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Triton Educator Earns Outstanding Educator Award



Rebecca Goossens

By Kenya Narveson

Rebecca Goossens, a teacher at Triton High School, is being honored with the 2021 Outstanding Educator Award given by the WEM Foundation and Synergy & Leadership Exchange. This award is accompanied with \$15,000. She is one of six educators being honored by the WEM Foundation and Synergy & Leadership Exchange for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to student learning. She is one of two recipients of the Teacher Achievement Award, which recognizes exemplary teachers who support, inspire and assist students to attain greater learning as evidenced by student achievement. *(continued on page 5)*

Triton Senior elected State FFA Reporter

Anna Ridenour was elected to a state FFA office last month. Here she describes her experiences in her own words.

I am currently a senior at Triton High School, and I have a younger sister, Tegan, who is a sophomore. My parents are Rex and Malinda Quam, who work as a Farm Business Management Instructor and Pediatric Nurse when they aren't in the barn. I was born and raised in the Denver suburbs, and moved to Dodge Center with my mom and sister when I was six years old. I begged my mom to buy a farm so that I could have animals, which led to my family's livestock operation.

I have always been active within my community and school. I am currently active in FFA, 4-H, soccer, theater, National Honors Society, Junior Minnesota Meat Goat Association, and serve as Class President. However, I have a deep fondness for FFA, which I joined in 6th grade. Originally, I just wanted to show livestock at the county fair, but since then, I have learned so much about premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. I've had great opportunities to interact with a variety of people, whether it's farmers in our community or members from across the state. *(continued on page 4)*



Anna Ridenour

Pure Country Family Dining Reopens

By Kenya Narveson

After months of being shut down by the pandemic; Pure Country Family Dining has reopened. The cafe offers a clean and warm environment that serves homemade breakfast and lunch seven days a week 7am-2pm with specials being offered everyday. This is a great place to feel safe and meet with family and friends for a delicious homemade meal. The thought of gathering in a small space with people doesn't seem so bad in this era of "Post-Covid-19 Pandemic." Vaccinations are reaching more arms and the days are getting warmer. People are increasingly returning to eating indoors like in pre-pandemic times.

The owner of Pure Country Family Dining, Kevin Nawrocki, is excited to be reopened and serving food to the community. He has many years of experience in managing cafes. He always wanted to own his own cafe instead of working for others. Kevin moved to Dodge Center in 2013 from Michigan and bought the restaurant in 2014. The cafe was not in the best condition. Kevin put the tender touches needed in the building decor and in the food preparation to create an experience and menu that will bring people back for more. *(continued on page 11)*



Dodge Center Memorial Day Schedule

The Dodge Center American Legion Post 384 has scheduled Memorial Day services for Monday May 31st. They will begin at the Dodge Center cemetery at 9:30am with a program including the Triton high school band. Next stop is at the Dodge Center Veterans Memorial beside the Fire Hall at 10am. *(continued on page 2)*

Dollar General Seeks to Reshape Small Towns

By Brian Depew
SMALL TOWNS

Dollar General has become a ubiquitous feature of America's small towns. The discount retailer is opening new stores at a rate of 1,000 a year. *(continued on page 11)*

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What Do You Smell Like?



By **Pastor Roger Langworthy**
Pastor; Praise Fellowship Church
www.pfc-of-dc.org

A few weeks ago, when we had a spell of warm weather, I was out riding on my motorcycle and made note of how my senses were heightened by the multitude of aro-

Dodge Center Memorial Day Schedule

(continued from page 1)

From there they will stop at the bridge over the Zumbro River outside of Wasioja, where they will fire over the river in honor of those servicemen who died at sea. At 10:15am they will be at the Wasioja cemetery for a short program and then on to the Wasioja Seminary site where the Dodge County Historical Society will present a program at 11am. They will fire over the seminary ruins and then head to the Ashland cemetery at noon where they will fore over the grave of one Civil War veteran.

mas. Some are very pleasant and some... not so much. Some of the best are freshly mowed grass, freshly worked field dirt, blossoms on the trees, curing cut alfalfa (a little later in the season). Some less pleasant ones are the waste of farm animals. And there is a distinct difference between dairy, poultry, and swine. I remember growing up on a farm and the phrase used to describe these waste odors was, "smells like money." And then the worst – roadkill, especially skunks. This reminds me of a song that you who grew up in the '70s will appreciate, "dead skunk in the middle of the road and it is stinkin' to high heaven"

There are a few aromas of which my wife and I differ about whether it is a pleasant smell or an unpleasant one. Like riding past a farm with the distinct aroma of silage. Mmmm...I think it smells great. Melanie thinks it smells awful. It is interesting to observe how the same smell can evoke different responses. Most people don't care for the smell of gasoline, but I have a daughter who loves to stand at the pump when filling the car with gas, as she loves the smell of raw gasoline. Go figure.

Then there are aromas that smell good in one place and bad in another. For example, cigar smoke at a farm auction. Somehow it just fits. But the same smell in a dairy barn...it's just wrong. I remember this when I was a Dairy Herd Improvement Association Technician for Dodge County. I don't know if it is the combination with the dairy barn aroma or if it is the heightened alert to hot ash falling in straw and a potential barn fire.

So, what does all this have to do with my question posed in the title of this article – "What Do You Smell Like?" I am not asking you if you have used deodorant or not, or what kind of perfume, cologne, or body

spray you use. What I am suggesting is that if you are a follower of Jesus, you may have an aroma about you that to some may smell very good and to others it is putrid. In 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 it says, "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?"

The "aroma" spoken of in this passage is used metaphorically as the kind of reaction that people will have to you as a result of you living in a manner that reflects the character and the nature of Jesus Christ. To some it will be very pleasant as your words

and deeds will remind them of the eternal life that they have because they have put their trust in Jesus as their Savior and Lord, or they are seeking to know how to do so. To others, you will remind them of death, or a confrontive kind of perspective that reminds them that the ways of Jesus and eternal life are contrary to their choices and they have no intent of changing. This would be described in Romans 1:18-21 that makes reference to those that know the truth about God, but suppress it, and the result is they become darkened in their own understanding, and sadly, their choice will lead to destruction. (Matthew 7:13-14)

For more information on this whole subject you are invited to attend our 9:30am service on Sunday, May 23. Or check out the sermons page of our website as this message will be posted after the fact.

FAITH IN ACTION NEEDS YOU!

Covid 19 has been hard on most individuals. It has closed down many of the things that we all hold dear – seeing family, worshiping together in church, going out to a favorite restaurant, browsing in shops, and on and on. Faith in Action has felt the impact of the pandemic also. Many of our limited volunteer drivers chose to put volunteering on hold early on in the pandemic. At first, it didn't effect our services because most medical appointments were canceled or postponed so there was no need for transportation services. As things began opening up, appointments became available again but some drivers still weren't comfortable transporting someone in the confines of their cars. The vaccine is helping to get us back on track but there is still an urgent need for volunteers to drive seniors to appointments.

Being a volunteer for Faith in Action is a very flexible position. When clients call for transportation, our coordinator contacts volunteers with the dates and times needed. At that point, it is the volunteer's decision whether they can take the transport or not. If not, the coordinator will contact other volunteers to fill the need. In a given month, a volunteer might choose to provide transportation for seniors perhaps 1 to 4 times. Please consider putting your "faith in action" by becoming a Faith in Action volunteer driver. On our website, fiadodgecounty.org (under forms on the menu) you will find a volunteer application to print, complete and return. If you do not have internet access, please call 507-634-3654 for an application.

Area Church Directory Armed with a Bow

Scripture Reading — Revelation 6:2

There before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow. . . . — Revelation 6:2

What does it mean that the rider on a white horse "held a bow"? Are we to imagine a soldier who has the training to kill with a bow and arrow? Or perhaps we picture a hunter, with bow in hand, standing over a downed deer.

It is tempting to read God's story that way. But if we did, we would think the first rider is all about bringing death and destruction. To read the story that way would miss the surprising good news that the One who is skilled with a bow is God. He has worked with a bow for a long time.

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we find a promise that God gave to Noah after the great flood. "I have set my bow in the clouds" God said, "and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth" (Genesis 9:13, NRSV). We usually understand the bow in the Genesis story as being a "rainbow." But it is the same word that is used in this story in Revelation.

In other words, the first horseman, Jesus, is armed with God's covenant promise. His goal is to bring God's promises for the renewal of creation to every part of creation.

Prayer

Lord, our Lord, you surprise us with your promises and your determination to bring life and healing to your creation. Thank you for so loving this world that you gave your one and only Son to give us life. Amen.

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Grace Lutheran Church

404 Central Avenue N, Dodge Center
Tim Chase • 507-633-2253
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. SE, Dodge Center
Rev. Chad Christensen • 507-374-6885
Worship 8a.m.

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20 2nd St. NE, Dodge Center • 507-374-6895
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Roy Andrews • 507-374-6561
Sunday 10a.m.

Dodge Center SDA Church

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Sabbath School 9:15a.m.; Saturday Worship 11a.m.

Anchor of Hope Church, a 7th Day Baptist Congregation

203 E. Main St., Dodge Center
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Saturday 10a.m. Worship; 11:45a.m. Sabbath School

NOTICE

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Obituaries

Jaelyn Sue Laue

On Saturday April 24th our beloved Jaelyn Sue, surrounded by her loved ones, gained her angel wings and went to heaven. Jaelyn was such an amazing human being. She was a smart, talented, and beautiful young woman.



She was so generous with her love and showed compassion to all the people she encountered throughout her life. She would do anything for anyone.

Jaelyn made her parents, Melissa and Lucas, better people and better parents. She was a wonderful sister to her brothers Trey and Brady. She loved them both so much! She was in love with her boyfriend Taylor, who made her smile every day!

The only fault Jaelyn had was that she cared too much about everyone else but did not give herself enough credit for all the achievements she made in her short life.

Jaelyn enjoyed her job at Early Advantage Developmental Child Care Center in Byron taking care of kids! She was on the Honor Roll & a member of the National Honor Society while going to school at Triton High School as well as doing post-secondary classes at RCTC. She had plans to enroll in the nursing program this fall in

Rochester and dreamed of being a Registered Nurse.

Jaelyn was preceded in life by her Great Grandmothers Bev and Bonnie and others. She is survived by her parents Lucas Laue (Marcus) and Melissa Rongve (Chris). Her big brother Trey and younger brother Brady. Her Grandparents Rick Laue, Sharri Laue, Don and Patricia Rongve. Her Uncles Tyler Laue, Cody Laue (Hillary), and Daniel Rongve. Her Aunts Jennifer Melder (Scott) and Kristina Rongve (Eric). As well as her 13 first cousins.

Jaelyn had such a beautiful soul! Her family will continue to tell her story!

A funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at Faith Lutheran Church, 308 2nd St NW Dodge Center, MN. Reverend Kira Anderson officiated. Visitation was from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street Dodge Center, MN, and one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment was in Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center, MN.

You were invited to join a live stream of the funeral service on the Czaplewski Facebook page starting at 10:50 a.m.; <https://www.facebook.com/Czaplewski-Family-Funeral-Homes-Crematory-336420016774213/>.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplewskifuneral-homes.com, Czaplewski Family Funeral

Homes, 25 South Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927 (507)374-2155. Blessed be her memory.

James Eugene Johnson

James Eugene Johnson, 62, of Dodge Center, MN passed away peacefully at his home in Dodge Center on April 30, 2021 surrounded by his family. James was born December 21, 1958 in International Falls. He spent 25 years as an over the road



truck driver. On August 9, 2004 he married Kimberly Thompson in Owatonna, MN. James enjoyed grilling, watching cooking shows, loved to color, and watching Nascar. He also enjoyed Christmas every year and absolutely loved his fur babies throughout his life. His service dog, Linus, Buford was very special to him. James loved his family and spending time with them, especially his beautiful granddaughter Maya. He will be deeply missed.

He is preceded in death by his father, James Coulombe Sr; his brother, Robert Coulombe; his uncle, Bob Olson; and Fred and Donna Thompson, Kimberly's parents. Also preceding him in death are his fur babies, Lily Rose, Hanky, Sir Dino, and Sadie Jo; along with his favorite birds, Sunny and Tiki.

He is survived by his spouse, Kimberly Johnson; daughter Leah Johnston of Dodge Center; Grandchildren, Anjelica and Maya; Aunts, Karen (Jerry) of Iowa, Helen (Gary) of Wisconsin, and Priscilla of Wisconsin, and a special dear friend, Eric Christianson.

Blessed be his memory.

Harry Charles Marquardt

Harry Charles Marquardt, 92, of Hayfield, MN, formerly of Dodge Center, MN, passed away on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at Fieldcrest Care Center in Hayfield, MN.



Harry was born on May 3, 1929 in Dodge County, MN to William and Alma (Burzlaff) Marquardt. He attended country schools in Dodge County. He farmed all of his life in Dodge Center, MN. On October 29, 1994 he married Arlinda Polaschek in Dodge Center, MN.

Harry was a devoted and active member of Grace Lutheran Church in Dodge Center, MN. He enjoyed square dancing, welding, and wood working. He will be deeply missed.

Harry is survived by his wife, Arlinda Marquardt of Hayfield, MN; siblings, Marian Saemrow of Morristown, MN, Ronald (Carol) Marquardt of Dodge Center, MN, Helen Swendiman of Austin, MN, and Rachel Boyum of Utica, MN.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, John Marquardt.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at Grace Lutheran Church, 404 Central Ave N in Dodge Center, MN. Visitation will be from 12:00 pm until the time of the service at the church Saturday. Interment will be in Riverside cemetery in Dodge Center, MN.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplewskifuneral-homes.com, Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927 (507)374-2155. Blessed be his memory.



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Triton Senior elected State FFA Reporter

(continued from page 1)

Triton FFA has taught me the power of community and the power I hold as an individual. I've also competed in a variety of different Career Development Events (CDE's) and Leadership Development Events (LDE's). This last year, I competed at State Convention in Farm Bureau Discussion Meet and Extemporaneous Speaking, but have also competed in Livestock Evaluation, Small Animals, Meats Evaluation, Food Science, Fish & Wildlife, Creed Speaking, and Employment Skills. Each year, I also complete a goat proficiency and sheep proficiency application.

At Triton, I am currently the Co-President. In the past, I have served as the Vice President and Co-Reporter. However, I have also served as a Region VIII (Southeast Minnesota) Officer for two years. This last year, I was the Region Reporter, and was an Assistant Officer previously.

My Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) has several different components, including the production of goats, sheep, and poultry, and the management of breed-

ing dogs. However, the two main parts of my SAE are the goats and sheep. I have raised goats alongside my family since 2010, and began raising sheep shortly after. Most of the goats that I own are Boer goats, which are used for consumption. My sister and I just dispersed our sheep flock, but we had been raising Southdown sheep, which are a dual-purpose breed that is used for meat and wool. Some of my roles include assisting with artificial insemination and embryo transfers, developing nutrition plans, teaching other young people showmanship skills, and caring for newborns. One of my favorite parts of raising livestock is having the opportunity to exhibit them on different levels. I show animals on local, regional, state, and national levels, and have had success in many different show rings. I hope to increase the quality of my own goat herd in the upcoming years.

This fall, I will be attending the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, studying Animal Science with a Pre-Vet emphasis. After my undergraduate education, I will attend vet school and seek a career in the veterinary field. This was fueled by my love and involvement in the livestock industry, where I had hands-on experience with the treatment and management of animals.

The interview process for MN FFA State Office was rigorous. I first had to submit an online application, which included essay questions and a resume. Then, I was selected to continue on the interview process, which took place the weekend before the State Convention. There were many aspects

to the interview, and the nomination committee was composed of members from each region. I first had one-on-one interviews with each of the nomination committee members, which lasted for nearly three hours. Then we had to give a prepared speech, take a written test, take a knowledge test, and create a workshop with other candidates. Finally, we ended with one big group interview. The following Friday, the results were announced, and I was selected to serve as the Minnesota FFA State Reporter. I had so much support from my family, advisors, alumni, and other supporters, and I could not have done it without them.

As a State Officer, it's my duty to be the face of Minnesota FFA and to provide support to the over 12,000 FFA members and 35,000 agriculture education students. I will facilitate a variety of camps and conferences over the summer, as well as attend stakeholder events to interact with supporters. Throughout the year, I will visit chapters and agriculture businesses across the state, which is a great opportunity to see what agriculture looks like in different parts of the state. Next spring, our team will host the State Convention. As Reporter, I also have special duties to fulfill. I will help manage the social media of Minnesota FFA, and connect FFA to agriculturalists across the state. I strive to share news about the agriculture industry so that all can be informed. Communication is the most important aspect of my role.

Right now, my plans are very tentative. I

know I want to be involved in agriculture and the animal science field, and there are many opportunities here in the Midwest. I am currently considering practicing large animal medicine (cattle, goats, sheep) or working with a specific organization, agency, or company (AVMA, USDA, Purina, etc). Eventually, I would also be interested in a career in education, so I may teach veterinary or animal science courses on the collegiate level. I love agriculture here in Southeast Minnesota and would like to stay close to family, so I would also like to come back here to settle down. I will continue to raise livestock alongside my family, and will be an active FFA and 4-H alumni.

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Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

We are constantly faced with the element of change. Sometimes, change can bring about new and exciting opportunities. Recently, our elementary principal took a new position as the superintendent of Houston Public Schools in Southeast Minnesota. This will certainly be an exciting new challenge for Ms. Morem. We wish her well in her new position. With Ms. Morem leaving, we posted the position and ended up getting 23 applicants. This is an amazing turnout for an administrative position, and we were excited to see so many interested applicants in our school district. Our middle school assistant principal/activities director, Mr. Shane Van Beek came out on top and was an obvious winner once we completed the process. I am excited for Mr. Van Beek to take over at the elementary school. He is a proven hard-working dedicated professional that we are fortunate to have in our district. His transition to the elementary school will leave us

with another search to fill his role at the middle school. I believe in the team of educators that we are fortunate to have at Triton and feel that we are continuing to hire quality people that will keep moving our district in positive direction. Next year we will have a few new faces on our Triton teaching staff and I am excited about the excellent hires that we have made. A great teacher really can make a positive impact on the school. I know that I mentioned it in my article last month, but Mr. Gray has done exactly that with our band program. The spring concert that needed to be held in the gymnasium due to COVID sounded amazing and I can't wait to hear them in the Performing Arts Center!

Another change that we recently found out about was the change in mask mandates. We will continue to do our best to navigate the ever changing regulatory guidelines. It certainly makes it difficult to plan events like graduation when the guidelines are changing so frequently without any warning. I understand the frustration that we hear from our parents, but please know that we are doing our best to navigate these changes while we adjust and change plans to do our best to provide the best experiences we can for our students. Currently, the mask mandate has not and is not supposed to change for schools. I am very hopeful that the change we will see for next school year will be one of post-covid and a return to a sense of normalcy in our schools.

The changes we will see after this summer to our facilities will be very nice as well. The roof sections that are need of an upgrade will be finished. It will be a roof system that doesn't need to use the river

rock to hold down the membrane. The materials that they have now to do roofing is a great upgrade to the old system. We will also have our parking lots redone. The pot holes and drainage issues will be able to be fixed. The other major part of the project will be to complete the dehumidification of the entire facility along with an ionization system that helps to keep to clean and improve the air quality. These will all be wonderful changes for our facility.

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. 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 Educator Earns Outstanding Educator Award (continued from page 1)

"Mrs. Goossens has transformed education in the Business Education department, but even more importantly she has used her gifts to catapult our students toward success after graduation and empowered her colleagues as lifelong learners," shared Luke Lutterman, principal.

Goossens currently teaches business education courses at Triton High School. She has been a teacher for 10 years. Goossens teaches the importance of teambuilding and creates a community for her students to thrive in each of her classes. One way she does this is through weekly check-ins with each of the students in her classes. The check-ins provide students with an opportunity to self-reflect and be proactive in their education goals. She also has students fill out self-evaluations at the end of each unit where they reflect on how comfortable they are with the learning targets. If there are learning targets that she can help them understand better, or how balanced they feel the workload was. And whether the assessments were meaningful and helped them learn. She then routinely makes changes to curriculum and teaching methods based on their responses.

"I learned many valuable life skills from her, like dealing with difficult people and groups, how to be creative in a structured

environment, and how to deal with disappointment, said a former student. The experiences that students have in her classroom are enriched because Mrs. Goossens is willing to share about her own life in a way that is teachable and relatable to students."

She also serves as Senior Seminar Project Coordinator, coaches varsity volleyball and advises the Business Professionals of America Program (BPA) chapter. The BPA chapter was established by Goossens and has had extraordinary achievements in recent years. In the last five years, she has led fifty-three state top-ten finishes, state champions, and numerous national top-ten finishes.

Educators are first nominated for the WEM Outstanding Educator Awards Program by students, parents, colleagues or community members. Those who accept the nomination provide additional information for consideration by Synergy & Leadership Exchange and a blue ribbon selection panel, which reviews and ranks the nominees. In addition to the six statewide honorees, additional educators have been selected as regional honorees for 2021. For more information on the WEM Outstanding Educator Awards and Synergy & Leadership Exchange, visit www.synergyexchange.org.

TRITON CLASS OF 2021



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Nick Adamson is a senior at Triton this year. His parents are David Adamson and Jennifer Goodman and he has two siblings, Nora and Finlee Adamson. In school he is active in Football, Trap and Track & Field. After school he enjoys Working, Lifting Weights, hanging out with friends, and video games. His favorite food is chicken, and his favorite band is 3 Days Grace. After graduation he plans on doing an apprenticeship to become an electrician.



NICK ADAMSON

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Triton Junior Repairs Small Engines

Vern "Cody" Cunningham is in the eleventh grade at Triton High School. He grew up in Dodge Center and his family moved to a farm in the country north of town when he was seven years old.

When he was 13 years old, he began working on engines. His first project was a garden tiller that was not running. His dad is an over the road truck driver and while he was away Cody took it apart and fixed it and had it operating before his dad returned home.

He milked cows on their own farm when they still had them and has milked cows for Brian Weis near Wasioja. He also worked for Hanson Truck repair in West Concord for a couple years.

Cody took shop classes at Triton and has built a truck from the ground up with his dad. They converted a dairy barn into a work shop where he has repaired lawn mowers, ATV's, cars, trucks, snow blowers and garden tractors. A couple years ago he started a business repairing small engines. During the past winter he has repaired over sixty lawn mowers. He also sells these refurbished mowers and advertises them on Facebook.

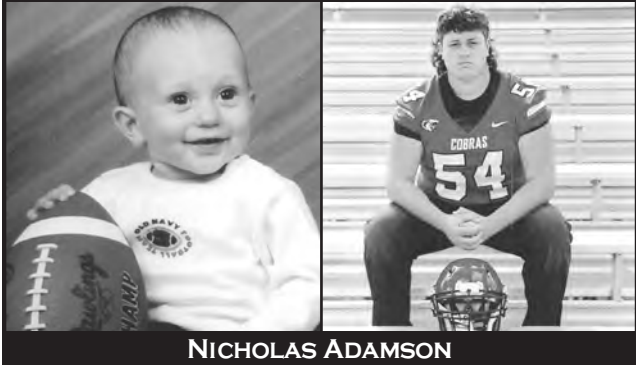
After graduation he would like to get a cargo trailer to pull with his pickup and go out as a mobile service, an idea his aunt gave him. That way he could come to the customers place and do small repair jobs, tune-up, oil changes and blade sharpening.

Anyone looking for a rebuilt lawn mower or service can call Cody at 507-923-0922.

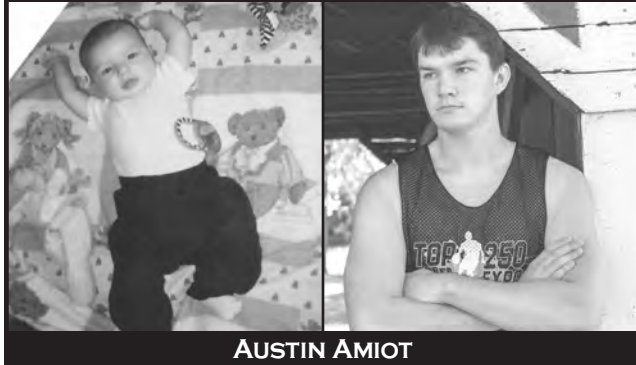


Vern "Cody" Cunningham

TRITON CLASS OF 2021



NICHOLAS ADAMSON



AUSTIN AMIOT



CHRISTOPHER ANDREE



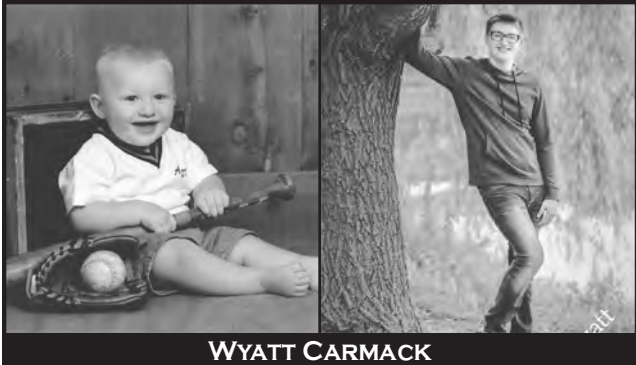
GLORIA BARBOSA



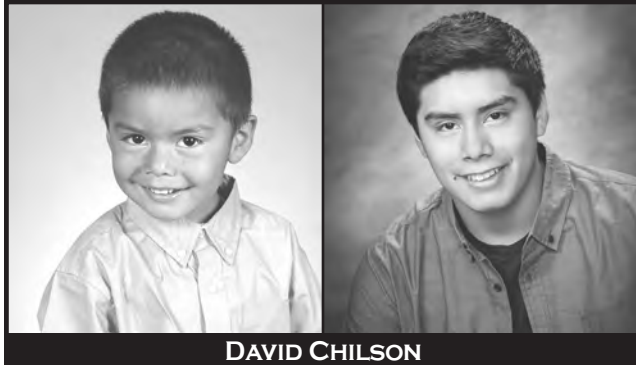
MASON BARKER



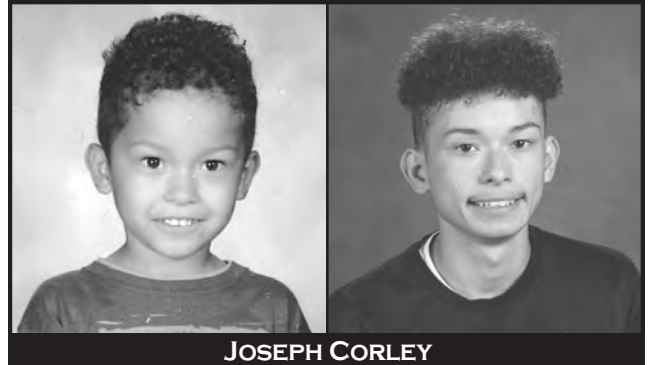
ELYSE BESTOR



WYATT CARMACK



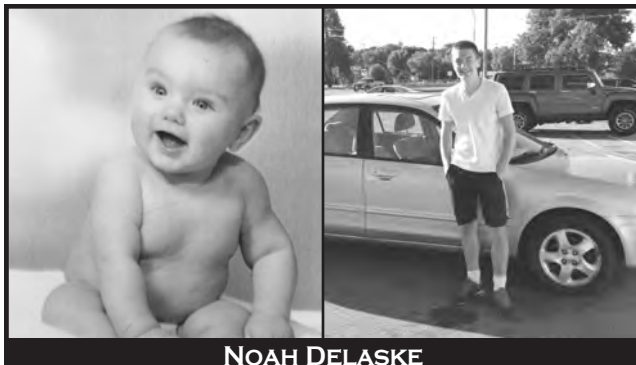
DAVID CHILSON



JOSEPH CORLEY



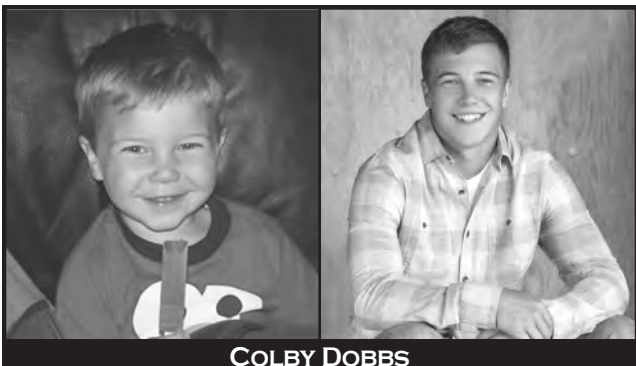
SHANE CROFTON



NOAH DELASKE



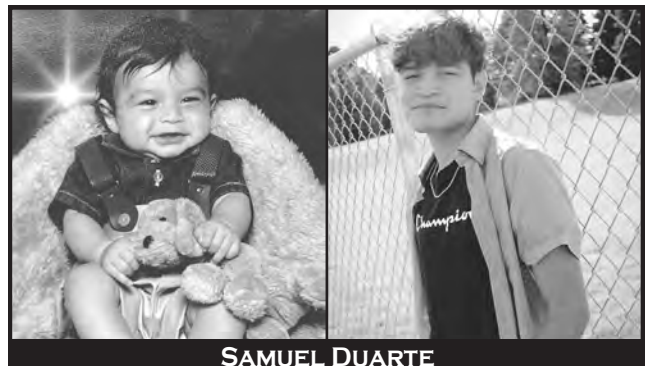
EMILY DEVETTER



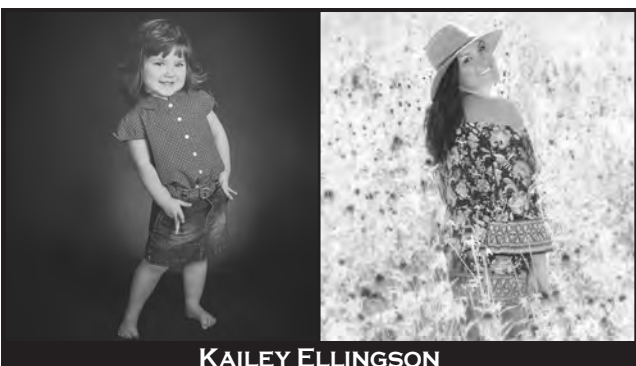
COLBY DOBBS



DAEGAN DOSTAL



SAMUEL DUARTE



KAILEY ELLINGSON

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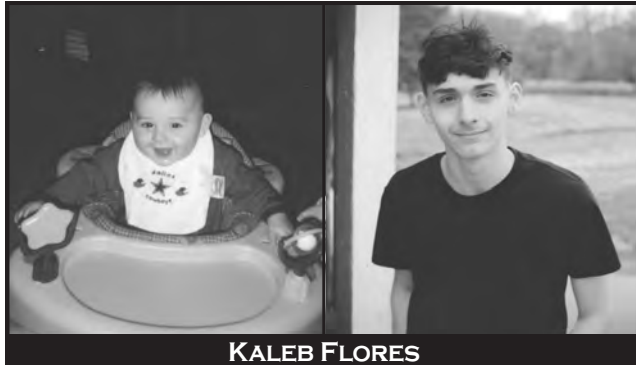
MARIEL FABER



OLIVIA FATE



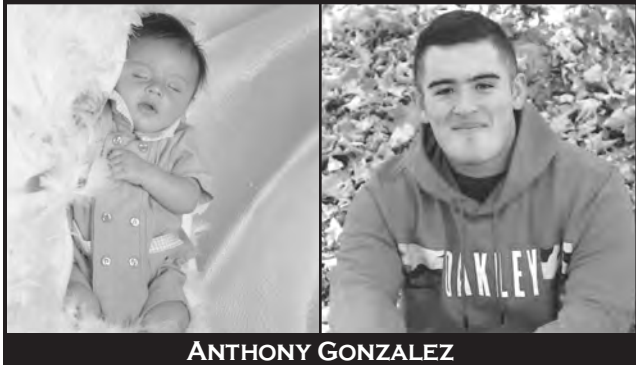
VICTORIA FAVILLA



KALEB FLORES



MCKENNA FREERKSEN



ANTHONY GONZALEZ



BRANDON GOTTLIEB



JAILEENE GUEL



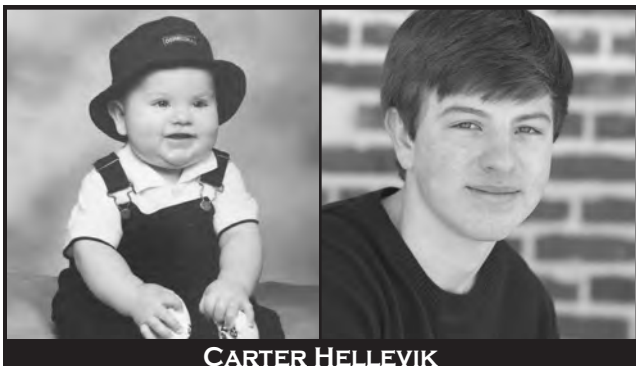
KYE HANSON



WYATT HAUGEN



KATRINA HEIMER



CARTER HELLEVIK



TERESA HUERTA



ELIJAH HUNTER

CELEBRATE!

We hope your graduation day is special in every way, and we wish you much luck as you take the next step.

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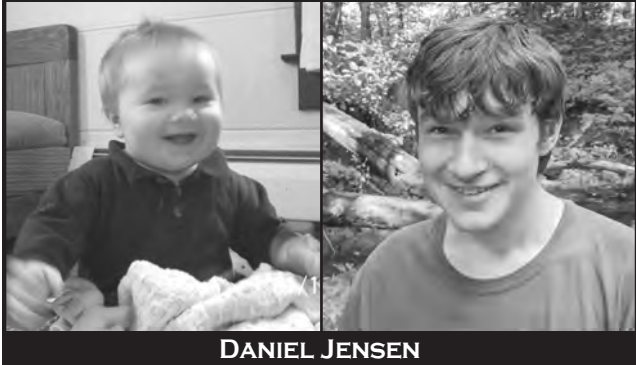
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CHLOE JENSEN

TRITON CLASS OF 2021



DANIEL JENSEN



MAKENA JENSEN



ELLA JOHNSON



TRINITEE JOHNSON ANDERSON



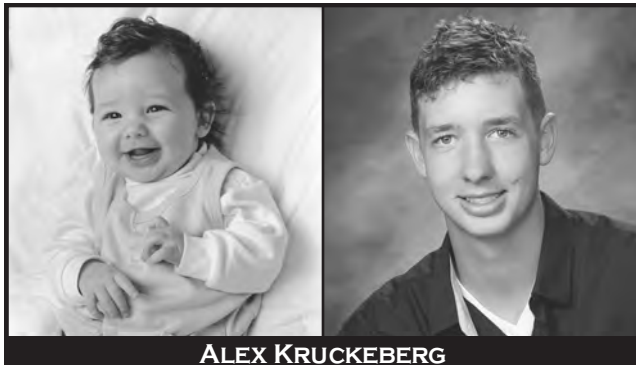
MEGAN JUSTICE



ISAAC KENWORTHY



DUSTIN KLEMMENSEN



ALEX KRUCKEBERG



JACOB LARSON



JAELYN LAUE



AUSTIN LENTZ



TYLER LEQUE



TRISTON LUNDI



TANNER MARQUETTE



KALLISTA MARTINEZ



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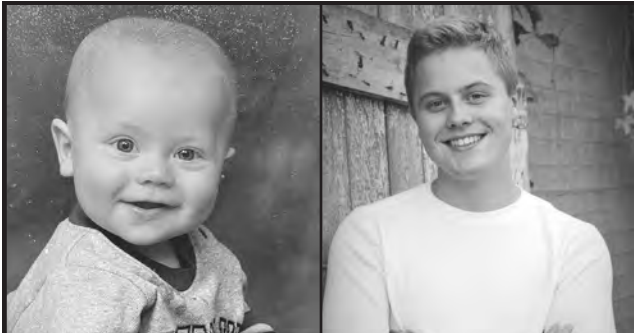
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RAMON MEDINA



NATHAN MEYERS



MARCAISIA MLENAR



HUNTER MOEN



ABRAHAM MYER



BROOKLYN NAUMAN



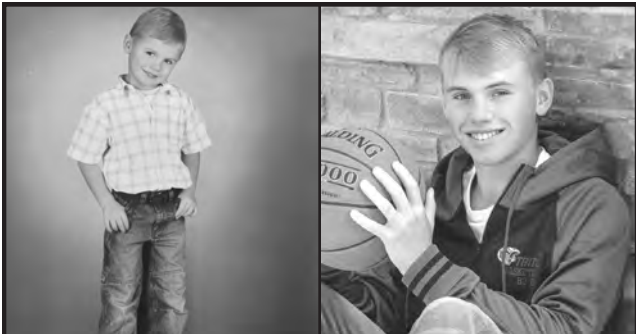
JASMINE NYSTEL



DIEGO PENA



ARIANNA PEREZ-THOMPSON



HAEVAN QUIMBY



DESTINEE RAMIREZ



ISAAC REYANT



ANNA RIDENOUR



KAIDEN REICK



NATALIE ROBINSON

Happy Graduation!
 Congratulations to the Class of 2021.
 We wish you all the best!
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Congratulations to All
2021 Triton Graduating Seniors!

We wish you much happiness, and great success in all of your future endeavors. Congratulations on this milestone achievement.

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JERZIE SACKETT



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IAIN SHORT



HANNAH STARK



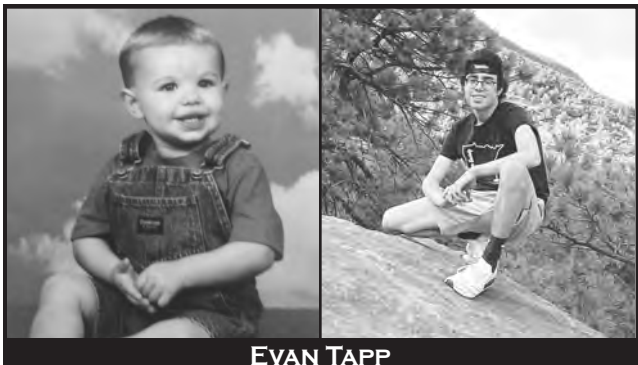
CHLOE STAUB



SEAN STROM



MADILYN STYNDL



EVAN TAPP



JASMIN WILLETTE



TAYLOR ASHELIN

NOT PICTURED:
SAVANNAH BLOMQUIST
DIANA REYES



Celebrating the
Triton Class of 2021

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

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YAY Grad!

We wish you the best in all of your future endeavors!

Dodge Center
Messenger

Triton High School Class of 2021

Sunday, June 6
2:00p.m.

Class Motto:
"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us."
- J.R.R. Tolkien

Class Flower: Rose

Class Colors: Burgundy and Grey

Class Officers:
Anna Ridenour, President
Brenna Essig, Vice President
Mariel Faber, Secretary
Makena Jensen, Co-Treasurer
Marcaisia Mlenar, Co-Treasurer

Dollar General Seeks to Reshape Small Towns

(continued from page 1)

There are now more than 16,000 spread across the country, including two in the county where I live. The unmistakable concrete walls, steel roof, and bright yellow sign are now commonplace on the outskirts of small towns and stand out like palmer amaranth in a soybean field.

Many local economic developers see the discount retailer as a threat to local retail. Dollar General added limited groceries in 2003, posing a unique threat to local grocery stores, which often operate on tight

margins.

Other economic developers argue Dollar General creates jobs and helps keep shoppers in town. I get it. In thousands of miles spent traversing the rural Midwest, I have found myself in small towns with no other retail or grocery options.

The irony is that this solution makes the situation worse with low-wage jobs, loss of local ownership, and loss of local tax revenue when other businesses close or fail to open because they cannot, or don't want to, compete with a corporate behemoth.

We must grow and nurture the communities we want to live in. Local ownership of small businesses, farms, and ranches makes communities stronger. Local owners care about their towns, neighbors, and customers.

When you shop at the local hardware store, the profit stays in town and builds the local economy. At Dollar General, every dollar of profit goes to Wall Street. The company reported \$27.8 billion in sales in 2019, and its stock climbed 700% in 10 years.

Protecting our communities from these corporate interests is difficult, but here are a few strategies to consider.

End the common practice of awarding tax and development incentives to massive corporations. Dollar General is a highly profitable company. Subsidizing new stores is a cash transfer from local taxpayers to corporate shareholders.

Use local zoning codes to encourage good growth and discourage harmful businesses. A report available from the Institute for Local Self Reliance outlines zoning strategies to limit construction of box outlets like Dollar General.

Raise the minimum wage. The stagnant minimum wage is a subsidy we allow Dollar General to collect from the working poor. An increase will improve the lives of low-wage workers, and make Dollar General foot more of the real cost of labor.

Support local retail options when you can. We can each choose, when possible, to spend our retail dollars at stores that keep

profit and ownership closer to home.

Write and call lawmakers to ask for stronger antitrust protections. While I am highlighting the case of Dollar General here, the same can be said about Walmart and now Amazon, too. Elsewhere in the rural economy multinational meatpackers, seed companies, and input suppliers have hammered local business.

In the Dollar General model, large corporations and their shareholders get rich while workers and communities suffer. There is an alternative. We must work together to create it.

Pure Country Family Dining Reopens

(continued from page 1)

"I was closed for 14 months for the pandemic, I feel very blessed that people are happy to have me back", Kevin stated.

Eating is a social event. Kevin and his small staff are complying with sanitizing and disinfectant guidelines to ensure customer safety. All tables and chairs are sanitized after each use and employees practice frequent hand washing. The dining room is open and customers always have a carry-out option as well.

The restaurant industry has faced unforeseen challenges during the last year and Pure Country Family Dining is no different. According to the State of Minnesota web-

site, "On May 28, nearly all of MN Covid-19 restrictions will be lifted. And by July 1, the mask mandate will be lifted." Most people are ready to get back to normal dining. Kevin wanted to bring jobs back to the community in a safe environment. We all have a responsibility in keeping safe. Masks are not required, but welcomed and it's good to have personal hand sanitizer with you while dining out. It's important to support local restaurants. Pure Country Family Dining is not just a place to enjoy a great meal. It's a place to gather, to talk, and to connect and share each other's heartaches and joys. And daily lives.



Horses Need Farriers

What animal regularly wears shoes and needs help putting them on? It's a horse, of course!

Horses need their hooves trimmed and horseshoes placed regularly, a procedure referred to as "shoeing" a horse. The person trained to shoe horses is called a farrier. Farriers provide an important part of the regular care that keeps horses healthy.

Farriers have a big responsibility to horses and their owners because we maintain the length, balance, and integrity of the hoof capsule and all the components of the hoof,

The horse hoof has many weight-bearing parts that affect how the horse moves and its athletic success. The outer part is called the hoof wall, and the inner portion includes the sole and the frog.

Most people who want to become a farrier attend farrier school and then do an apprenticeship to get hands-on experience and practice. Currently, there is no U.S. regulation of farriers; the tools and shoes can be purchased by anyone.

We shoe horses for three reasons: protection, traction, and correction. Protection from injuring the hoof, traction to avoid falling, and correction to modify any deformity of the hoof.

Although most horses are regularly shod, not all horses must be. Some horses do just fine without shoes.

The process of shoeing a horse typically starts with evaluating the horse's hoof balance. Farriers make their assessment by watching the horse move at a walking pace and at a faster pace. "After watching the horse move, they examine the horse up close by looking at the hoof itself. To do this, a well-behaved horse can be tied to a stall or in stalls. If the horse is less calm, another person can help hold the horse still. In some cases, a veterinarian is needed to sedate the horse for a better exam. The farrier will safely position themselves to hold the horse's limb

While looking at the underside, one can determine the excessive growth of the outer portion of the hoof, and better evaluate the sole of the foot, you can also see the shape of the hoof to determine what shoe will fit best. It is important for the horse's comfort to be fitted with an appropriate shoe. If the shoe is ill-fitted, the horse will not be able to walk around like normal and its athletic performance may be impacted.

Before a new shoe can be placed, the hoof itself must be the correct length. This is done with a variety of tools that wear down the excessive growth of the hoof.

Farriers have hoof knives, nippers, rasps, and various hammers. These tools allow the farrier to properly trim the hoof down to a more natural length, making walking easier and more comfortable for the horse.

Many companies sell machine-made horseshoes, while many farriers make their own. The type of shoe a horse needs depends on what the horse's job is, what substance it walks or works on, and the shape of its foot. Horseshoes come in a variety of materials such as steel, aluminum, plastic, rubber, and wood. The most common material of horseshoes is steel or aluminum.

Once the exam is completed and the correct shoe is selected, the shoe is safely burned or seared on to the hoof and often nailed in place through that same hoof wall. Although this sounds like it would be painful to the horse, it is not. The outer section of the hoof, the hoof wall, does not contain any nerve endings and therefore feels no pain.

Every horse is different, but most horses will need a visit from a farrier every 4 to 6 weeks. This length of time is determined by the way the hoof grows and the wear on their shoes.

The biggest benefit of having a farrier shoe a horse is to keep the horse sound. A sound horse is one that has no issues with lameness or discomfort. Lameness is one of the most common reasons that horses are no longer able to do their job, whether that job is on a farm, on a racetrack, or in a show ring. Shoeing horses helps keep horses in business.

If you have questions about shoeing your horse, contact your local veterinarian.

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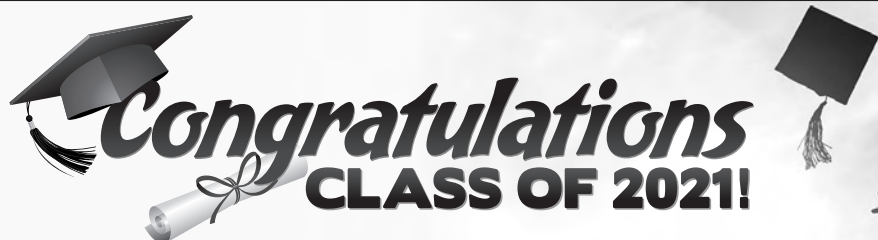
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DODGE CENTER

COUNCIL MINUTES April 12, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. City Council Chambers and Tele-Meeting, City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas

Council members absent:

City staff and others present: Joshua Tetzlaff, City Administrator; Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk; Bryce Lange, Community Development Specialist; Mark Barwald, Maintenance Superintendent; Deputy Brion.

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bill Ketchum at 6:00 p.m.

Adopt Agenda

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation

None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve minutes of the March 22, 2021 City Council Meeting, the March 2, 2021 EDA Meeting, the March 1, 2021 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Payment of Bills

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Community Development

Bryce Lange presented a request for a conditional use permit for Plan LLC, for a 16' steel fence. They are requesting this high of fence because they are loading items on to rail cars and sometimes those items are falling onto adjacent properties.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas, to approve Resolution 2021-008, A Conditional Use Permit for Plan LLC to install a 16' steel fence. Blaisdell abstained. Motion carried.

It was discovered during the recent annexations of the land for Dollar General and Leonard Marquardt's homestead that the State had a discrepancy with the City's southwestern boundary. The state believed that both properties were already within City limits. Instead of the City resurveying their corporate limits the state is asking that the City, the County, and the Township(s) to sign a document agreeing with the City's boundaries. The County has already approved the document.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve Resolution 2021-009, Authorizing the Signing of the Agreement to the Corporate Boundaries of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota. Motion carried unanimously.

The Park Board is seeking approval for \$1,500 to purchase trees for Lions Park. These trees would be used for screening the playground and shelter from the homes in the neighborhood and also help maintain our Tree City status.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen to approve \$1,500 to purchase trees for Lions Park. Motion carried unanimously.

Maintenance

Mark Barwald stated that they have been busy getting parks ready for the summer, and are hoping to have parks open April 23, instead of the usual May 1. He also gave Council a map of infrastructure in town with streets that have and have not been done labeled. He is also working on getting a similar map with streets that have been chip sealed.

Sheriff

Deputy Brion was present and informed Council that there have been some issues with Rangers and UTV usage in town. They have issued a few citations. He also let Council know that he will no longer be working in Dodge Center after July 4, 2021. Mayor Ketchum thanked him for his years in Dodge Center and stated that he will be missed.

Administrator's Report

A. Grace Lutheran Donation Request
Grace Lutheran is holding a fundraiser for their school and is requesting a donation of a pool pass.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell to approve donating a single pool pass to the Grace Lutheran fundraiser. Motion carried unanimously.

B. 2020 Improvement Project Restart
This item is more of an FYI. Ims Contracting will begin to finish work on 3rd Street SE possibly as early as next week.

C. Brush Dump Attendant
Staff is requesting to offer the position to Elyse Bestor. She would work there from the opening date until the Aquatic Center opens for the season. At that point the Aquatic Center manager would schedule staff to cover the brush dump as part of their Aquatic Center schedule. The position will need to be revisited in the fall when most of the staff returns to school.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas, to approve hiring of Elyse Bestor for the Brush Dump Attendant. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Spring Workshop
A spring workshop is scheduled for April 21, at 8:00 AM

Miscellaneous

Councilwomen Skogen stated that with the recent high winds there has been a lot of styrofoam blown around the 3rd Street SE area. She is not aware of where it is coming from, she just wanted people to be aware that it is happening.

Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to adjourn at 6:41 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.
Respectfully Submitted,
Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk

DODGE CENTER

COUNCIL MINUTES April 26, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. City Council Chambers and Tele-Meeting, City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas

Council members absent:

City staff and others present: Joshua Tetzlaff, City Administrator; Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk; Bryce Lange,

Community Development Specialist.

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bill Ketchum at 6:00 p.m.

Adopt Agenda

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation

None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve minutes of the April 12, 2021 City Council Meeting, the March 9, 2021 HRA Meeting, the March 11, 2021 Library Board Meeting, and the March 16, 2021 Park Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Payment of Bills

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Community Development

Bryce Lange, Community Development Specialist, had a request from Triton High School principal, Luke Lutterman, to have a Golf Cart Graduation Parade on June 6, 2021 at approximately 3:30 pm, immediately following graduation. The route is included in the packet and is similar to routes they have used in the past. Mr. Lutterman will coordinate with law enforcement for traffic control. Council would like Lange to verify that the golf carts will be insured and that all drivers will have a driver's license.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Trelstad, to approve the parade route for Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 3:30 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Lange had one addition that was not able to make it into the packet. There is a grant program available that is part of the CARES Act that could help expand faster broadband to some of the older areas of town. Speaking with KMTelecom, the cost of this project is estimated to be around \$4.5 million, or \$5,000 per subscriber. The grant covers up to \$5 million. One of the requirements for the grant application is to hold a public hearing. With the deadline for the application being June 1, 2021, Lange would like to hold the public hearing May 24, 2021.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen to hold a public hearing May 24, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Report

• Personnel Promotion
As discussed in the City Council Workshop last week, staff would like to offer a promotion of Assistant City Administrator to Bryce Lange, Community Development Specialist. This promotion would take effect May 1, 2021, with a starting salary of \$68,000 annually.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Blaisdell to approve promoting Community Development Specialist Bryce Lange to Assistant City Administrator beginning May 1, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

• City Hall Window Hours
As discussed in the City Council Workshop last week staff is recommending changing the hours City Hall is open to the public on Fridays to 8:00 AM-1:00 PM.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by

Skogen, to approve changing City Hall hours on Fridays to 8:00 AM-1:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

• Ambulance Paid On-Call Hire Request
Ambulance staff is requesting to hire a Paid On-Call EMT. All interviews and background checks have been completed.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Trelstad, to approve hiring a Paid On-Call EMT. Motion carried unanimously.

• Employee Handbook Update
Currently the employee handbook jumps in discipline from a written warning to a suspension. This update would allow for a probationary period to be placed in between those steps if the need arose. The probationary period would allow for additional training and time to correct their mistakes. This period could be up to 6 months.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve a policy update that implements a probationary period as a possibility for employee discipline. Motion carried unanimously.

• Hire TKDA as Taxilane Reconstruction Project Engineer

This is a supplemental agreement with TKDA to use them as our airport contractor for the taxilane project taking place this summer. The total amount to be paid would not exceed \$34,000, and over 90% of those costs would be paid for through the various grants that are being finalized. This agreement would be conditional on the airport receiving the grants for the project.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the agreement hiring TKDA as the taxilane reconstruction project engineer. Motion carried unanimously.

• Community Education Summer Recreation Request

Triton Community Education has submitted a request to City Council for financial assistance with its summer recreation program. Council has approved \$2,500 in the past. Community Education is also requesting to reserve the upper softball field on Monday evenings beginning June 14 and going through July. The written request was included in the packet.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Trelstad, to approve donating \$2,500 to Triton Community Education for summer programming and reserve the upper softball field on Monday evenings beginning June 14 and going through July. Motion carried unanimously.

• Aquatic Center Staff
Included with the packet is a list of names staff is recommending to be hired for this year's Aquatic Center season.

Motion made by Maas, seconded by Skogen, to approve 2021 Aquatic Center staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Councilwomen Skogen wanted to make sure that with the current work being done on 3rd Street SE, one end of the street would remain open at all times for access to the homes located on 3rd Street SE, 4th Street SE, and 5th Street SE.

Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to adjourn at 6:26 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk

Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes



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 like to watch birds. All kind of birds. They have an incredible ability to fly and sing, neither are things I can do. This morning I looked out the front door and there were a couple robins on the porch. The one closest had its head tucked in and feathers quite ruffled. I had never seen one sleep that close to the house. But when I opened the door, it didn't fly away with the other, but moved to the end of the railing. As I got closer it then fluttered off the porch to the ground and hopped away.

I let my dog out in the yard and when I walked around the deck the robin was still hopping along the ground, but seemed a little distressed. My chocolate lab, Sable, always comes out of the door in the morning like a jet taking off. As she circled the house for the first time came tearing by and the robin tried to fly away but sort of crash landed after a few feet, with the dog run-

ning right over top of the hapless bird. I picked the bird up, and set it in the box of the Gator so the dogs wouldn't be tempted to harass it. They are retrievers after all, and bringing me a feathered prize would be quite in character for them. The robin weakly looked at me and huddled up in the Gator box in a defeated and disheveled manner.

When I came back to the Gator, the bird was laying there dead. I imagined his friend had stayed by him through the night knowing the end was near. Maybe he was an old robin and the cold winter was just too much. It was sad to ponder the end of the bird, once sailing through the air with such freedom and singing merrily to welcome each new day. But as I thought about it, I was also reminded of hope. God watches even the birds and not one of them can die without Him knowing it.

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THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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Dear Savvy Senior,

What are the best Medicare coverage options for COVID-vaccinated retirees who are eager to travel? My wife and I will both turn 65 over the next few months and would like to know which Medicare plans are best for extensive travelers. --Almost 65

Dear Almost,

The best Medicare plans for retirees who plan to travel will vary depending on your destinations. But, before you book a trip make sure you know the current CDC COVID-19 travel recommendations (see [CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers)), and research your destinations too so you can know if restrictions apply wherever you're going.

Medicare Review

Before we dissect how Medicare works for travelers, let's start with a quick review of your different Medicare options.

One option is original Medicare, which covers (Part A) hospital services and (Part B) doctor's visits and other medical services.

If you choose original Medicare, you may also want to get a Medicare (Part D) prescription drug plan (if you don't already have coverage) to cover your medications, and a Medicare supplemental (Medigap) policy to help pay for things that aren't covered by Medicare like copayments, coinsurance and deductibles.

Or, you could get a Medicare Advantage (Part C) plan instead, which is sold through private insurance companies, and covers everything original Medicare covers, plus many plans also offer prescription drug coverage and extra services like vision, hearing and dental care all in one plan.

To help you evaluate your options contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see [ShiptaCenter.org](https://www.shipta.org)), which provides free Medicare counseling.

You can also shop and compare Medicare health and drug plans and Medigap policies at [Medicare.gov/find-a-plan](https://www.Medicare.gov/find-a-plan).

Also note that whatever Medicare plans you choose to enroll in, if you find that they are not meeting your needs or your needs change, you can always switch to a different plan during the open enrollment period, which is between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7.

U.S. Travel

If you and your husband are planning to travel domestically, original Medicare may be the better option because it provides coverage everywhere in the U.S. and its territories as long as the doctor or hospital accepts Medicare.

Medicare Advantage plans, on the other hand, which have become very popular among new enrollees may restrict your coverage when traveling throughout the U.S. This is because most Medicare Advantage plans are HMOs or PPOs and require you to use doctors, hospitals and pharmacies that are in the plan's network within a service area or geographic region. So, if you're traveling outside that area you may need to pay a higher fee, or your services may not be covered at all.

If you do decide to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan, be sure you check the benefit details carefully to see what costs and rules apply when traveling outside your service area.

Traveling Abroad

If you're planning to travel abroad much, a Medicare Advantage plan may be a better option because many Advantage plans today offer emergency care coverage outside the U.S. But be sure you check before you choose a plan because not all plans offer it.

Original Medicare, on the other hand does not provide coverage outside the U.S. and its territories except in rare circumstances (see [Medicare.gov/coverage/travel](https://www.Medicare.gov/coverage/travel)), and Medicare drug plans will not cover prescription drugs purchased outside the U.S. either.

But if you do choose original Medicare, you can still get some coverage abroad through a Medigap policy. Plans D, G, M and N plans will pay for 80 percent of medically necessary emergency care outside the U.S. to new enrollees, but only for the first 60 days of the trip, and you have to meet an annual \$250 deductible first. There's also a lifetime limit of \$50,000, so you'd need to cover any costs above that amount.

Some beneficiaries, regardless of their Medicare coverage, purchase travel medical insurance for trips abroad, which you can shop for at [InsureMyTrip.com](https://www.InsureMyTrip.com) or [SquareMouth.com](https://www.SquareMouth.com).

DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com



A Minnesotan: Third Winter



By RosaLin Alcoser

The thing that we all know about spring in Minnesota is that the weather can literally do anything. April 2021 alone went from being in the 70's on Easter Sunday to shifting into the third winter. Because after all we already had the first and second winter; how could we even live without a third winter? That would just be unheard of and unthinkable!

The point is that anything can happen in Minnesota's spring months. It can be snowing one day and 100 degrees the next; well maybe not 100 degrees but it

can get quite warm.

I remember in May of 2012 it went from being alright weather in the mid to lower 50s to snowing on Mother's Day weekend.

The reason I remember it is because that Mother's Day weekend is also the weekend that I went to junior prom in the snow. The snow that weekend made for many memorable photos for a lot of my peers that year. A lot of people posted Facebook photos that weekend of them dressed up for prom and playing in the snow.

I on the other hand was posed in front of a dead lilac bush; that had been in full bloom the Mother's Day weekend the year before. I remember it being cold, windy and a bit awkward standing on a shoveled off strip of brown grass in front of this dormant bush for photos.

While I am sure that 2012 was not the only Mother's Day snow that I or any of us have seen it is definitely one that sticks in my mind because of that bush. With any hope the good weather that we have seen at the end of April will be sticking with us for the rest of this spring and lead us into the summer months... or it will snow mid May because it's Minnesota and it has to do a fourth winter this year.

CROSSWORD

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- THEME: SESAME STREET
- ACROSS
1. Scarecrow stuffing
 6. Observe
 9. Kind of ski lift
 13. "Fear of Flying" author Jong
 14. Madame Tussauds' medium
 15. Fervent
 16. Never say this?
 17. You to are is as thou to ____
 18. Skylit lobbies
 19. "It isn't easy 'bein' green" for him
 21. *First bilingual Sesame Street puppet
 23. Flower precursor
 24. Rental on the links
 25. Rowing prop
 28. Banana remnant
 30. Besmear
 35. Poker variety
 37. Away from wind
 39. Like helium gas
 40. Coconut fiber
 41. Like an iPhone
 43. Singular of #33 Down
 44. Per ____, or yearly
 46. Guesstimate phrase, 2 words
 47. Raise, as in child
 48. Bob Marley's music
 50. TV classic "____ Make a Deal"
 52. Hi-____ monitor
 53. Oscar Wilde's Dorian ____
 55. *Sesame Street's Meryl Sheep
 57. *Every starred clue in this puzzle
 60. *Self-described as lovable, cute and furry
 63. One born to Japanese immigrants
 64. Be in the red
 66. He had no cause?
 68. Thin mountain ridge
 69. Local area network
 70. Unmanned flyer
 71. Hospital statistics unit, pl.
 72. NaOH
 73. Church assembly

- DOWN
1. D.C. V.I.P.
 2. "Star ____"
 3. Either Gauche or Droite in Paris
 4. Like a lemon
 5. Beginning of a workout
 6. Special law enforcement unit, acr.
 7. Elephant's distinguished feature
 8. Uncredited actor
 9. Lake ____caca, South America
 10. *Ernie's roommate
 11. Diva's delivery
 12. Swedish shag rug
 15. "____ your seatbelts"
 20. Think tank output
 22. Eyeball shape
 24. "I can see ____ now the rain has gone..."
 25. *Trash can dweller
 26. Be sorry for one's wickedness
 27. Repenting
 29. *He avoids pronouns and speaks in falsetto
 31. Gloomy
 32. More competent
 33. Arm bones
 34. *Mama, Papa, Baby and Curly
 36. Chemical cure
 38. Gaelic tongue
 42. Load carrier
 45. Crow's cousin
 49. Old English for before
 51. Arya Stark's Needle and Jedi's Lightsaber, e.g.
 54. Lagoon wall
 56. Each and all
 57. Bog down
 58. From a second-hand store
 59. Four-legged friends
 60. Autry or Wilder
 61. Jet black
 62. Nevada city
 63. Pick up, as in suspect
 65. Modus operandi
 67. Light-emitting diode

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