maybe your wallet.

Your dog will be considered an “adult dog” for the majority of their life, which means they’ll be eating the same or similar food for the majority of their lives. Switching dog food gradually as their needs change is an important part of transitioning to senior dog food.

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## Is Your Skin Aging Prematurely? Heart burn pills are Bad!



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

**Use your senses:** Expiration dates are more about quality than safety. Labels like "sell by" and "best before" indicate peak freshness, not when food becomes unsafe, leading Americans to toss out billions of pounds of perfectly good food. There's no universal rule—states set their own policies, and companies use different methods, which is why similar products can have varying labels. The only federally regulated dates are for infant formula. Health experts warn that raw meat, seafood, unpasteurized dairy, and baby food

pose the biggest risks, but for most other items, trust your senses—appearance, smell, and taste are better indicators. Until labeling becomes consistent, a little common sense can go a long way in reducing waste and staying safe.

**Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), commonly used to treat heartburn,** have been linked to significant health risks, including a 16% higher chance of heart attacks and double the risk of dying from cardiovascular events, even in individuals without prior heart disease. While these drugs are marketed as a quick fix for acid reflux, they suppress stomach acid production entirely, which is problematic since most reflux is actually caused by too little stomach acid, not too much. This suppression exacerbates the underlying issue, leading to fermentation, bloating, and pressure that pushes acid into the esophagus. The risks extend beyond the gut, as PPIs interfere with nitric oxide production, a molecule essential for healthy blood vessels, increasing the likelihood of heart-related complications. Examples of PPIs include esomeprazole (Nexium), lansoprazole (Prevacid), omeprazole (Prilosec), pantoprazole (Protonix), and rabeprazole (AcipHex)

The dangers of PPIs don't stop at cardiovascular risks. Long-term use has been associated with kidney damage, weakened bones, and impaired nutrient absorption. Chronic kidney disease, acute kidney injury, and even end-stage renal disease have been linked to these medications. Additionally, the suppression of stomach acid hinders calcium absorption, leading to fragile bones and a higher risk of fractures, particularly in older adults



## Chiropractic Health Tip of the Week

*"Keep your spine happy by maintaining good posture throughout the day—whether you're sitting, standing, or sleeping. Regular stretching and movement can help reduce tension and improve spinal alignment, especially if you spend long hours at a desk. And don't forget to stay hydrated—your spinal discs need water to stay healthy and cushion your movements!"*

or those with pre-existing bone conditions. Stomach acid also plays a critical role in defending against harmful pathogens, and its reduction makes PPI users more susceptible to severe infections like C. diff, pneumonia, and E. coli.

For those relying on PPIs, it's crucial to understand that these risks can accumulate even with standard doses or over-the-counter use. The FDA advises limiting PPI use to no more than three 14-day treatment periods per year, a guideline often overlooked. A safer alternative is famotidine (Pepcid), an H2 blocker that reduces stomach acid through a different mechanism and doesn't carry the same cardiovascular risks. Famotidine also helps block excess serotonin, which can disrupt energy levels and drive inflammation, making it a more holistic option for managing reflux.

If you're currently using PPIs, transitioning off them requires a gradual tapering process to avoid rebound acid production. Full recovery of stomach acid production and digestive function can take months or even years, necessitating targeted nutritional support to rebuild gut health. With over 60 million Americans experiencing heartburn monthly, it's vital to address the root cause of reflux rather than masking symptoms with medications that may do more harm than good. For all natural symptom relief, we have successfully used Zypan in our offices. Zypan is a whole food supplement that reduces and prevents acid reflux (from Standard Process).

**Is your skin aging prematurely?** Your skin is a dynamic, multi-layered organ that serves as a protective barrier and reflects your overall health and lifestyle choices. Its structure, comprising the epidermis, dermis, and hypodermis, is designed to shield against external threats, regulate internal stability, and support immune and metabolic functions. The epidermis forms a water-tight barrier,

while the dermis provides strength and flexibility through collagen and elastin. The hypodermis, rich in fat and blood vessels, cushions the body and regulates temperature. This intricate system communicates with the body through nerves, hormones, and bioactive compounds, but its ability to repair and protect diminishes with age, making consistent dietary support essential for maintaining its resilience.

Skin aging is influenced by two overlapping processes: chronological aging and photoaging. Chronological aging is an internal, genetically driven process that slows cell turnover, reduces collagen and elastin production, and alters hydration levels, leading to fine lines, sagging, and thinning skin. Photoaging, on the other hand, results from external stressors like UV exposure, pollution, and smoking, which create oxidative stress and inflammation that degrade skin structure. While sunlight is often blamed for skin aging, the real issue lies in the skin's nutritional preparedness. A well-supported diet can enhance the skin's ability to recover from UV exposure and other environmental stressors, reducing visible signs of aging.

Diet plays a pivotal role in skin health, influencing its hydration, repair, and structural integrity. Nutrients like vitamin C, omega-3s, carotenoids, and fermented foods strengthen collagen networks, improve hydration, and bolster antioxidant defenses. Conversely, diets high in trans fats, sugars, refined carbs, and additives accelerate aging by promoting glycation, disrupting the microbiome, and weakening the skin's repair capacity. Poor dietary choices, particularly those high in linoleic acid, make the skin more vulnerable to UV damage, amplifying the effects of photoaging. This underscores the importance of a nutrient-rich diet in supporting the skin's natural defenses and maintaining its youthful appearance.

External factors such as pollution, harsh weather, smoking, and irritants like strong soaps further strain the skin's barrier, generating free radicals and triggering inflammation that impair its renewal capacity. While the skin is designed to interact with sunlight and even benefits from it in terms of vitamin D synthesis and energy regulation, its ability to handle exposure depends on its internal nutritional state. A well-nourished skin barrier is better equipped to withstand daily wear and environmental stressors, highlighting the critical connection between diet and skin health. By prioritizing a balanced, nutrient-dense diet, you can support your skin's ongoing regeneration and resilience against aging.

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

## TRITON SENIOR Spotlight



### BRYNJA COCHRAN

Brynja Cochran is a senior at Triton this year.

Her parents are Shawn and Shawn Cochran.

She has one brother Leighton.

Brynja is active in Link Crew, student council, leadership, FCA, Spring Musical and super fan club.

She plays Triton volleyball.

Outside of school she works as a CNA/PCA.

Her pastimes are hanging out with friends and going up north.

Her favorite music is by Morgan Wallen.

After graduation she plans to attend UMR for a four year degree and eventually become a dermatologist.



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## Keeping Agritourism Safe this Fall

*Biosecurity and public health guidance for on-farm events*

By University of Minnesota Extension

Fall is here and farms prepare to welcome the public for seasonal celebrations such as fairs, harvest festivals, and apple picking, health and safety remain a top priority. University of Minnesota Extension has updated biosecurity and public health guidelines to ensure that on-farm programs, whether educational or for entertainment, continue to thrive while protecting people, animals, and farms.

These protocols are more than good practice; they're essential. By reducing the risk of disease spread between humans and animals, they safeguard animal health, uphold public confidence in agricultural spaces, and reflect the host's commitment to science-based risk management.

Whether you're planning an interactive petting zoo or a morning of animals sprinkled

into a yoga practice, here's what to keep in mind:

### Separate public and animal production or living areas

- Maintain a distance of at least 30 feet and ideally 50 feet or more between visitors and animal housing.

- Clearly mark and enforce a line of separation between where animals live and where guests are allowed to roam. This might include an additional fence gate, cones, or an entryway with signage that reads, "You're entering an animal zone."

- Designate meal and activity areas in clean, dry spaces well away from livestock zones. Mud, manure, and feed residue should be kept out of public sight.

### Design tours for safety and education

- Market your event as an educational experience, rather than a standard farm tour.

- Use alternatives like "windshield tours," virtual GoPro walk-throughs, or barn tours via wagon, where participants remain on board, to minimize exposure to production zones.

- If feasible, bring animals to a separate display area rather than leading guests into barns or pastures.

- In cases where foot traffic must overlap with farm operations, provide boot covers or sanitize footwear before and after entry.

### Engage minds while promoting safety

- Use the event as an opportunity to raise awareness about biosecurity; explain why animal health matters and how humans can contribute to it.

- Post signs or share brief presentations about how these precautions protect both an-



imals and humans.

- Encourage visitors to arrive in freshly laundered clothes and clean footwear, especially if they've been on other farms recently.

### Invest in hygiene and infrastructure

- Provide ample hand washing stations that are conveniently placed and well-stocked, allowing guests to clean up regularly during their visit.

- Ensure all enclosed public areas have good ventilation.

- Encourage all staff, volunteers, and attendees to stick to the "clean clothes, clean shoes" mantra.

By proactively planning around these guidelines, you're not only keeping your farm and visitors safe, but you're also demonstrating leadership in agricultural education and community health.

Let's make fall 2025 both memorable and mindful.

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## TRITON SENIOR Spotlight



### RAINEY DOBBS

Rainey Dobbs is a senior at Triton this year.

Her parents are Luke and Heidi Dobbs. She has a brother, Colby and a sister Reece.

She is active in student council, MHS, Link Crew and the Musical.

She also plays Triton basketball, volleyball and softball.

Rainey enjoys hanging out with family and friends, hunting, fishing, arts and crafts, water sports like skiing, tubing, wakeboarding and knee boarding and going up north.

Her favorite music is country and she likes watching the Flash and the Fast & Furious movies.

After graduation she plans to attend Winona State University and major in nursing and pursue a masters degree and become a nurse practitioner.



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We are no longer receiving grain at this location and encourage delivery at our larger, more efficient grain elevator in Kasson.

We will continue to offer both on-farm and in-field pickup options to help move our customers' grain efficiently to market.

Bryan Lewis, CHS senior director, operations

## Grace Lutheran School begins 2025-26 school year



**Christina Hansen**



**Karen Telander**

Founded in 1973, Grace Lutheran School is beginning its 52nd year of providing a Christ-centered education for the people in the community. This fall, the school will serve 30 students from 3-year-old preschool to grade 3. Grace Lutheran School is one of the 79 Lutheran schools in the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In July, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Director of School Ministry re-

ported there are 1,733 Lutheran schools, 160,967 students, and 21,313 teachers in the U.S. representing the largest Protestant parochial school system in America.

There are two full-time teachers at Grace Lutheran School: Christina Hansen and Karen Telander. Mrs. Hansen is our elementary school teacher and Mrs. Telander is our preschool teacher.

## TRITON SENIOR Spotlight



### NOLA BEHNE

Nola Behne is a senior at Triton this year.

Her parents are Larissa and Chad Behne.

She is active in Triton Volleyball and Club Volleyball.

Her favorite pastimes are coloring, going for walks and spending time with family and friends.

Nola enjoys music by Morgan Wallin, Zach Bryan and Ty Meyers.

After graduation she plans on attending Riverland in Austin for the radiology program.



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## Roaring Success for United Way's Running Start



Rochester, MN – School is back in session, and United Way of Southeast Minnesota's Running Start for School drive has finished strong, meeting 100% of its goal ahead of the September 5 deadline.

This year, United Way is supporting over 3,600 students by partnering with over 50 schools and organizations throughout Olmsted, Dodge, Fillmore, and Winona counties to provide backpacks and supplies for students in need. Students are now back at school with the supplies they need to start the year off strong.

This year's Running Start for School was only a success because of the hundreds of individual donors and partners who came together to support local students. Some of the remarkable facts and figures from this year's back to school drive:

- **3,638 local students received free backpacks and school supplies**
- **390+ individuals purchased backpacks and school supplies**
- **175+ community volunteers stuffed backpacks, committing over 350 volunteer hours**
- **52 schools and organizations received backpacks and supplies for students**
- **23 local businesses and groups ran Team Drives, hosting fundraising initiatives to purchase backpacks**
- **Seven sponsors of Running Start for School, including our Premier Sponsor, Scheels**

Because of the community's efforts, every student can step into the school year fully prepared and with a running start.

"Providing kids with backpacks and school

supplies is just one example of how United Way makes an impact in our community. As the school year begins, we are continuing to help youth and families stay healthy, achieve financial security, and have equal access to opportunities. Through our United Way Campaign, you can continue to support these efforts," explained Jerome Ferson, President of United Way of Southeast Minnesota.

*\*Please note: If you are looking to receive supplies, please contact your child's school directly.*

### About United Way of Southeast Minnesota

United Way of Southeast Minnesota mobilizes our community to action so all can thrive.

For 100 years, United Way of Southeast Minnesota has seen how our communities' greatest challenges are connected — and how we can bring people and resources together to address them. We meet basic needs today while working alongside community members to help create a better future for tomorrow.

That's why we're here, always listening and ready to respond. Working together with our neighbors, we're strengthening local resilience and advancing health, youth opportunity, and financial security for all. We fund programs that make a difference; provide free resources and referrals to anyone who may need them; and collaborate and convene with multiple sectors to address challenges.

Every day, our communities show that when people unite to take action, change is possible. Together, we're creating a future where everyone, everywhere can reach their full potential.



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**Dear Savvy Senior,**

**Do I have to pay taxes on my Social Security retirement benefits? I heard that President Trump's big, beautiful bill eliminated that. What can you tell me? –About to Retire**

Dear About,

No, the new law, better known as the 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act' did not eliminate Social Security taxes. It did, however, provide a temporary "senior bonus" deduction (starting in 2025 through 2028) of up to \$6,000 that will apply to taxpayers, age 65 and older, who earn up to \$75,000 for singles or \$150,000 for joint filers. If you earn over that amount, the deduction starts phasing out.

Also note that the senior bonus is a deduction, not a refundable credit, so it will not help lower-earning seniors who owe no income taxes.

### Who Owes SSA Taxes?

Whether or not you'll be required to pay federal income tax on your Social Security benefits will depend on your income and filing status. About 40 percent of Social Security recipients have total incomes high enough to trigger federal income tax on their benefits.

To figure out if your benefits will be taxable, you'll need to add up all of your "provisional income," which includes wages, taxable and non-taxable interest, dividends, pensions and taxable retirement-plan distributions, self-employment, and other taxable income, plus half your annual Social Security benefits, minus certain deductions used in figuring your adjusted gross income.

To help you with the calculations, get a copy of IRS Publication 915 "Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits," which provides detailed instructions and worksheets. You can download it at [IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p915.pdf](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p915.pdf) or call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a free copy.

After you do the calculations, the IRS says that if you're single and your total income from all of the listed sources is:

- Less than \$25,000, your Social Security will not be subject to federal income tax.
  - Between \$25,000 and \$34,000, up to 50 percent of your Social Security benefits will be taxed at your regular income-tax rate.
  - More than \$34,000, up to 85 percent of your benefits will be taxed.
- If you're married and filing jointly and the total from all sources is:
- Less than \$32,000, your Social Security won't be taxed.
  - Between \$32,000 and \$44,000, up to 50 percent of your Social Security benefits will be taxed.
  - More than \$44,000, up to 85 percent of your benefits will be taxed.

If you're married and file a separate return, you probably will pay taxes on your benefits.

You can also find out if any of your benefits are taxable through the IRS online tax tool that asks a series of questions that will help you determine your status.

To limit potential taxes on your benefits, you'll need to be cautious when taking distributions from retirement accounts or other sources. In addition to triggering ordinary income tax, a distribution that raises your gross income can bump up the proportion of your Social Security benefits that are subject to taxes.

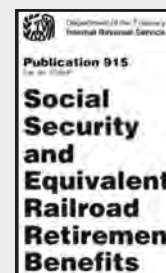
### How to File

If you find that part of your Social Security benefits will be taxable, you'll need to file using Form 1040 or Form 1040-SR. You also need to know that if you do owe taxes, you'll need to make quarterly estimated tax payments to the IRS, or you can choose to have it automatically withheld from your benefits.

To have it withheld, you'll need to complete IRS Form W-4V, Voluntary Withholding Request, and file it with your local Social Security office.

### State Taxation

In addition to the federal government, nine states – Colorado, Connecticut, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont and West Virginia – tax Social Security benefits to some extent too. If you live in one of these states, check with your state tax agency for details.



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

Letter-to-the-Editor:

The book that Farm Bureau doesn't want you to read: "Dodge County, Incorporated: Big Ag and the Undoing of Rural America". Based on the information available, the statement "Big Ag's corporate culture of indifference has been years in the making" reflects a perspective highlighting the long-term development of a corporate culture within large-scale agriculture that is seen by some as indifferent to the concerns of rural communities, family farmers, and the environment. This perspective suggests that over several decades, a focus on maximizing profit and market control has led multinational agricultural corporations to prioritize industrial farming practices and contract systems that can be

detrimental to independent farmers and the rural way of life. The resulting culture is seen as contributing to environmental degradation and social issues in rural areas. Here's a breakdown of the key points supporting this perspective: Corporate Propaganda and Farmer Displacement: Decades of corporate propaganda and conditioning have encouraged a culture where the displacement of small farmers is overlooked, as multinational giants establish a closed system that favors large-scale factory farms and contract growers. Emphasis on Profit over Rural Communities: Corporate agriculture is accused of prioritizing profit and market share, leading to a disregard for the impact on rural communities and the environment. This includes practices that contribute to environmental pollution and the decline of traditional rural life. Exploitative Contracts: Multinational corporations have created a system of contract growers, tethering farmers to corporations through contracts and limiting their control over their operations and profits. Promotion of Corporate Agenda: Groups like the Farm Bureau are seen as promoting the corporate agenda by advocating for policies that support corporate agriculture and encouraging elected officials to be "farm-friendly" in a way that favors industrial farming. In summary, the sentiment expressed in the user's statement reflects concerns that the

corporate culture within Big Ag has evolved over many years to become increasingly focused on corporate interests, leading to indifference towards the challenges faced by family farmers, rural communities, and the environment. Brad Trom  
PO Box 757  
Blooming Prairie MN 55917-0757 USA  
trom.brad@gmail.com

\*\*\*

SIGNS

For signs emphasizing the importance of the rule of law and due process, effective messages can range from short, powerful slogans to more educational phrases. They can draw from constitutional principles, historical figures, and the core components of fairness in legal proceedings. Short and impactful slogans  
These concise phrases are ideal for quickly catching attention and making a powerful statement.  
No one is above the law.  
Equal justice under law.  
Due process is the law.  
Justice for all.  
Law, not power.  
The rule of law protects us all.  
Educational and explanatory messages  
For a more detailed sign, these messages can help define what the rule of law and due process mean in practice.  
Due process means: Notice, a fair hearing, and an impartial judge.  
The rule of law means: Everyone is held ac-

countable, even those in power.  
Fairness is not a favor; it's a right guaranteed by due process.  
The law is for everyone—not just the powerful.  
Our Constitution guarantees due process and fairness for all.  
Quote-based messages  
Using quotes from notable figures can lend historical weight and authority to your message.  
"The safety of the people shall be the highest law." — Marcus Tullius Cicero.  
"One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws." — Martin Luther King, Jr..  
"The rule of law is indispensable to a prosperous and thriving society." — Rod Rosenstein.  
"True freedom requires the rule of law and justice..." — Jonathan Sacks.  
Messages for specific contexts  
These messages are tailored for protests, rallies, or other specific situations where constitutional rights are a central concern.  
Hands off the Constitution.  
Defend the Constitution, Protect the Rule of Law.  
Protect Due Process, Stand for Liberty, Not Authoritarianism.  
This is not a partisan moment. It is a moral moment.  
The power of the people is greater than the people in power.  
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## A Super Super for Triton

(continued from page 1)

As you can see, education runs in his blood! Nineteen years ago, he met and married his wife, Jill and they now have 2 children. Aidan is a 17 year old junior and Bella is in 8th grade, both at Triton.

I asked Luke what made him decide to go into the field of education. He replied, "I always wanted to have a positive impact on the lives of others. A number of teachers and coaches at Triton had a big influence on my life, and I wanted the same for others. My mother Cindy Lutterman worked at Triton, and seeing how she affected the kids and

coworkers in a supportive and meaningful way made her a great role model."

He moved back to Dodge Center when he was offered the position of Principal of the Middle School. He worked in that position for 3 years, and for the past 6 years, he has enjoyed the position of Principal for grades 6 through 12. In the spring of 2024, Craig Schlichting, the current Superintendent, announced he would be retiring, and the job was posted internally to see if there was interest. After a lot of thought, Luke decided to apply, and now you know the rest of the story!

When I asked him if he could share some of his ideas and visions for his current position, his face lit up as he shared some of his thoughts. "I was a part of an operational levy in 2019 under Superintendent Schlichting, and we now have before us a Capital Projects Levy. I hope to educate each township in our district as to what this entails. I want to make sure our taxpayers have the information they need to make an informed decision. I would like to see the school continue to improve in all areas. I intend to build and maintain rela-

tionships with the citizens I serve and strive to be as approachable to the community as I can. I encourage everyone to talk to me about any issues they see as pertinent to educating our children, and want people to know I am available, and that my door is open to everyone, be they student, parent or a part of my administration."

I asked him what he saw as the most important piece of getting the job done consisted of, and he answered, "To create

structures and systems where the professionals who work here have the support they need to transform the lives of their students, and doing so in a way that aligns with our community's vision of education." Well, that's a mouthful, and one I see as an intrinsic part of his current focus. I would say Triton School has a Superintendent who has a vision for the future of education in our children's lives and is very capable of getting the job done! Welcome, Superintendent Lutterman!!!

## Triton Welcomes three new teachers this year

(continued from page 1)

**Amelia Spilde** will be the new Special Ed/Specific Learning Disability interventionist at Triton this year. She is from Brooklyn, Wisconsin. She attended St. Mary's University of Minnesota for EL, ED, BA, K-6. Her experience includes After School Program Lead Teacher, 1 on 1 paraprofessional for 4th grade, student teaching 3rd grade and clinical experience in K - 12. Her hobbies are reading, traveling, hiking, hunting & fishing and spending time with family and friends.

**Morgan Coy** will be teaching 5th through 12th grade band this year. She is from Mantorville, Minnesota. She graduated from Luther College in 2024. Last year she taught K-6 general music in Lake City. She will also work with the Pep Band at Triton. She graduated from K-M high school in Kasson and an interesting note is that her father was in the first graduating class from Triton. She enjoys being active at the gym, taking hikes and walks with the dog as well as snowmobiling and boating.

## Triton Welcomes New Principal

(continued from page 1)

After graduation, she began teaching high school English at Kindred High School, a small town outside of Fargo. During that time, Tanisha earned her master's degree in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University-Moorhead.

She then moved into administration as the Dean of Students at Mountain Lake Public Schools. While there, completed her Specialist degree in K-12 Principal and Superintendent licensure. Tanisha worked as a High School English teacher at Kindred High School, North Dakota and Dean of Students at Mountain Lake Public Schools in Minnesota.

Tanisha was married this past June to husband, Sheldon. Andrecently purchased a home here in the district and have been busy with some minor renovations. They don't have kids yet, but are excited to be building our life together in this community. They have one pet their cat, Archie. Travel is one of Tanisha's greatest passions. She has been an avid traveler since she was young and have continued to make it a priority as an adult. Most recently, Sheldon and Tanisha went to Hawaii for our honeymoon, which was a

beautiful trip.

Tanisha relates her experience with the 2025-26 school year. "From my very first days here, the welcoming atmosphere at Triton has been so strong and genuine. Before school began, I had the chance to meet individually with each teacher, and the message I heard again and again was the strength of the staff community. Teachers described Triton as a place where you truly get to know your students—and where the staff feels like family. In my short time here, I've already seen that proven true."

"This year, my personal goal is to look, listen, and learn. I want to fully understand who Triton is as a school and what our priorities should be moving forward." Tanisha continues. "As a district, we already have strong aims in place: Improving student performance, Strengthening community support and engagement, Ensuring a safe, caring, and respectful school environment and Building a strong workforce. My role is to keep these goals at the center of everything I do. I want to build on the strengths already here and help ensure Triton students are set up for success—both in school and in life."

## Share Your Good News!

Submit your engagement, wedding or birth announcement.

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## What is a Capital Projects Levy?



**Luke Lutterman**  
*Triton*  
*Superintendent*

I hope the start of the school year and fall activities have been enjoyable. We are committed to making sure families and community members have the information they need to stay engaged and informed. Although there is always a lot going on, this fall we want to take extra time to make sure our community

members understand the Capital Projects Levy Referendum that is scheduled for November 4, 2025. The goal of this article is to

explain what the levy is, why it's needed, what it would cost, and how we move forward depending on the outcome. We hope the information below is helpful, as it is my goal to make sure you have the information needed to make an informed decision.

### What is a Capital Projects Levy?

A Capital Projects Levy is a local property tax approved by voters that provides funding for purchases for infrastructure, technology, curriculum, transportation, and deferred maintenance. Specifically at Triton, if voters approve, these funds will be used to support the following projects.

- Technology Investments - Staff and student devices, network upgrades, instructional technology, online curriculum, technology staff, and intervention resources.
- Curricular Investments - Updated text-

books and materials.

- Facility Improvements - Deferred maintenance needs throughout the facility.
- Transportation Updates - Replacement of aging buses and vans to ensure a safe, efficient transportation fleet.

### Why Do We Need a Capital Projects Levy? Why Now?

Like many other school districts, Triton is experiencing a gap between the cost of education and state funding. Inflationary increases and financial requirements in program areas create additional financial pressure. Triton Public Schools surveyed taxpayers in June-July of 2025. The results were that the majority were in favor of the \$650,000 tax increase. Due to inflationary costs and funding gaps, we are facing a significant budget challenge. After budget reductions to right-size with declining enrollment, we are still facing difficult decisions.

Our unassigned fund balance is below the board-approved level. We have been proactive by reducing our budget for this year, but we have needs to maintain programming and high-quality teaching and learning experiences in a safe environment. Our current tax rate lags behind area schools, and an investment is needed at this time.

### What Will This Cost?

If the levy is approved by voters, Triton Schools would receive \$650,000 in additional revenue per year for 10 years. This tax increase for a \$250,000 residential home would be \$6.00 per month or \$72 per year.

Agricultural Homestead (average value per acre of land and buildings valued at \$11,500) would see an increase of \$1.82 per acre per year or \$0.15 per month. Agricultural Non-Homestead (average value per acre of land and buildings valued at \$11,500) would increase by \$3.65 per acre per year or \$0.30 per month.

Calculating the tax impact can be difficult for property owners, especially agricultural land owners, and we want to make sure accurate information is available. A tax calculator is available on the Triton Levy Informational webpage: <https://www.triton.k12.mn.us/page/levy>. You can also contact the Triton District Office, and we will make sure you have an accurate tax impact figure. *(continued on page 26)*

## Homecoming King Mason Bills and Queen Nola Behne



## Triton Activities Update

Dear Triton Students, Parents, Staff, and Community Members,

It's wonderful to be back for the new school year! We've already had a rewarding start, with our student-athletes competing hard in their early-season activities.

This week is another packed one for Triton. In addition to our busy athletic schedule, we'll be holding auditions for our fall play, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, which will be performed this November.

Next week, get ready for a big Homecoming celebration in Cobra Country! We have a great week of events planned for our students, including:

- Monday: Coronation
- Wednesday: Powder Puff
- Thursday: Powder Buff
- Friday: Parade and Carnival

We also have two Homecoming matchups to look forward to: a volleyball game against Medford on Thursday evening and the football game against Chatfield on Friday evening.

While this is an exciting time for our current students, we want to make sure our alumni feel welcome and appreciated as well. Triton's activities department has a rich history, and we are the school we are today because of those who came before us. This is the very reason we celebrate homecoming each year at Triton.

**Go Cobras!**



**Brandon Neseth**  
*Triton High School*  
*Activities Director*



**Enhanced Driving Institute is again offering DRIVER EDUCATION classes at Triton High School in October.**

For more information or to register go to the Enhanced Driving Institute website.



# What is a Capital Projects Levy?

(continued from page 25)

## What Happens If the Capital Projects Levy Passes?

### What Happens If It Doesn't?

This levy provides an opportunity to strengthen the financial stability of our school district and continue to support strong programming and opportunities for students. It is an investment in our future, and even with the increased tax rates, we would remain lower than most neighboring schools.

On the other hand, if the levy does not pass, we will need to make some tough decisions regarding our budget. We will continue to adjust staffing and budget to align with enrollment, but additional reductions would be necessary. These reductions could affect class sizes, programming, and our transportation fleet.

### How Do I Find Out More Information?

We have put together a comprehensive Levy Webpage listing background information, facts, a tax calculator, frequently asked questions, and voter information, <https://www.triton.k12.mn.us/page/levy>. Additional informational sessions and meetings will be taking place according to the schedule listed below.

• Claremont Chamber Meeting - Tuesday,

September 2, 5:30 PM, Claremont Legion

• Ashland Township Meeting - Monday, September 8, 8:00 PM, Ashland Township Hall

• Ellington Township Meeting - Tuesday, September 16, 7:00 PM, Ellington Township Hall

• Cherry Grove Township Meeting - Wednesday, September 17, 8:00 PM, Cherry Grove Township Hall.

• Dodge Center Lions Meeting - Monday, September 22, 5:00 PM, Annadine

• Ripley Township Meeting - Thursday, October 2, 5:30 PM, Ripley Township Hall

• Aurora Township Meeting - Monday, October 6, 7:00 PM, Aurora Township Hall

• Dodge Center Chamber Meeting - Tuesday, October 7, 8:00 AM, Center Family Restaurant.

• Milton Township Meeting - Tuesday, Oc-

tober 7, 7:00 PM, Milton Township Hall

• Concord Township Meeting - Thursday, October 9, 7:00 PM, Concord Township Hall

• Wasioja Township Meeting - Monday, October 13, 7:00 PM, Wasioja Township Hall

• Claremont Township Meeting - Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 PM, Claremont Legion

• West Concord Informational Meeting - Thursday, October 16, following City Council Meeting, approximately 7:40 PM. Bell Tower Center, West Concord.

• Claremont Informational Meeting - Tuesday, October 21, 7:00 PM, Claremont City

Hall

• Dodge Center Informational Meeting - Thursday, October 23, 7:00 PM, DC City Hall

*Thank you for reading this article and for your continued support and engagement. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide any further information.*

Luke Lutterman

Triton Superintendent

[llutterman@triton.k12.mn.us](mailto:llutterman@triton.k12.mn.us)

(507) 418-7530

Together #WeAreTriton



## Triton Times

**Luke Lutterman, 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/Fax: 507-649-3327 • Fax: 507-645-9878



**A reminder from Taher Food Services**


**Free Lunch & Breakfast for All Students (K-12):**  
Every student is eligible for a free school breakfast & lunch this year.

**Sack Lunch & Milk:**  
If your child brings a sack lunch but would like a milk, there will be a charge for the milk.

**Extra Milk:**  
Any additional milk beyond the one that is provided with the free lunch will be charged to your account.

Thank you for your understanding & support!

\*Contact Misty Langley with any questions  
[mlangley@triton.k12.mn.us](mailto:mlangley@triton.k12.mn.us)




## COMMUNITY ED SPOTLIGHT


**THANK YOU**  
*DEB AND MINDY!*

We would to thank these two fantastic ladies for their dedication and deep care for our ECCE and Preschool Programs at Triton.

These two are truly exceptional employees who have made positive and caring relationships with students and families in the Triton School District!



*Deb Whitcomb  
27 Years*



*Mindy Luntson  
23 Years*

## Triton's Administrative Assistants were honored with the Cobra Pride Recognition at the School Board meeting on September 15.





# Triton Elementary Students Started the Year Off with Learning About Bus Safety



Our WEB Leaders did an outstanding job at 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation, and their mentorship will help make TMS an even better place to learn and grow!





# Triton FFA at the Minnesota State Fair



Noah Kasper exhibiting 3 head of beef at the State Fair. Two of his three animals placed in the top 4 of their age class.



John Moening won Grand Champion Market Live Carcass at the 2025 MN State Fair. Basically the judge is looking for the best pig for slaughter that will give the best yield of pork.



Sydney Rysavy was named Reserve Champion Senior Showmanship at the 2025 MN FFA State Fair Goat Show.



# 2025 Homecoming



Homecoming Court, left to right: Back row: Aidan Lutterman (Junior MC), Andrew Holtet, Pierce Petersohn, Mason Bills (King), Hunter Garness, Landon Nauman. Front Row: Aidree VanBeek (Junior MC), Brynja Cochran, Addison Oakland, Rainey Dobbs, Nola Behne (Queen), Norah Freiderich



Brynja Cochran and Andrew Holtet



Addison Oakland and Pierce Petersohn



Norah Freiderich and Landon Nauman



Rainey Dobbs and Hunter Garness



Junior MC's: Aidree VanBeek and Aidan Lutterman



The mini cheerleaders (Grades K-6) kicked off Triton's Homecoming Week with a performance at the JV Football Game on Monday night.



TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Firearm Safety Class

Registration: Tuesday 09/09/2025 at 6:00 pm at Triton High School (813 Hwy St W Dodge Center MN)

Class Dates and Times:  
September 23rd Immediately Following registration until 10 PM  
October 9th (Thursday) 6:00-9:00 pm, please bring a lunch with you!  
October 10th (Friday) 6-9 pm, please bring a lunch with you!  
October 11th (Saturday) 8am-3pm or completion  
October 12th (Sunday) 8am -Noon or completion – Range Day (Dodge Center Sportsman Club 62458 190th Ave Dodge Center MN 55927)

Class Location: Triton High School, Dodge Center MN  
Seating is limited to 50 students.


BOOKS WILL BE HANDED OUT ON REGISTRATION NIGHT AND MUST BE COMPLETED BY Thursday, October 9th

Requirements:

- Certification is available to students 11 years and older.
- DNR Firearm Certification is required of anyone born after December 31, 1979 to purchase a hunting license in Minnesota.

General Information: There is NO online registration for this class, it is in person only on registration night. We are unable to accept online students into our field day as the online field day is structured differently than the field day for the classroom setting. The firearm safety class consists of a minimum of 12 hours of classroom and field experience in the safe handling of firearms and hunter responsibility. The field experience allows students to learn and demonstrate commonly accepted principles of safety in hunting and the handling of firearms. It includes live fire on a rifle range. Upon successful completion of this course, students receive a temporary certificate. This certificate will allow the bearer to purchase a hunting license in Minnesota and other states where certification is required.

Any questions please email James lee @ James.lee@dodgecountymn.gov



Annual Community Halloween Party

Trunk or Treat

Sponsored by the Dodge Center Chamber of Commerce

5:30-6:30PM in the Triton Bus Corral Lot (located by the playground)

Family Halloween Dance and Costume Contest

Sponsored by the Dodge Center Lions and Triton Community Ed

6:30-7:45pm in the Triton South Gym (enter through the Main Elementary Doors)

October 24

Triton Public Schools



Donations being collected for the following:

- The Dodge County Salvation Army's Winter Wear Clothing Drive
- Triton Student Council's Trick or Canning Food Drive



All activities are FREE! All children must be accompanied by an adult and costumes must be family appropriate.

FALL  
FUN  
NIGHT

2 OCT  
2025  
6 - 7:30 PM



4-H Building on  
the Dodge County  
Fairgrounds

Enjoy a night of fun, food, and fellowship at the 4-H building! Get to know 4-H volunteers, youth, and staff. Fall activities and games will be provided. Come learn about the Dodge County 4-H program!

#ADVENTUREON!

GET OUT THERE. DO YOUR BEST.  
HAVE FUN.





Join Cub Scout Pack 348 for Sign-up Night!

WHO: Families of Boys and Girls grades K-5

WHAT: Cub Scouts is an extracurricular activity all about delivering meaningful life experiences and growth through fun activities for the whole family!

WHEN: Thursday, September 11, 2025, 6:30-7:30pm

WHERE: Triton Elementary School Library

Second chance joining opportunity on Monday, September 22nd, 6:30-7:30pm, at Faith Lutheran Church, 308 2nd St NW, Dodge Center, MN 55927

LEARN MORE: Cubmaster Jason Kozisek  
Phone: 507-633-9100  
Email: [jasonkozisek@gmail.com](mailto:jasonkozisek@gmail.com)

Use this QR code to complete an online youth application for Pack 348!



Sign-up also available at [BeAScout.org](https://BeAScout.org)



TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Getting crafty with the Green Shack— Youth Offerings

Brittany Wilcox

Join Brittany and find your new (or old) passion!  
All levels of experience are welcome.

Crocheting Granny Squares and Making Stitch Markers

September 23, 24, 25, and 26

Limit 8, to assure attention and assistance in finishing the project

Cost: \$49, including all materials

3:15-5PM each day - TES Art Room

Learning to Knit

October 7, 8, 9 ,10

Limit 8, to assure attention and assistance in finishing the project

Cost: \$49, including all materials

3:15-5PM each day - TES Art Room

Fall Porch Pot Making


October 24

Limit 10, to assure attention and assistance in finishing the project

Cost: \$36, including all materials

3:15-5PM

TES Art Room



Canvas Art Painting with Sunshine and Roses

Grades Entering 1-5

Join Sunshine and Roses Traveling Art Studio to paint and create a 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.

\$28/each or \$50 for both on each date

Monday October 13

Stacked Pumpkins



3:15-4:15

TES Art Room

Glow in the Dark Moon

4:15-5:15

TES Art Room



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

Check Out Our Website

www.triton.k12.mn.us


and click on the Community Education tab

TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Fireflies

Side Kick Theatre, Masonic Heritage Center, Bloomington, MN

A heartwarming romantic comedy:  
Retired schoolteacher Eleanor Bannister lives a quiet life alone in tiny Groverdell, Texas, set in her routines and secure in her position as the town’s most respected woman — until a hole in her roof draws the attention of Abel Brown, a smooth-talking drifter intent on renovating Eleanor’s house, and possibly her life. Can the unexpected sparks of late-life romance be trusted, or is there truth in the gossip that Abel isn’t all that he seems to be? Either way, the whole town is talking.



We have lunch in the beautiful Masonic Heritage Ballroom

The menu will be:  
Creamy Chicken Breast, with Roasted Red Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Coleslaw, Dinner Rolls, Assorted Desserts, Coffee, Hot Tea (Special dietary meals available by request ahead of time.)

Cost: \$97, including guaranteed coach bus, lunch and ticket to the show.

October 22, 2025

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

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

Branson Country Christmas—  
A Special Tribute To Veterans  
Branson’s Ozark Jubilee  
Treasure Island Resort and Casino


Kristy Faber, Triton Community Ed

Direct from BRANSON the OZARK JUBILEE features an all-star cast of Branson’s top entertainers. This year presenting, “AN ALL-NEW CHRISTMAS SHOW”, WITH NEW MUSIC, NEWJOKES, but the same, WORLD CLASS TALENT THAT YOU HAVE COME TO EXPECT! This year the OZARK JUBILEE will be honoring and paying tribute to our VETERANS and thanking them for their SPECIAL SERVICE. The entire second half of our show is a total variety of Christmas music. From traditional standards you’ll remember such as Silent Night, White Christmas and many more to some more contemporary Christmas selections. We will share with you the TRUE meaning of Christmas with music, comedy and message to provide an evening of entertainment that will touch your heart. The Jubilee features Branson’s funniest comedian and world class fiddler DOOFUS DOOLITTLE! Doof will have you rolling in the isles with his unique brand of humor, and you will be captivated by some of the best fiddle and word class violin music ever. Doofus has an all-new line up of jokes and hilarious routines this year not to miss! Having performed with several of these artists, Doofus will be sharing stories from some of those legends. A real treat this year, Doofus will be saluting the great comedians of yesteryear! Folks such as Archie Campbell, String Bean, Minnie Pearl and many more of your favorites! If you like Country Music, and Good Clean Family Entertainment, you’ll want to bring all your friends & come out & see the: OZARK JUBILEE! 44 tickets available. The artists have assured us that they will perform new material, as many of us saw last year’s show.  
We will also enjoy a group lunch during the show.

November 6

Cost: \$110, includes coach bus ride, lunch and ticket to the show

Bus	Departs	Approx. Returns
Dodge Center Triton Activities Entrance	9:20 AM	4:40PM
Kasson Football Field Parking Lot	9:35AM	4:25PM
Byron Community Ed Parking Lot	9:50AM	4:10PM

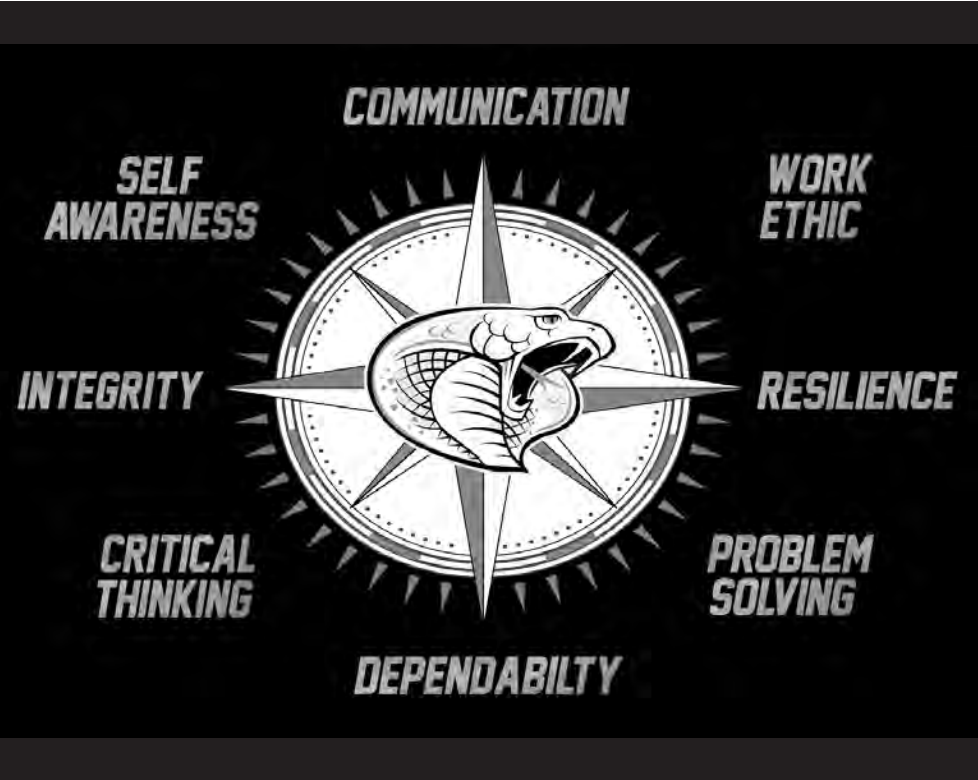




TRITON COMMUNITY ED

ADULT ENRICHMENT

507-418-7550



Canvas Art Painting with Sunshine and Roses

Penni Kittelson

Channel your budding artist with a seasonal themed painting created by you! Penni will take you step by step to create and personalize your own masterpiece. All levels of talent and experience are welcome to join this class. Explore your creative side in a relaxed and supportive environment!

"Falling" in love with pumpkins

Cost: \$38

October 13  
6-7:30PM  
THS Art Room, enter through the HS District Office Doors (by the flag)

Festive Gnome

Cost: \$38

December 8  
6-7:30PM  
THS Art Room, enter through the HS District Office Doors (by the flag).

Prayer Shawl Making with a Weaving Loom

Penni Kittelson

Join Penni from Love is a Hug to learn how to make your very own prayer shawl. You can keep this for when you need extra comfort, warmth and coziness. Students will keep their loom kit and shawl. Love is a Hug is a non-profit that creates and donates prayer shawls to those that could use some comfort. You can learn more about "Love is a Hug" on Facebook.

Cost: \$22  
This is a 3-evening class: November 17, 18, and 19  
6-7:30pm each night

You will need to bring the following to class (at your own expense).  
Each student will need to bring with them to class  
1. Loom kit, including hook  
2. Bernat Baby Blanket Yarn

Example of yarn found at Walmart or Amazon

Examples of loom found at Walmart or Amazon

A Christmas Carol

Side Kick Theatre, Masonic Heritage Center, Bloomington, MN

A wonderfully fresh look at the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and the ghostly visits he receives one Christmas Eve, this new musical rendition of the beloved Christmas tale is sure to provide a memorable experience for audiences of all ages. Narrated and accompanied by Brian Pierce as Jacob Marley and featuring some of the most talented performers and musicians in the Twin Cities, this magical production blends music, storytelling, humor, and a joyous holiday spirit.

We have lunch in the beautiful Masonic Heritage Ballroom

The menu will be:  
Creamy Chicken Breast, with Roasted Red Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Coleslaw, Dinner Rolls, Assorted Desserts, Coffee, Hot Tea (Special dietary meals available by request ahead of time.)

Cost: \$97, including guaranteed coach bus, lunch and ticket to the show.  
December 3, 2025

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

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!



**CITY OF CLAREMONT  
CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5,  
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, August 5, 2025, at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Jared Sultze and City Council Members: Ethan Johnson, Deb Ellis, Krystal Sultze, and Donna Gregory. Absent: None.

City staff and others present: City Administrator Elizabeth Sorg, City Attorney Mark Rahrlick, City Engineer Derek Olinger, Deputy Isaac Gronseth, Elle Leeper, Nicholas Sultze, Sandie Reed, Cindy Johnson, Carter Behnken, Hannah Behnken, John Baier, and Denise Baier.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda included: Minutes of July 1, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting and Minutes of July 15, 2025, Special City Council Meeting. Motion by K. Sultze to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS  
PERSONNEL  
COMMITTEE**

Nothing at this time.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

unanimously.

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

**PUBLIC HEALTH &  
SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Motion by Ellis to approve the application of Nolan Schamp for Volunteer Fireman at the Claremont Fire Department, second by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

**PLANNING & ZONING  
COMMITTEE**

Nothing at this time.

**EDA**

Nothing at this time.

**MAINTENANCE DE-  
PARTMENT**

The Cub Cadet utility vehicle needs to be replaced as it started on fire. The fire department has mentioned that they could use a utility vehicle for brush fires. Maintenance Director Dahl researched UTV's, included information for 4 of them in the council packet, and recommended either a 2025 Polaris for approximately \$11,984 or 2025 CFMoto for approximately 13,499. Those 2 proposals were 2 seaters and council wondered if maybe the fire department would like a 4-seater. Council discussed splitting the cost with the fire department but if the fire department wants a 4-seater or additional options, then they could pay for the additional costs. Motion by Ellis to approve either a Polaris or a CFMoto with the maintenance department paying \$6000 and the fire department paying the rest, second by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

**PARKS COMMITTEE**

Nothing at this time.

**CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer Derek Olinger presented the updated final assessment roll.

City Attorney Mark Rahrlick explained tax deferral as written in the city's assessment policy. It is for persons who are 65 and older, or who is retired by virtue of permanent and total disability, for whom it would be a hardship to make payment. A hardship is when the annual payment for the special assessment exceeds 2% of the adjusted gross income of the owner as determined by the most recent federal income tax. There are 2 property owners who asked about deferral. The council will consider each application on an individual basis. Interest still accrues during the period of deferment until the property is sold or death of the owner. It would be a better option for homeowners who are approved for deferral to pay interest for the period of the deferment. Motion made by Johnson to approve the deferral application and payment of interest during the deferral and to update the existing policy, second by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Olinger went over Pay Application #2 for the 2025 Street & Utility Improvements in the amount of \$170,484.15. Motion by Johnson to approve Pay Application #2, second by K. Sultze. Ayes: Ellis, Johnson, K. Sultze, and Mayor J. Sultze. Nay: Gregory. Motion carried.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
REPORT**

Administrator Sorg attended the Dodge County Ambulance meeting. The ambulance service will purchase ambulances on a 7-year rotation. Some of the townships

have donated this year to the ambulance service. The next ambulance meeting is November 19, 2025.

The levy was received in the amount of \$342,722.

Dodge County Highway Department will be starting work on CR 1 on Monday. The project will go from County Road 34 for 3.5 miles and consist of: shoulder widening, full depth reclamation, bituminous overlay, and concrete pavement. County Road 1 will be closed on Monday from County Road 34 to the railroad tracks; from the railroad tracks to the migrant camp will remain.

Last year, some residents started a Claremont Crawl, and this year will be the 2nd Annual. They are inviting residents to ride their golf carts, 4 wheelers or side by sides and stop at a few houses for snacks and drinks. They will end at the Claremont Pub. This event is on Saturday, September 27 and they start at the Claremont Pub at 2:00 p.m.

**CITY ATTORNEY**

Nothing at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

City Administrator Sorg signed up for a trial of GoTo Meetings. An annual fee is \$16/month. This program allows the residents the opportunity to see and hear the council meetings on their phone, laptop, tablet, or computer or you can call in and listen to the meeting also. It stays on the cloud and can't be tampered with. This will eventually be made accessible on the city's website. Motion by Ellis to approve the subscription to GoTo at \$16 per month for 1 year, second by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The 2026 Law Enforcement Contract will remain the

same but with the rate of \$80,080 annually. Motion by K. Sultze to approve the 2026 Law Enforcement Contract with Dodge County Sheriff's Department, second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

The city council will share comments and knowledge learned at LMC Conference and turn them into Sorg to be put in the Newsletter.

**FINAL WORD**

Nothing at this time

Motion by K. Sultze to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m., second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Deb Ellis, Assistant

City Clerk

Jared Sultze, Mayor

\*\*\*

**CITY OF CLAREMONT  
SPECIAL CITY COUN-  
CIL MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 11,  
2025  
6:30 P.M.**

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was called to order on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Jared Sultze, City Council Members Deb Ellis, Krystal Sultze, Ethan Johnson, and Donna Gregory (Gregory arrived at 6:33 p.m.). Members absent: None.

City staff and others that were present: City Administrator Elizabeth Sorg, Maintenance Director Casey Dahl, Maintenance Worker Rich Klindworth, John Baier, Denise Baier, and Carter Behnken.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

The council members, city staff, and residents Carter Behnken, and John and

Denise Baier were all given a tour of the wastewater facility, city shop and water treatment facility by Maintenance Director Casey Dahl and Maintenance Worker Rich Klindworth. There were many questions asked, and Casey Dahl did an excellent job of explaining the processes and answering the questions and those that Rich Klindworth could answer were clear and precise. It was a highly informative tour.

At the last meeting, the council approved purchase of a utility vehicle with the cost split equally between the maintenance department and fire department. The fire department said they would use the utility vehicle maybe 4 times a year or less, so a 50/50 split wasn't reasonable. Dahl provided the council with updated quotes for a 2025 Polaris 1000 from M&M Lawn & Leisure and two quotes for a CFMoto 1000 from TT Motorsports, LLC. The city council reviewed the quotes and asked Dahl which one he found to cover the needs of the city better than the other. The fire department thinks a four-seater would be better. The council decided to go with the 2025 Polaris 1000 with an added warranty for a total of 7 years for \$1999. Motion by Ellis to approve the purchase of the 2025 Polaris 1000 from M&M Lawn & Leisure for a total of \$15,519.49, which includes the extra warranty, with the stipulation that if the fire department wants extra features they pay for them, second by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

The 2026 proposed budget was discussed and a 5% levy increase is recommended.

(continued on page 34)

**Snow Removal Bids**

The City of West Concord is accepting bids for snow removal. The contract period is from November 1, 2025, through May 31, 2028.

Snow removal will be from Main Street (between East First St. and Second St.), in front of the West Concord Historical Society, the West Concord Liquor Store parking lot and any other area that may be requested by the City Maintenance Supervisor. All bids must include the hourly rate. Proof of insurance is required.

Bids will be accepted until 4:00 p.m., Monday, October 13, 2025. All bids must be in a sealed envelope clearly labeled "Snow Removal Bid" and submitted to:

City of West Concord  
180 Main St.  
PO Box 435  
West Concord, MN 55985

The City of West Concord reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities or to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

**NOTICE OF BIDS – STORAGE SHED**

The City of West Concord is accepting sealed bids for the sale of the old storage shed located at the ball diamond.

Condition: The shed is sold AS IS. The City of West Concord makes no warranties, express or implied, regarding the condition or usability of the shed.

Removal: The successful bidder will be responsible for all costs and arrangements associated with moving and removing the shed from City property. Removal must be completed no later than October 1, 2025.

Bidding Deadline: All bids must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. Winning bidder will be announced by the September 18, 2025 Council Meeting.

Submission Requirements: Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "SHED BID" and delivered to:

City of West Concord  
180 Main St.  
P.O. Box 435  
West Concord, MN 55985  
The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids.



**CITY OF CLAREMONT  
SPECIAL CITY  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 11,  
2025**

*(continued from page 33)*  
Council will make a final decision at the September regular city council meeting.  
Motion by Ellis to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m., second by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.  
ATTEST:  
Deb Ellis, Assistant City Clerk  
Jared Sultze, Mayor

**TRITON ISD NO. 2125 –  
SUMMARY SCHOOL  
BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR SCHOOL  
BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 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 July 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., D. Jensen, Brian Ginder, and Scott Curran, Luke Lutterman, Tanisha Fox, Shane Van Beek, Tricia Johnson, Brandon Neseth, Tina Kozisek, and others.  
The School Board approved the following items:  
• Agenda and consent agenda including the June 9, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented; budget update; claims and bills; treasurer's report; designate Heritage Bank of West Concord, N.A., Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund and Bremer Bank as official depositories for ISD #2125 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year; Board stipends, paid quarterly, \$40.00 per full Board meeting, \$25.00 for other related meetings, \$80.00 for full day meetings, \$250.00 additional yearly stipend for Board Chair; authorize the use of Ratwik, Roszak and Maloney, P.A. as our designated legal counsel

for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The following positions are authorized to contact the legal counsel: Board Chair, Superintendent, and Administrators who have received prior approval from the Superintendent; district staff authorized to make electronic fund transfers; open enrollment agreement for #072125A and #072125B; contracts for Julie Fuchs and Maggie Purinton as Special Education Paraprofessionals, Travis Scanlan and Joe Giesler as Assistant Building, Grounds, and Transportation Supervisors, Caroline Otto as TMS Special Education Teacher, Olivia Zwischka as TMS Science Teacher, Dale Tate and Drew Kelly as Junior High Football Coaches, Laurie Essig as Head Volleyball Coach, Karissa Eipers as 9th Grade Volleyball Coach, Jamie Bodestab as Head Cheer Coach, Jaime Geers as Assistant Cheer Coach, and Schedule C Coach List for Fall 2025;  
• Designate the Dodge Center Messenger as the official newspaper for the 2025-2026 fiscal year;

• 2025-2026 Resolution for Membership in the MN State High School League;  
• Resolution for Appointing an Identified Official with Authority for the External User Access Recertification System;  
• MREA Membership Renewal for fiscal year 2025-2026;  
• Resolution Adopting Independent School District No. 2125 FY 27 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Ten-Year Plan;  
• Food Service Agreement with Taher;  
• SRO Memorandum of Agreement for 2025-2026;  
• Scheduling a Special School Board Meeting for August 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 7:20

p.m.

**TRITON ISD NO. 2125 –  
SCHOOL BOARD  
MINUTES  
SPECIAL SCHOOL  
BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 4,  
2025 – 6:00 P.M.  
TRITON HIGH SCHOOL  
MEDIA CENTER –  
DODGE CENTER, MN  
-Meeting Proceedings-**  
Chair Kenworthy called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those members present: Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Jim Jensen, Wendy Kenworthy, Dale Jensen, Brian Ginder, and Scott Curran; absent: Rebecca Knutson. Also present: Superintendent Luke Lutterman, Tina Kozisek, 1

visitor, and 1 visitor via ZOOM.  
Henslin/J. Jensen motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.  
J. Jensen/Ginder motioned to approve Resolution Calling for the Election for the Capital Project Levy Referendum. Voting in favor: J. Jensen, Henslin, D. Jensen, Ginder, Curran, Kenworthy. Voting against: none. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment A)  
D. Jensen/Ginder motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.  
School District Clerk

**DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, July 28, 2025**

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the July 28, 2025, Dodge Center City Council regular meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at [www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us](http://www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us).  
Present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Paul Blaisdell, Braedon Dostal, Lee Mattson, John Fox, Meredith Brose, Deputy Tyler Breuer and Kathy Freeman. Senator Carla Nelson arrived at 7:07 p.m.  
Absent: Cathy Skogen  
City Council approved the following items:  
• Agenda and Consent Agenda to include: Minutes of July 14, 2025 Council Meeting, May 8 and June 10 Library Board Meeting, Consent to Assignment of Lease – Hangar Lot 17, Waiver of Ambulance Bill, Donation Request for Raffle from Relay for Life, Donation Request for Raffle from St John's Catholic Church, Approval of MN Lawful Gambling Permit for St John's Catholic Church and Payment of Bills;  
• 2026 Contract Between City and County to Provide Law Enforcement Protection;  
• Acceptance of State Grant for the new credit card system at the airport.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

**DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, August 11, 2025**

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the August 11, 2025, Dodge Center City Council regular meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at [www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us](http://www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us).  
Present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Braedon Dostal, Marianne Sobek, John Fox, Jeremy Dostal, Meredith Brose, Tim Woessner, Vanessa Hines, Deputy Tyler Breuer and Kathy Freeman.  
City Council approved the following items:  
• Agenda and Consent Agenda to include: Minutes of July 28, 2025 Council Meeting, Ambulance ALS Intercept Billing Agreement with West Concord; Ambulance Lucas 3 Automated CPR Device and Payment of Bills;  
• Extend abatement of 14 3rd Ave NE to September 8, 2025;  
• Move forward with condemnation notice to 206 2nd St SW;  
• Move forward with condemnation notice to 107 E Main St;  
• Move forward with condemnation notice to 103 4th Ave NE;  
• Move forward with condemnation notice to 102 Central Ave.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

**DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, August 25, 2025**

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the August 25, 2025, Dodge Center City Council regular meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at [www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us](http://www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us).  
Present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Braedon Dostal, Lee Mattson, Mark Barwald, Meredith Brose, Deputy Tyler Breuer and Marianne Sobek.  
City Council approved the following items:  
• Agenda and Consent Agenda to include: Minutes of August 11, 2025 Council Meeting, July 8, 2025 HRA Meeting, Payment of Bills, Triton High School Homecoming Parade Route/Road and Termination of Seasonal Employees;  
• Authorizing staff to grant a one-month extension to 18 1st Ave NE based on an inspection to take place on Tuesday, August 26, 2025;  
• 901 North St NE Abatement Order deadline of September 8, 2025;  
• Resolution 2025-023 – A Resolution Approving an Interim Use Permit for William Sansan – 18 2nd St SW;  
• New Maintenance hire – Hayden Barnes;  
• Resolution 2025-024 – A Resolution Authorization to Execute Grant Documents Pertaining to the Jet-A-Fuel Expansion Project and Airport Lighting Design Project;  
• Two Thousand Four Hundred dollar (\$2,400) playground assessment contract with Playgrounds by Leathers for the play area at North Park;  
Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

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

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- THEME: FOOTBALL
- ACROSS
1. \*The Coaches \_\_\_\_ or The AP Top 25 \_\_\_\_

5. \*Super Bowl halftime performer Kendrick Lamar's genre

8. 1/168th of a week

12. Purse to match a gown

13. Karl of politics

14. Model builder's wood choice

15. \*YDS, TD or INT

16. Black like certain tree

17. \*Last season's NFL MVP

18. \*Worth 6 points

20. Way, way off

21. Owl cries

22. Come and \_\_\_\_ it

23. Ape

26. Stucco or aluminum on a house wall, pl.

30. "Wheel of Fortune" request

31. Bette Green's "Summer of my \_\_\_\_ Soldier"

34. Stag, not doe

35. Like an uncomfortable mattress

37. European Economic Community

38. \*NFL Hall of Famer Greene or comedian Hart

39. Seed coat

40. Cylindrical flower cluster

42. Stir or fuss

43. City in Illinois

45. #10 Down's counterpart

47. Small dog's bark

48. Adams of "Summer Of '69" fame

50. \*Point value of a safety in football, pl.

52. \*Worth 3 points in football (2 words)

56. Behind a stern

57. Raise the roof

58. Classroom parasites

59. Bloopers

60. Actor and singer Kristofferson

61. Some are slippery

62. Scraps

63. Ballpark fig.

64. Dark loaves
- DOWN
1. Bothersome one

2. \*Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Graham

3. Molokai party

4. Leeches, alt. sp.

5. R2-D2, e.g.

6. Declares to be true

7. \*College, home to football's Nittany Lions

8. \*Football intermission

9. Paella pot

10. Addict

11. \*What the NFL's Jim Brown famously did

13. Fixed up

14. Bleated

19. Hoagie, alt. sp.

22. Bathtub hooch

23. Green side

24. Accustom

25. Imitate

26. \*Quarterback's downfall

27. The N of U.S.N.A.

28. Move smoothly

29. Mister in Madrid

32. \_\_\_\_-view mirror

33. What Harry and Sally did

36. \*Pre-championship games

38. Work the dough

40. High tea vessel

41. Bucolics

44. Gustatory sensation

46. Hook, line and sinker person

48. Coffin holders

49. Rekindled

50. Type of ski lift

51. Drift like aroma

52. Type of fish net

53. Like acne-prone skin

54. Climber's destination

55. It's more, to some

56. Don McLean: "A long, long time \_\_\_\_..."





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