



Baseball –
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EDEN VALLEY

WATKINS

VOICE

YOUR VOICE..... BE HEARD

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SPRING MIGRATION



Photo by Michael Jacobson

Spring has sprung! As the sun makes its return, so do the geese. In Eden Lake Township, a goose leisurely swam in a pond.

PROTECTING HEIRLOOMS

MNHS conservator offers preservation tips

Community Ed
and historical
society sponsor
lecture workshop

By Gretta Lemke

As a museum academic, professional, and, most importantly, fanatic, I work with collections of objects that hold wins and losses, connections to long-lost family members, and tales of a community's life. "Material culture," meaning any object we interact with, important or not, will give a glimpse into our lives for years to come.

You most likely have a box of treasured material culture in your home. Perhaps it is on the top shelf in your basement and has been for decades. Maybe those old yearbooks have become musty, the vase has broken and was super glued back together, or the photographs displayed on your bookshelf next to a window have faded.

On Thursday, April 10, EV-W Community Ed and the Eden Valley Area Historical Society hosted "Saving Your Stuff – How to care for art, heirlooms, and personal collections." This lecture workshop in Eden

Valley was led by outreach conservator Megan Brakob Narvey of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Narvey focused on the 10 agents of deterioration that pose risk to your heirlooms and treasured material culture. The 10 agents of deterioration are all intertwined. You cannot change one without affecting another, sometimes making it impossible to have the perfect conditions to store an object. A museum's goal is not to have this perfect environment, but instead to mitigate the damage and do whatever they can to preserve the piece in the best way they can.

Narvey explained, "Our favorite answer to every question is 'It depends.'"

Every item is different, and every situation is different, but there are a few ways you can do your best to keep your heirlooms safe.

The first agent is the most dangerous and common: physical forces. This can include children running around nearby, moving the object, or even just dusting off your prized trophy from college. Any physical interaction with an object risks a break.

This does not mean you should never handle your heirlooms or treasured possessions; just keep them some-

where they will not be easily bumped. When moving an object, pick it up at its most stable part. Handles are thin and the weakest point, so support the base instead.

Fire is the next agent. With fire damage, there also comes water damage from extinguishing the fire. Smoke can also cause deterioration to the piece. It is important to remember, in the case of a fire, your life is more important than any valued object.

Regularly checking your smoke detectors and storing things in boxes can prevent the risk of damage to your objects. Boxes give a buffer before the objects, collecting soot or water before it gets to your valuables.

Water rounds up the most immediate damage-causing agents. Water can cause ink to bleed and certain materials to deteriorate, and introduces a favorable environment for mold growth. As unnatural as it seems, Narvey advised to not store items in a basement or attic because the basement will be the first to flood and attics are susceptible to leaks. Mold growth begins within three days of something getting wet.

It is important to act fast before mold growth begins. Luckily, freezing your items

stops mold growth. In the case of water damage, wrap your items in a plastic bag and place in a freezer. A chest freezer is better and will maintain a cold enough temperature. While these are frozen, reach out to your national heritage responder, who can offer resources to help reduce the risk of mold growth and dry your objects out.

Agent #4, pests, can be mice, insects, or microorganisms like mold. Bugs can damage items by eating organic materials, leaving excretions, and attracting other pests. Spiders are harmless to collections.

In museums, non-threatening insects are called indicator pests. They will not damage your objects, but if they are present, they must be eating something. That something is usually other insects. Placing bug traps near your object storage can help to monitor the types of pests you have. Sticky traps can be bought at most hardware stores.

If insects are risking damaging your items, freezing is an option to halt damage. Wrap your objects in a clear plastic garbage bag and set it inside your freezer. Freeze for a few days, thaw to room temperature, and freeze again for a few days. This makes sure

PRESERVATION – Page 2

LEGISLATURE 2025

How Minnesota's spending on K-12 education might change

Fierce, unpredictable fights over funding at capitol

By Matthew Blake, MinnPost

The Minnesota Legislature has a Monday, May 19, deadline to write a budget that will fund the state government over the next two years.

There is a glum feeling around the frenetic crafting of the budget, largely because the state is forecast to move from a surplus in the next two years to a \$6 billion deficit for the two-year budget cycle that begins in July 2027, according to the Minnesota Management and Budget department.

In making their dour forecast, state officials cited factors ranging from tariffs to the uncertainty of federal funding. Perhaps nowhere is that pessimism felt more than in funding K-12 education. Under Gov. Tim Walz and DFL control of the House and Senate, education spending from the state's general fund shot up nearly 25 percent from about \$9.9 billion in the 2022 fiscal year to an expected \$12.3 billion this fiscal year, according to Minnesota Management and Budget.

The DFL pushed through a major increase in per-pupil spending. They funded breakfast and lunch each school day for all of the state's 850,000 K-12 students.

Now DFL leadership is resigned to finding places to cut. "This is an extremely hard time," Sen. Mary Kunesh (DFL-New Brighton) said at the Senate Education Finance Committee meeting she chaired on Tuesday, April 1. "It is heartbreaking in a lot of different ways in a lot of different areas."

Education spending makes up 38 percent of the almost \$66.6 billion biennial budget proposed by Walz. Here is what to know about the spending debates as legislative committees draft their own proposals, which will be sent along this month to the House and Senate floors. The House and Senate and governor will eventually have to settle their differences over a budget plan that needs to be in place by the end of June 2025.

Who wants what on education spending is surprising

Using Minnesota Management and Budget's February forecast as a starting point, Walz wants to trim \$240 million from the education budget, leaving the department with \$25.5 billion for the next two years, accord-

ing to figures provided by Senate fiscal analyst Jenna Hofer. The Senate has targeted no K-12 cuts the next two years, but a \$687 million reduction in 2028 and 2029.

If DFLers are willing to roll back at least some education spending, then surely the House, with its 67-67 DFL-GOP tie, wants steeper reductions?

Actually, no. House Speaker Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Spring) and Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman (DFL-Brooklyn Park) want to increase education spending by \$40 million, and seek no cuts in 2028 and 2029. Also, Demuth and Hortman have agreed on earmarking this \$40 million to the Read Act, a law Walz signed in 2023 to give children resources to read at or above grade-level expectations.

Walz's budget recommendation for the Read Act sets aside less than half of that – \$16 million over the biennium. But Demuth said in an interview that she wants more money to train current teachers, plus cash to hire subs as those teachers are trained. "We really do need, as a state, to prioritize student outcomes," Demuth said, lamenting Minnesota's stagnant scores in National Assessment of Educational Progress reading tests.

The split House is already a wrinkle to crafting a gargantuan budget bill. That Republicans are fiercely defending some spending... and may even want more money is another layer of complexity.

A tighter budget means reassessing charter schools

In 1992, Minnesota became the first state to have charter schools, which are publicly-funded schools with independent curricula. There are now 181 charter schools in Minnesota, and they receive roughly the same money as traditional public schools.

Walz's recommendation would tweak that. The governor wants to zap \$20 million in long-term maintenance for charter school facilities, according to his budget proposal. Under state statute, charter schools cannot own their building directly and often use a non-profit affiliate as the landlord, with the school paying rent. Also, the governor wants to save \$21 million over the next two years by eliminating a reimbursement charter schools receive when they enroll a special education student.

The state would still pay for about 90 percent of charter schools' special education program costs.

K-12 EDUCATION – Page 4

EVW SCHOOL BOARD

Board hears about fine arts curriculum

Board also
suggests starting
graduation earlier
in 2026

By Gretta Lemke

The Eden Valley-Watkins School Board met on Wednesday, April 16, for their monthly meeting with presentations from the fine arts committee, discussion of the childcare center opening soon, and analyzing projected enrollment.

The fine arts committee presented their successes and curriculum updates. Their mission statement involves creative, social, physical, aesthetic, and cultural growth at all grade levels through visual

arts, theater, and dance.

From the music department, Kris Latcham and Kim Salo shared receiving a new curriculum that is consistent across all of the grade levels and classes. In addition to band and choir, the department will be offering a general music course in middle school taught by Latcham next year.

The department's focus on rhythm in the past few years has proven to be effective in quick learning and excellent performances, including superior ratings from both the band and choir large group contests and many superiors from students participating in the solos and ensembles contest, they reported.

Elementary school teacher Tanya Janssen reported on the fine arts at the elementary school. Art work has been

implemented into science, history, and other subjects to reach the goals and standards. This has worked well, encouraging creative minds in all subjects, she said.

High school art teacher Gerry Kulzer presented the projects his students were working on. He is grateful for the support from the community at the art shows he has put on. His website shows the projects of past students for inspiration to current students, and a display case of student projects in the high school will continue to be added to.

In Other Business...

•There are currently around 50 students registered for the incoming kindergarten class of the 2025-26 school year. The board expects a few more

enrollees in the late summer, but this number is not expected to climb much higher.

The projected K-12 enrollment for the 2025-26 school year is 833 students district-wide. This has dipped from 901 in 2022-23 school year and is projected to continue lowering to 791 in 2027-28.

•The Community Ed childcare center in town – Little Eagles and Eagles Kids – plans to open around June 1 with an open house event during Valley Daze. Both programs are moving to the remodeled bank building on State Street.

The center gratefully received multiple donations from businesses and organizations in town, and has a projected \$204,144 in total revenue. The expected expenses include gas, electric, food, sup

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EDEN VALLEY WATKINS
VOICE

103 STEARNS AVE. E.,
P.O. BOX 7,
EDEN VALLEY, MN 55329
PHONE: 888-223-1371
EMAIL: EDITOR@EVWVOICE.COM
WWW.EVWVOICE.COM
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