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The Messenger

Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord

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OCTOBER 1, 2025

Volume 11 • Issue 19

What's It Worth?

By Cheri Roshon

As I was contemplating my plans for the upcoming week, I was struck by how busy this time of year really is. Not only are there the regular jobs, chores, and tasks on our proverbial "To Do List", but there is a lot going on this time of year that are extras. We get to reap the rewards of our gardens, get our landscaping cleaned up from spent flowers and those pesky weeds, switch out our wardrobes for cooler weather, and school starts for the kiddos. Sports practice and the fall games like football and volleyball to attend (and drive the kids to), and extracurricular programs that go along with school. No wonder we get overwhelmed in the fall! And when does it stop? It seems each season of our life brings different activities to keep us busy.

(continued on page 5)

A Long Walk to the Finish Line

By Cheri Roshon

Topanga Spencer thought long and hard about what she could do to have a meaningful senior project this year. In light of all the issues we are facing in our world today, and a rise in mental health related issues, I think she made a great choice. Her subject is Mental Health Awareness.

As she got started with her research, she learned of a lot of special programs that address mental health in all its forms. She reached out to them for sponsorship to make

others aware of what is needed in this field, and some of the resources that are available in our area. The three she chose were NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), SPERO (Latin for Hope), and Prairie Care (local mental health services). She worked with them as she pulled together her Walk For Mental Health Awareness. Each company she partnered with had different ideas for how to make her Walk a success, and she wants to say thank you to each one for all they did to help make this a success. (continued on page 10)



Topanga Spencer a senior at Triton, and Tessa Ogren, the Triton health advisor

Triton Cobras Dance Team



The Triton Cobras Dance team held a fundraiser Saturday evening September 27th at the Dodge Center American Legion. Served, was a cheeseburger basket and fries and there were also horse races and meat raffles through the Legion bar.

(continued on page 11)

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.

• 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

Gunning for Gutters

By Tyler Weeks

Rain, as wonderful as it may be, is hiding a devious secret.

(continued on page 5)



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



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Pastors Corner Rejoice in the Harvest!

By Pastor Marty Weigand

As I write these words, it's getting into harvest season. Farmers who chop their corn have already harvested numerous large fields. Soon the soybeans will be ready for harvest. Then will come combining of corn that planned for that kind of harvest. It looks like God will be blessing the farmers of our area with a bountiful harvest. (God has already been blessing me with a bountiful harvest of tomatoes, green beans, peppers and berries from my garden patches.) For this we ought to thank God! As the Bible says about him in Psalm 104:14 (This and other Scripture quotes from NIV). "He makes grass grow for cattle and plants for man to cultivate, bringing forth food from the earth."

But there's another harvest going on, for which we ought to thank God, and gladly join in the work of reaping this harvest. This harvest is going on around the world, and in every season— even the dead of winter. Our Lord Jesus spoke about this harvest in John 4:35-36. He told his disciples, "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together." Jesus was talking about the harvest of souls for eternal life. This harvest takes place as people spread the good news of Jesus and God's gift of salvation in him to other people, so they may believe in him and so be "harvested"— not to go in a grain bin, but to enjoy new life now, and then eternal life with Jesus in his heavenly kingdom.

When Jesus spoke these words he had just

been working to "harvest" one soul, a woman from a town in Samaria.

She had been living a very messed up life; but Jesus cared for her soul, shared with her the news of who he is and why he had come, and she was brought to trust in him as her Savior. Then she told the people of her town about Jesus, and now they were on their way out to the well where Jesus was. The people would invite Jesus to stay with them, because "Many in of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony." When Jesus stayed two more days and taught the people, "because of his words, many more became believers." They said to the woman..."Now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." (Jn 4:19-42)


Organist Wanted

**Holden Lutheran Church
Rural Kenyon**
~
**Interested contact:
holdendalesecretary@gmail.com**


Dear Christians who read this, whom has God put in your life to whom you can tell the good news of Jesus, or invite them to come and hear it at your church? Even if they don't believe or come right away, you are planting seeds that may eventually result in a harvest of a soul for eternal life. And if you think a good harvest of corn or beans is worth rejoicing over, how much more is the harvest of even one precious soul for eternal life in Jesus! So come, join in the happy work of bringing in this harvest!

If you who are reading this don't know Jesus Christ as your Savior, may these words be a seed God plants in your heart: "This

man really is the Savior of the world." That means he came to be the Savior not only of "respectable" people (though all of us our sinners) but also of people who have lived or are living an obviously messed up life, like that Samaritan woman Jesus spoke with. He died on the cross to pay for the sins of not only Samaritans and Jews in another part of the world, but also for all your sins. And he rose from the dead to live as your Savior, that you might believe in him and have eternal life. Talk to someone you know is a Christian, and/or come to a Bible-believing church, and learn more about him!

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THROUGHOUT THE
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DODGE CENTER
Faith Lutheran Church
308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center
507-374-2174
Traditional Worship 9a.m.; Fellowship 10a.m.
Grace Lutheran Church
404 Central Avenue N, Dodge Center
Rev. Elliott Malm • 507-633-2253
https://grace.lcchurch.org
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 • 612-803-1212
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.
(weekly sermons available on YouTube and on website)
First Congregational Church
12 Second Street NW
Dodge Center, MN 55927 • 507-633-6873
www.congregationalchurchdc.com
Mark Martig, Pastor

Area Church Directory
God's Mission Has Disciples
The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." — Luke 10:17
Wally was a church member who had a big heart for mission. He and I led a course for several years about the basics of Christian faith, and we saw a lot of good change in people's lives during that time. I remember thinking sometimes as I drove home, "It doesn't get any better than this!"
It seems that Jesus' disciples sensed something like that in their own context when he sent them out in pairs. Jesus celebrated their success by declaring that through their work, Satan himself was being defeated. What a statement! It truly doesn't get better than that!
This month we have focused on some big mission words: gospel, witness, holistic, and intercultural. These are important words and concepts. But they don't mean a thing if they remain just ideas. They come alive and truly mean something when they describe how we join Jesus in the work of changing lives and renewing communities.
As Wally interacted with the people he met, whether it was in his greenhouse operation, talking to a visitor at church, striking up a conversation at the coffee shop, or hosting our course, he wasn't thinking about those big words. He just wanted to make sure that every person knew they were loved with an everlasting love and that they would meet Jesus. Jesus commissions us, his disciples, with the same call.
Jesus, help me to be available to you. In my interactions with others, may I bring your message of life, healing, and hope. Equip me with your Spirit, Lord, Amen.

CLAREMONT
1st Presbyterian Church
200 East Street, Claremont • 528-2320
Pastor Doug Walters
Sunday Worship at 10:00a.m.
St. John Lutheran Church
4532 SE 84th Avenue, Claremont • 528-2404
Pastor Alan Broadwell
Sunday Service at 10:30a.m.

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY IS SPONSORED BY:


**160 26th St NE, Owatonna
507-413-0819
Dining Room Open 7 Days a Week
11:00am-10:00pm
www.plazamorena.com**

WEST CONCORD
Faith Community Church
305 State Street N, West Concord • 507-527-2244
Pastor David Brederland
Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship; 10:45a.m. Sunday School
www.fcwc.org
Facebook: WC Faith Community Church
Hegre Lutheran, ELCA
51939 Highway 56 Blvd., Kenyon • 507-527-2353
Sunday: 9:15a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Worship
Trinity Lutheran, ELCA
301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778
Pastor Chad Christensen • trinitychurchwc.net
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:
Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn
Sundays 9:45a.m. Worship in building and live streamed on Facebook.
Sunday School 10:30a.m.
Tuesday Men's Bible Study, 7:00a.m.
at church and via Zoom
Call church for more information on ministries and events.
Church of Christ
55087 200th Ave., West Concord • 507-527-2723
Pastor Peter Moen
9:00a.m. Sunday School; 10:00a.m. Worship
concordchurchmn.com
Zwingli United Church of Christ
"The Berne Church"
23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340
Pastor Tom Isaacson
Sunday 10:00a.m. Worship; Find us on Facebook

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

Ruby E. Gray

Ruby E. Gray, 91, of Claremont, passed away on Thursday, September 11, 2025, surrounded by her family. Born on August 3, 1934, to the late Melvin and Agnes (Musegades) Rehman, Ruby was the first of four children. Growing up, Ruby was raised on a farm, moving to the Claremont area in 1947, and graduating from Claremont High School in 1952. While working at the Claremont Telephone Company, Ruby met her future husband, Don Gray, and after his return from the military, they married at the old St. John's Church in Owatonna on May 12, 1957.

Ruby left her job at the Owatonna Public Utilities and the couple moved to Claremont where they built their home on Don's family farm, as he was a fifth-generation farmer. Ruby embraced the farming life as she helped with the dairy cattle and feeding the calves. In 1990, Ruby and Don moved into Claremont when their son, Gary, bought the family farm.

When Ruby wasn't working (which was rare), she could almost always be found in her flower garden as that was her pride and joy. Ruby also enjoyed knitting and crocheting baby blankets and graduation afghans, ceramics, canning and freezing fresh tomatoes, corn, peas, and beans, and in her recent years, diamond paintings. There was always a soft spot in her heart for birds and she had feeders for hummingbirds and cardinals and could be found buying pints of grape jelly and oranges for the orioles. She also stashed peanuts for the blue jays. Up until recently, Ruby journaled; she would describe every day for several years, which helped Gary out when there were questions about when corn was planted.

Ruby is survived by her husband of 68 years, Don; her children: Dean, Gary (Mickie), and Sue Gray; grandchildren: Brad, Brian (Brittney), Jacob (Kylie) Spatenka, and Chase Spatenka; granddaughter-in-law, Stephanie (Jarod) Ploetz; great-grandchildren: Brennen, Teigen, Addison, and Hadelie; her siblings, Darlene (Curt) Russell and Roger (Diane) Rehman; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents;

daughter-in-law, Wendy Gray; grandson, Tyler Gray; and sister, Beverly (Bill) Rogers.

A memorial service was held at 11 am on Friday, September 19, 2025, at First Presbyterian Church in Claremont. A visitation was held at 10 am until the time of service. Ruby was laid to rest at the Hillside Cemetery during a private family burial. Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Naomi Lea Flury

Naomi Lea Flury, 89, of Dodge Center, died peacefully on Friday, September 19, 2025, at the Field Crest Care Center in Hayfield, MN.

Naomi Samson Flury was born November 4, 1935, in West Bend, Iowa, to Elvin and Florence (Broadwell) Samson. She started school in West Bend and after the family moved to a farm east of Arnolds Park, she continued her education and graduated from Arnolds Park High School. Naomi attended and graduated from Methodist-Kahler School of Nursing in Rochester.

On June 30, 1956, Naomi married Darrold 'Buzz' Flury in Rochester. Most of Naomi's career was spent in nursing at Methodist Hospital, St Mary's Hospital, Olmsted Medical and finished her nursing career working for Field Crest Care Center. Darrold and Naomi owned and operated the Flury Inn Bar in Dodge Center and drove van for Triton School District.

Naomi was a lifelong member of the American Legion Auxiliary Wells Peterson Post #384 and served as its unit president and a member of the United Methodist Church, Dodge Center.

Left to cherish her memory are her children, Terry Berg of Newcastle, Wyoming, Cathy Radil of Owatonna, Alan (Kathy) of Sundance, Wyoming, and Donald Flury of Yellville, Arkansas.

The joys of her life included four grandchildren, Ryan (Staci) Fay, Brandon Berg, Robert (Laura) Fay, and Patrick (Jamie) Fay; and ten great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Darrold Flury in 2017, parents, Elvin and Florence, brother, Robert Samson and sisters Dorothy Palmer and Ruth Boettcher.

A family memorial service and inurnment will be at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery Preston.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit <http://www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com>.

homes.com. Czaplewski Funeral Homes, 25 South Street SW, Dodge Center, MN 55927 (507)374-2155. Blessed be her memory.

Ronald Douglas Taylor

Ronald Douglas Taylor, 42, of Claremont, MN passed away on Friday, September 19, 2025, at Mayo Clinic Methodist Campus in Rochester, MN. He was born to Sally Taylor on November 29, 1982, in Denver, Colorado.

Ron was married to Tina (Kenitzer) Taylor on September 6, 2006, in Cotopaxi, Colorado. They had three wonderful children. He loved fiercely and was very proud of all of them. He was a devoted husband and father. He enjoyed many things in life including collecting Pokémon, gaming with friends, tattooing, and going to Arcades. His greatest enjoyment was spending time with family and friends.

Ron is survived by his wife Tina Taylor; children, Angel (Derek), Tigger, and Danielle; and many chosen children, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mother and stepfather, Sally and Jeff; his maternal grandparents, Douglas and Lillian; and aunts, Alice and Debra.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE Kasson, MN 55944 (507)634-6510. Blessed be his memory.

Rosemary Lillian Miller

Rosemary Lillian Miller, 83, of Dodge Center, MN passed away surrounded by her family on Monday, September 15, 2025, at Benedictine Living Community in Owatonna, MN.

Rosemary was born on August 20, 1942, in Faribault, MN to John and Cyrilla (Evans) Frodl. She graduated from Waterville high school in 1960.

On April 24, 1965, she married Lawrence "Larry" Miller at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Waterville, MN. She worked at Waseca Mutual upon graduation and then went on to be the bookkeeper for CCW, the Star Record Newspaper for Byron, Hayfield, and Dodge Center. Following her retirement, she continued to work at the Hubbell House in Mantorville, MN, In-Town Floral and Hardware Hank in Dodge Center, MN. She also worked for Meals on Wheels.

Rosemary was a member of Dodge Center American Legion Post 384, the VFW, and Ladies Quilt Club. She enjoyed bowling, golfing, mowing her lawn, playing cards, sewing, quilting, ceramics, dancing, and tending to her flowers.

Rosemary is survived her loving husband, Lawrence "Larry" Miller of Dodge Center, MN; children, Linda Miller, Nancy Miller,

and Kevin Miller all of Austin, MN; brother, Gerald (Georgann) Frodl of Waterville, MN; sister, Janet (Richard) Hensch of Bandara, TX; sister-in-law, Shelley Miller and Margaret (Don) Dugo; several nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Cyrilla Frodl; son, Craig Miller; sister, Betty (Bill) Molva; in-law's, Albert and Grace Miller; brother-in-law's, Bob (Donna Pittmann) Miller and Roger Miller; and sister-in-law, Audrey (Frances) Cemensky.

A funeral mass was held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, September 22, 2025, at St. John Baptiste de la Salle Parish, 20 2nd St NE in Dodge Center, MN. Father John Lasuba officiated. Visitation was from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Sunday, September 21, 2025, at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South St SW in Dodge Center, MN and one hour prior to her mass at the church on Monday. A private family burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center, MN.

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

Mary Lou Hanson

Mary Lou Hanson, age 84, of Kasson died Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at Prairie Meadows Senior Living in Kasson.

Mary Lou was born July 11, 1941, in Kasson to Paul and Joy (Osborn) Urch. She graduated from West Concord High School in 1959 and attended Mankato

State University for one year.

Mary Lou was united in marriage to Glenn Hanson on April 27, 1962, in West Concord. Over the years, she was employed at Roberts Brothers Hardware in West Concord and Walmart in Rochester. Mary Lou was a member of Faith Community Church (formerly First Baptist Church) in West Concord, where she participated in AWANA and Sunday School. She enjoyed taking care of her plants, bringing flowers to adorn graves at Concord Cemetery, and watching her "soaps" on tv.

Mary Lou is survived by her husband of 63 years, Glenn; son, Leslie (Beth) Hanson of Shelby Township, MI; son-in-law, Brian Elton of Rochester; six grandchildren, Sydney and Collin Elton, Jenna, Karson, Brooke and Faith Hanson; brother, John (Kathryn) Urch of Viroqua, WI; sister-in-law, Phyllis Urch of Owatonna; also other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Jill and a brother, Duane.

Funeral Service was at 3:00 pm, Sunday, September 28, 2025, at Faith Community Church in West Concord. Visitation began at 1:30 pm on Sunday at the church. Interment was in Concord Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to an organization of the donor's choice.

(obituaries continued on page 4)



Fall Senior Festival

Thursday, October 9, 2025
2:00 pm
Faith Community Church
305 State Street N.
West Concord, MN

All Seniors are invited to come & enjoy a time of fellowship and singing the old familiar hymns.

Devotional: Pastor David Breederland
-Coffee and treats will follow the program-

Faith Community Church is located on the north side of West Concord, on Hwy. 56. Our facility is all on one level for easy access.



Got a Great Local News Story?

Tell us about it today!

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Serving the Triton Area

The Messenger

Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord

Andrew Voxland



Andrew Voxland, age 62, of Kenyon, passed away on Wednesday, September 24, 2025. On April 25, 1963, Andrew P. Voxland was born in Red Wing, Minnesota, to a loving spirited couple, Paul and Margaret Voxland, as their second child. Within the family, Margaret noticed early on that Andrew was competitive, dependable, persistent, and, at times, quietly reflective. In school, he was social in his own unique way, forming lifelong friendships that he carried with him through the years.

Andrew graduated from Kenyon High School in 1981, and went on to attend the University of Minnesota, where he earned a degree in Agricultural Economics. Joining the Alpha Gamma Rho, a fraternity was a highlight of his college years. After all, who wouldn't love drinking beer out of their anaconda snake cowboy boots?

The fraternity was where a love story began — with the words “Mange takk” (thank you in Norwegian) for the University of Minnesota homecoming in 1982. Those words took him by surprise as he hadn't heard them since returning from his 4-H Exchange in Norway back in 1979. To his amazement, when he spoke to her, he learned that she had been in Norway at the exact same time he was there. And so began his love story with Jean

Scharberg.

That conversation eventually led them down the aisle in December of 1983, as Andrew and Jean began their new life together. They raised three wonderful daughters; those three little girls became the apple of Andrew's eye. He worked tirelessly to be both protector and provider for his family. He never pushed his children too hard, but he always made his wishes known.

Andrew's love for farming and working alongside his father instilled in him a deeply tradition-oriented life. He was raised among parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, where family rituals and values were woven into daily living — and he loved those traditions. Andrew especially cherished holiday gatherings and regular family dinners. He carried those same values forward with his own children, sharing his expert knowledge of raising pigs and guiding them in showing animals at county and state fairs.

Andrew enjoyed all of the places he worked but especially enjoyed the opportunities to travel abroad with A&M Business Interiors. His horizons were broadened as he saw the stark contrast of life in places like Moscow and Puerto Rico. After returning from a month in Moscow, he reflected on all that he had accomplished in life. That realization struck him deeply and inspired him to be generous to those in need.

Andrew's greatest loves in life were his family, especially his wife, but also loved farming, music, good movies, chocolate of any form and variety, shooting gophers and squirrels from his front door and of course his

favorite British Comedies.

He was preceded in death by his parents Paul and Margaret Voxland. Andrew is survived by his devoted wife, Jean Scharberg Voxland, who was his best friend and companion; their three daughters, Terra (Aaron) Haugen, Laura (Joe) Walter, Hanna Voxland; grandchildren, Audrey Haugen, Stella Haugen, Gretta Haugen, Jack Walter and Maggie Walter; his siblings: Matthew (JoEllen), William (Peggy), Janice Voxland (David Phillips), and Collins (Jenny); and a loving extended family of nieces, nephews, and

cousins.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at Holden Lutheran Church, Kenyon. A visitation will be held from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm on Friday, October 3, 2025, at Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon. An additional visitation will be from 1:15 pm until the time of service on Saturday at the church. Andrew will be laid to rest at Holden Lutheran Church Cemetery. Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon has been entrusted with arrangements.

United Way Announces \$20,000 in Dodge County Grants

Dodge County, MN – Building on the recent success of Dodge County community-led learning efforts, United Way of Southeast Minnesota is releasing four grants of \$5,000 each. These grants will support programs directly connected to the recommendations from community members outlined below:

- Housing: strengthen access to resources and financial support
- Healthcare: increase access to health services
- Transportation: investing in county-wide transportation infrastructure and supporting pathways for access to personal vehicles
- Community Resource Navigation: strengthen local knowledge, curation, navigation of resources, and assistance for applying for services

After a six-month community-led learning project in Dodge County, where community members identified gaps, challenges, and pressing needs in human services, these grants are an investment in the solutions that were identified. Findings were shared at a public share out in May 2025.

One grant will be awarded in each of the four recommendation areas. Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) organizations, or those with fiscal sponsorships, government entities, or school districts. Applicants must also provide free or low-cost services to low-income Dodge County residents who are part of the ALICE* population.

Applications are now open and close October 17, 2025, at 11:59 PM.

Links to the full report, recommendations, and application rubric can be found on the United Way website.

*ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) households fall under 300% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Holden Lutheran Church

All Saints Dinner

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Dine In: 12-2 and 4:30-6:30

Meat Balls and Gravy* Pulsa
Scalped Potatoes * Buttered Carrots
Cranberry Relish * Lefse * Fruit Soup
Rommegrot * Bakings

Cost: \$20/meal • Dine-in: Children 5-12 \$10, 4 and Under Free
 Delivery available upon request.
 Cash or check only, Holden WELCA
 Address: 6949 Co 30 Blvd, Northeast of Kenyon

To Go Meals are available but reservations are preferred.
 Call (507) 789-6677
 Email: holdendinner@gmail.com

— 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"

The Annual Lutefisk and Norwegian Meatball Supper

Vang Lutheran Church

2060 County 49 Blvd
 Dennison MN 55018

Saturday, October 4th 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

Please call 507-789-5189 (leave message) or email at vanglutefisk@gmail.com

Ticket price \$26.00 each; payments by check or cash on October 4th

#507-789-5186 vanglutefisk@gmail.com

What's It Worth?

(continued from page 1)

So, I was thinking all these thoughts as I drove to work today. As I walked into my office, I saw the sauna standing alone and empty in the corner of the room. I thought how nice it would be to just hop into the heated space with a book and enjoy 30 minutes to myself, and just read. As I contemplated that great idea, the phone rang, and it was a client who also needed the sauna space, so I told her to come on over and I would get it heated up for her. Once again, I put someone else's needs before my own.

So, as I warmed up the sauna, feeling jealous of my client who was now on her way to my office, I realised a lot of us do that.....put someone else's needs before our own. How hard would it have been to book her an hour later, so I could get in first? Just think how good it would feel to say Yes to Me for once! And why don't I do that more often? After all, it's my equipment, and I know how beneficial it is to my physical and mental health. And then there was the question, "How can I learn to take better care of myself?"

Can you relate? I think many, if not most of us, are overwhelmed with all that is going on in our world, locally and globally. So after work, I began asking others what their self care regime is. I was met by blank stares from almost everyone I asked. All the people I asked agreed that they were just so busy this year that they didn't think about doing something for themselves. To be frank, a lot of them looked at me as if I had lost my marbles! One lady- yes only one-- said she had begun having her coffee sitting down in the morning instead of running around cleaning her house first thing, and was doing word games on her phone instead of cleaning. Well, that's a start!

It really doesn't matter what you do, or for how long, as long as it is something you choose to do for yourself. Maybe you have a goal that needs more discipline, so you push yourself harder than normal to achieve that goal. Is that self care? I suppose in a way it is, but I'm talking more about relaxing and taking time to just be. Stop and smell the roses, as they say. Take a walk around town, or on the nature trail. Listen to the sounds around you. Sit on your porch and wave to your neighbors. Take a dance class, or go to the gym. Take a bubble bath at the end of a long day. Go shopping just to go shopping. Maybe buy yourself a little something that pleases you. There are so many ways to take a time out, and I believe this is a very important part of self care. It can bring an inner peace to you in the midst of mayhem. Give yourself the gift of time. Time to just be. The more you do it, the more likely you are to develop a habit of being selfish. And that's not a bad thing, because selfish without the Self is just ISH!

So, my friends, the holidays are coming and you know what that brings! MORE! So, now is the time to develop those habits that will help you not to be overwhelmed at the time of the year that is probably the most stressful. Let's work on making it the time of the year that brings us the most Joy instead! Best wishes, and here's to happy holidays to us all!

Gunning for Gutters

(continued from page 1)

Regardless of what gardeners might tell you or the refreshment it evokes on lawns, this natural phenomenon also brings its barrel of damage.

Alongside causing widespread flooding and washed-out agriculture, an abundance of water also poses significant injury to a home's foundation. Water spilling directly off your roof erodes the soil surrounding a house, potentially damaging the surrounding area and staining any paint and siding. To avoid the dreaded roof leaks and interior water damage that Minnesota so noticeably threatens, it's critical to invest in a proper gutter system that will keep a house in check for decades to come. C & A Seamless Gutters is no stranger to this process, standing out from more impersonal brands with their highly durable materials, fair pricing, and reliable care beyond a regular installation company.

Before founders Chad and Amber started this fledgling company three years ago, they got their start in St. Paul, where the bustling demands of the city made it difficult to find the right opportunities for their two kids. Wanting the more community-oriented life only a small Minnesota town could bring, the two took a chance and moved to Kenyon six years ago. Twelve months after their nerve-racking decision, a friend prompted Chad to switch from his current job of window cleaning to a new position: the gutter busi-

ness. The intimidating offer ultimately proved to be one of their best decisions, enabling the two to establish a now three-year-old firm and offer community members affordable gutter services. Unlike the host of other installation companies, however, their "measly" institution could devote its full attention to serving individual customers. No longer did citizens have to delay getting a new gutter system until the right time; C & A's strategy offered a remedy.

Chad Wood: "Customers shouldn't have to wait months to protect their home. Our services offer better and affordable prices as a smaller firm, allowing customers to have full attention to their needs. Being family-oriented, we want the best outcome for your gutters to protect your home and make your experience as pleasant as possible."

When he first switched over from windows, the true importance of an effective gutter system was not nearly as evident as it is today. Among other duties, proper gutters keep your fascia from rotting, prevent water from entering your basement, and ensure your foundation remains solid. A part of their family-oriented approach involves ensuring community members are aware of these dangers and how to approach them. Far from the impersonal connections, expensive pricing, and long wait times of a regular gutter installation firm, you'll find C & A Seamless Gutters standing firm in their moral convictions. Now having over half a decade of experience and strong community bonds under their belt, the two understand how significantly maintaining a healthy home is to reducing future problems. Especially considering competition from other businesses, investing in a satisfied customer increases the chances of referrals and future ventures. If others are happy, Chad and Amber can rest knowing that their fair pricing and materials exceeded expectations.

"Are you scared of heights, don't have the time to clean out your gutters, or physically can't clean them? Alongside the help of gutter screens to keep out pesky leaves/debris, we are here with reliable care regardless of your gutter needs. We are more than happy to provide our best advice to keep your home from being water-damaged."

Without a system like this allowing rainwater and snowmelt to collect away from your home, the worst can happen. Using a quality gutter system saves you from the rain and any future turmoil for your foundation, paint, and siding, allowing your home and the people within it to maintain security. Through the help of their installation, cleaning, and gutter guard services, Chad and Amber contribute to this mission every day with quality and reliable care that very few businesses can match. By choosing a firm like theirs to establish this critical part of your home's longevity, you can rest assured that their full attention belongs to you and only you. In the consequences of foundational damage, siding and paint wear, and landscaping and mold issues, having that assurance is absolutely vital. At a time when so much seems to be occurring, a solid and healthy foundation has never been so important. Gutter systems are only one aspect of life influenced by this fact.

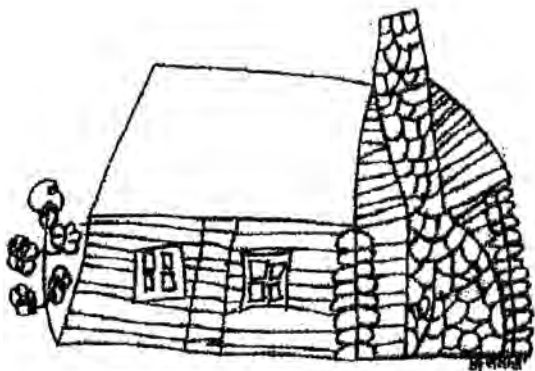
Chad & Amber are available for gutter/spout installations, guards, and cleaning with free estimates at caseamlessguttersllc@gmail.com.

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

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Phone: 507-649-1009

Email: cabincrew@frontiernet.net



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Kenyon, MN

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Kenyon, MN

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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

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	

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

James by Percival Everett

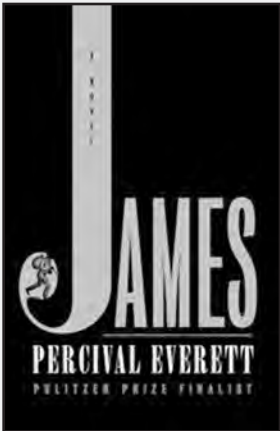
Pulitzer Prize winning fiction novel for 2025. A brilliant reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn—both harrowing and satirical—told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

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

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To the Editor:

With recent events happening both in our area and the nation I wanted to share some very positive light in this darkness. Last night I received a message from one of our residents, who is also a grandma. She wanted to share praise with me about our West Concord Police Department. With permission I share her message slightly redacted to conceal the identity of her grandson.

“Our police department is amazing. I called David’s (Officer David Myrom) cell number, not knowing if he was on duty or not, because my grandson was afraid to go to school tomorrow due to the recent school threats. David assured me the threat has been diffused and indulged us by making a personalized video for my grandson. We live in an amazing place! My grandson doesn’t care where someone is from. He just needs to know what every child in our own community needs — to know to run To our officers, not FROM them. To know that they’ve got their back.”

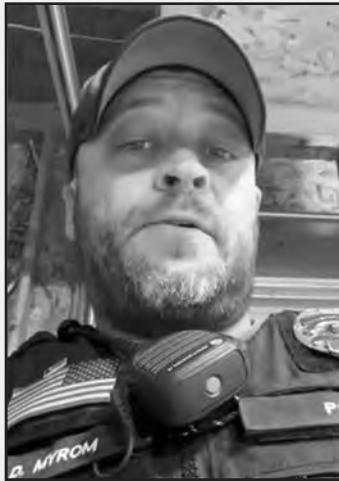
This is exactly the story that needs to be shared in the current turmoil. This is not about politics, who to blame, what side you are on. This is the basic human need to feel safe and comforted. They haven’t asked for this recognition but are very deserving of it. I share this video below as a very proud Mayor of our community! This is something the world needs now more than at any other time.

Mayor McCool

City of West Concord, MN

Also posted to Facebook: City of West Concord- Mayor Page

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



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Ann Traxler
Attorney

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TRUCKS RANGER MOWERS TRAILERS SATURDAY, OCT. 11, 2025, 9:30 A.M.

LOCATION: 3796 NW 46th St. Owatonna, MN. Due to bridge out on 46th St., from Slumberland Furniture go half mile north on Cty. Rd. 23, then 2 ½ miles west on Cty. Rd. 9, then half mile south on Cty. Rd. 17, then 1 ½ miles east on 46th St. NW.

Please Note: A very good auction to attend. Shane had a very successful painting and construction business with lots of good tools. Only a partial list of items to be sold. Tracy Holland

TRUCKS - TRAILERS - 2-LIFTS - MOWERS - POLARIS - RANGER - HONDA FOREMAN - ANTIQUES - GUNS - TOOLS - HOUSEHOLD - MISC.



• 2025 Polaris Ranger XP 1000, heat-air, 375 miles, winch w/Hoppe/Kicker stereo speaker system • 2018 Ford XLT 250, crew cab, 6.2 liter, auto, 78,650 miles, 4x4 • 2012 Ford F250, Reg. cab, 8' box, auto, 6.2 liter, 2-wheel drive, 199,897 miles • 2007 Chevy Silverado, ext. cab, 4x4, auto, 5.3 liter, 161,502 miles • 1966 Ford pickup, auto, 2-wheel, 6 cyl. Engine • 2010 Ford Escape, 202,100 miles, needs TLC • 2017 - H&H dump trailer, 16', tandem axle • 2003 - Continental cargo trailer, 16' tandem axle • 7'x18' tandem axle trailer w/ramps • Genie model GS3268 rough terrain scissor lift, 4x4 w/stabilizers, max height 32' • Bil-Jax mode 3522A trailer-mounted boom basket lift • Honda Foreman ES, 500.ATV w/winch • Husquvama Z254F zero turn, 58 hours, Kawasaki engine, w/54" deck • Toro zero turn mower, 24 ½ HP motor w/54" deck • Brush cutter 72" skid loader mount • 64" grapple skid loader bucket • Stow MS18 mortar plaster mixer w/5.5 Honda engine • Pro-II Porto-Bender • Honda EU 2200 generator • Generac XT800 generator • Stihl KM 131R extended tree chain saw • Stihl MS210C chain saw • Stihl cement saw • DeWalt miter saw • DeWalt cordless grease gun • DeWalt portable table saw • Many DeWalt cordless tools • Wet tile saw • Bostich air compressor • Schumaker battery charger • Eagle twin cylinder air compressor • NAPA 3.5 ton floor jack • Misc. scaffolding • Mr. Heater • Various aluminum ladders • DeWalt radios • Plastering tools • 12-gal. shop vac • 2 - wheel barrows • Many electric extension cords • Lumber various sizes and lengths • Corrugated steel roof panels • Ice fishing items • Misc. new windows and frames • Electric blowers • Various newer cupboards • Old kitchen cabinet • Old china hutch • Spinning wheel • Copper boiler • Steel wheels • Lightning rod w/bulb • Leather recliner sofa (like new) • Misc. household items

Live On-Line bidding available at: www.proxibid.com/holland

GUNS TO SELL AT 11 A.M. (BRING CURRENT PERMIT FOR PISTOLS)

• Browning Investor Citori Special Steel, 12 ga. over under • Tristar viper 12 ga. semi auto • Savage model 10 7mm-08 • Beretta model A390-ST, 12 ga. semi auto • Stoeger P350, 12 ga. (needs repair) • Taurus Gx4, 9 mm • Glock 17 Gen 5, 9 mm

Terms: Cash or good check & picture ID required. 10 percent buyer's fee applies with a \$1,000 max per item. No property removed until fully settled for. Sales staff and owners not responsible for accidents. Any verbal announcements made day of auction takes precedence over print. Lunch and restroom available on site. Clerk: Holland Auction LLC

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West Concord

Dodge County Community Foundation (DCCF)

Dodge County Community Foundation (DCCF) is a new charitable foundation started by Dodge County citizens. The DCCF mission statement is Enhancing Dodge County Together which it is accomplishing through building sustainable funding to support its four pillars: emergency response services, parks & recreation, education, and community support.

The organization has already established an endowment of more than \$60,000 through the support of local businesses, organizations, individuals, Dodge County Government, and the JA Wedum Foundation. Using this endowment, DCCF has already started to make an impact:

- \$2,800 in full training scholarships for 2 new emergency medical technicians (EMT) to volunteer with local ambulance services
- \$400 to cover test registration fees for 4 Triton seniors qualified to take the EMT boards
- \$1,000 to help Dodge County Sheriff's Chaplain Service purchase duty vests



- Partnering with Dodge County Environmental Services as a fiscal agent for private donations for the new Restoration Park

The new 501(c)(3) nonprofit has a board of 7 members representing the different areas of Dodge County:

Tom Monson, President – Kasson
Dean Schuette, Vice President – Claremont
Jim Checkel, Treasurer – At Large/Townships

Elaine French, Secretary – Dodge Center
Jeremy Ellingson – West Concord
Jane Wilcox Hardwick – Mantorville
Randy Demmer – Hayfield

DCCF is an all-volunteer organization and is a fully tax-exempt non-profit. Donations are used to support the mission of Enhancing Dodge County Together. Donations to DCCF are generally tax deductible – consult with your tax accountant.

Visit the DCCF website at www.dodge-countycommunityfoundation.org to learn more. If you have questions or would like to submit a grant request to DCCF, please email info@dodgecountycommunityfoundation.org.



DCCF President Tom Monson and Treasurer Jim Checkel present EMT scholarship certificate to Crystal Heim



DCCF President Tom Monson and Treasurer Jim Checkel present EMT scholarship certificate to Nora Jorgenson



DCCF President Tom Monson and Treasurer Jim Checkel present check to DCSO Chaplain Roger Langworthy

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2025 Caring & Sharing Tree
The West Concord American Legion Auxiliary feels every child should have a Merry Christmas.

If you or someone you know has had a major crisis, excessive unexpected payments, unemployed, or are just otherwise financially unable to provide for their family this year, we would like to help.

This program is available to full time residents of West Concord, MN with children 18 years and younger, living at home and attend school, or are not old enough to attend school at this time.

Applications are available at Casey's, Heritage Bank and City Hall in West Concord, MN. Completed applications must be returned to West Concord City Hall by November 7th, 2025.

A Long Walk to the Finish Line

(continued from page 1)

The money generated by the Walk goes to NAMI to help with what they do to provide resources to the community. They have walks for mental awareness in our surrounding towns, and are a wealth of information for anyone who needs their help, including the families of the members who need the help. For more information, call (888)-532-0995.

SPERO furnished the snacks, water and information for all of their programs. I spoke at length with Jen, a member volunteer for the program, and she was very thorough in her explanations of how the programs work. "You don't have to be suicidal in order to call the helpline", she said. "Many people are just overwhelmed and need someone to talk to, or to give them information on where to get help for themselves or others in their family or circle of friends. There is no shame in asking for help, and we are here to assist people in getting the help they need, because every case is unique." They operate in Waseca County, Steele County, Mower County and Dodge County. They can be contacted at (507)-451-

2630.

Prairie Care made the Tee Shirts possible for the Walk. They provide people of all ages with compassionate mental health services, from inpatient to outpatient programming. For more information call (833)-560-3030 for a detailed list of services.

I asked Topanga why she chose this subject for her senior project. "I wanted to do something that is meaningful for my project. I knew about the NAMI group and the walks for mental awareness, so I included the walk in my project." She began researching the ways people in crisis can get help, and did a slideshow showcasing some of the things that can be done to help others. An Instagram account and a Face Book page (NAMI WALKS) detail some of her work, and she has shared a lot on social media. She procured a spot on Midwest Access Live TV to bring awareness to her project, and is a part of the "Schoology" website. She is thinking of doing another Walk for Awareness in May of this year, to bring more help to those who need it. She is considering going to college to become a health professional, too.

The student council at Triton helped as well. I spoke with one of the volunteers at the walk who was manning the snack table, Aubrey Laue, and asked her why she decided to help Topanga in her project. "Mental Health is important, and I thought it would be kind of me to help," she answered. "Isn't kindness what it's all about?" I think Aubrey has the right idea!

I decided to join the folks of all ages, and a dog, who came to be a part of the walk. As I was walking around Triton's track, I spoke to a few of the volunteers. Tessa Ogren was one

of my walking buddies, and she made the point that no life is untouched by mental health, and she wanted to support the cause. Lilah Stauffer said she doesn't really walk much, but that it is refreshing to walk for a reason to help others. Her mother Devon was walking with us, and she said she enjoyed walking with others to raise awareness for special issues.

So there you have it! A beautiful day and a very important message to bring to the public. I want to thank Topanga for doing such a great job with her project so far, and I know she will be successful in her efforts to help others find the help they need. See you in May!

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Peter Brehmer, APRN

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North Risk Partners Rochester

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Rochester, MN
Phone: 507-288-7600
Email: jesse.stenke@northriskpartners.com

Triton Cobras Dance Team

(continued from page 1)

The fundraiser was to purchase new uniforms for the team and included a raffle. The Triton Cobras Dance team is a Minnesota State High School League sponsored activity and has been active for over fifteen years. They are comprised of about twenty-five Triton girls in the seventh through twelfth grades. There are three teams, The Varsity Kick team, junior varsity kick team and junior varsity jazz team. They participate in up to eight competitions in south-east Minnesota culminating in the State Competition in early February. Competitions include ten or more High School teams and the Triton Cobras Dance has placed at most competitions. The girls practice five days each week throughout the season. The 2025 season begins October 20th. Jamie Bodestab has been the head coach for the Triton Cobras Dance team for the last nine years.



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Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol



Question: My husband and I are wondering if it is true that emergency vehicles can change a light from red to green, if they need to proceed through an intersection. Is this true, or is it just a myth that people now believe to be true? Also, if this is true, how is the light triggered? Is it triggered by the flashing lights of the emergency vehicle or is it triggered through some other method?

Thank you for your column! We read it every time and we appreciate the helpful and accurate information.

Answer: Emergency vehicles can change traffic lights using a system called Opticom. The device on the vehicle emits a specific light or signal, which is detected by a receiver on or near the traffic light. The receiver then triggers the traffic light to change, giving priority to the emergency vehicle.

Question: I know the distracted driving law has been around for a while now, but can you please talk about it some more?

Answer: Driver distraction or inattention is a leading factor in crashes in Minnesota, accounting for at least 25 percent of all crashes annually. Distracted drivers fail to recognize potential hazards on the road and react more slowly to traffic conditions, decreasing their margin of safety.

Types of driver distraction:

- Visual: Looking away from the road.
- Mechanical/physical: Taking hands off the wheel.

• Cognitive: Being "lost in thought." Distractions inside the vehicle

Distractions inside the vehicle can include activities such as: using a cell phone, using a GPS, reaching for items, eating and drinking, adjusting the radio, talking to other passengers, and reading maps and other materials. Even when you are watching the road, behaviors such as looking at a crash scene or daydreaming can divert attention from your driving responsibilities. For safety, give the task of driving your full attention at all times.

Illegal driver behaviors in Minnesota

Certain driver behaviors are illegal on Minnesota roads. These include using a cell phone or wireless computer device for text messaging, emailing or accessing the internet while driving, including while stopped in traffic. Drivers under age 18 with an instruction permit or provisional license are prohibited from using a cell phone, whether handheld or hands-free, except to call 911 in an emergency. It is also illegal to wear headphones or earphones in both ears simultaneously to listen to a radio or other sound-producing device.

Question: With school back in session, can you talk about school bus safety and what motorists need to know?

Answer: School buses have yellow and red lights that flash alternately to warn drivers they are stopping to load or unload students.

Bus drivers will activate flashing yellow lights at least 100 feet before a school bus stops in a speed zone of 35 mph or less. They will activate the lights at least 300 feet before it stops in a speed zone of more than 35 mph. It is against the law to pass on the right side of a school bus while it is displaying red or yellow flashing lights.

Flashing red lights warn drivers that the school bus is loading or unloading students. When you see a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing and its stop arm extended, you must stop your vehicle at least 20 feet from the bus.

Regardless of whether you are facing the front or back of the bus, you must remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted, and

the red lights stop flashing. If you don't, you can be charged with a misdemeanor. If convicted, you must pay a fine of at least \$500 and lose your driving privileges.

Question: I read your last article about school buses and flashing lights. Can you do a reminder on passing a school bus?

Answer: It is illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing and its stop arm is extended. If you are driving on a divided roadway, you do not need to stop for a school bus with red lights flashing if it is on the opposite side of the divider. A law enforcement officer with probable cause to believe you have violated this law may arrest you within four hours of the violation.

When your vehicle is used to violate the school bus stop arm law, you are guilty of a petty misdemeanor if you own or lease the vehicle. However, if you can prove that another person was driving the vehicle at the time, the driver will be charged with the violation.

When you apply for a driver's license, you must certify, by signing the application, that you understand the requirement to stop for a school bus and are aware of the penalties for violating this law.

Question: My grandkids get to be on their school's "School Patrol." I am so happy they get to help but can you talk about this? I want people to be aware to help keep them and everyone safe. Thank you for all you do.

Answer: Congratulations to your grandchildren! You should be proud as it is quite an honor to be serve on those School Patrols.

A little history lesson on the School Patrol.

The idea of the School Patrol originated with Sister Carmela of the Cathedral School in St. Paul on Feb. 21, 1921 when the first patrolmen were stationed at the intersection of Kellogg Boulevard and Summit Avenue in Saint Paul. Adopted citywide by the City of St. Paul in 1922 as a part of the program of the School System and the St. Paul Police Department, it was also adopted as a statewide program by the Minnesota State Patrol. Generations of children for over 100 years have served on the School Patrol all across Minnesota.

When you see a student safety patrol helping schoolmates cross a street or highway, you must come to a complete stop. You must also stop for adult crossing guards displaying a stop sign or flag. It is illegal to drive through a line of children crossing the road, even if a school safety patrol is not present. Violating this law is a misdemeanor. A second violation within a year is a gross misdemeanor.

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

A recent survey conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration released the top four reasons a driver may have commit a stop-arm violation. 30.5% driver did not care, 25.5% being in a hurry, 24.3% did not know the law, 12.2% distracted.

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

Ted Foss Move Over Law

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the tragic passing of Minnesota State Patrol Trooper Ted Foss. Cpl. Foss was conducting a routine traffic stop on the shoulder of I-90 in Winona County on Aug. 31, 2000, when he was hit and killed by a passing vehicle. His story is a powerful reminder of why we must move over and slow down for vehicles on the shoulder.

In his honor and to save lives on Minnesota roads, on Sunday, August 31, law enforcement across the state will be actively enforcing the Ted Foss Move Over Law. Failing to change lanes or slow down endangers other drivers and emergency professionals and can leave you facing a fine of more than \$100.

Drivers need to remember:

Move Over. On a road with two or more lanes going the same direction, you must move over one full lane from stopped emergency and maintenance vehicles as well as any vehicle with its hazards on.

Slow Down. If you can't move over safely, you must slow down.

Watch for People. The law also applies to people who are outside their vehicles.

Let's all do our part to keep each other safe on the road. When you see flashing lights, stalled vehicles or people on the side of the road, slow down and move over a lane to keep travelers safe and to give roadway workers room to do their jobs safely. Working together, we can drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.

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Legal Notices

October 1, 2025

- DODGE CENTER, CLAREMONT, WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

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NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

TO: Dodge, Steele and Goodhue County Auditors

FROM: Independent School District No. 2125 (Triton Public Schools)
Dodge, Minnesota

SUBJECT: November 4, 2025, Special Election

Independent School District No. 2125 (Triton Public Schools) will be holding a special election on November 4, 2025. The form of the question shall be as specified on the attached Notice of Special Election. You may consider this official notification as required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.07. Please prepare the necessary polling place rosters for use at this election.


Superintendent

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2125 (TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOLS) STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 2125 (Triton Public Schools), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, for the purpose of voting on the following question:

School District Question 1 Approval of Capital Project Levy Authorization

The school board of Independent School District No. 2125 (Triton Public Schools) has proposed a capital project levy authorization of 3.236% times the net tax capacity of the school district. The money raised by the capital project levy authorization will provide funds for the acquisition, installation, replacement, support and maintenance of software and devices, improved technology, technology systems, networks, infrastructure, office and instructional technology, to pay the costs of technology related personnel and training, acquisition of curriculum, textbooks and materials, deferred maintenance, and the acquisition of replacement school busses and other transportation vehicles. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$650,000 for taxes payable in 2026, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$6,500,000. The projects have received a positive Review and Comment from the Commissioner of Education.

☐ Yes Shall the capital project levy authorization proposed by the school board
of Independent School District No. 2125 be approved?

☐ No

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

The combined polling place for this election and the precincts served by the combined polling place will be as follows:

COMBINED POLLING PLACE: Dodge Center City Hall
35 East Main Street
Dodge Center, MN 55927


This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 2125 located in Dodge, Steele and Goodhue Counties, Minnesota.

Any eligible voter residing in the School District may vote at said election at the combined polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will be opened at 8:00 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the combined polling place.

Dated: 8/4, 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD


School District Clerk
Independent School District No. 2125
(Triton Public Schools)
State of Minnesota

TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SUMMARY SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025 – 6:00 P.M. TRITON HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER – DODGE CENTER, MN & ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the August 18, 2025, Triton School Board meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing in the Triton District Office, 813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, or online at www.triton.k12.mn.us.

Present: Wendy Kenworthy, Rebecca Knutson, J. Jensen, D. Jensen, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Scott Curran, and Brian Ginder, Luke Lutterman, Tanisha Fox, Tricia Johnson, Brandon Neseth, Robert Ickler, Dave Hagen Deb Groll, 8 visitors, and 1 visitor present via ZOOM.

The School Board approved the following items:

Agenda and consent agenda including the July 21, 2025 regular meeting minutes and August 4, 2025 special meeting minutes as presented; budget update; claims and bills; treasurer's report; donations; open enrollment/non-resident agreements for students #081825A,

#081825B, and #081825C; contracts for Gareth Hager as 0.8 TMS Special Education Teacher, Amelia Spilde as TES SLD Special Education Teacher, and Lucy Welsh as Special Education Paraprofessional; resignation for Coltt Ullom as TES Technology Teacher effective August 29, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

- Triton Preschool Handbook for 2025-2026;
 - Triton Elementary School Student Handbook for 2025-2026;
 - Triton Middle School Student Handbook for 2025-2026;
 - Triton High School Student Handbook for 2025-2026;
 - Triton Staff Handbook for 2025-2026;
 - Triton Coaches/Advisors/Director Handbook for 2025-2026;
 - FY26 Line of Credit Renewal;
 - Policy updates;
 - Establishing December 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. as the regular board meeting to discuss the levy & budget.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Dodge Center, Minnesota, will meet in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, on Monday, October 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. to consider a request made by the American Legion, at 401 W Highway Street, for obtaining their Sunday On-Sale Liquor License.

All persons desiring to be heard with reference to the above-named request should attend this meeting or submit a written comment to the Community Development Technician. Written comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 13, 2025, at Dodge Center City Hall, c/o Community Development Technician, 35 East Main Street, PO Box 430, Dodge Center, Minnesota, 55927.

DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, September 8, 2025

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the September 8, 2025, Dodge Center City Council regular meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us.

Present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Braedon Dostal, Lee Mattson, Marianne Sobek, John Fox, Vanessa Hines – Widseth and Deputy Tyler Breuer.

City Council approved the following items:

- Amended Agenda and Consent Agenda to include: Minutes of August 25, 2025 Council Meeting, Airport Maintenance & Operations Agreement, Dodger Days Committee, and Payment of Bills;
 - Authorizing Mattson and Hines to negotiate with McNeilus not to exceed \$50,000 from the City in expanding the mill and overlay project to include 2nd Ave SE;
 - Change order for the 2025 Improvement Project in the amount of \$4,400;
 - Resolution 2025-026 – A Resolution Approving a Lot Split and Combination Requested by McNeilus Steel and Corey Johnston;
 - Resolution 2025-027 – A Resolution Approving Rezoning of Lot 9, Block 4, Ayars Second Addition to I-2 Heavy Industrial District;
 - Resolution 2025-028 – A Resolution Granting a Variance for Side Setback and Industrial/Residential Separation Requirements;
 - Resolution 2025-029 – A Resolution Approving Setback Variances for Corey & Joanne Johnston;
 - Authorize staff to pursue replacing the black pipe and fittings on the airport fuel system with stainless with the City paying the difference of approximately \$500 with Airport funds;
- Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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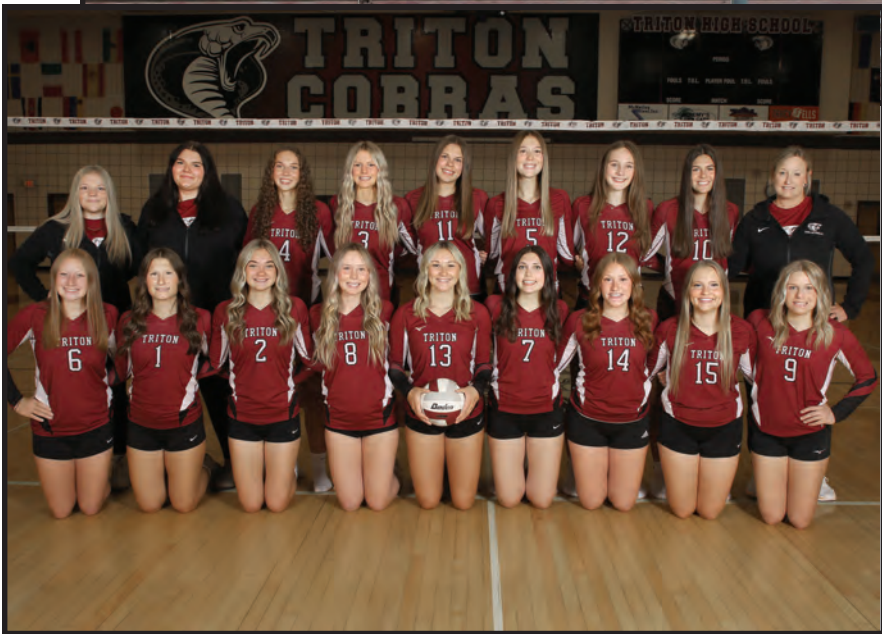
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