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JULY 16, 2026

Volume 11 • Issue 28

Dodge County Free Fair This Week

Don't miss the 169th Dodge County Free Fair going on July 15th thru the 19th. The fair is full of fun for all ages and conveniently located in Kasson.

Grandstand events are the draw of the evening. Wednesday will feature the Rice Bull Riding Challenge starting at 7pm.



(continued on page 13)

Riverside Cemetery Benefit

This weekend there will be a benefit fundraiser for the Riverside Cemetery. The event will be held Saturday, July 18 at 18nd Street SW, the old Wells Fargo Bank, starting at 6pm. (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

Sargeant to Celebrate 150 years

Just about 19 miles south of Dodge Center is the town of Sargeant. The namesake of the city, Henry Sargeant, traveled from Canada by rail to LaCrosse, Wisconsin in March of 1865 and then crossed the Mississippi River on ice with his team, to settle in the area. He had been there a year before and purchased a plot of land with a small frame house and 60 acres of land under cultivation. The village had a population of 76 people in 1910 and grew to 138 by 1940. In 2020 the population had returned to 63 persons.

The celebration will be held at the community center, on Saturday, July 25th from 11am to 2pm. The Community Center is the former Sargeant School building. The first school building was built in 1880 and later a two-room school house was completed. In time an addition was added to house a kitchen and



a gym. Classes were held through the spring of 1975, before the school district consolidated with Hayfield.

Some of the highlights of the village of Sargeant include the Chicago Great Western railroad arriving in 1883.

(continued on page 4)

Miss West Concord Candidates 2026



Left to right – Schuyler Sullivan, Autumn Froyum, Emma Braithwaite, Jaiden Baumgartner, and Grace Freiderich

Jaiden Baumgartner, daughter of Travis & Amy Baumgartner. (continued on page 6)

Pressing On the Upward Way

For Pastor Israel Walters of Praise Fellowship Church, the call to full-time ministry was gradual. Throughout his life, the Lord continued to show him the direction he was to go. With each step, he began to see a little more of the plan God had for his life of ministry. Now, he serves as the full-time pastor at Praise Fellowship Church.



(continued on page 3)

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In God We Trust?

By Pastor Elliott Malm

In the introduction to his first encyclical letter, Magnifica Humanitas (“Magnificent Humanity”): On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence, Pope Leo XIV states, “Humanity, created by God in all its grandeur, is today facing a pivotal choice: either to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together. Each generation inherits the task of shaping its own era, of guiding history to become a place where the dignity of every person is safeguarded, justice is promoted and fraternity is made possible. Yet every era also runs the risk of creating an inhumane and more unjust world.” These are fitting and timely words from the first pope born in the USA. As the nation marks its 250th anniversary, many Americans are giving thought not only to the past but to all that lies before us in the world today.

As artificial intelligence rapidly changes how people perform their work and live their lives, many sense that a part of our humanity is being lost. Are we indeed building a new Tower of Babel? Modern-day people often believe that technological advancement is directly correlated with human progress. If this was true, however, the 20th century would not have seen such incredible brutality and terrible bloodshed. Even with all the lives aided and saved, new technology made it more efficient to kill people. In “developed countries” with advanced economies like the U.S., is there the ability or even the desire to wrestle with the disquieting social reality and some basic moral questions which unsettle us? Or is ignorance bliss?

One of the wealthiest entrepreneur businessmen of the Gilded Age, the Scottish American magnate Andrew Carnegie (1835–1919), did everything in his power to prevent World War I—but despite his heroic efforts, the determined, successful man failed. Believing in his potential to lead other people to adopt his philanthropic will for peace, he died

a dispirited man. Biographers point out the irony is his own steel that made him wealthy was the material used to build the ships, tanks, and munitions which were used in warfare. In the time that followed, technological and scientific advancement proceeded, taking us into the Atomic Age and then the Computer Age. Looking back on human history, one can observe that every age presents people with exciting opportunities, new responsibilities, and decisions that require serious, sustained reflection and careful moral discernment. The pope is right: we all face pivotal choices in life.

In the primeval history recorded in the Book of Genesis, the people’s decision to build a city and tower was motivated by pride

and fear. It is written that they said to each other, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth” (Gen. 11:4 ESV). In Christian theology, pride and fear are understood as vices that lead to wrongful, foolish behavior. No doubt, human beings still suffer from what the pope calls the “Babel syndrome.” God, the maker of heaven and earth, commands: “You shall have no other gods before me.” What does this mean? In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther explains, “We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” God commands us to put our trust (or faith) in Him and not ourselves or any other created thing.

Like our sinful forebears, we are tempted to believe and act in ways that deny the existence of God and contradict God’s Law. It was the godless, idolatrous communism of the Soviet Union which motivated the U.S. Congress and President Eisenhower to adopt “In God we trust” as our nation’s official motto in July 1956. Do the American people live by that motto? The Atomic Age and the Cold War are past, and the world we live in today is markedly different than it was 70 years ago. In this time of artificial intelligence, we face a pivotal choice of where we will place our trust and with whom we will pledge our allegiance. As Americans, may we choose to live as a nation under God and place our trust in Him.

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308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center
507-374-2174
Traditional Worship 9a.m.; Fellowship 10a.m.

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

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

Dodge Center Methodist Church
201 1st St. NE, Dodge Center
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

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 10:00a.m.

St. John Lutheran Church
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Pastor Alan Broadwell
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Faith Community Church
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507-527-2244
Interim Pastor, Steve Anderson
Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship; 10:45a.m. Sunday School
www.fccwc.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
trinitychurchwc.net
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:
Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn
Sundays 9:30a.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 Beth Anthony
Sunday 10:00a.m. Worship; Find us on Facebook
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Pressing On the Upward Way

(continued from page 1)

The journey to full-time ministry began at Praise Fellowship Church (PFC). He attended very early on in his life, and this experience provided the foundation that he needed as he began his journey. It wasn't long until he sensed the Lord calling him to ministry. He says, "shortly after graduating from high school, I knew that God was leading me in the

direction of full-time ministry. Upon realizing this, I began getting involved more in ministry outreaches and mission trips while seeking the Lord's direction." During this season, Pastor Walters also took some Bible teaching classes. He later sensed the Lord calling him to pursue additional education. He says, "in 2020, [I] sensed the Lord leading me to go to a Bible College in Oklahoma. While attending college, I met Maleca, whom I am now married to, and we now have two daughters: Hadassah and Athaliah. While there, I also felt nudged in the direction of Pastoral Ministry." It was during this time that Pastor Roger Langworthy, of PFC, reached out to Israel and Maleca to come assist at PFC with the intent of having Pastor Israel and Maleca Walters transfer into the

role of lead pastor. So, after graduating from Bible college in 2023, the Walters made the move to Dodge Center and took the next step.

Since the transfer in April, Pastor Walters is grateful for the encouragement he has received from Pastor Langworthy. Pastor Walters reflects on this season, saying, "having Pastor Roger mentor us and come alongside us during this transition has been a tremendous blessing. His wisdom, encouragement, and support have helped make this season both meaningful and rewarding."

In addition to the encouragement received from Pastor Langworthy, Pastor Walters is also enjoying the peace that comes from following the Lord's calling on his life. He says, "My favorite aspect of pastoral ministry has been the assurance and joy of knowing that I am walking in God's calling for my life...seeing lives transformed, encouraging people through difficult seasons, and witnessing God's faithfulness firsthand has been one of the greatest blessings of ministry." While challenges may arise in any new position, Pastor Walters is thankful for the support he has received from the PFC community. He notes, "God has been faithful throughout this season of transition. He has continued to provide grace, guidance, and encouragement as I have stepped into this pastoral role. We have been especially blessed with an amazing congregation that has shown tremendous love, support, and care for our family."

As Pastor Walters continues to navigate this new role, he is excited to witness how God

will continue to work through the community at PFC. He highlights, "one of the things we are most excited about for the future of Praise Fellowship is the continued growth and impact of the ministry. As we make improvements to our facilities and expand opportunities for ministry, our focus remains firmly rooted in the mission God has given us. At Praise Fellowship, our mission is simple: to love God, to love people, and to make followers of Jesus Christ...as we look ahead, we are trusting God to help us reach every generation throughout Dodge County and surrounding areas, building a church where people can find hope, experience transformation, and be equipped to follow Jesus and lead others to Him." With a firm desire to see lives transformed by Jesus Christ, PFC is eager to continue to press on in the path that the Lord has established for them.

Riverside Cemetery Benefit

(continued from page 1)

BBQ pulled pork sandwiches, brats, hamburgers and potato salad will be served. Live music will be provided by the Dangers for your enjoyment. Free beer will be served during the evening. There will be a free will donation and all proceeds will go to the Riverside Cemetery Association to be used to extend the road inside the cemetery. This is the third year for this benefit fundraiser. Show up and have fun and support your community.



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Mark 10:45

"For the son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Hopefully we all are God's servants. How do we serve God? We serve him by helping others and by spreading the word of Jesus Christ.

Not a day goes by but someone enters into my life who needs guidance and family blessings to listen to their problems. And I usually get to pray for them. I feel the presence of the holy spirit working through me. What a blessed life I live. And I am blessed with kindness coming back to me.

Galatians 5:13

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

Jesus preached mostly about helping others who can not help themselves. Today we have the freedom to choose to help others; it is God's calling to us to be a selfless servant. We can not go through life without talking and interacting with another person. We need others in our life, and others need us in theirs. We must act out of love. Love is an action word, not a mere passing feeling. When one acts in love, one acts in kindness, patience, truth, hope, trust, and happiness. We should be so honored and humble to help another person. I have had the blessing of being helped, and it is the help and grace that got me through my tough times and that gives me faith in times to come.

So remember, we are called to be God's faithful servants.

Never stop praying, and hug those kids and family close to you.

Your Friend,
Larry Blood

BENEFIT FOR RIVERSIDE CEMETERY

SATURDAY, JULY 18th
6:00 PM



BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Brats • Hamburgers

Potato Salad

Free Beer

Live Band "The Dangers"

FREE WILL DONATION

All Proceeds Go To Riverside Cemetery Association

18 2nd Street SW
Dodge Center, MN

Sargeant to Celebrate 150 years

(continued from page 1)

The railroad delivered coal for heating and shipped out grain grown locally. The village council granted a liquor license to the bar for \$800 per year in 1901 and then voted to allow two saloons in 1903. Transient travelers would get off the train and spend the evening drinking in the taverns until the early hours of the morning and then whoop it up on the

streets before boarding the train again in the morning.

In 1907 the Sargeant Diamond Coronet Band was playing in the band shell two nights each week. During December of 1922, railroad crews burning grass along the tracks, resulted in a runaway fire which destroyed the Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company building located by the RR Crossing. In 1947 the village council approved card playing until 10pm in the Beer Parlor. During the winter of 1938, a fire started in a shed and destroyed the pool hall, dance hall, the barber shop and a residence. The flames were so intense it cracked the glass in the bank building across the street.

But the biggest night in the history of the little town was May 17, 1939 when the Cream Can Bandits attempted to rob the Sargeant State Bank. They plied their bur-



glary across the Midwest, earning their name from bringing water in cream cans to cool the cutting tools used to break into the safe. A citizen noticed shadows during the middle of the night and summoned the sheriff from Austin. Arriving with three officers the deputy surprised the bandits who fled with nothing but hot lead. Three were arrested at the scene while one escaped but was apprehended later. The end of the Cream Can Bandits crime spree may headline news for the

village of Sargeant.

Keeping the local history alive, the village will hold the celebration on Saturday, July 25th with lunch, music by Larry's Karaoke and reminiscing from 11am to 2pm. The lunch is \$5.00 per person and there will be commemorative coffee mugs, coolies and a historical booklet for sale. Income will be used to buy a new swing set for the park. Be sure to stop by if you have an interest in the community of Sargeant.

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Museum Musings



TOGETHERNESS—THE MAGIC OF EVERY CELEBRATION

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

Survival Days has been a fun, lively major celebration in West Concord for 41 years, but through the decades West Concord has enjoyed some truly rip-roaring festivals.



1940 - the last celebration until the war was over.

The year before, 1935, brought a special celebration—the 50th anniversary of the founding of West Concord. Held on Friday, October 11th—it almost didn't happen.

It took until an early September Businessmen's Association meeting to decide to hold the event and then committees really got to work. They planned a parade that was over a mile long. School was closed for the day. A stage was set up on Main Street complete with amplifier and floodlights and U.S. Congressman Theodore Christianson was secured as the speaker for the day. That was quite a coup as Christianson had also been Minnesota's governor for 3 terms and was a well known figure. The heart of his speech was about thrift—something everyone was mighty familiar with in those Depression days. To promote the gala day, a caravan of autos with a pep band to boot visited towns in the area, personally inviting them to the celebration. October 11th turned out to be a beautiful day and a successful one. The Rochester Elks Drum Corps and the West Concord High School band provided music in the parade. N.I.S. (Neighborhood Improvement Society) won the prize for the most beautiful float. Stores in town ran specials, like Tildens: 100 pairs of hosiery and 50 pairs of gloves, each for 5 cents. Bargains galore.

In 1939 no celebration was held—for an all too familiar reason. Work was being done on Highway 56. There were no celebrations during the war years of 1941-1945.

Gasoline and rubber rationing prohibited traveling to and hosting large events. Even 50 acres of the State Fair Grounds were taken over by an airplane propeller plant.

In the summer of 1946 with the war finally ended, West Concord planned a Victory Homecoming Festival. This time summer was chosen for a three day celebration, July 19-21. Rides, shows, and other free acts were all booked for the town's enjoyment.

Prizes would be given for the best parade entries and for winners of sports' contests.

There were to be bicycle and foot races, tug of war, and a town ball game between Lake City and West Concord.

The week after the event the Enterprise reported that the crowds were beyond all expectations and that it was a challenge for the cafes and eateries to keep up with the appetites of those attending. Hundreds of cars lined the streets to enjoy the free entertainment and the Midway. The parade had approximately 30 floats and other entries, as well. The winning floats were the Eden Progressive 4-H float and the West Concord Butter & Cheese, Lampert Yards, and Speckens floats.

The following summer, July 21-23, 1947 another lollapalooza event was planned. It surprised me that instead of a weekend event, this Mid-Summer Celebration was held

on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Nearly 70 businessmen comprised the 11 committees that put together another successful festival. What superb civic cooperation!

That year people were invited to have airplane rides provided by Kenyon Aircraft Service on a field just 1/2 mile north of town on Highway 56. For \$2.00 (approx \$30 today) local residents could experience flying for themselves. At the parade, balloons, whistles, pennies, and pencils were tossed to the crowd. West Concord's Butter and Cheese Float, scooped and handed out ice cream cones along the parade route. There were a couple of disappointments. The Midway rides did not get set up in time to be enjoyed on Monday. The journey from their last location took longer than they had anticipated. The Dodge County sheriff closed down some concessions as they were violating state gambling rules—don't you wonder what that was about? Also the weather was so beautiful that farmers could only join the festivities in the evenings as they took advantage of the pleasant days to accomplish their farm work.

In July 1949 West Concord celebrated the Centennial of the organizing of the Minnesota Territory. There were two special entries noted in that parade: 80 horses and riders from the Dodge County Saddle Club and Floyd Miller's truck filled with holstein cows and a sign that said the cows were being shipped to California.

Enjoy your favorite summer celebration and maybe try a new one—see you at Survival Days!

(additional picture at www.westconcordmn.net, www.claremontmn.net, www.dodgecentermn.com)



Main Street filled with Rides and Concessions in the 1930's and 40's.



Airplane rides were part of the 1947 Mid-Summer Celebration.



Parade entry - note the original West Concord School in the background - moved to Main Street.



Miss West Concord Candidates 2026

(continued from page 1)

Jaiden is involved in volleyball, student council, SMV volleyball, Minnesota Honor Society, CNA program, prom committee, Cobra Crew, and is a community & school volunteer. Jaiden is sponsored by Ellingson.

Grace Freiderich, daughter of Jaci & Cole Freiderich. Grace is involved in golf, softball, cheerleading, church teacher, fishing, 3rd grade teacher assistant, swim team coach, and works as a lifeguard and teaches swim lessons at the WC pool. Grace is sponsored by Ellingson.

Autumn Froyum, daughter of Jake & Naomi Froyum. Autumn is involved in cross country, track & field, FFA, FCA, Minnesota Honor Society, lifeguarding, active church member, VBS volunteer, and is a board member of the West Concord Area Foundation. Autumn is sponsored by L & D Recycling.

Emma Braithwaite, daughter of Rick Braithwaite and Amanda Braithwaite. Emma is involved in student government, youth service, prom committee, volleyball, choir, solo ensemble, lifeguarding, and helping her Dad at the West Concord fire department. Emma is sponsored by CPI Divisions.

Schuyler Sullivan, daughter of Tim & Carol Sullivan. Schuyler is involved in 4-H, FFA, Link crew, student council, Big Brothers Big Sisters, prom committee, basketball, softball, Minnesota Honor Society and is a senior class officer. Schuyler is sponsored by Hyland Systems.

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SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026 at 1:00 PM

SURVIVAL DAYS LIBRARY PROGRAM!

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600 W FIRST STREET
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507-527-2668 EXT. 3

Find more library events in the SELCO region at legacy.selco.info/calendar

WEST CONCORD LIBRARY Summer Fun

JULY 2026

FREE ENTRY

Wednesdays @ 10:30am Storytime & Craft

7/10 @ 1pm Learn to Play Chess

7/13 @ 3-5pm Learn to Crochet Part 2 * (ages 12+)

7/16 @ 4-6pm Learn Hand Embroidery * (ages 12+)

7/20 @ 10am Lego Gear Bots & Gadgets *

7/25 @ 1pm Dazzling Dave Yo-Yo Program

7/23-7/27 Survival Days Book Sale

7/30 @ 1pm Learn to Make Edible Cookie Dough

*Class space limited and requires pre-registration. All supplies provided at no cost. Contact the library for sign up.

180 MAIN STREET, WEST CONCORD
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4th Annual LaMae's Bright Light 5K

JULY 25, 2026 FUN RUN & SILENT AUCTION JULY 25, 2026

PLEASE JOIN US TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS FOR SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AND TO HOPE THAT ONE DAY WE CAN LIVE IN A WORLD FREE OF SUDC. ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS RACE WILL BE DONATED TO SUPPORT THE **SUDC FOUNDATION** IN THEIR MISSION TO RAISE AWARENESS AND FUND RESEARCH, WITH THE HOPE THAT NO OTHER FAMILY WILL EVER HAVE TO ENDURE THE HEARTBREAK WE ARE LIVING. ADDITIONALLY, A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES. EXAMPLES INCLUDE PROVIDING CLOTHING AND BOOTS TO TRITON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BLANKETS FOR THE NICU AT MAYO CLINIC - ST. MARY'S, FUNDING FOR DODGE COUNTY CHAPLAINS TO ACCESS ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT, TRITON SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP FOR SOMEONE PURSUING A CAREER AS A FIRST RESPONDER, ETC.

Saturday, July 25th, 2026 at 8am	Registration/Check In: 7am
Lion's Park (401 W. Main St.)	Silent Auction 7:30am - 11am
West Concord, MN	Walkers start 8am
Registration: \$30 per person	Runners start 8:15am

Pre-Registration closes on July 1st to be guaranteed a shirt



Register at lamaesbrightlight.org
Scan the QR Code
Pick up / Drop Off Registration Forms at City Hall





Join Us During SURVIVAL DAYS FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING

Join us for a complimentary Basic First Aid and CPR Training during the 41st Annual Survival Days.

SATURDAY 25 JANUARY 2026

START AT: 10:00 AM AND 1:00 PM START TIMES

LOCATION: 319 MAIN ST
across from the Bell Tower

This event is part of our Community Health Initiative made possible by a grant from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. All participants receive a complimentary First Aid Kit.

Registration is encouraged but not required.
ambdirector@westconcordmn.com
or 507-774-2583



SURVIVAL DAYS PHOTO CONTEST

PRIZES		
1st Place \$50 WC Bucks	2nd Place \$25 WC Bucks	3rd Place \$10 WC Bucks

We want to see the celebration through your eyes! Capture your favorite Survival Days moments — parades, events, family fun, community spirit, candid shots, and more.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) photos as judged by our committee made up of EDA Members, City Staff, and Council Members.

Photos must be submitted through the official registration site by Friday, August 7, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. to be considered.

You're also encouraged to share your photos on Facebook and tag Survival Days and City of West Concord!

HELP US CAPTURE THE MEMORIES OF SURVIVAL DAYS 2026!

Look for posters around town with the QR code throughout the celebration or on Facebook Pages/City Website.



West Concord Survival Days Citywide Garage Sales

57302 State Hwy 56
(Mike Jones - 2 miles south of WC)
Fri (7/24) 8am - 4pm;
Sat (7/25) 8:30am - 3pm

- Kids car booster seats
- Weber grill
- Dressers/nightstand/misc furniture
- 6' work scaffold
- Clothing (kids & adult-exc. cond.)
- Toys/Legos
- Kid's bike
- Much household & decor

401 Irvin Street
(Gunhus – in the garage behind the house)
Thurs (7/23) 8am-4pm; Fri (7/24) 9am - 3pm
• Lots & lots of household
• All proceeds will be donated to the WC Historical Society

504 Olive Street (Eggert)
Fri (7/24) 11am - 6pm; Sat (7/25) 9am - 2pm
• Collectibles
• Antiques
• Furniture
• Adult clothes
• Holiday & household items
• Much misc.

213 Ellington Street (Behind Ginny's Drive-In)
Fri (7/24) 10am-2pm; Sat (7/25) 10am - 2pm
• Baked goods
• Vegetables
• Handmade crafts
• Assorted craft supplies
• Handmade jewelry
• Vintage items

207 Todd Court (Nielsen-multifamily)
Thurs (7/23) 8am - 6pm;
Fri (7/24) 8am - 5pm;
Sat (7/25) 8am - 12noon
• Clothing (wide variety of childrens to adult)
• Formal wear
• Household items/wedding decor
• Toys/Video games
• Outdoor/fitness goods
• Plus much more

508 Clyde Street back alley (Braswell Wilson)
Fri (7/24) 8am-4pm; Sat (7/25) 9am-12:30pm
• Clothes (all sizes)
• Toys
• Books
• Household décor
• Much, much more

57012 180th Ave WC (Pechacek Farm)
Thurs (7/23) 8am-5pm; Fri (7/24) 8am-5pm;
Sat (7/25) 8am-noon
• Farm shop clear-out
• Barn finds/Antiques)
• Fishing gear
• Crafts & Holiday
• Household items
• Garden & Outdoor

420 Highland Street (Claussen)
Fri (7/24) 9am - 4pm; Sat (7/25) 8am – 2pm
• Chest freezer
• 2 TV stands
• Men's & women's clothing
• Household items
• Shoes
• Wedding decor



524 6th Street (Bursa multifamily)
Thurs (7/23) 5-8pm; Fri (7/24) 8am - 5pm;
Sat (7/26) 8am –noon
• New lamps
• Large mirrors
• Decorating items
• Books
• New couch pillows
• Wide variety of items

606 State Street (Nosek)
Fri (7/24) 8am – 5pm; Sat (7/25) 8am – 5pm
• Antiques
• Canning jars & lids
• Household items/punch bowl & cups
• Appliances
• Clothes
• Folding table
• Printer stand

720 West First Street (Catholic Church)
Fri (7/24) 8am – 5pm; Sat (7/25) 8am - noon
• Church pews
• Tables
• Folding chairs
• Fiberglass extension ladder
• Misc. items

415 Irvin Street (Mitchell)
Fri (7/24) 2-6pm; Sat (7/25) 8am – noon
• Elliptical
• Scentsy
• Fishing items
• Women's & children's clothing
• Patio table & chairs
• Tile
• Tupperware

422 Olive Street (Boerner)
Fri (7/24) 8am – 2pm; Sat (7/25) 8am – 2pm
• Household items
• Youth boys & women's clothing
• Shoes
• Blankets
• Home décor
• Various other items

WC Library Main Street
Thurs - Fri (7/23 – 7/24) 9:30am - 5pm;
Mon (7/27) 9:30am-5pm
• Used books

14050 490th St. Pine Island (Haugen)
Wed (7/22) 11am-6pm; Thurs (7/23) 2-7pm;
Fri (7/24) 1 6pm
• Clothing (new & gently used sizes small-large)
• Home decor
• Women's shoes

924 West First Street (Schley)
Fri (7/24) 8am – 4pm;
Sat (7/25) 8am – noon
• Baby girl's clothes (NB-5T)
• Name brand adult clothing
• Furniture
• Kitchen, home & seasonal decor
• Bedding
• Jewelry
• Shoes
• Much more

18806 575th Street Dodge Center (Freiderich)
Thurs (7/23) 5-8pm
Fri (7/24) 1-7pm;
Sat (7/25) 10am – 2pm
• Women's & Men's clothing
• Household
• Home décor items
• Misc outdoor items
• Bicycle

108 3rd Street (Northway)
Fri (7/24) 8am-4pm; Sat (7/25) 8am-4pm
• Canoe
• Furniture
• Banana bread
• Zucchini bread
• Misc. items

627 Main Street (Green)
Fri (7/24) 8am-5pm; Sat (7/25) 8am-noon
• Bake sale (cinnamon rolls/bread/etc)
• Freeze dried candy
• Jewelry
• Homemade bags
• Cat toys
• And lots more!

49936 County 1 Blvd Kenyon
(9 minutes NE of Casey's)
Fri (7/24) 9am-5pm
Sat (7/25) 9am-1pm
Kids to adult clothing, collectibles, home stuff, toys, crafts, misc galore. Most items are \$1.

15013 Cty Hwy 24
Thurs (7/23) 4-7pm
Fri (7/24) 8am-4pm
• Dining room table & 2 chairs
• Camper
• Girls clothes (size 14)
• Household items and more

HAPPY 250th

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INSPIRING OUR FUTURE.

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2026


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\$4,099.99

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Sargeant's 150th Celebration

Sat. July 25, 2026

Lunch, Music (Larry's Karaoke) and Reminisce
(No alcohol on premises)
11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
at the Community Center



Lunch - \$5.00
150th coffee mugs - \$3 coolies - \$1 booklet - \$3
Income from the mugs, coolies and book will be used to buy a new swing set for the park

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18,480 miles, 5L, V-8, 10 spd auto, 4WD, keyless entry, alloy wheels, 4 door
P260160
BEST PRICE \$43,349

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P260171
BEST PRICE \$23,349

2024 FORD ESCAPE ST-LINE



60,736 miles, 1.5L, 3 cyl, 8 spd auto, 4WD, remote start, keyless entry, rear view camera, alloy wheels, power tailgate
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Baby PHOTO CONTEST

PLAN TO ATTEND THE ROYALTY PAGEANT AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH on Friday, July 24th at 6:30pm!



0-14 Month Category



Benson Ramsey
Parents: Ben & Amanda Ramsey
Grandparents: Sarah & Dave McCool



Eliam Zabdiel Jarillo Martinez
Parents: Sergio Jarillo Galindo & Ruby Yazmin Martinez Rojas



Kirby and Vivian Moody
Parents: Justin & Alycia Moody
Grandparents: Tom & Darcy Bond



Leelund Dessner
Parents: Richard Dessner & Brittany Ball
Grandparents: Randy & Mary Dessner



Evander Woodcock
Parents: Dylan & Kayla Woodcock



Gladys Mae Gransee
Parents: Mark & Stevie Gransee



15-36 Months Category





Hadley Schley
Parents: Chris & Shelby Schley
Grandparents: Steve & Linda Bucher



River Engelken
Parents: Gabby Wendt & Brady Engelken



Lowen Lentz
Parents: Molly Witham & Kyle Lentz



Lillian LaMae Rislov
Parents: Allison & Jacob Rislov
Grandparents: Grant & Barb Erler



Eva Bushlack
Parents: Maclan & Sarah Bushlack
Grandparents: Steve & Linda Bucher

DENNISON DAYS



RAIN OR
SHINE

SATURDAY
FOOD STANDS
OPEN AT 11AM!

August 7 & 8, 2026



All You Can Eat PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Includes Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage & Beverages

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
8:00 AM to 11:00 AM



SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 CLASSIC CAR SHOW

8:00 AM

Trophies at 1:00PM

TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL
10:00 AM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 KIDS PEDAL TRACTOR PULL 10:00 AM

BE IN THE PARADE

SATURDAY at 1:30 PM!

A Kiddie Parade

Leads Off Main Parade

(Ages 12 & under)

Sign up at 12:00 p.m.

South Main Street

**\$300.00 Prize
for Best Parade Entry!**

Call 507-645-9992

Dennison Lions Club DENNISON DAYS RAFFLE

1st Prize: \$500 Cash

2nd Prize: \$200 Cash

3rd Prize: \$100 Cash

4th Prize: \$50 Cash

Drawing held at 10:00p.m. at the
Fireside Lounge

Need not be present to win.
Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees.
SPONSORED BY DENNISON LIONS CLUB
CHARITABLE GAMBLING PERMIT #2762

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 KICK OFF

**Biggest Dip
and
Pie Eating
Contest
Cash Prizes!**

Sign up at Cattlemen's Saloon

LIVE MUSIC

BOB Welcomes

Old Country
Boys
7-11PM

Presented by Cattlemen's Saloon,
Fireside Lounge,
Sapphire Cocktail Lounge



SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

PROBUILT Welcomes

Shane Martin
7:00PM

Presented by Cattlemen's Saloon, Fireside Lounge, Sapphire Cocktail Lounge



Saturday Schedule of Events

- 8-11a.m. **All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast** Under Mainstreet tent
Hosted by Nerstrand-Dennison Fire Dept., and Dennison Community Church. \$12 for adults,
\$5 for kids 12 & under, 3 & under FREE. Includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, juice, milk
- 8a.m. **Farmers Market Downtown**
Citywide Garage Sales
Classic Car Show on Mainstreet Presented by Clutchmen Car Club. Registration \$10.
Trophies at 1p.m. Contact Jason Aldorfer 612-203-4172
- 8:30a.m. **Euchre at Fireside Lounge** For information, contact Jen Eggum 507-649-0602
- 9:00a.m. **Scavenger Hunt - \$100 Cash Prize!** Meet and sign up at the tent. Hunt will begin at 9am.
- 10a.m. **Truck & Tractor Pull on the Hill** For more information contact Dave Remme 507-649-0710
Kids Pedal Tractor Pull on Mainstreet (At Mainstreet intersection) Sign up begins at 9:30a.m.
- 11a.m. **Food Stands Open**
- Noon **Kids Bingo** Under the tent. Presented by Dennison Lions. Ages 3-11
Costume Kickball Tournament Hosted by Cattlemen's Saloon. Sign up at Cattlemen's Saloon
- 1:00p.m. **Car Show Trophies Awarded**
- 1-3p.m. **Kids Carnival**
- 1:30p.m. **Parade Downtown - A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade** (Ages 12 & Under)
\$300.00 Prize for Best Parade Entry! Sign up at Noon. South Mainstreet. Call 507-645-9992
- 2:30p.m. **Cattlemen's Saloon Bags Tournament - Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place!**
Sign up at Cattlemen's or call 507-782-9061
- 4:00p.m. **Power Tool, Gift Card & Purse Bingo** Presented by Dennison Lions & Fireside Lounge
- 6:30p.m. **Keg Toss - 100% Payout! \$5/throw** Across from Fireside Lounge
- 7:00p.m.-12a.m. **Live Music - Shane Martin** 18+ event. No Cover Charge. 21 to drink.
Presented by ProBuilt Construction and Fireside Lounge & Supper Club

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Dennison Depot
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If we missed your name,
please accept our apology.
Your support is appreciated.

For updated info. go to www.dennisondays.org

• Visit the Oldest County Fair! •

GRANDSTAND EVENTS

Barrel Racing
Noterman Horse Arena
July 15th @ 2 pm

- ★ Rice Bull Riding
Mutton Busting/Calf Dressing
Fireworks to Follow
- ★ Stock Car Racing
- ★ Auto Cross Races
- ★ Trailer Races
- ★ Demolition Derby

Carnival Advance

★ Ride Tickets ★
NEW ONLINE ONLY

MEGA \$70 SPECIAL ARM BAND \$25
Purchase your ride tickets below!
Advance Ride Purchases end
Wednesday, July 15th @ 5p
Prices Higher at the Ticket Box!

Carnival Tickets



JULY 15 - 19

Kasson ★ MN
Celebrating 169 Years

★ FEATURE EVENTS ★

- ★ Antique Tractor Display
- ★ 4H & FFA Shows
- ★ Brad Weston Comedy Stunts
- ★ Speed Puzzle Contest July 16th
- ★ Accentra Adult & New Kid
Bean Bag Tournament July 18th
- ★ Hall of Fame Program
NEW TIME 11 am July 19th
- ★ Neon Arrival Band
- ★ 2U Foam * N * Fun
- ★ Anchor of Hope Church

OPEN CLASS BUILDING EXHIBITORS

Registration Day Monday, July 12th

12:00 PM to 8:00 PM

NEW! Online Registration opens June 1st

★ ATTENTION SENIORS ★

FREE LUNCH IN COMMERCIAL BUILDING (ICE ARENA)
Hamburgers, Chips, Beans & Dessert

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

★ BEER GARDEN ★

Daily Happy Hour with Chris Rollo
★ Old Country Boys ★ Alex Zachary
★ JT & The Gunslingers ★ Booz * N * Tuna

TOWNSHIP SQUARE FEATURES

Fair Prince & Princess Contest

Wednesday, July 15th at 5:00 PM

Minnesota State Amateur Talent Contest

Saturday, July 18th 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

Dodge County Free Fair This Week

(continued from page 1)

On Thursday the Dave Wetzstein Memorial stock car race will start at 7pm. On Friday evening an Auto Cross race begins at 6pm. Saturday will present the Mayhem Trailer races at 5pm and on Sunday the Power Wheels Derby is at 1:30pm followed by the Championship Demolition Derby at 2pm.

4H and FFA livestock shows and judging takes place all week long. The horse show

starts at 9am on Wednesday in the show arena and the ranch and game show is held in the horse arena starting at 9am on Saturday.

The Beer Garden opens at 10am each day with live bands starting at 8pm. Wednesday is the Old Country Boys, Thursday will be Alex Zachary & Fieldtrip, Friday is Booz-n-Tuna and Saturday is J.T. & the Gunslingers. Chris Rollo will be performing from 4 to 7pm all week and 1 to 4pm Sunday.

There is daily entertainment for the whole family throughout the week including a chain-saw artist, a comedy stunt show each day. Wednesday is barrel racing in the horse arena at 2pm, Friday there is cowboy mounted shooting at 4pm in the horse arena. The Midway rides and games will be open for the young and old all week long.

DODGE COUNTY FREE FAIR

NEW FOOD VENDORS 2026

Bubba Lou's BBQ

Texas Sweet Tea

Delicious Potato Skins and More

Dippin' Dots

Stage Coach BBQ & Grill

Travelin' Tom's Coffee

JULY 15-19, 2026

WEST CONCORD
SURVIVAL DAYS

FIREWORK SHOW

FRIDAY, JULY 24th AT 10PM
BEHIND GOCHNAUER DAIRY BARN
(RAIN DAY - SATUDAY)

Farm Girl Chatter Hayfields, Lake Days, and 250 Years of America

By McKell Lemmerman

There comes a point every summer when farmers start dreaming about two things: rain for the crops and a cold drink at the lake. Unfortunately, those two things rarely seem to happen on the same day.

Hay season is in full swing, and there is something special about the smell of fresh-cut hay drifting across the countryside. It is one of those scents that instantly says "summer." Unless, of course, you are on your tenth load of the day, covered in dust, sweat, and wondering why every field suddenly looks twice as big as it did yesterday.

The days start early and end late. Tractors hum across the fields, wagons fill up, and weather apps get checked more often than the mail. Nothing gets a farmer moving faster than seeing a rain cloud pop up on the radar when there are still ten acres laying on the ground.



By the time the last bale is stacked, the only thing greener than the hayfield is the thought of heading to the cabin. There is something magical about trading the tractor seat for a pontoon seat. The sound of machinery is replaced by loons calling across the lake, and instead of watching weather forecasts for hay, we're checking them to see if it's warm enough to jump off the dock.

This summer feels a little more special as America celebrates its 250th anniversary. For generations, farming families have helped build this country through hard work, perseverance, and commitment to the land. While fireworks and celebrations mark the occasion, many farmers will be celebrating in their own way—finishing chores, making hay, and gathering with family and friends at the lake after a long day's work.

Of course, no farmer truly takes a vacation. Somewhere between fishing, swimming, and

enjoying a sunset, someone is always looking at the future radar for the next projects to do when they arrive home.

Still, those lake days remind us why we work so hard. The smell of fresh-cut hay, the satisfaction of a field baled before the rain, and a weekend spent at the cabin with family and friends are some of the best parts of summer. It's all about balance—working hard enough to appreciate the break and relaxing just enough to be ready to do it all again next week.

As we celebrate 250 years of America, here's to the farmers who keep it running, the families who keep us grounded, the troops who made the sacrifice, and the lake days that remind us to slow down and enjoy what we have. Because even the hardest-working farmers need a day to smell something besides diesel fuel and dust.



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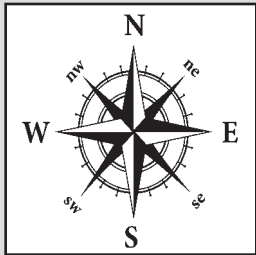
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

June Vacation



By Terry Campbell

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

June is a time lots of people take vacations. I came back to Minnesota early this spring on business and planned on heading right back to Tennessee to relax a bit longer. Right back turned into eleven weeks. So, a few days into June I was heading south again.

A lot had changed. The winter wheat harvest was complete and the corn crop had tasseled, silked and was way over my head. I fertilized the lawn before I left. The June rains had made use of the nitrogen in the fertilizer and my neighbor John had been mowing the grass almost weekly. I had to weed whip the dog run to knock back 2' of Switchgrass before letting the dogs in. They found an Armadillo carcass in the yard so they were entertained. I was standing in sandals cutting grass so the dogs wouldn't find any snakes. I figured I would shred a copperhead with the weed whacker before he could strike me.

Not having to deal with farm chores allows me to sleep late every morning. I kind of like it. I had a number of small projects to do around the cabin. Enough to stay busy but not get exhausted. We planned to spend the



space.com

nice days on the river and rest up on the other ones.

Sundays are the same routine. Go to church and stop for groceries at the Piggly Wiggly on the way home. The first week was VBS at Big Rock Baptist Church. They had the assembly hall decorated with lights and posters, the staff had matching t-shirts and there were three inflatable bounce houses outside for the Sunday night kick-off. The kids got up and sang while dancing to songs, VBS is a big exciting thing in Tennessee. They had a record of over 160 attend the Wednesday evening session this year. Church is never boring in Tennessee.

I went in to the Sirloin Stockade one evening for steak. Not much beats a buffet with ribeye. The nice kids working the counter gave me the senior discount with-out

even asking. One great thing about the youth in Tennessee, is how friendly and helpful they are. Everyone is "ma'am" or "sir" and they will take time to stop to carry on a pleasant conversation with anyone.

In the evening I sit on the porch and watch the sun set in the western sky, with a dog on each side of me. I look out over the trees to the Tennessee River and soak in the beauty. The crescent moon is hanging in the horizon with three planets lined up. They say they are Venus, Jupiter and Mercury. I see fireflies rising into the night sky like sparks from a camp fire. I doze off and the dogs are sound asleep on the cushion beside me.

I think about coming through Tennessee as a child in the mid 1960's with my parents. Never dreamed I would live down here someday. I remembered the Appalachian Mountains, Civil War battle sites, stories about Daniel Boone, and other explorers who lived down here two centuries ago. Wondered about how rugged the wilderness was back then. Imagined what the Cherokee, Chickasaw and Shawnee Indians life was like in those days.

It is summer in Tennessee, every day hit 85 degrees. Air conditioning is a wonderful thing. Had to be unbearable in a teepee or a log cabin in the old days. But I enjoy it now. And being in the boat on the river on a hot day is much more bearable than almost anywhere else. The cool river breeze and a Bimini boat top make it a perfect day. As I head back, I experience the one certain shock. Gas was \$3.35 when we left Tennessee, \$3.85 back here in Minnesota.

A Minnesotan: Hotdish



By RosaLin Alcoser

If I had to name one food that is distinctly Minnesotan I would say Hotdish. Then I would probably go on to explain that it's usually meat, with canned or frozen vegetables, combined with a can of soup and often topped with some sort of potato—the one I've seen the most is tater-tots. Now depending on your region of Minnesota is the real determiner of the salt and pepper ratio in the dish. However, that is really

what makes up the dish.

The most common one I've had is the tater-tot hotdish, but I do know that there are other kinds of hotdish.

After all there must be since there are competitions on who makes the best hotdish.

My family never makes hotdishes. No, for us is something that we only had if someone else had made it and it was at church. Since we are Minnesota transplants we did not make hotdish nor had we heard about it until we moved here. However, my husband is a born and raised true Minnesotan. He and his family are Minnesotans who make and consume hotdish.

In fact my husband loves hotdish to the point that he desperately wants to go to Oronoco to get a flight of hotdish. When I told him that I had seen it on a menu while there without him two years ago he wanted to have a flight of four types of hotdish desperately. The only problem is every time he's been down in the area since it's been a Monday and they've been closed. At some point we will be there when it's open and hopefully it's still on the menu.

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Minnesota Farmers See Seven Straight Years of Higher Profits

Water-quality certified farms report higher net income than non-certified counterparts

Farmers enrolled in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) continue to show stronger and more reliable profitability than non-certified farms, according to new data from the Minnesota State Agricultural Centers of Excellence. The findings reinforce a clear, long-term trend: For the seventh consecutive year, MAWQCP-certified farms reported higher gross cash farm income and higher net farm income than comparable non-certified

operations.

The 2026 Influence of Intensified Environmental Practices on Farm Profitability study analyzed financial and production data from farms participating in the Minnesota State Farm Business Management program. The results show that efficient input use, diversified cropping systems, and conservation practices that reduce risk and improve long-term productivity all contribute to stronger financial performance. These approaches help stabilize yields, build resilience, and support more consistent profitability over time.

In 2025, certified farms earned an average net income of just more than \$197,500, compared to \$129,400 for non-certified farms. Median net income followed the same pattern, demonstrating that the financial advantage holds across farm sizes and sectors.

“Seven years of data make one thing unmistakably clear: conservation is a long-term profitability strategy. Certified farms aren’t just seeing better results in good years — they’re holding strong in the tough ones, too,” said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. “That kind of steady, repeatable return is invaluable in today’s farm economy. I

strongly encourage Minnesota farmers to explore certification and see how this program can strengthen both their operation and the natural resources we all depend on.”

Keith Olander, executive director of Ag-Centric and Agricultural Partnerships, noted the resilience of certified farms during a challenging year. “Row crop producers faced real financial pressure in 2025, yet water-quality certified farms continued to come out ahead. Livestock operations in particular saw notable gains. The management approach required for certification continues to translate into stronger financial performance year after year.”

MAWQCP began as a Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) initiative to protect water quality statewide. Since launching statewide in 2016 with Clean Water Fund support, the program has enrolled more than 1.25 million acres across 1,800-plus certified farms. Those farms have implemented conservation practices that prevent more than 1.25 million pounds of nitrogen, 60,500 tons of sediment, and 78,000 pounds of phosphorus from entering Minnesota waters each year.

Certification starts with a one-on-one, field-by-field review conducted by local conservation experts who walk the operation with the farmer to identify potential water-quality risks. Together, they develop a customized conservation plan that fits the farm’s goals and addresses those risks with practical, effective solutions.

Farmers receive priority access to technical and financial assistance to complete any needed improvements. Once all risks are re-

solved, the farm is certified and granted 10 years of regulatory certainty, recognizing it as fully in compliance with Minnesota’s water-quality laws.

Farmers and landowners interested in learning more about MAWQCP or enrolling in the program can contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District or visit MyLandMyLegacy.com.

Right to Repair settlement reached with John Deere

ST. PAUL — A settlement announced yesterday between the Federal Trade Commission and attorneys general in Minnesota, Illinois, Arizona, Michigan and Wisconsin is a good step forward in the effort to ensure farmers have a competitive market for the repair of farm equipment.

The suit alleged that John Deere’s policy of withholding diagnostic equipment and other necessary information from owners of John Deere equipment prohibited them from making their own equipment repairs and was a violation of the Sherman Act and constituted an unfair and deceptive trade practice.

The settlement requires John Deere to make repair resources available to farmers and independent repair technicians that are equivalent to the resources provided to John Deere dealers. It also spells out some of the functionality those resources must have. In addition, if John Deere releases any new repair resources, it would need to make those available to farmers and independent repair technicians once 50 percent of authorized John Deere dealerships have access. The terms of the settlement are in place for 10 years and

will be enforced by the FTC and the five states included in the suit.

“Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) members have worked for Right to Repair legislation for farm equipment for a number of years because when they buy equipment, they believe they should be able to repair it themselves or take it to the repair technician of their choice,” said MFU President Gary Wertish. “We thank Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison and his staff for bringing this suit and working to gain this improvement for Minnesota’s family farmers. MFU will continue to work for expansion of the Digital Fair Repair Act in Minnesota to cover farm equipment.”

About Minnesota Farmers Union

Minnesota Farmers Union works to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life of family farmers and ranchers and rural communities. MFU is a nonprofit membership-based organization. Membership is open to everyone. Learn more and join at www.mfu.org and follow MFU on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

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MDA Seeks Public Comment on Neonicotinoid-Treated Seed Rules

Commenters can weigh in on the sufficiency of current Minnesota Rules Chapter 1505

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is seeking public comments to assist the agency in determining whether Minnesota's rules are adequate to protect natural resources.

On January 16, 2026, the Ramsey County Second Judicial District Court ordered the MDA to initiate the "appropriate administrative proceedings to consider and make findings and an order concerning the adequacy of its rules to protect natural resources from contamination allegedly resulting from the use of neonicotinoid-treated crop seeds."

The MDA is seeking public comments on the following:

With express consideration of how Minnesota Rules Chapter 1505 fits within the broader context of all applicable environmental protection in state and federal law regulating pesticides and neonicotinoid-treated seeds, is Minnesota Rules Chapter 1505 adequate to protect Minnesota's natural resources from pollution, impairment, or destruction allegedly resulting from the use of neonicotinoid-treated crop seeds?

Commenters are asked to provide applicable information and supporting evidence. Comments that express only support or opposition to neonicotinoid-treated seed, without providing further information for the MDA to consider, will not assist the MDA in its decision-making.

Comments must be received by July 31, 2026. Submit comments through an online form on the MDA's Neonicotinoid-Treated Seed Public Comment website, by email (Subject: Treated Seed Public Comment) to: TreatedSeed.MDA@state.mn.us, or by letter to:

Molly Darlington
Research Scientist | Pesticide Technical Unit
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
625 Robert St. North, St. Paul, MN 55155

Applications Open for New Electric Farm Equipment Grant

Funds will help farmers reduce emissions and diversify energy sources

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the 2026 Electric Farm Equipment Grant (EFEG) program. This new program helps Minnesota farmers purchase electric farm equipment to reduce air pollution.

The MDA expects to award up to \$6.6 million through a competitive review process.

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Individual awards will range from \$1,500 to \$150,000, with about 90 grants expected to be awarded. The EFEG program requires a 25% cash match. Grant funds are provided as reimbursements, meaning grantees must pay project costs upfront and submit proof of expenses before receiving reimbursement.

"Agriculture has an important role to play in reducing pollution and building a more sustainable future," said Commissioner Thom Petersen. "This grant is part of Minnesota's broader climate-smart food systems initiative, helping farmers invest in electric alternatives while supporting resilient local food systems across the state."

Eligible applicants include Minnesota farmers and livestock producers, and organizations that train or support farmers. Priority will be given to projects that replace diesel- and gas-powered farm equipment with electric alternatives, especially equipment that plays an important role in the farm's day-to-day operations.

Full grant eligibility requirements and application details are available on our Electric Farm Equipment Grant webpage. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2026.

Funding for the EFEG program comes from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant awarded to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Get the latest information on the initiative and open grant opportunities by visiting the MPCA's climate-smart food systems website.

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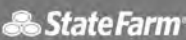
Tuesday August 4 meet at the Memorial Park in West Concord (beside WC Pool) at 6pm to register for VBS ages 4 years through finishing 6th grade.
Wednesday & Thursday August 5th & 6th Lion's Park 9am to 11:45am
Friday evening August 7th 5pm meet at Lion's Park for picnic, games and special concert.



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17 JUNE	COUNTRY NIGHT 5 PM - Foster Grand 6:30 PM - JT & the Gunslingers	01 AUG	SATURDAY NIGHT SOUL REVIEW 5 PM - Retro Soul & the Westside Horns 7 PM - The Soul Train
24 JUNE	5 PM - The Local Hoolligans 6:30 PM - Chase and Ovation: Salute to Prince	05 AUG	CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN 5 PM - Amateur 6:30 PM - Six Mile Grove
01 JULY	CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN 5 PM - JoJo Green 6:30 PM - Nite Shift	12 AUG	5 PM - Neon Live: Elton John Tribute 6:30 PM - Collective Unconscious
08 JULY	TRIBUTE BAND NIGHT 5 PM - Crazy on You: A Tribute to Heart 6:30 PM - The Crown Jewels: A Tribute to Queen	19 AUG	SXSE BREWFEST 5 PM - The New Feral Cats 6:30 PM - fABBAulous
15 JULY	ARTISAN MARKET NIGHT 5 PM - Old Country Boys 6:30 PM - County Line Drive	26 AUG	5 PM - Orchid Jane 6:30 PM - Branded: Hot Country

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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 • Guns 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 Gochner 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 WCFD - 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



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Berne Woodfired Pizza Holds Thursday Event



Last week the Berne wood fired pizza night was rained out again and the event was held the next evening, on Thursday. On short notice two bands were rounded up and the crowd was entertained by Divas, Inc. and the Foster Grand band. There was a bounce for the kids, bean bags games and classic cars on display.



Talking summer skin health with University of Minnesota

The increase in summer heat, sun, and humidity brings new skin needs and potential health consequences. Dr. David Pearson with the University of Minnesota Medical School and M Health Fairview talks about how to keep your skin healthy during the summer months.

Q: How do our skincare needs change in the summer?

Dr. Pearson: Our skin is in direct contact with our environment, which means external factors can have a big influence on our skin's health. Summertime in Minnesota usually leads to increased sun exposure in duration, frequency and the amount of our body's surface area that is exposed to the sun. In the short term, sun protection is important to prevent sunburns and melanin changes in the skin during the increased exposure in the summer months. In the long term, sun protection is critical in skin cancer prevention and preventing premature aging of the skin. More outdoor activities combined with higher humidity may also result in more sweating, which can be associated with skin irritation in body folds, heat rash, athlete's foot and other skin reactions. Dry skin is usually less of a problem, but it's dependent on the person and the activities they participate in.

Q: What are some of the biggest skin health concerns that arise in the summer?

Dr. Pearson: Most summer skin concerns are related to sun and outdoor exposure. Sunburns, poison ivy and bug bites are all very common. Lyme disease is endemic in Minnesota, and we see it frequently in its early, skin-localized form — a ring-shaped, red rash centered around a tick bite (erythema migrans). Most of the time, Lyme disease can be treated with a relatively short course of oral antibiotics. I encourage people to thoroughly look over their skin, including their scalp, after they've been in areas known to harbor

ticks, particularly in the woods or around tall grasses. In the clinic, we find a tick or two every week that people didn't know were attached.

People with certain autoimmune diseases may also be very sensitive to sun exposure, so they may have to be extra cautious. Sun exposure can even trigger systemic flares of disease in conditions like lupus erythematosus and dermatomyositis. Pigmentary disorders, like melasma, are also highly sensitive to sun exposure, and we see increased flare-ups during the summer months.

Q: What tips do you have for avoiding and treating sunburns?

Dr. Pearson: In principle, avoidance sounds straightforward. Wear sunblock, sun-protective clothing and a broad-brimmed hat. Reapply sunblock every few hours and try to avoid prolonged exposure, especially during peak sunlight hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In practice, this isn't always easy, as anyone who has experienced a sunburn knows! Working sunblock into your daily skincare routine can reduce the risk of forgetting to apply it. I tell patients that I don't want reapplication to be a barrier to initial application — putting sunblock on once is better than not putting it on at all. We don't want people to hide out in a dark basement, but it's important to find a balance between sun protection and enjoying the summer.

Sunburns can be treated with cool water. A cold shower is great, but a cold washcloth may be easier to tolerate if your skin is too sensitive. Over-the-counter treatments, like aloe and cooling creams, hydrocortisone and

ibuprofen or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, can be symptomatically helpful. Don't forget to stay hydrated. When the skin barrier is compromised by a sunburn, there is more water loss through the skin and people can become dehydrated easily.

Q: What are the signs and symptoms of skin cancer?

Dr. Pearson: There are a number of different types of skin cancer, but let's focus on the three most common: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma. All three generally have a predilection for sun-exposed areas, although there are some differences in distribution based on the type of cancer and factors such as age, sex and coexistent medical issues.

Basal cell carcinoma is the most common and accounts for about 80% of skin cancers. It's often a pink or red bump with a shiny or pearly appearance. Squamous cell carcinomas are the next most common (about 15%); these are usually pink or red, raised and may have a scaly or crusty surface. Both may be tender or painful and can ulcerate. Melanomas are usually pigmented (brown, gray or black) and often present before perceptible symptoms have developed. They may be asymmetric, have irregular borders or colors and change gradually over time (typically weeks to months). New spots or those that have changed over time may be a clue for any of these types of skin cancers. If you're in doubt, bring it to the attention of your doctors.

Q: How does your research at the University support your clinical work?

Dr. Pearson: Much of my clinical work focuses on the overlap between dermatology and rheumatology, which encompasses a spectrum of skin-related conditions and multi-system autoimmune connective tissue disorders, including dermatomyositis, lupus erythematosus and vasculitis. My research is based on clinical questions and challenges that clinicians and patients see in everyday life. I am particularly interested in learning how environmental triggers of disease may influence cutaneous and systemic outcomes. For example, many of these conditions demonstrate photosensitivity — the onset or exacerbation of symptoms upon exposure to UV or visible light. But the complex interactions between varying wavelengths and irradiances under environmental conditions are not fully understood. Through cross-disciplinary translational work with the Department of Mechanical Engineering, we are developing personalized detection systems to study this in the real world. Hopefully, this will lead to individualized strategies to avoid symptomatic flares.

Dr. David Pearson is an associate professor of dermatology at the University of Minnesota Medical School and a dermatologist with M Health Fairview. He is also the director of the Autoimmune Connective Tissue Diseases Specialty Clinic at the M Health Fairview Clinics and Surgery Center in Minneapolis. His research interests include environmental triggers of autoimmune connective tissue diseases, effects on quality of life and development of novel therapies for these conditions.

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4 Holistic Health Tips Worth Bringing Into Your Life!



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

I have been around the wellness world long enough to remember when "holistic health" sounded like something only the granola crowd talked about. These days? It is everywhere, and honestly, I love that! We have circled back to ideas our grandparents seemed to know instinctively, only now we have the science to back them up. Below are four tips I keep coming back to, both for myself and for the patients and friends I care about. Pull up a chair. Let's talk health like the fellow enthusiasts we are.

Start From the Inside Out: Your Gut Knows More Than You Think

I'll be honest with you. For years, I treated my stomach like an afterthought, something that only mattered when it growled or grum-

bled. Then I started paying attention, and what a difference it made. Your gut is often called your "second brain," and there's real truth to that. Trillions of tiny bacteria live in your digestive system, and they influence everything from your mood to your immune system to how much energy you have to get through the day.

The good news is that supporting your gut doesn't require anything fancy. Start by adding more fiber-rich, whole foods to your plate. Think leafy greens, beans, oats, and colorful vegetables. Fermented foods like yogurt, kimchi, and sauerkraut bring in beneficial bacteria that help keep everything balanced. I like to tell people that every meal is a chance to either feed the good bacteria or starve them. Small, consistent choices add up faster than you'd expect.

Here's the part that ties beautifully into chiropractic and whole-body wellness: when your gut is happy, your whole system tends to follow. Many people notice less inflammation, steadier energy, and even better sleep once they clean up their gut health. It is all connected, and your body works best when each piece is supported. So if you've been ignoring your digestion, consider this your gentle nudge to start listening.

Make Peace With Your Nervous System

This one is close to my heart. So many of us walk around in a constant state of low-grade stress, and we barely notice it anymore. Tight shoulders, shallow breathing, a racing mind at bedtime. Sound familiar? Your nervous system is running the show behind the scenes, and when it's stuck in "fight or flight" mode, your whole body pays the price.

The beautiful thing is that you have more control over this than you realize. Simple

practices can shift your body out of stress mode and into rest-and-repair mode. Try slow, deep breathing where your exhale is longer than your inhale. Even a few minutes can calm a frazzled mind. A short walk outdoors, a warm bath, or simply unplugging from your phone for an hour can work wonders too. These aren't luxuries. They're maintenance for the system that controls everything.

This is also where chiropractic care fits in so naturally. Your spine houses and protects your nervous system, and gentle, personalized adjustments can help your body communicate more clearly with itself. I've watched patients soften and exhale right there on the table, like their bodies finally got permission to relax. When your nervous system feels safe, healing happens. It's not magic, it's just how we're built.

Treat Sleep Like the Foundation It Truly Is

I remember a time when running on little sleep felt like a badge of honor. We bragged about it. What a mistake that was. Sleep isn't downtime, it's when your body does its most important repair work. Muscles recover, your brain clears out the day's clutter, and your nervous system resets. Skimp on it, and you feel the effects in everything from your mood to your aches and pains.

If your sleep has been rough, start with the basics. Keep a consistent bedtime, even on weekends, so your body knows what to expect. Dim the lights in the evening and put the screens away at least an hour before bed. Your bedroom should be cool, dark, and quiet, almost like a little cave built for rest. These changes sound simple, and they are, but they make a genuine difference over

time.

I'd also encourage you to think about how you sleep, not just how long. The right pillow and a supportive mattress matter more than most people realize, especially if you wake up stiff or sore. Poor sleeping posture can pull your spine out of alignment night after night. If you're waking up hurting, that's worth a conversation with your chiropractor. Good sleep and a healthy spine go hand in hand, and addressing both can change how you feel from the moment you open your eyes.

Keep Moving, Because Motion Is Medicine

Here's something I say all the time: your body was made to move. We've engineered so much movement out of modern life, sitting at desks, scrolling on couches, driving everywhere. And our bodies feel it. Stiffness, weakness, and nagging pain often trace back to one simple culprit, which is that we just aren't moving enough or in enough variety.

The fix doesn't mean you need to become a marathon runner overnight. In fact, I'd argue that gentle, consistent mobility work beats the occasional intense workout for most people. Stretch in the morning. Take walking breaks during your workday. Try yoga, swimming, or simply playing with your kids on the floor. The goal is to move your joints through their full range often, because joints that don't move tend to get stuck, and stuck joints lead to discomfort down the road.

None of these tips require a complete life overhaul. That's the beauty of holistic health, it's the small, steady choices that build into something powerful. Pick one to start with this week. Your body has been waiting for you to pay attention, and trust me, it'll thank you for it.

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Food Noise



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

Does it seem like you are always thinking about food? You want to focus on other things and you know that constantly grazing contributes to excess weight and health issues, but you cannot seem to help yourself. This is the description of “food noise.” There

seems to be a constant nagging in your mind for more food even when you really do not have a need for it. In recent years, thousands have been turning to medication to help reduce this “food noise,” but the results of the medication have some concerning side effects, as I wrote about last month. With every medication there is a natural alternative when you look more closely at what is happening. “Food noise” can be reduced naturally when you rebuild your eating habits.

The key to reducing “food noise” is to understand how your body generates fullness and satisfaction signals and then how to increase those signals. There are at least three significant areas to change in order to increase satisfaction with your meals – timing, protein, and fiber. Focusing on these three areas has helped thousands of individuals to improve their quality of life and reduce the distraction of “food noise.” So, let’s take a look at these three areas.

Timing – refers to the importance of a rou-

time. We are creatures of habit. Habits are what help us get through the day. Food noise can be related to some negative habits that have formed over the years and need to be changed. However, simply determining to eat at specific times and not between meals is easier said than done. Ideally, you will focus on three meals a day with at least four and a half hours between meals. In a 2022 national survey asking health practitioners about their eating habits, those doctors and nurses who ate three meals a day with no snacks between meals had a lower risk of death and lower heart disease risk than those who snacked throughout the day or those who did intermittent fasting. The timing and consistency of eating was important, but this would not be possible to maintain without the next two areas of protein and fiber.

Protein – is an essential component for every meal of the day. Your digestion process responds with satisfaction signals when protein is eaten in the first bites. No-

tice the first foods placed on the table at a restaurant – chips, bread, salad, drinks – all carbohydrates, very tasty, but no protein. Notice the trend of the ketogenic diet or the Atkins diet that promote high intake of protein and many people lose weight. The satisfaction signals are greatly increased with protein and the food noise decreases. The Atkins or ketogenic plan is not a balanced diet but demonstrates the power of protein to reduce the food noise. A healthy protein portion should be selected for breakfast to help start the day on a positive trend. Eggs, full fat Greek yogurt, full fat cottage cheese, smoked salmon, or chicken sausage are just some examples of protein options for breakfast. Replace the cold cereal, muffin, pop tart, or fruit juice with a protein for breakfast and you will begin to move toward a routine that will stimulate satisfaction.

Fiber – is another essential component that promotes satisfaction and reduces food noise.

(continued on page 25)

Yeast Infections in Dogs: Signs, Symptoms, Treatments

Yeast infections in dogs are common, especially dogs with underlying conditions or compromised immune systems. While they can occur anywhere on the skin, they’re most often seen in the ears. Early diagnosis and treatment are key to preventing discomfort and more serious complications. Yeast is a live, single-celled microorganism classified as a member of the fungus kingdom. It’s normally found on every dog’s skin, in small amounts. A yeast infection occurs when yeast builds up excessively in one area.

Yeast infections are often linked to other underlying issues such as fleas or other parasites, bacterial infections, underlying hormonal problems, and seborrhea, a dermatological condition. Allergies—whether triggered by environmental factors or food sensitivities—are also a common contributing factor. In the ears, infections are frequently caused by trapped moisture or debris. Ear yeast infections may also stem from underlying mechanical issues such as damage to the eardrum, a polyp, or a mass or tumor in the ear canal.

Dogs with floppy ears, such as Golden Retrievers and Labrador Retrievers, especially those that swim often, are at higher risk because moisture can become trapped in the ear canal. Breeds with dense hair inside the ear, like such as Miniature Schnauzers, Bichon Frise, and Shih Tzu, may also be more susceptible due to this hair limiting airflow.

The ear canal of a dog is L-shaped, dropping down and toward the head. This dark, warm, moist environment is the perfect setting for a yeast infection to thrive. The most common organisms found in ear infections are Candida and Malassezia species. A dog with a yeast infection in the ears may show the following symptoms:

- Scratching or digging at the ears
- Rubbing the head on the floor, walls, or furniture
- Excessive or frequent head shaking
- Musty or unpleasant odor
- Brown, yellow, or bloody discharge
- Crusted skin or fur on the ear flap
- Swelling and redness
- Hair loss around the base of the ear

Prompt diagnosis and treatment are critical. If a yeast infection spreads deeper into the ear canal, it can cause serious pain and complications, such as loss of hearing or neurological damage.

Paws are especially vulnerable to yeast infections because they’re frequently exposed to moisture, dirt, and allergens. Irritation can worsen as dogs lick their paws, adding more moisture and encouraging yeast growth. Common signs include:

- Excessive licking or chewing of the feet
- Red, irritated skin
- Brown discharge around the nailbeds
- Pink salivary staining on the hair around the paws
- Hair loss

There could be many reasons a dog excessively licks their paws, including anxiety, boredom, injury, parasites, bacteria, or allergies, including food sensitivities.

Yeast dermatitis is an inflammatory condition caused by yeast overgrowth on the skin. It can occur anywhere but is most common in warm, moist areas like skin folds or where a rash is already present. Breeds with wrinkles, such as the Chinese Shar-Pei, are particularly vulnerable.

Symptoms of yeast infections of the skin include:

- Intense itching
- Red, inflamed skin
- Greasy, crusty, or flaky patches
- Thickened skin
- Darkened skin areas
- Hair loss
- A strong, musty odor

Although a yeast infection of the skin may start in a very specific area, if left untreated, it can spread across the body and may be accompanied by a secondary bacterial infection.

Treating a yeast infection begins with an accurate diagnosis. A veterinarian will typically examine your dog’s history and perform diagnostic tests to confirm the cause.

Treatment depends on the location and severity of the infection. Ear infections may require topical antifungal medications, medicated drops, or oral treatments for deeper infections. Cleaning the ears thoroughly is an important part of care, and ongoing use of drying solutions may help prevent recurrence.

For paw infections, treatment may include antifungal sprays or lotions along with antibacterial products. Keeping paws dry is key, and your veterinarian may recommend using an Elizabethan collar to prevent licking during healing.

Skin infections often require a combination of topical and oral treatments. Medicated antifungal shampoos are commonly used and may need to remain on the skin for about 10 minutes per bath. In some cases, treatment may continue for several weeks. If a secondary bacterial infection is present, antibiotics may also be necessary.

Yeast infections aren’t contagious to other dogs or people. Preventing them largely involves controlling moisture and managing underlying conditions.

Too much moisture is a common cause of ear infections, so thoroughly drying your dog’s ears after swimming and bathing can prevent moisture build-up. If your dog has a skin rash, musty smell, or is scratching or licking excessively, taking them to the veterinarian can prevent an infection from spreading and becoming more serious.

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Dear Savvy Senior,

What tips can you recommend for finding affordable prescription eyeglasses? I currently have vision coverage through my employer’s insurance plan but will lose it when I retire in a few months and sign up for Medicare.

–Nearsighted Nancy

Dear Nancy,

You’re wise to plan ahead. Eyeglasses can be expensive. A basic pair often runs \$150 to \$300, and bifocals or progressive lenses can easily double or triple that. The good news is that with a few strategies, you can keep costs manageable once you retire and transition to Medicare.

Medicare & insurance

Original Medicare and Medigap plans generally do not cover routine eye exams or eyeglasses, except after cataract surgery, when Part B helps pay for corrective lenses. But many Medicare Advantage plans, also called Part C, do include vision benefits. These plans, offered by private insurers, must cover everything original Medicare does and often include extras like dental, hearing and prescription drug coverage.

That said, I would not choose a Medicare Advantage plan just for vision coverage alone, but it is worth understanding what is available. To compare plans in your area, visit medicare.gov/plan-compare or call 800-633-4227. Be sure to check the details to confirm coverage for routine eye exams, frames and lenses.

You can also buy a stand-alone vision insurance plan. Major carriers like Humana, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna and UnitedHealthcare, along with specialty providers like VSP and EyeMed, offer plans with premiums typically ranging from about \$10 to \$30 per month. Before enrolling, compare the costs and benefits to make sure the savings on exams and glasses outweigh the premiums and copays.

Discount stores

Buying glasses from discount retailers can save you a substantial amount. Warehouse clubs like Costco Optical and Sam’s Club Optical offer eye exams typically ranging from \$80 to \$130 depending on location, with basic prescription glasses starting around \$120. You will need a membership, but the savings can often justify the cost.

Other good options include Walmart Vision Center, Target Optical and independent optical shops. Prices vary, so it pays to shop around and ask about package deals or seasonal promotions. An AARP membership can also provide discounts at retailers like LensCrafters, Target Optical and Visionworks.

Buy online

Ordering glasses online is another excellent way to save, often cutting costs significantly compared to traditional retailers. Reputable sites like Warby Parker, EyeBuyDirect and GlassesUSA offer single vision glasses starting around \$70, with progressive lenses typically ranging from \$120 to \$200 depending on features.

You will need a current prescription and your pupillary distance, which may be included on your prescription or can be measured by your provider or even at home. Many online retailers offer virtual try on tools so you can see how frames will look before you buy.

Also pay attention to lens options such as anti-reflective coating, scratch resistant coating and blue light filtering. For most people, a basic pair with durable coatings is usually sufficient.

Low-income assistance

If your income is limited, local clinics may offer free or reduced cost eye exams and eyeglasses. Your local Lions Club is another excellent resource. Many chapters sponsor vision programs or can direct you to nearby services. You can find your local club at lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/club-locator.

The nonprofit New Eyes also provides eyeglasses through a voucher program for people in financial need, working with participating providers to supply frames and lenses at little or no cost.

With a little planning, you can keep your vision sharp without overspending. Between Medicare options, discount retailers, online shopping and community programs, there are plenty of ways to find quality eyeglasses at a price you can afford.

Food Noise

(continued from page 24)

Quality fiber at each meal is provided through fresh vegetables and fruits. Lettuce and cabbage may seem to have little nutrition value but much of the benefit comes from the fiber in these foods. Fiber is undigestible to humans but becomes a feast for the bacteria in our intestines.

When the bacteria in the colon feast on fiber, they produce fatty acids that feed the colon cells lining the large intestine. The colon cells produce glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1) which signals satisfaction to your brain and reduces food noise. Americans are recommended to consume at least 35 grams of fiber each day. Great choices for increasing daily fiber intake include apples, pears, berries, avocados, broccoli, carrots, cabbage, brussels sprouts, artichoke, black beans, navy beans, lentils, and squash. As you increase fiber intake with each meal, you will achieve a greater signal of fullness that will sustain you for hours.

When you select a protein for each meal and a fiber source to go with that protein you are beginning to construct a healthy meal that will satisfy your body needs for hours. As you build these quality meals, you will be able to start reducing snacks and separating your meals up to five hours. As you build this daily routine, begin to drink water between meals which will help to make sure you are well hydrated, which will also reduce snacking signals.

Health is the result of healthy choices. A supportive community is needed to help make these healthy choices become a lifestyle. I have written in previous articles about healthy weight and continue to provide resources to support healthy lifestyle choices that can help you reach your health goals. Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. Nutrition is designed for healing. I can help you reach greater health freedom in 2026. Contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

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

July is Disability Pride Month

Elder Network is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit that was formed in 1988. We have been serving Dodge County since 2022, and are working to provide the community with supportive services and information for older adults and caregivers. We want to take the time to honor the disability community, as July is Disability Pride Month. There are many different community resources that Dodge County has to support and empower the disability community. One resource is Disability Hub MN, a free statewide resource that helps people with disabilities get connected with resources they may need for navigating challenges and planning for the future.

Funded in part by the SEMN Area Agency on Aging.



Contact Disability Hub MN at 1-866-333-2466. The Disability Hub is open Monday to Friday from 8:30am-5pm.

Our Dodge County staff member, Pa Cha Vang, is also available to contact for caregiver support, educational opportunities, and referrals. Feel free to contact Pa Cha at 507-577-1434 or pachav@elder-network.org.

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AUG. 26	CLAY FULTON	The Hubbell House

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Community

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation seeks applications for Economic Development Grants

Applications due August 10 at 4 p.m.

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is currently accepting applications for its Economic Development Grant program. Requests of up to \$10,000 will be considered.

The Economic Development Grant supports projects that strengthen local business activity, promote steady economic growth across SMIF's 20-county region and Native nation, encourage innovation, job creation, and broader access to opportunity. The program supports organizations that provide direct services to help people start or expand small businesses, and that create welcoming environments where more residents can participate in southern Minnesota's business support network. While all communities in SMIF's region will be considered, preference is given to organizations or projects serving communities with populations under 10,000.

"As entrepreneurs across our region seek support for starting or expanding small businesses, we want to ensure they have the sys-



United Way's Running Start for School Returns to Support Over 4,000 Students

Rochester, MN – United Way of Southeast Minnesota is once again mobilizing the community through its Running Start for School program, aiming to provide more than 4,000 local students with brand-new backpacks filled with essential school supplies. The program provides brand new backpacks full of essential school supplies at no cost to students and families in Southeast Minnesota. This year, Running Start for School will work with 43 schools and 8 community partners across Dodge, Fillmore, Olmsted, and Winona Counties to ensure that students can focus on learning—not on whether they have the basic supplies they need. Community members and organizations are encouraged to start a virtual drive as an easy and impactful way to support students alongside friends, colleagues, and networks. A gift of \$8 provides one student with a backpack and the school supplies needed to begin the year prepared and confident. To launch a drive or donate, visit uwsemn.org/rs. "The first day of school is something every child should look forward to," said Stephanie Rudeen, Vice President of Resource Development at United Way. "When students have the supplies they need, they arrive feeling confident, included, and ready to learn. That's why Running Start for School is so important – it gives thousands of local students the opportunity to start the school year on equal footing." This year, SCHEELS is also continuing its commitment as Premier Sponsor of Running Start for

School. "Rochester SCHEELS is thrilled to jump into year seven of sponsoring this amazing program," said Lauren Hillesheim, Assistant Store Leader. "The Running Start Program provides essential supplies to our community's youth as they gear up for the school year ahead. SCHEELS believes programs like this are pivotal to our community in helping children start the year with their best foot forward. We are excited to see what this year brings, and all the smiles to come out of this backpack drive!"

903 West Center St, Suite 100, Rochester, MN 55902 (507) 287-2000 uwsemn.org

Thank you also to our Legacy Sponsor of Running Start for School, Rochester Chevrolet and Your Select Chevy Dealers.

The deadline to donate to this year's drive is September 4, 2026. For more information, to donate, or to get involved, visit www.uwsemn.org/rs.

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

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tems and resources to move their ideas forward," shared Mary Athey, SMIF vice president of entrepreneurship. "Creating a strong economy isn't just about the first step, it's having the scaffolding to help small businesses become long-lasting cornerstones of the community."

In 2026, this grant is open to IRS-designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Other IRS-designated 501(c) organizations and informal/grassroots organizations can apply with a 501(c)(3) organization as their fiscal host. In 2027, this grant will be open to units/agencies of government and public institutions.

Applications are due to SMIF by August 10, 2026 at 4 p.m. For the application and

guidelines, visit smifoundation.org/economicgrants or contact Jennifer Heien, entrepreneurship administrative coordinator, at 507-214-7040 or jenniferh@smifoundation.org.

SMIF works to catalyze entrepreneurial activity within the region and has played a strong role in growing local business by supporting entrepreneurship since 1986. In addition to the Economic Development Grants, SMIF provides early-stage investments, traditional loans, micro loans, technical assistance, peer networks and business trainings to achieve the vision of creating economic prosperity and community vitality in southern Minnesota.

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Triton Times

Luke Lutterman, Triton Superintendent

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Produced and published for Triton School District by Mainstreet Publishing

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- 3 CONTAINERS OF CLOROX DISINFECTING WIPES
- WATER BOTTLE
- 1 BOX KLEENEX
- WIRED HEADPHONES IN A ZIPLOC BAG: (LABELED WITH FIRST & LAST NAME)
- BACKPACK
- NON-MARKING TENNIS SHOES: FOR GYM TO KEEP AT SCHOOL

OPTIONAL NEEDED SUPPLIES:

- GALLON SIZE ZIP-LOCK BAGS
- QUART SIZE ZIP-LOCK BAGS
- SANDWICH SIZE BAGS
- BROWN OR WHITE PAPER BAGS LUNCH SIZE
- SMALL DIXIE CUPS

NATURE BASED-KINDERGARTEN:

- 1.5" 3-RING BINDER WITH CLEAR COVER
- 1 PLASTIC TWO POCKET FOLDER (ANY COLOR)
- 1 NOTEBOOK (ANY COLOR)
- 4 BOXES CRAYOLA CRAYONS
- 2 BOXES CRAYOLA MARKERS
- 6 BLACK EXPO WHITEBOARD MARKERS
- 1 WHITEBOARD ERASER
- 6-8 GLUE STICKS
- 1 BOTTLE OF GLUE
- SCISSORS
- 1 PLASTIC PENCIL BOX
- 1 ZIPPER PENCIL POUCH
- 3 CONTAINERS OF CLOROX DISINFECTING WIPES
- WATER BOTTLE
- 1 BOX KLEENEX
- WIRED HEADPHONES IN A ZIPLOC BAG: (LABELED WITH FIRST & LAST NAME)
- BACKPACK
- NON-MARKING TENNIS SHOES FOR GYM TO KEEP AT SCHOOL
- SEASONAL NEEDED SUPPLIES
- RAIN BOOTS / MUD BOOTS
- RAIN COAT
- UMBRELLA
- WINTER BOOTS (WATERPROOF- NO UGGS)
- SNOWPANTS
- WINTER COAT
- HAT
- MITTENS
- OPTIONAL NEEDED SUPPLIES
- GALLON SIZE ZIP-LOCK BAGS
- QUART SIZE ZIP-LOCK BAGS
- SANDWICH SIZE BAGS
- BROWN PAPER BAGS LUNCH SIZE
- SMALL DIXIE CUPS
- SMALL WHITE PAPER PLATES

2026-27 Preschool Enrollment

CLASS OPTIONS

2026-2027

TUESDAY & THURSDAY – MRS. OLEVSON

3 YEAR OLDS 8-10:30 AM

WAITING LIST

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY- MRS. OLEVSON

3 & 4 YEAR OLDS 8-10:30 AM

WAITING LIST

4 DAY MONDAY-THURSDAY- MRS. VERMILYEA

4 & 5 YEAR OLDS 12:30-3:00 PM

5 AFTERNOONS- MRS. OLEVSON

3-5 YEAR OLDS 12:30-3:00 PM

TRANSITION CLASS--5 MORNINGS /WEEK & ONE FULL FRIDAY/MONTH – MRS. VERMILYEA

4 & 5 YEAR OLDS 8-10:30 AM

- ✓ Scholarships available
- ✓ Transportation options
- ✓ Parent Aware 4 Star rated
- ✓ Experienced, caring teachers



TRITON

GRADES 1-3

SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

FIRST GRADE:

1 BOX OF 8 CLASSIC COLOR BROAD LINE CRAYOLA MARKERS
1 CONTAINER OF DISINFECTING WIPES
1 LARGE BOX OF KLEENEX
1 STUDENT SCISSOR
1 WHITEBOARD ERASER
12 SHARPENED #2 PENCILS
2 PINK RECTANGLE ERASERS
2 SPIRAL WIDE- RULED NOTEBOOKS
1 TWO-POCKET FOLDERS
2 BOXES OF 24 CRAYOLA CRAYONS
6 GLUE STICKS
8 BLACK EXPO DRY ERASE MARKERS
WIRED HEADPHONES IN A ZIPLOC BAG (LABELED WITH FIRST & LAST NAME)
5 X 8 PLASTIC PENCIL BOX
NON-MARKING TENNIS SHOES FOR GYM TO KEEP AT SCHOOL

OPTIONAL NEEDED SUPPLIES:
GALLON SIZE ZIP-LOCK BAGS
QUART SIZE ZIP-LOCK BAGS
EXTRA DISINFECTANT WIPES

SECOND GRADE :

SECOND GRADE:
24 #2 SHARPENED PENCILS
2 INK PENS (ANY COLOR)
2 HIGHLIGHTERS (ANY COLOR)
2 BOXES OF 24 CRAYONS
2 BOXES OF 8-10 MARKERS
6 GLUE STICKS
2 LARGE ERASERS
1 PAIR OF SCISSORS
1 PLASTIC PENCIL BOX
1 RED 1 SUBJECT WIDE-LINED SPIRAL NOTEBOOK
1 BLUE 1 SUBJECT WIDE-LINED SPIRAL NOTEBOOK
1 YELLOW 1 SUBJECT WIDE-LINED SPIRAL NOTEBOOK
1 PLASTIC TWO-POCKET FOLDER
1 PLASTIC TWO-POCKET FOLDER (ANY COLOR)
8 DRY ERASE MARKERS (ANY COLOR)
1 WHITEBOARD ERASER
WIRED HEADPHONES IN A ZIPLOC BAG
(LABELED WITH FIRST & LAST NAME)
2 LARGE BOXES OF KLEENEX
2 CONTAINERS OF DISINFECTING WIPES
NON-MARKING TENNIS SHOES FOR GYM TO KEEP AT SCHOOL

THIRD GRADE:

1 BOX OF 24 CRAYONS
1 BOX OF 12 COLORED PENCILS
2 BOXES OF 8 MARKERS
36 #2 SHARPENED PENCILS
1 PINK ERASER
4 GLUE STICKS
1 SCISSOR
16 BLACK EXPO DRY ERASE MARKERS
1 WHITEBOARD ERASER
1 WIDE-LINED NOTEBOOK (PLEASE NO SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS)
2 ZIPPER PENCIL POUCHES
3 TWO-POCKET FOLDER
4 HIGHLIGHTERS
WIRED HEADPHONES IN A ZIPLOC BAG (LABELED WITH FIRST & LAST NAME)
NON-MARKING TENNIS SHOES FOR GYM TO KEEP AT SCHOOL
1 BOX OF KLEENEX
1 CONTAINER OF DISINFECTANT WIPES
1 BOX QUART ZIPLOC BAGS

Triton
GRADES 4 & 5
SCHOOL SUPPLY
LISTS

Fourth Grade:

- 1 box of 10 thin markers
- 1 box of 24 colored pencils
- 48 pencils (supply for school year)
- 4 glue sticks
- 8 black EXPO dry erase markers
- White board eraser
- 1 scissor
- 2 wide-ruled spiral notebooks
- 1" 3-ring binder
- 2 highlighters (any color)
- 2 boxes of Kleenex
- 1 container of disinfectant wipes
- Non-marking tennis shoes: for gym to keep at school
- Wired headphones in a Ziploc bag (labeled with first & last name)
- 1 box quart Ziploc bags

Fifth Grade:

1" binder
1 red heavy duty two-pocket folder
1 heavy duty two-pocket folder (any color)
2 three-subject notebook
8 black EXPO dry erase markers
1 whiteboard eraser
48 sharpened pencils
Extra erasers (pencil top or rectangle)
1 yellow highlighter
1 orange highlighter
1 blue highlighter
1 green highlighter
1 box 8 markers
1 box 24 colored pencils
Scissors
8+ glue sticks
Wired headphones in a Ziploc bag:
(labeled with first & last name)
Non-marking tennis shoes for gym to keep at school
Deodorant to keep at school
Gallon size zip-lock bags
Quart size zip-lock bags
Disinfectant wipes
1 large box of Kleenex



triton.k12.mn.us/page/supplies



AT THE GRILL WORD SEARCH

V	T	Z	B	M	T	C	R	N	H	M	I	I	G	A	H	N	N	W	L
S	R	S	U	R	B	E	E	D	M	M	V	C	S	I	S	H	E	A	T
K	G	U	R	V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S	S	E	U	H	T	T
E	T	A	G	V	S	O	P	L	C	D	K	D	C	S	A	T	O	P	H
W	E	P	E	A	K	Y	P	R	O	D	R	Y	K	H	R	N	P	A	M
E	M	Z	R	D	L	E	L	I	O	A	U	D	F	F	I	G	Z	R	B
R	O	W	D	S	O	A	C	P	Y	P	I	E	T	V	S	C	A	K	L
S	A	P	S	S	E	E	O	K	S	F	A	D	T	O	K	I	A	A	O
O	I	N	F	S	O	G	C	C	O	U	D	N	D	P	N	S	E	M	D
G	N	I	N	O	S	A	E	S	R	C	O	F	E	A	R	A	D	N	N
R	U	P	O	E	B	O	W	A	F	A	W	I	D	N	U	K	U	S	E
C	L	A	T	A	B	A	M	I	G	N	H	E	C	M	K	I	G	N	I
K	Z	A	M	Y	V	H	Y	R	A	O	F	C	M	I	Z	O	I	K	Z
Z	R	Y	K	B	P	U	E	S	A	L	R	E	F	Y	L	L	K	P	W
G	V	A	L	U	T	A	P	S	A	S	L	N	M	E	D	G	D	W	I
D	M	Z	S	E	G	A	S	U	A	S	K	L	U	F	K	E	Y	I	S
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N	L	C	W	E	E	C	R	K	F	C	W	M	A	N	F	O	I	T	T
H	L	W	A	H	Y	L	K	A	T	R	D	B	A	R	B	K	G	U	E

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

BACKYARD
BARBECUE
BURGER
CHARCOAL
CHICKEN
DELICIOUS
FLAME
FLAREUP
GRATE
HEAT
MARINADE
PROPANE
SAUSAGES
SEAR
SEASONING
SIZZLE
SKEWERS
SMOKE
SPATULA
STEAK
SUMMER
TEMPERATURE
TONGS
VEGETABLES



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TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH
ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT
ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Kids Art Class

Meet Ollie!

All ages are welcome (adults too) ages 3-6 will need an adult assistant. Meet Ollie Octopus! Ollie is super fun to paint and we will be doing some fun techniques to create the background. This is a fun painting that even our youngest picassos will enjoy creating. Perfect for kids of all skill levels, no previous Art skills needed! Follow along with step by step instructions. Includes 11x14 canvas and all supplies.

\$28
July 21 from 9-10AM in the TES Art Room

Bruce the Shark

All ages are welcome (adults too) ages 3-6 will need an adult assistant. Meet Bruce. Bruce is one cool dude with a great big smile! Bruce is from the movie "Finding Nemo". He is a great white shark who leads a support group for sharks trying to quit eating fish, with the motto "fish are friends, not food". This is a fun painting that even our youngest picassos will enjoy creating. Perfect for kids of all skill levels, no previous Art skills needed! Follow along with step by step instructions. Includes 11x14 canvas and all supplies.

\$28
July 21 from 10-11AM in the TES Art Room

Class Combo Deal: Sign up for both of these classes and pay \$50 total!



Register Now
Triton Community Ed
507-418-7550

TRITON COMMUNITY ED

ADULT DAY TRIPS

Arsenic and Old Lace

Sidekick Theatre (Masonic Heritage Museum)

What do you do when your eccentric family has actual skeletons in the closet?

Mortimer Brewster may be the only sane member of his family. One brother thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt and digs the Panama Canal in the cellar. His brother keeps undergoing ghastly plastic surgeries to hide from the police. And his adorably sweet spinster aunts take in lonely boarders..... and dispose of them with their special elderberry wine. To make matters worse, Mortimer has fallen in love with Elaine, the minister's daughter from next door, and a houseful of murderous relatives probably won't help the relationship. This beloved screw ball comedy set in 1940's Brooklyn will leave you laughing—and saying no to the elderberry wine!

We will have lunch prior to the show in the ballroom at the theatre. Lunch will include: Creamy Chicken Breast, served with Roasted Red Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Coleslaw, Dinner Rolls, Assorted Desserts, Coffee, and Hot Tea.

Soda, beer, and wine as well as snacks can be purchased at the theatre during intermission (this is the individual's responsibility to pay).

Cost: \$98, includes coach bus ride, ticket to the show and lunch. October 14

Bus Departs/Approx. Returns

Byron	9:15AM / 5:30PM	Middle School Parking Lot
Kasson	9:30AM / 5:15PM	Football Field Lot
Dodge Center	9:45 AM / 5PM	Triton Activities Entrance
Owatonna	10:15 AM / 4:30PM	Target Parking Lot closest to the Hotel



TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

AT THE CHANHASSEN DINNER THEATRE
CHANHASSEN, MN

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE IS THE TRUE STORY OF DETROIT FREE PRESS SPORTSWRITER, MITCH ALBOM AND HIS OWN PERSONAL REUNION WITH A FAVORITE COLLEGE PROFESSOR, MORRIE SCHWARTZ, WHO IS BATTLING ALS. THE PLAY SIMPLY FEATURES MITCH AND MORRIE, WHO VISIT EACH OTHER OVER A SERIES OF 14 TUESDAYS DURING WHICH THE AUDIENCE GETS A SEAT IN THE ROOM TO LISTEN TO MORRIE'S MEANINGFUL LIFE LESSONS.

ALBOM'S RENOWNED BOOK TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE WAS PUBLISHED AND WENT TO SELL MILLIONS OF COPIES. OPRAH WINFREY MADE IT A MOVIE AND THEN IT WAS ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE, WHERE ALBOM BELIEVES THE STORY COMES CLOSEST TO THE REALITY OF HIS TALKS WITH THE PROFESSOR. DON'T MISS THIS INSPIRATIONAL DRAMA FILLED WITH MORRIE'S WISE INSIGHTS, FOCUSING ON LOVE, HUMAN CONNECTION, AND GENUINE RELATIONSHIPS.

WE WILL HAVE LUNCH PRIOR TO THE SHOW AT THE THEATRE.

COST: \$120, INCLUDES COACH BUS RIDE, LUNCH AND TICKET TO THE SHOW

OCTOBER 28

BUS DEPARTS APPROX. RETURNS
BYRON 9:00AM 8PM
COMMUNITY ED PARKING LOT
(FURTHEST WEST LOT BY THE TREE LINE)

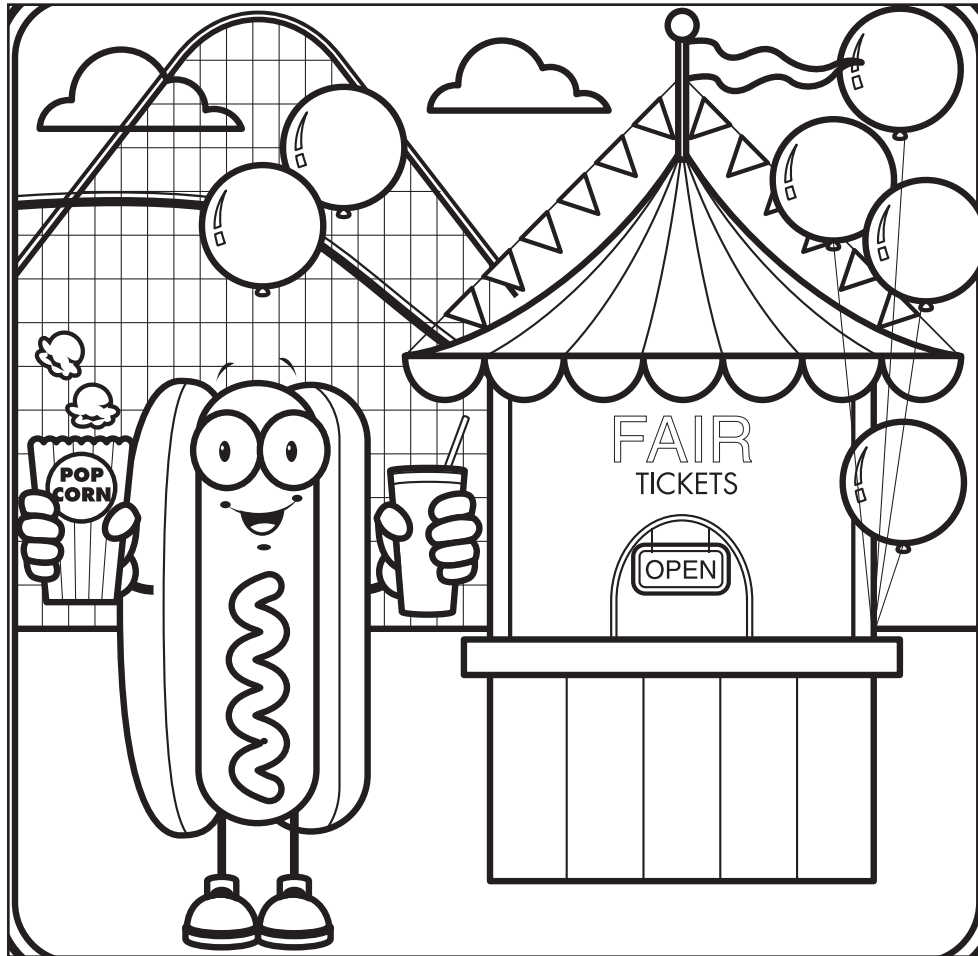
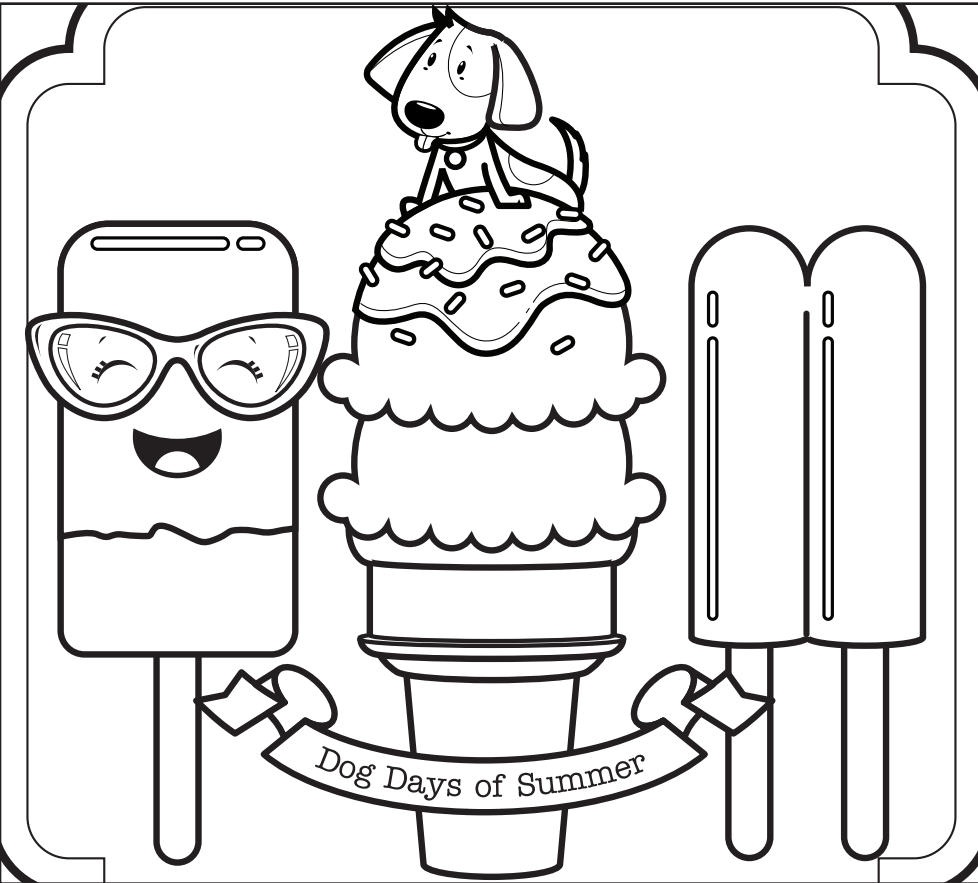
KASSON 9:15 AM 5:45PM
FOOTBALL FIELD PARKING LOT

DODGE CENTER 9:30 AM 5:30PM
TRITON ACTIVITIES ENTRANCE

OWATONNA 9:55 AM 5PM
TARGET PARKING LOT
(CLOSEST TO THE HOTEL)



YOU MUST REGISTER THROUGH TRITON COMMUNITY ED FOR TRIPS, PLEASE CALL 507-418-7550.



Community Foundations



By Benya Kraus
President & CEO Southern
Minnesota Initiative
Foundation

In a world that often asks us to be in a hurry, Wendell Berry — a Kentuckian farmer poet — asks us to slow down and to pay attention. “We have the world to live in on the condition that we will take good care of it,” he writes in one of his essays. “But to take good care of it, we have to know it. And to know it and to be willing to take care of it, we have to love it.”

In my role, I’m often asked what we can do to inspire the next generation of local leadership to get involved in community life. The University of Minnesota Extension reports that in our rural communities, 1 in 9 adults

must serve in a formal civic or nonprofit role to keep the community operating. That means serving in roles like your city council and economic development authority boards, nonprofit boards, county commissions — and close to our heart at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), your Community Foundation boards. As our our region's population ages, there is increased pressure for the next generation to carry the previous generation's legacy of service.

But what calls us to serve?

As Wendell Berry reminds us, the answer is love.

When I speak with our most active Community Foundation board members about why they serve, they often tell me about the neighbors who helped their family through a difficult time. About the coach or teacher who saw their potential before they found it for themselves. About a parent who dragged them to every church pancake breakfast or food drive as a kid, forced away from an afternoon of solitude at home with the cartoons and made to encounter their neighbors in real life, face to face. Their love for place flows out of the experiences of knowing their neighbors — and being known in return.

At SMIF, we are the backbone support to 35 small town Community Foundations. Practically, they are 35 volunteer boards who raise money locally in order to fund the things that grow, beautify and serve the needs of the people who live in their community today and for generations to come. In Berry's eyes, these Community Foundation board members are people who are commit-



Community Foundation members gather for the annual Spring Mixer.

ted to “truly looking at” their community. They are people who pour their time and attention to noticing who lives in their towns, where they spend their time and what struggles they may be experiencing. They notice when families can’t afford a summer pool pass, which downtown alleys have the potential to be revitalized with seating and murals, which fairground barns need an upgrade. They help a community focus their attention to these things, too, and through that knowledge, offer opportunities for people to care in real, practical ways.

Yes, as Wendell Berry says — to know a place and to care for it requires love. But at

the same time, knowing a place and caring for it also makes you fall in love with it.

Perhaps that is the greatest purpose of our Community Foundations: to invite your neighbors to fall in love with their places, over and over again.

To learn more about the Community Foundation in your area, visit smifoundation.org/affiliatefunds or contact Alissa Oeltjenbruns at alissao@smifoundation.org.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at benyak@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

To the Editor:

May freedom ring loud and clear.

This July we celebrate two hundred and fifty years of Freedom! During this month we don't just light sparklers. But rather across our state we are lighting that old flame of Freedom! Liberty! and Patriotism! Here in Minnesota, we know the value of hard work and aren't afraid to show up to lend a helping hand. We continue to live out the American Spirit. Our country was made a reality by those who dared to dream, work and sacrifice for a better tomorrow, and that's how we keep our State and Country free.

It's time to take our country back. Back for faith, family, freedom, hard work, and honest conversation. Back to the simple truth that our rights come from God, not from government; and that We the People are responsible for what we leave to the next generation.

So let's stand tall, fly our flag, speak with courage and teach our kids to love this land. We can't do everything but we all must do something! Our Country's future is in our hands. It only takes a spark of courage in truth to ignite a wave of patriotism! Let's live out the American Spirit!

God bless Minnesota. God bless the United States of America. And may freedom ring today and every day!

Sara Bertschinger
Pine Island MN

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



PART-TIME WRITERS WANTED

We are excited about our expanded coverage in Dodge County, growing in Kasson, Mantorville, Hayfield and Byron.

Duties include covering feature and human interest stories and upcoming events in the Messenger coverage area. Will also work with content production for on-line distribution.

Pay negotiable and based on experience.

Qualified applicants will possess:

- Ability to work with deadlines
- Great people skills
- Knowledge of/access to a computer
- Enjoy small town atmosphere
- The ability to work some night hours as needed for editorial

Email resume to:
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or call Terry at 507-951-7417

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Legal Notices

CITY OF CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 2, 2026 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Jared Sultze called the regular City Council meeting of the City of Claremont to order at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2026. Present: Mayor Jared Sultze, Council Member Krystal Sultze and Council Member Donna Gregory. Absent: Council Member Deb Ellis and Council Member Ethan Johnson. Others Present: City Administrator Elizabeth Sorg, City Attorney Mark Rahrlick, City Engineer Derek Olinger, Ed Krenke, Tracy and Duane Boyum, Denice Baier, and Jamie Sultze.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda with 1 addition of a Hogfest Committee Request made by Council Member Krystal Sultze and seconded by Council Member Donna Gregory. The motion carried.

Public Input

None

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following items: Approve the Minutes of the May 5, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting and Approve Resolution No. 26-12: Expressing Acceptance of and Appreciation of a Donation. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mayor Jared Sultze and seconded by Council Member Donna Gregory. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Approve Financial Reports. Motion to approve the financial reports was made by Council Member Krystal Sultze and seconded by Council Member Donna Gregory. The motion carried.

Approve Payment of Bills.

Motion to approve the payment of bills, including the added bills, made by Council Member Krystal Sultze and seconded by Mayor Jared Sultze. The motion carried.

Parks Committee

Porta Potty at Henning Park. A council member asked whether the city should rent a porta potty at Henning Park since there is one at Memorial Park and Harmer Park. City Administrator Elizabeth Sorg noted that the handicap-accessible unit at Memorial Park costs approx-

imately \$182 every month, while a standard unit would cost approximately \$152 per month. Motion to authorize a standard porta potty at Henning Park was made by Council Member Donna Gregory and seconded by Mayor Jared Sultze. The motion carried.

Personnel Committee

No report.

Planning and Zoning Committee

No report.

Public Health & Safety Committee (Health, Fire, Police, Weeds)

No report.

EDA

No report.

City Engineer

2026 Street Maintenance Project Proposals. City Engineer Derek Olinger presented background information on pavement lifecycle management to provide context for the street maintenance proposal. He explained that asphalt pavement typically remains in relatively good condition for approximately two-thirds of its lifespan before reaching a deterioration tipping point once water penetrates the subgrade. He emphasized that the most cost-effective maintenance strategy is seal coating—specifically chip sealing combined with crack filling—performed on a roughly seven-year cycle. He noted that the sooner chip sealing is applied after initial paving, the greater its impact on extending road life, and that pairing seal coating with periodic overlays can extend a road's useful life from the standard 20–30 years to 50 or even 60 years. Olinger explained that the proposed street list was generated by assessing condition ratings across all city streets and identifying those that were either newly paved or approaching six to eight years since their last maintenance treatment. He recommended adding streets back into the scope to take advantage of the lower pricing, noting that delaying the work would result in higher costs in subsequent years and reduced overall road lifespan. Mayor Jared Sultze questioned whether the newest streets—particularly those reconstructed last year—could be deferred one year, with the budgeted funds redirected to streets in greater need. Olinger respectfully dis-

agreed, stating that while waiting one year would not be catastrophic, it would increase long-term lifecycle costs and reduce the lifespan of those roads. Duane and Tracy Boyum live on 4th Place and raised concerns about the deteriorated condition of that street, suspecting that it was heavily damaged during construction of nearby homes by heavy equipment traffic. City Engineer Olinger confirmed that 4th Place was intentionally excluded from the project list because it is too far deteriorated for chip sealing to be beneficial. He stated that the road would require an overlay or repaving project in the future, and likened applying chip seal to a severely degraded road to "painting a rusty car." The resident expressed frustration that a relatively newer street had been allowed to deteriorate due to construction traffic, and questioned whether the city could have restricted such use. Administrator Sorg read a written comment submitted by Council Member Ethan Johnson, who stated he did not believe it was the best use of city funds to chip seal the section of Oakview and Southview Road highlighted on the map, as that portion is past the homes and transitions to gravel. Council Member Johnson suggested crack sealing the entire Oakview Road instead and noted he had spoken with a resident in that area who agreed. Olinger stated Oakview also needs to be overlayed or repaved. Pearson Bros bid was \$26,259 and Allied Blacktop bid was \$28,845. The final approved scope included the streets designated on the project map. The project was awarded to Pearson Brothers, with a base bid of \$26,259 and additional work of 2 blocks of Elm Street bringing the total to \$33,425. Motion to approve the 2026 chip seal project awarded to Pearson Brothers in the total amount of \$33,425, covering the streets designated on the project map, was made by Council Member Krystal Sultze and seconded by Mayor Jared Sultze. The motion carried 2–1, with Council Member Donna Gregory voting nay. Olinger agreed to provide Sorg the full street condition rating and maintenance schedule for distribution to all council members.

City Administrator

City Administrator Elizabeth Sorg announced that National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 4. The Chamber will host again with hot dogs and ice cream floats at the Memorial Park Pavilion.

City Attorney Mark Rahrlick

City Attorney Mark Rahrlick noted he has information for what was upcoming on the agenda.

Old Business

Land Purchase Request from Resident. Tracy and Duane Boyum addressed the council regarding the city's estimated value of the parcel they wish to purchase. The resident stated that after consulting with the USDA and Dodge County, she was informed that land in Claremont ranges from approximately \$1,800 to \$8,000 per acre, with the higher end representing prime farmland. She contended that the city's estimate of approximately \$11,428—based on a per-square-foot calculation derived from the RK&T lot price—was excessive for what she described as an unplatted, irregularly shaped land. City Attorney Mark Rahrlick clarified for the council that the \$11,428 figure included in the agenda packet was not a formal offer to the adjacent property owner, but rather information for the council's consideration, derived at the council's prior request. City Administrator Sorg confirmed that she had been asked at the May meeting to calculate the price based on the per-square-foot value of the RK&T lots, yielding a rate of \$0.99 per square foot. City Attorney Rahrlick further noted that the city is under no obligation to sell the parcel at any particular price, and that the council could choose to take action or no action. The resident stated that they thought an offer of \$2,000–\$4,000 was more equitable given the nature of the land. Following a tense exchange, the council agreed that further dialogue was needed. No action was taken. The item was tabled.

Policy on Renting City Hall Council Chambers. City Attorney Mark Rahrlick presented a revised draft of the City Hall Council Chambers Rental Policy, incorporating updates discussed at the prior meeting. Changes included a

rental fee, maximum occupancy, prohibition of alcohol, prohibition of smoking and vaping, and prohibition of food preparation. City Attorney Rahrlick clarified to the council that the food preparation prohibition as drafted would prevent cooking or preparation on the premises but would not prohibit individuals from bringing food prepared elsewhere. He noted that if the council preferred to prohibit food entirely, that language could be added. Council Member Krystal Sultze and Mayor Jared Sultze expressed concern about potential city liability if members of the public become ill from food brought onto the premises. Council Member Krystal Sultze suggested including liability disclaimer language within the policy document itself, rather than relying solely on the application waiver. City Attorney Rahrlick agreed to revise the language accordingly. City Attorney Rahrlick will return with a final version for council approval at the next meeting.

New Business

Employment Policy Addition. Council Member Krystal Sultze presented a proposed addition to the employment policy related to overtime for non-exempt employees. She explained that the issue of overtime had consistently come up as a concern during personnel committee discussions, particularly given the unpredictable nature of infrastructure emergencies

such as pump failures or after-hours alarm responses. She noted a recent example in which the water operator and maintenance supervisor was required to work approximately 12 additional hours following a pumphouse failure. The proposed addition establishes a buffer of up to six hours of overtime per week that maintenance employees may work without requiring prior administrator approval, acknowledging that emergency situations can push employees beyond the standard 40-hour threshold. Any overtime beyond six hours would require prior discussion with City Administrator Sorg. Council Member Krystal Sultze emphasized that the intent was to ensure employees are not penalized or made to feel anxious about responding to genuine emergencies. Council Member Donna Gregory inquired about the public accessibility of daily task logs for maintenance employees. Council Member Krystal Sultze explained that detailed daily, weekly, and monthly sheets are maintained and available to citizens upon request through Administrator Sorg, and that this information had been presented to the council during a tour and meeting the prior year. The recommended sentence with the addition in quotes: Overtime pay “in excess of 6 hours per week” requires pre-approval by the City Administrator.

(continued on page 33)

Public Notice

The City of West Concord, MN is soliciting proposals for Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and CCTV Inspection Service for the City's sanitary sewer collection system from qualified contractors.

The City of West Concord, by publication of this Request For Proposals (RFP), is undertaking a competitive bidding process and does not promise to accept the lowest, or any other, proposal. The City of West Concord specifically reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any proposal requirements, to investigate the qualifications of any proposal, to obtain new proposals, or to proceed to have the service provided in any way the City of West Concord deems appropriate.

Deadline for the proposals is 4:00 p.m., July 31, 2026.

Please submit your proposal to:
City Administrator
180 Main Street
PO Box 435
West Concord, MN 55985
administrator@westconcordmn.com
507-527-2669 (fax)

Legal Notices

July 16, 2026

- DODGE CENTER, CLAREMONT, WEST CONCORD, KASSON, MANTORVILLE, HAYFIELD MESSENGER -

Page 33

CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(continued from page 32)

Motion to approve that amendment to the Employment Policy was made by Council Member Krystal Sultze and seconded by Mayor Jared Sultze. The motion carried 2-1, with Council Member Donna Gregory voting nay.

Hogfest Temporary Liquor License. The Hogfest Committee requested a temporary (one-to-four-day) liquor license for the days of Hogfest. The application form and alcohol liability insurance quote had not yet been finalized but were expected within one and a half weeks. Motion to approve the temporary liquor license for

Hogfest was made by Mayor Jared Sultze and seconded by Council Member Donna Gregory. The motion carried.

Hogfest Committee Request. Council Member Krystal Sultze summarized the request as consistent with prior years: street closures from in front of the Post Office down to the Service Center, a portion of the 100 block in front of City Hall for cornhole tournaments, and use of Memorial Park and Harmer Park for softball tournaments. A correction was noted that the written request had inadvertently listed Henning Park rather than Harmer Park. Motion to approve the Hogfest Committee's request with the correction from Henning Park to Harmer Park was made by Mayor Jared Sultze and seconded by Council Member Donna Gregory. The motion carried.

Proclamation of May 1, 2026 as Adriana Kunz Day. This item was noted as informational, as the proclaimed date had already passed.

Maintenance Supervisor/Sewer Operator Performance Appraisal Summary. Administrator Sorg presented the annual performance appraisal summary for Casey Dahl, Maintenance Supervisor/Sewer Operator. She noted that the employee completed a self-appraisal and she also completed one on his work performance and that she reviewed them with him directly. Her assessment

indicated he is performing well overall. She noted that he plans to take the sewer operator certification test in October and has registered for a related workshop that month as well. Administrator Sorg provided the council with a comparison of wages from comparable positions in other cities as a reference for any compensation adjustment. She noted the difficulty in finding exact comparisons, as many cities divide maintenance, water, and sewer responsibilities among separate positions, whereas Claremont combines all roles. Council Member Krystal Sultze proposed a 3% merit increase of \$0.90 per hour, noting the employee meets expectations and has additional certifications and training planned for later in the year that could support a higher evaluation at that time. Motion to approve a 3% wage increase or

\$0.90 per hour for the Maintenance Supervisor/Sewer Operator, effective immediately, was made by Council Member Krystal Sultze and seconded by Mayor Jared Sultze. The motion carried 2-1, with Council Member Donna Gre-

gory voting nay.

Final Word

Duane Boyum addressed the council, reiterating concerns about 4th Place's condition and expressing frustration that a relatively new street had deteriorated to the point where even basic maintenance treatments were no longer viable, while newer streets were being prioritized for chip sealing. Mayor Sultze acknowledged the concern and clarified that the recently reconstructed streets are included in the chip seal list because early treatment has the greatest long-term benefit, and that the city engineer's recommendation was based on established pavement management principles.

The resident and his wife also raised concerns about the city's economic development prospects, specifically the lack of a gas station or convenience store. Mayor Sultze and Council Member Krystal Sultze acknowledged these long-standing challenges, noting that the city and Chamber have repeatedly reached out to businesses, all of which have declined due to Claremont's population being below their minimum

threshold. Council Member Krystal Sultze noted that a representative from a local agricultural business had previously expressed willingness to support a gas station effort, but that the city still needed a willing operator. Mayor Sultze suggested that a community co-op model, as seen in other small communities in the region, may be the most viable path forward. No formal action was taken.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Krystal Sultze and seconded by Mayor Jared Sultze. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

City Administrator
Elizabeth Sorg
Mayor Jared Sultze

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of Dodge Center, Minnesota, will meet in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, on Monday, August 3, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. to consider a request made by Thomas Donohue, at 1218 Highway Street NW, for obtaining an Interim Use Permit for his home occupation.

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, August 3, 2026, at Dodge Center City Hall, c/o Community Development Technician, 35 East Main Street, PO Box 430, Dodge Center, Minnesota, 55927.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of Dodge Center, Minnesota, will meet in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, on Monday, August 3, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. to consider a request made by Robin Koss-Viker, at 1305 5th St. NW, for obtaining an Interim Use Permit for a single-chair salon in her home.

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, August 3, 2026, at Dodge Center City Hall, c/o Planning and Zoning Commission, 35 East Main Street, PO Box 430, Dodge Center, Minnesota, 55927.



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25. Indian black tea
26. Capital of Tibet
27. One's entourage
29. *Liberty's partner
31. Permission to leave
32. Muse of love poetry
33. Nickname for a certain violin
34. *Certain George, with The
36. "*" _____ in the course of human events..."
38. Like TV's famous ranger
42. Candle shape
45. Fortune teller's deck, pl.
49. Who is Bugs Bunny talking to?
51. Blemish
54. Cranial bones + facial bones
56. Driver's 180
57. Bypass firewall, illegally
58. Yemeni port
59. Classic art subject
60. Ball of yarn
61. Started during the Ryder Cup, e.g.
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68. Sylvester Stallone's nickname

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