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The Messenger

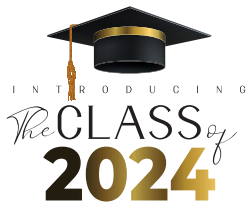
Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord

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MAY 15, 2024

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(pages 17-23)

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Since its inception in 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month has been a cornerstone of addressing the challenges faced by millions of Americans living with mental health conditions.

1 in 5 adults and 1 in 6 youth aged 6-17 experience mental health disorders in the United States annually, according to data from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Shockingly, the average delay between symptom onset and treatment is 11 years.

Throughout the month, The National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) actively participates in this national movement, dedicated to eradicating stigma, extending sup-



port, fostering public education, and advocating for policies that prioritize the well-being of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Recognizing the growing need for accessible mental health resources within our communities, Minnesota Prairie County Alliance has partnered with CredibleMind to provide a free, user-friendly digital hub. This hub serves as a starting point to learn more about mental health that brings together local re-

sources, scientifically validated assessments, expert-written articles, and thousands of resources including expert-rated and vetted videos, podcasts, apps, online programs, books, and articles all in one easy-to-use place. *(continued on page 29)*

West Concord Spring Fling



photos by Emery Kleven
(additional pictures on pages 6 & 7)

Announcements

• The Claremont American Legion Auxiliary will have poppies available at several businesses May 20 through May 24. On Monday, May 27th, treats will be served (free will offering) at the Legion Hall after the cemetery programs.

• 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

Four Triton Seniors Honored For Choosing Teaching Career



Taylor Kraemer, Gabby Molina, Ella Thomas and Jozey Boe

On Tuesday, May 7th, at 10am, Triton Public Schools, in conjunction with the teachers' union, hosted an Educator Signing Day event. This was held on this date as it is nationally recognized for this date. There are four seniors that are going into education as a career path, and a presentation/celebration to recognize them was held in the performing arts center of Triton school. Each student was introduced by a teacher and mentor who had been instrumental during their education at Triton. Parents, grandparents and friends were present at the meeting. Those recognized at this ceremony are listed below.

Jozey Boe - Minnesota State University at Mankato - will be majoring in elementary education. *(continued on page 25)*

Friday Night Under the Lights



Girl's fastpitch softball returns to West Concord. The Venom High School Green team will be starting practice and has games scheduled for this summer. *(continued on page 27)*

Memorial Day Services

Claremont Page 25

Dodge Center Page 25

West Concord Page 6



QUADRICENTENNIAL PARTY TIL' THE COWS COME HOME

400th anniversary of the dairy cow arriving to the Plymouth colony

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH
4:00-7:00 PM

\$10 per meal

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In Times of Doubt

By Rev. Chad Christensen,
Trinity Lutheran Church,
West Concord, and Dodge Center
United Methodist Church

Sometimes we doubt that which we most want to believe. We doubt what we want to believe. A South Dakota couple wins the Powerball lottery \$112M. Their lives are radically changed. Like purchasing a lottery ticket, we doubt the windfall, yet believe it could happen because it indeed will be given to someone. Especially when it comes to life and death, we doubt that which we most want to believe.

I remember back to 1996 when my grandfather's cancer returned. He was 79. It had been almost 20 years since he had his first successful cancer surgery which had gone into remission. It just seemed that he could beat the cancer again, that it would go into remission once more. We wanted to believe that he'd get better again—but the reality was that he had a tired body. There were not many days of life for him after his second cancer diagnosis. He died 10 days beyond his 80th birthday.

So you have a family member who is sick. The doctor may give a good prognosis, but you still worry. What if the doctor is wrong? Doubts keep welling up...and they don't subside until your loved one is back home from the hospital, safe and sound.

None of us doubts that which is easily proven by what we see or have learned from history. The Twins have won 17 of their last 20 games. The Township of Concord is very green with spring growth along the countryside. Napoleon once ruled France. We don't doubt the truths of these things.

In Romans 8:24, with regard to hope, the apostle Paul says: "Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." We might have doubts about our close relationships that have become broken—with a certain family member or friend—but we know we can probably

work most things out that are unsettled. We might have our doubts when there is an action against us—the government hands down a decision. Our family attorney, when I was growing up, said this about his legal work: court cases for families are rarely over after with the first decision in court. There are doubts about justice, and so cases live on.

So, what about the spiritual realm? In the field of religious beliefs doubts may be the most harassing, because faith in God is ultimately the basis for faith in anything else—faith in other people, faith in our own future, faith even in oneself. If there is no God, who else or what else is there to count on?

In the New Testament we meet the apostle Thomas (John 20:24-28), often dubbed "the doubter." Jesus appeared to the other disci-

ples after the resurrection, but Thomas was absent. Told that they had seen Jesus, Thomas in his anguish said he could still not believe unless he touched Jesus' hands and side. He doubted, precisely because he wanted more than anything else to have the Lord be alive.

The whole human race, before and after Thomas, has been just like this. We have doubted. And yet, given no vision that is written in the sky, we are summoned still to believe. And deep down, we want to believe. We are hardwired to believe.

This is what we are in the business of as Christians, sustaining our faith through spiritual practices, and then sharing that faith. Taking part in activities that sustain our faith are worship, a dedicated prayer life, being part of Bible or spiritual study groups, and

having conversations with others about God and faith. We yearn for the transcendent in our lives, to call out for God's involvement in what we are doing, in good times and in challenging times.

I believe that praying intercessions (that is praying on behalf of another's needs, like we often do in worship) is in essence "hoping out loud." What a great witness this is to pray with one another, when they have a problem, a concern, or a doubt. In this new upcoming season of Pentecost, we recognize the Spirit's activity in the life of the church. That activity, of course, moves through us, as we walk with each other in Christian faith and hope, and as well as in times of doubt.

Traxler Law PLLC

traxlerlaw.com

Ann Traxler
Attorney

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DODGE CENTER

Faith Lutheran Church

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

Grace Lutheran Church

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

Praise Fellowship Church

602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center
Roger Langworthy • 507-374-6400
Kidz 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 • 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
Keith Mosier, Pastor

Area Church Directory

Do Justice and Love Mercy

What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
— Micah 6:8

The prophet Micah spoke out for the Lord against the unjust practices of his day.

He pictured people asking how they might please God with offerings in order to pay for their sins: "What is it that God wants from us? How much must we sacrifice before God will be happy with us?"

The answer is simple and yet profoundly life-changing: As long as you practice injustice, it doesn't matter how much you sacrifice to God. The Lord calls you to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with him! Then you may bring your offerings and find favor with God.

Get rid of your rigged scales. Stop your price gouging. End the practice of driving people into poverty so that you can buy them as servants and slaves. Practice justice. And even more than that—love mercy. Give freely to your poor neighbor rather than scheming up ways to make them your slaves. Find ways to relieve poverty rather than profiting from it.

At the college where I serve as a campus minister, foreign students often struggle financially. But many of them have been embraced by local churches. On Monday mornings when they come to school, they often tell me with beaming faces how their church communities have blessed them on Sunday. God smiles along with these students as he sees his people showing love and mercy.

We love you, merciful God. Teach us to love by showing mercy to others. Guide us to act with justice each day for Jesus' sake. Amen.

CLAREMONT

1st Presbyterian Church

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

St. John Lutheran Church

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

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
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
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

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

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or email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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Mary Ellen Geary

Mary Ellen Geary, 89, of Dodge Center, MN passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at Mayo Clinic St. Mary's Campus in Rochester, MN.

Mary was born on October 21, 1934, in Ripley Township, MN to Ross and Eleanor (Bayer) Wilson. She married Thomas Geary on April 13, 1953, and together they had 3 Boys and 2 girls. She was a hardworking wife, mother and grandmother. Mary enjoyed knitting, baking and travelling when she wasn't working on the turkey farm her and Tom managed for over 25 years. She lived her last few months of life at Homestead of Rochester, MN. She very much enjoyed her room with a view of the ducks and geese in the pond.

Mary is survived by her sons, Doug (Jane) Geary of Morgantown, WV, Dan (Diane) Geary of Rochester, MN, and Rich (Darla) Geary of Lake City, MN; daughters, Julie (Roy) Henderson of Leesburg, FL and Donya (Walter) Jackel of Owatonna, MN; 2 sisters, Kathy (Jim) Straughtman and Rosey (Bob) Hamlin; 2 grandsons, William (Melissa) Geary and Jason (Elishia Woods) Young; 9 granddaughters, Shannon (Duane) Volek, Jesseka (Chris) Illa, Kathy (Hector) Urbina, Nicki (Ben) Bailey, Krissy Head, Terri Lynn (Robert) Smith, Jackie (Jeff Schneider) Johnson, Brooke (Steve) Snyder, and Tabetha Jackel; 10 great-grandsons, Mark Young, Daniel Young, Jackson Young, Peyton Young, Joey Illa, Caden Illa, Logan Head, Justin Head, Everett Snyder, and Kyler Johnson; 17 great-granddaughters, Cheyanne Strahin (Shayne Deavers), Makayla Volek, Alexandria (Isaiah) Wade, Ashley Geary, Isabella Urbina, Eliana Urbina, Layla Young, Hanna King, Addison King, Haylie Smith, Storme Eaton (Dylan Lambrecht), Julia Bailey, Jaiden Bailey, MacKenzie Illa, MacKenna (Micah) Patterson-LaBaw, Rylee Johnson; 3 great-great-grandsons, Deegan Lambrecht, Brayden King, and Uriah Deavers; and a great-great-granddaughter, Eliauna Deavers.

She was preceded in death by her parents, siblings, her husband, Thomas; and great-granddaughter, Paisley Grace Young.

A celebration of Mary's life was held from

2:00-4:00 p.m. Saturday, May 4, 2024, at Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South St SW in Dodge Center, MN. A private family burial was in Wildwood cemetery in Waisioja, MN.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street SW Dodge Center, MN (507)374-2155. Blessed be her memory.

Marlene "Kay" Weigang

Marlene "Kay" Weigang passed away peacefully on April 29, 2024, at Mill City Senior Living in Faribault, MN. She was born September 19, 1934 to Carl and Margaret (Nebel) Norelius. Kay grew up in St. Paul, where she attended grade school. Carl moved his family to Hudson, WI where Kay attended and graduated High School. She went on to college at UW-River Falls. She worked at the First National Bank in St. Paul until united in marriage to Wayne Weigang from Amery, WI in November 1955. They operated their farm in Volga until retiring in 1982. She was an active member of the Homemaker's Club and volunteered for many school and local activities. She enjoyed bowling with the other farm wives. She was always working on a craft project, including sewing, cross stich, crocheting and quilting. Reading was a passion; she was a regular at the Amery Library. She also took her grandchildren there when they visited, to share her passion with them. In her later years, when she was unable drive, the library brought the books to her. Kay and Wayne traveled the US, often on their motorcycle, pulling the trailer packed with camping gear. Even when the weather didn't cooperate, Kay and Wayne hunkered down and endured the storms in their tent. They traveled to Germany and visited their German relation. They made their winter home in Brownsville, TX where they made many good friends and played a lot of cards. She absolutely loved the heat.

Kay was selfless and always put others ahead of her. She never wanted anyone to go out of their way for her. She was considerate and kind. Her family and friends will miss her with all of their hearts and cherish the times spent with her. Kay was preceded in death by her husband, Wayne; her parents; brothers, Roger and Allen Norelius; sisters-in-law, Mabel Smek and Fuddy Weigang; brothers-in-law, Gordon Schaefer and George Weigang; and nephew, Rick Norelius. She is survived by children, Roxanne (Kevin) Musolf of Dodge Center, MN, Lynn Raymond of Faribault, MN, and James Weigang of Amery, WI; grandchildren, Darrell (Grace) Johnson, Liza (Travis) Maxwell, and Curtis (Sarah) Musolf; great-grandchildren, Ethan, Andrew and Clara Howard and Eleanor and Louis Johnson. Kay also leaves sisters-in-law, Ruth Schaefer, Peg Norelius and Linda Norelius, her dear cousin, Donna Brandl, as well as other relatives and friends. Her family would like to thank all the staff at Mill

City and Moments Hospice for the love and compassion that was given to Kay during her final days.

We honored her life on Monday, May 6th with a visitation at 9:30. A service followed at 10:30 at Mill City Senior Living in Faribault, MN, where Kay lived out her last year. Her final resting place is with her husband at Northern Wisconsin Veteran's Memorial Cemetery.

Visit boldtfuneralhome.com for information and guestbook.

Robert "Bobby" Eddy Thompson

Robert "Bobby" Eddy Thompson passed away April 29, 2024 at his home in West Concord, Mn, after a brief illness.

He was born to William D. and Margaret Cowles Thompson on November 10, 1946.

Bobby is survived by brother, David, sister Jeannine, brother Steven, and sister Wendy DeBusk. Bobby enjoyed listening to music especially Mozart. Loved going for rides and eating out. He had a great sense of humor. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Walter "Tommy", sister in law, Phyllis Thompson, brother in law Gene DeBusk.

The family would like to thank the wonderful staff who cared for him through the years.

A memorial service was held Monday, May 6, 2024 at 10AM at the Faith Community Church, 305 State St. in West Concord, MN.

Leona Rae Rike

Leona Rae Rike, 98, of Claremont, MN formerly of Paulding, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at home surrounded by her family.

Leona was born on January 23, 1926, in Deshler, Ohio to Roy and Ethel (Kidwel) Harrison. She graduated high school and worked in various jobs. On May 26, 1949, after a blind date and only 3 1/2 months of courting, she married Ernest Franklin (Frank) Rike and together they had four children. In 1957 Leona and Frank moved to a dairy farm in the U.P. of Michigan, where she worked along side her husband. Even though she really didn't like the cows very much! Together they also started a farm equipment business, where she was his bookkeeper until their retirement. In 1992 they moved back to Ohio.

She enjoyed reading and gardening. She was a great mom, a hard worker, and great supporter. Best of all, She loved the lord and was a faithful member of the Methodist Church. Active in the choir and teaching Sunday school. Ready to lend a helping hand when and where ever was needed. She was most known for her pies which she was asked to make on a regular basis. Most of all she loved spending time with her family. Her

memory will remain in the hearts of her family and friends and all who knew her. She will be deeply missed.

Leona is survived by her daughter, Laura (Kurt) Laplander of Claremont, MN; sons, Eric (Sue) Rike of Lowell, MI and Mick (Dawn) Rike of Castle Rock, Co; seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Frank; daughter, Dawn Marie; and one sister, Margaret.

A private family service will be held at a later date. To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South St SE Dodge Center, MN 55927 (507)374-2155. Blessed be her memory.

Ralph George Charlton

Ralph George Charlton, 83, Rochester, MN, formerly of Kenyon, MN, passed away on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, in Mayo Clinic Hospital - St. Mary's Campus.

Ralph was born on November 30, 1940 in Cherry Grove Township, Goodhue County, Kenyon, MN where he grew up on the family farm. His parents were Frank & Joyce (Cornwell) Charlton.

He walked two miles to and from the rural Fairpoint School. He then attended the West Concord Schools in West Concord, MN graduating from the West Concord High School with the class of 1958. Following high school, Ralph served in the Army Reserves out of Faribault, MN.

On November 30, 1962, he was united in marriage to Beverly Blouin in Waterville, MN. A daughter Kimberlie was born on June 15, 1971. Ralph worked i various jobs, some of which included; The Baby Buggy Factory in Owatonna, MN, Wenger Corporation in Owatonna, and Dairy Farmers of America in Zumbrota, MN. But, he was a farmer at heart and he and his wife Beverly took over the Charlton Family Farm when his father and mother retired. Ralph and his family moved to the farm from Medford, MN. The farm was dedicated as a Century Farm and Ralph was the 4th generation.

In his free time, he enjoyed spending time with his family. He loved tinkering and fixing things. Ralph and Beverly sold the farm in the fall of 2021, and moved to Rochester.


Ralph is survived by his daughter, Kimberlie Charlton of Rochester; by his brother, Leon (Joanne) Charlton of Rochester; by his sister-in-laws, Marjorie (Marge) Charlton of Medford, Mary Ann Charlton of Faribault, MN, Vicki Charlton of Naperville, IL; and nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Joyce; wife Beverly in December of 2021; and his brothers, Richard, Melvin, and Blaine.

Ralph was a very quiet and caring man. He will be missed by all the people that knew him.

Memorials can be sent to Kimberlie at 510 3rd Ave. SE, Apt 222, Rochester, MN 55904.

(obituaries continued on page 4)



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That's the Latest Ag Census



By Emery Kleven

Emery is now a retired farm broadcaster after starting at KDHL in Faribault in 1987. He's a 1971 graduate of West Concord High School. You can view past columns at his website RoadFarming.com. You can email him at emery@roadfarming.com.

During my 30 plus years as a farm broadcaster, I read and interpreted many Census of Agriculture reports. The Census of Agriculture, conducted every 5 years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), includes producer responses to questions about their farming operations. It takes at least a year to get all the info tabulated and released to the public. When the numbers would start to roll out, I would get on the phone with state and national ag leaders to help decipher the information. The info is massive and very detailed. I still read some of the findings but I don't have to do the radio interviews anymore.

The latest press release from the 2022 Ag Census showed for the first time since before the Civil War, that the number of farms in the U.S. dropped below 2 million. The number of farms in the U.S. was 1,900,487, down 7 percent from 2017.

USDA's definition of a farm is an establishment that produced and sold, or would have sold in normal conditions, at least \$1,000 in agricultural production in a year. The latest

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Census also reported that the total U.S. land in farms declined 2.2 percent to 880 million acres in 2022. This decline, when combined with the higher proportional decline in the number of farms, meant that the average farm size increased by 5 percent to 463 acres per farm.

Now to bring this closer to home, I researched through the many pages to see how Dodge County, Minnesota numbers looked. In Dodge County, the number of farms is now at 614 farms with an average size of 457 acres. Total cropland acres in Dodge County were put at 262,797 acres.

For comparison, I researched the 1974 Census of Agriculture numbers and found the average size farm in Dodge County was 246 acres. In 1969 it was 219 acres. Dodge County had 1015 farms in 1974 and in 1969 there were 1202 farms.

Dodge County corn growers have had some good years recently. In 2022, the county wide average yield on corn was 221.5 bushels per acre (bpa). In a much drier year, 2023, the average corn yield was 189.6 bpa. Watowan County had the highest average yield last year at 209.3bpa; Renville County was second at 208.3bpa.

Soybean fields in Dodge County in 2023 averaged 51.1bushels per acre compared to 2022 when the county average was 61.9 bpa on beans. Waseca County had the highest state average soybean yield in 2023 with 60.7 bushels per acre. Evidently there was a little more rain to the west of Dodge County.



In this 1960 aerial photo of the Kleven farm in Concord Township, you can see about 50 of the 200-acre farm. The Roberts Bros. farm is in the upper left.

Some other statistics I ran across in my going through a lot of pages with very small print. Dodge County's total area is 439.4 square miles calling it the 74th largest county. In Texas, that would be impressive but in Minnesota with only 87 counties, it makes Dodge County the 14th smallest in the state.

One last statistic that had nothing to do with agriculture but I found it interesting from the general U.S. Census take in 2022. Looking at ancestry of Dodge County residents, German

heritage was the highest at 37.2 percent. Norwegian was second at 20.8 percent; Irish was third at 9.8 percent. I'm of both Norwegian and German descent so I'm in that 58 percentile.

Going through a lot of numbers and statistics makes me think of comedian Steven Wright who once said that 42.3% of all statistics are made up on the spot. And I have a 62.7 percent chance that I'm correct to attribute that to Steven Wright.

OBITUARY

Verlyn Edward Pool

Verlyn Edward Pool, 80, passed away on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at Cottagewood Senior Communities in Rochester MN.



Verlyn was born on November 14, 1943, to Vernie and Phyllis (Vrieze) Pool. He was united in marriage to Patricia Rasmussen and together they had two children, Randy Pool and Tracy Pool Erler. They were later divorced. He later married Rosemary Miller on June 11, 1983, in Dodge Center, MN.

Verlyn is survived by his wife, Rosemary Pool; son, Randy Pool of Rochester, MN; daughter, Tracy Pool Erler of Austin, MN; grandchildren, Bradley (Tonya) Newman of Hinesville, GA, Kevin (Taylor) Erler of West Concord, MN, Jordan (Krista) Erler of Red Wing, MN, and Morgan Rigsby of Austin, MN; 6 great-grandchildren, Jayda Manzano, Caden

Erler, Jameson Erler, Keegan Erler, Collin Rigsby, and Maddox Erler; stepchildren, Mechelle Miller of Rochester, MN and Edward (Michelle) Miller of St. Cloud, MN; step son-in-law, Jeff Pickard; step grandchildren, Brandon (Liz) Pickard, Gabrielle (Joseph) Geezar, Rebecca Pickard, Caleb Pickard, Nicole Pickard, Nicholas Miller, Clayton (Melissa) Eubanks, Samuel Miller, Benjamin Miller, and Nathaniel Miller; step great-grandchildren, Layla Pickard, Daniel Pickard, Melody Pickard, Killian Geezar and Alexis Geezar; siblings, Bonnie Pool Orr of Peyton, CO, Vicki Rhodes of West Concord, Leann Cook of Kenyon, MN, and Myron Pool of Dodge Center, MN.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Brenda Bronner; son-in-law, Ronald Erler; and step-daughter, Patty Pickard.

A funeral mass was at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 11, 2024, at St. John Baptiste de la Salle Parish, 20 2nd St NE in Dodge Center, MN. Father Michael Churchill officiated. Visitation was from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, May 10, 2024, at Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South St SW in Dodge Center, MN and one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment was in Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center, MN with Military Honors provided by the Dodge Center American Legion Post 384.

In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association, American Cancer Society, Dodge Center American Legion and St. John Baptiste de la Salle Parish of Dodge Center.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street SW Dodge Center, MN (507)374-2155. Blessed be his memory.

Watch your ears!

Common ag related hearing hazards:
Tractors without cab, grain dryers,
power saws & chain saws.

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2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016,
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118 North State Street
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FIND OUT IF YOUR HEARING HAS ALREADY BEEN AFFECTED BY NOISE.
Call us for a free screening today!

AMY SWAIN HEARING CENTERS
www.amyswainhearingcenters.com

70th Birthday Celebration

For Boni (Lulf) Moon's 70th Birthday
Saturday, May 25
1:00-4:00 PM
at Bell Tower,
West Concord
(old Methodist Church)

Museum Musings

DECORATION DAY Sacrifice, Service, and Civilians

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

My grandma never used the words, Memorial Day. The special Monday in May when we honor those who gave their lives for our country, was always Decoration Day to her. That's likely because in May of 1868, following the Civil War, the commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization of Civil War Veterans, gave these instructions to the GAR's members:

"The 30th day of May, 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land."

As we know, this tradition of honoring our fallen has continued throughout our history, along the way becoming officially known as Memorial Day.

At the Museum we have been thinking about our area soldiers who gave their lives in service to our country, as well as all those who have served. Our dedicated and outstanding display team of Dahni and Jim Lermon and Maggie Finne have spent months impressively renovating the Veterans Room from the ground up—all to make it more user-friendly, educational, and to better showcase the treasured items we have there. They have created Honor Boxes for soldiers whose story, pictures, and artifacts the Museum had. If you'd like to create one for a special soldier in your life, stop by the Museum to see examples of how to make one. The boxes are available for purchase at \$25 each. While you're there, look at the Memory Wall that was created to honor those from West Concord who gave their lives for our country. There's much, much more to see, too, including a file cabinet full of files about individual West Concord soldiers—an excellent research resource. We are so grateful for our talented and hard working volunteers. Stop by to see the renovated Veterans Room—you'll leave full of gratitude.

As the Veterans Room was updated, one thing we studied was what civilians in the West Concord area were doing to help in the war effort. I spent one afternoon reading West Concord Enterprises from 1942, shortly after war was declared by the U.S. on December 8, 1941. There were so many ways those at home helped.

Have you heard of Victory Aides? Local women were recruited to be part of a force of 30,000 state volunteers who would "Carry on Women's Service for Defense."

According to the Enterprise, the Victory Aides' duties would include calling people in their immediate area to remind them of the need to conserve materials, to encourage them to buy defense savings bonds, and in general to enlist people's help where cooperation was needed. Radio broadcasts were held on Wednesday nights so that citizens could learn the details about the Victory Aides program and other war efforts.

Mrs. L.R. Bringgold was the lieutenant for West Concord, with 6 sergeants assisting her.

The school was involved in helping with war conservation efforts by purchasing a paper press that would allow students to collect paper. That big old wooden paper press is still in the attic at the Museum. Ever curious, it wasn't until I did this research that I learned what it was and the story behind it.

Did you know that nine air raid wardens/plane spotters were named in West Concord to be ready in case they were ever needed? The wardens were given Red Cross First Aid Training, and instruction in handling gas, high explosives, and fire bombs. The American Legion, Langemo Post, invited the public to a meeting about sponsoring a Home Defense Company.

A local salvage committee was formed to "salvage all of the waste materials possible to aid in the nation's defense" as part of Governor Stassen's Minnesota Salvage for Victory Program. Citizens were asked to gather scrap iron, steel, brass, copper, and aluminum, as well as newspapers, magazines, wrapping paper, and cardboard boxes. Rubber was gathered too, in the form of old car tires, rubbers, and overshoes. Even cloth was collected—including clothes, draperies, and burlap bags. The local Scrap Drive was scheduled for October 9-10. Everything possible was done to make it a festive event. Free movies were even offered at the Concord Theater, featuring a Bette Davis/James Cagney film. A whopping 239,130 pounds of scrap were collected during the drive. Added to the rest of the scrap that had been collected since war had been declared just months ago, West Concord was justly proud of the 427,295 pounds that had been locally salvaged for the war effort.

The home front was asked to contribute or sacrifice in many other ways. One way was to make a cup and a half of coffee do each day. Farmers were asked to grow more flax. As the Enterprise explained it, "Flax is the only high drying oil available at the present time for the production of paint and varnish. The government needs paint for use in defense, as all ships, tanks, and machinery need paint—so help your government by raising more flax." If anyone purchased shoes during wartime they would be walking on second grade soles, the good leather was reserved for military shoes. Production of bicycles for kids was halted in 1942, but production of adult bicycles was increased as fuel use was limited for automobiles. A nursing "school" was instituted as part of home defense with classes held at the schoolhouse. Books were collected to be sent to servicemen as part of the Victory Book campaign.

The ways the community helped with the war effort were endless. From Victory Gardens to sugar rationing, war pervaded everyone's lives but no one felt it more than families who watched their sons and daughters go off to war. As Memorial Day approaches, we remember and honor our fallen heroes who courageously gave their lives for our freedom.

Please stop by the Museum to experience the newly updated Veterans Room and to remember our West Concord men and women who have served and sacrificed for all of us.



JUNK RALLY
For West Concord, Minn.,
and vicinity
National Scrap Salvage
Friday and Saturday,
Oct. 9-10
West Concord, Minn.

Junk helps make guns, tanks, ships for our fighting men Bring in anything made of metal or rubber . . . Get paid for it on the spot.

Bring your family. Spend the day. Meet your friends.

Let's Jolt them with Junk from West Concord
FREE MOVIES FREE PRIZES

An Advertisement Sponsored by West Concord Business Men's Association

Your Government Needs
SCRAP RUBBER
Get Cash for Your Scrap Rubber at Any of Below Listed Places You Receive 1c Per Lb.
Through June 30th
EVERY SMALL PIECE OF DISCARDED RUBBER IS IMPORTANT

Your rubber will be weighed and you'll be paid immediately. Bring in your worn, useless tires and tubes, garden hose, car tire rubber soles, galoshes, mats, hot water bottles, raincoats, old tennis and golf balls, rubber gloves, rubber ornaments, worn rubber boots, etc.

USABLE RUBBER ITEMS — STILL SERVICEABLE and WHICH HAVE TO BE REPLACED SHOULD NOT BE SOLD.

SCRAP RUBBER COLLECTED WILL BE SOLD TO GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZED COLLECTORS.

All Money Received
From Sale of Scrap Rubber Will Be Donated to the U. S. O., Army and Navy Relief and Red Cross.

IMPORTANT
Amount of Scrap Rubber Collected by June 30th the End of Drive, May Determine Whether Nationwide Gasoline Rationing Will Be Imposed.

SWANSON'S SERVICE STATION
ROSS ROUND'S SERVICE STATION
PETE'S TEXACO SERVICE STATION
DELZER'S PHILLIPS "66" STATION
WEBB OIL STATION
CO-OPERATIVE OIL STATION

Stamp Booklets
Will Be Issued
To Ration Sugar

Commodity Allocation Boards and Teachers Will Register All Persons Under Plan, Orders of Leon Henderson



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



Spring Fling



Spring Fling

SURVIVAL DAYS 2024



Moms, Dads, and Grandparents

Send in a cute photo (no larger than 4x6) of son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter

(Baby, parents, or grandparents must be West Concord residents.)

OPEN TO CHILDREN 0-36 MONTHS OLD as of 7/26/24

ALL PICTURES MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOON ON JULY 8, ALONG WITH ENTRY FORM AND \$5 FEE.

Email to: wntbrz@hotmail.com or Mail to:
Crystal Winter - 514 5th Street, West Concord, MN 55985
or drop off at Heritage Bank or City Hall

PLAN TO ATTEND THE ROYALTY PAGEANT AT LION'S PARK on Friday, July 26th at 6:30pm!



Name of Child _____

Date of Birth _____

Parents Name _____

Parents Address, Phone Number _____

Submitted By (if other than parent)

Name _____

Relationship to Child _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

More details and additional forms at Heritage Bank and City Hall.

West Concord Memorial Day Services

Monday, May 27, 2024

9:00 AM – Hegre Cemetery

@ 51939 Minnesota Hwy 56 North of West Concord

9:15 AM – St Vincent Cemetery

@ 54051 Minnesota Hwy 56 North of West Concord

10:30 AM – Concord Cemetery

@ 20258 T-92 in Concord





In the event of inclement weather, a program will be held at 10:30 AM in the Historical Museum and Community Center @ 600 West First Street.

Langemo Post 295 Legion & Auxiliary invite everyone to the Hall @ 133 East Main for refreshments from 8:00 - 10:00 AM



2024 West Concord Events

- June 19th - Juneteenth - Open Swim
- **Thursday-Sunday, July 25th-28th, 39th Annual Survival Days Weekend**
- Tuesday, August 6th - National Night Out (6-9pm)
- Saturday, September 21st - 3rd Annual Oktoberfest Event (3-7:30pm) 
- October Membership Drive, Date/Time to be determined
- Saturday, December 7th - 18th Annual WC Community Christmas 



Spring Fling

Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library Saturday, June 1 from 9-10am *After Annie* by Anna Quindlen

When Annie Brown dies suddenly, her husband, her four young children and her closest friend are left to struggle without the woman who centered their lives. Bill Brown finds himself overwhelmed, and Annie's best friend Annemarie is lost to old bad habits without Annie's support. It is Annie's daughter, Ali, forced to try to care for her younger brothers and even her father, who manages to maintain some semblance of their former lives for them all, and who confronts the complicated truths of adulthood.

Yet over the course of the next year, while Annie looms large in their memories, all three are able to grow, to change, even to become stronger and more sure of themselves. The enduring power Annie gave to those who loved her is the power to love, and to go on without her.

Written in Quindlen's emotionally resonant voice, and with her deep and generous understanding of people, *After Annie* is a story that ends with hope, a beautiful novel about how adversity can change us in profound ways.

304 pages, Hardcover, First published February 27, 2024



Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library Wednesday, June 5 from 4-5pm *The Heiress* by Rachel Hawkins

When Ruby McTavish Callahan Woodward Miller Kenmore dies, she's not only North Carolina's richest woman, she's also its most notorious. The victim of a famous kidnapping as a child and a widow four times over, Ruby ruled the tiny town of Tavistock from Ashby House, her family's estate high in the Blue Ridge Mountains. In the aftermath of her death, that estate—along with a nine-figure fortune and the complicated legacy of being a McTavish—pass to her adopted son, Camden. But to everyone's surprise, Cam wants little to do with the house or the money—and even less to do with the surviving McTavishes. Instead, he rejects his inheritance, settling into a normal life as an English teacher in Colorado and marrying Jules, a woman just as eager to escape her own messy past.

Ten years later, Camden is a McTavish in name only, but a summons in the wake of his uncle's death brings him and Jules back into the family fold at Ashby House. Its views are just as stunning as ever, its rooms just as elegant, but coming home reminds Cam why he was so quick to leave in the first place.

Was there any truth to the persistent rumors following her disappearance as a girl? What really happened to those four husbands, who all died under mysterious circumstances? And why did she adopt Cam in the first place? Soon, Jules and Cam realize that an inheritance can entail far more than what's written in a will—and that the bonds of family stretch far beyond the grave.

294 pages, Hardcover, First published January 9, 2024



For up-to-date information from the City of West Concord visit

www.westconcordmn.com



WEST CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS
CHILDREN'S MUSICIAN AND NATURALIST


WILL BJORN DAL




Geared toward
PreK & Elementary

WILL SINGS SONGS!

Join us for this high-energy performance focused on positivity, joy, and learning through curiosity! Will's songs will get you moving, grooving, and singing along as you learn about the environment, kindness, and having fun! This program is free and open to the public.

 June 5th, 2024
10:00am

 (507) 527-2668

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



Find more events in the region here!





An Achievement to Celebrate

We salute the hard work and dedication that got you here. As you receive your diploma, please know you have made us proud, and we wish you all the best.

Congratulations, Triton Class of 2024!

You Are Our Future!



www.mbtbank.bank

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





Triton School Board Selects Next Superintendent

Luke Lutterman

On May 1, four separate committees interviewed Luke Lutterman for the position of Superintendent. We had a diverse group of stakeholders involved including administration, directors, staff, school board members, community members, and support groups. Following the individual committee interviews, the board met to discuss feedback. Given the feedback provided, I am happy to report that the school board voted unanimously to enter into negotiations with Luke Lutterman for the position of Superintendent.

The pending start date for Mr. Lutterman will be July 1, 2025.

Wendy Kenworthy
Chair, Triton School Board



Luke Lutterman

Whether it is cleaning the cafeteria floors during lunch, providing clear and concise communication, or demonstrating his problem solving skills through critical thinking, one thing is clear; Luke Lutterman leads by example in a way that everyone in the Triton community can connect to, no matter their role.

Corey Black - Activities Director

Mr. Lutterman possesses a remarkable work ethic that serves as the cornerstone of his leadership style.

-Tricia Johnson - Dean of Students

I give Mr. Lutterman my highest recommendation. I believe that Luke Lutterman will be an excellent superintendent.

-Craig Schlichting - Superintendent

I was fortunate to have Luke as my principal during the pandemic, and I applaud his ability to bring stability to his staff, the community, families, and most importantly, our students during that time. He prioritized safety and meeting the needs of our students while maintaining a positive culture that prioritized high quality instruction and learning for all.

-Rebecca Goosens - Technology Coordinator

His tireless work ethic, dedication to mentorship, and commitment to fostering a positive school culture make him an invaluable asset to any educational institution.

-Shane Van Beek - Elementary Principal

Students shine at Triton's Fine Arts Awards Night



Triton High School continued its tradition of awarding students for excellence in the fine arts. Students in grades 9-12 received letter awards and trophies in choir, band, and theater on Thursday, May 9th. For the first, though, the directors chose one student who was actively involved and a strong leader in all three areas to receive the Cobra Outstanding Artist award; that award went to senior Jenna Kenworthy.

Congratulations to all the award winners, although truly, everyone is a "winner" for being involved in the fine arts! (additional pictures on page 11)

Cobra Communications



Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

Major life events tend to create opportunities for reflection. I am currently experiencing a major life event and I am certainly finding myself reflecting on the memories of my career at Triton Public Schools. I made the decision to finish my career at Triton at the end of my contract in June of 2025. I have truly enjoyed serving the Triton Community over the past 31 years. I feel blessed to have been able to work with so many wonderful people. The Triton communities are an amazing place with a great school district. It is hard to believe that my career here will be ending, by I am grateful to have such a great experience here in education profession.

There have been a number of changes to the Triton School District that officially began in July of 1992. Prior to my arrival, the three districts of Claremont, Dodge

Center and West Concord were coming together to become Triton. This was a year before I arrived in the fall of 1993. When I started back then, the district had an elementary school in each community and a junior high school in West Concord and a 10 through 12 high school in Dodge Center. The district had five total buildings to maintain. Economically, it isn't very practical to spend the overhead that is associated with operating that many buildings. Over the years, the operational and financial benefits of operating one site came to a reality. It is never a popular thing to close a school building, especially when you think about all of the memories and sentimental value that is associated with those structures. The reality for a school district is that you must do the best you can afford. I do feel that the district is in great shape with the facilities that we currently have, even though the growing pains were a reality.

I spent much of my career in West Concord, many of those as the principal of the middle school until it was closed and moved to Dodge Center in 2009. The fall of 2002 was my first year as a building principal for the Middle School. West Concord was a Jun-

ior High School the year I arrived in the fall of 1993 as a physical education and health teacher. With the transition of grades levels and changing structure of our facilities, West Concord had evolved into a middle school. It was an intermediate building from the fall of 1997 until again becoming a middle school in the fall of 2002. I worked as a Dean of Students and an assistant principal in grades 7-12 in Dodge Center from the fall of 1997 until the spring of 2002.

I was happy to have the middle school concept back in West Concord in the fall of 2002, as the middle school concept was something that I was passionate about and believed in very strongly. Leaving West Concord to come to Dodge Center was a difficult time. I loved that the middle school was developed and had their own space, but I also understood the financial issues that made it difficult to continue using the learning space in West Concord. I continued as the middle school principal in Dodge Center from the fall of 2002 until the spring of 2014. I ended up spending 14 years of my career as the middle school principal.

The fall of 2015 I began as the 9-12 principal for the high school. I remained in that po-

sition for 5 years until I started my current position as the superintendent in the fall of 2019. I am proud of the great things that are happening in our district and the learning opportunities that are at Triton. Our district is a great place and there are many things to be proud of, and I feel fortunate to have been able to spend my entire educational career here. I look forward to hearing about all of the great things that will be happening here in the future and know that the district has a great staff that will continue to do amazing things.

Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have regarding our school district. You can email me at schlich@triton.k12.mn.us or you can call me at 507-418-7530 to reach me at the district office. I would be happy to set up a time to meet with you or your organization. Communication is an important aspect of my job responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to gain experience from your perspective. GO COBRAS!

#WeAreTriton

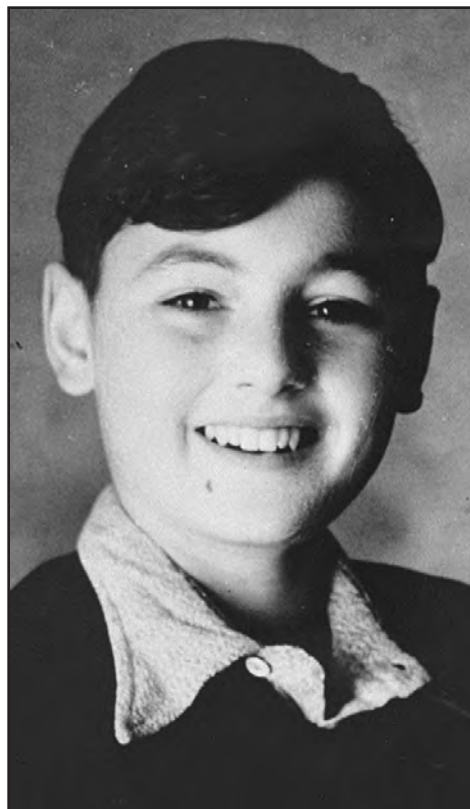
TMS Students Experienced Moving Story

On April 25th, all 7th and 8th grade students had a unique opportunity to hear the story of a Holocaust survivor via Zoom. Peter Feigl volunteered an hour of his time to tell the students about his incredible story of loss and survival. Peter was born in 1929 in Berlin, Germany. When his family, who were non-practicing Jews, moved to Vienna, Austria, Peter was baptized in the Catholic Church in the hope he would be shielded from the virulent antisemitism in Germany and Austria. In May of 1940 Peter and his parents were detained in the Gurs camp located in southwestern France 50 miles from the Spanish border. Peter and his mother were released from Gurs in June of 1940 and settled in a small town in France until his father was released in spring of 1941.

row at being separated from them. With the help of the Quakers, Peter was given false identity paper and sent as a boarding student to Figeac, France until the city was raided in May of 1944 by the Germans. Peter escaped to neutral Switzerland over barbed wire fences with the help of the Jewish underground. He immigrated to the United States in July 1946 where he served three years in the U.S. Air Force. For 35 years, Peter pursued a career in international sales of aircraft and related services in the private sector and spent over five years as a Senior Negotiator in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Since retiring, Peter has traveled around the world speaking about his history and the diaries he wrote detailing his experiences during the Holocaust.

On August 26, 1942 while Peter was away at summer camp, his parents were arrested and deported to Auschwitz where they were murdered. Peter kept a diary dedicated to them in which he expressed his fear and sor-

Triton Events
Friday May 31st –
Graduation, 7pm Triton East Gym



Driver's Education!

Learn how to drive with Mr. Johnson! Enhanced Driving Institute will be holding driver's ed class at Triton from 9-noon this summer.

Week one: Tuesday June 4th- Friday June 7th

Week two: Monday June 10th-Saturday June 15th

The three Behind the Wheel lessons would be held at the Rochester location. If you have questions ask Mr. Johnson via email at jjohnson@triton.k12.mn.us or visit the website for more detailed information and to register at <https://www.enhanceddrivinginstitute-mn.com/triton>



Triton Public Schools
www.triton.k12.mn.us

Triton Preschool Registration

Openings for 3 year olds:
Tuesday/Thursday 8-10:30am

Openings for 4 & 5 year olds:
*Monday, Wednesday, Friday
8-10:30--VERY LIMITED SPOTS
REMAIN

*Tuesday-Friday 12:30-3:00 pm

Register at:
<https://www.triton.k12.mn.us/page/preschool>

SUMMER PRESCHOOL

Experience what preschool is like in this 4 week summer educational experience! Meet new friends and have lots of FUN!

\$100/PER WEEK
Scholarships Available

ACTIVITIES	DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature/Outdoor Lessons Social-Emotional Activities Fine Motor Practice Crafts Exercise Snack Provided Play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *JUNE 17,18,20,21 *JUNE 24, 25, 26, 27 *JULY 22,23,24,25 *JULY 29,30,31 AND AUG 1 <p>8-11:30AM</p>

****MINIMUM ENROLLMENT REQUIRED FOR CLASS TO OCCUR****

Triton Celebrate Administrative Professionals Day!



Pictured L to R: Michelle Petersohn, Annalee Thomas, Marisa Starkson, Whitney Hesse, Kris Lilledahl, Tina Kozisek, Tammy Fate.

Wednesday, April 24, was Administrative Professionals Day. Triton Public Schools would like to recognize and celebrate the administrative assistants who keep our school offices running smoothly and efficiently. We are blessed to work with the best in the business here at Triton. Our administrative assistants continue to demonstrate excellent organization and communication skills. Their attention to detail is also second to none. We thank them for their continued hard work, support, and leadership.

Congratulations to the April Profile of a Graduate Award Winners!

TRITON PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

DEMONSTRATING EXCELLENCE IN CRITICAL THINKING

SELF-LEADERSHIP

COMMUNICATION














INTEGRITY

RESILIENCE

CRITICAL THINKING

DEPENDABILITY

PROBLEM SOLVING

 Jack Hansen Kindergarten	 Jett Tibbetts First Grade	 Harrison Hofmann Second Grade	 Irie Fate Third Grade	 Will Dowd Fourth Grade	 Josie Beauchamp Fifth Grade	
 Garrison Becker Sixth Grade	 Samantha Wilson Seventh Grade	 Aubrie Sanson Eighth Grade	 Genevieve Starkson Ninth Grade	 Maya Ocampo Tenth Grade	 Skyler Wrolstad Eleventh Grade	 Gage Adams Twelfth Grade

Congratulations to the latest Profile of a Graduate Award Winners! These students continue to be leaders and role models. They have excelled in the profile area of Critical Thinking.

The Triton Profile of a Graduate is our locally developed approach to what it means to be a graduate of Triton High School. We have incorporated many principles and competencies designed to help all students develop the skills necessary for success in college, in a career, and most importantly in life.

The Profile of a Graduate is designed around a community-engaged process to create a beacon for future educational strategic planning. It presents a clear visualization of priority goals for teaching and learning that can be easily communicated to students, parents, and staff to align collective efforts. Our Profile articulates the Triton community's aspirations for all students and will serve as a North Star for future system transformation.

Congratulations!

Students shine at Triton's Fine Arts Awards Night



QUADRICENTENNIAL

PARTY TIL' THE COWS COME HOME



400th anniversary of the dairy cow arriving to the Plymouth Colony

June 6th - 7th 2024

Location: Dodge County Fairgrounds Kasson, MN
Open to all Minnesota FFA members

Grades 7- Graduate
Registration opens January 1st 2024

What to expect

Burger Bash
Thursday June 6th 4-7 pm
Awards to follow

June 6th	June 7th
Showmanship contest Fitting contest	Holstein Show Colored Breeds Show Supreme Drive



Registration Website:

tinyurl.com/Dodgecountydairyshow

Contact Information

Cadence Spearman - cadencespearman@gmail.com
Robert Ickler - rickler@triton.k12.mn.us
Tyffanie Heublein - theublein@triton.k12.mn.us

Saving Lives – One Donation at the Time

By Alli Horejsi

The Minnesota Honor Society is comprised of four pillars – character, leadership, scholarship, and service. Most recently, members of the Triton chapter had an opportunity to further their development of these pillars through sponsoring the Red Cross blood drive on April 24th in the high school gym.

This biannual tradition provides students, staff, and community members with a chance to help others in need, both in our community and surrounding areas. As teacher, Andrew Wotherspoon, a regular donor, mentioned, "It's nice to be able to save a life by donating blood. A student asked me if it hurt, and I said only for 1 second. The team shows care and professionalism and makes everything run

very smoothly."

For many students, this is their first opportunity to donate blood. Although it can bring about a great deal of anxiousness and uncertainty, many first-time donors have an enjoyable experience and are left with a sense of pride in their opportunity to give back. As Candice Thompson, a first-time donor stated, "My experience was great! Everyone there was so polite and made me feel safe. I love it when I can help people, and this was the perfect opportunity to do just that! I'm so glad I did this, and I am already planning to donate again, and bring my friends to do so too, during the next drive."

Overall, the event was very well attended. In total, there were 52 people registered to



give blood at the drive, 23 of which were first-time donors. Of those donors, 43 units of blood were collected, which will potentially save up to 129 lives! MHS is looking forward to hosting an additional blood drive

in December. Blood drives are held bi-annually in both December and April. By working together, we can inspire others through helping those in need.



Triton FFA State Convention Results

Chapter Recognition

21 FFA members Attended the State FFA Convention on April 21st-23rd.

The Triton FFA Chapter was Recognized as a Superior Chapter



Individual Recognitions



State Degree Recipients

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



Star State Degree

Cadence Spearman *Star in AFNR Research- State Runner-up*
John Moenning *Star Farmer- State Runner-up*

State Proficiencies

Cadence Spearman *Agriscience Research Plant Systems - 3rd place*
Dairy Production
Entrepreneurship- *2nd Place*



Talent

Caleb Chilson- *Bronze Rank Individual*



Dairy Handlers

Elyssa Robinson *Bronze Rank*
Cadence Spearman *4th Place*

Poultry Evaluation-
Poe Broskoff- *Gold Rank individual*



Team Recognitions

Best Informed Greenhand- Bronze Rank Team

- Emma Kruckeberg- *Bronze Rank Individual*
- Brayden Munnikhysen- *Bronze Rank Individual*
- Autumn Froyum -*Silver Rank Individual*
- Sydney Rysavy- *Bronze Rank Individual*
- Hunter Hamm- *Silver Rank Individual*



Crops - 13th Place at state, Gold Rank Team

- Caleb Chilson- *9th place individual, Gold Rank Individual*
- Andrew Holtet- *Bronze Rank Individual*
- Wade Holtet- *Silver Rank Individual*
- Brady Staub- *Silver Rank Individual*



Meats Evaluation and Technology- 18th Place at state, Silver Rank team

- John Moenning- *Gold rank individual*
- Noah Kasper-*Silver Rank Individual*
- Jacob Kasper- *Bronze Rank individual*
- Jason Wolf - *Bronze Rank individual*



Nursery and Landscape- Silver rank team

- Jenna Kenworthy- *Gold rank individual*
- Gabby Geers- *Bronze rank individual*
- Savannah Peterson- *Silver Rank Individual*
- Tristan Nelson- *Bronze Rank*



Cobras Host 1A True Team Section Meet

If you drove by Triton High School on Tuesday, May 7, you probably noticed that it was a busy place. Twenty-one southeast Minnesota track and field teams joined us at Wally Hitt Field for the 2024 Section 1A True Team Track and Field Championship meet. Triton pulled off another great meet as the coaching staff, administration, building and grounds crew, and meet workers all put in extra time and energy to make it happen.

The True Team format is unique to Minnesota; in this meet, each school gets two entries in each event, and lanes and heats are assigned randomly. In a typical meet, the top 8 competitors in each event score points for their team. At true team, EVERY competitor that completes an event scores points for their team. It's a great opportunity for all athletes to contribute to the team aspect of track and field and really tests the depth of each team.

The weather held and the Cobras had an incredibly successful day on the track. There were a plethora of personal records for our athletes, including a couple of school records. Pierce Petersohn leaped 6'10" in the high jump, winning the event while also shattering the school and track records in the process.

His previous best of 6'3" had tied the record set by Jaye Schmoll in 1994. Avere Henslin broke a 29-year-old 8th grade record in the 400 meter dash, finishing 6th in 1:02.78.

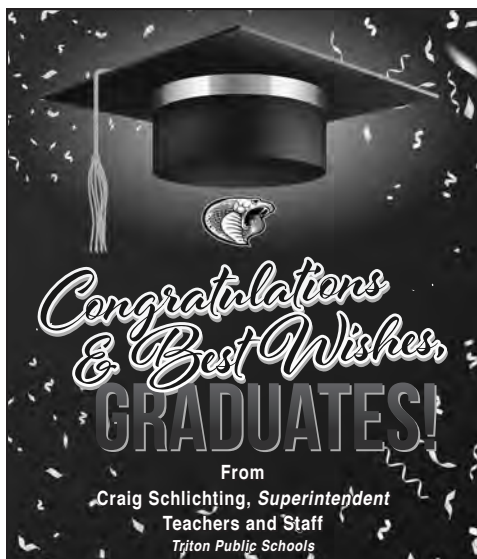
On the track, other top-10 finishes came from Olivia Weber (2nd in the 300 hurdles), the girls 4x800 team of Ava Cummings, Reagan Essig, Abrielle Emanuel, and Autumn Froyum (5th in 11:00.71), Avere Henslin (6th in the 100 and 200), Pierce Petersohn (5th in the 800), and Reagan Essig (7th in the 3200) and the girls 4x400 relay team of Maddi Maes, Lauryn Nauman, Autumn Froyum, and Olivia Weber (9th in 4:29.36). In the field events, the Cobras were led by Pierce's school record (and state-leading) leap in the high jump, but more big points were scored in the shot and disc, as well. Reagan Essig earned 8th in the shot with a throw of 29'10", while Craig Knutson (6th) and Brady Staub (8th) scored big in the discus with throws of 127'10" and 120'8", respectively.

Every performance counted, and in the end, this was the first season that we were able to fill almost every event. The girls finished in 8th place of the 21 teams (best finish ever in true team!), while the boys finished 11th. Section 1A has many of the best track and field athletes in the state, and the competition is always incredible.

This caliber of event doesn't happen by accident, it truly takes a village and we have the best!! The #CobraTrackFam appreciates everyone that played a role in making this event possible!

Next up for the Cobras is the Gopher Conference Championships Saturday, May 11. Then we host one more invitational Friday, May 17 before the post-season begins with subsections on Wednesday, May 22. It's been a remarkable season so far, and the coaches are looking forward to seeing what the athletes can accomplish as the season continues.

Go Cobras!!



Petersohn sets new high jump record



Dodge Center, MN - On Tuesday, May 7th Pierce Petersohn broke his personal, school, and track high jump record during the True Team Track Meet at Triton High School. Petersohn's jump of 6'10" is quite the accomplishment as he now holds the best posted jump in the entire state of Minnesota. Congratulations Pierce!

Triton High School Future Concurrent Classes

By Christi Runnells

In this final edition of showcasing Triton High School's concurrent course offerings available to students, I'd like to share what's coming next year. In the 24-25 school year we are adding three new concurrent courses: Technical English, Statistics and Anatomy & Physiology. Each of these classes will allow students to earn college credits, in addition to high school credit, for FREE, at Triton, taught by a Triton teacher to only Triton students. Beginning next year, we are now able to offer a total of 54 college credits right at Triton through our concurrent course offerings.

Concurrent Technical English is the equivalent of Rochester Community & Technical College's (RCTC) ENGL 1109 Introduction to Professional and Technical Communication. Successful completion of this semester course earns the student 3 credits and satisfies the English requirement for many of the more hands-on or skills-based diploma or certificate programs. This course is open to seniors, but no further eligibility is required. We are excited to be able to offer this in addition to our Concurrent Technical Math program to better serve our students planning to obtain a two-year or less college degree. Karen Kleinwort will be teaching this class for the first time at Triton next year. She shares, "Technical degrees and programs lead to well-paid jobs where currently there are more jobs than graduating students. [By completing this course in high school], it is fantastic that they can enter these college programs closer to

graduation, saving them time and money before they enter the workforce." She encourages anyone to take this course, especially those who are unsure of their plans after high school and those planning a 2-year degree program or less. "Communication is a fundamental skill no matter your career choice. The skills practiced and mastered in this class will be transferable to any career."

Concurrent Statistics is the equivalent of RCTC's MATH 2208 Fundamentals of Statistics. This four-credit course is open to juniors and seniors who have a qualifying math score via the Accuplacer, ACT or MCA test and a qualifying grade point average (above 2.5 for seniors and 3.0 for juniors). We are looking forward to having a new teacher added to our roster of Concurrent Educators in Mrs. Beth Hammitt. While we have offered a probability and statistics course in the past, this is the first year students will be able to earn college credit for the course. Mrs. Hammitt is looking forward to teaching this course for the first time next year because she believes, "Statistics is one area of math that requires application in order to learn it. So everything we do in this course will be applied to real-world scenarios making it easier to engage students in the content." Statistics is a common requirement for many college majors that now students will be able to get done before college, at their benefit. This course also fulfills Triton's math elective graduation requirement and also a college general education requirement via Goal 4 of

the MN Transfer Curriculum. Mrs. Hammitt recommends all students planning to further their education take this course.

Concurrent Anatomy & Physiology is the equivalent of RCTC's four-credit BIOL 1107 Fundamentals of Anatomy & Physiology. For many years, Triton has been offering a rigorous college prep anatomy and physiology course. Beginning next year, students will now be able to earn college credit for their work in this class, with just a few adjustments to the course as it stands now. This course will still be offered to juniors and seniors, but they will need a qualifying reading score (via the Accuplacer, ACT or MCA test) and grade point average. Ms. Kim Swanson will continue to teach the course as she has for many years and is excited to continue to engage with students in the health sciences. Ms. Swanson believes this course is an excellent way for students who are thinking about careers in the medical field to learn more and help them determine whether it is a good fit for them. This is especially relevant as we have a high number of students who express interest in healthcare related careers. Taking this course in high school is a great introduction to the field and will also set them up for success. When asked who should take this course, Ms. Swanson



BETH HAMMITT

KAREN KLEINWORT

KIM SWANSON

replied with, "I honestly think it's a great class for EVERYONE, as understanding more about how your body works is beneficial for all." She continues to say that the students who should definitely take this class are the ones who see a health care related career or coaching in their future as well as those who have an interest in learning more about the human body.

I want to express a special thank you to all of our Concurrent Educators at Triton who have been showcased throughout this school year. Without them we would not be able to offer these opportunities to our Triton students. We are so appreciative of the extra education and training they have committed to in order to teach these classes as well as their time and care for our students' futures. Triton looks forward to continuing to expand our concurrent offerings to benefit all students in the years to come.

Dodger Days Schedule 2024

Thursday, June 13

8am City Wide all weekend Garage Sales Begin—See QR code
 11am-2pm Dodge Center Chamber of Commerce Dodger Days Kick-Off on Main Street
 MBT Bank – Customer Appreciation Lunch-Lunch served by Plaza Morena
 Safeway Insurance Agency, RMTelecom, Weber, Leth & Woessner Law Office, and Harold's Club – Root beer Floats, Bounce House, and Miss Patty's Ice Cream Truck
 Green Shack – Cotton Candy and Bunnies
 Huckleberry Floral – Vintage Bike Rally
 Freerksen Trucking Enterprise – Big Truck Display
 Rolling Hills Transport – Truck/Bus Display
 Fahning & Associates, LLC – Scratch Art Activity
 Plaza Morena – Margarita Special-Thursday through Saturday
 Plus More – Come check it out!
 6pm Open mic at the Annadine

Friday, June 14

1-3pm Free Ice Cream at the Dodge Center Library
 4-8pm DC Fireman's Feed at the Firehall
 5-7pm Silent Auction for Triton Wrestling at the DC American Legion
 5pm Registration for Triton Wrestling's Corn Hole Tourney at the DC American Legion
 6pm Triton Wrestling Corn Hole Tourney Starts
 7-10pm Street Dance/Beer: The Poor Boy Ramblers (Country Music) under the tent at North Park
 9:30-Midnight Thomas and the Shakas (Reggae Music) at the DC American Legion

Saturday, June 15
NORTH PARK EVENTS

9am Venom Softball Tournament Starts
 9am All Ages FREE Yoga and Breakfast in the park (bring a mat or towel)
 9am Chalk Art Contest
 10am Food Trucks Open (see list)
 10am Free Bounce Houses
 10am-noon Family Bingo under the new pavilion by the Claremont Chamber and Triton Boys/Girls Basketball
 10am Rookie the Clown Balloon Art
 10am 4-H Canine (Dog) Show
 11pm K-9 Unit from Olmsted County Demonstration
 Noon Free Swim at the DC Aquatic Center
 Noon-5pm Triton Community Ed's Annual Craft and Vendor Market
 1pm Re-dedication of the Veteran's Memorial by the DC American Legion featuring the Bell of Honor
 1-4pm Family Bingo by MRA under the new pavilion
 5pm Music on Main- LP and the 45's at the Annadine on Main Street
 10pm Fireworks by McNeilus Steel at the North Park

Sunday, June 16

7am-noon Fly-In Breakfast at the DC Airport
 10am Church in the Park by Praise Fellowship Church, under the tent at the North Park.

EAGLE BLUFF 2024

TRITON MIDDLE SCHOOL 6TH GRADE

THE 6TH GRADE CLASS ENJOYED 3 DAYS AT EAGLE BLUFF ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER. THEY ATTENDED OUTDOOR CLASSES, NATURALIST PROGRAMS, AND MADE MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME!

AREA EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

TRITON COMMUNITY ED'S
ANNUAL OUTDOOR CRAFT AND VENDOR MARKET



DODGER DAYS 2024!
Saturday, June 15
Noon-5PM
at the Dodge Center North Park

Wake Up!
FREE YOGA & BREAKFAST

Join Triton Community Ed and The Green Shack for **FREE** yoga at the North Park and a light breakfast to follow.
Bring a yoga mat or beach towel.
All ages are welcome to join us!
Dodger Days---June 15
9-10AM at the North Park

Stay Up-to-date with Triton News!
Visit Our Website www.triton.k12.mn.us
#WeAreTriton #SomosTriton



DODGER DAYS
THE CENTER OF
SUMMER FUN

Dodger Days is June 13-16, 2024. Anyone from the Dodge Center community wanting their garage sale posted on the events listing, please send your address, phone number and a brief description using 10 words or less to Amanda at: Dodgecenter@sunshinefoodstore.com

TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550



Canvas Painting with Sunshine and Roses! Cutie Cactus, and Lola the Llama-

Join Sunshine and Roses Traveling Art Studio to paint and create on canvas. Classes are open to all ages (adults too!) and you do not need any painting experience! (Ages 5 and under must be accompanied by an adult!)


Choose Class 1, 2 or both! **
Classes are back-to-back and students taking both classes will stay in the room in between.

Cost: \$26 per canvas, or both for \$50

June 11th
Cutie the Cactus 3-4PM
Lola The Llama 4-5PM
TES Art Room

TRITON GIRLS
SOCCER Camp



COST: \$30, AND INCLUDES A CAMP T-SHIRT
GRADES 5-8
JUNE 17 & 18
9-11AM
AT THE TURF

T-SHIRT INCLUDED

ALL LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE WELCOME! WEAR WEATHER APPROPRIATE CLOTHES, TENNIS SHOES OR CLEATS AND SHIN GUARDS, AND BRING A BOTTLE OF WATER.

YOU MUST REGISTER BY MAY 30, TO GUARANTEE A T-SHIRT

TRITON GIRL'S SOCCER CAMP
PLEASE RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO TRITON COMMUNITY ED

NAME: _____ GRADE FALL OF 24: _____

PARENT PHONE: _____ PARENT EMAIL: _____

TSHIRT SIZE: YS YM YL AS AM AL AXL

PARTICIPANTS ASSUME THE RISK OF INJURY OR ILLNESS IN ROUTE TO AND FROM AS WELL AS DURING PRACTICES, AND BY REGISTERING WAIVE ANY SUIT DUE TO INJURY. PARENTS/GUARDIANS MUST SIGN THIS PERMISSION SLIP BEFORE THEIR CHILD MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

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.


Cobra Girl's TRI-it! Camp

Entering Girls 1-5th Grades in the Fall of 2024
This 3-day sports camp is for girls entering 1st-5th grades and led by the Triton Varsity coaches and players. All Campers will rotate through all 3 stations of Basketball, Softball, and Volleyball. This is a great way to sample all three of these sports and find your passion. Dress for physical activity, including tennis shoes and socks. Bring a water bottle. Please plan on being outside for portions of each day, and dress accordingly.

Cost: \$60

June 4, 5, 6
9AM-11AM each day

Meet each day in the East (Varsity) Gym, and then you will be directed to your group's first station Enter through the Main Activities Entrance on the North side of the school.



Triton Cobra Girls TRI-it! Camp Registration
Please send completed form and payment to Triton Community Ed by May 20

Name: _____ Grade entering in the Fall 2024: _____

Parent phone: _____ Parent Email: _____

Shirt Size: YS YM YL AS AM AL AXL

Participants assume the risk of injury or illness in route to and from as well as during practices, and by registering waive any suit due to injury. Parents/guardians must sign this permission slip before their child may participate in the program. Please notify us if you do not want your child photographed, or the referee signature indicates permission.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ If registering on line, payment is considered an auto signature.

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.

TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT

Questions: Call 418-7550

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8am-3:30 pm

Check Out Our Website:

www.triton.k12.mn.us

and click on the Community Education tab

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: \$70, for all 7 weeks
\$13, for walk-ins

Wednesday evenings
June 5, 12, 19
July 10, 17, 24, 31
Make up date: August 7

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: \$70, for all 7 weeks
\$13, for walk-ins

Thursdays:
June 6, 13, 20
July 11, 18, 25
August 1
Make up date August 8

7-8PM
Natalie Webb Aquatic Center, Dodge Center

Triton CE Summer Rec—Adult Fitness Classes

Please send complete form and payment to

Triton CE: 813 West Highway St, Dodge Center, MN 55927

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

___ Aqua Zumba (\$70) ___ Aqua Aerobics & Strength (\$70)

Total Due:\$ _____



Triton Times

Craig J. Schlichting – Superintendent

Triton Public Schools:

813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927

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

schlich@triton.k12.mn.us

Produced and published for Triton School District by Mainstreet Publishing
P.O. Box 1, West Concord, MN 55985 • E-mail: hometownmessenger@gmail.com
Phone: 507-649-3327 • Fax: 507-645-9878

Pickleball!

Adults 18 and over

Join us for Pickleball this summer at the North Park Courts in Dodge Center. All levels of experience are welcome from beginners to enthusiasts! Bring your own gear, but the group volunteers will have a few paddles and balls for you to borrow if needed. Watch the Dodge Center Community Notices on TV for any schedule changes due to weather or circumstances.



Mondays 9AM
Tuesdays and Thursdays 7PM
North Park Courts, Dodge Center
Cost: FREE, this is a volunteer driven group, please pitch in where and when you can.

Triton Community Ed Presents: Rocky and the (Mississippi) River!—A TWO Day Trip

Join Kristy on an overnight adventure in Wisconsin.....

Day One:

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. That evening we will have a beautiful experience at the Fireside Dinner Theatre. We will eat at the Signature Buffet featuring: The Signature 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, Beef Tenderloin and Roast Turkey from the Carving Station, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Whipped Idaho Potatoes and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Homemade Apple Pie for Dessert. Coffee, Tea, and Milk are included.

After Dinner we will enjoy the Musical Production of Rocky---

Entering the ring is a hard-hitting yet tender musical adaptation! Rocky Balboa is a small-time Philadelphia boxer who is chosen to take on the reigning world heavyweight champion, Apollo Creed, when the undefeated fighter's scheduled opponent is injured. As he diligently trains for the fight, Rocky begins a relationship with Adrian, a wallflower who is tired of being pushed around by her brother. As their love grows, Rocky and Adrian each find their inner strength and bring out the best in each other. With equal parts grit and heart, Rocky is about the triumph of spirit, strength, and love.



Day Two:

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 La Crosse, Wisconsin. We will enjoy an hour and a half River Boat Cruise on the Mississippi River via the La Crosse Queen. We will enjoy a catered meal while we cruise along enjoying the beauty around us. This meal will feature Carved Baked Ham and Swedish Meatballs, along with sides and coffee or iced tea.

Finally, we will make a stop at the La Crescent Apple Stand for a little shopping. Then we will make our trip back home!



September 19 and 20, 2024

Limit 30 people

Options: Total Cost per person: Includes coach bus, hotel stay, Fireside Theatre dinner and show ticket, La Crosse Queen cruise and lunch.

Single Room Stay (1 person in the room): \$440/person

Double Room Stay: (2-4 people in the room, 2 queen beds): \$375/person
*** Please indicate who you are rooming with when registering)

A \$150 per person non-refundable deposit is due by July 17, 2024. The final balance is due by August 22, 2024.

Bus	Departs	Approx. Return
Dodge Center	9:30AM	4:30PM
Kasson	9:45AM	4:15PM
Byron	10AM	4PM
Rochester	10:30AM	3:30PM

YOU MUST CONTACT TRITON COMMUNITY ED TO REGISTER FOR THIS TRIP: 507-418-7550

TRITON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024



Gage Adams



Austan Adreon-Hutton



Kelsey Andree



Sara Ball



Zachary Barker



Vincent Beauchamp



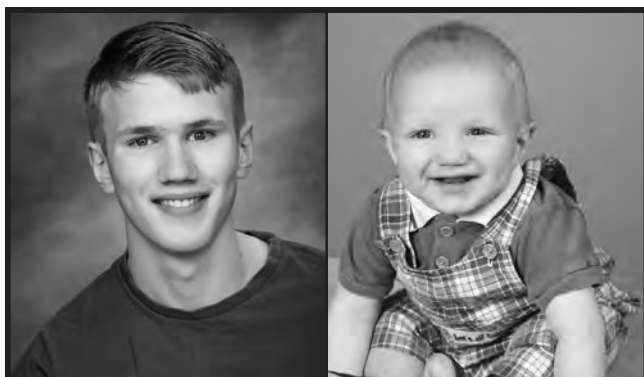
Jozey Boe



Poe Broskoff



Maya Castaneda



Caleb Chilson



Graham Christianson



Casper Connor

Congratulations!

Enjoy what is ahead of you and best of luck!
From everyone at

ELLINGSON

EllingsonCompanies.com · 507-527-2294

TRITON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024



Alyvea Corley



Benjamin Crofton



Joiser Cruz Ortiz



Ava Cummings



Ameryn Dostal



Andrew Edge



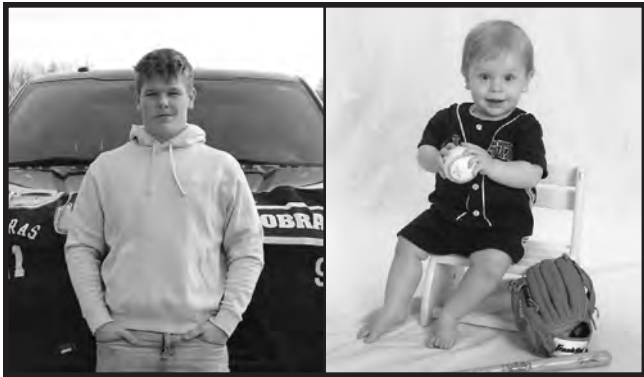
Kaeden Ellingson



Nancy Fernandez



Bronson Freerksen



Tyler Gnagey



Danielle Hallaway



Ayden Howard

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Best Wishes!

**Congratulations to All
2024 Graduating Seniors!**



Holly J. Burow
CPA, LLC
Certified Public Accountant
holly@hollyjcpa.com



**Business and Individual Tax Preparation
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Fax: 507-527-2445

Celebrating the Bright Future Ahead of You

Today's graduates are tomorrow's leaders, and we're filled with hope and pride as the Class of 2024 celebrates this milestone achievement and takes the next step.



YOU DID IT!
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



WELSH
EQUIPMENT, INC.
DODGE CENTER, MN 507-374-2261

TRITON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024



Elizabeth Hukee



Emiliano Ibarra Castillo



Sarah Jensen



Trenton Johnsen



Maguire Keller



Jenna Kenworthy



Noah Kleinwort



Carson Koenigs



Taylor Kraemer



Ryin Langley



Sophia Lapham



Grace Lau

**ALL
THE
BEST**
TODAY & ALWAYS

*Happy Graduation and
Congratulations to the Class of 2024!*

ENERGY ECONOMICS, INC.
Dodge Center • www.eei.com

TRITON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024



Abigail Lecy



Jayce Leonardo



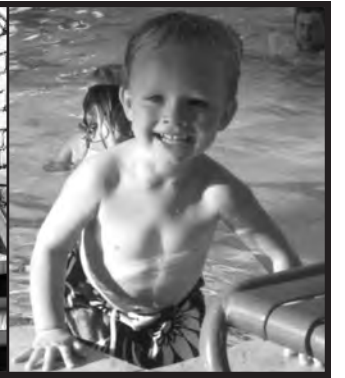
Emma Locke



Joaquin Lundi



Owen McCormick



Gavin Mergen



Braeden Moe



John Moenning



Gabriella Molina



Kadyn Mulder



Lauryn Nauman



Alex Naze

Congratulations & Best Wishes

We wish all of this year's hardworking graduates good luck and great success as they start the next chapter.



AL-CORN 797 - 5th Street, Claremont, MN 55924
507-681-7100

Congratulations!

Here's to a happy graduation and bright future!



500 Eugene St., West Concord • 507-969-0156

Class of 2024



TRITON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024



Tristan Nelson



Mallory Olson-Ramer



Maxwell Olson-Ramer



Alejandro Ortiz



Juan Ortiz-Sandoval



Kianna Peters



Litany Peterson



Savannah Peterson



Victoria Peterson




Aiden Radke



Adrianna Rath



Travis Redican



AND THE


ADVENTURE

begins

HAPPY GRADUATION!

We wish you continued success as you turn the page to an exciting new chapter.

Good luck, and best wishes!



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TRITON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024



Elyssa Robinson



Owen Ronken



Katherine Ross



Jayden Salinas



Kennedy Schandorff



Quinn Short



Jairo Solano



Cadence Spearman



Wyatt St. John



Hunter Stark



Claire Terpstra



Ella Thomas

All the Best
to the
Class of 2024!



Boe Auto Center
Serving the Community for Over 60 Years
115 Hwy. 56 N., West Concord • 527-2241 • www.boeautocenter.com

A Note of Congratulations
May your hard work and education
open the door to a world of
new opportunities and success!



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20 4th Street SE, Kasson, MN 55944
info@farmlandsales.com • 507-634-7033
WWW.FARMLANDSALES.COM



Tim Gangl REALTOR®
507.254.1976

TRITON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024



Logan Tufte



Cara Weber




Jessica Willette



Thomas Wilson

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES TRITON HIGH SCHOOL
May 31, 2024
7:00 P.M.

Class Motto
 "One Step At A Time, But Always Forward."
 - Unknown

Class Flower
 Rose

Class Colors
 Burgundy and Grey

Class Officers
 Danielle Hallaway, President
 Nancy Fernandez, Vice President
 Logan Tufte, Secretary
 Jozey Boe, Treasurer

You've Earned It!
 We're proud of your dedication and achievement, graduates.
Keep up the great work!



FAHNING & ASSOCIATES LLC
Beth Hanggi
 35 W. Main St., Dodge Center • 507-374-6342
 www.fahningandassoc.com

Celebrating the Triton Class of 2024

We know you'll go far, and we wish you all the best on graduation day and always!



CONCORD Store & Locker
 CUSTOM PROCESSING & METAL WEAR
 507-527-2736
 #1 / CONCORDLOCKER

Wherever you go, whatever you do, know our best wishes are with you.
Good luck in your future endeavors!



McNeilus Steel, Inc.
Family Owned for Over 75 Years

- Metal Products
- Fabrication
- Steel Processing
- Scrap Metal Recycling

702 2nd Avenue SE, Dodge Center • 507-374-6336





HONORING OUR GRADUATES

We'd like to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Triton Class of 2024.

As you celebrate this milestone achievement, please know you have made your community, and your loved ones proud!



HERITAGE
— B A N K —

www.heritagebankmn.com

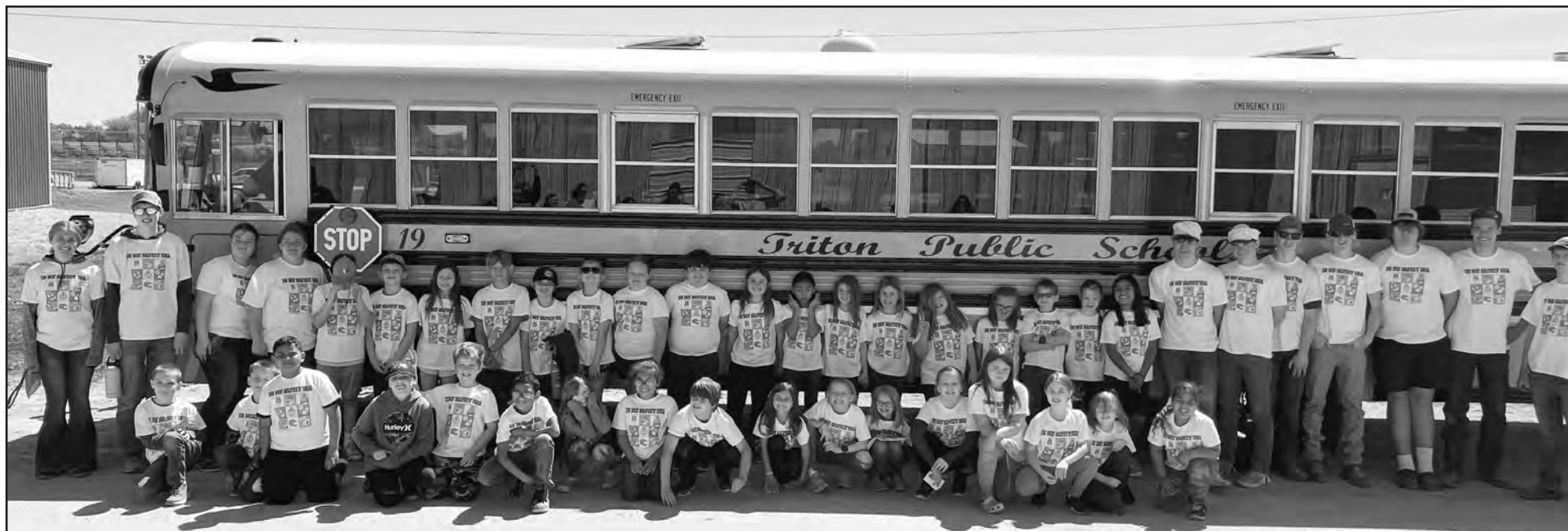
WEST CONCORD: 181 Main Street 507-527-2236

NORTHFIELD: 1520 Clinton Lane 507-645-6736

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



Triton FFA Holds Annual Progressive Ag Safety Day for Triton Third Grade



Each year in early May the Triton third graders have a safety day hosted by the Triton FFA chapter. The chapter works Progressive Ag Safety Foundation who is funded by agriculture industry businesses to promote safety training with youth.

The day includes six stations at the Dodge County Fairgrounds in which the students learn about safety with PTO, ATV, animals, electricity and household chemicals. There is a station for students to learn about FFA opportunities that are available in middle and high school. Half of the third grade attend the

safety training while the other half tour the feed mill in Kasson to learn about feed production for animals and then visit Go-For Holsteins in West Concord and tour a dairy farm.

Triton FFA would like to thank the following businesses for their contributions for the event. CHS Rochester for supplying big equipment and PTO safety training, staff to teach about chemical safety and for sponsoring the meal for the FFA members and adult volunteers. M and M Lawn and Leisure provided an ATV, UTV and skid steer for third



graders to learn safety about. McMartin Electric covered the electrical safety station and taught the third grade about circuits. CHS Kasson sponsored a tour of the facilities along with Go-For Holsteins conducting a

tour of their dairy farm. Dodge County Farm Bureau sponsored the snacks for the third grade. These partners were vital in making the day a successful one for the third graders!

Fly the Flag Program

The Dodge Center Lions Club is offering their Fly the Flag program again this year.

It's just about last call to sign up for our 2024 Fly The Flag Program. We'll post a flag on your property through each of the 6 summer flag holidays. They include Armed Forces Day May 18th, Memorial Day May 27th, Triton Graduation May 31st, Flag Day June 14th,

Independence Day July 4th, Labor Day September 2nd and the National Day of Remembrance September 11th.

Cost is \$45, and you can sign up at www.dodgecenterlions.com

Funds raised from this project go towards all of our local projects, including the new



Lions Park, Triton scholarship fund, community Halloween carnival, Triton High School Wolf Ridge trip, the food shelf, and many others!

Four Triton Seniors Honored For Choosing Teaching Career

(continued from page 1)

Taylor Kraemer - Rochester Community and Technical College - will be starting her education program through RCTC with plans to transfer earning her Associates degree

Gabby Molina - Minnesota State Univer-

sity at Mankato - will be majoring in elementary education

Ella Thomas - Minnesota State University at Mankato - will be majoring in elementary education

Claremont American Legion Memorial Day Services

Monday, May 27th

Claremont Street Cemetery	8am
Moland Church Cemetery	8:45am
Rice Lake cemetery	9:30am
St. John's Church Cemetery	10:15am
Hillside Cemetery	11am

Refreshments at the Legion after the services

In event of inclement weather 11am service at the Claremont Legion Hall

Dodge Center Memorial Day Services

Monday, May 27th

9:30 Riverside Cemetery Program guest speaker Chaplain Roger Langworthy, Triton band will play some songs.
 10:00 Quick ceremony at Veterans Memorial
 10:20 Quick ceremony at Wasioja River for fall at Sea
 10:35 Wasioja Cemetery Program with same guest speaker, no band
 11:00 Wasioja Seminary Program will be held at the Wasioja Church

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Sunday 11:00am-9:00pm

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Dodge County to Host Statewide Dairy Judging Contest June 6th

Every school year hundreds of FFA members across the state of Minnesota review the U of M's 4-H knowledge manual "All About Dairy" to prepare for a knowledge test about the dairy industry as part of their Dairy Evaluation Career Development Event. One fact

they need to know is that the dairy cow first came to Plymouth Colony in 1624. Thus a celebration is needed to commemorate the fact that 2024 is the 400th anniversary of the dairy cow coming to Plymouth.

Come join the Triton FFA Chapter, Triton FFA Alumni Chapter and the Dodge County FFA Chapters of Blooming Prairie, Byron, Hayfield, Kasson-Mantorville, Kenyon-Wanamingo, Pine Island and Stewartville as we host a dairy show open to all Minnesota FFA member grades 7 through graduate level on June 6 and 7th, 2024 at the Dodge County Fairgrounds in Kasson, Minn. The event will start on June 6th with stalling and health checks of animals in the morning, followed by a fitting and showmanship contest in the afternoon. Evening events include an open to

the public Burger Bash meal, an awards ceremony for the day's events and recognition of our sponsors after the meal. Friday June 7th will be the Holstein and All Other Breeds shows, Supreme Drive, and the release of animals upon completion of the show.

Show Manager Cadence Spearman is organizing the show, developing the registration website and managing the events along with other duties as part of her senior project to graduate from Triton High School

Minnesota has a strong tradition of being

one of the country's leaders in the dairy industry. According to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the state is the 7th largest dairy production state with 460,000 cows producing 10.4 billion pounds in 2022 at a value of \$2.6 billion. In Southeast Minnesota, the counties of Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Wabasha, and Goodhue have 100,700 head of dairy cattle contributing to 22% of the state's dairy herd.

Friday Night Under the Lights

(continued from page 1)

Their home games start with June 11th at 6pm vs Mankato. On July 2nd the team hosts W-E-M and on July 9th the team hosts Blue Earth. Troy Krenske is the coach for one more season. The team consists of high school age girls from many of the surrounding towns and gives the players a great time to build friendships with kids from other communities.

The Ten and Under team will also be playing their home games here at the West Concord ballfield. They play the first game on June 6th and play each Wednesday alternating home and away games every week

through out the season. The coach is Ron Wilks and two Triton junior high girls are co-coaching as their Triton Senior Project. For more information you can check out their Facebook page at Triton Youth Fast Pitch Softball Association.

Friday Night Under the Lights starts on May 31st at 5pm and hosts a three team round robin tournament every Friday through the 2nd week of July. The West Concord ball field is in great shape and the community has supported the work to make it an attractive venue for teams. The addition of lights a few years ago allows tournaments to be played well after dark.

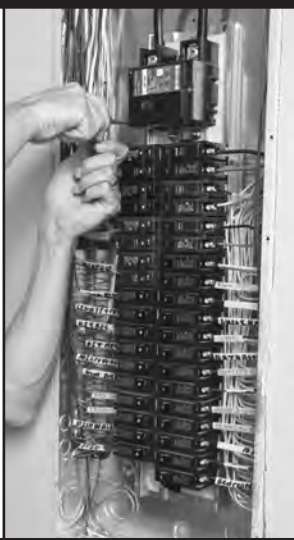
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TRITON CLASS OF 2024

2024

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Savannah Peterson is a senior at Triton.

Her parents are Norman Peterson and Jennifer Tollefson.

She has four sisters; Joslyn, Remi, Zoie and Madisyn.

She is active in FFA.

She is also Miss West Concord her hobbies include reading and being outdoors.

She enjoys country music and her favorite artists are Zac Brown and Chase Matthews.

After graduation she plans to attend the University of Minnesota/Rochester to major in Sonography.



SAVANNAH PETERSON

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Waste Management Buys Hometown Haulers

Local refuse haulers, Hometown Haulers, which serviced Rochester, Byron and all of Dodge County announced their sale last month. The transfer was effective on May 1st. This is the notice of the acquisition posted on their Facebook page.

Hometown Haulers is very appreciative for the opportunity to have served the local community's waste collection needs over the past decade. We recognize we have caused some confusion regarding the future of our business. For that, we sincerely apologize, and we want to address any uncertainties head-on. We can now formally confirm we have decided to sell our business.

We are excited to announce that WM of Minnesota has acquired key assets of Hometown Haulers and will be your new service provider, effective May 1, 2024. With operations led by a local team, we are confident they will continue to deliver exceptional service and demonstrate how much they value you as a customer. WM has also made the commitment to honor all existing base rates



for at least twelve months. WM has long enabled sustainability progress for businesses and cities. Operating in Minnesota for over 50 years, they have helped keep local communities across the state clean, safe, and functioning. Today, nearly 1,000 Minnesota residents are part of the WM team.

The company is also making investments right here in Olmsted County, with a brand-new hauling site that is expected to be completed later this year. The new site will include compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling infrastructure which will enable WM to continue transitioning their fleet to alternative fuel vehicles, in turn, reducing emis-

sions. This is one example of WM's industry-leading sustainability vision to drive transformative impact for the communities where they live and work.

Again, we want to express our deepest grat-

itude for the opportunity to serve you. Your trust and loyalty have meant the world to us, and we are confident that WM will continue to provide you with excellent service.

TRITON CLASS OF 2024



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Victoria Peterson is a senior at Triton. Her mother is Melinda Miller. She has a brother and a sister. She is active in Triton track. Outside of school she works at Prairie Meadows Senior Living. She enjoys crocheting, cooking and yard work in her spare time. Her favorite music is by David Kushner, Hozier and Melanie Martinez. She likes the movies 10 Things I Hate about You, Vampire Diaries and documentaries. After graduation she plans on getting an apprenticeship to be an electrician.



VICTORIA PETERSON

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June 12th - <small>Swiss Heritage Exhibit</small>	Thomas & the Shakes	Branded: Hot Country
June 19th - <small>Art & Spaces</small>	Foster Grand	Crazy on You: A Tribute to Heart
June 26th - <small>Classic Car Cruise & Country Night</small>	507 Country	County Line Drive
July 3rd -	Rockin' Hep Cats	Old Country Boys
July 10th - <small>Kula Night w/ Zolman 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-In</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>SoSe Breakfast</small>	True North	fABBAulous
August 28th - <small>Classic Car Cruise-In</small>	Jeremy Jewell & the Co-Dependents	Nite Shift

LOCATION: Zwingli UCC
23148 Co. Hwy. 24 West Concord, MN 55985



WWW.BERNEPIZZA.ORG



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

(continued from page 1)

CredibleMind is an online tool offered for the first time by Minnesota Prairie County Alliance (MNPrairie). Minnesota Prairie County Alliance (MNPrairie) provides ex-

traordinary human services that build safety, health, and well-being in the communities of Dodge, Steele, & Waseca Counties.

CredibleMind is a completely anonymous and confidential platform where visitors can access information in a personalized way to manage, improve their wellbeing, and empower all people with their mental health.

There is no requirement to sign up; however, the option is available for those seeking personalized content. Benefits of signing up include: the ability to save customizations and assessment results, see personalized recommended content, and save favorite resources to view later.

Within the hub, users will gain access to an

array of resources covering more than two hundred topics such as: burnout, anxiety, depression, relationships, coping with a medical diagnosis, stress, aging, grief and loss, parenting, sleep, substance use, time management.

Confidential, anonymous, and available 24/7, with CredibleMind you can learn new skills, understand your own mental health, take a mental health assessment, and browse their library of thousands of mental wellbeing resources.

Additionally, CredibleMind offers an array of evidence-based assessments to help users better understand and navigate their mental health.

The internet provides more information than most of us know how to process. With the CredibleMind platform, friends, family members, managers and co-workers can easily offer everyone an engaging way to explore, discover, and match the best evidence-based self-help resources specifically for their needs and preferences.

For more information about MNPrairie, please visit mnprairie.gov.

About CredibleMind, please visit crediblemind.com.

National Alliance on Mental Illness at www.nami.org

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Bonding with Your Dog: 7 Ways to Strengthen Your Bond

We all know that dogs are man's best friend. But sometimes, even though we love our pets, we can take their loyalty and companionship for granted. Just like human relationships, a strong and lasting relationship with your dog requires a little extra effort from both sides. Here are seven tips to ensure your bond with your dog reaches new heights.

Plan one-on-one playtime together

The best way to form a strong bond with your dog is to spend intentional one-on-one time together, and most dogs agree that the best kind of time is playtime! If you have a busy schedule, be sure to schedule in a little bit of playtime every day. This can be as easy as 10 minutes of tug-o-war or as detailed as planning a road trip together. It's important that your dog associates you with positive experiences that extend beyond simply being the person that feeds him...although he will love you for that too!

Exercise together

If you're a big fan of multitasking, exercise with your dog to wear him out, get a workout in, and spend quality bonding time together. Walking, running, or biking together are all great ways to do this. You'll have an automatic workout buddy and you'll save money without the gym membership.

Nap together

While dogs do need their daily exercise, one-on-one time together doesn't always have to be planned around activities. Laying on the couch together counts as important bonding time just as much as a game of fetch. Taking time to relax together helps to build trust between you and your pup, and nothing tops an afternoon nap with your favorite cuddle buddy!

Train your dog a little bit every day

Using positive reinforcement, be sure to set aside a little bit of time each day to train your dog. You can take this time to teach your dog new tricks or to revisit old ones. Learning together helps to form a stronger bond, and your dog will love that time together with you means treats or belly rubs.

Know your dog's body language

Taking the time to observe your dog's movements and actions can be hugely beneficial to you and your dog's happiness, allowing you to recognize stress or discomfort, and respond to potential problems before they get worse. If you know your dog's likes and dislikes, it's much easier to make sure every experience together is a positive one and your dog feels understood and respected.

Use words and signals consistently

Just as it's important for you to understand your dog, it's important to make it easy for your dog to understand you. Be sure to use the same words and signals consistently while training your dog. The importance of consistency applies to rules too. Your dog will have a hard time understanding and trusting you if he's allowed in the bedroom one day and punished for it the next day. Just like any relationship, effective communication is the key to success!

Talk to each other

In the end, you can still bond with your dog even if you don't totally understand each other. Be sure to take time every day to just talk to your dog. Tell him about your day, your big promotion, or your deepest darkest secrets. Simply taking the time to talk directly to your dog (maybe adding in a head scratch!) won't go unnoticed by your furry friend.

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Give the Gift of Farmland to Benefit Rural Minnesota



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

Late last year, a gift of incredible magnitude was made to benefit the future of rural communities across southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. Glen Taylor, one of Minnesota's most well-known entrepreneurs, decided to donate significant parcels of farmland to a newly created foundation – the Taylor Family Farm Foundation. The income generated by the farmland will be distributed, in part, to three well-established partner foundations, including Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF). Going forward, these funds will support various programming and grantmaking in our rural

region.

It is a dream of mine that other landowners in our region follow Mr. Taylor's example and donate farmland, no matter how small, to benefit the communities of southern Minnesota. At SMIF, we have a program that can help you do just that. It is called Acres for Good.

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, especially if they do not have an heir to transfer the land to when the time comes.

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. If you are not ready to donate all of your tillable farmland, you can also select a portion of your property to donate.

The Acres for Good program is also a way to do good things for your community. Like Mr. Taylor's example, 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 32 Community Foundations which invest in their communities through grants and programs. From Harmony and Byron to Ellendale and St. James, SMIF has community foundations in every corner of its region.

Or, for a region-wide reach, farmers can allocate their gift toward SMIF's general endowment, or SMIF's specific funds which support youth and entrepreneurs in the region.

Another option is to set 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.

I was elated and impressed that Mr. Taylor would think of donating farmland to reinvest in the region where he grew up, raised his family and built businesses. In doing so, he is leaving a legacy that will last far into the future. SMIF is here to help you create your own ongoing legacy. Even a gift of a few acres can make a big difference for the future of your community or a cause that is dear to your heart.

To learn more about the Acres for Good program visit smifoundation.org/acresforgood or contact Alissa Oeltjenbruns, Vice President of Community Vitality, at 507-214-7023 or alissao@smifoundation.org.

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

TRITON CLASS OF 2024



LITANY PETERSON

2024 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Litany Peterson is a senior at Triton this year. Her parents are Karen & Kevin Peterson. She has four brothers; Rhylan, Ellery, Dacotah and Forrest and one sister Kyrielle. She is active in MHS, Link Crew, BPA and theater. Litany is also involved in the Dance Team at Triton. Her hobbies include crocheting, reading, biking and electric guitar. She enjoys Indie, po and rock music and the movies Poltergeist and La La Land. After graduation she plans to major in Psychology.



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TRITON CLASS OF 2024



KELSEY ANDREE

2024 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Kelsey Andree is a senior at Triton. Her parents are Dana and Jason Andree. She has one brother. She is involved in yearbook in school. She also works at HyVee. Her pastimes are photography, gardening and drawing. She enjoys the music of Taylor Swift, Niall Horan and 5 Seconds of Summer. Her favorite movies are Tangled, Spiderman, Avengers, EndGame, My Girl, Titanic and Beauty & the Beast. Her favorite actors are Pedro Pascal, Robert Downey Jr, Jonathan Baily and Angela Basset. After graduation she plans to attend RCTC to study photography.



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TRITON CLASS OF 2024

2024

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Kianna Peters is a senior at Triton. Her parents are Heather and Chad Dupey. She has two brothers and two sisters. She is involved in student council, link crew and theater. She is also active in Cheer. Her hobbies are being outside and hanging out with friends. Her favorite movie is 10 Things I Hate about You. After graduation she plans to attend Winona State University.



KIANNA PETERS

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MDA Reminds Minnesotans to Use Pesticides and Fertilizers with Care

Warm spring weather is here, and many Minnesotans are thinking about their lawns, trees, and gardens. Whether you do yardwork yourself or hire a professional, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) urges the safe use of pesticides and fertilizers on your property by following all label directions.

Pesticide and fertilizer labels specify how to use products safely and effectively. In Minnesota, it is unlawful to apply products without following label instructions. The label is the law.

If you hire a professional lawn care provider, do your homework. State law requires pesticide applicators to be licensed by the MDA to commercially apply pesticides and fertilizers, including weed and feed product. Applicators must know and understand state and federal regulations regarding all aspects of pesticide and fertilizer handling, application, and disposal to be licensed by the MDA. The following are helpful tips for a safe spring season.

If you do it yourself:

Read and follow all label directions. Do not apply products in windy or adverse weather conditions. High wind can cause

products to drift and potentially harm people, pets, or plants.

Sweep sidewalks and hard surfaces of any dry or granular product and reapply to the intended site. Pesticides left on watertight surfaces easily wash into our water supply.

Buy only what you need. Unused products must be stored according to the label. They can also lose effectiveness over time and be difficult to dispose of properly.

If you hire a professional:

Professionals must be licensed by the MDA and carry their pesticide applicator license with them. Ask to see their license before they start work. You can also look up license holders on the MDA website: mda.state.mn.us/licensinglookup. Search under "Fertilizer Companies with Commercial Pesticide Applicators" or "Pesticide Applicator/Manure License" with a "Commercial Pesticide Applicator – Turf and Ornamentals" license type.

Be cautious of people who claim their products are completely safe or pressure you to sign a service contract.

Recognize posted warning flags in areas that have been chemically treated.

Applicators are required to provide an application record to you. Review the records, including products used and the amounts applied.

Be sure the applicator sweeps the sidewalks and hard surfaces clean of any dry or granular products.

For information about applicator licenses, call the MDA at 651-201-6615. To report unlicensed applicators, please file a complaint on the MDA website or call 651-201-6333.

Garden Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: May 11, 18 • Sundays: May 12, 19
Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

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New Breakfast Cereals - Loaded with Chemicals



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

General Mills has launched a new cereal line called "LOADED." GM is filling their cereal squares with vanilla cream. But tests are revealing alarming levels of heavy metals in the filling. Loaded contains more than

double the amount of the EPA's allowable levels for lead, 400% higher levels of cadmium and up to 1650% higher aluminum levels compared to the EPA's standards for drinking water. The weed killer Glyphosate and eight other pesticides were also detected.

Daily walking is one of the most effective ways to stay fit and active. Regular walking has been shown to reduce the risk of chronic age-related diseases like heart disease, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes and cancer. The largest health gains came from walking up to 7000 or 8000 steps per day, continuing to about 12,000 steps per day as being ideal.

Excited about 5G wireless? Don't be. Studies reveal that 5G wireless has the potential to induce neurological damage, psychiatric problems and due to its effect on brain development, increasing the risk of conditions like dementia. Also, a December 2023 study showed that 5G wireless had an effect on sperm count and motility.

Pregnancy and vaccines do not go hand and hand despite what medical doctors will tell you. Studies show that pregnant women given the swine flu vaccine had a statistical number of increased miscarriages. In addition, when combined with the flu vaccine it was reported that women were more likely to

miscarriage within 28 days following the vaccination. Sadly, the American Academy of Physicians (AAP) recommends that all newborns should receive a hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hrs of birth despite hepatitis B being a disease that is primarily contracted from IV drug use or promiscuous sexual activity. Speaking of vaccinations, young people who received the COVID-19 vaccine were significantly more likely to die than those who did not receive the shot. According to data from the United Kingdom's Office of National Statistics those who received four covid vaccine had a 318% higher mortality rate than the unvaccinated group. As far as childhood vaccinations in general, another study found that vaccinated children had higher rates of asthma, allergies, eczema, respiratory infections, behavioral issues and other health conditions. Back to the covid vaccine, a separate study found that for every life saved there were nearly 14 times more deaths caused by the covid vaccine.

The pharmaceutical and medical devices industries paid physicians more than \$12 billion over 10 years, according to a study published last month in JAMA. The analysis found the industries made 85,087,744 pay-

ments totaling \$12.13 billion to 826,313 physicians — 57.1% of practicing physicians across 39 specialties. Orthopedic surgeons, neurologists and psychiatrists, and cardiologists received the most money. Trauma surgeons and pediatric surgeons received the least. "Money given to doctors has a purpose: it is for marketing," cardiologist Dr. John Mandrola and co-author of the study wrote on his Substack. "If these direct payments to doctors did not work, industry would not spend billions."

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



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Healthy Meal Planning: Tips for Older Adults

Eating healthfully and having an active lifestyle can support healthy aging. Use the resources below to learn about different patterns of healthy eating and ways to create a nutritious meal plan.

Older adults' unique nutrition needs

Simple adjustments can go a long way toward building a healthier eating pattern. Follow these tips to get the most out of foods and beverages while meeting your nutrient needs and reducing the risk of disease:

Enjoy a variety of foods from each food group to help reduce the risk of developing diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease. Choose foods with little to no added sugar, saturated fats, and sodium.

To get enough protein throughout the day and maintain muscle, try adding seafood, dairy, or fortified soy products along with beans, peas, and lentils to your meals. Learn more about protein and other important nutrients.

Add sliced or chopped fruits and vegetables to meals and snacks. Look for pre-cut varieties if slicing and chopping are a challenge for you.

Try foods fortified with vitamin B12, such as some cereals, or talk to your doctor about taking a B12 supplement. Learn more about key vitamins and minerals.

Reduce sodium intake by seasoning foods with herbs and citrus such as lemon juice.

Drink plenty of water throughout the day to help stay hydrated and aid in the digestion of food and absorption of nutrients. Avoid sugary drinks.

Meal planning

Answering the question "what should I eat?" doesn't need to leave you feeling baffled and frustrated. In fact, when you have the right information and motivation, you can feel good about making healthy choices. Use these tips to plan healthy and delicious meals:

Plan in advance. Meal planning takes the guesswork out of eating and can help ensure you eat a variety of nutritious foods throughout the day.

Find budget-friendly foods. Create a shopping list in advance to help stick to a budget and follow these SNAP-friendly recipes.

Consider preparation time. Some meals can be made in as little as five minutes. If you love cooking, or if you're preparing a meal with or for friends or family, you may want to try something a little more challenging.

Keep calories in mind. The number of calories people need each day varies by individual. Always discuss your weight and fitness goals with your health care provider before making big changes.

When you create your shopping list, don't forget nutritious basics such as fresh fruits and vegetables and whole-grain bread.

Healthy Fats



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

As I mentioned last month, we live in a world where what is considered normal is not healthy. It is normal to see a variety of "low fat" and "fat free" products at the grocery store. We have been told these products will support our health, but since the introduction of this concept in the 1970s there has been a significant increase in chronic illnesses, increased weight, and mental illness. While these "low fat" products may be normal today, they are not the food our grandparents grew up on and they are not promoting better health for us today.

Fat from healthy sources will promote health in the human body. Grass fed beef, pastured free-range chickens, and dairy cows that can graze on fresh pasture provide quality fat in the meat, eggs, and dairy. These sources of fat were essential to the pioneers that established the states that make up this country. The human body uses this fat for fuel and for developing the hormones necessary to keep the body healthy and the brain active. All the nerve cells of the human body are made of fat, which helps to insulate the signal pathways so clear communication can pass from cell to cell. The heart prefers fat for fuel, and reproduction is dependent on quality fat to sustain the significant activity of supporting new life in the womb. Quality fat sustains life.

Another significant factor associated with quality fat is the fat-soluble vitamins. Vitamin D, Vitamin A, Vitamin K, and Vitamin E are absorbed with fat into the body to activate cellular activity, strengthen bones, and defend cells from harmful chemicals. Most Americans are deficient in these four vitamins because they do not choose the food sources that contain these important vitamins. Here are some of the top food sources for these fat-soluble vitamins:

Vitamin A – Top sources include liver, salmon, goat cheese, butter, eggs, cream cheese, whole milk, and cod liver oil. Vegetables like sweet potato, kale, and carrots

contain beta-carotene which the body can transform into active vitamin A, but requires a longer process compared to the active vitamin A from the animal sources.

Vitamin D – Top sources include salmon, halibut, sardines, canned tuna, egg yolks, and cod liver oil. Your own body can make Vitamin D but this requires regular exposure to the sun, which is impossible to do in the northern states for half of the year.

Vitamin E – Top sources include sunflower seeds, almonds, peanuts, peanuts, goose, and rainbow trout. Wheat germ was the source where vitamin E was first discovered and is an important reason to consider eating whole grain products.

Vitamin K – Top sources include collard greens, spinach, kale, chicken breast, sauerkraut, kefir, gouda, blue cheese, and egg yolks.

These quality fat sources will provide essential nutrients your body can thrive on. Circle the food items you already use regularly and underline those food items you are willing to try. Combining these food items together into a savory dish will provide you with a satisfying, nutritious meal.

More than 100 years ago, Dr. Weston Price researched the effects of the modern food preparations that were beginning to advance through the western culture of Europe and the United States. He documented his research in the book, "Nutrition and Physical Degeneration." In cultures all around the world, he discovered the importance of quality fat to sustain a society. When the culture moved toward more processed foods, more "low fat" foods, and more convenient foods, the result was increased cavities, increased need for braces on teeth, and decreased fertility. These are all the symptoms we see in today's modern living. You can find out more about Dr. Price's work and the thriving community that is applying the principles he discovered at <https://www.westonaprice.org/>

Make your health a priority in 2024. Change is required, but the outcome is worth the effort. Little changes can make a big difference over time. Adding quality fat sources can be one of those little changes. If you would like to pursue a healthy lifestyle and increase longevity, I can help you start a plan.

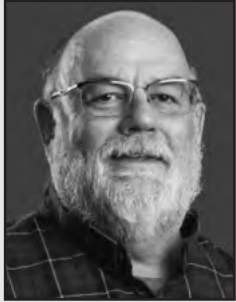
Contact me to discuss your health goals for 2024. I can help you reach those health goals with whole food plans customized to your specific needs. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net Start this year with a new plan. Foundation to Thrive is a 16 week lifestyle transformation to help you reach your health goals in 2024.

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

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Tick Season and Lyme Disease



Benjamin Clarke, PhD,
with the University of Minnesota
Medical School, Duluth Campus

Minnesotans can expect to see ticks outdoors as the warmer months approach. Tick bites can transmit diseases — like Lyme disease — to people and animals.

Benjamin Clarke, PhD, with the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth Campus, speaks about tick season, Lyme disease symptoms and how to prevent tick bites while outdoors.

“Lyme disease is a systemic inflammatory response to a bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is transmitted through the bite of a blacklegged tick, also known as a deer tick. Often, a bull’s-eye rash will appear near the bite site. Lyme disease will start with

flu-like symptoms of fever, head and muscle aches, and mild brain fog which progresses to fatigue, poor appetite, swollen glands and arthritic pain in the joints. If left untreated, the disease may progress to cause neurological problems like Bell’s palsy and inflammation in the brain and spinal cord.”

“It’s crucial to thoroughly inspect your body for ticks after a walk in the woods. The black-legged tick is small — young deer ticks are about the size of a poppy seed and difficult to spot. As a preventative measure, avoid high brush and grass where ticks are found. Be sure to wear insect repellent when walking in the woods. Wearing light-colored clothing provides contrast for easier tick inspection, and tucking pants into socks prevents tick contact with the skin.”

“If a tick is attached to your skin, remove it carefully with tweezers and ensure the tick’s head isn’t still embedded in the skin, which can lead to other infections. The chances of getting an infection increase the longer the tick is attached. If you find a tick on your body, go to a clinic as soon as possible for appropriate treatment. If possible, bring the tick along for proper identification to confirm it is a blacklegged tick.”

Dr. Benjamin Clarke is a professor at the U of M Medical School, Duluth Campus. His research interests include Lyme disease, immunology and endocrinology, and the development of active learning tools to teach biomedical concepts.

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TRITON CLASS OF 2024



2024

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Mallory Olson-Ramer is a senior at Triton. Her parents are Tony & Candy Mulholland. She has one brother, Maxwell. In school she is active in MHS, student council and SADD. She is the Triton varsity volleyball manager. Outside of school she is a member of Faith Lutheran Church and works at a nursing home. She enjoys reading, spending time with friends & family and playing with her dog. Her favorite movies are Top Gun, the Proposal and Criminal Minds. After graduation she plans to attend North Dakota State University for a Bachelors Degree in Respiratory Care.



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Saturday, June 22nd

Watch www.dennisondays.org for updates to the schedule



Legal Notices

**CITY OF CLAREMONT
CITY COUNCIL
MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Tasha Dahl, City Council Members: Jacob Klejeski, Krystal Sultze, Deb Ellis, and Ryan Hedberg. Council Members absent: None.

City staff and others present: Administrator Elizabeth Sorg, Maintenance Director Casey Dahl, City Attorney Mark Rahrnick, City Engineer Derek Olinger, City Auditor Layne Kockelman, Ethan Reed, Donna Gregory, and SEMMCHRA Representative's Sara Fuher and Patrick Michener.

AGENDA

Motion by Ellis to approve the agenda, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ethan Reed asked if the city council would entertain the idea of letting him use some city land for a food forest. A food forest is planted in a way that maximizes the yield of food while reducing maintenance needs and increases environmental benefits such as increased water retention, biodiversity and reducing soil erosion. Examples of the forest would consist of mushrooms, fruit trees, herbs, Jerusalem artichoke, which he had samples of, and other foods. He would help grow the food if the city had some land he could use such as along or around the walking trail or one of the housing lots that is currently not being used. The council said they want to research it a little more and think about where it would be best to put it. The council will discuss it

again at the May meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of: Minutes of the March 11, 2024 City Council Meeting and approve the automatic renewal of a CD. Motion by Sultze to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS
PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE**

Nothing at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

**PUBLIC HEALTH &
SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Timothy Wolf applied to be a member of the fire department. Motion by Sultze to approve Timothy Wolf to the fire department, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Since the fire department recently bought a newer truck, they will be selling the 1990 Spartan. Fire Chief Dahl reached out to the DNR and they mentioned Federal Dam is looking for a fire truck. The fire department discussed the value of it and recommended \$3000. Federal Dam is a small town with a vast area to cover fires and they said they would buy it for \$3000. A member of the fire department will drive it there and show them how to run it. Motion by Ellis to approve the sell of the truck to Federal Dam for \$3000, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

**PLANNING & ZONING
COMMITTEE**

Nothing at this time.

EDA

Nothing at this time.

**MAINTENANCE
DEPARTMENT**

Nothing at this time.

PARKS COMMITTEE

Dahl contacted Quaale Masonry to fix the existing basketball area and make a full-size court. Quaale Masonry quoted \$4958 to fix the small basketball area in Henning Park and enlarge it to a full size court. Council would like to get 1 more quote. The park committee will set up a meeting to review the quotes before the next meeting.

Two quotes were received for dug outs at Claremont Field. The council had questions on the quotes and would like to get prices on the wood and roof part of the dug outs.

The park committee will clear up the quotes when they have their meeting. They will also discuss some signs for the parks.

PEOPLESERVICE

Their monthly reports were in the packet.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR
REPORT**

The lights in the hallway and front office were changed to LED. The total cost of the project was \$437.50. A grant from Xcel will pay for approximately 60% of the cost. Just a reminder to the council that the Local Board of Appeal is Monday, April 22 at 2 p.m.

CITY ATTORNEY

He drafted the extension agreement for Arden Homes. The council will review it for discussion or approval at the May meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

The City of Dodge Center

**PUBLIC NOTICE
4-18-24**

AA Self Storage will sell at public auction the contents of several storage units in Dodge Center and Claremont on which payment is past due. The auction will be conducted on-line at storage-treasures.com beginning about May 6, 2024.

The contents of these units is unknown, but are believed to be miscellaneous household and personal items.

The names of persons renting the units are as follows:

June Bennett
Martin Rodriguez Montes
Manager Specials 2 units

sent an engagement letter terms and conditions for the Dodge County Ambulance Special Taxing District. It states that they hired Taft Stettinius & Hollister to represent the anticipated to be established DCA EMS special taxing district. Dodge Center will pay the fees which will be taken from the district levy to pay for the attorney, but in the event that the district is not established Dodge Center will pay the fees and may ask each city to contribute. Motion by Klejeski to approve the engagement letter, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Layne Kockelman with Abdo presented the 2023 audit. He did suggest that the water rates be reviewed as the water fund is in a deficit.

Motion by Ellis to open the public hearing for the SEMMCHRA Small Cities Development Program, second by Sultze. The program was scheduled to be closed in December, but they will be asking for an extension. Both Claremont and West Concord have 11 grants that they are working on. Hearing no other questions or comments, motion by Sultze

to close the public hearing, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Triton summer recreation requested financial support and use of Henning Park ballfield on Monday evenings for part of June and all of July. Should Claremont Field be ready for use by then, Sorg will notify them. Motion by Klejeski to contribute \$500 to the program and the use of Henning Park ballfield, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sultze to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg,
Administrator

Tasha Dahl, Mayor

**CITY OF CLAREMONT
LOCAL BOARD OF
APPEAL AND
EQUALIZATION
MONDAY, APRIL 22,
2024
2:00 P.M.**

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Monday, April 22,

2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

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

City and County staff and others present: City Administrator Elizabeth Sorg, Dodge County Assessor Ryan DeCook, Dodge County Appraisers Matt Naatz and Erik Hannigan.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide a fair and objective forum for property owners to appeal their property valuations or classifications. The Board has the authority to decrease, sustain or increase the market value of a property. No letters or calls were received at City Hall and no residents were present.

Motion by Ellis to adjourn at 2:30 p.m., second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg,
Administrator

Tasha Dahl, Mayor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF WEST CONCORD, MINNESOTA

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED
PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of West Concord, Minnesota (the "City"), will meet on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at or after 7:00 p.m. in the West Concord City Council Chambers, located at 401 Main Street in the City, to hold a public hearing concerning the proposal that the City abate property taxes levied by the City on the property identified as tax parcel numbers:

- 26.017.0107
- 26.100.0160
- 26.100.0390
- 26.100.0230
- 26.020.0900

The total amount of the taxes proposed to be abated by the City on the above properties for up to a 15-year

period is estimated to be not more than \$343,450. The City Council will consider the property tax abatement in connection with issuing general obligation bonds to finance various public improvements, including but not limited to the construction of various improvements to the municipal liquor store parking lot and alley and the Phase 2A improvements on South Street in the City.

At the time and place fixed for the public hearing, the City Council will give all persons who appear at the hearing an opportunity to express their views with respect to the proposal. In addition, interested persons may direct any questions or file written comments respecting the proposal with the Interim City Clerk/Administrator, at or prior to said public hearing.

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Look Forward to a Safe Summer by Watching Your Speed

Extra speed enforcement on Minnesota roads May 1-Sept. 2

ST. PAUL — Minnesotans will increasingly drive the streets, roads and interstates for outdoor fun as summer approaches. To keep it a safe time as people travel, law enforcement is participating in a

statewide extra speed enforcement and awareness campaign from May 1 through Sept. 2. A driver speeding past you on the interstate is scary enough, but many speeding-

related fatalities occur on other roads that are designed for lower speeds and have intersections, oncoming traffic and pedestrians. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) re-

ported that 87 percent of all speeding-related traffic deaths across the U.S. occurred on non-interstate roads in 2022. Officers, deputies and troopers will be looking for speeders endangering their own lives and the lives of others.

Speed-related traffic fatalities, Jan. 1-April 21
 26 in 2024
 22 in 2023
 29 in 2022
 43 in 2021
 22 in 2020
 18 in 2019
 35 in 2018

Reduce your speed. Reduce your chance of a crash.

Watching your speed and driving to road conditions:

Gives you more vehicle control.

Allows you to respond more quickly to changing conditions, such as bad weather, road construction, or in an area at night that isn't well lit.

Decreases the severity of the impact during a crash.

Give yourself room to react

Drivers should keep a three-second following distance to allow for safe stopping and reaction to other vehicles.

It takes more than the length of a football field to stop when traveling at 60 miles per hour.

Visit DriveSmartMN.org to learn more about staying safe on the road.

About the Minnesota Department Public Safety

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) comprises 10 divisions where 2,100 employees operate programs in the areas of law enforcement, crime victim assistance, traffic safety, alcohol and gambling, emergency communications, fire safety, pipeline safety, driver licensing, vehicle registration and emergency management. DPS activity is anchored by three core principles: education, enforcement and prevention.

About the

Office of Traffic Safety

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) designs, implements and coordinates federally funded traffic safety enforcement and education programs to improve driver behaviors and reduce the deaths and serious injuries that occur on Minnesota roads. These efforts form a strong foundation for the statewide Toward Zero Deaths traffic safety program. OTS also administers state funds for the motorcycle safety program, child seats for needy families program and school bus stop arm camera project.

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Assumed Name

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

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If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment. By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Dustin Dornink

MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: dustin.dornink@gmail.com

DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, April 22, 2024

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the April 22, 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.

Present: Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas, Lee Mattson, AJ Gengler, Mark Barwald, Deputy Josiah Rehmann, Daren Meier and Craig Britton – Wiseth, Kathy Freeman and others.

City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda to include April 8, 2024 City Council Minutes, Payment of Bills; Child Care Providers Request for Community Center Usage, Roto Rooter Contract;
 - Resolution 24-013 Adopting the Assessment for the 2023 Improvement Project;
 - The Mutual Aid Agreement between Mayo Clinic and City of Dodge Center Ambulance Services;
 - Purchase and Installation of front counter computer;
 - Hiring of Meredith Brose as Community Development Technician pending background check;
 - Amendment #2 requesting \$916,804.96 in additional funding from the State of Minnesota for the new fiber network project;
- Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm

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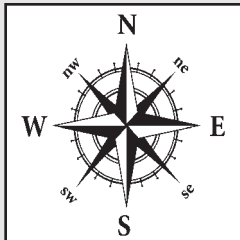
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DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes The Eclipse



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.

I have always been intrigued by the solar system. Growing up in the country the night sky seems so vast and captivating. The Big Dipper was one of the first constellations I was able to identify. If you follow the two stars that make up the front of the dipper you can find the North Star and the Little Dipper. Over sixty years on that tidbit of information. Years ago, I recall watching the northern lights in the winter sky. They seemed more common back years ago.

When I was a young kid, I read about Haley's Comet. My grandmother told about seeing it in the western sky about sunset back in 1910. Sometime in the late 1960's a comet visited earth and I got up a couple nights around 2am to look at it in the south-eastern sky. My fascination with traveling heavenly objects was anticipating the return of Haley's Comet. I was so excited that I would be able to see in 1986 but unfortunately it was barely visible at all to the naked eye.

Solar eclipses were interesting as well. My dad let us look at one through the welding helmet when we were growing up. I was amazed that the event could be tracked and predicted with such accuracy as to alert us to just when it would happen again. So, enters 2024 with the April 8th total solar eclipse and the fact that I would be living right on the edge of the band of totality. A 116 mile-wide

zone where the moon would fully cover the sun at mid-day. What luck, it just clips the north-western edge of Tennessee and our Kentucky Lake home is on the north-western edge of Tennessee.

The hysteria was building for the event. Some thought it was a cosmic sign ushering in a cataclysmic event. Down here they were giving away solar sunglasses everywhere. City hall had them, the Ranger station at Ft. Donelson Park had them, the gas stations sold them and they were at the checkout in the grocery stores. I picked a pair up and was warned not to drive with them on. I didn't know I looked that stupid. Some people asked about getting them for their pets. I have had dogs all my life and never knew them to look at the sun. One lady said she was going to keep her curtains drawn all day Monday so as not to burn her eyeballs. I am not sure how these people live their life every other day of the year without staring into the sun. I think that one of the first things my mom told me was, "don't look at the sun."

So, I was pumped. I knew it wasn't a total eclipse down here but they said it was 97.9% coverage. That seems pretty close to 100 for me. At 1:15 I went outside and put on my shades. First thing I learned is you shouldn't walk down the porch steps with eclipse glasses on. At least I felt like the cardboard sunglasses I had nothing invested in would likely protect my eyesight. Sure enough about a third of the sun was covered by a black moon. I checked a few more times leading up to the 2:01pm maximum coverage point. But I noticed it was still about a bright as any other afternoon would be. I thought it would be getting darker, maybe no shadows. So, at 2:01 I dutifully donned my eye wear and looked upward. Quite spectacular, just a sliver of sun peaking around that big black moon blot. But it was still bright as day outside. There were shadows from trees and the house and my pickup.

Just 2% of the sun can still brighten up the world. Quite impressive how powerful a little sunlight is.

A Minnesotan: Different in a Small Town



By RosaLin Alcoser

Recently my father was doing this very thing while my mother was picking out new glasses. At some point during this my parents had mentioned that my father used to be a chaplain for the Federal Prison System for 26 years when they got out Federal employee health insurance that they have as part of my father's retirement. Which is always important to be mentioned when he meets new people because his favorite joke is that he did 26 years in the federal big house. Which we'll add on to that he got let out every night for good behavior

This is a joke that only goes off well if the people that he's talking to pay attention to the fact that he was the chaplain at the prison. Which the people at the glasses store apparently did not pay attention to. So they proceed to tease up and say things about how everyone deserves a second chance protecting my mother to have to re-explain that he was retired from being the chaplain, not from being an inmate.

As I was not there to witness this event in person I am assuming that this explanation of the joke resolved the whole thing. Nevertheless the interaction was amusing and was a much higher level of interaction than those of us in the cities get with most people we meet while out on errands.

One of the main differences between living in the cities, town, or a small town is the amount of time you can take to chat with people when you're out and about. When you're in the city you might have enough time to exchange pleasantries with someone checking you out at a store.

While in town you might be able to build up some sort of rapport with people at places that you regularly frequent. But in a small town you will often be able to hold full conversations with these same people which is my father's favorite thing to do.

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TOWNSHIP SQUARE FEATURES:
Minnesota State Amateur Talent Contest
Thursday, July 18 at 7:00 PM
Registration starts at 6:00 PM
Hotdish/Pie Competitions
Sunday, July 21 at 10:00 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