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JUNE, 2023

Volume 4 • Issue 9

## Share a pic with Your Town

We are starting a contest of the best picture to encapsulate or represent your community and each issue we will be selecting the best submissions for publication in the Messenger and online. All you have to do is send us a picture that you take and you could be a winner. First prize each month will receive a \$25.00 gift card to a local restaurant. E-mail the picture to [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com).



(see ad on page 9)

## Hogfest 2023



Hogfest returns to Claremont on August 4th through 6th. Friday August 4th will kick off the event with beer sales and food vendors opening at 5pm. This year the food trucks include Bummy's BBQ, B J's Sweet Treats, Compadre's, Mrs. A's Snowy DayZ and Twisted Barrel Pizza. Chick-fil-A will be there on Saturday only and Mrs. Patty's Sweet Treats on Saturday and Sunday. Garage sales will be held through-out the city all weekend.

At 5pm Friday the outhouse races will be held and at 6pm garden tractor pull commences. The medallion hunt also begins at 6pm with the first clue. A street dance will start at 5pm with "Them Pesky Kids".

On Saturday there will be breakfast burritos from 8 to 11am. A bake sale is from 8am to 1pm. A craft sale will be held from 9am to

5pm. Antique tractor pulls start at 9am. There will be a Bloody Mary bar from 9am to noon and beer sales start at 10am. Coins in the sand will be held at 10am and a Rad Zoo is open from 10am to 1-m and a petting zoo is from 10am to 2pm. The silent auction starts at 10am and closes at 4pm. Face painting is available from 11am to 1pm and the food vendors open at 11am and stay open until 11pm.

A bean bag tournament starts at noon Saturday and for the kids there is Yammy Bear from 1:30 to 3:30pm and Rookie the Clown from 2 to 4pm. A free gaming trailer is open from 2 to 6pm. The mud bogs start at 3pm and sweet corn and pork feed will be held from 4 to 7pm. Silent auction winners will be announced at 6pm and a street dance with the Dangers starts at 7pm.

On Sunday August 6th there will be a pancake breakfast from 8am to noon. A car/bike/ antique tractor show will be held from 8am to noon as well. The craft sale and food vendors open at 9am and beer sales start at 10am. There will be a parade at 1pm with a fireman's water fight following. Most activities will end by 2pm Sunday.

### CITY OF CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023 7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Tasha Dahl, City Council Members Deb Ellis, Hunter McGovern, and Krystal Sultze. Members absent: Jacob Klejeski.

City staff and others present: Interim Administrator Jim Brimeyer, Clerk/Treasurer Elizabeth Sorg, Fire Chief Casey Dahl, and City Engineer Derek Olinger.

#### AGENDA

Motion by Sultze to approve the agenda with one addition of a quote for mowing, second by Ellis.

(continued on page 20)



Makenzie Alberts

## Dodge County Dairy Princess Among Finalists

This year celebrates the 70th Princess Kay of the Milky Way, the pageant for the dairy industry representatives. Each year young women with dairy farm backgrounds are chosen in each county to be spokespersons for the products. Dodge County has four dairy princesses this year, Gabi Espinoza, Alita Rinehart, Makenzie Alberts and Ellie Sauder. Some of them will take the opportunity to advance to the state competition.

A two-day leadership event held in early May in Minneapolis was an educational session where about sixty of the county princesses met for workshops to learn how to better promote the dairy farmers, industry and products in the state. At this meeting many were interviewed and ten finalists were selected to compete for the Princess Kay title later in August.

Makenzie Alberts was one of the ten finalists chosen for the honor. Makenzie is the daughter of Eric and Angie Alberts of Pine Island and a seventh-generation dairy farmer. The family milks about five hundred Holsteins at the Pine Shelter Farms.

Makenzie is a sophomore at South Dakota State University where she is pursuing a dual major in agricultural communication and leadership and a minor in dairy industry.

(continued on page 7)

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## Walking a Mile in Our Neighbor's Shoes

By Peter Moen,  
pastor at Concord Church of Christ

Walk a mile in your neighbor's shoes  
You'll understand them better if you do  
See the world through your neighbor's eyes  
So many things you'll realize  
Live a day in the neighborhood  
You will understand them better if you could

The above lyrics are from a choral piece written by Pepper Choplin and is appropriately named "Walk a Mile" (a great song to look up on YouTube!). I remember singing it in choir and the message of the song was easy enough: You need to put yourself in someone else's position before you can truly understand where they are coming from.

At first glance this cheery song seemingly carries a superficial message, but when we think about it a little more it is quite profound! It is especially profound in our present mo-

ment where social media actually keeps us farther away from each other. It is just that much more difficult to walk a mile in our neighbor's shoes when we separate ourselves by phones, tablets, and computer screens.

To see the world through our neighbor's eyes, to put ourselves in their position, is to start to understand how we ought to treat them. When we start to think in these terms, we start to understand what Jesus meant when he said in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:12, saying, "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

We quickly recognize this statement as the Golden Rule. At the core of the Golden Rule is the practice of empathy. By putting ourselves in someone else's shoes, we gain a deeper understanding of their experiences,

emotions, and needs. When we treat others as we would like to be treated, we acknowledge their inherent worth and dignity, creating a sense of connection and mutual respect. This empathetic approach allows us to break down barriers and bridge divides, fostering positive interactions and nurturing healthy relationships.

And for Jesus, there is no equivocation on this matter. Notice the word "whatever" at the beginning of the Golden Rule. In other English versions of the Bible, it says "So in everything..." or "In all things..." Whatever means there are no ifs, ands, or buts when it comes to following this rule. There is no equivocation about how another person treats us or in what situation it is okay to treat a person differently than how we want to be treated.

It also means we still must abide the Golden Rule when others treat us poorly. We cannot wait for the other person to speak first, for the other person to forgive first, for the other person to respect us first, for the other person to love us first. Instead, we must be proactive in our forgiveness, in our respect, in our promises, in our love for the other.

In every situation the Golden Rule challenges us to think about how WE would want to be treated, then we will know how to treat the other person. May we carry this very simple but very difficult Golden Rule into every relationship. May we, in our carrying out this Golden Rule, exemplify the love of Christ who first loved us. And may we, in our carrying out this Golden Rule, live peaceably in the Kingdom of God.

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## Area Church Directory

### The Almighty, Gentle God

*He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. — Isaiah 40:11*

Isaiah 40 speaks of the power and might of God with amazing clarity. Estimates hold that the observable universe is 45 billion light years across, and yet, according to Isaiah, that is only like the breadth of God's hand. Ultimately, though, comparing the infinite God to the finiteness of this universe—as expansive as it is—would be futile.

Even so, when we consider that the almighty God scoops up his people in his arms and carries them like lambs, close to his heart, we are moved to marvel at his gentle love. Knowing that God has written our names on the palms of his hands (Isaiah 49:16) and that he sings over us (Zephaniah 3:17) as he carries us along is comforting beyond words.

Today some of us need to experience the comfort of our gentle God. Reading of his gentle loving care is a good start. However, God's gentleness is experienced in an incarnational way (in the flesh) when we treat others with the gentleness that God has shown us.

In what ways can you show gentleness to everyone around you today?

*Father, you are infinite and almighty. We are small and weak. You pick us up in your arms, and you love us and bless us. May we find shelter in your love today, and may we be shelter for people who are hurting. In Jesus, Amen.*



#### 1st Presbyterian Church

200 East Street, Claremont  
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Pastor Doug Walters  
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#### St. John Lutheran Church

4532 SE 84th Avenue, Claremont  
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**TOWNSHIP SQUARE FEATURES:**  
**Minnesota State Amateur Talent Contest**  
 Thursday, July 13 at 7 PM  
 Registration starts at 6 PM  
**Hotdish/Pie Competitions**  
 held back to back Sunday, July 16 at 11:30 AM  
 More information for both events on our website.

For complete schedules, entry forms, advance carnival tickets and sponsorships, visit us at:  
**www.dodgecountyfreefair.com**

## Roger Leo Papenfus

Roger Leo Papenfus passed away of natural causes at his home in Rochester on Friday, May 12, 2023. Roger Leo Papenfus, known to everyone as Rocky, was born February 28, 1952, to Charles and Marge (Aulwes) Papenfus in Austin, Minnesota.



Rocky graduated from Dodge Center High School with the Class of 1970. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and spent time in California and overseas in Okinawa during the Vietnam war. Rocky was very proud of his military service and was honorably discharged. He returned to Minnesota, was married and had a son Nicholas. Later he married Pam (Simcox) Bakken and had a daughter Nicole.

Rocky loved spending time with family and also using his talents working with his hands to create art from leather hides and deer antlers. He loved to go metal detecting whenever he had the chance and almost always had a motorcycle, or 'chopper' and loved riding. Other "entrepreneurial ventures" included Rocky's Custom Knives, and Rocky's Roofing along with his plans to invent and patent the 100-year shingle. Rocky was a long-time friend of Bill W. and enjoyed the fellowship and support amongst his many friends and acquaintances in and around Rochester.

Rocky was preceded in death by his father, Charles Papenfus, his mother Marge Matthiesen, stepdad David Matthiesen, brother Ronnie and several aunts and uncles including special uncle Bill. The loss of his son Nicholas in 1999 forever left a piece of Rocky's heart missing and they are now reunited as father and son, raising hell in Heaven.

Rocky is survived by his daughter, Nicole (Nick) Schamp; grandsons, Noah and Nolan of Claremont and granddaughter, Mia Cain of West Concord. Surviving siblings are brother, Ric (Deb) Papenfus of Dodge Center, and sisters, Laurie Reynolds of Eagan,

Linda (Keith) Cooper of Laporte, Judy (Ken) Sein of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio and Jenny (Dean) Blowers of Dodge Center. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

There will be a graveside service with military honors, Preston Veterans Cemetery, Friday, June 30th at 3pm. The family will host a celebration of Rocky's life Saturday, July 1st starting at 2pm at Sakers Event Center, Kasson MN.

If you desire to honor Rocky with a monetary gift, please direct donations to Paws and Claws Humane Society, Rochester. <https://www.pawsandclaws.org/wpweb/donate/>

To share a special memory or condolence, please visit [www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com](http://www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com), Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th Street SE, Kasson, MN 55944 (507)634-6510. Blessed be his memory.

## Donald Willis Daniels, Jr.

Don left this world peacefully at his daughter's home on June 11, 2023, after a tough battle with cancer. Don was born on November 28, 1947, to Helen (Summer) and Donald Daniels, Sr.

Don graduated from Boys Town Nebraska in 1965. He worked in construction. Don enjoyed hunting, fishing and having fun. His favorite hobby was Indian artifact collecting. He had an eye for spotting them in a field. Don loved the idea of "how they probably have not been touched by another human hand for 1000 years."

Don is survived by his daughter, Michelle (Todd) and grandchildren Cassie and Matthew Juberien. His son, Chad Zak. Brother David (Patty). Niece, Missy, and nephews, David, Ryan and Justin. Brother in law, Doug Chesney. Numerous friends. Don was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Margaret and Marsha. A celebration of life will be planned for late August.



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## Ellingson Crew Recognized for Exemplifying Core Values in Life-Saving Act of Good Samaritanism

West Concord, MN - Ellingson, a leading company in underground construction, proudly acknowledges and honors a remarkable crew that recently displayed exceptional bravery and adherence to the company's core values. On the morning of May 5th, in the Minnesota metro-area, a group of Ellingson employees demonstrated integrity and grit when they acted as Good Samaritans during a life-threatening incident.

While commuting from their motel, the crew witnessed a vehicle approaching the roadway at high speeds, exhibiting erratic behavior. As the vehicle entered the roadway, it became evident that the driver may have been experiencing a medical emergency. The situation quickly escalated, with the vehicle careening into the sound barrier and becoming lodged.

Without hesitation, the Ellingson crew pulled over safely and immediately sprang

into action to assist the driver until emergency medical services arrived at the scene. Under the leadership of Nick Diffendorfer, the crew assessed the situation and observed smoke inside the vehicle's cabin. Reacting swiftly, a crew member retrieved a fire extinguisher while others entered the vehicle by breaking a window. Inside, they made contact with the unresponsive but breathing individual and diligently monitored their condition until the arrival of EMS.

"I felt like I needed to stop and help," said Diffendorfer. "We did what anyone would do."

This remarkable act of courage and selflessness demonstrated the embodiment of two Ellingson Core Values:

**Integrity:** The crew exemplified the essence of doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. Their unwavering commitment to assisting a stranger in need, regardless of the potential risks involved, speaks volumes about their character and their dedication to upholding the highest ethical standards.

**Grit:** In the face of a potentially dangerous situation, the crew members consciously considered the risks to themselves and the driver of the vehicle. Despite the potential hazards, they displayed remarkable grit by choosing to take immediate action, ultimately ensuring the safety and well-being of the individual in-



Pictured left to right: Blake Lawrence, Environmental Health & Safety Manager; Michael Suhr, Laborer; Nick Diffendorfer, Foreman; Jason Gillard, Vice President of Operations

involved.

"Responding to a collision incident or being first on scene presents many risks and challenges for everyone involved," says Blake Lawrence, Environmental Health & Safety Manager. "The crew handled the situation flawlessly and prepared for additional risk as they processed the scene, while maintaining a sense of urgency. While we do not know the injured 3rd parties' condition or results of the incident, I strongly feel they aided a stranger and gave them the best chance for survival. I

truly appreciate their courageous act and I am glad to have them on the team."

Ellingson extends its sincerest appreciation and recognition to the crew for their heroic actions and their embodiment of the company's core values. Such exemplary behavior serves as an inspiration to the entire Ellingson team and reaffirms the company's commitment to fostering a culture of integrity, safety, and family values.

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## From Hot Rods to Real Estate

By Cheri Roshon

It always amazes me how life works out when you get out of your own way, and trust that things are working out the way they should.

Tim Gangl is a classic example of letting life work out as it should. He has always had an interest in land sales. Earlier in life while between carriers, he took courses in property appraisal to get a feel for real estate, but life had other plans.

Tim had an interest in cars from a very young age but started out as a heavy truck mechanic, then he drove semi-truck, then managed and ultimately owned a small trucking company. After he sold his trucking business, with the support of his wife Patti, Tim began selling hot rod parts at car shows to people who were building hot rods.

He became a distributor for several manufacturers of these parts and attended shows around the Midwest where car enthusiasts would look for and buy custom parts for their classic cars. After attending about 20 shows a year, Tim and Patti eventually built a building in West Concord, and this is where Hot Rod Hardware is located today.

In the mid-2000's Tim began building hot

rods for other people, but with a limited number of technicians available to do that type of work, he decided to stick to the parts business and move to the auto collision business in his shop. Around that time while visiting with a friend who also happened to be a hot rod parts customer, his friend asked if he wanted to "Day Cab" (cut off the sleeper) some semi-trucks he had. Tim and his technicians got trained and started day cabbing trucks for customers all across the country as they still do today. West Concord Collision is located in the same building as Hot Rod Hardware in West Concord.

As his two sons got older, they began working with Tim, learning the business from the ground up. Jonathon manages parts and sales at Hot Rod Hardware, and Joel is lead man at West Concord Collision. Together as a team, they still attend 2 car shows a year but most of their parts sales are from their website at hotrodhardware.com. Tim is still the first one at the shop every morning, but as the boys have become more adept at running the shop, Tim thought maybe he should give his boys some room to grow in the business and it was time to pursue his long-time desire to become a land REALTOR®.

After getting further educated and licensed in real estate, Tim met with Kirk Swenson, owner and President of 1 Stop Realty, and Wendy Forthun the company's Vice President. 1 Stop Realty specializes in farmland listings, buildable acreages, farm building sites, and recreational land as well as farmland management. 1 Stop Realty celebrates it's 50th year this year, managing farmland and completing farmland transactions. Kirk's



father Warren Swenson had started 1 Stop Realty in 1973, and Wendy Forthun ALC (Accredited Land Consultant), has been with the company 20 years. After meeting with Tim, they felt he was a good fit to add as a land agent, so Tim joined the team in early 2020.

I asked Tim what it was about land sales that intrigued him. He and Patti own an 80-acre farm just north of Mantorville, they have been renting out their farmland to a local farmer. Owning that farmland heightened his interest in farmland and land real estate.

As a farmland manager, Tim develops agreements between farmland owners and farmers and then goes on to manage the farmland, ensuring that it is properly cared for, and the landowner receives current market

rents. He determines a fair price by considering soil quality, drain tile, topography, tillable acres, location, and demand. Tim then tracks chemicals and fertilizers the farmer uses, as well as crop yields and makes sure the soils are tested at regular intervals. This is to be certain that the nutrients in the soils on the farm are not used up over time and the landowner's farm maintains its value.

But that's not all he does! He handles many sales transactions of land all over southeast Minnesota for landowners, farmers, and investors. It might be a rural site ready for a new owner to build their country home, a 250-acre farm ready to be sold to someone in the next generation, or a site ready for commercial development outside of a small town.

(continued on page 6)

**155 Acres Farmland - Rock Dell Twp - Olmsted Co**



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8.6± acre parcel with recreational acres with a stream and possible bldg site. Seller will pay for and assist buyer with obtaining the building and septic permits.


**14± Acre Bldg Site - Canisteo Twp - Dodge Co**



14± acre bldg site, south of Kasson on blacktop road. Plenty of room to add a storage shed or fenced in area for horses or small hobby animals. Additional acres available up to the corner.



**Kirk Swenson**  
Broker, REALTOR®  
507.254.5468



**Tim Gangl**  
REALTOR®  
507.254.1976



**Wendy Forthun, ALC**  
Broker, REALTOR®  
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**103.9 Acre Farmland - Canisteo Twp - Dodge Co**



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**73± Acre Farmland - Canisteo Twp - Dodge Co**



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**123.28 Acre Farmland - Vernon Twp - Dodge Co**



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## New Program Helps Farmers Diversify Crop Rotations, Protect Soil and Water

*Growers will be eligible for conservation payments and dedicated technical assistance*

Eligible Minnesota growers can now receive financial and technical assistance when they add one of the following crops to their rotations: Kernza® perennial grain, winter camelina, winter barley or hybrid winter rye. All of these crops grow over the winter, pro-

viding the soil health and water quality benefits of cover crops while also producing grain and/or forage that can be harvested and sold.

Growers who take part in the Forever Green EECO Implementation Program are eligible for conservation (or “ecosystem service”) payments ranging from \$20-50 per acre, as well as a risk management payment that will cover up to half the cost of production in the event of crop or market failure. In addition, enrolled growers are eligible for technical assistance from a dedicated field agronomist and knowledgeable community partners.

The Forever Green EECO Implementation Program recently expanded to include these four crops, after initially focusing on Kernza. To date, 16 growers have enrolled 683 acres of cropland in the pilot program. The EECO program is a partnership between the University of Minnesota Forever Green Initiative

and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, with funding from the State of Minnesota’s Clean Water Fund.

Protecting water quality is a major goal of this program. Growers who are located in Drinking Water Supply Management Areas are eligible for a 25% premium on their ecosystem service payment.

The program is focused on four regions of the state, which have been dubbed Economic and Environmental Clusters of Opportunity, or EECOs. The counties included in these regions are listed below. In addition, all Tribal Nations in the state are included.

For online: Learn more and enroll in the Forever Green EECO Implementation Program here.

For print: Learn more and enroll at: [z.umn.edu/EnrollEECO](http://z.umn.edu/EnrollEECO)

### Eligible locations

*The pilot program targets four areas of Minnesota, plus all Tribal Nations, for expanded production of these “continuous living cover” crops.*

*Southeast EECO: Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona, Houston, Fillmore, Olmsted, Mower, Freeborn, Waseca, Steele, Dodge, Rice, Le Sueur, or Nicollet Counties*

**E-mail your engagement, marriage or birth announcement to the Claremont Messenger!**

E-mail: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## From Hot Rods to Real Estate

(continued from page 5)

1 Stop Realty uses many methods to sell land from a traditional listing to auctions or sealed bids. They use their years of expertise to recommend the right method to the landowner and work together with them to come up with the way that best fits their needs.

Tim chose 1 Stop Realty because they are a trustworthy firm with the most land experience in the area. They have been in business for 50 years this year and have sold more farmland in Dodge County than any other brokerage firm through both listings and auc-

tions!

Congratulations to them for their endeavors!

Are you looking for a farmland manager? Are you ready to sell some land you own? Do you want someone to represent and work for you in a land purchase? Do you need a Broker’s Price Opinion (BPO) to find out what your land is worth? Tim is your man! Give him a call at (507) 254-1976, or email him at [tim@farmlandsales.com](mailto:tim@farmlandsales.com). Let him help you to make the next step in your journey. You’ll be glad you did!

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## TRITON CLASS OF 2023



**ISAAC GONZALES**

### SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Isaac Gonzales is a senior at Triton High School. His parents are Juan and Rachel Gonzales. He has one brother and one sister. He was active in Triton football, and likes to work outside of school. His pastimes are lifting, kayaking and hanging out with family. His favorite movie is Rocky 4 and he enjoys 2010’s Hip Hop. After graduation Isaac plans to join an apprenticeship program for plumbing.



SPONSORED BY



## TRITON CLASS OF 2023



**CASSANDRA McMURDO**

### SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Cassandra McMurdo is a senior at Triton this year. Her parents are Douglas & Michelle McMurdo and Curtis & Kirsti Lyphout. She has five brothers, Ethan, Jacob, Ian, Eli and Gabe and three sisters, Alashia, Hazel and Addy. Her hobbies are photography, art and singing and she works as a CNA outside of school. After graduation Cassandra plans to attend Winona State University and major in business management and administration with a minor in medicine.



SPONSORED BY



## Don't miss out on these exciting FFA events this summer!

### FFA Day with the Twins July 23, 2023

Order your tickets now for FFA Day with the Twins on Sunday, July 23, when the Minnesota Twins take on the Chicago White Socks.

Game time: 1:10 p.m.

Pre-Game Parade: 12:20 PM (time subject to change)

Game day highlights:

First 500 to purchase tickets through FFA offer to receive FFA sunglasses

FFA members will be able to partake in a parade around the warning track about an hour before the game starts

FFA member to sing God Bless America

Ticket options:

\$20.00 for Home Run Porch Tickets

\$27.00 for Home Plate View Tickets

Additional savings are available for groups of 20+ tickets.

For ticket questions:

**WE'RE ONLINE:**  
[www.claremontmn.net](http://www.claremontmn.net)

Peter Farley, Group Ticket Sales & Service Executive

Target Field - 1 Twins Way, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Phone: 612-659-3583

Email: peterfarley@twinsbaseball.com

### 20th Annual MN FFA Foundation Golf Tournament July 27, 2023

Join us as we "Swing for a Great Cause" at this year's golf tournament

We would love for you to join us with a team at the tournament - the cost is \$500. Not only do you participate in 18 holes of golf, the registration fee also includes: lunch, games on the holes, drinks, prizes and fun. You'll have an opportunity to visit with FFA and PAS members!

Date: Thursday, July 27th

Location: Island Pine Golf Course, Atwater, MN

Time: Scheduled Tee Times beginning at 8:00am, and running until early afternoon

You will be able to choose a lunch option in your registration: either a free boxed lunch served at the course, or \$3 discount per golfer at the Handle Bar Restaurant in Atwater. You will need to indicate your option during registration.

We are also in search of door prizes for the day of the tournament. If you are interested in donating door prizes, please send an email to Amanda Sommers.

Ways to Register:

- 1) Online Registration
- 2) Mail in the Registration Form to the fol-

lowing: MN FFA Foundation, PO Box 365, Plainview, MN 55964

Methods of Payment:

1) Mail a check payable to MN FFA Foundation to: MN FFA Foundation, PO Box 365, Plainview, MN 55964

2) Pay by credit card on our website. Click on yellow "Donate" button

3) Send your payment through Venmo @mnffaoundation

4) Pay by credit card on our golf tournament event page.

### Do you have your Ag Plate?

Purchase your plate at DMV offices or by mailed in application.



Cost for the plate is \$15.50, plus a minimum \$20 contribution, which is due with plate purchase and each year afterward at vehicle registration renewal.

Funds raised to support agricultural programs through the FFA and 4-H.

## Dodge County Dairy Princess Among Finalists

(continued from page 1)

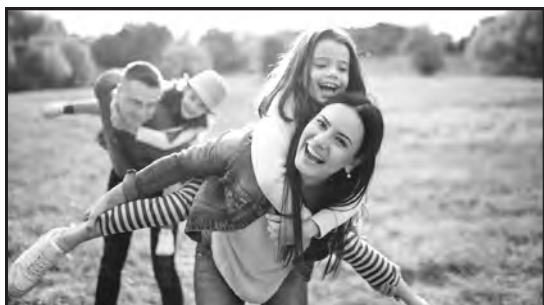
She is a 2022 Pine Island graduate and this is her first year as a dairy princess. She has been active in 4-H and FFA and just finished her position as Minnesota state FFA secretary.

Makenzie started showing calves as a novice in 4-H and grew to love showing cattle at the fair. In high school she joined FFA and continued to be involved in agricultural activities. She fed calves on the family farm, helped with herd management, takes turns at one of the three times a day 7-hour milking shifts and drives tractor hauling forage in from the fields during harvest. Her mother was on the Dodge County Dairy board and she remembers wanting to be a dairy princess since she was a young girl.

This summer she will be working on the family farm and taking part in representing the dairy industry at events like Breakfast on the Farm and the Dodge County Fair. The week before the Minnesota State Fair will be the most exciting time when one of the ten finalists will vie to be chosen as the 2023 Princess Kay of the Milky Way.

Her favorite memories were growing up on the close-knit family farm with her cousins and doing fun things like sliding down the bunker plastic as kids. Now she helps to fill the bunker and throw tires on the plastic.

After college she plans to follow a career in a company involved in the dairy industry and help educate the public about how dairy products get to the table.



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## Five Ways to Increase Diversity on Your Land



By Kourtney Hammerschmidt

With spring here, I have been thinking about all the birds, bees, and other wildlife and insects that all seem to reappear once again. They all work together to help improve and create the ecosystems that we are all a part of.

With that in mind, I have been coming up with things that I can do to help increase the amount of diversity around my house. I want all of these beneficial insects, pollinators, and other wildlife to stick around and have plenty of good food for them to last through the year.

What are some ways that we can increase the diversity around us? Here are a few things that I have thought of:

1. Plant a diverse mix of pollinator-loving plants in and around your yard to attract pollinators and add diversity to your landscape. Make sure you add some species that bloom throughout the year. Early blooming plants and late blooming plants are especially important as a food source for pollinator-loving insects, as they are migrating to and from our area during those times.

2. Add native grasses to your pollinator garden. While grasses are not as showy as other wildflowers, they are extremely important for a variety of butterfly and bee species. The larvae of some butterflies and moths will eat the leaves of many grass species, while some native bees depend on these grasses for their nesting sites.

3. Plant a tree or shrub on your property. Trees and shrubs provide important food and shelter for wildlife and pollinators throughout the seasons. It can also help ensure that all the tree and shrub species can succeed. If there are a limited amount of tree and shrub species in an area, some diseases can become prevalent and threaten the livelihood of those populations.

4. Plant pollinator strips in your farm fields. If you own agricultural land, consider planting pollinator strips in or around your fields. Not only does it provide amazing habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects, but can also improve local water quality.

5. Implement cover crops into your crop rotation. There are many benefits to utilizing cover crops. These benefits can include decreased erosion issues, reduced nutrient runoff, improve water quality and increase organic matter content. Planting cover crops



A pollinator plot

can also result in an increase of beneficial insects in your fields. When diverse mixes are used, it can increase the number of these beneficial insects, which might be natural predators to some pests in your fields.

Why should we want to increase the diversity of our landscapes? It can help bring a wide variety of insects and wildlife back into that area. With an increase in the number of

species, the risk of diseases can also decrease. They will help increase resiliency, build corridors for a wide variety of insects and animals, and it will help support all the species that will utilize the vegetation. All of the plant species, insects, and wildlife can come together to help create a sustainable, healthy environment.

SAVE THE DATE!  SAVE THE DATE!

# DENNISON DAYS

## August 4 & 5, 2023



LIVE MUSIC  
FRIDAY NIGHT  
**Dariann Leigh**  
[www.dariannleigh.com](http://www.dariannleigh.com)



LIVE MUSIC  
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[www.wrecklessband.com](http://www.wrecklessband.com)

**Bags Tournament • BBQ Cook Off • 5K Run  
Waffle Breakfast • Car Show • Tractor Pull  
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 **Watch for Full schedule at  
[dennisondays.org](http://dennisondays.org)**



## Wednesday, August 2

Dennison, MN

[www.cmcircus.com](http://www.cmcircus.com)

For Tickets Call  
The Fireside Lounge  
& Supper Club  
507-645-9992










## Funding Pool Doubles for Second Round of MDA Down Payment Assistance Grants

*Grant offers up to \$15,000 for qualified farmers to purchase their first farm*

Emerging farmers looking to purchase their first farm will soon have another opportunity to apply for grant funding to support their efforts. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Rural Finance Authority (RFA) has announced that a second round of funding for the Down Payment Assistance Grant Program will open for applications on July 1, 2023.

The Minnesota Down Payment Assistance

Grant offers up to \$15,000 for qualified farmers to purchase farmland. To qualify, farmers must earn less than \$250,000 per year in gross agricultural sales, and each award must be matched with at least \$8,000 of other funding. Applications will remain valid for purchases closing within six months after award approval or until June 30, 2024, whichever is sooner.

The grant opened for its first round of funding this past January, almost instantly accumulating enough applications to meet the waitlist cap. Several changes have been adopted for the second round to ensure more equitable access, including:

A doubling in grant funding as approved by the state Legislature, from \$500,000 to \$1 million. The RFA expects to award approximately 66 grants in this funding cycle, dependent on the size of grant requests.

A guaranteed 30-day application window. Whereas the first round stopped accepting applications once a waitlist of 100 applications was formed, the second round will allow farmers to apply anytime from 9 a.m. on July 1, 2023, through 11:59 p.m. on July 31, 2023. All applications received within this window will be eligible for consideration.

After the application window closes, all eligible applications will be placed in a randomized lottery to determine the order in which grants are awarded. The lottery drawing will be held in early August, and the RFA will announce award winners in early to mid-August.

Preference for this round of awards will be given to emerging farmers. A full definition of who qualifies as an emerging farmer can be found in the grant's request for proposals (RFP).

If funding remains after the RFA has awarded grants to all eligible emerging farmer applicants, the RFA will award as many grants as funding allows for to appli-

cants who are not emerging farmers, based on the order of their lottery placement.

The MDA will host an informational session over Zoom on June 14 to review the grant program, explain changes for the second round of funding, and hear questions and comments from the public. Information for joining this session can be found on the program webpage.

Another round of grant funding of \$1 million will be available starting July 2024.

To view the full eligibility requirements and access the RFP, visit the program webpage. Questions may be directed to Jenny Heck at Jenny.Heck@state.mn.us or 651-201-6316.



## Best Shot PHOTO CONTEST

*Share Your Picture and Win!*

We are starting a contest of the best picture to encapsulate or represent your community and each issue will be selecting the best submissions for publication in the Messenger and online.

All you have to do is send us a picture that you take and you could be a winner!

**E-mail the picture and photo description to: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)**

Claremont Messenger

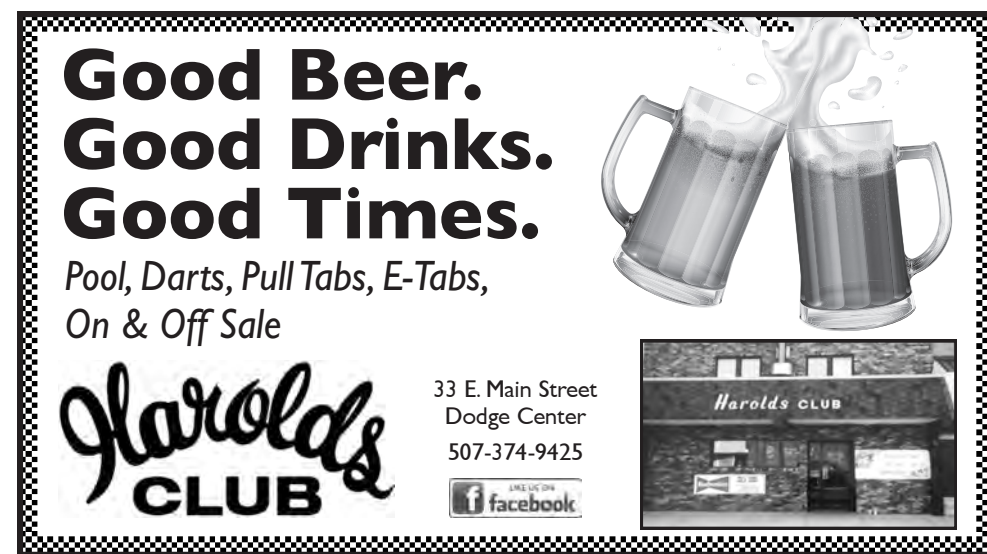
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**We Recognize the Hardworking Dairy Farmers this Month**

Our local dairy farmers work hard every day to nourish our nation with delicious and nutritious dairy products. Over the years, their ongoing dedication and commitment to quality has helped us grow up healthy and strong. But the dairy industry is more than just an important part of our lives and our children’s lives, it’s an integral part of our local economy too.



**2023 Dodge County Dairy Princesses**  
 Left to right: Gabi Espinoza, Alita Rinehart, Makenzie Alberts, Ellie Sauder, and outgoing princess Amanda Sauder

  
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[www.mbtbank.bank](http://www.mbtbank.bank)

Austin | Blooming Prairie | Dodge Center | Hayfield | Mantorville | Rochester





## TES Library News

By Tara Bradford

Our library was able to participate in an “Empathy Book Club.” New York Life Foundation provided funding of \$400 to purchase books from First Book. Titles that we chose to purchase had to be about relationships and caring.

The book club (with EMPATICO as a partner) was designed to help students develop empathy, respect and understanding through reading and connecting to other students. Mrs. Olevson’s class connected with a 2nd grade class in Villa Rica, GA. We were able to meet once over ZOOM and send them a package with letters, questions and COBRA stickers. It was a great experience and we were able to get free books!



## Junior Golf Camp

Zack Otto, Dodge Country Club

Join Zack at the DCC and hit the links! Whether you are new to the sport or looking to improve your golf game, Zack will help you reach your goals. You do not need a golf membership to join this camp. Please bring your own clubs.

\$80 for all 24 days

3-days per week: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

Starting July 11 and ending August 31 (total of 24 days)

8-10AM ages 10 and under

10AM-Noon ages 11 and up

Dodge Country Club

## TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

### Youth Enrichment League

#### Summer Dance Camp

#### Junior Dance Camp

#### Grades entering K-5 Fall 2023

Glissade, pirouette and chasse’ your way across the floor as you learn fundamental dance repertoire while preparing for the end of session recital. Each {YEL!}

Junior Dance class follows four basic components:

- Teach It!... Each class students are taught dance fundamentals.
- Practice It!... Students practice those fundamentals as a group and individually.
- Move It!...They implement what they’ve learned into across-the-floor and bar routines.
- Dance It!...Finally, students put it all together in a choreographed routine in preparation for the recital.

Sign up today to THINK, LEARN and PLAY WELL with {YEL!}.

For more details about {YEL!} Dance classes, visit YouthEnrichmentLeague.com.

PARENTS: Ballet or jazz dance shoes are recommended, but not required. Please dress your child for movement.

RECITAL: Will take place the last 30 minutes of the last class. Ask your dance instructor for details.

Min 8/Max 16 participants

Cost: \$78

July 17, 18, 19, 20

10-11:30AM each day

Triton’s small cafeteria



## 2023 Cobra Youth Football Camp



Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for shirt: 7/3/23

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

(Grade in 2023/2024 School Year)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Camp runs from July 31st - August 3rd

6:00pm-7:30pm – Wally Hitt Varsity Football Field

All boys and girls in grades K-6 are welcome

The Triton coaches and athletes conduct the camp

Fee is \$40 – Checks can be made payable to Triton Schools

If you have questions: contact Brandon Neseth (Head Football Coach at Triton) at 507-272-1115 or Corey Black (Activities Director at Triton) in the high school office at 507-418-7520.

I give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the Triton youth football camp and agree to release any and all persons supervising and assisting in the camp from any liability for injuries that my child may sustain while participating in the program. I understand that I assume all financial responsibility for any medical expenses that may be required to treat injuries sustained while participating in this camp. In the event I am unable to be contacted, I hereby give permission to provide emergency first aid and/or medical care for my child.

Parent Signature/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2023 Cobra Youth Passing League



Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for shirt: 7/26/23

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

(Grade in 2023/2024 School Year)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

### League will be on Wednesday nights

(August 23rd, August 30th, September 6th, September 13th, September 20th, September 27th)

6:00pm-7:30pm – Wally Hitt Varsity Football Field

(6:00-6:45 – skill development, 6:45-7:30 – flag football games)

All boys and girls in grades K-6 are welcome

The Triton coaches and athletes conduct the league

Fee is \$50 – Checks can be made payable to Triton Schools

If you have questions: contact Brandon Neseth (Head Football Coach at Triton) at 507-272-1115 or Corey Black (Activities Director at Triton) in the high school office at 507-418-7520.


I give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the Triton youth football camp and agree to release any and all persons supervising and assisting in the camp from any liability for injuries that my child may sustain while participating in the program. I understand that I assume all financial responsibility for any medical expenses that may be required to treat injuries sustained while participating in this camp. In the event I am unable to be contacted, I hereby give permission to provide emergency first aid and/or medical care for my child.

Parent Signature/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_


Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550


**Science and Magic!**  
 Nancy Thornton  
**Grades entering 2-5 Fall of 2023**  
 Use the magic of science to amaze your family and friends. Use science principles and have fun learning a variety of magic tricks that you can easily perform for your own magic show!  
 Cost: \$8  
 July 17  
 10-11:30 AM  
 TES Art Room



**Sunshine and Roses**  
**Canvas Painting Classes—June Classes!**  
**Festive Fireworks**  
**Ages Entering K-5 Fall of 2023**  
 Join the Sunshine and Roses instructor and get into the patriotic spirit. You will paint your own fireworks scene on canvas. Adults are welcome to attend with the child and observe or paint their own. Adults must pay the per student price if also painting.  
 Cost: \$26 per painting  
 June 28  
 2-3PM in the TES Art Room




**4th of July Treat**  
**Ages Entering K-5 Fall of 2023**  
 Join the Sunshine and Roses instructor and paint a yummy summertime treat! You will paint your own patriotic ice cream cone scene on canvas. Adults are welcome to attend with the child and observe or paint their own. Adults must pay the per student price if also painting.  
 Cost: \$26 per painting  
 June 28  
 3-4 PM in the TES Art Room




**\*\*\* SPECIAL, paint both canvases for \$48\*\*\***

**Youth Enrichment League**  
**{YEL!} Track and Field Decathlon**  
**For grades 1-4**  
 Fast paced and inclusive (everyone participates). YEL's Teach It, Practice It, Play It® approach teaches players new skills. Each class practices those skills and then uses them in safe track and field events (javelin, discus, shot put, long jump, relay race and more). SAFETY is our first rule. We use foam padded javelins and safety hurdles, as well as lightweight safety shot put and discus materials. Get set...GO! Sign up today!  
 Min 8/ Max 16  
 Cost: \$78  
 July 10, 11, 12, 13  
 1-2:30PM  
 Triton's High School Track/Turf



**{YEL!} Junior Soccer**  
**For grades entering K-3 Fall 2023**  
 Get outside and get kickin' with our fast-paced, inclusive (everyone plays) Junior Soccer course! YEL's Teach It, Practice It, Play It® approach teaches players new skills each class, practices those skills in kid-friendly games, and then encourages students to use those skills in introductory soccer games. SAFETY & SPORTSMANSHIP are emphasized! We focus on the fundamentals of dribbling, passing, trapping, and shooting. Sign up today! Min 8/Max 16  
 Cost: \$78  
 August 7, 8, 9, 10  
 2-3:30PM  
 Grassy Field by the Elementary Playground



**Child's Play Theatre**  
**Summer Camps**  
**Imagination Improvisation**  
**Kids entering 1-5 grade Fall of 2023**  
 Students will spend 3 days having a blast! We'll play a variety of improvisation games to develop acting skills and improve their ability to think quickly in a situation. 3 Sessions, 2 hours per session.




Cost \$31 for 6 hours total  
 July 24, 25, 26  
 10AM-12PM  
 Triton's Performing Arts Center

**Mad-Libs Acting**  
**Kids entering 1-5 grade Fall of 2023**  
 Students will create their own story filling in the blanks before knowing what the plot is! Great time developing acting skills and just having a lot of fun! 1 session, 3 hours long.  
 Cost: \$19  
 July 27  
 10AM-12PM  
 Triton's Performing Arts Center


**\*\*\*SPECIAL\*\*\***  
**Sign up for both Child's Play Theatre Camps for \$46**

**Youth Enrichment League**  
**Summer Robotics Camp**  
**{YEL!} Robotics 2.4 Summer**  
**Grades entering 1st-5th Fall 2023**  
 Build a dragster, a spy robot, and a moon rover. Then program the dragster to race, the rover to roam, and the spy bot to...well, spy. {YEL!}'s Teach It! Practice It! Play It!® classroom method emphasizes 21st Century Learning skills like STEM, teamwork, and problem solving. Sign up today! Visit YELKids.com for more information. LEGO® is a trademark of the LEGO Group of companies which does not sponsor, authorize or endorse this site or program. Min 6/Max 20  
 Cost: \$112  
 July 31, August 1, 2, 3  
 9AM-12PM each day  
 TES Media Center



**SEMCAC Bus Services Available This Summer!**

SEMCAC offers transportation services for parents, guardians, or daycare providers to get their children to and from their summer activities. Whether it's for swimming lessons, library hours, or Community Ed classes—we can assist with getting the children and families to and from!



The bus hours of operation are:  
 6:45AM-4:45PM Monday through Friday

Rates are posted on the website:  
 In Town is \$2, Out of Town (under 8 miles) is \$3, over 8 miles is \$6.  
 All rates are one-way per person.

Our dispatch is local, and staff is available at 507-634-4340, Option #1  
 Or rhtbus@semcac.org

Transportation Services | Kasson, Byron & Stewartville, MN | Rolling Hills Transit  
 When you need reliable school transportation or appointment transportation, give Rolling Hills Transit a call. We provide curb-to-curb transportation services.  
 rhtbus.com

# TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Triton Community Ed in partnership with K-M Community Ed has launched the **Dolly Parton Imagination Library** for the entire Dodge County community!

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has come to Dodge County. This very powerful program supports Early Childhood Literacy by mailing one FREE, high quality, age-appropriate book each month to children under the age of five, for a full year. It has been shown that reading to children early is a significant indicator of future academic success, and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has been contributing to early literacy in communities all over the world since 1995.

If your child lives in Dodge County and you are interested in enrolling, use the QR Code to get started!



We'd like to thank the following donors who have generously donated money to make this opportunity available to all qualifying children in Dodge County!

- K-M Care & Share • Welsh Equipment • KMTelecom
- In Loving Memory of Scott Hodgman •
- Ruth Donaldson • Energy Economics Inc • McNeilus Steel •

Kasson Lion's Club, Elmore Chiropractic, Jana Nawrocki/State Farm Insurance, Kasson Legion, Mantorville Restoration Association, Ellingson Companies, Mayo Foundation, Mike and Kathy Wilmes, Madery Construction, the Dodge Center Lions, and Dan and Kim Marquardt Krista Teske, William Kinney, and Private Donors

*If you or your business would like to donate to this campaign, please contact Kristy Faber at [kfaber@triton.k12.mn.us](mailto:kfaber@triton.k12.mn.us)*

## Youth Enrichment League Summer Dance Camp

**Junior Dance Camp**  
**Grades entering K-5 Fall 2023**

Glissade, pirouette and chasse' your way across the floor as you learn fundamental dance repertoire while preparing for the end of session recital. Each {YEL!}

Junior Dance class follows four basic components:

- Teach It!... Each class students are taught dance fundamentals.
- Practice It!... Students practice those fundamentals as a group and individually.
- Move It!... They implement what they've learned into across-the-floor and bar routines.
- Dance It!... Finally, students put it all together in a choreographed routine in preparation for the recital.

Sign up today to THINK, LEARN and PLAY WELL with {YEL!}.

For more details about {YEL!} Dance classes, visit [YouthEnrichmentLeague.com](http://YouthEnrichmentLeague.com).

PARENTS: Ballet or jazz dance shoes are recommended, but not required. Please dress your child for movement.

RECITAL: Will take place the last 30 minutes of the last class. Ask your dance instructor for details.

Min 8/Max 16 participants

Cost: \$78

July 17, 18, 19, 20

10-11:30AM each day

Triton's small cafeteria



### READY, SET, LEARN OF DODGE COUNTY PROGRAM APPLICATION

This program provides school supplies and a backpack for children attending pre-school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Any child in need living or going to school in Dodge County is eligible to participate. When filling out the application with our program, you are automatically approved.

Please direct questions to program coordinator Tanya Young at (316)-390-5368 or [tyoung8550@yahoo.com](mailto:tyoung8550@yahoo.com)

Submit completed application to:

Drop off: Minnesota Prairie County Alliance, 22 6<sup>th</sup> St E, Dept. 401, Mantorville, MN 55955  
 Drop off: St. John's Lutheran Church, 301 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Kasson, MN 55944  
 Mail to: Ready Set Learn/Tanya Young, 906 8<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Kasson, MN 55944

Parent/Guardian Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list information for children needing school supplies:

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_

**Deadline for submitting applications is Monday, July 31st 2023 at 5pm**

#### PROGRAM PICK UP DATES

Where: **St. John's Lutheran Church**  
 301 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW, Kasson

When: **Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

## TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

### Adult Summer Fitness

#### Aqua Zumba

Ann Marie Brownlow

Ages 18 and up

We're bringing Zumba to the pool! Integrating the Zumba formula and philosophy with traditional aqua fitness disciplines. Aqua Zumba blends it all together into a safe, challenging, water-based workout that's cardio-conditioning, body toning, and most of all, exhilarating beyond belief. This is an activity that anyone can do. This co-sponsorship is between Triton Community Ed and the Natalie Webb Aquatic Center. Join us for the greatest exercise party at the pool this summer!

Cost: \$60, for all 6 weeks

\$13, for walk-ins

Wednesday evenings

June 21,28 • July 12, 19, 26 • August 2

Rain date 8/9

7-8 PM

Held at Natalie Webb Aquatic Center, Dodge Center

### Aqua Aerobics and Strength

Ann Marie Brownlow

Ages 18 and up

Get a wonderful workout in the water! AnnMarie will guide you through movement, water, and music as its core. Pool noodles and your own body will be used as resistance tools to build strength and improve muscle tone. This exercise is low impact and joint friendly. This co-sponsorship is between Triton Community Ed and the Natalie Webb Aquatic Center. Minimum 10/ Maximum 35.

Cost: \$60, for all 6 weeks

\$13, for walk-ins

Thursdays:

June 22, 29 • July 13,20,27

August 3

Rain date 8/10

7-8PM

Natalie Webb Aquatic Center, Dodge Center

**TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550**

# History and Adventure in Wisconsin- a 2-day trip!

**Kristy Faber, Tour Leader**

We'll go back in time on this 2 Day, 1 night getaway to Wisconsin. On our first day, we will travel to Fort Atkinson Wisconsin, stopping in Tomah for lunch. Next, we will check into our overnight accommodation at the Fort Atkinson Country Inn and Suites where we will be greeted with cookies and a punch reception. This evening we will have a beautiful experience at the Fireside Dinner Theatre. Where we will eat at the Signature Buffet

featuring: Salad topped with Papaya Chutney Dressing and served with Freshly Baked Breads. On the Buffet, you will choose from these Fireside favorites: Barbecued Pork Back Ribs, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Beer Batter Fried Cod, Shrimp and Scallops Fusilli with Tomato Butter Sauce, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Chicken Marsala, Penne Pasta with Alfredo Sauce, Beef Tenderloin and Roast Turkey from the Carving Station, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Whipped Idaho Potatoes and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Crème Brûlée for Dessert. Coffee, Tea, and Milk are included. Next, we will see TITANIC, the 1997 Broadway Musical, won five Tony Awards including Best Musical. Soaring songs, grand staging, and a set awash in glorious costumes makes this historic musical a must-see event; a great show made even better in the intimacy of The Fireside's theatre-in-the-round. The show focuses on the lives of all the varied strata of people uniquely united on that fateful journey, with the central character being the Titanic herself. This human drama explores and reveals individual strength, love, faith, and especially the triumph of human dignity.

We will return to our hotel for a great night's sleep. We will enjoy a complimentary breakfast at the hotel, and then depart for the Wisconsin Dells. While there, we will stop at the cheese mart, have lunch, and experience the World War II Duck

**Tour.**

In 1946, the world's first Duck tour was launched. While other Duck rides have come and gone, only ORIGINAL WISCONSIN DUCKS® has been delivering FUN and

ADVENTURE on LAND and WATER, NON-STOP, ever since! The CLASSIC DUCK TOUR splashes into the WISCONSIN RIVER and LAKE DELTON, climbs over SAND BARS, traverses over four miles of EXCLUSIVE SCENIC WILDERNESS TRAILS, and has been thrilling passengers for 75 YEARS and counting, ride THE ORIGINAL! Journey on an amphibious vehicle used during World War II. These restored ducks travel by land and water on trails tucked away among the natural beauty of Wisconsin Dells. Squeeze through the narrow walls of Red Bird Gorge. Coast around the exhilarating curves of Roller Coaster Hill. Plunge into the Wisconsin River. Experience 8 1/2 miles of breathtaking views from towering sandstone cliffs to scenic wilderness trails. Take a one-hour tour aboard a green and white duck.

**September 28 and 29, 2023**

Total Trip: Limit 30 people  
 Double Queen: \$340 (2 people in the room--please specify roommate on registration)  
 Single Queen: \$385 (if staying alone)  
 Cost includes, coach bus, dinner and show at the Fireside, hotel stay and WW II Ducks Tour. Note: lunch on the way there and back will be the individual's responsibility.

A \$100 deposit will be due by July 31st, to reserve the trip. Final payment is due August 31st.



Bus	Leaves	Approx Returns
Dodge Center	10AM	4:30PM
Kasson	10:15AM	4:15PM
Byron	10:30AM	4PM

**Safe Driving Class**

**Jim Jensen**

In the Safe Driving Class, you will learn driving strategies that can keep you safer on the road. You will learn updates to traffic laws, how to reduce distractions to driving and how to navigate different intersections. Driver's aged 55 years old and older who successfully complete the Safe Driver Class will qualify for reductions in their automobile insurance premiums. Please remember to bring your driver's license with you to class. It's important to pre-register so that Jim can assure accommodations for all. Please call Triton CE at 507-418-7550.

4-Hour Refresher Course (for those that have taken the 8-Hour before)

Cost: \$20, checks should be made to Jim Jensen

July 20

5-9PM in the THS Media Center



**Triton Community Ed Summer Rec Registration**  
 Please send completed form and payment to Triton Community Ed  
 813 West Highway St, Dodge Center, MN 55927  
 To register in-line go to: <https://www.triton.k12.mn.us/page/community-education>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Students) Grade in Fall of 23: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUTH	COST	NOTES	NAME
Canvas Painting: Festive Fireworks 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Treat	\$26 \$26 Both \$45		
Junior Dance Camp	\$78		
Child's Play Theatre Imagination Improvisation Mad-Libs Acting	\$31 \$19 Both \$46		
Science and Magic	\$8		
VEL Robotics	\$112		
Track and Field	\$78		
Junior Soccer	\$78		
ALL FOOTBALL please use sheets in packet for the specific registration		Fill out specific sheet	
Jr Golf Camp	\$80	10 and under 11+	
<b>ADULT</b>			
Wisconsin Trip	Cost Per Person:  Double Queen: \$340 (2 people in the room--please specify roommate on registration)  Single Queen: \$385 (if staying alone)	A \$100 deposit will be due by July 31 <sup>st</sup> , to reserve the trip. Final payment is due August 31 <sup>st</sup> .	
Safe Driving (55+)	\$20 check made to Jim Jensen		
Adult Fitness:			
Aqua Zumba	\$60		
Aqua Strength	\$60		

Attention SCHA or UCARE Insured Families: If your child has South Country Health Alliance (SCHA-could cover up to 5 classes up to \$15 per calendar year) then discounts MIGHT apply. Eligible UCare members may get up to a \$15 discount on many community education classes in Minnesota. Members must have UCare insurance at the time of registration and throughout the duration of the class. Members need to provide their UCare ID number when registering for class. Limits and restrictions may apply. Registration not complete without this insurance information.  
 Call 507-418-7550 with questions-Thank you!

# Southern Minnesota Golden Link

A weekly advertising supplement to these Southern Minnesota publications:

- STEELE COUNTY TIMES • NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLEDALE-GENEVA STAR EAGLE • WASECA COUNTY PIONEER • JANESVILLE JOURNAL •
- CLAREMONT MESSENGER • DODGE CENTER MESSENGER • DUNDAS MESSENGER • GOODHUE-BELLECHESTER MESSENGER • KENYON MESSENGER •
- MAINSTREET MESSENGER • MAZEPPA-ZUMBRO FALLS MESSENGER • RANDOLPH-HAMPTON-CASTLE ROCK MESSENGER •
- WANAMINGO MESSENGER • WEST CONCORD MESSENGER •




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**AUCTION CALENDAR**

**June 10, 2023 ..... 9:00 AM Kenyon, MN**  
EARLY SUMMER AREA FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION  
Live And Online Area Farmers Consignment Auction, Tractors, Combines, Semi's, Trailers, Construction Equipment, Planers & Tillage Equipment, Livestock Equipment, Pickups, Cars, ATVs and Farm Support Items

**June 20, 2023 Bidding Begins: .. June 10, 2023 Starts Closing..... June 20, 2023 Owatonna, MN**  
ONLINE ONLY INVENTORY REDUCTION AUCTION FOR AL LYSNE CONSTRUCTIONS CORP.  
Redd Haul Trailer, Job Boxes, Cement Power Tools, Sand Blasting Equipment, 50+ Aluminum Planks, Scaffolding, Rigging Equipment, Power & Hand Tools, Safety Equipment, Job Site Tool and More

**June 21, 2023 Bidding Begins: .. June 13, 2023 Starts Closing..... June 21, 2023 Welch, MN**  
ONLINE ONLY ESTATE AUCTION FOR THE STEVE SHOWERS ESTATE  
John Deere Z245 Zero Turn Mower, John Deere G262 Garden Tractor, John Deere 4x2 Gator, 1988 Bayliner Boat, Lawn & Garden Tools, Power & Hand Tools, Ballet Racking, Farm Primitives, Red Wing Stoneware, Advertising Items, Vintage Bottles, Lawn Art Items, Primitive Outside Items, Steel Wheels, and Much More.

**June 28, 2023 Bidding Begins: .. June 21, 2023 Starts Closing..... June 28, 2023 New Richland, MN**  
ONLINE ONLY INVENTORY REDUCTION AND HOG FACILITY AUCTION  
Hog Facility Equipment, Holding Bins, Feed Lines, Feeders, Fans, Gates, New Loadin Chute, 3500 Bushel Per Hour Grain Leg, New Feed Conveyor, New Semi Tires, Electric Motors, 12"80" Swing Hopper Auger, Bin Sweeps, Farm Support Equipment Ends

**July 16, 2023 Bidding Begins: .... July 7, 2023 Starts Closing..... July 16, 2023 Mazeppa, MN**  
ONLINE ONLY HOBBY FARM AUCTION FOR DENNIS HEIMER ESTATE  
2006 Chevy 1500 Pickup, IH 666 w/Allied Loader, IH 504 Tractor, IH 284 Tractor w/Mower, (2) Craftsman Garden Tractors, Power & Hand Tools, Hobby Machinery, Livestock Equipment, 75+ Collector Farm Toys and Memorabilia, Lawn & Garden Items

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**JOHN DEERE COMBINE** *Holland Auction* **CAT TRACTORS**

**LARGE RETIREMENT FARM AUCTION**  
**TUESDAY JUNE 27th 2023 • 9:30 AM**

**Location:** From New Richland MN, 8 miles Northwest on Waseca Cty. 12, then half mile North on Cty. Rd. 4. • 27400 80th. St., Waseca, MN 56093

**Auctioneers Note:** Denny has decided to retire and hold a public auction. This equipment has had the best of care and has been well serviced and is very clean. A very good auction to attend. Approx. half hour of Misc. Items. — Tracy Holland

**VERY SHARP TRACTORS, COMBINE, HEADS, TRUCKS**



**1998 • Cat Challenger 75E, 340 HP, 3176C engine, 6205 Hrs w/ oil samples, Heavy Duty 3pt, 30" tracks in good shape, S.N. 6HS00233**

**2001 • Cat Challenger 55, 260 H.P., 3126 engine, 2617 Hrs w/ oil samples, 3pt., 1000 PTO, 18" like new Camoplast Tracks, S.N. 3AEN00674**

**2014 • John Deere S670 Combine, 4WD, 2971 Engine Hrs. 1887 Sep. Hrs., LSW 900/50 R46 Front tires, Power tail board, Hyd. fold Grain tank, stalk chopper, 3 speed electric shift trans, Premium radio package w/ XM, Heavy DTY, Hi Torque VSD, GS3 Touch SCR N 7" color display, Engine oil samples, S.N. IHOS670STE0765776**

**2015 • John Deere 635 F Grain Platform 35' with Crary air reel S.N. 1H00635FLD0755964**

**2010 • Geringhoff RD 822b Corn Head, chopping**

head, Hyd. deckplates, knife roll, field contour, Auto pilot/Rowsense, Stalk Stompers

**John Deere 40 series, 8R22" Corn Head, GVL Poly 2018 • EZ Trailer Head Mover 880, 36', EZ crank brackets, 9.00-10 tires, 10 ply**

**2007 • Peterbuilt Grain Truck, 330 Pete, C 7 engine, Allison 6 speed automatic, Air Ride, 20' Aluminum Box, Electric Tarp, Engine Powerchip, 209,668 miles, Double Frame 21' Bridge, 11R22.5 tires, Aluminum Polished Rims, Built by S+H Diesel in Wells, MN, oil samples**

**1978 • IH 1800 Grain Truck, 466 diesel, 221,764 miles, 20' Crysteel box and Hoist w/ SRT-2 Roll Tarp, Twin Screw, 5x4 Trans, 11R22.5 tires, oil samples**

**1974 • IH 1800 Grain Truck, 549 Gas Engine, 118,438 miles, 20' Crysteel box, Roll Tarp, 5x4 Trans, 11R22.5 Tires**

**FARM EQUIPMENT & MISC. ITEMS**



**White 8500 Planter, 18 row x 22". Clean sweep, Martin Air controlled row cleaners, 2-200 gal Fert. tanks, PTO pump w/ reservoir, Tri-Fold markers, H. D. down pressure springs, soybean and 2 sizes of corn plates, Rubber closing wheels, 3 shut-off clutches for row units, Chemical banding nozzles**

**Ag Leader Insight/ Integera GPS use on Planter and in Combine and Sprayer**

**Unverferth 2750 Seed Tender, 6" x 18' Conveyor, Poly roll tarp, 3-in-1 seed, Scale Package w/ 2410 Indicator, Handling Versatility, Wired Remote**

**Wil-Rich 13xL2 - 42' Field Digger, Hyd. Pivoting gage wheels, 31x13.5 tires, 3 bar coil tine harrow/Rolling Basket, 7" bolt on shovels**

**Wil-Rich 5830 Chisel Plow, 25' Level lift hitch, 1000# Edge Formed Chisel Shanks 12" Spacings, 3 bar oil tine harrow, H.D. rear hitch for NH3 tanks**

**Brent 678 Grain Cart, 17" Corner Auger, 120" Ridged axle, 30.5x32" lug tires, Weatherguard Roll Tarp, 1000 PTO, Hyd. controlled multi- directional downspout DMI530B Ecolo-Tiger Chisel Plow, Lead shanks, Hyd. Disc leveler, 10 ply tires**

**Redball 570 Sprayer, 66' Booms, 1200 gal tank, chemical Injector Pump w/ tank, Rear Hitch, Clean water rinse tank, Ace Hyd. Pump, Adjustable Width Axles**

**2020 • Command HydraBoost 40 G.P.M. Pump w/ 25 gal. reservoir with valves and Pump Doctor. Perfect for Newer Planters, (Used Once)**

**DMI NH3 Applicator 13 shank, 32' White 588 7 Bottom Plow • White 588 5 Bottom Plow IH gravity Wagon Approx, 450 Bu.**

**6 ton wagon Approx, 250 Bu. Lorenz 9101 snow blower w/ Hyd. Spout Rotator w/3' extension 1000 PTO., 9' wide**

**Bus Frame Water Wagon, 1500 gal. tank, Pump w/ chemical inductor**

**18" Used tracks for a 35-45-55 Cat Challenger Rear rice tires for a 9500 Combine, 16.9-26" w/rims 2-250 Gal. Saddle Tanks w/ brackets to fit J.D. 7810 w/ pump and 2 shut off valves**

**Hawkins Corn Reel 8 row 22" never used Hutch Grain Cleaner w/ Corn and Bean Screens 500 gal. Saddle Tank**

**Stainless Steel Hog Feeders, 1-5', 3-6', 2-7' 6-24" Hog Barn Circulation Fans**

**Misc. Hog Panels • Cab off of IH 666 Quick Hitch Cat. 4 1000 gal. Diesel Fuel Barrel w/ Pump**

**LIVE ON-LINE bidding available at**  
www.proxibid.com/holland



*TERMS: Cash or Good Check, & Picture ID Required. No Property removed until fully settled for. Sales Staff & Owners Not Responsible for accidents. Any verbal announcements made day of auction takes precedence over print. Lunch and restroom services available on site.*

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**UPCOMING 2023 AUCTIONS**

**Tuesday June 27, • 9:30 A.M.**  
**LARGE RETIREMENT AUCTION**  
 John Deere S670 Combine PRWD - Grain Heads 2-Cat Challenger Tractors - White Planter - Tillage Equipment - Peterbuilt Grain Truck - Brent 678 Grain Cart - Seed Tender - Full line of Farm Equipment  
**Denny Hoehn - OWNER**  
**New Richland, MN**

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**Sat. Aug. 12 • 9:30 A.M.**  
**FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION**  
 Versatile 2375, 4WD, John Deere 4640 - J.D. 4430 - J.D. 4020 - J.D. 5055 - Riteway rock picker - 4-Crysteel 600 Bu. Wagons - Tillage + Haying Equip. - Misc. Outdoor Items  
**Dave & Kathy Guse OWNERS**  
**Waseca, MN**

---

**Saturday, August 26, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.**  
 If you have one item or a full line, give us a call early to take full advantage of advertising. Tractors, combines, haying & tillage equipment, planters, wagons, farm pickups and grain trucks, recreational items, construction equipment, all types of farm machinery. To consign, call Holland Auction at 507-684-2955 or Tracy Holland at 507-456-5128.  
**LARGE MACHINERY AUCTION**  
**Ellendale, MN**

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 Auction Location: 3249 North County 45, Owatonna MN 55060  
**BIDDING OPENS: SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023 • 8:00 A.M.**  
**BIDDING STARTS CLOSING: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 • 10:00 a.m.**  
**THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LIST MORE INFORMATION & BIDDING AT: www.maringauction.com**

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**Preview Day:** Friday, June 16 • 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Payment & Pick Up:** Wednesday, June 21 • 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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 Auctioneer's Comment: Cancer took Gary far too early in life. His family has now decided to sell—at auction—his well-maintained equipment and many tools. Sale items are numerous. This auction will be on-of-a-kind. Don't miss it! - Col. Mark Ditlevson

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# Your Family Farm Can Benefit Southern Minnesota's Future



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

As president of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) I travel across our region nearly every day visiting people and places in the 20 counties that we serve. Over the 16 years that I have worked at SMIF, I have watched farming practices change and adapt. As someone who comes from a farming family, I know what it is like to feel rooted to the land, and how heartbreaking it is to see productive land used for anything but farming.

Fortunately, for those who do not have an

heir to transfer the land to when the time comes, SMIF has a program to help safeguard the family legacy and keep their farmland in production. SMIF's Acres for Good program allows farm families to donate their land as a charitable gift. What makes this model unique is that rather than liquidate the asset as most charities do, SMIF will retain the land and keep it in production by a rental arrangement. This allows retiring farmers the peace of mind that their land will continue to be farmed.

What does it mean to give farmland as a gift? There are three options. You can give a gift during your lifetime and you would get a charitable deduction on income tax. You can wait and give it in your will and it would be released to SMIF upon your passing. Or you can opt for a retained life estate where you keep the right to farm the land until you pass and then it automatically becomes a charitable gift at that point. For those who only want to donate a section of their property, SMIF can accommodate that preference, as well.

As the name suggests, the Acres for Good program is also a way to do good things for your community. The net income stream from the land can be used to support southern Minnesota communities well into the future. Farmers can choose how they want to allocate their gift of land through this program. There are several options.

For example, the benefit can go toward one of SMIF's 31 Community Foundations (Pine Island and Lonsdale are our newest foundations) which invest in their communities through grants and programs.

Or, for a region-wide reach, farmers can al-



locate their gift toward SMIF's general endowment, or SMIF's specific funds which support youth and entrepreneurs in the region.

Another option could be setting up a Donor Advised Fund to allocate resources to the donor's specific interests such as a place of worship, an alma mater or a local charity. Whichever avenue, these are all ways to leave a legacy that will make a huge difference in the future of southern Minnesota – and doing it all without having your family farm sold.

Acres for Good is an incredibly unique way

to donate and preserve farmland while also creating an ongoing stream of charitable funds to help out your local community or a cause that is dear to your heart. SMIF is here to help you create your ongoing legacy.

To learn more about the Acres for Good program visit [smifoundation.org/acresfor-good](http://smifoundation.org/acresfor-good) or contact Alissa Oeltjenbruns, Philanthropy Officer, at 507-214-7023 or [alissao@smifoundation.org](mailto:alissao@smifoundation.org).

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at [timp@smifoundation.org](mailto:timp@smifoundation.org) or 507-455-3215.

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## Claremont City Council Meeting

(continued from page 1)

Motion carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC INPUT

None

### CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the Minutes of the April 4, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting and Minutes of the April 24, 2023 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. Motion by McGovern to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Sultze. Motion carried

unanimously.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by McGovern to approve the financial reports, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ellis to approve the amended list of bills to be paid, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

### COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

### PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

### EDA

Clifford and Margaret Brekke applied for a façade improvement grant to replace the sliding garage door on their building on Elm Street and paint the front and rear of the building. The estimate is \$3850, and the amount requested is \$2500. Motion by McGovern to approve half of the project cost,

which is \$1925, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

### MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Maintenance Worker Brian Styndl turned in his resignation. His last day will be May 4. Motion by Ellis to accept Styndl's resignation, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

(continued on page 21)

## Lyme Disease in Dogs: Symptoms, Tests, Treatment, and Prevention

Lyme disease, also known as Lyme borreliosis, is a bacterial illness that can be transmitted to humans, dogs, and other animals by certain species of ticks. It is caused by the spiral-shaped bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is carried inside a tick and gets into a dog or person's bloodstream through a tick bite. Once in the bloodstream, the bacteria can travel to different parts of the body and cause problems in specific organs or locations, such as joints, as well as overall illness.

Given the seriousness of Lyme disease, it's important to be aware of tick prevention and treatment for dogs.

The ticks that carry Lyme disease are especially likely to be found in tall grasses, thick brush, marshes, and woods — waiting to latch onto your dog when they pass by. A tick can transmit the disease once it has been attached to a dog for 24 to 48 hours.

First named when a number of cases occurred in Lyme, Connecticut, in 1975, the disease can be hard to detect and can cause serious, ongoing health problems in both dogs and people.

Lyme disease happens in every state, but infection risks vary. Over 95% of cases are from the Northeast, the Upper Midwest, and the Pacific Coast, although with recent changes in deforestation, migrating deer, and bird populations, percentage rates in these areas are constantly changing.

A small number of cases crop up each year along the West Coast, especially in Northern California. In Canada, Lyme-positive dogs are found mostly in southern Ontario and southern Manitoba. A smaller number of cases are reported each year in southern Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.

Ticks don't jump or fly—they can only crawl. They get onto their host by waiting at the tips of vegetation. When a dog or person brushes against a bush, for example, the tick quickly grabs on and then crawls to find a place to bite.

**Lyme disease is, unfortunately, a fairly common canine disease. Typical symptoms in dogs include:**

**Fever**

**Loss of appetite**

**Reduced energy**

**Lameness (can be shifting, intermittent, and recurring)**

**Generalized stiffness, discomfort, or pain**

**Swelling of joints**

Symptoms can progress to kidney failure in dogs, which can be fatal. Serious cardiac and neurological effects can also occur.

The primary carrier of Lyme disease is the black-legged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), also called the "deer tick" or "bear tick." The tick acquires the Lyme disease bacterium when it feeds on an animal that has been infected, such as a mouse, deer, or another mammal, and then transmits the bacterium to the next animal it feeds on. Image: CDC

Diagnosis is made by a combination of history, physical signs, and diagnostics. For dogs, the two blood tests for diagnosing Lyme disease are called the C6 Test and Quant C6 test. Veterinarians perform both.

The C6 test detects antibodies against a protein called "C6." Presence of the antibodies suggests an active Lyme infection. The C6 antibodies can be detected three to five weeks after an infected tick bites a dog and may be found in the bloodstream, even before the dog shows signs of illness.

The next step is to do a Quant C6 test. This, along with urinalysis, will help determine if antibiotic treatment is necessary.

Treatment includes antibiotics, usually for at least 30 days. This often resolves symptoms quickly, but in some cases, the infection will persist and prolonged medication may be needed. Treatment can also include other therapies aimed at resolving or relieving specific symptoms.

Dogs are not a direct source of infection for people. Lyme disease can't be transmitted from one pet to another, nor from pets to humans, except through tick bites. However, a carrier tick could come into your house on your dog's fur and get on you.

If your dog is diagnosed with Lyme disease, you and any other pets have probably been in the same outdoor environment and may also be at risk. So it is a good idea to consult with your physician and veterinarian to see whether you should test other pets or family members.

Other less common—but serious—bacterial tick-borne diseases in dogs include anaplasmosis and babesiosis.

Anaplasmosis can involve symptoms similar to those of Lyme disease. Babesiosis can present with a wide range of symptoms, from sudden and severe shock, high fever, and dark urine to a slowly progressing infection with more subtle clinical signs. Diagnosis of both diseases includes blood tests similar to those used to check for Lyme disease.

Sometimes, dogs and people can become sick with "co-infection" of multiple tick-borne diseases, where more than one type of disease-causing bacteria is transmitted through a tick bite. This situation can make diagnosis and treatment even more challenging and difficult.

**Recommendations on preventing ticks include these from Dr. Jerry Klein, Chief Veterinary Officer for the AKC:**

**Inspect your dogs and yourself daily for ticks.** After walks through the woods or grassy settings, check yourself and your dog for ticks. When inspecting your dog for ticks, look especially on the feet (and between toes), on lips, around eyes, ears (and inside ears), near the anus, and under the tail.

**Remove ticks immediately.** The quicker you find them, the less likely your dog will be to contract a secondary illness related to tick bites. Learn the proper method of removing ticks from dogs. Invest in a pair of fine tweezers designed to remove ticks. If you are unable to do so, consult with a veterinarian.

**Ask your veterinarian to conduct a tick check at each exam.** They'll be able to find any you may have missed.

**Use one of the veterinary-approved flea and tick preparations to prevent ticks from jumping on your dog.** Speak to your veterinarian to find the product that's most appropriate for your dog.

**Keep grass mowed as short as possible.** Avoid walking into grassy patches in areas where ticks are common if you can.


**Get your dog vaccinated.** Vaccination could prevent your dog from getting Lyme disease. They may not be appropriate for some dogs, so discuss this with your vet.

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## THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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#### Best Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids for Older Adults

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend some good over-the-counter hearing aids for seniors on a budget? I'm not sure what to get or where to buy them.

--Hard of Hearing

Dear Hard,

The new FDA approved over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids that hit the market last October have become a very attractive alternative to millions of older Americans with hearing impairment.

These new hearing aids can be purchased at pharmacies, consumer electronics stores or online without a hearing exam, prescription, or appointment with an audiologist. And the savings are significant. The average cost of an OTC hearing aid is about \$1,600 per pair, which is about \$3,000 less than the average price of a prescription hearing aid.

But sorting through all the different options and styles can be confusing. Here are some tips along with a reliable resource that can help you choose the right aid for you.

#### Check Your Hearing

Your first step to getting a hearing aid is to get your hearing tested. Be aware that OTC hearing aids are designed only for people with mild to moderate hearing loss (signs include trouble hearing speech in noisy places, in groups, and during phone calls).

The best place to get your hearing tested is through a hearing care provider like an audiologist. These in-person tests are usually covered by private medical insurance, and as of this year, Medicare will pay for general hearing evaluations without a doctor's referral.

You can also assess your hearing at home with a good app-based hearing test like Mimi (mimi.health) or SonicCloud (soniccloud.com).

If you find through your test that you have severe hearing loss (signs include being unable to hear spoken words even in a quiet room or trouble hearing loud music or power tools) then OTC aids aren't the right solution for you. You'll probably need a prescription hearing aid, which you must get through an audiologist or hearing instrument specialist.

#### Choosing an OTC Aid

If you decide that an OTC hearing aid may work for you, here are a couple pointers to help you choose.

First, you need to know that OTC hearing aids come in two types: self-fitting and preset. Self-fitting aids typically use a smartphone app to setup and adjust the device to suit your specific hearing needs, which makes them better suited for seniors who are technologically inclined. While preset hearing aids are much simpler devices that come with a number of set programs for different levels of hearing loss, and the controls are directly on the hearing aid.

Also, because OTC hearing aids have a learning curve, it's very important to know the level of customer support you'll have access to. So, before you buy, find out how long the company provides support after your purchase, and what sorts of experts will be providing the support.

You also need to find out about the company's return policy. It can take weeks to get accustomed to wearing hearing aids and figure out whether they're really working for you or not. So, make sure to choose a brand that offers a minimum 30-day free trial period, or money back return policy.

#### Best OTC Hearing Aids

To help you cut through all the different options the National Council on Aging (NCOA), which is a national nonprofit organization that advocates for older Americans, recently assembled a review team who collectively spent more than 5,000 hours researching, testing and interviewing customers about OTC hearing aids.

They came up with a list of nine winners based on such criteria as affordability, style and fit. Their best OTC hearing aids for 2023 in their nine categories include:

Best for Seniors: Jabra Enhance (jabraenhance.com)

Best Invisible Fit: Eargo (eargo.com)

Most User-Friendly: Lexie (lexiehearing.com)

Most Affordable: Audien (audienhearing.com)

Most Financing Options: Audicus (audicus.com)

Best Remote Customer Service: MDHearing (mdhearingaid.com)

Best Rechargeable for the Money: Go Hearing (gohearing.com)

Best Variety: Lucid (lucidhearing.com)

Best Earbud-Style: Sony (electronics.sony.com)

To learn more, see [NCOA.org/adviser/hearing-aids/best-otc-hearing-aids](https://www.ncoa.org/adviser/hearing-aids/best-otc-hearing-aids).

### Claremont City Council Meeting

(continued from page 20)

Interim Administrator Brimeyer updated the maintenance worker job description to use as a reference for Styndl's annual performance review which was done in late April.

The council reviewed and made minor revisions to the job posting for the maintenance worker position. Applications will be accepted until May 22 and the minimum pay will be \$25 per hour. Motion by Ellis to accept the job posting, second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Sorg reached out to someone to see if they were interested in mowing the grass until someone is hired and they didn't respond. Corey's Outdoor Services submitted a quote for \$340 for mowing and trimming all the city-owned property. He will mow as needed and he is aware it is temporary.

#### PARKS COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

#### PEOPLESERVICE

Their reports were in the packet.

#### CITY ENGINEER

The water tower rehab project bidding process has started and bids will be opened May 25. Current cost estimate is \$400,000-\$450,000. Final costs for funding projections will be confirmed after bids are received. The project is estimated to take 8 weeks. Engineering services for this project are estimated to be \$57,000 but the construction services portion (approximately \$50,000) of that will be billed on an estimated hourly basis. Motion by McGovern to approve Resolution 23-12: Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Ellis approving the engineering proposal, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Radio Link has antennas on top of the water tower that should be removed for the project. His lease is up April 2024. So if he is unwilling to remove the antennas this year, the project will be completed in 2024.

The city has been looking at city signs to be placed along Highway 14 but due to the cost another option was brought up. As an alternative to the large brick sign a 10' x 5' aluminum sign could be an option. They would be in the range of \$15,000. Sorg will forward the information to the Chamber for their input.

Olinger shared an updated street map for chip sealing and crack filling this year. Request for quotes will go out this week and the quotes will be available at the June meeting.

The city and the railroad are currently ne-

gotiating insurance coverage for the outfall sewer project, then the project can start.

#### CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Interim Administrator Brimeyer is also a certified coach and strategic advisor with Skyehill. He submitted an Interim Administrator/Clerk Coaching Proposal. It is a 6-month coaching engagement that will be one hour coaching sessions every other week and it will help Sorg to deal with challenging issues and improve performance withing the organization. The cost is \$3000 for the 6 months. Brimeyer will also be available for phone calls if she is looking for some assistance. Motion by Ellis to enter into this contract with Skyehill for the coaching proposal, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

At the April meeting, the council gave Brimeyer his 30-day notice per his contract so this May meeting is the last meeting Brimeyer will be at.

Motion by Sultze to name Liz Sorg as Interim Administrator/City Clerk, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

The council briefly discussed Evan Brown's return to employment.

Interim Administrator Brimeyer updated the city administrator/city clerk job description to use as a reference.

Clerk Sorg will work with Council Member Klejeski to get gravel for some gravel roads in town.

#### CITY ATTORNEY

Nothing at this time.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS

Triton summer recreation requested financial support and use of Henning Park ballfield on Monday evenings for part of June and all of July. Motion by McGovern to contribute \$500 to the program and use of the ballfield, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

In late April, Sorg went over Office Assistance Ellis' 90-day review with her. Ellis stated the meeting could be open. Motion by Dahl to increase her pay by \$1 to \$16 per hour effective immediately, second by Sultze.

Ayes: Dahl, Sultze, and McGovern. Ayes: None. Abstain: Ellis. Motion carried.

Motion by McGovern to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m., second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg, Interim Administrator/Clerk  
Tasha Dahl, Mayor

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Claremont  
Messenger



## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Spring is in the Air



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.*

The other night I walked outside and smelled spring in the air. It was actually the odor of a cow manure lagoon being pumped out, but on the farm that can be synonymous. It brought back memories of pumping the pit each spring. I was so happy to get liquid manure storage on the farm in the 1980's. It was so much better than hauling manure in the cold every day. Frozen manure spreaders, fighting snow drifts in the fields with chains on tractors and trying to get the barn cleaner to work on a sub-zero morning in January. But there were some unforgettable experiences with pumping pits as well.

One just got used to the smell on the farm. It was part of livestock farmer's life. Our hog barn had a pit underneath it. Convenient but stinky. One day I was getting ready to pump the pit and that required removing the exhaust fan in the pump out port. A little while later I realized I was missing my cell phone. After retracing my steps all over the farm I thought I would look down the opening where the agitator was going to go. There on a thin crust of hog poop sat my Nokia. I found a piece of flashing and bent the end to retrieve my phone. It was dry and perfectly functional.

Another time I became aware that the water line coming up from the floor of the pit was leaking. When the pit was pumped as empty as I could get it I inspected and found the plastic nipple on the top side of the valve was spraying water. Wearing a pair of cutoff shorts and disposable tennis shoes I climbed down and installed a new brass fitting. When I climbed out, I discarded the shoes and shorts in the garbage and commenced a deodorizing regimen. Hog manure is just about as bad as a skunk.

We had hauled liquid manure with a 3,300

gallon tank for years before purchasing a pump and traveling gun. This was cutting edge. Except for the labor of laying out 4,000 feet of 6" aluminum pipe to reach the field. There was a 660 foot hose attached to a unit that would spray a perfect arc over 100 feet, as it slowly rotated 360 degrees. You would sit out there and watch it operate and then move the assembly ahead with a cable hooked to a tractor. Nothing but the sound of shh, shh, shh as the liquid fertilizer sprayed in endless circles.

Take down would mean rolling the hose up on a hose reel behind the tractor before moving across the field. One day when I was pumping the neighbors pit, I was rolling up the hose while an open station tractor powered the pto driven hose reel and pulled itself along squeezing the liquid out of the hose and through the nozzle on the traveling gun. I didn't pay attention that the nozzle was pointed directly at me and that the hose became twisted. The reel squeezed the contents of the hose into a state of high pressure and suddenly the force untwisted the hose. I could only watch the manure make it's escape out the nozzle and arc towards me. I turned my back to it and was blasted with the full force of the flying poop.

My last memorable experience with the manure lagoon happened while I was agitating my neighbor's pit. There was a large propeller at the end of a 20' boom mounted on the three-point hitch of the tractor. I was backed down over the edge of the pit with the prop running at full rpm to break up the crust on top of the lagoon. When I determined it was completed, I climbed on the tractor and throttled the engine down. What I hadn't factored into the equation was that even though the rear ties were on a slippery slope, the force of the propeller, just like a ship, was holding the tractor on the bank. According to my science teacher the force of the propeller was equal to the weight of the tractor and it stayed put until I cut the power. I suddenly found myself sliding down into a full manure lagoon on what was soon to become a John Deere submarine. I cut the power and climbed on the hood of the tractor hoping the lagoon was not deeper than the tractor hood. To my relief the tractor came to a rest before it was submerged and after assessing the situation I climbed back into the seat, started the diesel back to life and brought the propeller up to full speed. Then drove the tractor right up the bank and onto level ground.

My neighbor Phil was a witness to the last two incidents and we laughed quite hard afterwards about the whole thing. It is much funnier in retrospect.

## A Minnesotan: Construction Season



By RosaLin Alcoser

First off, a special thanks to Bill and Marla Adams from Dodge Center, who sent me some lovely stories about geese in response to my last column. It is always nice to hear about braver souls than I, who were able to stand up to the gaggle of geese that reside in Silver Lake Park in Rochester—a place I ran from many times as a child.

Secondly, it has come around to that time of year again, now that we've soldiered through winter, first winter, second winter, and wondered why it is still winter. When the weather gets warmer and the days get longer, that's right—it is once again construction season in Minnesota.

As we all know, construction season means they start doing the serious road work again, not just patching up the pot-

holes created by nearly six months of winter. Even though up in the Twin Cities where I currently reside, the filling of some of said potholes probably could count as major road work.



Quite recently, I was driving through the construction they are doing on Highway 52 between the cities and Rochester. If you have recently driven that route, you know it means going through two different construction sites that merge down to two lanes. However, these two lanes are placed extremely differently than they were last year or the year before when they worked on a different part of the highway.

Which brings me to the question: Am I the only one who feels like the Highway 52 project has been going on for over a decade now? I know that there were two different projects, with about a six-year gap between the current 52 project and the one that finished in 2015 (not to be confused with the one they did in the mid-2000s), bringing us to a grand total of three Highway 52 projects in this century.

While the many Highway 52 projects, like many highway projects in existence, seem like an ongoing never-ending story, they are not. At least we will always have something reliable to look forward to every construction season, as once this project is over, they will probably start another one in just a few years.

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**2023 Dodge County Dairy Princesses**

Left to right: Gabi Espinoza, Alita Rinehart, Makenzie Alberts, Ellie Sauder, and outgoing princess Amanda Sauder

During June Dairy Month, we celebrate all that you bring to the table. From fresh products that nourish our bodies to the jobs and revenue generated for our communities, dairy farms are essential in keeping our community healthy and strong.



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