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JULY 2, 2026

Volume 11 • Issue 26

## Traveling Book Salesman from Estonia



Artjom at the Claremont City Hall

*submitted by Claremont City Hall*

Artjom "Bookman" Alihodzin is a University student from Estonia doing his 5th summer selling educational books door to door here in Dodge County.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Announcements

- 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](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## Happy Trails: Friendship Wagon Train Passes Through Area

By Jocelyn Aldrich

For John and Monica Davis, of the Friendship Wagon Train, touring the beautiful countryside of southeastern Minnesota has been more than just a fun summer activity.

Since 1985, the Davis family has been participating in wagon trains across the state.

The Friendship Wagon Train started when John Davis became aware of a wagon train that was hosted by Camp Courage, a camp for children and adults with disabilities.

Soon after becoming involved with the Camp Courage Wagon Train, John and Monica decided to start their own wagon train to raise money for additional organizations.



John and Monica Davis are now celebrating their 38th year of the Friendship Wagon Train.  
*(continued on page 3)*

## Fiddlers Returning to West Concord History Center July 16

WEST CONCORD - Fiddlers will return to the West Concord History Center July 16 at 10 a.m. to share their talents during a free event in the gymnasium. This is a free event.

Many attendees will recognize the music created by the fiddlers two of which were manufactured in the 1800s and are owned by the museum.

Many of the musicians who will perform are members of the Minnesota State Fiddlers Association, which has a mission to educate the public about the history behind the music and the instruments.

Questions from the audience are welcome, and the musicians will discuss the meaning and significance of songs.

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## Send Someone Else!

By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

Excuses, Excuses!!! they're not real reasons; they're just ways of avoiding what we really don't want to do. That's why what Benjamin Franklin said is so true: "He that is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else." So, stop making excuses!

If you want to be all that God has called you to be, stop coming up with so-called "reasons" why you can't do what God has asked you to do. Stop telling Him, "It's too hard" or "What if..." or "I'm not qualified." If you want to be used of God to advance His eternal purposes on this planet, then stop trying to justify your inactivity.

That's a lesson Moses had to learn before God could use Him in any significant way. God told Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, but Moses has all kinds of "reasons" why He couldn't do that.

Moses first excuse was- Who am I? I'm just a nobody- you don't want me to do this! Yet, God didn't even try to talk him out of that mindset- because Moses was correct – he was a nobody- without Christ- without grace and mercy through the death and resurrection of Christ- we are all 'nobodies! Moses was a shepherd out in the wilderness. No one knew him, no one gave him a second thought- he was a nobody.

You and I are also nobody!!! In the eyes of the world, you may be 'somebody' but in the eyes of heaven and all the hosts of heaven

you are just a small gnat in time!

God's answer instead of a pep talk was short and sweet, "I will be with you." Moses you won't be a lone- I will be there; I am going to lead you—trust me- follow me! But Moses wasn't finished...

Moses' second excuse: I don't know what to say! God gave him the very words to share with the people of Israel, "I Am who I Am. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM, has sent me to you. Now go" Moses I've given you the words and I will be with you- now go...

Moses' third excuse; What if they won't believe me or listen to me? Moses asks the question many of us ask when faced with a real challenge: "What if? What if they don't believe me? What if something goes wrong? What if it doesn't work?"

God's response was: "What is that in your hand?"

God took what Moses had in his hand and demonstrated His power through it. You see, Moses already had everything he needed to do what God called him to do. He didn't need newer and better equipment. He didn't need more money or more of this or that. He just needed the Lord who would use what Moses already had to overcome the forces of evil. Moses needed to trust in God's power!

It's interesting to note; God didn't even answer Moses excuses- He demonstrated His power to accomplish all that He asked him to do. Trust me Moses- I got this. Instead, Moses threw out excuse number 4:

I can't do this! God said, I know you Moses- I know all about you, I know your strengths, your weaknesses, your abilities and

your disabilities and I'm sending you. God asks Moses to trust in His design and to trust in His plan.

Trust in God's plan. You and I must choose to depend on God's design. We need to rely on His wisdom in the way He made us. That's what God tells Moses to do. Not only did God give Moses miracles to perform. God gave Moses his mouth with a message to proclaim. And that's what we need to do if we're going to be all that God calls us to be. You need to trust that God knew what He was doing when He made you the way He did.

An African proverb says, "If you think you are too small to make a difference, try spending the night in a closed room with a mosquito." (Robert Dawson, Lake Park, Georgia.) Trust in God's provision. Even after the demonstration of power and recognizing that God did know what He was doing- Moses had to try to get out of His calling- one more time:

Send someone else! I really don't want to do this God- You don't really want me to do this God- you've got the wrong guy God! PLEASE send someone else!!! God simply won't take "no" for an answer. God is angry with Moses because of his unbelief. God had said, "I AM," but all Moses could say was, "I am not! They won't believe me. I can't talk." So, God gives him miracles to perform, a mouth to proclaim, and now God gives him a man to prepare for the task ahead.

Moses has finally run out of excuses! He has nothing more to say. God has promised him everything he needs (and more) to lead his people out of Egypt. Moses needs to step

out in faith trusting God to supply he needs for the mission ahead. Moses had to take a step of faith and begin the journey to Egypt.

Philippians 4:19 says, "My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

If you want God to supply your needs you need to step out in faith first. You need to begin the journey and start doing what God told you to do. Then, and only then, will God start giving you what you need for the journey. What is God asking you to do?

- Repent of a sin? Or an addiction? 1 John 1:9
- Serve – find out how you can serve at church, in the community Matthew 20:28
- Forgive someone, or seek forgiveness- Matthew 5:23-24
- Take a step of faith in baptism (talk to your pastor)- Acts 2:38
- Give an offering –commit to give regularly to your local place of worship. 2 Corinthians 9:7, Malichi 3:10.
- Share your faith with someone. Matthew 28:19-20

Take the next step. Step into the call-and answer God: Say YES LORD - SEND ME

## DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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**Grace Lutheran Church**  
404 Central Avenue N, Dodge Center  
Rev. Elliott Malm • 507-633-2253  
<https://gracedc.church>  
Worship 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

**Praise Fellowship Church**  
602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center  
507-374-6400  
Kids Church 9:15 a.m.; Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

**Dodge Center Methodist Church**  
201 1st St. NE, Dodge Center  
507-374-6885  
Sunday Morning Worship at 8:30 a.m., Fellowship Time Following

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

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

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

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

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

**First Congregational Church**  
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[www.congregationalchurchdc.com](http://www.congregationalchurchdc.com)  
Mark Martig, Pastor

### Area Church Directory

**The Fragility of the Powerful**

No sooner are [rulers] planted . . . no sooner do they take root . . . than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.  
— Isaiah 40:24

The powerful people of this world tend to think they are strong and mighty, but they are fragile. They think they have the control of history in their hands, but they do not. Their stability is provisional. Their strength is temporary. Their wealth is volatile.

Their fragility contrasts with the omnipotence of God. Their instability contrasts with the eternity of God. Political rulers are fragile and temporary, but God is all-powerful and permanent. Scripture says people "are like a breath; their days are like a fleeting shadow" (Psalm 144:4), but God is unshakably the same "from everlasting to everlasting" (Psalm 90:2).

God controls the nations. He raises up kingdoms and overthrows them. He gives politicians and other leaders positions of power and takes them down. Compared to the Lord, rulers on the earth are barely planted and rooted before they wither. All it takes is a breath from the Almighty to blow them away like chaff.

Rulers who try to defy God do not prevail. The arrogant may try to stand against the righteous God, but they will only be swept away.

Put your trust in God, our only true refuge and strength!  
*Almighty God, teach us not to trust in fragile human power but in your eternal strength. Humble the proud and uphold the faithful, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.*

### CLAREMONT

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

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

### WEST CONCORD

**Faith Community Church**  
305 State Street N, West Concord  
507-527-2244  
Interim Pastor, Steve Anderson  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.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: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship

**Trinity Lutheran, ELCA**  
301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778  
[trinitychurchwc.net](http://trinitychurchwc.net)  
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:  
[Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn](https://www.facebook.com/Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn)  
Sundays 9:30 a.m. Worship in building and live streamed on Facebook.  
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
Tuesday Men's Bible Study, 7:00 a.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  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School; 10:00 a.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 Beth Anthony  
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## Happy Trails: Friendship Wagon Train Passes Through Area

(continued from page 1)

The goal of each wagon train has always been to raise money to support organizations that serve individuals with disabilities. Throughout the years, they have raised thousands of dollars for multiple organizations, including Camp Courage, Camp Friendship, Camp Winnebago, and, most recently, the Minnesota Special Olympics.

The Friendship Wagon Train has become a family tradition. Not only are members of the Davis family involved, including their grandkids, but many individuals come back to travel with the Friendship Wagon Train year after year. Jollene Gundermann from Waseca is one of them. She greatly enjoys the wagon-train life and has been doing it since 1986. She loves reconnecting with the Friendship Wagon Train members and

watching the children grow up from year to year. Gundermann says as long as she can still ride, she will continue to be involved in the wagon-train tradition.

In addition to local Minnesotans, many people from out of state come every year. This year, individuals came from Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee, Illinois, Wisconsin, and

Iowa. Karen Gohn and her husband, Michael, travel from Tennessee each year. Karen loves the scenery she gets to see as she travels through the Minnesota countryside.

She also greatly enjoys the people and says, "it gets to be like a family." Tina and Curt Leis are also committed wagon train travelers. Tina says, "[the] first time we came, we knew we wanted to come a lot." The commitment and camaraderie displayed by each of the members of the Friendship Wagon Train is another reason the organization is so special.

Monica Davis notes that people come to travel not only because they enjoy it, but also because the Friendship Wagon Train rides for a good cause. Monica says she is proud of the results that they see, raising between \$25,000-\$30,000 each year for the cause.

The Friendship Wagon Train takes a different route in southern Minnesota every summer. This means they can see new sites and connect with different communities in southern Minnesota. They work with local churches and community groups to help provide meals and other services along the trail. Connecting with local individuals and businesses is another way the Friendship Wagon Train has made such an impact in the past 38 years.

Early morning, the Friendship Wagon Train is up and moving, sending the trailers and vehicles ahead to the next destination. After breakfast, the rest of the company prepares to saddle up. As the horses and mules were saddled and hooked to the wagons, you could feel excitement in the air. A mule would bray, and a horse would answer back, starting a small chorus of livestock in response. At 8:15 am, the Friendship Wagon Train lined up and headed down the road towards Skyberg for



## Traveling Book Salesman from Estonia

(continued from page 1)

He has spent the last couple weeks making calls in Dodge Center, Claremont and West Concord. About 400 University students from Europe come to the United States each summer to earn money for their education selling books door to door. He first introduces himself to the local city administration and gets permission to sell educational materials in the community before beginning his sales calls.

Artjom is studying for a Business degree back home in Estonia and is staying with a host family in Rochester while working here. He will be in the Dodge County area for another couple weeks. This is his first year in Minnesota and he finds the weather very similar to Estonia, unpredictable. In previous years he has working one summer in Utah and three summers in Ohio. He is enjoying his time and finds the people in southern Minnesota to be "very welcoming."

lunch. They set off at a steady pace of 3 mph.

If you would like to donate to the Friendship Wagon Train and support the Minnesota Special Olympics, or if you are interested in joining the Friendship Wagon Train, contact

John and Monica Davis at 507-365-8064 or Monica Davis at 507-696-1418. All donations are appreciated.

This was the 2026 Schedule and Route

- June 19: Volunteers assemble at Cannon Valley Fairgrounds in Cannon Falls, MN.

- June 20: Cannon Falls, Stanton (lunch) □ Transburg farm near Northfield.

- June 21: Transburg farm, Nerstrand (lunch), Kenyon.

- June 22: Kenyon, West Concord (lunch), Dodge Center.

- June 23: Layover in Dodge Center with public wagon rides available.

- June 24: Dodge Center, Claremont (lunch), Owatonna fairgrounds.

- June 25: Owatonna, Meriden (lunch), Waseca fairgrounds.

- June 26: Waseca, Wilton (lunch), New Richland.

- June 27: Final ceremony in New Richland to present donations to Special Olympics Minnesota

Local organizations such as Lions Clubs, churches, American Legion groups, FFA, and 4H clubs provide meals and support along the route. Fire departments assist with water supply, and communities host evening camps for the volunteers. The public is encouraged to watch the wagons, interact with participants, and purchase souvenirs like hats and t-shirts from the Peddler Wagon. The wagon train has been active for over 34 years, raising more than half a million dollars for Special Olympics Minnesota. Each year, the event draws teams from multiple states, including Minnesota, Tennessee, South Dakota, North Dakota, Illinois, Louisiana, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Wagons vary in design, from traditional wooden wheels to modified vehicles, and participants range from long-time volunteers to new drivers.

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## Drive & Thrive: Confidence with Tractors, Trucks & Trailers

University of Minnesota Extension will offer Drive & Thrive: Confidence with Tractors, Trucks & Trailers, a hands-on educational program designed to build confidence and strengthen machinery operation skills among beginning and interested operators across Minnesota.

This is a low-stress opportunity for learners to get behind the wheel of a tractor and a pick-up and learn how to drive forward and in reverse with trailers and implements, along with overviews of safety features and the maintenance of vehicles.

The 2026 Drive & Thrive workshops will be held July 18 at the Steele County Community Center in Owatonna, MN from 2:00 to 6:45 p.m. The training features 1:1 hands-on driving instruction in a pick-up truck with a trailer and a tractor with an implement. Participants will gain experience in areas such as safely connecting and disconnecting equipment, driving in reverse with an attached implement or trailer, understanding tractor controls, recognizing hazards, using new technologies,



and applying practical farm safety practices.

During the individual one-to-one sessions, the rest of the participants will complete group activities focused on farm safety and risk management, along with first aid basics. The fee to attend is \$35 per participant and a meal is provided. Registration is limited. 18+ age limit. Register online at [z.umn.edu/WAGN](http://z.umn.edu/WAGN).

"Farm machinery and implements can feel intimidating, especially for those who are newer to operating equipment," said Ryan Lermom, Extension educator. "Drive & Thrive provides a supportive, low-pressure environment where participants can learn, practice, ask questions, and ultimately feel safer and more confident on their farm."

This program is open to people of any experience level and is sponsored by Compeer Financial.

More information about farm safety and Extension programs can be found at [www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu).

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- ★ 4H & FFA Shows
- ★ Brad Weston Comedy Stunts
- ★ Speed Puzzle Contest July 16<sup>th</sup>
- ★ Accentra Adult & New Kid
- Bean Bag Tournament July 17<sup>th</sup>
- ★ Hall of Fame Program
- NEW TIME 11 am July 19<sup>th</sup>**
- ★ Neon Arrival Band
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### OPEN CLASS BUILDING EXHIBITORS

Registration Day Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

12:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**NEW! Online Registration opens June 1<sup>st</sup>**

### ★ ATTENTION SENIORS ★

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**Senior Day, Friday, July 17 at Noon**

Please confirm attendance by Monday, July 12: 507-634-7736.

Entertainment at 11:00 AM by Scotty Night Productions

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### Daily Happy Hour with Chris Rollo

- ★ Old Country Boys
- ★ JT & The Gunslingers
- ★ Alex Zachary
- ★ Booz \* N \* Tuna

### TOWNSHIP SQUARE FEATURES

#### Fair Prince & Princess Contest

Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM

#### Minnesota State Amateur Talent Contest

Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM

Registration starts at 11:30 AM

More information for both events are on our website.



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

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

## Wasioja Seminary Ruins Ribbon Cutting

Wasioja, Minnesota — Dodge County and the community of Wasioja are celebrating the completion of the Wasioja Seminary Ruins Stabilization Project, a milestone made possible through local leadership, regional collaboration, and support from the State of Minnesota.

With support from Senator Carla Nelson, State Representative Duane Quam, and an extensive group of local advocates working towards this effort over decades, funding for the project was awarded in 2023. Work began in late fall of 2024, and focused on the stabilization of the ruins that were destroyed by a fire in 1905. The effort was funded through a general fund appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society for a grant to Dodge County. The final touches were recently completed and it is ready for its official re-opening!

The team, led by MacDonald and Mack Architects, included Environmental Associates, Inc., which completed the masonry and structural stabilization. Archaeological investiga-

tion and monitoring were conducted by Nienow Cultural Consultants, LLC (NCC).

"This is a proud moment for Wasioja and our County," said David Kenworthy, Chair of the Dodge County Board of Commissioners. "The stabilization project will have a lasting impact on preserving the history in Dodge County for decades to come."

The original structure was built from native limestone and was completed in 1860 and opened with an enrollment of more than 300 students and was known as the Minnesota Seminary. By 1861 the school had been renamed Northwestern College and offered classes on all levels from primary to collegiate.

A ribbon cutting event will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at the Seminary Park in

Wasioja located at 602nd St, Dodge Center, MN 55927. Schedule of events: Networking and Photos 2:00 p.m.; Ceremony begins promptly at 2:30 p.m. Self-guided tours of the ruins will be allowed after the ribbon cutting. The public is invited to attend this event. Arrive early as parking is limited. Event will take place rain or shine.

## Do You Have An Announcement?

Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

**Cards Every Tuesday 2:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**Live Music & Open Mic Resumes in September**  
*Thank you for a wonderful 25-26 season, see you in the fall!*

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**1st PRIZE**

# Community



Bill with Rice Lake Honey *photos by Nadine Langworthy*



Jim Jensen at the Lions Club grill



Patriotic McNeilus cement truck in parade



Flags and fire trucks in the parade



Ben Owen and David Scraton on an old International Farmall tractor



Bob & Lyn, Tony & Candy, Deb & Wade



Colton Smisek in a convertible



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SUNDAY, JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>  
1:00p - 6:00p

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**Summons  
State of Minnesota  
County of Dodge  
District Court  
Third Judicial District  
Court File # 20-FA-26-337**

Case Type: dissolution with children

In Re the marriage of:  
Alexis Jade Smrcka,  
Name of petitioner

And  
Michael Robert Smrcka,  
Name of respondent

Summons without Real Estate

The State of Minnesota to the above-named respondent:

**Warning: Your spouse has filed a lawsuit against you for dissolution of your marriage. A copy of the paperwork regarding the lawsuit is served on you with this summons. This summons is an official document from the court that affects your rights. Read this summons carefully. If you do not understand it, contact an attorney for legal advice.**

• The petitioner (your spouse) has filed a lawsuit against you asking for a dissolution of your marriage (divorce). A copy of the Petition for Dissolution is attached to the Summons. There should also be a copy of Petitioners Financial Affidavit attached.

• You must serve upon Petitioner and file with the court a written answer to the Petition for Dissolution of Mar-

riage and your financial affidavit. You must pay the required filing fee. Answer forms and the Financial Affidavit form are available from the Court Administrator's Office. You must serve your answer and Financial Affidavit upon Petitioner **within Thirty (30) days** of the date you were served with this Summons, not counting the day of service. If you do not serve and file you Answer and Financial Affidavit, the Court may give your spouse everything he or she is asking for in the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage.

• This proceeding does not involve real property.

**Notice of Temporary Restraining Provisions**

Under Minnesota law, serv-

ice of this summons makes the following requirements apply to both parties to the action, unless they are modified by the court or the proceeding is dismissed.:

• Neither party may dispose of any assets except (a) for the necessities of life or for the necessary generation of income or preservation of assets, (b) by an agreement of the parties in writing, or (c) for retaining counsel to carry on or to contest this proceeding.

• Neither party may harass the other party.

• All currently available insurance coverage must be maintained and continued without change in beneficiary designation.

• Parties to a marriage dis-

solution proceeding are encouraged to attempt alternative dispute resolution pursuant to Minnesota law. Alternative dispute resolution includes mediation, arbitration and other processes as set forth in the district court rules. You may contact the court administrator about resources in your area. If you cannot pay for mediation or alternative dispute resolution, in some counties, assistance may be available to you through a nonprofit provider or a court program. If you are a victim of domestic abuse or threats as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter

518B, you are not required to try mediation and you will not be penalized by the court in later proceedings.

**If You Violate Any Of These Provisions, You Will Be Subject To Sanctions By The Court.**

**Notice of Parent Education Program Requirements**

Under Minnesota Statutes, Section 518.157, in a contested proceeding involving custody or parenting time of a minor child, the parties must begin participation in a parent education program that meets minimum standards promulgated by the

Minnesota Supreme Court within 30 days after the first filing with the court. In some Districts, parenting education may be required in all custody or parenting proceedings. You may contact the District Court Administrator for more additional information regarding this requirement and the availability of parent education programs.

Dated 5/26/2026  
Alexis Smrcka  
Petitioners signature  
Name: Alexa Smrcka  
City/State/Zip: Claremont, MN 55924

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with the Community!**  
**Submit your engagement,  
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## ATTENTION!

The Library will have modified hours this week  
due to staff availability.

\*Tuesday, June 30 open 1-5pm

\*Wednesday, July 1 open 9:30am-5pm  
with storytime at 10:30am

\*Thursday, July 2 open 12-4pm

\*Friday, July 3 CLOSED for 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday

\*Saturday, July 4 CLOSED

Thank you for your understanding!



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**Survival Days 41st Anniversary**

**THURSDAY, JULY 23**  
8:00 am - City Wide Garage Sales begin - List available in WC Messenger Newspaper, City Hall, & Facebook  
9:30 am - 5:00 pm - Library Annual Book Sale  
7:00 pm - Gals vs Hoses Charity Softball Event (Police, Firefighters & EMS) \*Donations will be made to Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention\*

**FRIDAY, JULY 24**  
7:00 am - 11:00 am - American Legion - Coffee & Homemade Doughnuts - Legion Hall, Main St  
8:00 am - City Wide Garage Sales begin - List available in WC Messenger Newspaper, City Hall, & Facebook  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm - West Concord Historical Society Open House  
9:30 am - 5:00 pm - Library Annual Book Sale  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - WC Chiropractic open house  
5:00 pm - Food Stands & Beer Garden Open  
6:00 pm - Garden Tractor Pull - South on Front Street  
6:30 pm - Bean Bag Tournament Registration w/ 7:00pm Start Time - Grass lot By Legion (if rain, held in Fire Hall)  
6:30 pm - Miss West Concord Pageant, Mayor's Key, Citizen of the Year and Baby Contest - Inside Trinity Lutheran Church  
8:00 pm - 12:00 am - Live music under the big tent - "Chad Johnson Music" - Admission \$10 or a Button  
10:00 pm - FIREWORKS - Location behind Gochbauer Dairy Barn (rain day - Saturday)  
12:30 am - Last call, 1:00 am Beer Garden Closes

**SATURDAY, JULY 25**  
8:00 am - City Wide Garage Sales Continue  
8:00 am - Fire Department Burrito Breakfast (while supplies last) - Legion  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm - Scott Hodgman Classic Car & Bike Show - Main Street  
8:00 am - Softball Tournament Starts  
8:00 am - 5k Run/Walk - LaMae's Bright Light 5k - 7:00am Registration - Start/Finish Lions Park  
9:00 am - Sand Volleyball Tournament begins  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm - West Concord Historical Society Open House  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Open Pickle Ball Play - Memorial Park  
10:00 am & 1:00 pm - CPR & First Aid Training by WCDF - next to Bell Tower  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm - Kids Activities, Bounce Houses, Face Paint, & FURever Friends - WC Historical Society Yard  
11:00 am - Food Stands Open  
11:00 am - Treasure Hunt at the Swimming Pool - ages 2-12 are welcome, bring a swim suit  
11:30 am - Foam Party - West Concord Historical Society  
1:00 pm - Library Program - Dazzling Dave Yo Yo Show - West Concord Historical Society Gym  
2:00 pm - Beer Garden Opens  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Family Bingo - Hosted by WCHS - Under the tent on Main St  
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Wife Carrying Competition - South of Hyland  
4:00 pm - Fire Department Mock Crash Demo - Main St and Front St  
7:30 pm - Excavator Rodeo - East end of Main St  
8:00 pm - 12:30 am - Dance under the tent - "JT & The Gunslingers" - Admission \$10 or a Button  
12:00 am - Ticket Sales End, 12:30 am Last call, 1:00 am Beer Garden Closes

**SUNDAY, JULY 26**  
9:00 am - Softball & Volleyball tournaments resume  
9:30 am - Community Worship Service - Lion's Park - Bring a lawn chair- (Rain Site - Bell Tower Center)  
11:00 am - Food Stands Open  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm - Open Pickle Ball Play - Memorial Park  
12:00 pm - Beer Garden Opens  
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Trinity Lutheran Pie & Ice Cream Social - Under the tent  
1:00 pm - Grand Parade - Route: ST (Main/Front > Main > Third > Eugene > First > Olive > Front > Main)  
2:00 pm - Firefighter Water Fight & Kids splash zone - East end of Main Street  
4:30 pm - Beer Garden closes

**Support Local - "Celebrate & Buy a Button" - While supplies last  
at local West Concord Businesses**

**THANK YOU! - To All Sponsors Who Donated to Make Survival Days a Success!**

**For More Information call City Hall (507) 527-2668 or visit our facebook page  
All Events Subject To Change or Cancellation**

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## Join Us for the Melodrama, The Treasure of Shiver River!

Our next Melodrama is "The Treasure of Shiver River" by Flip Kobler & Cindy Marcus, directed by Ryan Frank. The show runs July 10-26: Fridays & Saturdays at 7:00 pm and Sundays at 2:00 pm.

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#### About the show

Get ready for the freshest old-fashioned mellerdramer this side of the Mississippi! Although Colonel Sanders has the best cattle herd you've heard of, he needs a good return at the upcoming auction to keep his ranch! Rumor has it there's a treasure hidden on his property. Enter Rod Enreel, the snake salesman with a plot (or two ... or 26?) to thwart the auction and claim the treasure for himself. Colonel Sanders, his daughter Heidi Claire, and our hero Marshall Law will need to step in and save the day! With an uproarious set of characters, including a female pirate queen, grizzled old prospector, German doctor, and former gambling addict, come help the newspaper reporter Scoop O'Mally get the all facts straight!

#### Meet the cast/crew

Reed as Lotta Luck - Owner of the Shiver Valley Hotel  
Dewey Dewitz as Scoop O'Mally - Eager newspaper man  
Drew Adams as Rod Enreel - A man with a plan or two (or twenty-six)  
Savannah Potter as Paige Turner - Loves Rod almost as much as her romance novels  
Allison Rautmann as Heidi Claire Sanders - Always sees the bright side of things  
Cameron Harris as Colonel Sanders - Owner of Shiver Valley Ranch  
Aaron Avlon as Max Bid - Auctioneer  
Cheryl Frarck as Gail Bid - Max's mother  
Knox Goundry as Marshall Law - Territorial marshal  
Jessica Hukee as Orin Gold - Prospector searching for the treasure  
Alexis Swintek as Burlap Bonnie - Ex-pi-

rate queen

Emilie Pentico as Dr. Ophelia Payne - German doctor  
Ryan Harvey as the pianist  
Alicia Weinberger as assistant director  
Sydney Frank as light director  
Melodramas are family friendly; tickets are \$10. Reservations can be made online at [www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com](http://www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com) or by phone (507-635-5420). Walk-ins are also welcome! All seats are general admission. There are volunteer slots open for the entire summer to help usher. Volunteers get to watch the show for free! You can find the sign up links on our website.

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### The Treasure of Shiver River Or It's Hard to Drive Cattle When their Horns are Frozen



By Flip Kobler & Cindy Marcus  
Directed by Ryan Frank

### SURVIVAL DAYS GARAGE SALES

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

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



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