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APRIL 3, 2024

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## Dodge County Commissioners February Meeting

The Dodge County Commissioners met in regular session February 13, 2024, in the Board Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building.

Mr. Kohlnhofer informed the Board that the Claremont hearing for the turnback of CSAH 5 and CR G was originally scheduled for March 12th, 2024. This hearing has to be rescheduled due to the townships annual meeting being scheduled on that date. The township informed the Highway Department that no other meeting may be held on March 12th, 2024.

(continued on page 4)

## Local Author Claims Book Banned

Local author Terry Eckstein held a press conference in Mantorville to protest his book being banned in a Mantorville bookstore. Eckstein has previously authored two children's novels, which are offered for sale at the Mantorville Art Guild. Eckstein's latest release is a book he says was inspired by his career in the Human Resources department at a Dodge County business.

The Mantorville Art Guild and other Mantorville residents countered his claim, stating that the book wasn't banned, but that the Art Guild decided not to stock the book for sale in their store since their clientele consists of a large number of elementary children, which

attend their cultural programs and they felt that the adult nature of the subject of the book as well as the graphic detail of the sexual escapades he writes about were inappropriate for that age group.

The book, "Behind Closed Doors", is the author's version of what went on fifteen years ago while he was employed and subsequently terminated from his position. He has added a "trigger warning", in the forward of the novel because of the sensitive subjects and graphic rendition of his version of the stories while he was employed in that profession.

The book is available online at Amazon as well as Johnson's General Store in Kasson.



Terry Eckstein

## Announcements

• **West Concord Community Blood Drive** will be held on **Monday, April 8, from 12:30 - 5:30 p.m.** at **Faith Community Church**. The church is located at 305 State Street North (Hwy 56). Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) (enter West Concord) to schedule an appointment.

• **GriefShare support group** meets **Sundays, 3-5 pm**, at **Anchor Of Hope Church**, 203 East Main Street, Dodge Center, MN. Contact Dale E Rood at 507-633-2772 for more information. Registration is available on the GriefShare website or by calling Pastor Rood. This is for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one, friend, or other significant person in their lives.

• **The United Methodist Church of Dodge Center** at 20 First Street NE offers a **dine in and carry out meal from 5:00-6:00pm** the third Wednesday of each month.

Do you have an announcement?

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

## Dodge County Expo



(additional pictures on page 9)

## LIVE MUSIC!

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Lady's Happy Time	Thursday, April 4	4:30-6:30p.m.
Open Mic	Thursday, April 4	7:00-10:00p.m.
Open Mic	Thursday, April 18	7:00-10:00p.m.



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## What Things?

It's the third day since Jesus died by crucifixion, on a cross, like a murdering thief. Buried in a borrowed tomb.

It's the third day. But we are not in Jerusalem gathered in the Garden of Gethsemane. We do not find the disciples gathered in the upper room for a Sunrise surprise party— We do not see banners—plastered with gigantic red letters that read—"Welcome back Jesus" stretching across main street in Jerusalem.

It's the third day...and we find ourselves, with two of Jesus' disciples on their way out of town...leaving Jerusalem... on the road to Emmaus. It is about 5:00 in the evening as they walk—huddled close together. They talk frantically between themselves in excited, hushed tones about all that has happened in the last few days:

"Did you see? Did you see the way Peter denied ever knowing him?"

"Did you see the way the Master looked at him...that look of knowing...that look of forgiveness...that look of grief...I've never seen a look like it. And probably never will again."

"Did you see how they beat him with the whip until his back was nothing more than bloodied, dangling strips of meat?"

"Did you see tears welling up in the eyes of the centurion whose servant Jesus healed?"

"Can you believe how the crowd shouted for Barabbas' release?"

"Can you believe how they turned on Jesus?"

"Can you believe some of the same faces I know I saw among the 5,000...the same faces shoving fish and bread in their mouths till they had their fill when Jesus was teaching on the hillside—cursing and spitting on him as he struggled up that hill..."

"Did you wince, like I did, every time the hammer struck the nails...piercing through his wrists and the soft tops of his feet...again...and again...and again."

"Did you hear his words," My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

Maybe it's true...Maybe he wasn't the Chosen One... After all, it's the third day..." The two men are on their way back home. They've had enough of this city and the crowds and all that transpired over the last few days. Only last week they were among

the crowds' waving branches and shouting, "Blessed is He who come in the name of the Lord!"

Instead of celebrating they are walking with shoulders slumped, heads down and their hearts broken. Two friends of Jesus heading home. We're only given one of their names, Cleopas. As we consider that first Easter, I challenge you to take our unnamed disciple's place as we travel this Emmaus Road. Both of you have had a terrible week. Your friend, your 'savior' died on a cross instead of breaking the hold of Rome upon the people of Israel. It's a sad day, it's a sad walk! As you and your friend are walking along a stranger joins you on the road. A stranger that seems to be clueless to the transpiring of the week before. The stranger hears them talking and asks, "What are you talking about?" At this they stopped dead in their tracks. Their eyes staring at the ground. "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" Luke 24:18-19. "What rock did you crawl out from under?" Did you just arrive? The whole city is talking about all the things that have happened in the last few days.

Jesus asks simply, "what things?" And this begins their dialogue as they travel down the road. Neither recognizes who it is- the scripture says that God kept them from recognizing Jesus- they certainly weren't expecting to see Him as they walked home. They believed He was dead and gone- we need to remember there wasn't any halo over his head, there wasn't a glow about him- he again appeared as any ordinary man

walking down the road.

They had resigned themselves to believe Jesus was just a Prophet...a Prophet gently tucked away into a rich man's grave. There are many long-faced...despairing...deeply sad people walking around today because they can't see Jesus walking right there beside them! The truth is: if you don't recognize him as a living Lord—you won't recognize Him at all.

Many sad, despairing people now, make the same mistake as those two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They see Jesus as an ancient prophet tucked away into a tomb a long time ago...as an ethics professor...a good teacher from 2000 years ago with a lot of well-meaning ideas and good intentions that just don't work out in the real world. A good role model... A good man...Just a prophet of old...So they miss the company of the living Lord that longs to have a relationship with them as He walks alongside them each and every day. He is available to any that would call upon His name. In verse 21 it says, they "had hoped" He was the one who was going to redeem Israel. They had hoped He was the Messiah. They had hoped He was going to change their world. And most disturbing of all; "It's the third day!"

They didn't recognize the truth, staring them in the face. They had heard the gospel message! They had heard the good news; Jesus is alive! But they weren't sure.


Walking right alongside them in their disbelief, their disappointment, their doubts; Jesus was there! He was just waiting to be recognized! Just waiting for them to see Him, to recognize Him. Jesus is still here

and He is listening with patience to every word waiting for eyes to open wide with realization. You see they knew Jesus the man. The knew Jesus and his words. But they had never known him yet as the risen savior—the resurrected Lord.

Jesus is asked to give the blessing and then he breaks the bread!!! That one action opened their eyes to the reality of who He was! Their eyes were opened! They saw JESUS!

What will it take for your eyes to be opened? Jesus is right here today. This is HIS day!!! He is here. Celebrate His resurrection! His tomb is empty! See Jesus' heart for you. When you see Him- you make a choice- to follow or to ignore. The choice is yours....

*Celebration of Life*  
for  
*Al Gilbert*



**Sunday, April 21 at 1:00pm**  
**Bell Tower Event Center**  
**West Concord**

### DODGE CENTER

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center  
Pastor Jessica Bakken Busch • 507-374-2174  
Traditional Worship 8a.m.; Fellowship 9a.m.  
Christian Education 9:15a.m.  
Contemporary Worship 10a.m.

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

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

**Dodge Center Methodist Church**  
201 1st St. NE, Dodge Center  
Rev. Chad Christensen • 507-374-6885  
Sunday Morning Worship at 8:15a.m.,  
Fellowship Time Following

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

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

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

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

**Bible Lutheran Church**  
(American Assoc. of Lutheran Churches)  
11 1st Ave. N.E., Dodge Center  
[www.biblelc.org](http://www.biblelc.org) • 612-803-1212  
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.  
(weekly sermons available on YouTube and on website)

**First Congregational Church**  
12 Second Street NW  
Dodge Center, MN 55927 • 507-633-6873  
[www.congregationalchurchdc.com](http://www.congregationalchurchdc.com)  
Keith Mosier, Pastor

### Area Church Directory

Jesus Unites Us

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. . . . — John 15:5*

Are we really united to Jesus like branches to a vine? Yes, and amen! And does that mean we are also united with other people who are Christians? Yes, it does.

If we are united with Christ, we are like a branch of the holy vine of God. Yet there are other branches too, and the people represented by all those branches are loved by God just as we are—even if we might disagree with them in some ways or don't understand why they believe as they do. Sadly, there are divisions in the worldwide church of Jesus Christ, and those can often be ugly and unnecessary. Do different Christians see things differently? Yes. Do they act differently? Yes. May we separate from them, when they are living branches in the vine of Christ? No. To do so would be arrogant and hurtful.

Sometimes, however, people come up with false teachings that deny the truth of Christ (as in 1 John 2:18-27). And if they insist on following those teachings, they can mislead others and cut themselves off from the vine of Christ. That is a terrible tragedy, and we need to know how tragic it is when something like that happens. Let's do all we can to remain united with Christ and with the other branches of Christ's church. Jesus says, "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love. . . . Love each other as I have loved you."

*Forgive us, Lord, if we think that we are always right and that others should conform to our way. May we seek unity in you, the true vine. Amen.*

### WEST CONCORD

**Faith Community Church**  
305 State Street N, West Concord • 507-527-2244  
Pastor David Brederland  
Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship; 10:45a.m. Sunday School  
[www.fcwc.org](http://www.fcwc.org)  
Facebook: WC Faith Community Church

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

**Trinity Lutheran, ELCA**  
301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778  
Pastor Chad Christensen • [trinitychurchwc.net](mailto:trinitychurchwc.net)  
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:  
[TrinityLutheranChurchWestConcordMN](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchWestConcordMN)  
Sundays 9:45a.m. Worship in building and live streamed on Facebook  
Sunday School 10:30a.m.  
Tuesday Men's Bible Study, 7:00a.m.  
at church and via Zoom  
Call church for more information on ministries and events.

**Church of Christ**  
55087 200th Ave., West Concord • 507-527-2723  
Pastor Peter Moen  
9:00a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Worship  
[concordchurchmn.com](http://concordchurchmn.com)

**Zwingli United Church of Christ**  
"The Berne Church"  
23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340  
Pastor Karen Larson  
Sunday 10:00a.m. Worship; Find us on Facebook

*Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the The Messenger at: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)*

### CLAREMONT

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

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

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## Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin

### Becoming a Farmer: First Steps

By Monica & Claudia Vanderborght

A farm dog -- for companionship and protection.

Monica's daughter had two dogs, both lab-crosses. Together, they could get into so much trouble!! If they weren't locked in their kennels each and every time the family left the home, disaster would greet them upon return: upturned garbage cans spilling their contents, pillows and sofa cushions strewn about, shoes chewed, once they even managed to open the refrigerator door and raid the contents. Mocha and Ice didn't have a bad life, but their weekdays were relegated to their kennels. Ice was a sweetie with those he knew -- but a car accident had left him with only three legs and abuse made him untrustworthy around strangers, particularly men. Mocha was an easy girl with a wonderfully loud, deep, (and often too frequent) bark. After a few lessons at PetCo, Mocha knew basic commands and actually followed them on occasion.

Mocha absolutely loved her new-found freedom. She followed Monica everywhere, although she kept a safe distance when the chainsaw was in use. The rule of "No Dogs on the Couch" was quickly forgotten -- when Monica was on the couch, Mocha was there. When Monica was in bed, Mocha was there. The two spent many hours outside each day, and she was Monica's constant companion.

Cats -- for amusement and critter control. Monica is adventuresome and brave, but when it comes to rodents and snakes Monica reacts like a typical girl.

Never mind that Monica fearlessly drove her 4WD Jeep over / through trails (and creeks and large rocks) in Minnesota and Wisconsin with the Dakota Dirt Diggers. (An important lesson that would also serve her well on the farm: "If you aren't getting stuck, you aren't learning anything.") All by herself, Monica traveled 49 states and several Canadian provinces on a Goldwing motorcycle. In 2005 she volunteered to be deployed

with the Naval Reserve: ten days later she was on a plane to CENTCOM in Tampa for paperwork and immunizations; two weeks later she was on the long flight to Qatar.

Brave, yes. But when it comes to snakes and rodents, Monica actually believes she can levitate when startled by either. Perhaps it is the scream that gives the extra lift. Cats, for critter control, were absolutely essential.

So four kittens came to the farm: two from CraigsList, two from a friend. Each grandchild was tasked with naming one kitten. Cuddles and Tippie were siblings (who hated each other and hissed whenever the other drew near). Shelley and Oliver were lively, curious, and chased each other all over the house. Slowly, the kittens were given greater outdoor freedom as they grew.

One dog, four cats, and dozens of boots (Monica, kids, grandkids, friends of grandkids) can bring in a tremendous amount of dirt and mud from the outside. The barely-nice house with easy-to-clean floors was appreciated.

Autumn turned to winter. The days got shorter and colder. Claudia, who for decades had heated her homes exclusively with wood, assured Monica that the fire could burn all day without supervision. It could burn all night too. If the grandkids wanted to find the kittens, the fireplace was the first place they looked.

Every January, the fifth grade teachers and students headed to Eagle Bluff for a three-day field trip. This was the first extended "vacation" Monica would be away from home. (Not really a vacation, having to supervise all those children -- and their parents.) But it was a wonderful learning experience for the kids, many of whom had lived their entire lives in apartments with hundreds of TV channels and piles of video games. Mocha returned to Ice's house for a three-day sleepover. Thermostats for the electric heaters were set to 55 degrees. Food and water was left for the kittens ... although one wasn't looking well. Shelly was lethargic and showed little interest in food or water. Either she would be okay, or she wouldn't. Monica left for the field-trip, hoping for the best.

The internet was slow at Eagle Bluff, but Monica looked up symptoms of feline diseases. She asked for advice from the teachers. All symptoms pointed to feline leukemia

-- a death sentence for Shelley and probably the other three. It was a long three days and a dreaded return home.

Mocha was thrilled to be out of the suburbs and back on the farm where she could run free again. Three kittens seemed fine, but Shelley was seriously ill. Monica still had two days before the weekend to consider options. Her colleagues sympathetically suggested that Shelley be taken to the vet for a confirmed diagnosis and to be euthanized. All the suburban friends agreed.

But Monica resolved: wasn't she a farmer now? Farmers don't take their cats to the vet to be euthanized -- they do it themselves. Farmers do not let their animals suffer. It was a difficult, agonizing, painful decision. But when she got home from school that day and saw the pitiful state Shelley was in, Monica knew what she had to do. It was a rough, rough weekend -- but she knew she had done the right, the farmer thing.

Several months later, Oliver started going downhill -- the same symptoms. This time the decision was no easier, but farmers do not let their animals suffer. Oliver's suffering was shorter, and the decision was easier, though no less painful.

Monica felt she had just passed a huge milestone in becoming a legitimate farmer. The first, difficult steps had been taken.



Mocha

## OBITUARY

### Nathan J. Avery

Nathan John Avery, 46, of Wanamingo, died Friday, March 29, 2024 at St. Marys Hospital as the result of a head injury.



He was born December 2, 1977 in Owatonna, Minnesota the son of Mark and Vicky (Hanson) Avery. He grew up in West Concord and attended Triton School.

At a young age, he began working with his father running equipment, then worked for Jason French on his farm, L & D Recycling, Hutton Drainage, and was currently a heavy equipment operator at B.H. Heselton Construction.

Nathan was a quiet, caring, and generous person. He was the one you called when you needed help, knowing he'd be right there for you. Nate was fearless and adventurous (always willing to try new things), a problem solver (he knew how to fix most things), and dedicated to his work, which he loved.

He was married to Jackie Morten and they were blessed with two children, Jordyn and Rylan. He loved children and was a good teacher. He enjoyed family time and was fond of his dogs.

He is survived by his children, Jordyn (Greysen) Deblaay of Kasson and Rylan Avery of Kasson; partner, Erin Fjerstad of Wanamingo; mother, Vicky Avery of Wanamingo; siblings, Heidi (Tony) Mueller of Ramsey, Heather Avery Overson of Mantorville and Mark "Tony" (Jamie) Avery of West Concord; step-children, Dylan (Makayla) Fitzpatrick of Rochester and Kirsten (Matt) Schultz of Waltham; grandchildren, Weston and Hazel Deblaay, Bryant, Maverick, Logan and Eli Fitzpatrick and Waylon Schultz and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Mark Avery; grandparents, Lloyd and LaVonne Avery and John and Elaine Hanson; close cousin, Johnathon Lowery and other relatives.

Visitation will be at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna on Wednesday, April 3rd from 4:00 - 7:00 PM and on Thursday from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Funeral services will be held Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna with Pastor Jim Avery officiating. Interment will be in the Concord Cemetery in Concord Township.



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## February Dodge County Commissioners Meeting

(continued from page 1)

Claremont Township has requested that we move the hearing to April 9th, 2024. The township is willing to recess their regular meeting for the turnback hearing. The hearing would be held after the Hayfield Township turnback hearing at 6:30 p.m. The County Engineer is recommending that the Board set the Claremont Township turnback hearing for 7:45 p.m. April 9th, 2024 to allow time to complete the turnback hearing in Hayfield and get to Claremont. Motion by Toquam seconded by Tjosaas to move the CSAH 5 and CR G Turnback Hearing with Claremont Township to Tuesday, April 9th, 2024 at 7:45 p.m. as requested.

Revocation of CR K to Canisteo Township The County Engineer reported the process to revoke the designation of the North side of CR K, from CSAH 9 to CSAH 13 as a county road and turn it back to Canisteo Township has progressed throughout the past year. Dis-

cussions were held with Canisteo Township Officers and a public hearing regarding the revocation was held February 6, 2024. During the public hearing it was generally agreed by everyone present that this 3-mile section of CR K fits more appropriately at the township level. These roads are generally within 3 miles of more improved county roads and do not substantially make connections between other county roads or destinations. Therefore, they do not fit in the county network and are more suited to be township roads. County Highway staff will meet with township officers and a list of projects and improvements will be developed. These projects will be completed by the county during the 2-year mandatory transition period. Included in the Board packet was the proposed resolution which revokes CR K, from CSAH 9 to CSAH 13, as a county road and places it under the jurisdiction of Canisteo Township. Sunrise Trail Improvement Grant Application Assistant County Engineer Travis Martin reported the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) offers a Federal Recreation Trail Grant aimed at promoting the maintenance and development of motorized, non-motorized, or diversified trails by providing financial assistance. The Highway Department is in the process of preparing an application for this grant, which offers up to \$200,000 and requires a minimum 25% match. Their intended use of the grant funds

is to pave a 1.5-inch overlay on the 2.2-mile stretch of the Sunrise Trail and improve trail/roadway crossings. The estimated total cost of the construction project is \$316,000, with the remaining \$116,000 to be covered by local county funds. For this they would use wheelage tax funds for the local share. If the grant is successfully selected, the funds will become available in October 2024, and construction is anticipated to commence in the summer of 2025. The project is located on existing public owned lands between Kasson and Mantorville; and WHEREAS the County of Dodge recognizes that it has secured \$116,000 in local cash matching funds for this project and must provide a twenty-five percent (25%) cash match. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if the County of Dodge is awarded a grant by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the County of Dodge agrees to accept the grant award and may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced project. The County of Dodge will comply with all applicable state and federal laws, environmental requirements and regulations as stated in the grant agreement. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the applicant has read the Conflict-of-Interest Policy con-

tained in the Trail Program Grant Manual and certifies it will report any actual, potential, or organizational conflicts of interest upon discovery to the state related to the application or grant award. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Dodge names the fiscal agent for the County of Dodge for this project as: Lisa Kramer Director of Finance Dodge County 721 N Main Street Mantorville, MN 55955 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Dodge hereby assures the Sunrise Trail Improvement Project will be maintained for a period of no less than 20 years.

Mr. Miller provided the Board with a presentation on the state of the county's water for 2023. The Environmental Project Manager discussed the following with the Board: . . . Regional Nitrate News Dodge County Nitrate Statistics Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network Support in Dodge County Commissioner Allen and Commissioner Toquam discussed funding the One Watershed One Plan groups are receiving and the difficulties they are experiencing with spending that money. It was suggested that Mr. Miller reach out to these entities to see if any of those funds could be used to improve water quality in Dodge County. (continued on page 5)

WEST CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS  
AUTHOR, HISTORIAN, AND PHOTOGRAPHER  
DOUG OHMAN:

# STATE PARKS OF MINNESOTA

All are welcome!

Minnesotans love their State Parks! Go on a visual vacation with photographer, Doug Ohman, as he shares his photographs, stories and the history of our 67 state parks. This program is free and open to the public.

📅 April 9, 2024  
6:30pm

📍 West Concord Public Library  
180 Main St  
West Concord, MN 55985

📞 (507) 527-2031

📱 Find more events in the region here!

# MN AUTHOR TOUR 2024

APRIL 12 2024  
5:30 PM

Public Library  
180 Main St  
West Concord, MN 55985

Free and open to the public!

# JESS LOUREY & SARAH STONICH

More Author Events!

Edgar Award, Amazon Charts Bestseller, International Thriller Award, Anthony Award, Minnesota Book Award

## February Dodge County Commissioners Meeting

(continued from page 4)

Commissioner Allen indicated that he believes Goodhue County is ahead of Dodge County in their efforts to clean up their waters. Commissioner Toquam noted people can come in and get free water test kits from Environmental Services. The Environmental Project Manager clarified that they have a limited amount of free water test kits, and when they are gone, they won't get another batch of free test kits again until August. Mr. Miller reported county residents still have the option to purchase water test kits for a fee once all of the free test kits have been distributed. Commissioner Toquam stated she feels the environmental practices they have in place now are better than they were 30 years ago. Ms. Toquam noted although farmers today are more aware of their impact on the environment and take steps to protect the environment, they are still being blamed for issues that may have been created by the farming practices years ago. Mr. Miller reported he believes we have better practices in place now and that is likely the reason that they are see-

ing the nitrate levels coming down. The Board thanked Mr. Miller for the update.

Brandon Servantez, Veteran Services Officer Resolution Request to Accept a Donation from Claremont Area Chamber of Commerce Mr. Servantez reported that the Claremont Area Chamber of Commerce donated \$500 to put towards a new veteran services vehicle.

Paul Kiltinen, County Attorney Legal Update Mr. Kiltinen provided the Board with a legal update. The County Attorney informed the Board that they are now doing a jury trial calendar every month. This is different than what they've been doing, but it's helping to get some of the stale cases done. Mr. Kiltinen reported it's also easier for them because they can plan around when a jury trial is going to happen.

Mr. Hicks informed the Board that Dodge County IT is looking for approval to purchase all planned computers for 2024 at one time. The total cost for computers this year is \$72,175. They are also looking to get the Microsoft Cloud project started. In order to do this, Information Technology will need to purchase our subscriptions and hire a vendor to help them out with this setup. The annual recurring subscriptions cost will be \$125,400 with an additional \$20,000 to hire a vendor to help us migrate to The Microsoft Cloud. The Director of Information Technology reported that both of these items are in the budget for 2024.

Mr. Rose reported that he has the city and

school contracts for this year signed by City Administrators and Superintendents. These contracts are figured as was discussed during their budget presentation last year and are in need of Board Chair signatures. Contract terms and costs were listed as follows Triton School District School Resource Officer Services \$18,144, Hayfield School District Resource Officer \$14,730. City of Claremont Law Enforcement Services \$75,190. City of Dodge Center Law Enforcement Services \$318,683. City of Hayfield Law Enforcement Services \$159,341. City of Mantorville Law Enforcement Services \$107,334 Commissioner Allen informed the Board that he had concerns with the cost of the SRO Officer services and had an opportunity to discuss those concerns with the Sheriff prior to the meeting. Mr. Allen was concerned with the fact that the amount the schools were being charged for the SRO services weren't enough to cover the actual cost of the officers wages. Sheriff Rose informed Commissioner Allen that he inherited the contract amounts when he became Sheriff and that he has increased the SRO fees to the schools each year by 3% since he took office. Those fees were handled differently by the previous Sheriff and didn't keep up with the cost of the actual services that were being provided. Sheriff Rose assured the Board that when he has an opportunity to adjust those rates, such as the most recent increase in SRO services at the Triton School District, he has adjusted the rate to reflect the actual cost to provide those services. Mr. Rose noted the current rate is figured using 8 months of a Deputy's salary, which aligns with the length of the school year.

Sheriff Rose reported he is providing this lease update at the request of the Board Chair. The Sheriff's Office has nine Tahoes that are waiting on parts for upfitting at the upfitters in Kasson. This is essentially 2 years of vehicles because of the market and backup with manufacturers, which was unfortunately out of their control. Four of these squads are replacing older owned vehicles, and five are

replacing the Durango's which were the first leased Enterprise vehicles. As soon as they have all the equipment and the squads are up-fitted, these vehicles will go into service and the Sheriff's Office will have Enterprise sell the vehicles being replaced. Moving forward, these nine Tahoes will remain in service for 4 years. They will then be sold and replaced based on mileage and other factors. The equity once sold will get rolled back into the lease to pay down the increased cost for new Tahoes. The equipment in these Tahoes will be used for two cycles, or 8 years - so they'll have to pay labor in 4 years to switch out the equipment, but shouldn't incur much for new equipment costs. Sheriff Rose noted this is one rotation cycle where they will have more than four or five vehicles to upfit, but unfortunately the market dictated that, not the Sheriff's Office. The goals of this program were listed as follows: 1) Keep their staff in up-to-date vehicles to keep their Deputies safe and the public safe. 2) Reduce maintenance/repair costs. 3) Utilize equity to keep monthly rates low. 4) Make annual budgeting simple. 5) Quality equipment attracts quality candidates. Commissioner Toquam wanted to know if the Sheriff plans to stay with Tahoes now. Mr. Rose reported that they plan to stay with the Tahoes. They are a better vehicle, they can re use the equipment if the body style doesn't change too much, and it's the preferred squad.

Mr. Harbaugh reported that in order for the building to be erected at the Fairgrounds the county will have to hire an inspector for soils, concrete, and steel inspections along with a summary report. This is typical of all projects and AB Systems assumes \$3,800 of the contracted amount as part of the project, the Facilities & Fleet Manager will work with AB Systems on the details of processing the payments/credits. Commissioner Allen reported that the county will have to absorb the remaining cost of the inspections.

(continued on page 6)



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## February Dodge County Commissioners Meeting

(continued from page 5)

The Dodge County Commissioners met in regular session February 27, 2023, in the County Board Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Martin presented for the Board's consideration the 2024 weight restrictions resolution. The resolution lists the routes and segments as they are posted for Spring Load Restrictions. Restriction timing is recommended by MnDOT utilizing various methods to monitor thawing index and frost out. This timing notice is provided with a three-day advance of placing restrictions on State roads. As our roads are not typically built to the standards of the average State road we follow the initiation of load restrictions but then keep ours on approximately two weeks longer in the spring. As weather is unpredictable it is difficult to guess what road thawing is going to be like during any given season. The proposed resolution authorizes the County Engineer to set the timing of the load restrictions as necessary for the season.

The Community & Business Development Specialist reported the Economic Develop-

ment focus in 2023 seemed to be heavily weighted in the child care arena for Dodge County. The lack of child care spaces in small communities can pose significant challenges for families and impact various aspects of community life. Adequate, quality child care options are crucial for workforce participation, especially for parents. Which is why a significant amount of time was spent addressing the lack of child care spaces and attempting to retain the providers that are licensed in the County and surrounding area. A shift in the availability and quality of child

care services is due to retirement of providers. In 2000, there were about 86 licensed child care providers in Dodge County and as of 2023, that number was closer to 45. Without child care, it impacts the labor force participation rate, particularly among parents with young children. The retirement of providers creates a ripple effect that extends beyond the child care sector, influencing various aspects of the economy, education, real estate, and community well-being. The nature and magnitude of these effects depend on local factors, policies, and the adaptability of the community to address changing needs. Multiple programs from the State, Southern

Minnesota Initiative Foundation and other resources are available to increase child care capacity and the EDA will continue to stay on top of them and work with MN Prairie, school districts, centers and the Dodge County Licensed Child Care Association (DCLCCA) providers to see how they can continue to retain, recruit and increase capacity and providers in the County.

Commissioner Peterson expressed his displeasure with the rifle supplies that were purchased by the Sheriff's Office as listed on page 8 of the bills, in the amount of \$11,164.01.

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## Grants Available through the MN Dept. of Agriculture

**MDA Now Accepting Applications for Livestock Investment Grants**  
**Deadline to apply is 4 p.m. on May 2, 2024**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is once again accepting applications for the Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Livestock Investment Grant. Minnesota livestock farmers and ranchers looking to make improvements to their operations are encouraged to apply.

Livestock Investment Grant funds can be used for equipment purchases and physical improvements to help start, improve, or expand livestock operations in Minnesota. Examples of reimbursable investments include — but are not limited to — the construction or improvement of buildings or facilities for producing livestock, watering systems, fencing, feed equipment, and livestock waste management equipment.

The MDA will award up to \$650,000 in this round of Livestock Investment Grants using a competitive review process. Applicants may apply for up to 10% of their project's total cost, with a maximum grant award of \$25,000. Only expenses incurred after the grant contract has been signed by all parties are eligible for reimbursement.

All principal operators of livestock farms in Minnesota are invited to apply, including those who have received Livestock Investment Grants in the past. However, preference will be given to applicants or farms that have not previously been awarded a grant. Only one application will be accepted per farm.

For the purposes of this program, livestock includes beef and dairy cattle, swine, poultry, goats, mules, bison, sheep, horses, farmed cervids (deer, elk), ratites (flightless birds including emu), and llamas.

Applications for the grant will be accepted until 4 p.m. Central Time on Thursday, May 2, 2024. Visit the AGRI Livestock Investment Grant web page to access the full request for proposals (RFP) for further eligibility details.

Funding for the Livestock Investment Grant is made available through the MDA's AGRI Program, which administers grants to farmers, agribusinesses, schools, and more throughout the state of Minnesota. The AGRI Program exists to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy sectors.

## New MDA Grants Available to Aid in Weather Resilience

**Program will help farmers and ranchers prepare for extreme weather events**

Recognizing the risks posed by extreme weather, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering a new grant opportunity to help eligible producers make their operations more resilient to drought, flooding, and severe weather events like storms, tornadoes, and straight-line winds.

The Preparing for Extreme Weather Grant, also referred to as the Prepare Grant, offers one-time competitive grants of up to \$10,000 for Minnesota livestock and specialty crop producers to buy and install supplies and equipment for weather event preparation. It requires a 50% match.

"In the past few years, we've seen examples of extreme weather like record flooding and drought affect farming operations throughout Minnesota," said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. "These grants will help producers bolster their operations and get ahead of the curve in terms of anticipating and managing the risks of future weather events."

For the purposes of this grant program:

Livestock includes beef and dairy cattle,

swine, poultry, goats, mules, bison, sheep, horses, farmed cervids (deer, elk), ratites (flightless birds including emu), and llamas.

Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops, and floriculture. See USDA's list of Specialty Crops for further examples.

Eligible projects include — but are not limited to — water tanks, pipelines, and wagons/trailers; wells (new improvements, fixes, replacement pumps); irrigation equipment (including drip irrigation); fans; misters; livestock shade systems; and windbreaks.

The MDA expects to award 50 to 75 grants with the \$500,000 available for this program and encourages producers to apply early. Applications will be accepted through 4 p.m. Central Time on April 23, 2024, and the MDA will notify applicants as soon as possible, but no later than May 31, about whether their proposal was funded.

Full grant details and the request for proposals (RFP) can be found on the MDA website.

The Preparing for Extreme Weather Grant is funded by the Agricultural Growth and Research Initiative (AGRI) Program, which supports advances in Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy sectors.

## Region 8 FFA Awards Night

With the state FFA convention being less than a month away, all of the chapters of Region 8 gathered in Zumbrota to celebrate the accomplishments of its members during the 2023-2024 school year.

Triton was well represented at the event with students being recognized in the various events listed below:

### Career Development Events (CDEs)

#### Meats Evaluation- 2nd place

John Moenning- 2nd overall individual  
 Jacob Kasper  
 Noah Kasper  
 Austan Adreon  
 Jason Wolf

#### Crops- 3rd place

Caleb Chilson- 2nd overall individual  
 Brady Staub  
 Wade Holtet  
 Andrew Holtet

#### Nursery Landscape- 3rd place

Jenna Kenworthy  
 Savannah Peterson  
 Tristan Nelson  
 Kianna Skalicky  
 Gabby Geers

### Supervised Agricultural Experience (Proficiency and Star Degrees)

#### Region 8 Star Farmer

John Moenning

#### Region 8 Star in AFNR Research

Cadence Spearman

\*Special Note: Triton had 50% of the Region Stars this school year\*

#### Agriscience Research Proficiency- Plant Systems

Cadence Spearman  
 Region 1st Gold and State Top Two Finalist

#### Dairy Entrepreneurship

Proficiency Cadence Spearman  
 Region 1st Gold and State Top Three Finalist

### Individual Career Development Events

#### Talent Competition

Caleb Chilson- 2nd place

#### Dairy Handler

Elyssa Robinson- 3rd place

In addition to all of these teams and students that achieved at a high level at region competition, Triton will be taking the following students to compete or receive honors listed below:

### State Bound Career Development Event Teams and Individuals

#### Best Informed Greenhand

Emma Kruckeberg  
 Sydney Rysavy  
 Autumn Froyum  
 Brayden Munnikhuisen  
 Hunter Hamm

#### Poultry Evaluation

Poe Broskoff

### State Degree Recipients

John Moenning  
 Tristan Nelson  
 Caleb Chilson  
 Poe Broskoff  
 Elyssa Robinson  
 Cadence Spearman  
 Jenna Kenworthy

State Convention runs from Sunday April 21 to Tuesday April 23 at the U of M campuses and the State Fair Grounds.

Anyone from the community may join the convention at the sessions in person or by viewing online through MN FFA YouTube account. Our members are looking forward to competing at the state level with the goal of trying to win the state in their respective contests and events.

See pictures on page 8.

# Region 8 FFA Awards Night



Members of Triton FFA that attended the Region 8 Awards Night  
 Back row left to right: Tristan Nelson, Jacob Kasper, Noah Kasper, John Moenning, Caleb Chilson, Andrew Holtet, Brady Staub, Wade Holtet  
 Front row left to right: Cadence Spearman, Savannah Peterson, Gabby Geers, Elyssa Robinson and Jason Wolf



Second Place Meats team. Members pictured left to right: Jacob Kasper, Noah Kasper, John Moenning and Jason Wolf. Missing from the picture is Austan Adreon



Region Star Farmer John Moenning and Region Star in AFNR Research Cadence Spearman



Region Star Farmer John Moenning



Region Star in AFNR Research Cadence Spearman



Members of the 3rd place Crops Team pictured left to right: Andrew Holtet, Wade Holtet, Brady Staub, and Caleb Chilson.



Members of the 3rd place Nursery Landscape Team. Pictured Left to Right: Savannah Peterson, Tristan Nelson, and Gabby Geers. Missing from the picture are Jenna Kenworthy and Kianna Skalicky



# Dodge County Expo

April 3, 2024

- DODGE CENTER, CLAREMONT, WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

Page 9



## MDA Reminds Farmers of Proper Bulk Fertilizer Storage

Ahead of the planting season, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is reminding farmers of proper storage guidelines for bulk fertilizer.

Bulk liquid fertilizer can contaminate soil, surface water, and groundwater if a storage tank or pipe leaks. Dry fertilizer can also leach into the environment if it is placed on the ground and mixes with snow and rain.

To limit the risk of environmental impacts, liquid fertilizer tanks must be inside a containment system that will hold any spills. This is called secondary containment. Dry fertilizer must be stored on an impervious surface and in a roofed area that will protect its contents from the elements. There may be other requirements depending on the location of the stored dry fertilizer.

Farmers storing any amount of dry bulk fertilizer on the farm must get an MDA bulk storage permit. Farmers must also get an MDA permit if they're storing more than 6,000 gallons of liquid fertilizer.

The storage permit application must include drawings for secondary containment. An application, along with a \$100 fee, must be submitted prior to the start of construction or storage of any dry fertilizer or more than 6,000 gallons of liquid fertilizer. The permit application can be found on the MDA website.

Failing to comply with bulk fertilizer storage requirements may result in further enforcement actions by the MDA. Contamination from a release may also result in a costly environmental cleanup that could be averted when liquid bulk fertilizer tanks or dry fertilizer is in an MDA permitted containment. As a reminder, a release of fertilizer into the environment is an incident that must be immediately reported to the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798.

For more information on bulk storage and permits, contact Matthew Parins at 651-201-6587 or Matthew.Parins@state.mn.us.

## Minnesota State Park Summer Tours Now Taking Reservations

By Minnesota DNR

This summer, Minnesota state parks will offer tours introducing visitors to the Iron Ranges' mining history, prairie life, and the longest cave in the state.

Reservations are now available for tours at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine, Blue Mounds, and Forestville/Mystery Cave state parks. Schedules and reservation information are available on the state park tours webpage of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website.

### Returning in 2024: Soudan Underground Mine tours at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park

Minnesota has been a powerhouse in the production of iron ore starting with the state's first iron ore mine, the Soudan Mine, which opened in 1882 and operated until 1962. Underground mine tours will return in May after being closed the last two years due to an extensive restoration project. The mine shaft restoration was completed in December 2023 and new interpretive exhibits are coming to the visitor center in April. In addition, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the installation of the mine shaft hoist in the engine house.

"The Soudan Mine is a living memorial that honors all who immigrated to the Iron Ranges of Minnesota to seek a better life for themselves," said Sarah Guy-Levar, interpretive services supervisor at the park. "We are eager to share the major improvements with our visitors and help people fully immerse themselves in the authentic experience of an underground miner."

The Soudan Underground Mine offers historic tours where visitors travel 2,341 feet — nearly one-half mile — underground by cage on authentic, expertly maintained hoisting equipment. Once underground, participants board a train and ride nearly a mile to the last and deepest area of the mine. On the tour, visitors hear true stories of the miners and learn firsthand about the working conditions that made this underground iron mine the safest of all the Iron Range mines.

Historic tours run daily from Memorial Day weekend through the end of September. In October, tours are offered on weekends through the third weekend of the month. Mine tours are fully accessible. Reservations are highly recommended as tours frequently sell out.

(continued on page 11)

# BERNE Summer 2024 Concert Series



FREE MUSIC WEDNESDAYS 5-8 PM

Date	Opening Band 5:00 PM	Headliner 6:30 PM
June 5th -	Lost Faculties	Uptown Jazz
June 12th - <small>Swiss Heritage Exhibit</small>	Thomas & the Shakes	Branded: Hot Country
June 19th - <small>Art &amp; Spaces</small>	Foster Grand	Crazy on You: A Tribute to Heart
June 26th - <small>Classic Car Cruise &amp; Country Night</small>	507 Country	County Line Drive
July 3rd -	Rockin' Hep Cats	Old Country Boys
July 10th - <small>Kids Night w/ Zollman Zoo</small>	The Vintage Tones	The Soul Train
July 17th -	Orchid Jane	Incognito
July 24th -	Collective Unconscious	The Stella Vees
July 31st - <small>Classic Car Cruise</small>	Cosmic Orphan	Retro Soul & the Westside Horns
August 7th - <small>Artisan Market</small>	My Grandma's Cardigan	Six Mile Grove
August 14th -	The Chubs	The Local Hooligans
August 21st - <small>Swiss Brewfest</small>	True North	fABBAulous
August 28th - <small>Classic Car Cruise</small>	Jeremy Jewell & the Co-Dependents	Nite Shift

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## Minnesota State Park Summer Tours Now Taking Reservations

(continued from page 10)

### Prairie and bison tours at Blue Mounds State Park

Blue Mounds State Park, in the state's far southwest corner, offers a 90-minute bus tour into a vast prairie that might include the sighting of the park's massive bison herd. These powerful wild animals can be elusive, so there's no guarantee of seeing one. However, prairie life — such as grasses, prairie flowers and other wildlife — can easily be seen on the tour.

"The bison's story of resilience shows us just how powerful the prairie can be," said Tiffany Muellner, interpretive naturalist at Blue Mounds State Park. "Taking the tour is a great way to experience some of that story and discover how the prairie is so much more than grass."

Tour reservations are required. Prairie and bison tours run Thursday through Sunday

from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and weekends from mid-September to mid-October. The tour bus is equipped with a lift and can accommodate one wheelchair per tour.

### Mystery Cave tours at Mystery Cave at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park

Covering 13 miles, Mystery Cave is Minnesota's longest cave. Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park offers a variety of tours through the cave, including the one-hour lantern tour, the one-hour scenic tour, the two-hour geology tour, and the four-hour wild caving tour. Each tour takes visitors to different areas of the cave and showcases stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone, fossils, and cave pools.

"Mystery Cave is unique because of its interconnectedness to so many wonderful things," Cave Manager Dawn Ryan said. "When visitors leave the surface and go underground into Mystery Cave, they quickly discover the cave is its own environment defined by water. Everywhere you look, water is dripping, flowing or pooling. Water flowing through the cave contributes to the beautiful cave formations and provides habitat for rare cave life."

One-hour scenic tours begin May 11 and run through Oct. 20, and are offered multiple times daily. These tours are fully accessible.



Reservations are recommended, but walk-ins will be accommodated based on availability. The 12:20 p.m. and 3:20 p.m. tours on weekends are not reservable and are for walk-ins only.

The lantern, geology and wild caving tours are offered on weekends only, and reservations are required. Participants in these tours should read the cave tour webpage for details about age restrictions, footwear requirements, and conditions that participants will encounter. Lantern and geology tours are available from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Wild caving tours run from June 1 to Aug. 24.

### State park vehicle permits

A state parks vehicle permit is not needed for the parking area at the visitor center at Soudan Underground Mine or the Stuntz Bay parking lots; visitors will need a vehicle permit to enter other areas of the park, including the campground.

Four participants at Blue Mounds and Forestville/Mystery Cave state parks will need a vehicle permit to drive into the park for their tour.

The permit cost is \$7 per day, or \$35 per year for unlimited visits to all state parks and recreation areas. Vehicle permits can be purchased on the state parks permit webpage or in person during open hours at state park ranger stations.



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SATURDAY! Hand Battered Jumbo Shrimp or Slow Roasted Prime Rib  
SUNDAY! Enjoy Our Sunday Breakfast Beginning at 9a.m. and Sunday Pasta Features

37540 Goodview Ave., Dennison, MN  
Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 AM-10:00 PM  
Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM-9:30 PM, Sunday 9:00 AM-8:00 PM  
Bar Open 24hrs  
RESERVATIONS STRONGLY SUGGESTED. CALL 507-645-9992.  
www.thefireside.com

**Center Restaurant**  
30 Main Street  
Dodge Center, MN 55927

**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**  
Generous portions, friendly service and delicious homestyle cooking anytime!

**10% OFF with this ad**  
Good Monday-Friday. Expires April 30, 2024.

Hours: Sunday-Thursday 7am-3pm  
Friday-Saturday 7am-8pm  
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**House Smoked BBQ Food, Cold Drinks and LIVE MUSIC!**

Watch our Facebook Page Daily  
Specials & Weekend Entertainment!

Check Out Our Website!  
**RBAR-RANDOLPH.BIZ**  
Great Way to Keep Up on All Our Live Events!

**R BAR**  
4354 292nd St E, Randolph  
507-646-0107  
rbar.randolph@gmail.com  
Monday 3:00pm-9:00pm  
Tuesday-Thursday 11:00am-1:00pm  
Friday & Saturday 11:00am-1:00am  
Sunday 11:00am-9:00pm

**AREA DINING & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Eat, Drink, Gather!**

**TAMMY'S PLACE**  
Restaurant & Bar  
Kasson, MN

**DRINKS • APPETIZERS**  
**SANDWICHES • BURGERS**  
**SALADS • WRAPS • DESSERTS**

**DAILY SPECIALS**

Closed Monday; Tuesday-Thursday 11am-9pm; Friday-Saturday 11am-10pm  
Sunday 11am-8pm  
111 West Main Street, Kasson, MN  
507-634-3133

**SANDWICHES • BURGERS**  
**BBQ**

**THE SMOKIN' SILVERBACK**

1832 South Cedar Owatonna MN  
507-214-0701  
Monday-Thursday 11am-9pm  
Friday-Saturday 11am-10pm  
Sunday 11am-7pm

**Area 57 COFFEE Cafe**  
Where Good Coffee and Good Friends Meet!

M-F 7:30am to 7:30pm  
Sat. 7am to 2pm; Closed Sundays

125 Main Street, Wanamingo, MN  
507-824-2969

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Restaurant & Bar

TOREY'S IS ENHANCING YOUR DINING EXPERIENCE  
Come check out our expanded menu, extensive drink selection and new renovations.

MONDAY-TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY 11:00AM-8:00PM  
FRIDAY 11:00AM-9:00PM • SATURDAY 3:00PM-9:00PM • SUNDAY CLOSED

**TOREYS.NET**

**BOOK YOUR SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS**  
Banquet Hall, Seating Up to 300  
Full Bar • Full Restroom Facilities • Complete Catering Services  
208 North Cedar, Owatonna  
507-455-9260

**East Wind 東風 Buffet**

**15% OFF**  
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**10% OFF**  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday with ad

**MENU OR BUFFET**

Hours:  
Monday: 11am-10pm  
Tuesday: Closed  
Wed.-Sun.: 11am-10pm

Cannot be used with other offers.  
**507-451-9666**  
1015 W. Frontage Rd., Suite 103, Owatonna • South of Lowe's  
Dine In Only • Expires April 30, 2024

**TAMMY'S PLACE**  
Restaurant & Bar  
Kasson, MN

**DRINKS • APPETIZERS**  
**SANDWICHES • BURGERS**  
**SALADS • WRAPS • DESSERTS**

**DAILY SPECIALS**

Closed Mon.; Tues-Thu 11am-9pm; Fri-Sat 11am-10pm  
Sun 11am-8pm  
111 West Main Street, Kasson, MN  
507-634-3133

**BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER**

**BURGERS**  
**ESPRESSO**  
**HOTDISH**  
**ICE CREAM**

Try our daily specials!

**ANGIE'S**  
Restaurant

635 2nd Street, Kenyon  
Hours:  
Tues.-Sat. 7am to 8pm  
Sunday 8am to 1pm  
Closed Mondays  
507-789-1100

**Olivia's FAMILY RESTAURANT**

Family Fare at Great Prices

Breakfast  
Daily Specials  
Weekend Breakfast Buffet

**10% OFF** with this ad  
Good Monday-Friday. One coupon per meal.  
Expires April 30, 2024

Hours: **Sunday-Wednesday 6:00am-3:00pm**  
**Thursday-Saturday 6:00am-8:00pm**  
1160 Frontage Road, Owatonna • 507-444-4000

## Here's Where To Buy Your Minnesota Country Salute CD Buy the FINAL Minnesota Country Salute CD

Once again the net proceeds from this years Minnesota Country Salute CD will go to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation and Minnesota Wheels of Honor. Starting Veteran's Day you'll be able buy your copy at any one of these locations and make sure the service men and women and first responders of Minnesota have the support they need.

CD Available at:



37540 Goodhue Ave., Denilson, MN

Open Wednesday-Thursday 11:00am-8:30pm (Bar Open Later), Friday-Saturday 11:00am-9:30pm (Bar Open Later), Sunday 9:00am-8:00pm (Bar Open Later)  
507-645-9992 • www.firesidelounge.net



**MMFF**  
Minnesota Military Family Foundation  
Serving Military Families



**WHEELS OF HONOR**  
Minnesota

### About the Minnesota Country Salute CD Project:

A decade ago while sitting on his porch, Neil Freeman came up with the idea of tying together two groups that BOB FM supports. The Homegrown artists of Minnesota and the military member support organizations.

By creating a compilation CD to sell across Minnesota, he nailed it. With the help of many sponsors and listeners who went out and purchased these CDs over the years, BOB FM has donated over \$235,000 to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation, Minnesota Wheels of Honor, and Tribute to the Troops.

If you or your business would like to help further this mission, or help distribute the CD, please contact Neil Freeman, neil@mybobcountry.com.



**BOB**  
**TOTAL COUNTRY**  
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St. Cloud Twin Cities Faribault

# Milo Peterson Ford Co.



## Drive into Spring with a Ford from Peterson Ford

	<p><b>2021 FORD F-150 XLT 4WD</b></p>		<p><b>2022 FORD BRONCO SPORT BADLAND 4x4</b></p>		<p><b>2022 FORD EDGE SEL AWD</b></p>		<p><b>2022 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD</b></p>
<p>4 door super crew cab, 5.5' box, 25,150 miles, rapid red, 2.7L ecoboost V-6 #23067U</p>	<p><b>SALE</b> <b>\$40,999</b></p>	<p>6,620 miles, carbonized gray metallic, ecoboost 2.0L I4, turbocharged #23158U</p>	<p><b>SALE</b> <b>\$33,690</b></p>	<p>14,248 miles, stone blue metallic, ecoboost 2.0L I4 turbocharged #23213U</p>	<p><b>SALE</b> <b>\$28,775</b></p>	<p>25,400 miles, star white metallic, ecoboost 2.0L I4 turbocharged #23189U</p>	<p><b>SALE</b> <b>\$29,350</b></p>
	<p><b>2021 FORD RANGER LARIAT 4WD</b></p>		<p><b>2022 FORD MAVERICK XLT 4WD</b></p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h2>Spring Car Care</h2> <p>At Milo Peterson Ford Co., our highly qualified technicians are here to provide exceptional service in a timely manner.</p> <p>From oil changes to transmission replacements, we are dedicated to maintaining top tier customer service, for both new and pre-owned car buyers! Allow our staff to demonstrate our commitment to excellence.</p> <p>Call our service department to schedule your maintenance needs. Open Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 5pm.</p> </div>			
<p>Super crew cab, 5' box, 4 door, 17,475 miles, oxford white, 2.3L ecoboost, turbocharged #23209U</p>	<p><b>SALE</b> <b>\$37,999</b></p>	<p>Super crew cab, 4 door, oxford white, 9,130 miles, ecoboost 2.0L turbocharged #23207U</p>	<p><b>SALE</b> <b>\$28,999</b></p>				

## SEE OUR COMPLETE INVENTORY AT WWW.MILOPETERSONFORD.NET

3020 457th Street Way, Kenyon • 507-789-6113 • SALES HOURS: M-T-Th 7:30a.m.-8p.m.; W-F 7:30a.m.-6p.m.; Sat. 8a.m.-4p.m.

# Community & Legal Notices

## Ask a Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson  
of the Minnesota State Patrol

*Question: I am puzzled as to why seat belts are mandatory in vehicles along with a fine for not complying but our precious cargo in school buses are not required to wear them?*

Answer: School buses are one of the safest modes of transportation even without seatbelts. School buses are safer because of their large size and design. School bus interiors are designed on "compartmentalization", which

packs seats closely together and covers them with energy-absorbing pads. This minimizes their movement upon impact. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, less than one percent of all traffic fatalities involve children on school transportation vehicles.

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

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

**Keeping your name in front of your potential customers is an essential part of marketing your business in today's competitive market.**

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### Concord Township Residents

Chloride application forms and stakes will be available at the town hall starting April 15, 2024. Forms and payment must be returned by May 10th to:

Gregory Hayne  
21746 570th St.

Dodge Center, MN 55927

Chloride application date will be dependent on weather and rock spreading.

### DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, March 11, 2024

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the March 11, 2024 Dodge Center City Council meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at [www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us](http://www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us).

Present: Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas, Lee Mattson, Mark Barwald, AJ Gengler, Jeremy Dostal, Deputy Josiah Rehmann, Tim Woessner, City Attorney and Kathy Freeman

The City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda to include February 26, 2024 City Council Minutes, February 5, 2024 Planning & Zoning Minutes and Payment of Bills;
  - Amendment to Ordinance No. 161, Subd. 10; Paragraph B, First Sentence by adding "Signage" after marquee;
  - Adoption of Ordinance No. 161, Second Series – An Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 4 Regarding Permitted Encroachments;
  - Chief Dostal's hiring of Colin Kimball, Kyle Olevson and Dave Schmelter pending background checks;
  - Acting Director Gengler's hiring of Austin Grow, a paid-on-call EMT;
  - Ambulance Services support of Bill HF3992;
  - Ambulance Services opposition of Bill SF4835;
  - Application by staff for SMIF grant;
  - Membership renewal in Chamber of Commerce;
  - Food vendor parking on City property;
- Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm

### Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property This may affect your 2025 property taxes.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the City of West Concord shall meet:

Date/Time: April 23, 2024 at 6:00 pm  
Location: City Hall

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

Given under my hand this 20 day of March, 2024

*Brenda Borders*  
Administrator of the City of West Concord

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### City of West Concord Notice of Public Hearing Small Cities Development Program Grant

Notice is hereby given that the City of West Concord will conduct a public hearing on April 18, 2024, at approximately 6:30 p.m. at the West Concord Bell Tower Center, 401 Main Street West Concord, MN 55985. The City of West Concord was awarded a Small Cities Development Program Grant for housing and rental rehabilitation. The public hearing is an opportunity for property owners to provide feedback on the original Citizen Participation Plan and any substantial amendments to it, or to the activities for which SCDP funds are used. A representative from Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Rehabilitation Authority will be in attendance. For more information about the program guidelines, or to apply, contact Grant Administrator Sara Fuher at SEMMCHRA at 651-565-2638, ext. 221.

## Do You Have An Announcement?

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



*Treat Mom to  
Sunday Brunch  
at Its Best!*

## Mother's Day Brunch Menu Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> Serving 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Call 507-645-9992 for Reservations

Regular Menu Available 3:00-8:00 PM

### Daily Features

- WEDNESDAY Enjoy Our Jumbo® Wings Specials! BBQ Rib Dinner - 1/2 or Full Rack (begins at 4:00p.m.)
- THURSDAY \$3.50 All Taps, Domestic Bottles, Rail Drinks! 16oz. Margarita Special! Taco Specials! Fajita Specials!
- FINALLY FRIDAY All You Can Eat Fish Dinner
- SATURDAY Hand Battered Jumbo Shrimp or Slow Roasted Prime Rib
- SUNDAY Enjoy Our Sunday Breakfast Beginning at 9a.m. and Sunday Pasta Features



37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN  
Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 AM-8:30 PM  
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Bar Open Later  
507-645-9992 • [www.firesidelounge.net](http://www.firesidelounge.net)



### CROSSWORD

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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THEME: EUROPEAN CAPITALS
- ACROSS**
1. Parting words
  6. Broadcasting acronym
  9. Taj Mahal city
  13. Ernest, to mommy
  14. "Fat chance!"
  15. Fits of shivering
  16. Rundown
  17. Historical period
  18. "\_\_\_ its weight in gold"
  19. \*Namesake of famous pact signed in 1955
  21. \*"The City of a Hundred Spires"
  23. Financial assistance
  24. Bird's groomer
  25. Pod nugget
  28. Fountain order
  30. Duck dish a certain way
  35. Picture on a coat
  37. Feline vibration
  39. Stocking fiber
  40. Stink to high heaven
  41. Cocoyam, pl.
  43. Pelvic bones
  44. Frost over (2 words)
  46. Stew bean
  47. Sleeveless garment
  48. Predicament
  50. Snakelike fish
  52. Hi-\_\_\_ monitor
  53. Toothy wheel
  55. \*Street, in capital city in #38 Down
  57. \*On the Danube
  60. \*On the Thames
  63. Virtue, in Italian
  64. \*Street, in capital city in #25 Down
  66. Dashboard instruments
  68. Beside, archaic
  69. Geological Society of America
  70. Type of heron
  71. Parks or Luxembourg
  72. Pecking mother
  73. Like oboe's sound

- DOWN**
1. "\_\_\_ the land of the free ..."
  2. Cold one
  3. Peruvian Empire
  4. Miss America topper
  5. Blood infection
  6. Prepare to swallow
  7. \*Dublin's cultural quarter neighborhood, "Temple \_\_\_"
  8. Parallelogram, e.g.
  9. All excited
  10. Spiritual leader
  11. Network of nerves
  12. Certain something in a tray
  15. Rouse
  20. Take puppy from a pound
  22. \*"Hamilton: An American Musical" singing style
  24. Great \_\_\_ Reef
  25. \*On the Seine
  26. Not slouching
  27. Arabian chieftain
  29. Like Roman god Janus
  31. \*Also the most populous city in Ukraine
  32. More ill
  33. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful \_\_\_"
  34. Annoying tiny biters
  36. Arctic jaeger
  38. \*Located in boot-shaped country
  42. Sound of artillery
  45. Kind of hickory nut
  49. Jack's inferior
  51. Like a Grammy nominee
  54. Frustration, in print
  56. "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush," e.g.
  57. Source of veritas
  58. Wraths
  59. Volcano in Sicily
  60. Ground beef description
  61. Fairytale giant
  62. "All You \_\_\_ Is Love"
  63. Variable, abbr.
  65. Put to work
  67. Hog heaven

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WALK-IN TUB

1-855-576-5653

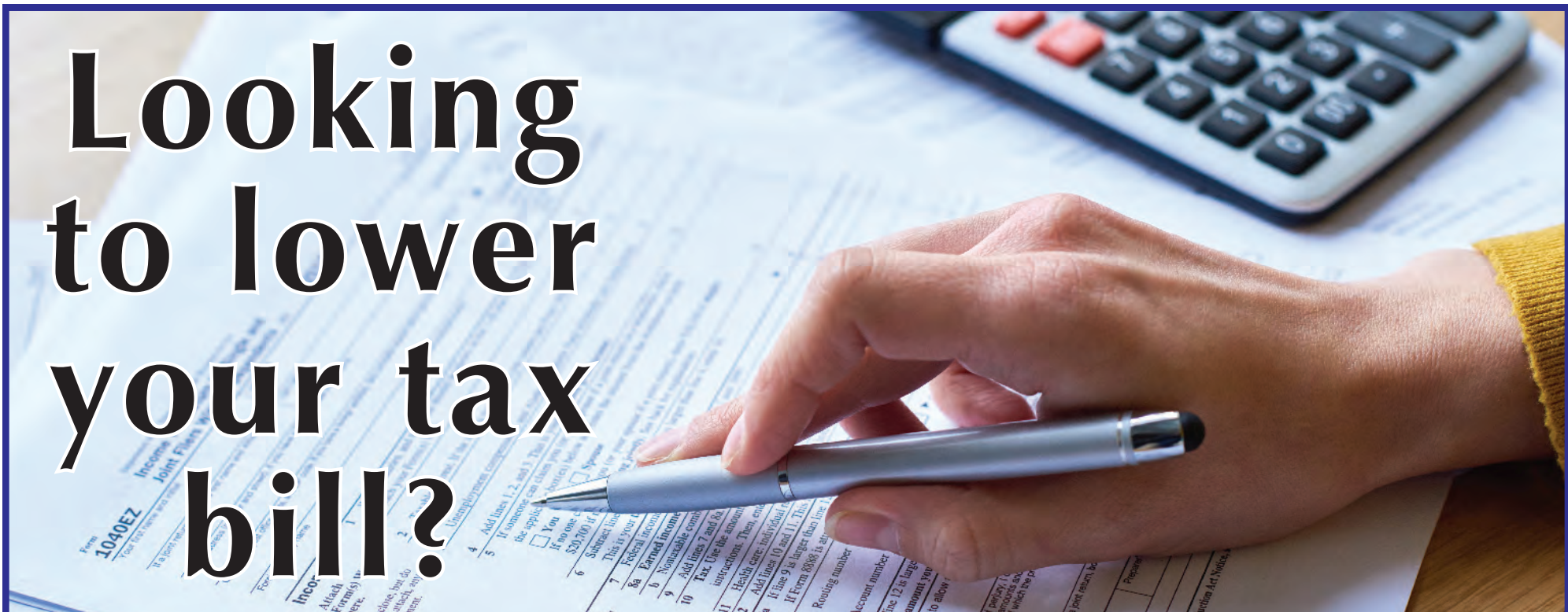
With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

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

# Looking to lower your tax bill?



*It's not too late to reduce your taxable income for 2023 with a contribution to your retirement account.*

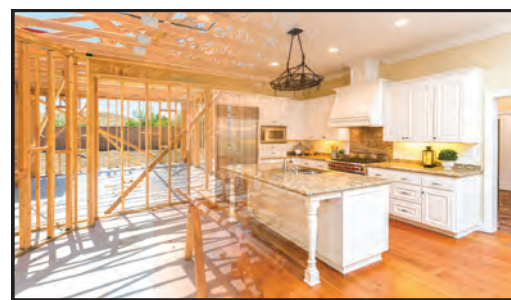
Whether you have an existing account or would like to open a new Traditional or Roth IRA, there's no time like the present to start planning for the future. We offer a wide range of investment choices and expert guidance to help you make the most of your retirement savings.

*Call or stop in today!*

*There's still time to make a contribution to your IRA for the 2023 tax year.*

## **PLANNING A SPRING PROJECT?**

**See us for all your Spring home improvement loan needs!**



# HERITAGE BANK

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

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NORTHFIELD: 1520 Clinton Lane 507-645-6736

DENNISON: 37470 1st Ave. Ct. 507-645-5929

