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MARCH, 2021

Volume 2 • Issue 6

## Adrift in New York Coming to the Triton Stage



Wyatt Haugen claims his innocence, but Julianne Auer does not believe it.

The spring show this year is the entertaining melodrama *Adrift in New York*, and it will be coming to the Triton High School stage April 7-10. The show is under the direction of Anne Schreiber, with music direction by Aimee Hampton and technical assistance by John Schreiber. All involved, from the directors to the cast and crew, are excited for performances. There will be a senior citizen matinee on Thursday, April 7th at 1:00, followed by the general admission performances at 7:00 on April 8, 9, and 10. Due to Covid concerns, no food will be provided at the performances, but the laughs in the show will more than compensate for that.

Typically, each spring at Triton means a big Broadway-style musical, but due to concerns about safety, the directors deemed a smaller show a better option.

*(continued on page 5)*

## Triton FFA Steak Feed a Success

Our drive through steak feed was an overwhelming success. We ran out of our original order of 500 steaks by 6 pm and had to purchase more from Sunshine Foods and HyVee. We got enough to cover the amount of people waiting at 6:30 pm (a few pictures of that crowd was sent), and we had to shut down early due to running out of steaks. And we had to turn away a few customers due to this fact. Which of course a person never likes to do and we never anticipated having a record crowd of 584 meals. We had an excellent night and we greatly appreciate all of the donors and public that came for the meal and worked with us in this learning experience of our first drive through steak feed dinner.

*(additional pictures on page 4)*



## Triton FFA Member wins Star Farmer

By Kenya Narveson

The National FFA organization, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, serves students interested in farming production and other career paths like chemists, government officials, bankers, and veterinarians. The commitment of the organization is to provide individual students a path to achievement in leadership roles, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education.

Triton senior Anna Ridenour is a phenomenal young lady who has blended her passion of raising livestock and serving the community by being an active member of FFA.

Anna joined the FFA program in the 6th grade to show livestock at competitions. She is involved on the chapter, regional, state, and national level of Future Farmers of America. She's currently serving as the Regional Officer, coordinating events throughout Southeast Minnesota.



*(continued on page 7)*

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## Why so Humble?



**By Pastor Roger Langworthy**  
Pastor; Praise Fellowship Church  
[www.pfc-of-dc.org](http://www.pfc-of-dc.org)

As we journey through this year's seasonal awareness of Jesus in his suffering, his death, burial and resurrection, the character quality of my Lord that has touched me so is his humility. It is on full display as Jesus arrives in Jerusalem riding on a donkey in what is called the "Triumphal Entry". This was actually a fulfillment of a prophecy of Jesus when it says in Zechariah 9:9 "... Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt."

It is then displayed as Jesus washes the feet of his disciples at the beginning of their Passover Meal. In John 13:3-5 it says, "Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So, he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he

began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him."

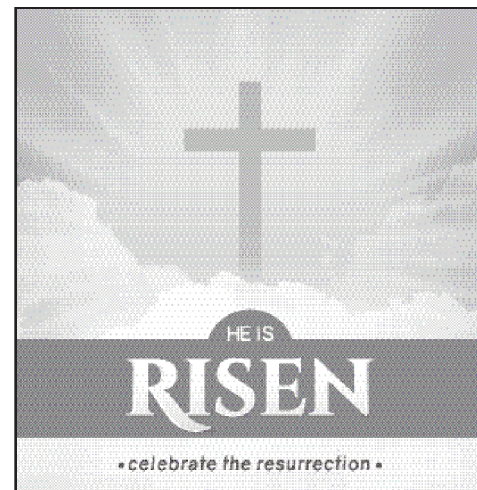
We are so accustomed to those with authority to be the ones being served, not the ones serving. And especially something so humbling as washing the feet of those wearing sandals, walking the dusty, camel-dung strewn roads. But this was the message of Jesus, that the greatest among you is to be the servant of all (Matthew 23:11). It was the nature of Jesus to live out his message through his lifestyle.

However, this act of humility was rather small compared to his humbling himself in the whole process of his death. Philippians 2:6-8 says, "Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled

himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."

Can you imagine that? Being God and yet coming to live as a human here on earth and then, not only that, but dying the unjust death of a criminal? All of this because Jesus humbled himself. But in all of this he set the example for us, as we are instructed in Philippians 2:5 that we must have the same attitude that Jesus had when he humbled himself. Two great expressions of humility are obedience to God and serving other people. This all comes from the Great Command of our Lord to Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and in the same way, love your neighbor as yourself.

May this Easter/Resurrection Season encourage you to be the greatest by hum-



bling yourself to be the servant of all, just like our Lord Jesus.

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## Area Church Directory

### Make a Name for Ourselves

*Scripture Reading — Genesis 11:1-9*  
"Let us . . . make a name for ourselves . . . [and not] be scattered over the face of the whole earth." - Genesis 11:4

God created people so that they would increase in numbers and populate the earth. At the time of the tower of Babel, everyone had the same language, and the people said they wanted to make a name for themselves and not be scattered across the earth. But God ultimately scattered them.

Why did they build a tower? They said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens. . . ." From ancient civilizations we have learned that the top of a tower was seen as a holy place where gods lived. But instead of having a holy place that would honor God, the people at Babel wanted this to be a place where they made a name for themselves. They wanted to honor themselves instead of God. In doing so, they banished God from their lives and disobeyed his command to "fill the earth and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28). Because of this rebellion, God confused their language and scattered them.

Imagine how God felt as he confused the people's language. They couldn't understand each other. They couldn't work together anymore. They stopped building, and they moved away from each other.

In the end, people who drive out God cannot do well. They cannot understand each other, and they cannot work together to build a community that honors God.

*Prayer*  
O God, be the Lord and King of our hearts. Let us be concerned about honoring your name, not ours. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

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Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, check your church website or Facebook page for updates.

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## Audrey Gillard

Audrey Gillard, 92, of Dodge Center, MN passed away on **T h u r s d a y**, February 18, 2021 at Fairview Care Center in Dodge Center, MN.

Audrey was born on July 2, 1928, in **I r o n w o o d**, Michigan to Nils A. Wiberg and Alberta (Stensrud) Wiberg. She graduated in 1945 from Luther L. Wright High



School. She attended the University of Minnesota for two years.

In 1947, she married Bruce B. Gillard in Minneapolis, MN. They lived on a farm near Claremont, MN for 45 years. They moved to Dodge Center, MN in 1993, after retiring.

Audrey graduated from Rochester Community College in 1973 in nursing and worked at St. Mary's Hospital for 19 years as an RN and worked for a few years for Mayo Hospice.

She was a board member of Dodge County United Way for 15 years and also belonged to the Fairview Care Center

Auxiliary. She was a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Claremont, MN, from 1948 – 2014, where she taught Sunday School and served her Lord in many other ministries.

Audrey is survived by her children, Robert (Kris) Gillard, Plano, TX; John (Gail) Gillard, Hutchinson, MN; James (Diane) Gillard; Hastings, MN; David Gillard, Castle Rock, CO; family friend, Gail Gillard. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, 3 sister-in-laws, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Bruce, sons Richard Gillard and Thomas Gillard, granddaughter Marit Gillard, sister Ruth Constantini, brother Art Wiberg, and parents.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 26, 2021 at Grace Lutheran Church, 404 Central Ave N Dodge Center, MN. Reverend Bruce Stam officiated. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service at the church.

George and Evelyn (Leary) Clark. She was born, raised, and graduated high school in Claremont, Minnesota in 1960. Shortly after high school, she married her high school sweetheart, Gary Leeper in Claremont, Minnesota. Following the marriage, they moved to Enumclaw, Washington. she began to work at the local hospital and started her career in the health-care industry. In her later years, she worked as a real estate agent. Jean worked and raised a family and eventually retired in 2001. Following retirement, her and Gary moved to Kamiah, Idaho.

Jean was a devout Catholic. She was a member of St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Kamiah.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Gary Leeper; two daughters, Kelli Johnson and Cindy Winfrey and one sister Judy.

Jean is survived by her son Lance (Jodi) Leeper of Idaho. Sisters Sharon, Kay, Ginny; brother Steve; 4 grandchildren - Mitchell, Jacob, Jamie, Kaycie and 3 great grandchildren.

A rosary was recited Saturday, March 20, 2021 at St. Catherine's Catholic Church, Kamiah. A memorial mass followed at 10:30a.m. Arrangements are under the direction of Trenary Funeral Home, Kooskia.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in honor of Jean to the St. Catherine's Altar Society, Kamiah.

## Mary "Jean" Leeper



Mary "Jean" Leeper, 78 of Kamiah, passed away Saturday, March 6, 2021 at St. Mary's Hospital in Cottonwood with family by her side. She was born June 6, 1942 in Leader, Minnesota to

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# Triton FFA Steak Feed



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## Adrift in New York Coming to the Triton Stage

(continued from page 1)

“For musicals, we usually get over 60 students auditioning,” said director Anne Schreiber, “and it just didn’t seem wise to have that many students backstage or in a scene together. Adrift in New York gives us the best of both worlds: we have an entertaining plot and we’ve been able to add some songs in throughout.” Indeed, some audience members might recognize some of the songs, such as “Heart of My Heart,” “Hello, My Baby,” and “Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nelly.”

Despite a smaller play, though, the cast

and crew are really enjoying the rehearsal process. Maddie Jarrett, who plays Martha, the sister of the heroine, commented, “I’ve enjoyed working with different people, and I’ve loved watching how everything is coming together.” Weston Haugen, who plays the hero, added, “I have enjoyed the multiple fight scenes.” As she eagerly anticipates performances, Julianne Auer, who plays Danielle Fogerty, stated, “Everything is so stressful and overwhelming right now, even if quarantine and restrictions are calming down. We could all use a good laugh, and this amazing melodrama is the perfect opportunity for that!”

Tickets for the show may be purchased at the high school office, although no ticket is needed for the senior citizen matinee. For the matinee, no walk-ins will be permitted, so please call Triton Community Ed at (507) 418-7550 to reserve a spot on the list. For general admission tickets, you will want to get yours early because, as per the current guidance, only 100 people can be seated in the auditorium for each night. Once 100 tickets are sold for a certain night’s performance, it will be “sold out” and no tickets can be sold at the door. You are encouraged to check with the high school office at (507) 418-7520 for the latest updates. No matter the size of the audience, though, the cast and crew are hoping audience members are ready to “boo,” “hiss,” “cheer” loudly.

On April 7-10, return to a simpler time where laughs come often, the villains are booed and the heroes are cheered, and good always triumphs in the end.



Picture 1: (L to R) Damion Radke, August Kozisek, Talia Kelley, Weston Haugen, and Amya Radke



(L to R) Front row: Wyatt Haugen, Litany Peterson, Mary Zill, Elizabeth Hukee, and Jessica Willette; back row: Amya Radke and Damion Radke

TRITON THEATER PRESENTS

# Adrift in New York

Or, Her First False Step

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## Triton Students Shine in Regional Business Association Competition

By Kenya Narveson

The Business Professional program at Triton High School is congratulating all 12 of their students for winning the BPA Regional Competition and becoming eligible to compete at state level. "I am blown away by the talent, flexibility, and professionalism of these students," said Triton BPA Advisor, Rebecca Goossens. "Having literally every student who competed win a trip to State is a massive accomplishment and one that very few schools ever obtain. I am so, so proud."

Students compete individually or with a team in a variety of categories such as web design, information technology and health-care administration.

Business Professionals of America is the leading Career and Technical Student Organization for students pursuing careers in business management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields. Nationally, BPA has 43,000 members in over 2,300 chapters in 23 states. In Minnesota we have over 1,100 members in eight regions.

BPA's mission is to develop and empower



student leaders to discover their passion and change the world by creating unmatched opportunities in learning, professional growth and service. BPA provides members with opportunities for growth through education, competition, community service and personal development.

There are different ways for students to

qualify to compete. They may have had to take a multiple choice test or have a production component. For example; a web design student would have to create a website that would reflect certain requirements. The judges consist of industry leaders with experience in the category of each project.

Triton BPA program offers students the opportunity to get hands-on experience in career paths, fundraising and leadership conferences. The Business Day with local colleges allows BPA students the opportunity to tour local colleges and explore the possibilities in their career path. The Business Club Day with companies allows students to see the inner workings of each department in the business and have a panel dis-

ussion with the executives. In the past students have toured major companies such as; Minnesota Timberwolves at Target Center, 3M, and Pearson Publishing to name a few. BPA's proud charity partner is the Special Olympics. In past years, the students have had walks or food drives to raise funds.

Covid restrictions affected a small portion of the program, but these 12 Triton students are determined to compete at BPA State Competition and win. They are as follows: Kailey Ellingson, Mariel Faber, Natalie Robinson, Noah Kleinwort, Talia Kelley, Kaitlyn Krupa, Lydia Stanton, Chloe Staub, Wyatt Bendickson, August Kozisek, Angel Taylor, and Makena Jensen. Let's congratulate them!





## Cobra Communications



**Craig Schlichting**  
Superintendent

It is hard to believe that we have been dealing with the pandemic for over a year. A great deal has changed at school and the way we continue to deal with the guidelines for how we operate. We have been under executive orders in that time as well. I look forward to the day that those executive orders will be rescinded and we can go back to having local control. Many of the decisions that we have had to make have been based on these executive orders. I am hopeful that with the decrease in case numbers and the number of people that have been vaccinated that the end of those orders will be sooner rather than later. I do see some positives that have come out of this for us as educators. It has really created an opportunity to the way we educate students differently and to look at those changes that have worked moving forward. I believe that it has also shown us that there is a real benefit to the face to face contact

that students have with their teachers. It has also shown us that there is a time and a place for the use of technology to benefit students that can't be in the building. Technology by itself is no magic solution, but used appropriately it can play an important role in educating students.

The renovation project is moving along with the planning stages. All of the projects have been bid on and the those bids have been accepted. They are now working on the flow of the work that we will have done. The biggest concern is the timing of the roofing project with the parking lot project. We want to make sure that those are scheduled in a way as to not interfere with one another when they are doing the work. The work on the parking lot will be extensive as they are going to remove the asphalt that we currently have in the North and West lots to replace the base to prevent future issues and also improve the drainage. The current roof has as great deal of rock that is used to hold down the waterproof membrane. The rock will all need to be removed in order to put down the new Tremco style roof. This type of roofing does not require the rock and the roofing will be adhered to the surface. They are looking at the locations they start the work to prevent getting in the way of each other. The HVAC project will include ionization for the entire building. This system creates negative ions using electricity and they discharges them into the air. Those negative ions then attach to positively charged particles in the room. This creates a system in which dust, bacteria, pollen and other allergens are removed from the air that is in the building. This will help with situations like COVID, but also help those that struggle

with allergies to create a better learning environment.

We were able to complete the lighting project this past fall. We have replaced all of the lights in the building with LED and the cost of that will eventually be offset by the savings that we will see from the reduced expense on electricity usage in our district. We were able to get this done before the December deadline and will qualify for a sizable rebate that we will be able to put back into our general fund. I believe that we have amazing facilities that are in great shape, and this will take care of our largest areas of concern for a long time. We have a great situation at Triton where our facilities are also large enough to han-

dle that current capacity and we have room for growth. I feel fortunate to be in a district that has such a great situation with our facilities.

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](mailto: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. I believe that communication is an important aspect of my job responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to learn from your perspective. GO COBRAS!

**#WeAreTriton**

## Triton FFA Member wins Star Farmer

(continued from page 1)

Anna won the Region 8 Star Farmer competition. The competition required two twenty-page applications and a profile including financial data, overall agriculture experience and skills acquired from 6th grade to now. She is excited to be competing at the state level among other students that are involved in the agricultural processes. Anna is Triton's first state officer candidate. The position would promote her leadership role to serve the whole state of Minnesota through FFA. After High School, Anna plans to attend the University of Minnesota Twin Cities studying animal science. She also plans to take courses focused on international agriculture and wildlife handling.

Anna's affection for agriculture began with her family's goat and sheep business, Northern Exposure Livestock in Dodge Center. She enjoys helping customers, educating youth about care and nutrition and

showmanship training of sheep and goats at workshops hosted by Northern Exposure Livestock. "Agriculture draws in a lot of people and my family is invested in educating the community" she commented.

Anna and the other students appreciate the Triton FFA Advisors, Robert Ickler, Ashley Zimmerman and Robert Olson. Triton FFA program utilizes the stockyard sales farm located in Zumbrota for their students who sell goats. Students learn how to raise goats with tender care to prepare the goat for families that will use it for sacred ceremonies in the community.

Anna is the busiest she's been in her involvement in FFA at Triton High School. She is committed to taking every opportunity that the Triton FFA Program offers to better her leadership and career development skills to excel. To learn more about this fascinating world of goat and sheep competitions, visit Northern Exposure Livestock's FaceBook Page.

## TRITON CLASS OF 2021



**JOSEPH CORLEY**

### SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Joseph Corley is a senior at Triton High School. His parents are Robert and Heidi Corley and he is the brother to Alyvea. He is active in basketball at Triton. His hobby is photography and one of his enjoyments is spicy food. After graduation Joseph plans to attend Moorhead State for film studies.



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## Decide, Commit, Succeed



By Harvey Mackay

President Dwight Eisenhower was raised on a Kansas farm, and he never forgot its lessons. In response to a difficult question put to him at the National Press Club, Eisenhower said it reminded him of an incident in his boyhood.

“An old farmer had a cow that we wanted to buy,” Eisenhower recalled, “so we went to visit him and asked about the cow’s pedigree.

“The old farmer didn’t know what the word pedigree meant so we asked him about the cow’s butterfat production. His answer was that he didn’t have the foggiest idea. Finally we asked him if he knew how many pounds of milk the cow produced each year.

“The farmer shook his head and said, ‘I don’t know. But she’s an honest cow, and she’ll give you all the milk she has!’

“Well,” Ike concluded, “I’m like that cow. I’ll give you everything I have.”

President Eisenhower didn’t just want to get by. He was committed to do his best. You can see when people are committed to a project or cause; they refuse to settle for anything less than their best. They are willing to learn and work hard.

Steel magnate Andrew Carnegie said people fall into three basic categories: those who did not do all their duty, those who only professed to do their duty and those who did their duty plus a little more.

If you make a commitment, you need to see it through. No slacking off, no excuses. Commitment must start from the inside out. Commitment means staying loyal to what you said you were going to do, long after the mood you said it in has left you.

“Commitment unlocks the doors of imagination, allows vision and gives us the right stuff to turn our dreams into reality,” said James Womack, founder and chairman of the Lean Enterprise Institute.

Some might be tempted to back off those dreams when the going gets tough – which it often does. But being truly committed provides the motivation to persevere, another word that is important in seeing projects and dreams through to the finish.

Commitment is a prerequisite to success. Commitment is the state of being bound – emotionally, intellectually, or both – to a

course of action. Commitment starts with a choice and is sustained by dedication and perseverance. Actions speak louder than words.

“There’s a difference between interest and commitment,” said Ken Blanchard. “When you’re interested in doing something, you do it only when it’s convenient. When you’re committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results.”

Lou Holtz, the Hall-of-Fame college football coach, believes there are four things any person or organization needs to be successful.

“First,” he says, “you have to make a commitment to excellence. Second is complete attention to detail. The third thing is to have sound fundamentals, and the fourth requirement is discipline.”

Lou says: “Have you ever seen a team run on the field yelling, ‘We want to be number two?’ Everyone wants to be number one. Those who actually achieve it are those who are willing to put the blood, sweat and tears into their effort.”

I will add another essential element of commitment: confidence in your ability to succeed. Ask any successful entrepreneur how often they questioned their judgment, their sanity. I’d wager that any who were truly committed had some moments of uncertainty. But they believed in their potential. As I’ve preached so many times, it’s important to believe in yourself, even when no one else does.

I’m not sure how people can be totally

satisfied with themselves if they are not committed to doing their very best. Sure, there are going to be failures, but that’s no excuse for not trying your hardest. You can’t hold back because of fear of failure.



I firmly believe that all human success is the result of persistent commitment. Not luck, not just being in the right place at the right time. Commitment is a decision that is easier to make than to see through. Commitment is what keeps you forging ahead once the initial glow has faded.

We’ll go back to the barnyard for some perspective. A chicken and a pig were talking about commitment.

The chicken said, “I’m committed to giving eggs every morning.”

The pig said, “Giving eggs isn’t commitment, it’s participation. Giving ham is total commitment.”

**Mackay’s Moral: Motivation is what gets you started. Commitment is what keeps you going.**

*Reprinted with permission from nationally syndicated columnist Harvey Mackay, author of the New York Times #1 bestseller "Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive."*

## Parvovirus is Everywhere, Vaccinate Your Dog



Parvovirus, commonly known as “parvo,” is a contagious virus that can be very serious and even fatal in dogs. Dr. Jennifer Reinhart, a small animal internal medicine specialist at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, explains that parvo is a problem that can be seen in dogs of any age.

“Although there is a window of highest risk between 8 and 16 weeks, adult dogs that are not correctly vaccinated may contract this virus as well,” says Dr. Reinhart.

Patients that are diagnosed with parvovirus usually present with vomiting, diarrhea, lack of energy, and poor appetite. Parvovirus targets the gut cells of the dog. That is why patients have vomiting and diarrhea, which may lead to dehydration or starvation, due to a lack of nutrition staying in the body. The virus also attacks bone marrow cells, which causes problems in the immune system.

“When the virus attacks the immune cells in the bone marrow, the patient becomes more susceptible to secondary infections,” Dr. Reinhart explains.

Parvovirus is found in the environment and can be contracted by a susceptible dog in various ways. The cycle begins when the virus is shed in the feces of an infected dog. Another dog may contract the virus by coming into contact with infected feces or dirt that contains the particles of the virus. Even if the infected feces were promptly picked up, infective virus remains on the ground.

“Parvo is a very hardy virus. It can persist for weeks to months in the environment,” says Dr. Reinhart.

The virus will be present in feces even before the infected dog shows clinical signs of the disease. What’s more, a dog that had parvovirus can continue to shed the virus in feces for up to 8 weeks after getting better. Some infected dogs never develop clinical signs but do continually shed the virus.

“Parvovirus is everywhere and you cannot 100% prevent exposure,” warns Dr. Reinhart. “The best thing to do is to make sure that your puppy is properly vaccinated.”

Although the vaccine series cannot guarantee absolute protection against the disease, it offers the best chance at avoiding parvo. An animal that is appropriately vaccinated has a much lower chance of contracting the virus.

Dr. Reinhart stressed that the vaccine series isn’t complete after the initial 16-week series of shots. “The boosters are what actually complete the vaccination series,” she says. “A booster given at one year, and then every three years after that. Only then is a dog considered appropriately vaccinated.”

Another important preventive measure is avoiding exposure to dogs that might have parvo.

“During the period when puppies are most susceptible to the virus—between 8 and 16 weeks of age—puppies should not be interacting with other dogs. It is the best way to keep them safe,” says Dr. Reinhart.

Although parvovirus can be a very scary thing, it is definitely something that can be cured. Dr. Reinhart says that a patient with parvovirus that is treated properly has a very good chance of surviving.

“If the disease is caught early enough, and the animal is able to receive aggressive supportive care, its chance of survival is actually really good,” she says.

Supportive care includes aggressive fluid therapy and antibiotics. In some cases, a feeding tube is placed.

“The antibiotics are for protecting the patient from secondary infections, and the feeding tube is sometimes placed in order to give the nutrients the patient needs if it isn’t eating on its own,” says Dr. Reinhart. The antibiotics are crucial because the virus attacks the immune cells in the bone marrow, suppressing the immune system of the patient.

“In a big picture sense, it is very easy to prevent your dog from getting parvovirus,” says Dr. Reinhart, “it’s important to keep your pet up to date on vaccinations and do your best to avoid exposure to infected dogs.”

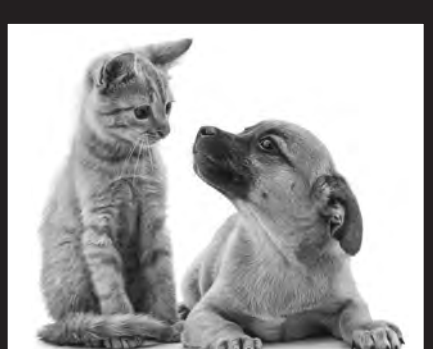
If you have any questions about parvovirus or believe your dog is due for vaccinations, contact your veterinarian.

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## CITY OF CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021 7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Tasha Dahl, City Council Members Deborah Ellis, Heather Grey, Jacob Klejeski, and Vickie Madsen. Council Members absent: None.

City staff and others present: City Administrator Connor LaPointe, City Clerk/Treasurer Liz Sorg, City Maintenance Glen Hvitved, City Attorney Mark Rahrlick, and via Zoom City Engineer Derek Olinger and SEMMCHRA Administrative Assistant Karen DuCharme.

Mayor Dahl added Resolution No. 21-07: A Resolution Approving Publication of Ordinance by Title and Summary to the agenda.

### PUBLIC INPUT

None

### CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ellis to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of: Minutes of the January 12, 2021 City Council Meeting, second by Madsen. Motion carried unanimously.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Derek Olinger gave an update of the current projects. The water tower recoating project is ready to be let out for bids pending funding availability. The

wastewater treatment plant outfall sewer improvements will be finished this summer. Initially, the County was going to apply for a Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) grant for the Front Street/CR 3 improvement project. After further discussion with the City and County engineers, they have recommended that the City become the applicant for the grant to make it more competitive. Motion by Madsen to approve Resolution No. 21-05: Resolution Supporting Pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program Funding, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Madsen to approve the financial reports, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Madsen to approve payment of the bills, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

### PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

### EDA

SEMMCHRA Administrative Assistant Karen DuCharme gave an update to the Small Cities Development Program. A public hearing is needed to give the public the opportunity to voice their questions and concerns relating to the program. Motion by Madsen to hold the public hearing

Monday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m., second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Madsen to approve Resolution No. 21-06: Resolution Authorizing a Public Hearing on the 2021 City of West Concord Small Cities Development Program Application with the City of Claremont, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

### PARKS COMMITTEE

Administrator LaPointe suggested the Park Committee get together to discuss the future of Henning Park and make recommendations to the Council.

### CITY ATTORNEY

Nothing at this time.

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator LaPointe went through his monthly report (which is attached).

Coordinated Business Systems submitted a proposal for a new copier as the current copier lease from E.O. Johnson expires at the end of the year. It is comparable to the city's current contract. No action was taken at this time.

### OLD BUSINESS

The Midcontinent Communications Ordinance has expired and a renewal was reviewed. Motion by Grey to approve Ordinance No. 21-01: Midco Franchise Agreement, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Due to the length of Ordinance No. 21-01, motion by Ellis to approve Resolution No. 21-07: A Resolution Approving Publication of Ordinance by Title and Summary, second by Madsen. Motion carried unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS

City Administrator LaPointe presented a power point on projects coming up in 2021. The Council and staff will be working on: sidewalk improvements/installation, utility maps at the estimated cost of \$2700, sump pump inspections as required by MPCA at the estimated cost of \$3000-\$4000, a replacement for the current snow plow, street sign replacements estimated at \$2000, Henning Park replacement/upgrades, water distribution project checking for water leaks (such as checking the mains for leaks, water meter calibration, etc.), land use plan with the EDA revolving loan fund covering the cost, and the Front Street improvement project.

Motion by Madsen to hold the March City Council Meeting on March 2nd due to the township election in the City on the normal City Council meeting date, second by

Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ellis to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m., second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

### ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg, City Clerk/Treasurer  
Tasha Dahl, Mayor

## CITY OF CLAREMONT SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021 6:30 P.M.

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Tasha Dahl, City Council Members Deborah Ellis, Heather Grey, Jacob Klejeski, and Vickie Madsen. Council Members absent: None.

City staff and others present: City Administrator Connor LaPointe, City Clerk/Treasurer Elizabeth Sorg, Hunter McGovern, and via Zoom SEMMCHRA Administrative Assistant Karen DuCharme.

The purpose of this special meeting was to hold a public hearing for comments and questions on the Small Cities Development Program. DuCharme explained that the program is a joint application along with the City of West Concord. They estimate that 11 homes in each city can qualify for deferred loans and/or grants to remove health, safety or other deficiencies and bring structures into compliance with rehabilitation standards, improve the property by increasing the structure's energy efficiency or rehab a house to make it accessible for a handicap or disabled member of the household. It will be on a first come, first served basis and is a 3-year program. Program flyers are attached.

Motion by Ellis to open the public hearing at 6:43 p.m., second by Madsen. Motion carried unanimously. There were no comments. Motion by Ellis to close the public hearing at 6:46 p.m., second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Madsen to approve Resolution No. 21-08: Local Government Resolution for Secondary Applying Communities, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ellis to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m., second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

### ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg, City Clerk/Treasurer  
Tasha Dahl, Mayor

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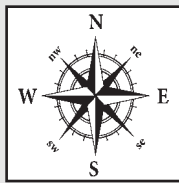
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes The "S" Word



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.

That four-letter word everyone uses so casually in Minnesota is not accepted in Tennessee. If one says it the men will look at the ground and the women reach for their smelling salts. It has such a chilling effect on the natives. Strikes fear into their hearts at the mere mention of it.

We are talking snow. And I don't mean blizzard snow or snow storm or even enough to send the snow plows out in Minnesota. Just white flakes from the sky and people go nuts. The mention of snow on the news and local folk race to the Piggly Wiggly and buy up milk, bread and eggs. I guess French Toast is winter survival food down here.

So, after three winters down here we

finally got hit. The in-famous February "snow-mageddon" of 2021 that slammed across the nation delivered an icy treat to Tennessee. We were hammered with an astounding two inches of snow. Life shrieked to a halt. Businesses were closed, cafes shuttered, school cancelled, no postal delivery and the radio broadcast winter survival tips. They had to repeatedly warn folks not to walk out on the lake because a quarter inch of ice cannot support a person.

My neighbor has two four-wheel drive trucks and his wife will not leave the house if it snows. Roads don't get plowed like they do in Minnesota. I think the county here has one snowplow truck and it looks like a one-ton pickup with a blade on front. So, the snow just stays on the roads and waits for the sunshine. They have a philosophy here that God put it there and He will take it away when He is ready. But the young guys with four-wheelers and UTV's love it. I see them flying down the snow-covered roads like they were on the salt flats. So, not to keep you in suspense, a couple days later the temperatures were in the 50's and the sun melted all the evidence.

We had a couple spending their Valentine's Day weekend honeymoon at our rental cabin down by Big Sandy River and they were snowed in. Not really snowed in, but just unwilling to drive with snow on the road. We gave them an extra day free stay so they didn't have to brave the snowy roads back to Clarkesville right away. It will give them a good story to tell for the rest of their life.

## A Minnesotan in the North: False Spring



By RosaLin Alcoser

The worst part of warm weeks in mid February is that it gives one false hope of an early spring... this will most likely not be the case.

The reason why the false hope is so bad this year is the weather being in the 30s is because it came right after being between 0 and -22 degrees. Naturally this has made the 30s feel a lot warmer than it really is.

Native Minnesotans are calling this warm snap the start of sweatshirt weather. Personally all I have done is wear a less heavy coat and left it unbuttoned unless I am going to be outside for a long period of time. But then again we all know that I do not take being cold as well as those of you who have always lived in Minnesota.

Either way the snow is getting shorter early this year which is nice. However, its all fun and games until it gets cold again. After all there are still four more weeks of winter or is it five?

Honestly I am not so sure anymore about how many more weeks it is till spring at this point. But I am sure that it will come along at some point in April or May just like it does every year.

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## THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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### Financial Help for Retirees Affected by COVID

Dear Savvy Senior:

**Are there any financial assistance programs you can refer me to? The coronavirus pandemic has cost me my part[1]time retirement job and depleted my savings account.**

**Needy Retiree**

Dear Needy:

In addition to the \$1,400 federal coronavirus stimulus check that was distributed recently, there are many other financial-assistance programs (both public and private) that can help struggling retirees, as well as give relief to family members who help provide financial support for their loved ones. To find out what types of assistance you may be eligible for, your best options is to visit [BenefitsCheckUp.org](https://www.benefitscheckup.org), a free, confidential Web tool designed for adults 55 and older and their families. It will help you locate federal, state and private benefits programs that can assist with paying for food, medications, utilities, health care, housing and other needs. This site – created by the National Council on Aging – contains more than 2,500 programs across the country. To identify benefits, you'll first need to fill out an online questionnaire that asks a series of questions like your date of birth, ZIP code, expenses, income, assets, veteran status, the medications you take and a few other factors. It takes about 15 minutes. Once completed, you'll get a report detailing all the programs and services you may qualify for, along with detailed information on how to apply. Some programs can be applied for online; some have downloadable application forms that you can print and mail in; and some require that you contact the program's administrative office directly (they provide the necessary contact information).

If you don't have Internet access, you can also get help in-person at any of the 84 Benefit Enrollment Centers located throughout the U.S. Call 888-268-6706 or visit [NCOA.org/centerforbenefits/becs](https://www.ncoa.org/centerforbenefits/becs) to locate a center in your area. Some centers also offer assistance over the phone.

**Types of Benefits**

Depending on your income level and where you live, here are some benefits you may be eligible for:

**Food assistance:**

Programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can help pay for groceries. The average SNAP benefit for 60-and-older households is around \$125 per month.

Other programs that may be available include the Emergency Food Assistance Program, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

**Healthcare:**

Medicaid and Medicare Savings Programs can help or completely pay for out-of-pocket health care costs. And, there are special Medicaid waiver programs that provide in-home care and assistance too.

**Prescription drugs:**

There are hundreds of programs offered through pharmaceutical companies, government agencies and charitable organizations that help lower or eliminate prescription drug costs, including the federal Low-Income Subsidy known as "Extra Help" that pays premiums, deductibles and prescription copayments for Medicare Part D beneficiaries.

**Utility assistance:**

There's the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), as well as local utility companies and charitable organizations that provide assistance in lowering home heating and cooling costs.

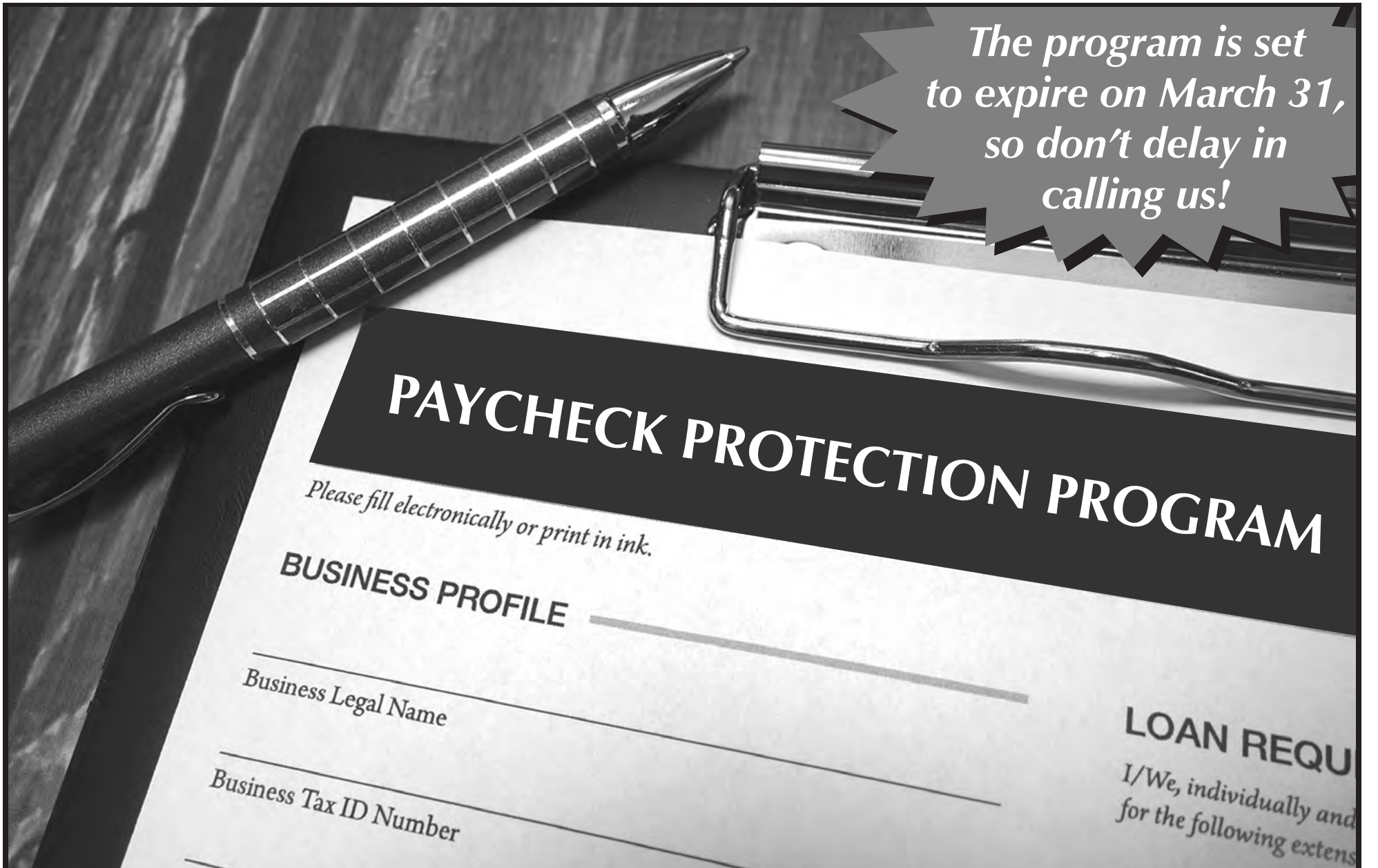
**Supplemental Security Income (SSI):**

Administered by the Social Security Administration, SSI provides monthly payments to very low-income seniors, age 65 and older, as well as to those who are blind and disabled. In 2020, SSI pays up to \$783 per month for a single person and up to \$1,175 for couples. In addition to these programs, there are numerous other benefits they can help you locate such as HUD housing, home weatherization assistance, tax relief, veteran's benefits, senior transportation, respite care, free legal assistance, job training and employment and debt counseling.









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