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Wednesday, February 18, 2026 • Volume 167 • Issue 7 • One Section • 16 Pages • © 2009 Evans Publishing, LLC



Cresco's Old Texaco Revving Again— With Help from the Community



The current old gas station building with an insert of how it looked back in its heyday. M.A.G. is determined to get it back to its old glory but it asking for help from the community.

RACHEL RILEY
TPD Editor

CRESCO - If you listen closely on the corner of Elm, you can almost hear it: the soft ding of the air pump, the pop of a soda bottle cap, the early-morning shuffle of newspaper bundles. This month, the Cresco Restoration Fund added just over

\$200—thanks to mugs, books, and good old-fashioned cash donations—toward bringing that sound and spirit back. This is in addition to other donors that have previously put time, money and effort into the restoration project, including but not limited to generous donations from CUSB and Cresco Bank & Trust.

Mike Magler, of Midwest Artisans Group (M.A.G.) and the building which the restoration will be happening says, "I'd like to thank the people who contributed product or monetary donations. It all makes a difference toward making our community better."

At the heart of it all is a beloved landmark with a story to tell. Built in 1923 by Northern Iowa Oil and later refreshed in a 1936 Texaco look, the station isn't just a building—it's a memory bank. Kids once grabbed their papers there before running routes (and, rumor has it, grabbed an extra if they were short—sorry, not sorry),

families treated themselves to a cold pop while filling up the gas tanks, and neighbors met not because they had to, but because that's what community looked like.

Today, that same energy still lives here—it just needs a little nudge. The station's roof, which has faithfully shielded this corner of Cresco for decades, is tired. Years of deferred maintenance have put it at a crossroads: fix it soon, or it may have to come off entirely. That's why the effort has been organized under a 501(c)(3) non-profit—an invitation to the wider community, grant makers, and local leaders to help save a piece of Cresco's heartbeat. Why it matters - The Map: The United States map at the station is a local treasure—94 years and counting as part of Cresco's story. It's more than paint on a wall; it's a landmark people love that needs to be protected. - The Memories: From the last pump operations in 1979-80 to the station's closing

soon after, to City Hall ownership in the early '80s, to the County Store's 2010s display with an old car and pumps by Lon Scheidel—this place has worn many hats and kept many stories that many in the community want to continue on to future generations.

- The Future: Restoring the site to a 1936 Texaco Station look—with historically appropriate equipment and a sound roof—opens the door for pop-up events, markets, social gatherings, and tourism. It's about lighting up downtown again, the way Friday nights used to glow with movie crowds, dances, shoppers and diners on Elm. Can you imagine not only the funds that would bring into the city, but also the sense of community and even we dare say, happiness; that could bring with it? Imagine car shows, dances, Christmas tree sales; the options are unlimited and Magler and a team of volunteers, have big plans for the location.

REVVING - PAGE 2

It all started with a three-day junket to Duluth. ~ Mardi Gras Lunch ~

PASTOR JEFF JACOBS
Unity Lutheran Parish
Guest Writer

St. Paul Lutheran-Lime Springs has done youth mission trips the past three summers and plans its biggest yet in 2026. This July, 25 youth and adults travel to Costa Rica for a week, and the annual Mardi Gras Lunch is their last major fundraiser.

The Mardi Gras Lunch is Sunday, Feb. 22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at Lime Springs Community Center. The meal, featuring spaghetti & garlic bread, jambalaya for the daring, bars and beverages (including "Mardi Gras Madness" punch) is a freewill offering. There is also festive music and kids crafts.

The first Lunch supported a July 5-8 trip to Duluth, MN, in 2023. Six youth - Kelsey Adams, Emma Burns, Madi Fritcher-Larson, Kynlee Hammon, Chandler Ludwig and Thomas Johnson - with adults Jeanette Burns and Pr Jeff Jacobs tried out a shorter YouthWorks experience. Only one other congregation, Holy Spirit Catholic Church of Sioux Falls, SD, was there, but both groups got along well, and some remain in touch. "I got to make new friends

who still mean the world to me even after not seeing them for three years," Chandler Ludwig commented.

Ministries included packing at a couple food pantries and assisting at a nursing home; the nursing home staff were so impressed that our youth remembered resident names each day, and the seniors enjoyed the young people being there very much.

Chandler recalled helping one woman in her garden. "She was going through a

hard time. I liked getting to serve the Lord while helping someone have a better day."

There were enjoyable outings at area parks and along Lake Superior, and on the return home Saturday the group did whitewater rafting

MARDI GRAS LUNCH - PAGE 5



Exploring Duluth, MN, on St. Paul's 2023 mission trip were (front) Thomas Johnson, Emma Burns, Chandler Ludwig, Kelsey Adams, Kynlee Hammon (back) Madi Fritcher-Larson, Jeanette Burns, Pr. Jeff Jacobs.

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BY NATE
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OSAGE - Crestwood wrestlers Carver Butikofer (113 pounds), Mitchell Williams (120), and Carter Schmauss (132) all finished in the top two at the Boys' District Tournament on Feb. 14 to advance to the State Tournament.



CRESCO - Crestwood girls' basketball players Charley Curtis, left; Braelyn McCarville, center; and Hope Ludwig (40) celebrate the Cadets' 51-47 region win on Feb. 14.

TPD Valentine's Day Sweetheart of a Deal Winner, Donna Hyberger!

Congratulations to our Valentine's Day Sweetheart of a Deal Winner, Donna Hyberger who walked away with a \$75 Gift Certificate to Panda garden in Cresco, 2 Admission Tickets and a Couples Combo from Cresco Theatre and Opera House, a bouquet of flowers from Plantpeddler, 2 free ice cream cones from A&W, and a big box of Chocolates from us at The Cresco Times Plain Dealer.

We hope everyone had a Happy Valentine's Day. Look for more fun giveaways to come in your local community paper, The Cresco Times Plain Dealer (TPD)!

A Big thank you to all who entered and our sponsors for this giveaway: Midwest Artisans Group, A&W Restaurants, Polashak's Locker Service, Billmyer Furniture & Flooring, Plantpeddler, Sue-Z-Q's Family Dining & Good Vibes



Donna Hyberger collects her prize at The Cresco Times Plain Dealer.

Goings on!

- SUNDAYS:**
 - BINGO AT THE CRESCO WILDLIFE CLUB. NOON
- MONDAYS:**
 - AA MEETING, VFW HALL CRESCO 5PM
 - BINGO AT FAMILY FUN & FITNESS, LIME SPRINGS 6:30PM
- TUESDAYS:**
 - EUCHRE AT PUB NO. 7 TOURNAMENT STARTS AT 6:30
 - 500 AT KESSEL LODGE, 1PM
- WEDNESDAYS:**
 - EUCHRE AT KESSEL LODGE, 1PM
 - TRIVIA NIGHT AT PUB NO. 7, 6PM

- 2/17:** Happy Mardi Gras!
- 2/18:** Ash Wednesday Drive through Ashes. Drive through alley by the Cresco Library. 11am - 1pm
- 2/19:** Pizza, Puzzles & Beer. Team Rowdy Beaver Clubhouse - Riceville 7pm
- 2/21:** Wild Game Feed at the Wildlife Club - Cresco 5-8pm
- 2/22:** Grandparent Bingo - Notre Dame Parish Hall 2:15 - 3:30pm
- 2/28:** Howard County Farm Bureau holds a Town Hall Meeting with Area Legislators. Open to the public at the Howard County Farm Bureau in the backroom 11:30am

Looking Forward!

- 6/18-6/20:** Cresco's Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales.
- 6/24-6/28:** Mighty Howard County Fair!
- 7/11:** 20th Annual Elma Trail Days. Run/Walk
- 8/7-8/9:** Sweet Corn Days - Lime Springs.
- 8/14-8/16:** Czech Days - Protivin.
- 8/21-8/23:** Norman Borlaug Harvest Fest & All School Reunion.

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