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West Concord Museum Invites You to Celebrate Main Street

What did young people in small towns do for fun in the 50's and 60's?

One thing they loved to do was cruise up and down Main Street to be "seen" and to check out the scene. *(continued on page 4)*

Announcements

• **Pancake Breakfast to benefit the Dodge Center Ambulance Service, hosted by Eden Progressive Gophers 4-H Club Sunday, September 20 at West Concord American Legion from 7:30a.m.-12:30p.m.** *(see ad on page 10)*

• **Cruise Main Street at the West Concord Museum Saturday, September 26 from 4:00-7:00p.m.** *(see ad on page 10)*

• **Save the date! 5th Annual Oktoberfest Saturday, September 19 at West Concord Municipal from 3:00-7:30p.m.** *(see ad on page 11)*

• **GriefShare support group for anyone experiencing loss of a loved one, friend, or other significant person in their lives, meets Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, beginning August 13th, at Anchor Of Hope Church, 203 E. Main St., Dodge Center, MN. Contact Dale E. Rood, pastor emeritus, at 507-633-2772, or go to the GriefShare website.**

• **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

New Owners to Purchase Claremont Bank

Blaze Credit Union (Blaze) will purchase the Luminate Bank®—Claremont, Minnesota, branch. The branch is 29 miles west of Blaze's newly opened Rochester location and 28 miles east of Waseca on U.S. Highway 14. The Claremont location will add access to members and potential members in southeast Minnesota. The transaction includes roughly \$25 million in member deposits, 550 customers, and the physical branch location.

Luminate Bank's Claremont branch customers will become Blaze Credit Union members/owners. Both organizations were founded in Minnesota and share a strong commitment to the communities they serve. This acquisition preserves the in-person experience Claremont bank customers value at this location while expanding access to more locations (30 in total). Customers can expect



Luminate Bank



the same exceptional service they've enjoyed while banking with Luminate Bank after the transition to Blaze.

"We are excited about bringing the Blaze way of banking to Claremont and the surrounding area. Our mission is to better lives. This opportunity provides continued local support to Luminate Bank's Claremont customers, our members, and our communities," Dan Stoltz, Blaze CEO/President.

The acquisition/transfer of the Claremont location is expected to occur on or before October 9, 2026, following regulatory approval. Until approval and transfer, Luminate Bank Claremont branch customers will continue

banking as usual. Once the transition is complete, the Claremont branch will remain fully operational and ready to serve the community as Blaze. The transition is limited to Luminate Bank's Claremont branch location. It does not impact Luminate Bank's Minneapolis location or the company's national digital presence, which will continue to operate as normal. *(continued on page 6)*

Steele County Free Fair Opens Next Week

The Steele County Free Fair returns August 18th thru 23rd. It offers something for everyone with more than 100 food stands, 300 indoor and outdoor vendors, carnival games, rides, live music on multiple stages, livestock shows, petting zoo and many great grandstand shows including three musical acts.

The first fair in Steele County was held on October 17, 1860. There is no record of fairs being held after the first fair until 1871. Historians suspect that the Civil War was the cause.

From 1871 through 1917 the fair was held at various sites throughout Owatonna until 1871 when the fair was held on 40 acres of pasture land at the head of Main Street in eastern Owatonna and eventually moved to the current site of 70 acres in 1918. *(continued on page 9)*



St. Rose of Lima celebrates 21st Ice Cream Social



stone and trade skills from their homeland.

On Sunday August 16th the St. Rose of Lima Church will host an ice cream social at the grounds of the restored church from 1 to 4pm. The celebration will include music performances, a homemade quilt raffle, a scavenger hunt and a chance to reminisce with friends and neighbors.

St. Rose was built in 1878 by Irish Catholic immigrants who came to America in search of a better life. These immigrants eventually settled in Cherry Grove Township, Goodhue County, Minnesota. They built St. Rose of Lima using native lime-

(continued on page 3)

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Pastors Corner

By Pastor Steve Anderson
Faith Community Church
Owatonna

Psalm 23 is perhaps the 2nd most recognizable scripture passage, second only to “the Lord’s Prayer.” I think it’s a Summer Psalm with image of green pastures and quiet waters. They take our thoughts, even during winter, to balmy, pleasant Summer days. David, the shepherd boy, later king of Israel wrote it. You’ve maybe heard it in Sunday School or perhaps at a memorial service for a friend.

I’ve been reflecting and meditating on this Psalm. Several events draw my mind to this familiar text. Some of my best friends are going through medically hard seasons. Encouraging them has occupied my mind. The passage has also been referenced in different, disconnected things I’ve been reading. And just a few mornings ago, a devotional audio just rocked my world with its application. Even as a long time Christian believer, I find my mind assuming the opposite of what this Psalm promises. It’s particularly true when my life hits rough patches.

It is so easy to anticipate the opposite of the promises God has left us here. “The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want.” If God, the Savior, is my leader, that’s all I need. In truth that is all I really need, but faithlessly, I often say, “There’s a lot that I want.” Our American culture infects us with so much desire and want and greed. And culture is less to blame than my own craving. I’ve got way too much junk. The only antidote I’ve found is to make The Shepherd my focus. When I’m satisfied and delighted in Him, the stuff can go.

“He makes my lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.” If you’ve been to Israel or the Middle East, you know that green pastures are not Minnesota green. Even in the rainy seasons, grass patches are kind of a greenish tan surrounded by stony sand. In most of that land, water in any form is precious rare. And the question posed is,

can I rest in meager surroundings? God provides so that I don’t need to be frantic, agitated, anxious? I catch myself believing the opposite.

“He restores my soul.” But when life gets hard, I fear my soul is being shattered and broken. “He leads me in paths of righteousness for His Name sake.” When He leads, it’s always toward greater purity. But do I trust that He will direct me and lean into what I believe He has said?

Even walking through the shadow of death. Honestly, our challenges and stress can feel like that at times. But whether or not I can sense Him and His presence, as a Christian, I do have this promise that He will not abandon me. So I move forward, unafraid.

“Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.” The rod and staff for a shepherd boy were for protection and direction. The rod (says Phillip Keller – A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23) would sometimes be thrown with amazing accuracy at predators seeking a kill and a meal. The staff was to guide the flock and rescue a lamb from rocky crevasse. They comfort us in reminder of the safety and guidance of our Shepherd. But can we trust?

“You prepare a table before me – right in the presence of my enemies.” Do I really believe that when others, especially opposers, look into my life, they will be envious and wish what I have with Him? Or am I concerned they will profit while I am still needy?

“You anoint my head with oil.” Anointing in a dry desert climate, was not only an act of great favor, it was a practical relief from sunburn and its damage. Does God really

favor me? Can I believe he actually sees and approves my development? Will He really rescue me from how life in this world damages me? Yes, He will. I need to believe it.

“My cup overflows.” Can I focus and trust in how God is blessing me and working in the challenges and annoyances of my life? His goodness is constant, amazing and so good, but my attention is often on my lack and insufficiency.

Surely goodness and mercy (steadfast love) will follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Here at the end is the hinge of the Psalm. In Hebrew poetry it all leads to the crisis of the final words. And some of us have at the core of our identity, a deep assurance that God has pledged us to eternity in the place where He dwells. Some of us aren’t sure.

Here’s the most critical question in it all. And whether I have adjusted my mind to the

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Area Church Directory

Finding Honey

If you find honey, eat just enough—too much of it, and you will vomit. — Proverbs 25:16

Late summer to early fall is usually the time when beekeepers “find” honey. At that time of year for bees, the days of gathering pollen and nectar are winding down. Wise beekeepers provide extra room in the hive, taking advantage of the bees’ hoarding instinct and “tricking” them into making more honey than they need. A healthy hive will often have two to three times as much honey as the bees will need for winter. The beekeepers then take the extra honey, making sure to leave enough for the bees to survive on.

Finding honey is not so difficult with the hive boxes and removable frames we have today. In the wild, though, it can be a lot more challenging to find and gather this treasure. Through the centuries people have learned to search for honey in hollow trees, small caves, remote cliffs, and other protected spots that are near abundant varieties of flowering plants.

While honey is sweet, our proverb for today tells us to “eat just enough” and not too much. It makes good sense not to overdose on honey—or on any of the sweet things in life. Wisdom calls us to a healthy balancing act.

Sadly, the siren song of our world today is that “more is always better.” But finding honey reveals the wisdom of enjoying sweet things in life within wholesome limits.

In what ways is the Spirit of God directing you to set wise limits in your life?

Thank you, Lord, for the sweet things in life. Guide us to follow you and to gain a heart of wisdom. In Jesus, Amen.

CLAREMONT

1st Presbyterian Church

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

St. John Lutheran Church

4532 SE 84th Avenue, Claremont • 528-2404
Pastor Alan Broadwell
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Traditional Worship 9a.m.; Fellowship 10a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

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

Praise Fellowship Church

602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center
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 You Tube and on website)

First Congregational Church

12 Second Street NW
Dodge Center, MN 55927 • 507-633-6873
www.congregationalchurchdc.com
Mark Martig, Pastor

WEST CONCORD

Faith Community Church

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

Hegre Lutheran, ELCA

51939 Highway 56 Blvd., Kenyon • 507-527-2353
Sunday: 9:15a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Worship

Trinity Lutheran, ELCA

301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778
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
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Email your church announcements,
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St. Rose of Lima celebrates 21st Ice Cream Social

(continued from page 1)

St. Rose is emblematic of the pioneer experience and of an ethnic community coming to America and retains fundamental integrity to

convey and express its significance as a wholly unaltered tangible piece of immigrant pioneer history.

The first Mass is held in St. Rose of Lima church in December of 1878. The last Mass was held on June 4, 1961. After that the building fell into disrepair over the years until in 2002 the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota places St. Rose on Minnesota's 2002 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list. In June of that year a group of interested people met to explore the possibility of saving the structure. The group formed a non-profit organization and purchased the property on October 17, 2003. The first candle lighting ceremony was held on December 20th of that year. In March of 2005 a new cedar shingled roof was installed and in July

a twenty-five car parking lot was added. On August 20th over 250 people attended the first ice cream social on the grounds of St. Rose. In September the first wedding since 1960 was held in the church. In November of 2007 a new furnace was installed and restoration of the ceiling began in June of 2008. By December 2009 the stained glass windows had been completely restored and replaced. In 2010 the original organ was donated and returned. In 2018 a 140th Anniversary book was published. In 2021 an additional 1.6 acres of land was donated to expand the parking lot.

There will be live music be performed in-

doors from 1:00pm - 2:00pm. A trio will perform familiar pieces by Bach, Cesar Franck, and more. The trio consists of Nadine Langworthy on keyboard, Susan Jenike on flute, and Heidi Runner-Brase on clarinet.

St. Rose of Lima is available for events fitting of a church and for the purpose of educating future generations about historic preservation. The Friends of St. Rose, Inc., host several annual events. These events offer a warm environment and unique experience, harkening of days gone by, allowing friends and family to gather inside this historic rural limestone church.

Free Event at West Concord Museum August 15

Submitted

WEST CONCORD - The museum in West Concord will take part in the Dodge County Heritage Day by hosting a free event Aug. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Museum in Mantorville and the historic community of Wasioja are also taking part with other other planned heritage events.

"It is relatively easy to forget the contributions and great sacrifices and contributions made by previous generations in our communities," said Mike Wilmes, president of the West Concord Historical Society. "Men and women helped to build our churches, schools and other institutions that remain important to our community."

The West Concord Museum's Heritage event will include a scavenger hunt and coloring event for children," he added.

The museum, located in the former school building, contains many gems that were once important to local families.

Individual former classrooms include depictions of a room filled with family possessions as well as a heritage room that includes a beautiful bed once owned by a town doctor

before the turn of the 20th century.

Wedding dresses worn by new wives dating back to the beginning of that decade and beyond are housed in the fashion room along with hats worn by stylish men from that era.

The Veterans' Room features Navy, Army and Marine uniforms that were worn by all major conflicts that local men and women were involved in. Some of the men who fought to end all wars in Europe and Southeast Asia and in the Korean Conflict did return home. Ration books, and governmental requested sacrifices from civilians are also featured in the room

The 1960s and '70s room includes love beans, brought colors and everyday items that increased at-home efficiency.

A salon - repete with drawings and photographs of the hair styles popular through the decades - will also be available for viewing.

More than 1,000 seashells - a gift from a West Concord graduate and his wife - are housed in still another former classroom.

Attendees will also be able to learn about the life and career of Doc Evans, who graduated from the High School and taught there in the 1930s. He is perhaps the most famous of all West Concord graduates. He went on to become an orchestra conductor and jazz influencer

Please come to revisit the past and to learn more about a great heritage that continues to influence us today.

DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

West Concord Museum Invites You to Celebrate Main Street



(continued from page 1)

Someone in a group of friends either had a car or could use their parents' vehicle, and everyone piled in for a night of small town cruising. Windows were rolled down and conversations were held from car to car.

On Saturday, September 26, the West Concord Historical Society invites you to cruise-in to the Museum for a night of fun and fundraising. Classic cars are invited—a special parking area will be provided. If you join the festivities in your classic car, be sure to stop by the Flame Room's bar for a free beverage of your choice.

Dress in 50's or 60's attire (totally optional) and you just may win the Best Costume prize. Stroll the Museum's newly created Main Street and enjoy a wide array of appetizers and a cash bar offering wine, beer, and soft drinks. Your observation skills will be tested by a "Get to Know the Flame Room and Main Street" game. If you choose to play, you just may win a prize. You'll be invited to help design a new Museum t-shirt. Who's more creative than you???

Topping off the evening's festivities will be "Dancing with the Stars". West Concord's own Karen Johnson and Doug Krueger will demonstrate 50's-60's dances at 6:30 in the gym. They float on air! After the demo you're invited to join them if you like to dance.

The evening is a fundraiser for the Museum. They are planning to open two new display rooms. The former Farmers/Merchants room will be transformed into an Agriculture/Horticulture room and next door a brand new West Concord room will be added, featuring West Concord businesses and citizens through the years.

Join the Museum for a very fun Saturday night in West Concord. Reservations are \$25.00 per person. Call the Museum at 507-527-2628 to receive a reservation form by mail or email—or stop by in person. The deadline for reservations is Friday, September 11. Bring your friends and neighbors and a get to know your community.

Cruise on over!

OBITUARY

Emerson Earl Baumgartner

Emerson Earl Baumgartner, of Owatonna, MN, went peacefully to his heavenly home on August 6, 2026.



Emerson was born on April 26, 1935, in Waltham, MN, to Walter Sr. and Harriet (Gifford) Baumgartner. He attended both school and church in Waltham. On March 21, 1953, he married Lois Meier in Austin, MN.

Worked hard at everything he put his hand to. He had many skills, from farming in West Concord, MN, being the Field Manager for the Faribault Canning Company, to managing a multi-unit elderly apartment complex, along with his wife, Lois, in Faribault, MN. When he retired, they moved to Austin, and eventually returned to Owatonna to be closer to family.

In his younger days, he enjoyed bowling and raising his children. In his retirement years, he loved doing woodworking, going on road trips with Lois, and caring for his beloved dog, Cody.

Emerson will be greatly missed by his wife of 73 years, Lois, his children: Linda Halverson of Owatonna, Janet (Greg) Chladek of Clayton, WI, Michael Baumgartner of Sacramento, CA, and Lori (John) Dodds of Owatonna; his 12 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by his brother Darrell Baumgartner; his sisters Judy Zeise, Cheryl (Ken) Stevenson, Arla Rasmussen, and Ardella (Tim) Chladek; his sisters-in-law Analee Baumgartner, Marilyn Olson, Janice (James) Beach; and many nieces and nephews.

Emerson was preceded in death by his parents Walter Sr. and Harriet; brothers: Walter Jr., Willard, Luverne, Lowell, and Lanny; sisters: Bernice Goskesen, infant Marlys, Eleanor Grass, and Arlene Olson; son-in-law Bruce Halverson; many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; and several nephews and nieces.

Emerson's family hopes that you were one of the many lives he touched with his smile and that you were able to experience his love for his family and friends, and faith in God.

A special thank you to Timberdale Trace Memory Care Staff, St. Croix Hospice Team, and Glen Meger from Brick-Meger Funeral Home for consoling the family.

Memorials in honor of Emerson are preferred to the donor's choice. A private Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

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Museum Musings

SINK OR SWIM? CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF OUR HOMETOWN POOL

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

When Wanamingo's new swimming pool opened in 1974, West Concord noticed. Kasson's swimming pool had been built by the WPA in 1937. Kenyon's opened in the mid-50's and Dodge Center and Hayfield opened their pools in 1966. West Concord's children had long traveled to nearby towns to learn to swim.

It was at a PTA meeting in October, 1974, that a Sink or Swim Pool Committee was formed. Joan Casey was appointed the temporary chairman to organize the committee. Dan Kutzler, Ken Doty, Dean Hindal, Eldon Ellingson, Tom Avery, and Mrs. Dennis Nelson were the members with Lowell Urch as permanent chair.

The December 19, 1974 Enterprise noted, "Hayfield is thinking about a Golf Course. They have a swimming pool and a fine nursing home. This brings up the subject that we have before us in West Concord. Do we want a swimming pool? It looks as if you really do want something, it can be accomplished."

That very same December the Sink or Swim committee asked for input from the community. The committee strongly felt West Concord was ready but they wanted opinions and buy-in from citizens. Comments from the public were to be sent to PO Box 32.

In July of 1975 it was reported that West Concord's swimming program at the Dodge Center pool would have to be drastically reduced because the total requests for pool services from Claremont, Byron, and West Concord were much more than could be accommodated. Parents were speaking out for the need of a pool in West Concord, but broader support from the whole city and townships was still needed.

On August 14th an informational meeting for the public was held in the elementary school gym. The costs of building and maintaining a pool, legal and health requirements, and possible sites were among the topics discussed. Wanamingo volunteers were there to share their experiences.

The August 28th Enterprise carried the headline of "Pool Plans Progressing".

A site just east of the high school and near the old skating rink had been selected. A nonprofit was being formed to accept donations with Fred Stone, Al Organ, and Penne Gossard at the helm.

In September private pool donations began to be listed weekly on the front page of the Enterprise, with names and amounts—that's one way to encourage giving. The first official donation for the pool was from young Kenneth Langr, who gave 6 cents. By Labor Day \$8000 had been raised including a substantial donation from Teddy Stone's parents. Young Teddy had passed away in June of that year in a very tragic accident.

On September 8 a contract was signed with Custom Pools of Hopkins with hope that the pool would be ready and open for use by June 1976. The Enterprise reported, "The enthusiasm and cooperation of the community is really great." Ground breaking took place on Friday, October 10 and fundraising began in earnest. The goal was \$75,000—\$467,000 in today's dollars. That amount included funding the bathhouse, fencing, and landscaping that would also be needed.

A fundraising frenzy soon followed. A group of 65 citizens undertook soliciting every resident in person in a "blitz" fund drive. There were so many donations that listing the names and amounts covered one third of the front page of the Enterprise. Former residents were generous, too.

In early November the first stage of pool construction was completed. The steel mesh was tied and the stainless steel panels in place. Much of the plumbing was installed. Concrete would soon be poured and the pool filled with water for the winter to equalize pressure on both sides of the pool wall.

Fundraising events happened one after another. Some were creative and lively.

There was a lot of laughter when the Commercial Club took on the high school varsity volleyball team. "Dan the Man" Blaisdell and "Al the Mouth" Organ were part of the Commercial Club team, coached by Tom Griffin who studied the 1931 Rule Book of Volley Ball to be ready for the game. Tom promoted his team by noting the experience that comes from age and the oxygen tanks nearby that just might help them win.

Concerts, basketball games, All Star Wrestling shows, a PTA Carnival, a Hawaii Swimming Pool benefit, a Valentine dance, and many more fundraising events helped to reduce the dollars still needed.

In Spring of 1976 the call went out for both "money and muscle". Volunteers were needed for painting, carpentry, shoveling dirt, fence building and feeding the workers. "Have you done your share?" was the question of the day.

Phase 2 of the Pool Fund Drive began. \$40,000 had been raised in Phase 1 and now the rest was needed. The Enterprise admonished, "It's time for the "wait and see" skeptics to donate. The Pool is a Reality!"

What a community effort! On June 16, 1976, the pool opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Kathy Armstrong was the pool manager and Sharon Gunhus and Wayne Miller were the Water Safety Instructors. On August 6 a Pool Appreciation Open House was held with speeches from: Fred Stone, President of the West Concord Community Recreation Association, Dr. Casey, the School Board Chair, Frank Mathias, the Mayor, and Dan Hutton, the Community Services Director. After the speeches the public was invited to swim for free.

When 1976 ended, \$25,000 of pool debt remained and fundraising efforts continued, including a benefit basketball game that put a local team opposing members of the Minnesota Vikings—Mick Tingelhoff, Dave Osborn and others. At a November 1979 City Council meeting, members voted to apply Federal Revenue Sharing Funds of \$3100 to the pool's remaining debt of \$5,900. With only \$2800 of debt left, the community had accomplished what it set out to do.

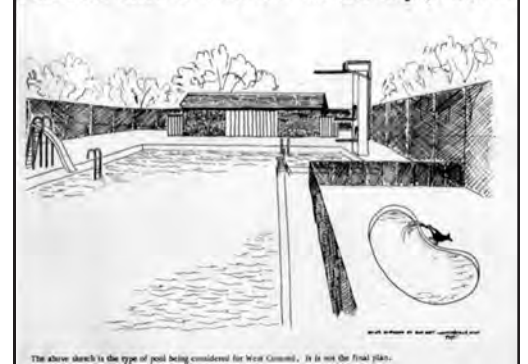
Ask any of the multitude of swimmers who have used and presently make use of our wonderful pool and they'll tell you, "Good things come to those who swim" and "Life is better when you swim".

Congratulations to our West Concord Pool for giving us 50 years of healthy exercise and joy!

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



**A West Concord Community Pool In '76 ? ? ?
Pool Fund Drive To Start On "Market Day", Aug. 23**



DON'T MISS . . .

**Roger Tenney
Chorale
Program**

SWIMMING POOL BENEFIT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11th

Elementary Gym 8:00 P.M.

50¢ DISCOUNT COUPON

Purchase of an Adult Ticket in Advance includes a 50¢ Discount Coupon good for any meal of \$2.00 or more at BIG JOHN'S RESTAURANT in West Concord.

New Owners to Purchase Claremont Bank

(continued from page 1)

"We remain deeply committed to community banking in the markets we serve and are confident that Blaze Credit Union will provide strong local support and excellent service to our Claremont customers," states Marc Campbell, CEO of Luminare Bank.

Blaze Credit Union is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial institution serving Minnesota. Founded in 1934, Blaze provides banking solutions, loans, mortgages, and financial guidance to over 255,000 members.

At Blaze, our purpose is simple: to Better Lives. That purpose is rooted in the values that have guided us since our beginning — integrity, compassion, community, and an unwavering commitment to our members.

As a credit union, we exist to serve our members — not shareholders. Blaze offers competitive rates, personalized service, and community-focused financial solutions. We

make decisions with your best interest in mind. Your success is our success.

Whether you're buying your first home, building savings, planning for retirement, or anything in between, Blaze Credit Union is more than just a financial institution — we're your partner in life.

As a not-for-profit credit union, we are member-owned and have a volunteer Board of Directors, so our focus is on bettering our members' lives. The profits we make are returned to members in the form of reduced fees, higher savings rates, and lower loan rates.

We offer financial guidance to our members and the community so that Minnesotans can blaze their own financial trail.

In the 1930s, as the Great Depression was at

its height, a small group of employees from the Minnesota Highway Department got together to support each other's financial goals, conducting business out of a small metal cash box. This cooperative became Hiway Credit Union.

Across the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Edgar Archer, an employee of Midland Cooperative Oil Association, sought a loan to pay his debts. After being repeatedly turned down, he talked to six of his coworkers and decided, Why not start a credit union? Twin City Co-ops Credit Union was born and later became SPIRE Credit Union in 2008.

As both credit unions continued to grow

and thrive, they joined forces in 2024 to become Blaze Credit Union. Today, Blaze boasts 29 branch locations, over 255,000 members, and is Minnesota's third-largest credit union. Blaze has assets over \$4 Billion, making it the third largest Minnesota credit union. Blaze offers checking and savings accounts, loans, mortgages, credit cards, business accounts and commercial lending, and financial planning services. You have access to 125,000+ free ATMs with a Blaze Visa Debit card and only \$2.50 out-of-network fee. All deposit product aggregate balances, with the same owners, are insured up to \$250,000.

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Farm Girl Chatter Long Hot Summer Days

By McKell Lemmerman



That's right. Seems fitting for the time of year when you step outside and already have sweat in places you don't want it. Livestock hover over the water tanks and shove each other out of the shade trees like little kids trying to be first in

line.

By 9 a.m., your shirt's stuck to your back, your boots feel like they're full of soup, the tractor's seat could fry an egg, and the steering wheel feels like it was forged in a blacksmith shop.

The cows stand belly-deep in the pond with that look that says, "If you need me, I'll be here until October." The horses have perfected the art of planting themselves under the one shade tree in the pasture, swishing flies and refusing to move unless grain is involved. Even they have enough sense to know when it's too hot to do anything productive.

The flies, on the other hand, always have the best summer of their lives. They don't care how much fly spray you buy or how fancy the tag in the cow's ear is—they're back before you can put the cap on the bottle. By lunchtime you've burned more calories, swatting flies than you've burned stacking hay. The livestock swish and kick at the little flying demons only to realize they're just using them for a free ride around the pasture. And don't even think about leaving the pickup windows down unless you're looking to start your own fly sanctuary.

Speaking of hay, whoever came up with the phrase "make hay while the sun shines" clearly never throws square bales in July. Nothing builds character quite like hugging 60-pound bales in 95-degree weather while itchy hay dust super glues itself to every drop of sweat you've got.

By supper time, everyone's moving a little slower. The dogs have dug themselves a hole to China just to find cool dirt. The livestock are parked around every water tank like it's happy hour, and you're on your second or third glass of iced tea wondering if sweating counts as cardio. "It's not the heat... it's humidity," like that's supposed to make anyone



feel better. Still, once the sun finally drops below the trees and a little breeze rolls across the farm, it's hard to complain too much. The cicadas and frogs are singing. The best friends of the flies, yup, the mosquitoes are filing flight plans. The kids smell like sunscreen and dirt. And the sunset reminds you

why you put up with the heat, the dust, the flies, and everything else summer throws at a farmer.

Because before long, we'll be standing in chore boots three sizes too big with three layers of socks, wishing for one more long, hot summer day.

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• 1996 Dodge 2500 pickup 4x4 diesel reg. cab, auto, 262,348 mi. (salvage title) • 2001 Volkswagen Beetle Diesel 296,00 mi. • 1997 Sportsman Fifth Wheel Camper, 28' sleeps 6+ (water damage) • Kan-Sun continuous flow grain dryer approx. 350 bu per minute • 3500 Bu. Holding bin • Westfield MKX 10-73 grain auger, swing hopper, hyd. Lift, PTO drive, 3 years old (Nice) • Barco 1535 Belt Conveyor • Aloway field master 10" auger, hyd. Lift • Transfer 700 Air grain system, 4" w/panel (air lock and blower) • Westfield MK 100-71 grain auger, swing hopper, PTO (gear box out) • Triple axle trailer 21' w/ramps, 2 tanks, 1000 and 1500 gal poly w/transfer pumps • Blue Jet 13-shank anhydrous bar • Cat Towmotor fork lift, LP 5500 lbs. • Guidance 3-point Hitch • Woods 3 pt. rotary mower 7' • Red Devil 9664D snow blower, double auger, hyd. Spout, 540 PTO • Fork attachment for skid loader • Flat rack w/MN 10ton gear • J.D. F-725 front mount mower, 54" deck, 1084 hrs. • Schweiss 7225 zero turn mower, 72" deck, 1444 hrs (motor's been replaced) • 1000 gal, NH 3 tank used for fuel, 12-volt pump w/ gear • 14 JD suitcase weights w/mounting bracket • 100-gal. portable fuel tank w/pump • Honda EU 3000 inverter generator • Central Machinery tire changer • 2 new 225/65-12 ATV tires • 2 hyd. Spray pumps • Misc. tools and shop items

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• Wolverine 7' blade w/tilt (NEVER USED) • JCT 5' trencher (NEVER USED) • Wolverine post hole drill w/13" bit (NEVER USED) • AGT Rock scalper 6' (NEVER USED) • JCT skid steer dozer ripping blade 6' (NEVER USED) • Skid Pro jack hammer (USED ONCE) • Paladin VRS 84" packer (USED ONCE)

• Skid Pro V-Type snow plow, 96" (USED 5 TIMES) • Erskine 8' broom • Set of skid loader forks • JD 665 tiller 3pt. 65" gear box needs work • 12 SDI stainless steel double sided hog feeders 6' • 2024 Sinking TM 180 rotary tiller, 72" 3pt., 540 PTO • Magnum 4000 Gold Series hot water gas pressure washer, 4000PSI, 3.5 gal per minute (NEVER USED) • Vevor WP 9600 pipeline inspection system 9" screen (NEVER USED) • Thermal 3 in 1 welder mig-stick-tig • 10'x16' portable building to be moved (Located at Matawan Elevator) • Several lots of new and used 5/8" and 3/4" sheets of plywood (Approx. 430 sheets) • New Stainless Steel Door w/trim 36"x80"

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Steele County Free Fair Opens Next Week

(continued from page 1)

Steele County made real history when the Minnesota State Fair was held here in 1883 and 1884. Large crowds came by chartered trains to enjoy the fair.

By 1927, the fair made the decision to make the fair a "free fair". The fair grew and thrived. The 1930's brought lavish stage shows with beautiful chorus lines that played before the grandstand nightly. By 1932 big car racing came to the fair. Auto racing and motor events became big attractions. Free stages developed by 1979 and have hosted hundreds of acts. The fair has also had a strong agricultural history. It still hosts about 2000 animals at the fair every year and the fastest growing show is horses.

Over a quarter million visitors attend the Steele County Fair each year. And has been billed as Minnesota's largest county fair for over 80 years.

Grandstand shows include; Classic Antique Tractor Pull Supporting FFA Alumni & supporters on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 - 5:00pm.

"Faith Fest on the Fairgrounds" featuring Jeremy Camp with special guests Jon Reddick & Thunderstorm Artis Wednesday, August 19, 2026 - 6:00pm

Hairball with special guest Rival 5 Thursday, August 20, 2026 - 7:00pm

Randy Houser with special guest Cori Kennedy Friday, August 21, 2026 - 7:00pm

Bulls N Barrels with Mutton Bustin! Saturday, August 22, 2026 - 7:30pm

IMP Demolition Derby Sunday, August 23, 2026 - 2:00pm

The Steele County Fairgrounds is located in Owatonna at 1525 South Cedar Avenue.

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12 AUG	5 PM - Neon Live: Elton John Tribute 6:30 PM - Collective Unconscious
SXSE BREWFEST	
19 AUG	5 PM - The New Feral Cats 6:30 PM - fABBAulous
26 AUG	5 PM - Orchid Jane 6:30 PM - Branded: Hot Country



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Date: Sunday, September 20, 2026
Where: West Concord American Legion
Time: 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Suggested Price: \$8 for 5 yrs old - Adults
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• Appetizers provided • Cash bar available • \$25 per person •

Dress the Part! (optional) Come dressed in your favorite 1950's or 1960's attire for a chance to win our Best Costume Award!

Saturday, September 26
4:00-7:00 p.m.

To make reservations, please send \$25.00 per person to: West Concord Historical Society, Box 58, West Concord, MN 55985 by no later than Friday, September 11 or stop by the WCHS office to make a reservation. Reservations are non-refundable.

Name(s) _____

Phone # _____

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The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Aging and reclusive Hollywood movie icon Evelyn Hugo is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous and scandalous life. But when she chooses unknown magazine reporter Monique Grant for the job, no one is more astounded than Monique herself.

Monique is not exactly on top of the world. Her husband has left her, and her professional life is going nowhere. Regardless of why Evelyn has selected her to write her biography, Monique is determined to use this opportunity to jumpstart her career.

Summoned to Evelyn's luxurious apartment, Monique listens in fascination as the actress tells her story. From making her way to Los Angeles in the 1950s to her decision to leave show business in the '80s, and, of course, the seven husbands along the way, Evelyn unspools a tale of ruthless ambition, unexpected friendship, and a great forbidden love. Monique begins to feel a very real connection to the legendary star, but as Evelyn's story nears its conclusion, it becomes clear that her life intersects with Monique's own in tragic and irreversible ways.

Genre: Fiction, Romance
First Published: June 2017



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

Lady Clementine by Marie Benedict

In 1909, Clementine Churchill steps off a train with her new husband, Winston. An angry woman emerges from the crowd to attack, shoving him in the direction of an oncoming train. Just before he stumbles, Clementine grabs him by his suit jacket. This will not be the last time Clementine Churchill saves her husband.

Lady Clementine is the ferocious story of the brilliant and ambitious woman beside Winston Churchill, the story of a partner who did not flinch through the sweeping darkness of war, and who would not surrender either to expectations or to enemies.

Genre: Historical Fiction
First Published: January 2020



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Claremont Hogfest

Page 12

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

August 13, 2026



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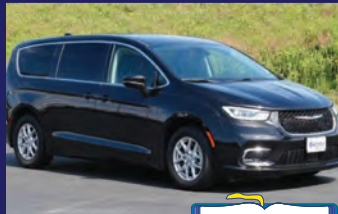
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Kenyon Rosefest August 19-23



The Kenyon Rosefest is next week. Thursday August 20th the Kasson Police Department and KW Community Ed will host the Bike Rodeo from 4pm to 5:30pm in the KPD parking lot. Starting at 6pm the Gopher State Garden Tractor Pull will be held on Langford Ave behind the CFS building.

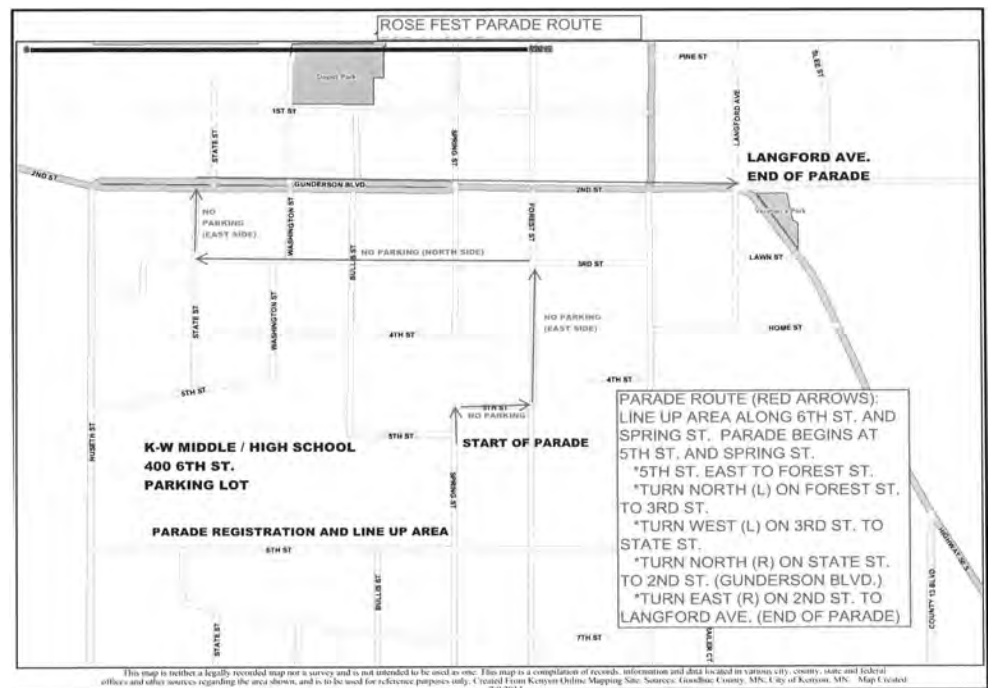
Friday August 21st the citywide garage sales begin and run through Saturday. The Booster Club golf tourney starts at noon Friday at the Kenyon Country Club. The Kenyon VFW will hold their hogroast from 5 to 7pm followed by music indoors at no charge. The Rose Fest Ambassador program will be held under the big tent beside the muni.

On Saturday the Kenyon Volunteer Fire Department will have a pancake breakfast from 7 to 10am. The muni will have a Bloody Mary bar from 7 to 10am. The First Lutheran will have rolls and coffee starting at 7am. The Old Car and Truck Show will be held from 8am to 2pm on Forrest Street. A vendor and craft market will be set up on Forrest Street

by the Bank. A tractor pull starts at 9am at the Hamilton-Maring lot on Hwy 56 north of Kenyon. A kids pedal tractor pull will be held starting at 10am at St. Michaels Church parking lot. A road rally starts at 10am with the line up starting at CFS elevator. There is a \$20 entry per vehicle. The VFW Ladies Auxillary Lunch will be held from 10am to 1pm. A Viking All School reunion will be held from 10am to 5pm at the KW High School.

Saturday will be family fun day at Depot Park. There will be caricature artists, face painting, laser tag and a free magic show for the kids. At 2pm the Rose Fest regatta will launch at the Kenyon pool. The United Methodist Church has a luncheon from 11am to 1pm. A beanbag tournament and family bingo will take place Saturday afternoon at the Muni and VFW respectively. At 8:30pm to midnight there will be a street dance with Mountain Ash and Chad Johnson Band.

Sunday August 23rd the Grand Parade will start at 1pm.



KENYON ROSEFEST AUGUST 19-23 2026

For more information: <https://cityofkenyon.gov>

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

6pm | Grand Marshal Announcement | First Lutheran Church
6:45pm | Town Cruise-golf carts, ATV/UTV, etc. | First Lutheran Church parking lot
8pm | Outdoor Movie | First Lutheran lawn

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

7am-2pm | Kenyon Historical Society Garage Sale | Gunderson House
5pm | Field of Flags placement begins |
(for info call Mac 507-330-3050 or Paul Senjem 507-254-8302)
4pm-5:30pm | Bike Rodeo | KW Community ED w/KPD at KPD parking lot
6pm | Gopher State Garden Tractor Pull | Langford Avenue behind CFS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

All Day | City Wide Garage Sales | Map on City of Kenyon website
7am-2pm | Kenyon Historical Society Garage Sale | Gunderson House
10am-4pm | Public Library Book Sale | City Council Chamber
12pm | KW Athletic Booster Club Golf Tourney | Kenyon Country Club
1pm-3pm | Gunderson House Tours
5-7pm | Hog Roast | VFW
6pm | Rose Fest Ambassador program | under the Muni tent
7:30-11pm | VFW Music! Indoors at VFW - all ages-no charge

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

All Day | City Wide Garage Sales | Map on City of Kenyon website
7am-10am | KVFD Pancake Breakfast | Muni
7am-10am | Bloody Mary Bar | Muni
7am-until gone | Rolls and coffee | First Lutheran
8am-2pm | Old Car and Truck Show | Forest Street by VFW
9am-3pm | Vendor & Craft Market | Forest Street by bank
9am-12pm | Public Library Book Sale | City Council Chamber
9am | KW Athletic Booster Club 5K Fundraiser | KW High School
9am | Tractor Pull | Hamilton-Maring Auction Lot, Hwy 56 North of Kenyon
10am | Kids Pedal Tractor Pull | St Michaels Catholic Church parking lot
10am | Road Rally | Line up at CFS Elevator - \$20.00 entry per vehicle
10am-1pm | Ladies Auxillary Lunch | VFW
10am-5pm | Viking All School Reunion | KW High School

FAMILY FUN DAY AT DEPOT PARK

10am-2pm Caricature artists at Depot Park \$10 charge
11am-1pm Free Face painting
11:30am - Free Magic Show-Depot Park Building
1pm -7pm - Laser Tag
2pm - Rose Fest Regatta-Kenyon Pool All ages. No pre-registration required.

11am-1pm | Church Luncheon | United Methodist Church
12pm | Euchre Tournament | See the Muni Facebook page for more info
1pm-3pm | Gunderson House Tours
3pm | Bean Bag Tournament | Muni
5-7pm | Family Bingo | VFW
8:30pm-12am | Street Dance w/Mountain Ash & Chad Johnson Band | Muni
All ages-\$10.00 cover

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

1pm | Grand Parade | See City of Kenyon website for parade route
Following parade | Field of Flags Closing Ceremony | Veterans Park

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

6:45pm Town Cruise - Start lining up at 6:30pm

THURSDAY NIGHT

6:00pm Gopher State Garden Tractor Pull

FRIDAY

5-7pm Hog Roast at VFW
6pm Rose Fest Ambassador Program at the Muni
7:30-11pm Music at the VFW. All ages. No Charge

SATURDAY

OLD CAR & TRUCK SHOW

8am-2pm | Forest Street
Vendor & Craft Market
9am-3pm | Forest Street

FAMILY FUN DAY

Various times at Depot Park

ROSE FEST REGATTA

2:00pm at the Pool
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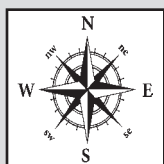
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Stories about Spirits in Bottles



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.

Growing up I used to find old bottles around the farm. There were buildings dating back to the turn of the last century for me to explore. I found many interesting bottles, some having the lettering cast into the glass. A few still had an aged cork stuck in the mouth. What a story they could tell.

My grandfather had a story that displayed

his dry wit. This tale would have taken place around 1920. He was not a drinker so this was an unusual story about a dry fella. My grandfather, as the story goes, was heading to Mantorville with the horse and wagon for supplies one morning. He asked the hired man if there was anything he wanted from town. Mantorville was five miles south of the farm but with a horse drawn wagon that would take over an hour and a half each way. There would be some livestock minerals, farm supplies and household goods to return with. Is quite interesting to think of Mantorville as a shopping destination where one could purchase everything needed for a farm family.

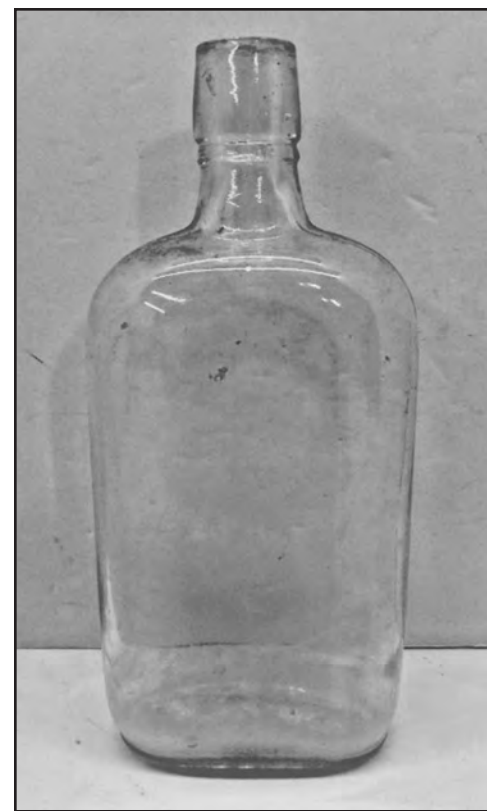
The hired man usually wanted a plug of chewing tobacco and a bottle of whiskey brought back on the weekly trip. A hired hand would usually live in a small shack or a simple room inside the farm house. Prior to the 1920's radio had not been introduced to rural America, and electricity was still a decade away. Probably not much to do for entertainment after a long day of work on the farm.

My grandfather picked up a bottle of whiskey for the hired hand, before he left town and proceeded homeward. My grandfather loved to talk. He stopped at a number of the farms along the way home to visit with the farmer and let his horse get a drink at the stock tank beside the windmill. Being a social and friendly guy, he also offered his host a nip from the bottle. At the last farm he realized that the bottle was getting about half empty. The solution was to refill the bottle from the well pump and press the cork in like nothing had happened. Once home he deliv-

ered chew and the whiskey to the hired man.

The next week when he inquired what he could pick up for the hired man in town he received the same order, but with one caveat. Please get different brand of whiskey than you brought home last week. That one was quite weak.

When I was a young lad, it was customary to give Christmas gifts to the milk hauler for the holiday. My mom usually made Christmas sugar cookies and fudge wrapped in a festive looking box. That Christmas the Maple Island milk hauler left a bottle of wine as a gift. Now my parents were teetotalers as well so the bottle was put in the back of the cupboard in the house. My curiosity got the best of me. To avoid suspicion, I knew I couldn't drink the bottle and dispose of it so I came up with a plan. I carefully opened the bottle, drank the contents and then refilled it with grape soda, sealed the cap and put it back in the cupboard. No one was every the wiser. Forty-five years later at a family gathering my sister confessed to my mother that she had opened the bottle of wine and tried it, only to find it totally disgusting. Wine may get better with age but grape soda definitely doesn't.



A Minnesotan: Jello Salad



By RosaLin Alcoser

My family has exactly one tried and true Minnesotan in it; that would be my husband. He is also the only real midwestern in the family. Since the rest of us are really transplants from the South.

Proportionally I have been here the longest of my family since I was a small child the fall of 1999 when we first came this far north. However, I am still a transplant as can be seen in my high heat toler-

ance and how I pronounce many words.

My husband on the other hand is born and raised Minnesotan. So you can imagine our shock when we found out that he, the man who loves hotdish, had never the other tried and true Minnesota food staple. Jello salad.

Now I have seen Jello salad's of all kinds on a pot luck table over the course of my life. Even when we would go visit family back south you would see the pink or green modeled one- you know the one with the marshmallows that was popular with the elderly who had been adults in the 1950s-on the table. Never as many as here in Minnesota, but they would be there.

I can remember whole tables of just Jello salad being out when I was little. And somehow growing up in the same state my husband had never had a Jello salad. Until my mom made one for church when she knew he'd be there.

Now like the rest of us Minnesotans he has had a Jello salad. It was one of the classic mandarin orange ones. Which he did like, mostly because he likes orange Jello and mandarin oranges. However, he did tell me afterwards that he would not count it as a salad.

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\$5 Million Available for Soil-Health Equipment Grants

Farmers, Tribes, producer groups, and local governments can apply for cost-share funding to purchase or retrofit equipment

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) opened applications on Aug. 3 for the next round of Soil Health Financial Assistance Program Grants, which help producers and partners purchase or retrofit equipment that supports soil-building practices.

This is the fifth round of grants, which offers up to 50% cost-share, with awards ranging from \$500 to \$45,000. A total of \$5 million is available statewide through funding from the 2025 Minnesota Legislature and the EPA.

“Interest in soil health keeps growing, and

this grant helps make the equipment side of that transition more affordable,” said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. “Producers are driving innovation in every corner of the state, and this funding helps them put the right tools to work. I’m thankful for the strong support from our state leaders and federal partners, and I encourage farmers, producer groups, Tribes, and local governments to apply.”

Eligible new or used equipment includes, but is not limited to, no-till drills, air seeders, and strip-tillage units.

The Request for Proposals and application link will be available at www.mda.state.mn.us/soil-health-grant. Applications are due Aug. 31, with awards announced by Jan. 1, 2027.

Since its launch in fiscal year 2023, the program has awarded more than \$10 million in grants, now improving soil health on nearly 525,000 acres.

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Year	# Applicants	Awards	\$ Awarded	\$ Requested	Affected acres (annually)
FY23	238	16	\$478,193	\$6.5 million	34,998
FY24	284	81	\$2,358,862	\$8.4 million	141,741
FY25	309	90	\$2,796,448	\$9.6 million	132,332
FY26	283	166	\$4,773,668	\$8.6 million	215,781
Total:	1,114	353	\$10,407,170	\$33.1 million	524,852

Dual yield: Agrivoltaics research insights

MINNESOTA — Across the country, extensive research is underway to keep agricultural land in production while developing it for solar energy. These dual-use "agrivoltaic" systems involve studying everything from panel-created microclimates and soil health protection to capital investments and livestock and crop performance under solar arrays.

To highlight current findings, University of Minnesota Extension will host the August session of its Agrivoltaics webinar series, "Dual Yield: Agrivoltaics Research Insights," on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2026, at 7 p.m. CT.

The session features leading experts in agrivoltaics research:

- Jordan Macknick, lead Energy-Water-Land analyst at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), whose work focuses on the environmental impacts of energy technologies and innovative approaches to co-locating solar and agricultural activities.
- Dr. Brad Heins, Professor of Dairy Management at the University of Minnesota, whose research program has pioneered the use of renewable energy for dairy production, including solar sites in pastures and portable solar shades.

Macknick and Heins will share their research to date on dual-use land systems and discuss their vision for the future of agrivoltaics.

This free webinar is designed for farmers, solar developers, landowners, government officials, and agricultural professionals interested in dual-use land management. Whether you are a rancher looking to diversify income or a developer aiming to integrate agricultural production, this session will offer practical, evidence-based insights.

Pre-registration is required to access the zoom link. Free to attend. Date: August 25th, 7pm CT

Register: z.umn.edu/avresearchwebinar

View past agrivoltaics webinars: z.umn.edu/avwebinarsplaylist

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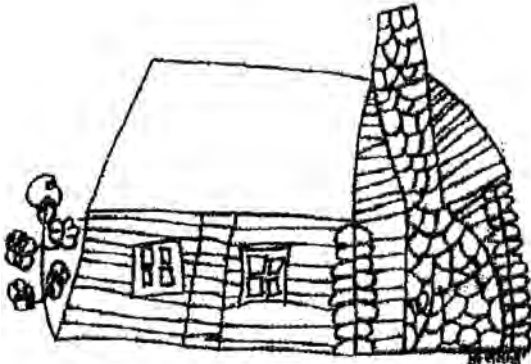


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Harvest Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: October 3, 10, 17, 24
Sundays: October 4, 11, 18, 25

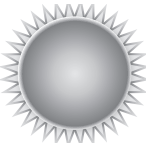
Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.



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51st Annual Rice County Steam and Gas Tractor Show September 4-6, 2026

Visitors can take a trip back in time with all the various exhibits and activities going on at the annual Rice County Steam & Gas Show just South of Dundas MN on Hwy. 3 Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 4, 5 & 6.

Attendees can expect to see many of the familiar attractions as they have in the past including the operating sawmill, corn shelling, thrashing, blacksmithing, and more. The annual flea market will take place on the

grounds and additional exhibits are many, including antique tractors, classic cars and trucks along with draft horses.

Vintage Machinery, both horse drawn, and tractor driven, will be on display and used in various exhibits on the grounds.

The tractor parade takes place at noon each day.

Breakfast is served daily on the grounds as well as other food stands offering food throughout the day.

The kids pedal pull is Saturday after the parade, and the tractor pull is Sunday at 9:00 AM.

There will be live music all three days and a non-denominational church service will take place Sunday at 8:00 AM.

General admission is just \$15 for the entire weekend and all events are free for ages 12 and under.

Complete information and event listings are available on the group's Facebook page and website at ricecountysteamandgas.com



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SATURDAY

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1:00-4:00 pm *Bent Highway Band*

4:00-8:00 pm *Dakota Ramblers Band*

SUNDAY

8:00 am *Non-Denominational Church Service*

1:00-4:00 pm *Czech Area Concertina Club*

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Stroke Risk, Watermelon and Condiment Ingredients to Watch Out For



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Stroke Risk: Before you've even had your first sip of coffee, your body is already making important adjustments for the day ahead. As you wake, hormone levels shift, blood pressure naturally rises, and your blood becomes slightly more likely to clot. Researchers say these normal morning changes may help explain why strokes seem to occur more often during the early hours. Although a stroke can happen at any time, experts believe the body's internal clock plays a meaningful role in cardiovascular health, especially dur-

ing the transition from sleep to wakefulness when the heart and blood vessels face new demands.

This is a useful reminder that circadian rhythm affects much more than sleepiness — it influences many of the body's essential biological processes, including heart and brain health. Supporting cardiovascular wellness starts with daily habits, not just reacting when symptoms appear. Restorative sleep, healthy blood pressure habits through good nutrition and regular movement, stress management, and exposure to natural morning light can all help maintain a healthy circadian rhythm. Since your body starts preparing for the day before you even get out of bed, giving it the right support may be one of the simplest ways to protect long-term heart and brain health.

Watermelon is very good for you: Watermelon is so much more than a sweet treat on a hot afternoon. This juicy fruit comes loaded with nutrients that support hydration, circulation, and your overall well-being. You get vitamins A and C, potassium, and the powerful antioxidant lycopene in every bite. Watermelon also gives you L-citrulline, an amino acid that helps your body make nitric oxide, which keeps your blood flowing smoothly and your blood vessels working well. The benefits go far beyond simply quenching your thirst. Its high water content keeps you hydrated, while its antioxidants help shield your cells from oxidative stress. Research has connected regular watermelon consumption to healthier blood pressure, stronger cardiovascular function, faster muscle recovery

after a workout, and better digestive health thanks to its water, fiber, and natural prebiotics.

For most folks with healthy metabolic function, ripe watermelon is a wonderful source of carbohydrates that also delivers valuable vitamins, minerals, and protective plant compounds. That said, if your gut isn't running at its best, your body may struggle to handle larger amounts of complex carbohydrates right away. This is where supporting your mitochondrial and gut health really pays off. When those systems are working well, your body can better use the nourishment that whole foods like watermelon provide, helping you get the most out of what nature so generously offers.

Condiment Use Can Be a Problem: Most of us don't give a second thought to the toppings we pile onto our meals, but those little extras can quietly shape our health over the years. Processed meat-based condiments, like bacon bits and bacon jam, are worth cutting back on. Eating processed meats regularly has been consistently tied to a higher risk of colorectal cancer, which makes those seemingly harmless sprinkles more concerning than they appear. The trouble comes from what's inside them: nitrates, nitrites and other preservatives that can form potentially harmful compounds during processing and cooking.

Many store-bought barbecue sauces call for the same careful look. They're often packed with added sugars, high-fructose corn syrup and a long list of ultra-processed ingredients. Over time, that combination can contribute to metabolic problems while

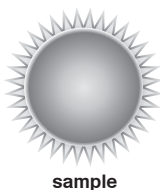


adding to your body's overall toxic load. The real issue isn't enjoying a favorite sauce now and then on a special occasion. It's the daily pattern of reaching for these products that adds up, giving you plenty of refined sugar and artificial additives with little real nutrition in return.

The good news is that flavor doesn't have to come from a factory. Turning back to simple, whole-food ingredients is one of the easiest ways to brighten a meal without the unwanted extras. Fresh herbs, garlic, onions, homemade salsa and a good mix of spices can transform your food naturally. These small swaps might feel insignificant in the moment, but over the years, choosing real ingredients over processed toppings becomes a meaningful part of supporting your long-term health.

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

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Fatigue



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

This time of year, the outdoor temperatures are rising higher and the need for some cool, refreshing beverage is obvious. The human body is about 70% water, and maintaining this level of water in the body becomes a life-long practice. Water is important for all the chemical processes that are happening in the body every minute. When water concentration decreases the chemical process will slow down waiting for the right amount of water to be available. One of the primary causes of fatigue and lack of energy may be the lack of water inside the body.

Brain function and clarity of thinking can decrease when not enough water is consumed. A study published by BMC Medicine in 2023 followed almost 2000 participants who were 55 – 75 yrs old. Eighty percent of

the participants met the standard for adequate water intake, but the measure of water in the blood serum of fifty-six percent of the participants were at dehydration levels. There was a strong association between dehydration and lower brain function.

This study shows us that even though water was consumed, there were not enough minerals in the water to help properly balance the water inside the cells of the body compared to outside the cells. The difference in the amount of water inside the cell compared to outside the cell is controlled by the electrolytes. When the electrolytes are provided through quality foods and seasonings, the water balance will reach optimum levels that result in energy production. Energy cannot be produced without a proper water balance.

While water is the primary molecule in the body, there is a balance of minerals in the water that make the chemistry work. Calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, and carbon dioxide are the primary minerals used in the body for healthy cell communication. These electrolytes are very carefully controlled by the body because an imbalance of any of these minerals can cause communication problems between the cells of the body. Electrolyte imbalances are related to heart problems, kidney problems, and brain disfunction as noted in the study above.

Some will reach for coffee or a caffeinated drink to achieve an energy boost. While a brief boost will be generated from the body’s urgent response to get rid of the caffeine, the long-term result will be greater dehydration. Coffee and caffeinated drinks cause the body to become more dehydrated over time be-



cause these drinks do not provide water but stimulate the kidneys to get rid of more water. Over time fatigue increases with greater dehydration.

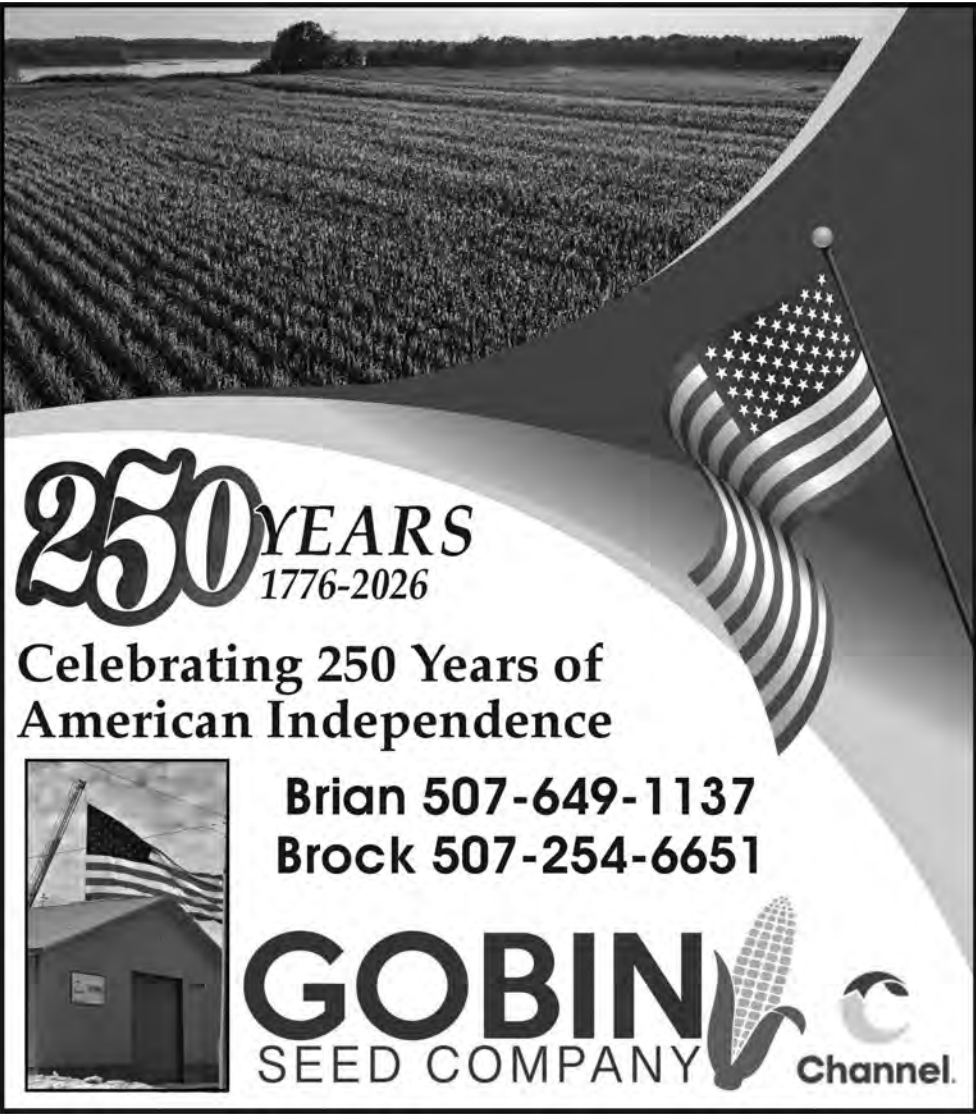
To promote greater energy and hydration, consider the following points:

- Make a habit of drinking water throughout the day. A general guideline is to drink half of your body weight in fluid ounces. (A person weighing 128 pounds would drink 64 oz = 8 cups)
- If your urine is dark yellow, this is a sign of dehydration. More water is needed
- Consume fresh foods that contain water like cucumbers, melons, berries, and salads
- Consider quality salts – Himalayan, Celtic, Sea salt – to be added to foods or water

• Identify an electrolyte mix that contains calcium, magnesium, sodium, and potassium without any added sugar. This electrolyte mix may be used once a day to improve electrolyte balance and water absorption inside the body

If you are struggling with fatigue and lack of energy, I can help identify the cause and provide support for improving your quality of life. 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.*



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Friday, August 14th • 7pm
FRIDAY NIGHT AUTOCROSS:
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Thursday, August 13
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Friday, August 14
GEORGE'S CONCERTINA BAND
2:30-6:30 PM
OLD COUNTRY BOYS
7:30-11:30 PM



Saturday, August 15
FOSTER GRAND
8:30 PM-12:30 AM

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

**Corporate Capture in the Countryside:
The Unethical Collusion Between Industrial Agriculture and Local Boards**
By Brad Trom

In rural communities across agricultural regions, local government is meant to represent the shared interests of residents—safeguarding public health, preserving clean air and groundwater, and protecting property values. However, when industrial pork integrators, large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) developers, and their lobbying networks operate as a coordinated "hog mafia," they systematically erode democratic governance at the most foundational level: township boards and county commissions.

The unethical nature of this dynamic lies in how financial leverage, regulatory capture, and undue influence are used to bypass community consent, silence local voices, and turn public servants into facilitators for corporate industry interests.

1. Regulatory Capture and the Erosion of Local Autonomy

A core ethical duty of township supervisors and county commissioners is their fiduciary responsibility to the public—to act with disinterested fairness, transparency, and care for their constituents. When industrial hog operations form cozy, backroom alliances with local officials, this duty is compromised.

Drafting Custom Ordinances: In many con-

tested districts, corporate representatives or industry legal counsel supply local boards with pre-written zoning ordinances designed to shield CAFOs from strict local oversight.

Preempting Local Zoning: When local officials align with industry interests, they often actively fight against protective health ordinances or strip neighboring landowners of their right to appeal siting decisions.

When elected leaders align with corporate interests over the people who put them in office, the local democratic process is undermined, transforming government from a protective shield into an enforcement tool for industrial expansion.

2. Conflicts of Interest and "Pay-to-Play" Politics

The line between public service and private gain becomes blurred when local officials hold financial or personal ties to the pork industry.

**Form of Compromise - Ethical Impact
Direct Financial Interest**

Supervisors or commissioners leasing land for manure spreading or site placement while voting on zoning approvals.

Campaign Contributions

Industry political action committees (PACs) funding local election campaigns to secure a favorable majority on county boards.

Selective Transparency

Failing to disclose early-stage negotiations or site plans to residents until regulatory deadlines have passed.

Public officials have an ethical obligation to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. When supervisors vote on measures that directly enrich themselves, their family members, or major corporate donors at the expense of neighbors, it violates the public trust.

3. Disproportionate Externalities and Public Harm

Industrial hog operations generate severe environmental and economic externalities—including multi-million-gallon manure lagoons, foul odors containing hydrogen sulfide and ammonia, groundwater nitrate contamination, and steep drops in residential property values.

When a corporate entity coordinates with local officials to push through a facility, the financial rewards flow directly to the corporation and a few select landowners, while the surrounding community absorbs all the fallout:

The Ethics of Externalized Costs: It is fundamentally unethical for local governments to socialize the health hazards, road degradation, and property devaluation caused by mega-farms while privatizing the financial windfall for corporate integrators.

4. Intimidation and Legal Weaponization

Perhaps the most aggressive tactic used by organized industry networks is the use of legal threats against small, underfunded townships. Large agricultural federations and corporate legal teams frequently threaten local boards with costly lawsuits or Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation

(SLAPPs) if they attempt to pass protective health or setback ordinances.

When township supervisors side with these pressure tactics—or use county resources to defend corporate interests against their own residents—they weaponize the legal system against the very citizens they swore to protect.

Restoring Integrity to Local Governance

To dismantle unethical collusion between industrial interests and local government, rural communities require clear structural safeguards:

Strict Conflict-of-Interest Recusal: Mandating that any supervisor or commissioner with land leases, supply contracts, or financial ties to an applicant must abstain from all discussions and votes.

Mandatory Public Notice & Extended Review: Enforcing broad public notification periods and mandatory environmental impact assessments before site applications can be heard.

State-Level Ethics Oversight: Giving citizens clear, accessible avenues to report ethics violations and backroom dealings to independent state ethics commissions.

Local governance works best when driven by transparency, community input, and unbiased stewardship. Eliminating coordinated corporate influence from local boards is essential to keeping local governments focused on serving their communities.

Submitted by: Brad Trom, PO Box 757, Blooming Prairie MN 55917-0757 USA, (507)583-7718, trom.brad@gmail.com



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Kasson Festival in the Park



(additional pictures on page 26)

Kasson Festival / Pets



How Often Should I Take My Dog to the Vet?

How often you take your dog to the vet depends on their age, breed, lifestyle, and overall health. Here are some guidelines you can follow for most dogs. A veterinarian should evaluate every newly acquired puppy. He explains that your vet might ask for a stool specimen to be brought in to rule out internal parasites. They'll also listen to the heart and lungs, check the eyes, teeth, and ears, and feel for any possible abnormalities such as umbilical hernias or retained testicles on male puppies.

During these visits, your vet will monitor how your puppy is growing, you should discuss their diet, dental health, and flea and tick preventatives, and address any other concerns you might have. You'll also likely chat about the option of spaying or neutering your dog when they're between six and 18 months old, depending on the size and breed of your dog.

These regular trips to the vet are an excellent opportunity to help build positive associations with the clinic and its staff. To make your puppy's first vet visit a success, come armed with lots of treats, take things slow, and research for clinics that incorporates fear-free practices into their exams.

Vaccines for puppies will make up most of their early vet visits. "Often, puppies that are bought, usually around eight to 12 weeks of age, will have already received the initial vaccine," Dr. Klein says. The puppies then receive further top-up vaccines (usually two) every three to four weeks until they're about 16 to 20 weeks of age. If your breeder or rescue provided any paperwork on your puppy's health, be sure to bring it to your first vet appointment to help inform decisions regarding vaccinations.

By law in North America, dogs must receive the rabies vaccine. The exact timings of this shot vary by state, but it's typically started when puppies are around 4 months old.

Once your puppy matures, typically, you won't need to make a trip to the veterinarian as often. Adult dogs typically receive yearly boosters for their core vaccines, including the rabies vaccination.

Two of the top preventable health issues for dogs in the U.S. are obesity and dental disease. Both can be gradual, insidious problems. Among other things, as part of the annual head-to-tail physical, your vet will monitor weight changes and check your dog's teeth, gums, eyes, and ears. They'll also look out for unusual growths and listen to the heart and lungs. They might also run some bloodwork and request a stool sample ahead of time.

As your dog ages, just like humans, they're prone to more health problems. That's why biannual wellness checks are beneficial for senior dogs. However, aging for dogs is a gradual and individual process, so it's all about paying close attention to any changes. The more information you can give your veterinarian at these wellness checks, the better.

Even if your dog doesn't have an obvious illness or injury, if you notice small changes that spark concern, don't hold off until your next annual wellness check. The signs of chronic pain can be subtle, and if you notice your dog isn't as bright as usual, isn't eating as much, drinking more than normal, or just not acting like they usually do, don't be afraid to make an appointment with your vet.

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With Social Security Uncertainty, Should You Claim Benefits Early?

Concerned about Social Security's future? Before you file early, find out what could cost—or save—you thousands of dollars.

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Dear Savvy Senior,

I turn 62 early next year and plan to retire soon after. Most advice says I should wait to claim Social Security because my monthly benefit will be higher. But with all the recent news about Social Security's financial problems, I'm wondering if taking benefits early might be the safer choice. Is there ever a good reason to claim at 62?

—Ready to Retire

Dear Ready,

You're definitely not alone in asking this.

The latest Social Security Trustees Report projects the retirement trust fund could be depleted around 2032 if Congress doesn't act. If that happens, Social Security would still collect payroll taxes and pay benefits, but retirees could face an across-the-board cut of about 22 percent.

Before you rush to file, keep things in perspective. Most experts still expect Congress to step in, as it has before, to strengthen Social Security. And even if lawmakers don't act, waiting would still produce a higher monthly benefit because any across-the-board benefit cut would apply to everyone. While claiming at 62 means collecting benefits sooner, it also permanently locks in a smaller check.

That said, there are several situations where claiming Social Security at 62 can make good financial sense.

How claiming age affect your benefits

You can start Social Security at 62, but doing so permanently reduces your monthly benefit by about 30 percent compared with waiting until full retirement age (67 for those born in 1960 or later). Delaying until 70 increases your benefit by about 24 percent.

For example, a \$2,000 monthly benefit at full retirement age would drop to about \$1,400 at 62, or rise to roughly \$2,480 if you wait until 70.

When claiming early makes sense

For some retirees, claiming at 62 is a practical move. If you've stopped working and need income for basic expenses, Social Security can provide a steady check right away. It can also serve as a bridge if you retire early or lose a job in your early 60s while delaying withdrawals from retirement accounts or a pension.

Some retirees also claim Social Security early to reduce withdrawals from their IRA or 401(k) during market downturns. The tradeoff is a permanently reduced lifetime benefit.

For married couples, timing can be coordinated as part of a broader strategy. One spouse may claim early to bring in income while the other delays to boost their future or survivor benefit.

Health is another big factor. Delaying only pays off if you live long enough to collect those higher monthly checks. The break-even point between claiming at 62 and full retirement age is around age 78 or 79.

If you're still working, be careful here too. Before full retirement age, earnings above Social Security's annual limit can temporarily reduce your benefit, and claiming early locks in that lower amount for life.

Why delaying helps

For many retirees, waiting means a larger guaranteed monthly benefit for life and often a higher lifetime payout if you live into your late 70s or beyond. It can also provide stronger protection against outliving savings.

For couples, delaying the higher earner's benefit can increase the survivor benefit, which may help provide more financial security for a surviving spouse. Before deciding, it's smart to review your numbers. You can create a free account at SSA.gov/myaccount to check your earnings record and estimate benefits at different ages.

Tools like OpenSocialSecurity.com or MaximizeMySocialSecurity.com (a paid tool with a \$49 fee) can also help you compare claiming strategies.

There's no one-size-fits-all answer. For most people, waiting still makes the most sense. But if you need income, have health concerns or are coordinating benefits with a spouse, claiming at 62 may be the better choice. The key is to base your decision on your own circumstances — not fear about Social Security's future.

Belonging and Ownership



By Benya Kraus
President & CEO Southern
Minnesota Initiative
Foundation

Who gets to own a piece of the future? Ownership — of land, of livelihood, of voice — was central to the American experiment. In southern Minnesota, it remains central to the work of building vibrant, resilient communities. And for many people, belonging begins with having the opportunity to shape what comes next.

Belonging isn't just about feeling welcome. It's about feeling like you can build something. That you can own your personal future and, if you choose, help shape your community's future too. When people feel that sense of ownership, they invest. They start businesses. They volunteer. They stay.

At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we see this every day. Through our, now combined, economic development grants, we see it in immigrant farm families working with Rochester-based Village Agricultural Cooperative, where expanded growing sites, irrigation infrastructure and market support helped 12 families move from subsistence farming to selling products in local markets and building ownership of their economic future. We see it in rural business owners across Sibley County who received succession-planning support so locally owned businesses can remain locally rooted for the next generation.

Local ownership extends beyond business ownership, too. One of the biggest draws of

small town living is that the smaller population requires you to take on bigger leadership roles — to take ownership in shaping the future of your community alongside people who have a share in that future, too. Through our Small Town Grants, community members in Eyota launched the "Hello Eyota" initiative to create a welcoming experience for new residents, helping them connect with local resources and opportunities to get involved from day one. In Adams, residents are coming together for a community Day of Caring to build a pickleball court themselves, transforming a shared idea into a shared asset and a place to get to know your neighbor. And in Spring Grove, a community newspaper is being launched to provide a platform where more voices can be heard and represented. These projects are different in scope, but they share a common thread: residents stepping forward to shape both the identity and future of their communities.

The work is rarely tidy. Collaboration can be messy. Progress often takes conversation, creativity and the courage of everyday people who decide they have a stake in what comes next. When someone feels they can own even a small part of their community's story, they show up differently. They see possibility. They build.

That's why SMIF has grant rounds open this summer: our Small Town Grant is open until August 19. Whether it be strengthening ownership through small business, or through volunteering alongside neighbors to drive a collaborative project forward for your small town, we know a simple truth: When people can own a piece of their community's story, economic opportunity follows. And when economic opportunity grows, belonging deepens. The two are inseparable.

Small towns thrive when residents feel empowered to say, "This is my place. I helped build this." That sense of shared ownership is what transforms a town from a dot on the map into a home.

Building a more inclusive and prosperous society requires humor, heart and the belief that ordinary people can shape extraordinary futures. Southern Minnesota's small towns embody that nation-building spirit every day. With this grant cycle, we hope to support even more communities in writing their next chapter — one where more people can own a piece of the future and where everyone has the opportunity to belong.

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

August is National Make a Will Month

Elder Network is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit 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 bring awareness to making wills as August is National Make a Will month. Making wills can bring peace of mind to you and your family and is an act of care of those you love. There are many benefits to making wills such as being able to control where your assets go, minimizing legal disputes between family members, and ensuring your wishes are met. To learn more about making wills or connecting with an attorney, visit www.lawhelpmn.org for more information. This website includes free resources for Minnesotans and has specialties in elder law, real estate law, and more.

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.

Funded in part by the SEMN Area Agency on Aging.



Sen. Nelson Named a 2026 Legislator of Distinction by League of Minnesota Cities

The League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) has named State Senator Carla Nelson (Rochester) as a 2026 Legislator of Distinction. The honor is awarded to state lawmakers each year who show strong leadership and support for Minnesota cities.

"I am so thankful to the League of Minnesota Cities for this wonderful honor," Sen. Nelson said. "I am grateful to LMC for their work, and I am especially thankful for the numerous city officials I have worked so closely with during my time in the Legislature. I have

always tried to put the concerns and feedback of my constituents first, and I am proud of everything we accomplished together!"

Sen. Nelson earned the honor through several key actions this session. She served as the chief author of a bill that updated the state housing tax credit, expanding its use for market-rate housing development in greater Minnesota cities. She also reviewed and supported local sales tax requests as a member of the Senate Taxes Committee, and backed League priorities as a member of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

The League of Minnesota Cities represents more than 830 member cities across the state. Award recipients receive a certificate of recognition, and the League sends a copy of the recognition letter to the mayor of each city in the legislator's district.

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Triton Times



Dodge Center, Claremont, West Concord, Kasson, Mantorville, Hayfield Messenger August 13, 2026

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The Start of the 2026-27 School Year Will Be Here Shortly

I hope this article finds you well and that the summer has provided opportunities to create meaningful memories with your families and friends.

As the calendar transitions to August, momentum is building, and the start of the 2026-27 school year will be here shortly. Each school year presents a tremendous opportunity for our school community collectively and also for all students, staff, families, and community members. Strong partnerships are the foundation for a successful school. We as a school need to continue to create and enhance partnerships throughout each child's educational journey. Our goal as we prepare for the school year is to ensure that families and students have all the information they need for a successful start.

As we prepare for a positive and productive 2026-27 school year, I wanted to share a few exciting facility and operational updates.



Luke Lutterman
Triton
Superintendent

(continued on page 30)



FALL ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY MEETING

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday August 26
TMS - THS OPEN HOUSE, 2:30-6:30 PM
Students should pick up Chromebooks, and schedules, set up their lockers, get their school pictures taken, and meet with their teachers. Food Trucks (Hammer Q, Plaza Morena, and Unbakeable) will be available outside the activities entrance. Bring the whole family!

6TH GRADE FAMILY INFO. NIGHT, 5:30 PM
Sixth graders and at least one parent/guardian are encouraged to attend the Family Information Night presentation in the THS Welsh Equipment PAC.

12th GRADE FAMILY INFO. MEETING, 6:00 PM
Seniors and at least one parent/guardian should attend the meeting in the THS Welsh Equipment PAC.

Tuesday September 1
6TH AND 9TH GRADE, 1ST DAY
Students in sixth and ninth grade will be the only students who attend school on Tuesday, September 1. On this day we will have orientation experiences. Transportation will run as scheduled. This is a scheduled school day for students in sixth and ninth grade.

PK & TES - Meet the Teacher Day 1
Information will be sent out via our Cobra Connections newsletter with the sign up links.

Wednesday September 2
TMS - THS, 1ST DAY ALL STUDENTS
All students in grades six through twelve attend.

PK & TES - Meet the Teacher Day 2
Information will be sent out via our Cobra Connections newsletter with the sign up links.

Thursday September 3
TES - 1st Day of School
This is the first day of school for 1st - 5th grade students.

Tuesday September 8
PK & K - 1st Day of School
This is the first day of school for kindergarten and preschool students.

Wednesday September 9
PK - 1st Day of School
This is the first day of school for preschool students that do not attend school on Tuesdays.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Elementary School
507-418-7500

Middle School
507-418-7510

High School
507-418-7520

www.triton.k12.mn.us

The Start of the 2026-27 School Year Will Be Here Shortly

(continued from page 29)

Facility Changes

Our elementary playground is receiving a facelift with new equipment and upgrades. This work should start on August 10 and is on schedule to be completed before the start of the school year. Additionally, our East Gym (HS Gym) received a complete sanding, new paint, and finish. This should create a safer playing surface for physical education and sports.

Community Partnerships

At the July Board Meeting, facility sponsorships for two highly used spaces at our school were approved. These sponsorships will help us maintain these spaces and support the programs that utilize them. The East Gym will be called the Heritage Bank Arena, and the PAC will be the Welsh Equipment, Inc. PAC. We wanted to thank our sponsorship partners for their continued support of Triton Schools.

Safety and Operations

In terms of operational changes, to enhance safety and security, we will be adding the Raptor Guest Check-In System to each one of our building offices (TES, TMS, THS). This will replace the CheckMate system we had in the TMS and THS offices. The Raptor Visitor Management System is a security check-in tool. The purpose is to make sure we have a formal system for checking in visitors. When visiting our school, guests will scan an ID for a quick background check before receiving a visitor's badge and clearance.

Additionally, we have formed a committee to help guide the application and use of artificial

intelligence (AI) in our school. Generative AI presents exciting possibilities and challenges that need to be addressed for security, safety, and academic integrity. The committee will help shape guidelines for student, staff, instruction, and school operation use.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article and for your work, engagement, and partnership. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or ideas for improvement as we prepare for the school year.

Together #WeAreTriton

Luke Lutterman, Triton Superintendent llutterman@triton.k12.mn.us
(507) 418-7530

Candi Vagt Honored With Cobra Pride Award



Candi Vagt, Triton's Childcare Manager, was honored with the Cobra Pride Award at the July School Board Meeting. She is always planning fun adventures for our kids and keeps everyone on track! Thank you, Candi, for all your hard work and dedication to Triton and our families that rely on Cobra care every day!

Triton Families and Students, Starting School Year 2025-2026 meals are free for all students.

We are still encouraging ALL families to fill out the educational benefit form (formerly Free & Reduced Lunch form). This form goes far beyond the original Free and reduced lunch eligibility for families. It could also qualify families for reduced athletic/activity fees, SUN Bucks (EBT during the summer), funding for internet access, technology and AP Testing support. For the school district it brings in additional compensatory funding from the State of MN that can be used for a multitude of things to benefit the kids and our schools.

Parents/guardians: you are responsible for any negative balance that your student's account may have. These accounts need to be paid and brought up to date.

For the 2025-2026 school year here are some things parents/guardians/students may need to know.

****Elementary****

Sack lunches from home- If your student brings lunch from home and wants milk; it is an extra charge of \$.70. Milk is only free with school breakfast & lunch. Please make sure you have funds in your student account.

****MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS & STUDENTS- PLEASE READ****

There is an "ala carte only" option when charging to accounts. This option is not covered as FREE! These specialty items must be charged on an account or paid for with cash. Ala Carte is open to Middle & High Students (grades 6th-12th).

Please have a conversation with your student about the Ala Carte option and what their boundaries are when using it. The Taher staff is unable to monitor every student that comes through when it comes to allergies or limits. This is up to individual families.

One thing we can do, if requested by the parent/guardian, is:

- Blocking your student. If you want your student blocked from ala carte options, you will need to contact myself (Misty) or Kelly by phone at 507-418-7531 or email at mlangley@triton.k12.mn.us, kjohnson@triton.k12.mn.us When emailing please put the name of student(s) that you want blocked in the subject line.

PLEASE NOTE: Students are still able to use cash to purchase ala carte. (Using cash does not affect their account)

- Students MUST have a positive balance in their account, or pay cash day of purchase, for any ala carte purchases. Any student with a negative balance will NOT be allowed extras or ala carte items. THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO GET THE REGULAR MEAL. Please speak with your students about this. If you have any questions, please reach out.

Ala carte items include.

- cookie, ice cream, smoothies, chips, juices, pickles, fruit snacks, extra diner sandwich, extra pizza slice, extra fries, extra milks, or a second meal, etc)

****Ala carte has nothing to do with the regular student meals that are free****

Sack lunches from home- If your student brings lunch from home and wants a milk; it is an extra charge of \$.70. Milk is only free with school breakfast & lunch. Please make sure you have funds in your student's account.

3 options for applying money to your student's account:

- Pay online through infinite campus (if you need assistance please contact: Elementary, Middle or High School office).
- Check- Send with student to school or drop off in any office. Make check payable to Triton and put your students name on the memo line.
- Cash- Send cash with your student to school or drop off to any office- please make sure to have it in an envelope with the student's first and last name.

Any questions or concerns please contact:

EMAIL: mlangley@triton.k12.mn.us or kjohnson@triton.k12.mn.us
Direct Line: 507-418-7531

Permanent School Fund

This November, Minnesota voters will be asked to consider a constitutional amendment on the Permanent School Fund. This fund has supported public education since 1858.

Here are a few key facts:

- The Permanent School Fund already exists and currently supports public schools throughout Minnesota.
- The fund has grown to more than \$2.3 billion through revenue generated from school trust lands and investment earnings.
- The proposed amendment does not raise property taxes, income taxes, sales taxes, or any other taxes.
- The recommendation came from a nonpartisan legislative task force that unanimously recommended modernizing the distribution formula.
- The proposal later received strong bipartisan support from the Minnesota Legislature.
- If approved by voters, the amendment would increase support for public schools while preserving the long-term strength of the fund.

Learn More:

To learn more about the Permanent School Fund amendment, including frequently asked questions, background information, and voter resources, visit:

www.mnPSFamendment.org

As always, we encourage community members to become informed and participate in the election process.

Please direct any questions to Superintendent Luke Lutterman
llutterman@triton.k12.mn.us
(507) 418-7530



Triton Times

Luke Lutterman, Triton Superintendent

Triton Public Schools

813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927

Office – 507-418-7530 • Fax – 507-374-2447

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PO Box 33 • 32 West Main Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927
E-mail: hometownmessenger@gmail.com
Phone/Text: 507-649-3327 • Fax: 507-645-9878

Annual Parent Notifications

Minnesota Statute requires we provide annual notification to parents of Triton Public Schools students of the topics below. If you have any questions, please use the contact number found in the notice.

LEAD-IN-WATER ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

Minnesota Statute 121A.335 requires public school buildings serving kindergarten through grade 12 to test for lead in water every 5 years.

This statute also requires school districts to make the results of the testing available to the public for review and to notify parents of the availability of the information. Notification may be accomplished by publishing a statement in the “Back to School” newsletter or publication that is available to staff, student, parents, and the public. If a fixture exceeds 5 ppb and is not remediated within 30 days of receipt of results, parents/guardians and staff

are notified, as required by Minnesota State Statute. The district reports lead-in-water test results and remediation activities to the Commissioner of Health annually.

MN State Statute 121A.335 created a reporting requirement for schools as follows:

Starting July 1, 2024, school districts and charter schools must report their test results and remediation activities to the commissioner of health in the form and manner de-

termined by the commissioner in consultation with school districts and charter schools, by July 1 of each year. The commissioner of health must post and annually update the test results and remediation efforts on the department website by school site.

A district or charter school must maintain a record of lead testing results and remediation activities for at least 15 years.

Triton Public Schools is committed to providing a safe working and learning environment for employees and students. The district has developed a lead in water management plan and testing program that complies with Minnesota Statute 121A.335, as well as recommendations from the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) of 1988 and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

For more information on Triton Public Schools lead reduction and testing program, please contact Dave Hagen at 507-418-7540.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Triton Public Schools has an indoor air quality management plan that outlines specific policies and procedures used in the district to address indoor air quality issues. The District Health and Safety Committee chaired by Dave Hagen (507-418-7540) and the Institute for Environmental Assessment, the district’s health and safety consultant, review the plan annually. If you have any questions concerning indoor air quality or would like to use the EPA’s Tools for Schools checklists, please contact Dave Hagen.

ASBESTOS ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

During the past school year and continuing into the 2025-2026 school year, the following asbestos management plan activities have been or are currently being completed. These activities are pursuant to the Environmental Protection Agency 40 CFR Part 763- “Asbestos Containing Materials in Schools; Final Rule and Notice.”

Two (2) Semi-Annual Periodic Surveillance Inspection

Notification of Asbestos Locations for Short-Term Workers (Electricians, Plumbers, etc.)

Training of District Personnel

Triton Public Schools has contracted with the Institute for Environmental Assessment to provide environmental consulting services.

The complete updated Asbestos Management Plan for Triton Public Schools can be found in the district office. The Management Plan can be viewed, without cost or restriction, during normal working hours. Copies can be obtained for a fee of \$.10 per page.

Any questions concerning this notice, or an explanation of our Asbestos Management Plan can be directed to Dave Hagen, Triton Public Schools, at 507-418-7540.

PESTICIDE NOTICE

All MN schools are required to inform parents/guardians and school employees that they may request to be notified prior to pesticide application on school property. Pesticides include chemicals which are used to control insects, weeds, rodents, or other pests as defined by the law (M.S.123b.575, Subd.9).

(continued on page 32)



TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ISD #2125 | 813 West Highway Street | Dodge Center, MN 55927

Proudly serving the communities of Claremont, Dodge Center, and West Concord

Developing Lifelong Learners

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our school offers healthy meals each day. All students can get one breakfast and one lunch free of charge each day at school. Although no application is required to receive this free meal benefit, filling out the Application for Educational Benefits is still important! Your application may help the school qualify for education funds.

To apply, complete the enclosed Application for Educational Benefits and return it to:

Triton Public Schools

813 W. Highway Street

Dodge Center, MN 55927

Who should complete this application? Children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and foster, homeless, migrant and runaway children qualify without reporting household income. Alternatively, children can qualify if their household income is within the maximum income shown for their household size on the instructions.

COMMON QUESTIONS:

I get WIC or Medical Assistance. Can my children qualify? Children in households participating in WIC or Medical Assistance do not automatically qualify. Children may be eligible depending on other household financial information. Please fill out an application.

Who should I include as household members? Include yourself and all other people living in the household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends).

May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for you to complete an application.

What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get overtime only sometimes. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.

Will the income information or case number I give be checked? It may be. We may also ask you to send written proof.

How will the information be kept? Information you provide on the form, and your child’s approval, will be protected as private data. For more information, see the back page of the Application for Educational Benefits.

If I don’t qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. Please complete an application at any time if your income goes down, your household size goes up, or you start getting SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR benefits.

If you have other questions or need help, call 507-418-7530.

Sincerely,
Luke Lutterman, Superintendent

DISTRICT OFFICE (507) 418-7530 | ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (507) 418-7500 | MIDDLE SCHOOL (507) 418-7510 | HIGH SCHOOL (507) 418-7520

#WEARETRITON

Annual Parent Notifications

(continued from page 31)

To be notified about pesticide applications or any other questions regarding the district’s pest management practices please contact Dave Hagen, Triton Public Schools at 507-418-7540.

Tentative schedules for application of weed control chemicals and pesticide treatments are kept in the District Office.



Triton Public Schools

For up-to-date information, visit www.triton.k12.mn.us

#WeAreTriton #SomosTriton

Triton Community Ed Office Hours:
M-F 8am-3:30 pm
Check Out Our Website
www.triton.k12.mn.us
and click on the Community Education tab



TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

For Up-to-date Information Visit
www.triton.k12.mn.us



How to Complete the Application for Educational Benefits

Complete the Application for Educational Benefits form for school year 2026-27 if any of the following applies to your household:

- Any household member currently participates in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or
- The household includes one or more foster children (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child) or
- The total income of household members is within the guidelines shown below (**gross earnings before deductions**, not take-home pay). Do not include as income: foster care payments, federal education benefits, MFIP payments, or value of assistance received from SNAP, WIC, or FDPIR. Military: Do not include combat pay or assistance from the Military Privatized Housing Initiative. The income guidelines are effective from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Maximum Total Income					
Household size	\$ Per Year	\$ Per Month	\$ Twice Per Month	\$ Per 2 Weeks	\$ Per Week
1	29,526	2,461	1,231	1,136	568
2	40,034	3,337	1,669	1,540	770
3	50,542	4,212	2,106	1,944	972
4	61,050	5,088	2,544	2,349	1,175
5	71,558	5,964	2,982	2,753	1,377
6	82,066	6,839	3,420	3,157	1,579
7	92,574	7,715	3,858	3,561	1,781
8	103,082	8,591	4,296	3,965	1,983
Add for each additional person	10,508	876	438	405	203

- Step 1: Children**
List all infants and children in the household, their school and grade if applicable, and birthdate. Attach an additional page if needed to list all children. Check the box if a child is in foster care (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child).
- Step 2: Case Number**
If any household member currently participates in SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR, write in the case number and then go to Step 4. If you do not participate in any of these programs, leave Step 2 blank and continue to Step 3.
- Step 3: Adult and Child Incomes / Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number**
- Social Security Number/Total Household Members.** An adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security number or check the box if they do not have a Social Security number. Report the total number of household members and ensure all household members are listed individually on the application in the child or adult section as applicable.
 - Child Income.** If any children in the household have regular income, such as SSI or part-time jobs, list the total amount of regular incomes received by all children, and check the box for the frequency: weekly, bi-weekly, twice a month, or monthly. Do not include occasional earnings like babysitting or lawn mowing.
 - Adult income.** Report the names of adult household members and income in this section.
 - List all adults living in the household not listed in Step 1, whether related or not, such as grandparents, relatives, or friends.
 - Gross Earnings from Work.** This is usually the money received from working at jobs where a paycheck is received. For each income, check the box to show how often the income is received: weekly, bi-weekly, twice per month, or monthly.
 - List gross incomes before deductions, not take-home pay. Do not list an hourly wage rate. For adults with no income to report, enter a '0' or leave the section blank. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.
 - Are you Self-Employed or a Farmer?** List the net income per month or year after business expenses. Do not list the same income twice on the application. A loss from farm or self-employment must be listed as 0 income and does not reduce other income.
 - Any Other Gross Income.** List gross incomes before deductions from all other sources, such as SSI, unemployment, child support, public assistance, social security, rental income or annuities.
- Step 4: Signature and Contact Information** An adult household member must sign the form. If you do not want your information to be shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs, check the "Don't share" box in Step 4.
- Optional:** Please provide the information on ethnicity and race that is requested on the second page of the form. This information is not required and does not affect eligibility. The information helps to ensure we are meeting civil rights requirements and fully serving our community.



Triton Football wrapped up our youth football camp last week. It was a great week with our K-6th grade student-athletes. On Monday, we went over basic skills of the game, such as blocking and tackling. Tuesday, we focused on the offensive side of the ball. On Wednesday we shifted our focus to defense and worked on the various position groups. Thursday, we did our annual punt, pass, and kick competition. All week the youth participants had positive attitudes and brought plenty of energy. In all we had 43 kids participate last week. Also, a special thank you to our varsity athletes for helping make it a great experience, we couldn't have done it without you.



Congratulations to Sloane N., Brekk K., Oliver H., and Aiden B. on winning their respective age groups in the Punt, Pass, & Kick Competition at the 2026 Cobra Football Youth Camp.



2026-27 Application for Educational Benefits

Mail or return completed form to: Triton Public School, 813 W. Highway Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927

STEP 1: List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12 (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper).

Definition: A Household Member is “Anyone living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related.” Read *How to Complete the Application for Educational Benefits* for more information. Adults over grade 12 living in the same household should be reported in Step 3. If children in the household attend different districts or charter/nonpublic schools, return an application at each one.

Child's First Name (list all children in household)	MI	Child's Last Name	School	Grade	Birthdate	Foster Child (v)
						☐
						☐
						☐
						☐
						☐

STEP 2: Do Any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR? Medical assistance **does not qualify. If **NO** > Go to STEP 3.**

If YES >Enter SNAP, MFIP or FDIPIR Case Number (between 4-9 digits, do not report EBT card number) _____ then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3)

STEP 3: Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2)

A. Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Adult Household Member: Or Check if Adult has No SSN: ☐ Total Number of All Household Members (Children + Adults)

B. Child Income.

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income, such as from a part time job or SSI. Please include the TOTAL income received by all children listed in STEP 1. Do not include income received by adults in the box to the right.

Total Income Received by All Children	Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly
\$	☐	☐	☐	☐

C. **All Adult Household Members (including yourself).** For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0' or leave any fields blank. You are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. Not sure what income to include here? Flip the page and review "Sources of Income" for information. "Sources of Income" will help you with the Child Income section and All Adult Household Members section.

Names of All Adult Household Members (First and Last)
List all Household members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. Include children who are temporarily away at school or in college.

Gross Earnings from Working at Jobs				
Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Report income before deductions or taxes in whole dollars (no cents).
☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
☐	☐	☐	☐	\$

Are you Self-Employed or a Farmer?		
Monthly	Yearly	Net income from Farm or Self-Employment. Do not duplicate elsewhere.
☐	☐	\$
☐	☐	\$
☐	☐	\$
☐	☐	\$

Any Other Gross Income				
Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly	SSI, Unemployment, Public Assistance, Child Support, and others on Page 2
☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
☐	☐	☐	☐	\$

STEP 4: Contact information and adult signature. "I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

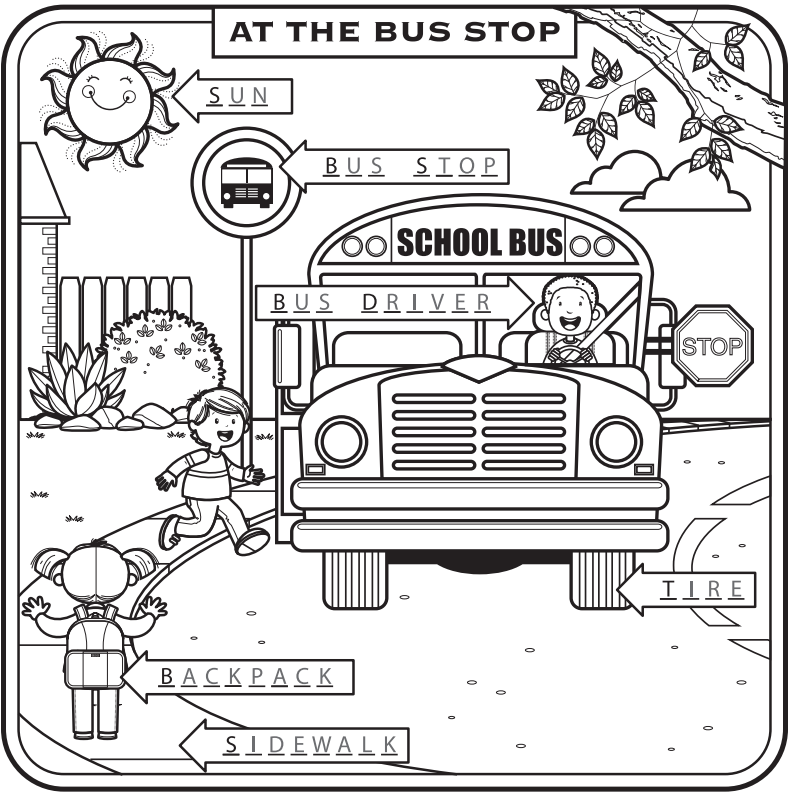
☐ I have checked this box if I *do not* want my information shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs as allowed by state law.

Printed name of adult signing form _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address (if available)	Apt#	City	Zip
------------------------	------	------	-----

SIGN HERE: Signature of Household Adult _____ Date _____

Do Not Fill Out: For School Office Use Conversions to Annualize All Income:	X52	X26	X24	X12	X1	☐ Verified? Attach Tracker	No change ☐	Free After Verified ☐	Reduced After Verified ☐	Denied After Verified ☐
All Total Income (Include child and adult income)	Weekly	Bi-weekly	2X Month	Monthly	Annualize	Household Size:	Categorical Eligibility	Free	Reduced	Denied
\$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐	☐	☐	☐
Determining Official Signature:							Date:			
Confirming Official Signature:							Date:			



OPTIONAL: Children’s Racial and Ethnic Identities

We are required to ask for information about your children’s race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children’s eligibility. Respond to both Step One, *Ethnicity* and Step Two, *Race*.

Step One: Ethnicity (check one): ☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino

Step Two: Race (check one or more): ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White

INSTRUCTIONS: Sources of Income

Sources of Income for Children

Sources of Child Income	Examples
- Earnings from work - Social Security - Disability payments - Survivor’s benefits - Income from person outside the household - Income from any other source	- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages - A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security - A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits - A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money - A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust

Sources of Income for Adults

Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	All Other Income
- Salary, wages, cash bonuses (before deductions or taxes) - Net income from self-employment (farm or business) - If you are in the U.S. Military: - Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) - Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing	- Cash Assistance from State or local government - Supplemental Security Income - Unemployment benefits - Worker’s compensation - Alimony payments - Child support payments - Veteran’s benefits - Strike benefits	- Social Security - Disability benefits - Regular income from trusts or estates - Annuities - Investment income - Rental income - Regular cash payments from outside household

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced-price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met.

Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, ‘Check if no Social Security Number.’ Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

At public school districts and charter schools, each student’s eligibility status also is recorded on a statewide computer system used to report student data to MDE as required by state law.

Nondiscrimination statement: In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or (2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ISD #2125 | 813 West Highway Street | Dodge Center, MN 55927

Proudly serving the communities of Claremont, Dodge Center, and West Concord

Developing Lifelong Learners

Estimado padre/tutor:

Nuestra escuela ofrece comidas saludables todos los días. Todos los estudiantes pueden recibir un desayuno y un almuerzo gratis cada día en la escuela. Aunque no se requiere una solicitud para recibir este beneficio de comidas gratuitas, ¡completar la solicitud de beneficios educativos sigue siendo importante! Su solicitud puede ayudar a la escuela a calificar para fondos educativos.

Para presentar la solicitud, complete la solicitud de Beneficios Educativos que se encuentra adjunta y envíela a:

Triton Public Schools
813 West Highway Street
Dodge Center, MN 55927

¿Quién debe completar esta solicitud? Los niños de hogares que participan en el Programa Suplementario de Asistencia Nutricional (SNAP, por sus siglas en inglés), el Programa de Inversión Familiar de Minnesota (MFIP, por sus siglas en inglés) o el Programa de Distribución de Alimentos en Reservaciones Indígenas (FDPIR, por sus siglas en inglés), y los niños en hogares de crianza, sin hogar, migrantes y fugitivos califican sin reportar los ingresos del hogar. Alternativamente, los niños pueden calificar si su ingreso familiar está dentro del ingreso máximo indicado para el tamaño de su hogar en las instrucciones.

Preguntas Frecuentes:

- Recibo WIC o asistencia médica. ¿Mis niños pueden recibir la ayuda?** Los niños de hogares que participan en el programa WIC o en la asistencia médica no cumplen automáticamente los requisitos. Los niños pueden ser elegibles dependiendo de otra información financiera del hogar. Por favor, complete una solicitud.
- ¿A quién debo incluir como integrante de la familia?** Debe incluirse a sí mismo y a todas las demás personas que vivan en el hogar, parientes o no (como abuelos, otros parientes o amigos).
- ¿Puedo solicitar la ayuda si alguien de mi familia no es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos?** Sí. Ni usted ni sus niños tienen que ser ciudadanos estadounidenses para que usted pueda completar una solicitud.
- ¿Qué ocurre si mis ingresos no son siempre los mismos?** Si normalmente cobra horas extras, inclúyalas, pero no si sólo las cobra a veces. En caso de trabajo de temporada, escriba el total de ingresos anuales.
- ¿Se comprobará la información sobre los ingresos o el número de caso que proporcione?** Es posible. También podemos pedirle que nos envíe un justificante por escrito.
- ¿Cómo se conservará la información?** La información que usted presente en el formulario y la aprobación de su niño se protegerán como datos privados. Para más información, consulte la página trasera de la solicitud de beneficios educativos.
- Si no cumplo los requisitos ahora, ¿puedo presentar la solicitud más tarde?** Sí. Complete una solicitud en cualquier momento si disminuyen sus ingresos, aumenta el tamaño de su unidad familiar o empieza a recibir Beneficios SNAP, MFIP o FDPIR.

Si tiene otras preguntas o necesita ayuda, llame al 507-418-7530.

Atentamente, Luke Lutterman, Superintendenta

Cómo completar la solicitud de Beneficios Educativos

Complete el formulario de Solicitud de Beneficios Educativos para el año escolar 2026-27 si alguna de las siguientes situaciones aplica a su hogar:

- Algún integrante de la unidad familiar participa actualmente en el Programa de Inversión Familiar de Minnesota (MFIP), en el Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Complementaria (SNAP) o en el Programa de Distribución de Alimentos en Reservas Indígenas (FDPIR) o
- El hogar incluye uno o más niños en acogida (una agencia de asistencia social o un tribunal tiene la responsabilidad legal del niño) o
- Los ingresos totales de los integrantes de la unidad familiar están dentro de los límites indicados a continuación (ingresos brutos antes de deducciones, no salario neto). No incluya como ingresos: los pagos por acogimiento familiar, las prestaciones educativas federales, los pagos del MFIP ni el valor de la ayuda recibida de SNAP, WIC o FDPIR. Militares: No incluya la paga de combate ni la ayuda de la Iniciativa Militar de Vivienda Privatizada. Las pautas de ingresos están vigentes desde el 1 de julio de 2026 hasta el 30 de junio de 2027.

Ingreso máximo total

Número de integrantes de la familia	\$ Por año	\$ Por mes	\$ Dos veces por mes	\$ Por 2 semanas	\$ Por semana
1	29,526	2,461	1,231	1,136	568
2	40,034	3,337	1,669	1,540	770
3	50,542	4,212	2,106	1,944	972
4	61,050	5,088	2,544	2,349	1,175
5	71,558	5,964	2,982	2,753	1,377
6	82,066	6,839	3,420	3,157	1,579
7	92,574	7,715	3,858	3,561	1,781
8	103,082	8,591	4,296	3,965	1,983
Añadir por cada persona adicional	10,508	876	438	405	203

Paso 1: Niños

Indique a todos los bebés y niños del hogar, su colegio y curso, si procede, y fecha de nacimiento. Adjunte una página adicional si es necesario para indicar todos los niños. Marque la casilla si un niño está en acogida temporal (una agencia de asistencia social o un tribunal tiene la responsabilidad legal del niño).

Paso 2: Número de caso

Si algún integrante de la unidad familiar participa actualmente en SNAP, MFIP o FDPIR, escriba el número de caso y vaya al paso 4. Si no participa en ninguno de estos programas, deje el paso 2 en blanco y continúe con el paso 3.

Paso 3: Ingresos de adultos y niños / Los últimos 4 dígitos del número de seguro social

Número de la Seguridad Social/Total de integrantes de la unidad familiar. Un integrante adulto del hogar debe presentar los últimos cuatro dígitos de su número de seguro social o marcar la casilla si no tiene número de seguro social. Indique el número total de integrantes de la unidad familiar y asegúrese de que todos los integrantes de la unidad familiar figuran individualmente en la solicitud en la sección de niños o adultos, según proceda.

Ingresos de los adultos Si alguno de los niños de la unidad familiar tiene ingresos regulares, como SSI o trabajos a tiempo parcial, indique el importe total de los ingresos regulares percibidos por todos los niños y marque la casilla correspondiente a la frecuencia: semanal, quincenal, quincenal o mensual. No incluya ingresos ocasionales como cuidar niños o cortar el césped.

Ingresos de los adultos. Indique en este apartado los nombres de los integrantes adultos de la unidad familiar y los ingresos obtenidos.

Indique todos los adultos que viven en el hogar y que no se hayan incluido en el paso 1, ya sean parientes o no, como abuelos, parientes o amigos.

Ingresos brutos del trabajo. Suele tratarse del dinero recibido por trabajar en empleos en los que se recibe un sueldo. Para cada ingreso, marque la casilla que indique la frecuencia con la que se recibe el ingreso: semanal, quincenal, dos veces al mes o mensual.

Indique los ingresos brutos antes de las deducciones, no el sueldo neto. No indique el salario por hora. Para los adultos sin ingresos que declarar, escriba un "0" o deje el apartado en blanco. En caso de trabajo de temporada, escriba el total de ingresos anuales.

¿Es usted trabajador por cuenta propia o agricultor? Indique los ingresos netos mensuales o anuales después de los gastos de la empresa. No indique los mismos ingresos dos veces en la solicitud. Las pérdidas procedentes de la agricultura o del trabajo por cuenta propia deben indicarse como ingresos nulos y no reducen los demás ingresos.

Otros ingresos brutos. Indique los ingresos brutos antes de las deducciones de todas las demás fuentes, como SSI, desempleo, ayuda a los niños, asistencia pública, seguro social, ingresos por alquileres o rentas vitalicias.

Paso 4: Firma e información de contacto Un integrante adulto del hogar debe firmar el formulario. Si no desea que su información se comparta con los programas de asistencia médica de Minnesota, marque la casilla "No compartir" en el paso 4.

Opcional: Proporcione la información sobre etnicidad y raza que se solicita en la segunda página del formulario. Esta información no es obligatoria y no afecta su elegibilidad. La información ayuda a garantizar que cumplamos con los requisitos de derechos civiles y sirvamos plenamente a nuestra comunidad.



2026-27 Solicitud de Beneficios Educativos

Envíe por correo o devuelva el formulario completado a: Triton Public Schols, 813 W. Highway Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927

Paso 1: Indique Todos los integrantes del hogar que sean bebés, niños y estudiantes hasta el grado 12 inclusive (si se necesitan más espacios para nombres adicionales, adjunte otra hoja de papel).

Definición: Un Integrante del Hogar es "Cualquier persona que viva con usted y comparta ingresos y gastos, aunque no sea pariente." Para más información, lea *Cómo completar la solicitud de Beneficios Educativos*. Los adultos mayores de 12 años que vivan en el mismo hogar deben indicarse en el paso 3. Si los niños en su hogar asisten a diferentes distritos o colegios chárter/no públicos, devuelva una solicitud para cada uno de ellos.

Nombre del niño (indique todos los niños del hogar)	IM	Apellidos del niño	Escuela	Grado	Fecha de nacimiento	Hijo adoptivo (✓)
						☐
						☐
						☐
						☐
						☐

Paso 2: ¿Alguno de los integrantes del hogar (incluido usted) participa actualmente en uno o más de los siguientes programas de asistencia: SNAP, MFIP o FDPIR? La asistencia médica **no cumple** los requisitos. **Si es NO** > Vaya al Paso 3.
Si es SÍ > Introduzca el número de caso de SNAP, MFIP o FDPIR (entre 4 y 9 dígitos, no indique el número de la tarjeta EBT) _____ y luego vaya al Paso 4 (No complete el Paso 3)

Paso 3: Reporte los ingresos de **todos** los integrantes del hogar (Omita este paso si contestó "SÍ" al Paso 2)

- A. Cuatro últimos dígitos del número de seguro social (SSN)** del integrante adulto del hogar: XXX-XX- O marque si el adulto **No tiene SSN:** ☐ **Total de todos los integrantes del hogar** (niños + adultos)

B. Ingresos de los niños.
A veces los niños del hogar ganan o reciben ingresos, tales como de un trabajo de medio tiempo o SSI. Por favor, incluya el **total** de los ingresos recibidos por todos los niños indicados en el Paso 1. No incluya los ingresos recibidos por los adultos en la casilla a la derecha.

Total de ingresos recibidos por todos los niños	Semanal	Quincenal	2 por mes	Mensual
\$	☐	☐	☐	☐
- C. Todos los integrantes adultos del hogar (incluido usted).** Por cada integrante del hogar indicado, si reciben ingresos, indique únicamente los ingresos brutos totales. Si no reciben ingresos de ninguna fuente, escriba "0" o deje algún campo en blanco. Está certificando (prometiendo) que no hay ingresos que declarar. ¿No está seguro de qué ingresos debe incluir aquí? Dé la vuelta a la página y consulte la sección "Fuentes de ingresos" para obtener más información. La sección "Fuentes de ingresos" le ayudará a rellenar los apartados "Ingresos de los niños" y "Todos los integrantes adultos de la unidad familiar".

Nombres de todos los adultos del hogar (nombre y apellidos) Enumere a todos los miembros del hogar que no figuran en el PASO 1 (incluido usted mismo), incluso si no reciben ingresos. Incluya a los niños que están temporalmente en la escuela o en la universidad.	Ingresos brutos del trabajo <table><tr><th>Semanal</th><th>Quincenal</th><th>2 por mes</th><th>Mensual</th><th>Informe los ingresos antes de deducciones o impuestos en dólares enteros (sin centavos).</th></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>\$</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>\$</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>\$</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>\$</td></tr></table>	Semanal	Quincenal	2 por mes	Mensual	Informe los ingresos antes de deducciones o impuestos en dólares enteros (sin centavos).	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$	¿Es usted trabajador independiente o agricultor? <table><tr><th>Mensual</th><th>Annual</th><th>Ingresos netos de la agricultura o del trabajo por cuenta propia. No duplicar en ningún otro sitio.</th></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>\$</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>\$</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>\$</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>\$</td></tr></table>	Mensual	Annual	Ingresos netos de la agricultura o del trabajo por cuenta propia. No duplicar en ningún otro sitio.	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	\$	Otros ingresos brutos <table><tr><th>Semanal</th><th>Quincenal</th><th>2 por mes</th><th>Mensual</th><th>SSI, desempleo, asistencia pública, manutención de niños y otros en la página 2</th></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>\$</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>\$</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>\$</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>\$</td></tr></table>	Semanal	Quincenal	2 por mes	Mensual	SSI, desempleo, asistencia pública, manutención de niños y otros en la página 2	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
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Paso 4: Información de contacto y firma de un adulto. "Certifico (prometo) que toda la información en esta solicitud es verdadera y que todos los ingresos están declarados. Entiendo que esta información se da en relación con la obtención de fondos federales, y que los funcionarios de la escuela pueden verificar (comprobar) la información. Soy consciente de que si doy información falsa a propósito, puedo ser procesado bajo las leyes estatales y federales aplicables."
☐ He marcado esta casilla si no deseo que mi información se comparta con el programa de asistencia médica de Minnesota según lo permite la ley estatal.

Nombre impreso del adulto que firma la solicitud

Teléfono de día

Dirección (si está disponible)

Apto# Ciudad CP

FIRME AQUÍ: Firma del adulto del hogar

Fecha

Do Not Fill Out: For School Office Use

Conversions to Annualize All Income:

All Total Income (Include child and adult income)

\$

Determining Official Signature:

Confirming Official Signature:

X52X26X24X12X1

WeeklyBi-WeeklyMonthlyAnnualiz

☐ Verified? Attach Tracker

Household Size:

No change☐Free After Verified☐Reduced After Verified☐Denied After Verified☐

Category 1 EligibilityFreeReducedDenied

Date:

Date:

OPCIONAL: Identidad racial y origen étnico de los niños

Tenemos la obligación de pedir información sobre la raza y el origen étnico de sus hijos. Esta información es importante y ayuda a asegurar que estamos sirviendo plenamente a nuestra comunidad. Responder a esta sección es opcional y no afecta la elegibilidad de sus hijos. Responda al paso uno, *Origen étnico* y al paso dos, *Raza*.

Paso uno: Origen étnico (marque una): ☐ Hispano o Latino ☐ No Hispano o Latino

Paso dos: Raza (marque una o más): ☐ Indio americano o nativo de Alaska ☐ Asiático ☐ Negro o afroamericano ☐ Nativo de Hawai u otras islas del Pacífico ☐ Blanco

INSTRUCCIONES: Fuentes de ingresos

Fuentes de ingresos de los niños

Fuentes de ingresos de niños	Ejemplos
• Ingresos del trabajo • Seguro social a. Pagos por discapacidad b. Beneficios de sobreviviente • Ingresos procedentes de una persona fuera del hogar • Ingresos procedentes de cualquier otra fuente	• Un niño tiene un trabajo regular de tiempo completo o parcial en el que recibe un sueldo o salario • Un niño es ciego o tiene una discapacidad y recibe el seguro social • Un padre o madre tiene una discapacidad, está jubilado o ha fallecido y su hijo recibe Beneficios de la Seguridad Social • Un amigo o un miembro de la familia le da regularmente dinero para gastos al niño. • Un niño recibe ingresos regulares de un fondo de pensiones privado, anualidad o fideicomiso

Fuentes de ingresos de los adultos

Ingresos del trabajo	Asistencia pública / Pensión alimenticia	Otros ingresos
• Sueldo, salario, bonificaciones en efectivo (antes de deducciones o impuestos) • Ingresos netos del trabajo por cuenta propia (agricultura o negocio) • Si pertenece a las Fuerzas Armadas de EE.UU: a. Sueldo base y bonificaciones en efectivo (NO incluya la paga de combate, la FSSA ni los subsidios de vivienda privatizados) b. Subsidios para vivienda, comida y ropa fuera de la base	• Ayudas en efectivo del gobierno estatal o local • Ingreso Suplementario del Seguro • Beneficios por desempleo • Indemnización laboral • Pensiones alimenticias • Pagos de manutención de niños • Beneficios para veteranos • Beneficios de huelga	• Seguro social • Beneficios por incapacidad • Ingresos regulares procedentes de fideicomisos o herencias • Anualidades • Ingresos por inversiones • Ingresos por alquiler • Pagos regulares en efectivo procedentes de fuera del hogar

La Ley Nacional de Almuerzos Escolares Richard B. Russell exige que utilicemos la información de esta solicitud para determinar quién califica para recibir comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido. Solo podemos aprobar formularios completos. Podemos compartir su información de elegibilidad con programas educativos, de salud y de nutrición para ayudarlos a proporcionar beneficios a su hogar. Inspectores y autoridades de cumplimiento de la ley también pueden usar su información para asegurarse de que se cumplan las normas del programa.

Por favor, asegúrese de proporcionar los últimos cuatro dígitos del número de Seguro Social del adulto del hogar que firma la solicitud. Si el adulto no tiene un número de Seguro Social, marque la opción “No tiene número de Seguro Social”. Las solicitudes para un niño(a) en cuidado tutelar no requieren un número de Seguro Social. Tampoco es necesario incluir un número de Seguro Social en solicitudes para niños(as) en hogares que reciben beneficios del Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria (SNAP), del Programa de Asistencia Temporal para Familias Necesitadas (TANF) o del Programa de Distribución de Alimentos en Reservaciones Indígenas (FDPIR). Algunos niños(as) califican para comidas gratuitas sin necesidad de presentar una solicitud. Comuníquese con su escuela para obtener comidas gratuitas para un(a) niño(a) en cuidado tutelar, en situación de falta de hogar, migrante o fugitivo(a).

En los distritos escolares públicos y escuelas chárter, el estatus de elegibilidad de cada estudiante también se registra en un sistema informático estatal que se utiliza para informar de los datos de los estudiantes al MDE, tal y como exige la ley estatal. **Declaración de no discriminación:** De acuerdo con la ley federal de derechos civiles y las normas y políticas de derechos civiles del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA), esta institución tiene prohibido discriminar por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, sexo (incluidas la identidad de género y la orientación sexual), discapacidad, edad o represalias por actividades previas relacionadas con los derechos civiles.

La información del programa puede estar disponible en idiomas distintos del inglés. Las personas con discapacidades que necesiten medios de comunicación alternativos para obtener información sobre el programa (por ejemplo, Braille, letra grande, cinta de audio, lenguaje de signos americano), deben ponerse en contacto con la agencia estatal o local responsable que administra el programa o con el Centro TARGET del USDA en el (202) 720-2600 (voz y TTY) o ponerse en contacto con el USDA a través del Servicio Federal de Retransmisión en el (800) 877-8339.

Para presentar una denuncia por discriminación en un programa, el denunciante debe completar el formulario AD-3027, USDA Programa de Formulario de Denuncia de Discriminación que se puede obtener en línea en: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, en cualquier oficina del USDA, llamando al (866) 632-9992, o escribiendo una carta dirigida al USDA. La carta debe contener el nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del denunciante, así como una descripción escrita de la supuesta acción discriminatoria lo suficientemente detallada como para informar al Subsecretario de Derechos Civiles (ASCR) sobre la causa y la fecha de una supuesta violación de los derechos civiles. El formulario AD-3027 completado o la carta deben enviarse al USDA por: (1) **correo postal:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or (2) **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; o (3) **correo electrónico:** program.intake@usda.gov

Esta institución ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.

2026-2027 Bus Information

** All times are subject to change due to families moving to the district.
Please note the designated stops and times to determine which stop is nearest to your residence. The one that is nearest to your residence without crossing a major roadway will be your child’s pick-up point and time. Remember, students should be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus comes, not any earlier. On the first day of school, the bus drivers ask that students come to their stop 10 minutes early. *** Please have 1 primary stop***
The pick-up points and approximate times are as follows:

Dodge Center		Bus Number
7:32	Corner of 4th St SE & 6th Ave SE	19
7:34	Corner of 3rd St SE & 6th Ave SE	19
7:37	208 3rd St SE	19
7:38	2nd St NW & Corner of 2nd Ave NW	20
7:31	Corner of 9th Ave NE & Cty Rd 34	11
7:31	Corner of 2nd St NE & Cty Rd 34	11
7:32	1st Ave NE & Cty Rd 34	11
7:33	Valley View Trailer Park	11
7:35	Corner of 5th Ave NW & Meadowlark Ln	11
7:29	Corner of 1st St SW & 2nd Ave SW	1
7:30	11 1st St SW	1
7:31	Corner of 2nd St SE and Central Ave	1
7:33	Corner of South St & Central Ave	1
7:34	Corner of 2nd Ave & South St	1
7:31	309 11th St NW	14
7:32	Corner of 11th St NW & 4th Ave NW	14
7:33	Corner of 10th St NW & 6th Ave NW	14
7:34	9th St NW & 6th Ave NW	14
7:35	Corner of 9th St NW & 5th Ave NW	14
7:36	Corner of 8th Ave & 5th St NW	14
7:37	410 8th St NW	14
7:38	Corner of 8th St & 4th Ave NW	14
7:17	Corner of 1st Ave & North St	16
7:19	814 East Main St	16
7:21	Corner 2nd St & 6 ½ Ave NE	16
7:22	Corner of 2nd St & 3rd Ave NE	16
7:23	Main St & 2nd Ave	16
7:33	6th Ave SE & Main St	4
7:34	Main St & 4th Ave NE	4
7:36	Corner of Main St & 1st Ave (Library)	4
7:37	Corner of Main St & 2nd Ave	4

Claremont		Bus Number
7:19	Front St by Post Office	13
7:21	Front St & East St	13
7:22	105 East Front St	13
7:23	Church and Julia	13
7:24	Church & McKinley	13
7:21	533 2nd St	3
7:22	413 2nd St	3
7:22	2nd & Elm	3
7:23	129 2nd St	3
7:24	East St and Trailer Park	3
7:26	3rd & Main	3
7:27	505 3rd St	3

West Concord		Bus Number
7:14	Ellington St & Front St	20
7:15	405 Front St	20
7:16	130 Olive St	20
7:17	Corner of Olive & First St (Historical Building)	20
7:18	2nd St & Ellington	2
7:19	3rd St & Main St	2
7:21	3rd St & Arnold	2
7:22	Third St & Eugene	2
7:24	1006 1st St	2
7:28	620 Main St	15
7:29	Highland & Irvin	15
7:30	Corner of 6th St & Irvin	15
7:31	Corner of South and 5th St	15
7:32	Highland & South St	15

Does your child need a bed?

Apply for free at shpbeds.org





NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

	ELECTRIC SCOOTER (E-SCOOTER)	ELECTRIC BIKE (E-BIKE)	MOTOR BIKE (E-MOTO)
			
MINIMUM AGE	12+	15+	15+
HELMET	REQUIRED UNDER AGE 18	RECOMMENDED	REQUIRED UNDER AGE 18
PASSENGERS	NO	NO UNLESS DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR PASSENGERS BY MANUFACTURER	NO
LICENSE AND REGISTRATION	NO	NO	YES LICENSE OR PERMIT REQUIRED AT AGE 15+
LICENSE PLATE	NO	NO	YES
ALLOWED ON SIDEWALKS?	NO	NO	NO
ALLOWED ON BIKE PATHS?	YES	YES	NO
ALLOWED ON ROADWAYS?	YES	YES	YES
POWER SOURCE	750 WATTS OR LESS	750 WATTS OR LESS	750 - 1500 WATTS
MAX SPEED ON ROAD	15 MPH	28 MPH	30 MPH
LIGHT SOURCE	REQUIRED AT NIGHT	REQUIRED AT NIGHT	REQUIRED AT NIGHT
STATE STATUTE	\$169.225	\$169.222	\$169.223
 IF YOUR BIKE EXCEEDS 1500 WATTS OR 30 MPH, THEN IT'S CLASSIFIED AS A MOTORCYCLE AND YOU MUST FOLLOW STATE STATUTE §169.974.			



Back TO School

2026-27 Preschool Enrollment

CLASS OPTIONS
2026-2027

TUESDAY & THURSDAY – MRS. OLEVSON
3 YEAR OLDS 8-10:30 AM

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY– MRS. OLEVSON
3 & 4 YEAR OLDS 8-10:30 AM

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 PRESCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

- Backpack
- Change of clothes in a gallon ziploc bag
- 1 hard-sided pencil box
- 1 pair blunt-tip scissors
- 2 boxes 24 count Crayola crayons
- 4 Elmer's glue sticks
- 2 two-pocket PLASTIC folders (no prongs)
- Crayola watercolor paints, 8 color tray
- Clorox/Lysol disinfecting wipes
- 2 boxes of snack-sized ziploc bags
- OPTIONAL DONATIONS
 - Snack or sandwich-sized ziploc bags
 - Napkins
 - Disposable spoons
 - Hand soap
 - Kleenex
 - Black Expo markers
 - 8 count Crayola markers



For More Information, visit our website
<https://www.triton.k12.mn.us/page/supplies>

TRITON KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL Supply Lists

KINDERGARTEN:

- 1- " 3-RING BINDER WITH CLEAR COVER
- 1 PLASTIC TWO POCKET FOLDER (ANY COLOR)
- 3 BOXES CRAYOLA CRAYONS
- 2 BOXES CRAYOLA MARKERS
- 8 BLACK EXPO WHITEBOARD MARKERS
- 1 WHITEBOARD ERASER
- 10 GLUE STICKS
- SCISSORS
- 6 PENCILS
- 1 PLASTIC PENCIL BOX
- 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- " 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



Triton Public School’s Backpack Program

The Triton Backpack Program provides individual bags with foods to be eaten over the weekend when school meals are not available. This school year we will be using the services of Every Meal Program out of Minneapolis. Every Meal bags will contain a variety of food items such as: canned chicken or tuna, oatmeal, pasta, beans, soups, and a variety canned or dried fruits, vegetables, granola, and sunflower seeds.

The Backpack Program serves children in Preschool through the 8th grade. We will deliver the food to the child’s locker on Thursday or Friday each week. Every effort will be made to keep those using the program confidential.

This is a free program; there is no cost to families or the school. We have received so many generous donations from community businesses and organizations to support this program.

In the past we’ve experienced an issue with food waste. Children left food bags in lockers instead of bringing them home. We also dealt with children taking snack items out and throwing the rest of the food. The most extreme example of abuse involved multiple reports of kids opening packages on the buses and throwing the food around and leaving a mess for the drivers to clean up. If the child does not show responsibility towards the food bags, we will promptly notify you and your family will no longer receive them. It will be up to parents to make an appeal with our program to get service back. This will include completing a responsibility plan to move forward.

If you have any questions about entering The Triton Backpack Program or wish to donate to the program, please contact us at: backpack@triton.k12.mn.us
Sincerely,
Triton School Backpack Program Committee

El programa Triton Backpack proporciona bolsas individuales con alimentos para ser comido durante el fin de semana cuando las comidas escolares no están disponibles. Esta escuela año que utilizaremos los servicios del Programa Every Meal fuera de Minneapolis. Cada bolsa de comida contendrá una variedad de alimentos como:

pollo o atún enlatado, avena, pasta, frijoles, sopas y una variedad frutas enlatadas o secas, verduras, granola y semillas de girasol. El Programa de Mochilas atiende a niños desde preescolar hasta el 8º grado. Entregaremos la comida en el casillero del niño el jueves o viernes cada uno semana. Se hará todo lo posible para que los que sigan usando el programa confidencial.

Este es un programa gratuito; No hay costo para las familias ni para la escuela. Tenemos recibió tantas donaciones generosas de empresas comunitarias y organizaciones para apoyar este programa.

En el pasado hemos experimentado un problema con el desperdicio de alimentos. Los niños dejaron comida bolsas en casilleros en lugar de llevarlas a casa. También tratamos con niños sacar bocadillos y tirar el resto de la comida. Lo más extremo ejemplo de abuso involucró múltiples informes de niños que abrían paquetes en los autobuses y tirar la comida y dejar un desastre para los conductores para limpiar. Si el niño no muestra responsabilidad hacia la comida bolsas, le notificaremos de inmediato y su familia ya no recibirá ellos. Dependerá de los padres hacer una apelación con nuestro programa para obtener servicio de vuelta. Esto incluirá completar un plan de responsabilidad para mudarse adelante.

Si tienes alguna duda sobre cómo entrar en La Mochila Tritón Programa o desea donar al programa, contáctenos en: backpack@triton.k12.mn.us
Sinceramente
Comité del Programa de Mochilas Escolares Triton

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 :

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 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:

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

Triton K-12 Breakfast				
September 2026				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
31	1	2	3	4
	Banana Chocolate Chip Snack Bread, WG Cheese Stick Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Chocolate Frosted Long John Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast Potatoes Cereal Choice Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Chocolate Chip Brekkie, WG Cereal Choice Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice
7	8	9	10	11
French Toast Snack Bread, WG Cheese Stick Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Breakfast Stacker Sandwich Syrup Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Cinnamon Roll Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Sausage & Cheese on a Biscuit Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Cinnamon Cream Cheese Filled Bagel, WG Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice
14	15	16	17	18
Mini Cinnamon Waffles, WG Syrup Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Banana Chocolate Chip Snack Bread, WG Cheese Stick Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Cream Cheese Frosted Long John Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast Potatoes Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Chocolate Chip Brekkie, WG Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice
21	22	23	24	25
French Toast Snack Bread, WG Cheese Stick Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Breakfast Stacker Sandwich Syrup Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Cinnamon Roll, WG Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Sausage & Cheese on a Biscuit Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Cinnamon Cream Cheese Filled Bagel, WG Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice
28	29	30	1	
Mini Cinnamon Waffles, WG Syrup Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Banana Chocolate Chip Snack Bread, WG Cheese Stick Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice	Cream Cheese Frosted Long John Cheese Stick Choice of Cereal Graham Crackers Fruit Selection Juice Selection Milk Choice		
PRICES Student Meals Free 2nd Student Meal \$3.00 Extra Milk \$1.70 Adult Breakfast \$3.00 EXTRA INFO HARVEST OF THE MONTH APPLE TOMATO DILL YOUR MENUS plus more information on our app Taher Food4Life® FOOD 4 LIFE TAHER www.taher.com				

Triton K-12 Lunch				
September 2026				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
31	1	2	3	4
	6th & 9th only Pulled Pork Sandwich Mixed Vegetables Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Grades 6th-12th Beef Tacos, Soft Spiced Pinto Beans Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Grades 1st-12th Popcorn Chicken Buttered Noodles Mixed Vegetables Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Grades 1th-12th Cheese Pizza Carrots Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice
7	8	9	10	11
no School	All K-12 Cheesburger on WG Bun French Fries Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Orange Chicken Brown Rice, WG Steamed Carrots Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Corn Dog Baked Beans, Vegetarian Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Cheesy Bosco Stick Marinara Sauce Roasted Broccoli Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice
14	15	16	17	18
HOM - DIS Crispy Chicken Tenders Dinner Roll Turkey and Cheese Sandwich French Fries Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Lets Grill... Grilled Hot Dog Turkey and Cheese Sandwich Baked Beans, Vegetarian Dill Pickle Salad Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Popcorn Chicken Bowl Dinner Roll Turkey and Cheese Sandwich Corn Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Beefy Nachos with Homemade Cheese Turkey and Cheese Sandwich Brown Rice, WG Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Cheese Pizza Turkey and Cheese Sandwich Mixed Vegetables Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice
21	22	23	24	25
Crispy Chicken Sandwich WG Bun Crispy Chicken Wrap Potato Wedges Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Shredded Chicken Sandwich Crispy Chicken Wrap Baked Beans, Vegetarian Chips Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Fluffy Pancake Syrup Sausage Patty Crispy Chicken Wrap Breakfast Potatoes Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Macaroni & Cheese Dinner Roll Crispy Chicken Wrap Roasted Carrots Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Pizza Slider Crispy Chicken Wrap Mixed Vegetables Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice
28	29	30	1	
All American Hamburger on WG Bun Turkey BLT Wrap Tater Tots Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Roasted Beef Hot Dog on a Bun Turkey BLT Wrap Turkey BLT Wrap Roasted Corn Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice	Smoked Pulled Pork Sandwich Turkey BLT Wrap Roasted Corn Cold Veggie Option Fruit Choice Milk Choice		
PRICES Student Meal FREE 2nd Student Meal \$3.35 Extra Milk \$1.70 Adult Reg \$3.35 Adult Dinner \$5.50 EXTRA INFO HARVEST OF THE MONTH APPLE TOMATO DILL YOUR MENUS plus more information on our app Taher Food4Life® FOOD 4 LIFE TAHER www.taher.com				

ALL ABOARD FOR

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Parents, be sure to review these important bus safety tips with young riders to keep kids safe this school year.

- Talk to your kids about bus safety and respect. Ridership is a privilege. It can be taken away due to bad behavior, so check with your school district about established guidelines.
- Dress appropriately for the weather.
- Be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus is set to arrive. Tardiness can lead to mistakes in safety measures.
- Kids should follow the five giant steps rule: Be five giant steps back from where the bus actually stops until it comes to a complete stop and the driver opens the door.
- Backpacks/bags need to be fully closed and sized appropriately for the child to prevent safety hazards such as dragging straps.
- Always stay seated on the bus. Teach your child to stay in the seat until the bus comes to a complete stop at your child's destination.
- Show appreciation to the bus driver. Remind your kids to say thank you when they get off. Kindness and good manners go a long way.
- Go over your child's bus routine. Describe the location and street where your child should get off. For younger kids, write down their names, bus number, bus stop and where you may be reached and put that information inside their backpack. Help your children memorize your cell telephone number; putting it to song can help.
- Don't hang out of the window. Keep body parts inside the bus!
- Bullying should never be tolerated. Talk to your child about bullying on the bus. Read your district's school bus behavior policy to understand to whom you should report such bullying. It may be the driver, teacher, principal or someone else.

ABC

TRITON

ABE

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

GED CLASSES

Tuesday and Thursday
3:30 - 5:30

ESL CLASSES

Tuesday and Thursday
6:00 - 8:00

We offer in person and online learning for GED test preparation and general English lessons.

Classes Start
Sept. 22 (ESL)
Sept. 29 (GED)

 More Information
507-418-7550
tbradford@triton.k12.mn.us

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

August 3 - 21

To assist students of all ages, we are gathering a variety of supplies, such as notebooks, pencils, dry erase markers, and more for our schools.



Drop off new items at any MBT Bank location


MBT Bank
Member FDIC

Legal Notices

**CITY OF CLAREMONT
CITY COUNCIL
MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Jared Sultze called the regular City Council Meeting of the City of Claremont to order on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jared Sultze and Council Members: Krystal Sultze, Deb Ellis, Ethan Johnson, and Donna Gregory. Others present: City Administrator Elizabeth Sorg, City Attorney Mark Rahrlick, Dean Gray, and Jamie Sultze.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with two additions: Resolution 26-15 and Snowplow. Motion to approve the agenda as modified was made by Ellis, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input

None

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of: the Minutes of the June 2, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting, Renewal of a CD, and Resolution No. 26-14: Resolution Expressing Acceptance of and Appreciation of a Donation. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Ellis, seconded by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports
Finance Committee**

Motion to approve the financial reports was made by Ellis, seconded by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Payment of Bills

Regarding the payment of bills, Johnson raised a concern about a water main repair project that significantly exceeded its original estimate. He explained that the city's engineering maps were incorrect, causing the contractor to spend approximately three days locating the waterline rather than the anticipated one day, resulting in a final cost of approximately \$22,654 against an estimated \$6,400. Johnson asked City Attorney Mark Rahrlick whether the city had any recourse against the city engineer responsible for the inaccurate maps. Attorney Rahrlick indicated that the matter was worth pursuing, noting that the incorrect maps were arguably negligent and did result in quantifiable damages. The council dis-

cussed how to proceed. Gregory and K. Sultze expressed a preference for bringing the matter before the full council rather than handling it through a single private conversation. Attorney Rahrlick suggested that Johnson first reach out to the engineer informally to gauge their awareness of the issue and invite the engineer to a future council meeting so all members could be present and informed. The council agreed with this approach, and Johnson agreed to make an initial call to the engineer. The item was noted for a future agenda. Motion to approve the payment of bills, including additions, was made by Ellis, seconded by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Parks Committee

No report.

Personnel Committee

No report.

Planning and Zoning Committee

No report.

Public Health & Safety Committee

Fire Department Applicant. Aiden Peterson applied to be on the Fire Department. K. Sultze reported that Peterson had been interviewed and approved through the department's process and a satisfactory background check was done. Motion to approve Aiden Peterson as a fire department member was made by K. Sultze, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Two First Responder Applicants. Kaitlin Sveen and Peter Hanson applied to be on the First Responder Department. K. Sultze reported that the two first responder applicants had been interviewed and approved through the department's process and a satisfactory background check was done. Gregory asked about residency requirements, it was clarified that first responders and fire department members must be within a 10-minute response time of the city, either by residing nearby or by working nearby. Motion to approve Kaitlin Sveen and Peter Hanson as first responder members was made by Ellis and seconded by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

EDA

No report.

City Engineer

No report.

City Administrator

The total bill for the city-

wide cleanup day was \$2,540.07.

The city received its first half levy payment. A spreadsheet with the breakdowns was distributed to council members.

Administrator Sorg attended the League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference and gave a report on some of the sessions she attended. Key sessions included guidance on responding to misinformation. The session speaker advised against acknowledging anonymous complaints and encouraging engagement through questions and empathy. She also summarized a session on managing disruptive meetings, noting that public comment is intended for the council to receive information and that speakers should address the council rather than staff or visitors. She distributed a summary of Robert's Rules of Order for council reference. Sorg indicated she would develop a formal set of public comment guidelines for council approval at a future meeting, drawing on League guidance and examples from other cities. She also highlighted a civility-focused message from the conference emphasizing that treating people with dignity is more effective than personal attacks, and that contempt for others undermines even a just cause. She noted that all three attending staff members signed a civility pledge at the conference. This formed the basis for the introduction of Resolution No. 26-15: Civility Pledge.

Dodge County Ambulance: A check for \$7,072 was included in the bills for the Dodge County Ambulance, representing half of the budgeted amount.

Budget Workshop: City Administrator Liz noted that the preliminary levy must be approved by September 30th and proposed scheduling a budget workshop. After discussion, the council agreed on a budget workshop for Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. It was clarified that no formal action would be taken at the workshop; it would serve as an open discussion.

Resolution No. 26-15: Civility Pledge. Sorg introduced a proposed resolution based on a League of Minnesota Cities model. The res-

olution commits the Claremont City Council to lead with civility, dignity, and respect, reduce polarization, and create an environment of shared goals, empathy, and genuine dialogue. Motion to approve Resolution No. 26-15: The Civility Pledge was made by K. Sultze, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

**City Attorney
Mark Rahrlick**

City Attorney Mark Rahrlick indicated his report would be addressed under later agenda items.

**Old Business
Policy on Renting
City Hall Chambers**

Sorg reported that the policy had been updated to include a prohibition on food preparation on the premises, as previously requested by the council. Motion to approve the Premises Use Policy as amended was made by Johnson, seconded by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Snowplow

Council has had many discussions regarding whether or not to buy a different snowplow. The current snowplow is too big to be able to plow around corners and property. Maintenance Supervisor Dahl found 1 snowplow, which is older than what the city currently has but is the right size for the town and has a stainless-steel box and spreader. A rough estimate of the value of the current plow is \$35,000 - \$60,000. The council would like to see more plow estimates and see if the current one can be sold. Council would like the current plow cleaned up and listed on marketplace for \$60,000. Motion by Johnson to list the current plow for \$60,000 or best offer, pending council approval, seconded by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business
Resolution No. 26-13:
Resolution Appointing
Election Judges and
Rate of Pay**

Sorg reported that the current pay rate for election judges was \$13 per hour for regular judges and \$14 per hour for the head judge, rates that had not been updated in approximately two election cycles. K. Sultze noted that townships were paying over \$20 per hour and suggested the rates be increased to re-

main competitive. The council agreed to increase the rates to \$14 per hour for regular judges and \$15 per hour for the head judge. Motion to approve Resolution No. 26-13 with the increased rate of pay of \$15 per hour for the head judge and \$14 per hour for regular election judges was made by K. Sultze, seconded by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Rental Property
Inspections**

Sorg presented information on implementing a rental property inspection program, noting that the city's current rental ordinance only involves a \$15 annual registration fee with no inspection process. She expressed concern about the living conditions in some rental properties in the community and suggested that inspections be conducted annually or biennially, with the inspection fees passed on to property owners. She identified Safe Build as the only company she had found to administer such a program. Under their model, inspection fees of \$95.00 per unit, with reinspection fees of \$75.00 and missed inspection fees of \$50.00. City Attorney Rahrlick provided context, noting that the city's existing ordinance already effectively addresses repeat nuisance calls by tying the rental registration to police response activity. He explained that the inspection component of the city's ordinance was removed in 2010 and that reintroducing it would require a new ordinance with defined inspection criteria. He referenced the City of Medford's process of developing a focused, manageable checklist that prioritized safety items — such as smoke detectors and safety equipment — over more minor cosmetic or structural concerns. The council agreed that basic safety requirements, including smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, were a clear priority. Discussion touched on the appropriate scope of inspections, whether to apply the program to single-family rentals versus multi-unit buildings, and the potential for mold and structural issues in some properties. There was general council support for moving forward. Sorg agreed to gather additional information, consult with other cities,

and bring a refined proposal to the Public Health & Safety Committee before returning to the full council.

**Domain Name:
Claremontmn.gov or
Claremont.gov?**

Sorg recommended adopting claremontmn.gov as the city's domain name, noting that there are other cities named Claremont in several states, which has historically caused confusion. The council agreed, and email migration was noted as a separate future matter. Motion to approve the domain name claremontmn.gov was made by Ellis, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Brush Dump

Sorg reported that the brush dump had been set on fire in late June, requiring the fire department's response. She noted that a donated trail camera had been installed at the site at an annual plan cost of \$12.99/month for unlimited images, and that the camera is monitored via the city maintenance phone. Staff are continuing to work on properly calibrating the camera's field of view. The council agreed to continue monitoring the situation with the camera in place and took no additional formal action at this time.

**Movable Security
Cameras**

Sorg reported ongoing vandalism concerns, including the removal of bricks from the exterior of City Hall, damage to memorial trees in the park, and vandalism to other city property. She proposed purchasing two movable, solar-powered security cameras that could be repositioned as needed to monitor vulnerable locations such as City Hall, the parks, and the walking path, where garbage dumping had also been reported. The council discussed camera types, including 360-degree models versus fixed directional cameras, and agreed that staff should evaluate options based on placement needs. Motion to authorize city staff to spend no more than \$600 on two movable security cameras was made by Ellis, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

(continued on page 46)

Legal Notices

CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(continued from page 45)

Time Capsule

Sorg reported that back in 1976, Claremont had a bicentennial celebration and unveiled new street signs and announced that a time capsule will be buried. It is a brass tube with pictures of the celebration, a program of the day's events, and possibly other items and it is buried at the corner of Front and Elm Street. "A metal plaque will mark the spot with directions not to monkey with it until 2076". Staff looked and can't see a plaque or anything unusual, but Sorg was informed in the late 1990's that it is next to the street pole. No formal action is needed.

MN State Demographer's Annual Population and Household Estimates

Sorg noted that the Minnesota State Demographer's annual estimates showed little change. As of 2025, the City of Claremont has an estimated population of 508 residents and 228 households.

Final Word

Dean Gray raised the topic of the snow plow search under Final Word. He recalled a previous discussion about front-end loaders used in other communities such as Medford, noting their superior maneuverability and visibility compared to a traditional plow truck. He suggested that city maintenance staff Casey Dahl also

research front-end loader options as part of the ongoing plow truck evaluation. It was noted that a front-end loader would require a separate salting solution, such as equipping the city's existing pickup truck with a salt spreader, estimated at approximately \$10,000. The council agreed to include front-end loaders in the research Dahl will be conducting for next month's agenda.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Ellis, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m. Elizabeth Sorg, Administrator
Jared Sultze, Mayor

2025 ANNUAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT			
Name of TIF Authority:	Claremont		
Name of Municipality:	Claremont		
The following information represents the annual disclosure of tax increment districts for the year ended December 31, 2025.			
The Hometown Messenger	8/13/2026		
(Name of the Newspaper)	(Date of Publication)		
	on		
	Name of TIF District		
	TIF 1-4 TIF 1-5		
Current net tax capacity	\$ 10,922	\$ 143,184	
Original net tax capacity	\$ 47	\$ 70,250	
Captured net tax capacity	\$ 10,875	\$ 72,934	
Principal and interest payments due in 2026	\$ 14,968	\$ 79,950	
Tax increment received in 2025	\$ 671	\$ 135,713	
Tax increment expended in 2025	\$ 15,246	\$ 79,778	
Month and year of first tax increment receipt (MM / YYYY)	6 / 2009	6 / 2018	
Date of required decertification (MM / DD / YYYY)	12/31/2034	12/31/2026	
Additional information regarding each district may be obtained from:			
Elizabeth Sorg			
Name of TIF Representative			
140 West Front Street, Claremont, MN 55924			
Address (Street, City, Zip)			
507-528-2137			
Phone			

City of Dodge Center	
Annual Disclosure of Tax Increment Districts for the Year Ended December 31, 2025	
TIF District Name: Greystone Housing Project	TIF District No. 1-13
Current net tax capacity	\$ 21,731
Original net tax capacity	\$ 990
Captured net tax capacity	\$ 20,741
Principal & interest payments due during current year	\$ 8,345
Tax increment received in 2025	\$ 25,209
Tax increment expended in 2025	\$ 19,614
Month and year of first tax increment receipt	6/2020
Date of required decertification	12/31/2046
TIF District Name: Swenke Ims Contracting LLC Project	TIF District No. 1-14
Current net tax capacity	\$ 8,320
Original net tax capacity	\$ 3,312
Captured net tax capacity	\$ 5,008
Principal & interest payments due during current year	\$ 40,571
Tax increment received in 2025	\$ 8,667
Tax increment expended in 2025	\$ 5,061
Month and year of first tax increment receipt	6/2021
Date of required decertification	12/31/2046
TIF District Name: McNeilus Steel 2019 Expansion Project	TIF District No. 1-15
Current net tax capacity	\$ 63,074
Original net tax capacity	\$ 17,882
Captured net tax capacity	\$ 45,192
Principal & interest payments due during current year	\$ 83,295
Tax increment received in 2025	\$ 54,927
Tax increment expended in 2025	\$ 43,518
Month and year of first tax increment receipt	6/2021
Date of required decertification	12/31/2029
TIF District Name: School Redevelopment Project	TIF District No. 1-16
Current net tax capacity	\$ 72,547
Original net tax capacity	\$ 2,703
Captured net tax capacity	\$ 69,844
Principal & interest payments due during current year	\$ 119,000
Tax increment received in 2025	\$ 84,890
Tax increment expended in 2025	\$ 24,538
Month and year of first tax increment receipt	5/2024
Date of required decertification	12/31/2049
Additional information regarding each district may be obtained from: Marianne Sobek, City Treasurer	
35 East Main Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927	
(507) 374-2575	
msobek@ci.dodgecenter.mn.us	

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1. Eye infection
2. College party chant
3. Russia's _____ Mountains
4. Western European city-state
5. Collectible in a cabinet
6. Skirt shape
7. Animal waste
8. Chocolate candy, to a Brit
9. Essence
10. Marketing creations
12. Gentle breeze
13. Raspberry drupelets
14. *Like drinking water
19. Customs and conventions
22. "Losing My Religion" band
23. *Leave no _____
24. Egyptian falcon god
25. Put out on a curb
26. Totes or tugs
27. Orient's bigwig
28. Preface, e.g.
29. Piquant
32. *_____ bag or _____ canister
33. Rage
36. *Waterproof cover (2 words)
38. Funny
40. Large edible mushroom
41. Of low pH
44. Serve food at events
46. Restaurant staff member
48. "The _____ of Wakefield"
49. On the radio (2 words)
50. *Annoying biting fly
51. Tiny quantity
52. Leafy green
53. Like Hitler's Germany
54. *Good Ol' Raisins and Peanuts
55. Venomous snake
58. Greek letters on campus

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	8	6			7	3		
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



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