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JUNE, 2021

Volume 3 • Issue 3

Dodge Center Citizen of the Year



Carol Johnson, Roger Langworthy and David Wahlstrom

By Kenya Narveson

Roger Langworthy was awarded the Dodge Center Lions' Citizen of the Year Award. Roger serves this community with passion and enthusiasm. He has worked with the Dodge Center Lions Club for many years and assists with the DC Lions' Santa Anonymous program. He is responsible for maintaining accurate records of donations, distribution of the gifts, and writing thank you notes to donors. He is a vital part of the many programs supporting families in the community.

He started his service to the community from the ground up. He grew up on a farm and graduated from high school in West Concord.

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Meet Dodge County's Dairy Princesses

Katrina Thoe, is a 6th generation Dairy farmer in Hayfield MN. She is currently attending college at Winona State where she will graduate this December with a Nursing degree. She loves to read, spend time outside, skiing, skating, swimming, hiking, etc., and to hang out with family and friends. Her parents are Susie and Jeffrey Thoe. She has 3 sisters. Oldest sister Bonnie is 39 with 2 little boys, then Amanda at 34 with 1 little boy, and then McCayla Thoe at age 27, and Katrina is the youngest at age 22.

Here she introduces herself in her own words.

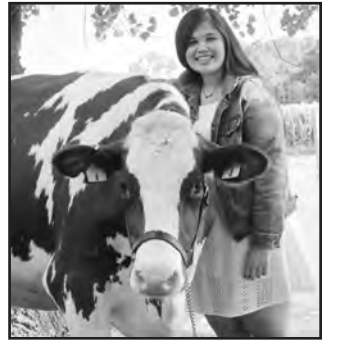
I grew up on our small family owned and operated dairy farm. I feel very lucky to have grown up caring for cattle and the land along with my grandparents, parents, sisters, and now my nephews. I loved following my older sisters around the farm like a little duck and it brings me great joy to be



Katrina Thoe



Amanda Sauder



Gabriela Espinoza

the leader for my little nephews to follow me around on the farm. I started helping on the farm as young as I can remember. Working on the farm has instilled a great worth ethic in me that has benefited me in all areas of life such as school, sports, and other jobs.

Another characteristic I have that was

strengthened from being a farmer is that I am someone who cares a lot. I grew up learning the importance of caring for our animals and our land. I feel that this caring characteristic I developed from dairy farming is a huge reason why I decided to become a Nurse. Farmers care so much about what we do because we care about making a high quality and nutritional dairy product for everyone to enjoy.

Not only do we care for our cows, but we care for a small group of cats on our farm. One time during a rainstorm, I was getting the cows settled safely in our barn and I heard some meowing outside. It turns out one of our cats had a litter of kittens that I didn't know about.

I rushed out in the rain and wind until I was able to rescue all 3 little kittens. This is one of my favorite stories to tell because it exemplifies that there is so much more about our dairy farm than meets the eye. Some other things I like to mention is that each of our cows have a name because we believe in caring for our animals as an individual along with the whole herd. We even bought a large back scratcher for our cows so they can have a high quality of life with the comfort they deserve.

(continued on page 3)

New Attorney at Dodge Center Law Firm

By Kenya Narveson

There is plenty of legal work to do in rural communities. Farmers need estate plans, contracts, and business advice. Drivers commit the occasional DWI or get in a car accident. Nobody wants to search for a lawyer from the city; when they can solicit help from their local lawyers. Weber, Leth, and Woessner PLC is the leading law firm in Dodge Center that delivers a wide range of legal services to residents of Dodge County and the surrounding area. Duane Quam is the newest Associate Lawyer at the firm.

He specializes in family law and criminal law, and assists with estate planning and other legal matters.

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Duane Quam



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Foolish Journeys

By Pastor Mike Zaske
Interim Pastor at Faith Lutheran

Almost 30 years ago, when I was at the tender age of 27 and working as a computer programmer, I moved my wife and two children (both under the age of two) from Minnesota to Arkansas as a result of a job offer.

Looking back, it was an incredibly foolish move. I took the Arkansas offer for all of the wrong reasons, most of which were related to my dissatisfaction with my most

recent job at that time. I honestly thought I was running to a new opportunity—but, all these years later, I realize that, in truth, I was merely running from my old job, too immature to deal with some issues I had with my then-bosses.

I guess in that sense I was sort of repeating the mistake of Jacob from the Old Testament of the Bible. Jacob had an immaturity problem that was similar to my own—Jacob ended up having some intense conflict with his brother and his father. And rather than staying put and working out those issues, he, like me, just packed up and foolishly took off. I went south, and Jacob went east. Both of us were experts at avoidance.

Have you ever done that? Have you avoided people you've hurt or with whom you've

had some disagreements? Have you 'moved away' (literally or figuratively) from someone rather than attempt to reconcile with that person? Are you—weeks, months, or possibly even years later—still remaining separated from certain others, stubbornly refusing to consider offering an olive branch?

Me, being in the south—and Jacob, being in the east—was not where either of us belonged. We could have been, and should have been, where we originally had been, reconnecting with the people from whom we had become disconnected. We both lost precious years of our lives being unyielding and pigheaded. We were fools.

Thankfully, and almost miraculously, God ultimately led both Jacob and me to a place of love and forgiveness with our conflict folks. Restoring a relationship is an exhilaration like no other!

ration like no other!

God is all about reconciliation. Jesus, the Bible tells us, reconciled all things—including you and me—to God. Jesus once said in Matt. 5:24 that if you find yourself in conflict with someone, before you might even offer a gift to God, "first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift." He said this not to make your life worse, but so that you, too, could experience the exhilaration of restoring a relationship.

And, truth be told, he said this so that you wouldn't be dumb enough to move to halfway across the country to Arkansas with two babies like that new interim pastor at Faith Lutheran in Dodge Center once did three decades ago...

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.

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Faith Lutheran Church

308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center
Intern Pastor Kira Anderson • 507-374-2174
Traditional Worship 8a.m.; Fellowship 9a.m.
Christian Education 9:15a.m.
Contemporary Worship 10a.m.

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.

St. John Baptist De La Salle

20 2nd St. NE, Dodge Center • 507-374-6830
Mass Saturday 5p.m.

Living Water Assembly Church

104 1st St. NW, Dodge Center
Roy Andrews • 507-374-6561
Sunday 10a.m.

Dodge Center SDA Church

410 3rd Ave. SW, Dodge Center • 507-374-6895
Sabbath School 9:15a.m.; Saturday Worship 11a.m.

Anchor of Hope Church, a 7th Day Baptist Congregation

203 E. Main St., Dodge Center
507-374-6755
Saturday 10a.m. Worship; 11:45a.m. Sabbath School

Bible Lutheran Church

(American Assoc. of Lutheran Churches)
11 1st Ave. N.E., Dodge Center
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Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.
(weekly sermons available on You Tube and on website)

Area Church Directory

Seeing and Welcoming

Scripture Reading — Hebrews 11:1-2, 13-16

They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.

— Hebrews 11:13

Hebrews 11 gives us a glance in the Bible's rearview mirror. The faithful witnesses mentioned in this chapter lived long ago, even before Jesus came. And they had this in common: they all lived by faith in God's promises. And before they died and were taken to live with the Lord, "They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance."

"Seeing from a distance" is how we can describe the sights, sounds, and scenes in the book of Revelation. Revelation 11 closes with a scene in which all heaven rejoices and gives thanks to God because "the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah." It is a powerful picture of God reigning on earth as in heaven. And the promise is that "he will reign for ever and ever." Hallelujah!

With eyes of faith, we can see this "from a distance." Close-up in the world around us, though, we often see terrible things such as cancer, COVID-19, poverty, racism, violence, addiction, and death. And there are times when these appalling things make us weep. At such times, faith is the Holy Spirit's muscle that enables us to see "from a distance."

Faith also welcomes the future of God's full kingdom today. Faith has this power because it is "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Prayer: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done"—here today—"on earth as it is in heaven." Amen.

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Meet Dodge County's Dairy Princesses

(continued from page 1)

I milk our cows and feed calves in the morning at about 6 am and again at 5 pm. I also help pick rocks in our fields so that when harvesting our crops the tractors don't hit these rocks. One of the fields I pick rock in is our alfalfa/hay field, this field grows very nutritious food for our cows to eat and enjoy so that they then make nutritious milk for us to have and enjoy! I also make sure the cows safely walk to pasture after milking. I am actively involved in harvesting our other crops as well.

I love being a dairy princess and I want to be the next Princess Kay of the Milky Way because the dairy farmers of Minnesota are so deserving of representation, and I am the person for the job. I love the fact that I can wear overalls to care for my cows in the morning, and then go put on my sash and crown for a dairy princess appearance. I have always loved to talk with people so getting to have conversations with people so that I can answer their questions about dairy is so fun and very rewarding. When people come to talk with their local dairy princesses they are able to feel confident in choosing dairy products for them and their family.

As a Dodge County Dairy Princess I go to events held at farms where people can come see how local dairy farms operate and just how local and fresh their dairy products are! I also hand out dairy products at local banks and local events. Additionally, I go into classrooms to teach young minds about how milk will help them grow big and strong from the 9 essential nutrients milk provides. I also teach about how milk gets from my farm to their local grocery store in just 48 hours and how that happens! I also love making educational videos and posts about dairy on my social media platforms to reach a greater audience. We do more events too!

I am honored to be 1 of 10 finalists for Princess Kay of the Milky Way. I was selected in May after competing in a couple of areas. I did a written application, a speech, a mock media interview, and a personal interview. I am so proud to have been selected and plan to use this opportunity to advocate for dairy to a greater audience. I am so excited to spend time with the other finalists, to compete, and to spend time at the state fair. I am extremely excited to get my facial likeness carved out of a 90 pound block of butter at the state fair! I am especially excited because I know how good that butter tastes, for all 3 of my older sisters were finalists and I got to enjoy the butter from their carvings as well. :)

August 23rd-25th I will be competing for Princess Kay of the milky way and coronation will be the 25th, the evening before the first day of the state fair.

I plan to work as a Nurse and to continue caring for our family dairy herd. In the near future I plan to enjoy being a dairy princess and continue to promote dairy goodness

and to advocate for how responsibly produced our products are!

Amanda Sauder is representing our local dairy farmers as a Dodge County Dairy Princess this year. She is the 2nd of 5 girls and her parents are Stan and Amy Sauder. Amanda was raised adjacent to her uncles' dairy farm where she has been able to experience the responsibilities of farming first hand. From a young age she began showing dairy calves at the county fair and became more involved within the dairy community through FFA, 4-H, and various other youth opportunities within agriculture.

As part of the 6th generation at Pine Shelter Farms, Amanda is proud of her heritage and the ability to continue a passion that has lasted over a century and still continues on today.

While home from school, she is heavily involved on the farm where she milks cows, raises calves, helps with hay and corn silage harvests, and completes various other tasks. "I love having the opportunity to work with my family while doing something I'm passionate about and wouldn't trade it for the world", Amanda comments.

When Amanda was younger she remembers trying on her mom's old dairy princess crown and she looked up to her older cousins and sister as they served in this position as well. Amanda says, "I have always known I wanted to be a dairy princess, not only to follow in my family's steps, but also because I love sharing my passion for the dairy industry and agriculture with others. It is an honor to serve as a county princess while representing the hardworking dairy farmers who provide safe and nutritious dairy products for us to enjoy every day!"

Some of the ways she will represent dairy as a Dodge County Dairy Princess are by visiting school classrooms, making appearances at local events and parades, as well as doing interviews and talking with the public.

This fall, Amanda will be entering her sophomore year at The University of Wisconsin-River Falls where she is majoring in Agricultural Communications and Marketing with a minor in Animal Science.

This is **Gabriela Espinoza's** first year as a Dodge County dairy princess. She just graduated High school from Kasson-Mantorville and currently lives in Kasson with her parents and 2 brothers. Gabi is involved in 4-H, FFA, Big Brothers Big Sisters, National Honor Society, band, softball, and is the Kasson ambassador. She currently works at St. Johns preschool in Kasson and at Bright Horizons child care. She loves to work with children.

"I've been around the dairy industry my whole life and have grown a passion for it", Gabi explains. Her parents are Ramon & MaryBeth Espinoza. Her mom grew up on a dairy farm and currently works in child care and her dad works on a dairy farm. She has two brothers, Carter who is 21 and majoring in Dairy Science at SDSU, and Diego who is 14 and works on a dairy farm. Her family lives in town, but have a small family herd of dairy cows that they keep at the farm her dad works at.

Gabi grew up and lived on a farm until she was 5 when they moved into town. Her father and grandpa dad had always worked on a farm so she spent a lot of time around the farm. She loved getting to go help feed the cows and go for tractor rides.

Her mom and siblings were all involved in 4-H and they showed dairy cows while she was growing up. She regularly goes out and helps with some of the chores around the farm like feeding calves or bedding. She does this for free as a way to pay the farm back for keeping her animals on the farm.

"My dad has been working on dairy farms since I was a baby", Gabi relates. "I've spent a lot of time on the farm and have been able to help on the farms growing up as well. I've been showing dairy cattle since I was 4 years old and have joined Dairy Judging and Dairy bowl teams throughout FFA and 4-H. Farming and the Dairy industry have been important throughout my family".

Growing up Gabi always wanted to be a Dairy princess. She loved getting to see them at the fair and other events. As she grew up, she has been able to look up to them and follow their footsteps to promote dairy. "I want to be able to continue to help and promote the Dairy industry and spread a positive light on it, while also being able to

go out and make connections with my community. The Dairy industry to me means a lot. I don't think people realize how important it really is and all the hard work that goes behind it. It's not just farmers that make the industry run, there are a lot of people involved who are working hard to make quality products for the community. The dairy industry has been a huge part of my life and will continue to be", Gabi closed with.

As a dairy princess she will be able to attend different events and promote the industry in different ways. There they inform and teach the community about where the milk comes from, how it went from the farm to their table, and redirect some of the negative ideas about the industry.

Gabi plans to attend South Dakota State University and major in nursing. She hopes to move back to this area because of the many job opportunities and the amazing community.

OBITUARIES

Kevin R. Mussman

Kevin R. Mussman, 68, of Dodge Center, died Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at Methodist Hospital.

He was born May 10, 1953 in Owatonna, to Arthur and Emma (Schwenke) Mussman. Kevin grew up on the family farm and graduated from the University of Minnesota Southern School of Agriculture. He helped his father on the farm until Arthur retired, and during that time he would spend a lot of time going to auctions to buy farming equipment for friends and local farmers. The last few years he spent helping car dealers drive cars to and from auctions.

He is survived by his sister, Linda Short of Golden, CO and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, David Mussman; sister JoAnn Cerand.

Visitation was held at Michaelson Funeral Home on Tuesday, June 15 from 4pm-7pm. Interment was in Havana Cemetery.

Donna Mae Rohwer

Donna Mae Rohwer, 88, of Dodge Center, MN passed away on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at the Seasons Hospice House in Rochester, MN.

Donna was born on August 30, 1932, in Harrison County, IA to James and Eunice (Girton) Mickey. Donna attended schools at Aitkin, Grand Meadow, and District "39" in Dodge County. She graduated in 1950 from Dodge Center High School. She married Kenneth Eugene Rohwer on November 30, 1952. Together they had four children, Kevin, Nancy, David, and Julie. They made their home on the farm near Dodge Center, until they retired and moved to town. Ken preceded her in death on February 20, 2020.

Donna was a devoted member of United Methodist Church in Dodge Center. She was also a member of the Fairview Nursing Home auxiliary for many years. Donna enjoyed traveling with Ken and spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Donna is survived by her children, Kevin (Bev) Rohwer of Dodge Center, MN; Nancy (Arlan) Symens of Fergus Falls, MN; Julie (Steve) Templin of New Richland, MN; grandchildren, William (Ashley), Matthew (Bobbi), and Kristal Rohwer; 4 great grandchildren, Braydon, Patrick, Morgan, and Adie; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Kenneth; infant son, David; siblings, Harlan Mickey, Dwight Mickey, James Mickey, Mary Louise Bartlett, and Dorothy Wiederholt.

A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at United Methodist Church, 20 - 1st Street NE Dodge Center, MN. Reverend Chad Christensen and Reverend Roger Langworthy co-officiated. Visitation was held from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Friday, June 18, 2021, at Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes 25 South Street Dodge Center, MN and one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Interment was in Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center, MN.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting memorials to United Methodist Church, 20 - 1st Street NE in Dodge Center, MN 55927 or to Riverside Cemetery, P.O. Box 206, Dodge Center, MN 55927.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street P.O. Box 502, Dodge Center, MN 55927 (507) 374-2155.

Blessed be her memory.



Piano Students Perform Annual Spring Recital

Twenty two students from Nadine's Piano Studio in Dodge Center, performed in the annual Spring Recital Sunday, May 23, held at Faith Lutheran Church. The students ranged in age from six to 21 and hail from Kasson, Mantorville, Dodge Center, Claremont. Pieces were memorized and exhibited styles from classical to pop, boogie and blues, waltzes, contemporary Christian and even a sea chantey.

Four students were presented with awards for their participation in outside events. Abigail Walters took the MMTA (Minnesota Music Teachers Association) Comprehensive Piano Exam in December of 2019 and received a High Distinction rating. She also took the MMTA Theory Exam in April of 2020, and also received the High Distinction score. Litany Peterson, Gavin Owen and Katya Wheeler participated in the Southeast Minnesota



Gavin

Federation Music Festival in February 2021 and all three received Superiors.

Congratulations to all students for adapting to the changes we had to make in order to continue piano lessons during the pandemic. Whatever comes our way, music will always be a constant in our lives, and a way to express feelings when words fail.



Litany, Abigail, Nadine, Katya

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Cobra Communications



Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

Gratitude. I am very grateful for the amazing staff at Triton Public Schools. I am also very thankful for the amazing families in our district. This past school year was full of challenges that I would prefer not to repeat. The constantly changing guidance and executive orders made day to day operations of school a constant challenge. Many times we were told of these changes without any time to prepare or adjust the plans we already had in place. On a positive note, working through this pandemic provided the opportunity for a number of individuals to shine. Difficult situations can often bring out the best in people, and it was amazing to see all of the great things staff did to help serve our students. We were able to overcome a number of barriers and obstacles and still provide our students the education they deserve. It wasn't an easy task to keep up with the constantly changing guidance, but we were able to keep our students in the building most of the school year. We only had a short period

of time in which we needed to resort to distance learning in December. None of this would have been possible without the cooperation and teamwork of so many people in our Triton Community. I am very thankful to work in such an amazing school district with so many amazing people. I believe that our students are the focal point of everything we do, and making sure that we are able to serve their needs make it all worthwhile.

Now that we have made it through the school year, it has provided time to reflect on the things that went well. It also provides a time to look at what didn't go as well as we would like, and how we can improve. One area that I have received feedback on is the way we communicate. We have had our emergency calling system for a number of years, but I heard of calls that got cut off and incomplete messages. We found a company that will update our webpage and link it to an app that you can put on your phone that will really update our ability to communicate with people in our community. This updated system will also provide us with the ability to send text message and updates via the app. It also connects a number of social media platforms, so we can put the same message out in a variety of formats from one place. I am looking forward to getting this in place over the summer to be ready to go this fall.

It will also be very nice to have all of the work in our district completed after this summer. We will have the entire building dehumidified which will create a much better learning environment for our high school students early in the fall and late in the spring. Our roofing will all be update and free from any worries about leaking. Our 20 year roofs have served us well since 1996, but they were in need of being

replaced. The other major area that will see improvements is our parking lot. If you have ever driven through our parking lot, I don't need to say anymore about that topic. It will be smooth and graded to drain and move the water out of the area. I will be a busy summer around the building, but it will address all of the major concerns that need to be addressed and overall, our facilities are in excellent shape, and we have room to grow!

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

New Attorney at Dodge Center Law Firm

(continued from page 1)

He began his journey with Weber, Leth, and Woessner PLC in February of 2020 as a law clerk and a student at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. He commuted to school on nights and weekends, and took care of his wife and two children. The commitment to his dream was rewarded when he passed the Bar Exam and transitioned from law clerk to Associate Lawyer.

Duane, like many other young lawyers who choose to work in a rural area, said he grew up in Dodge County and plans on deepening his roots in the community. He explained, "The firm has been here a long time and the people here are great.

You spend so much time with the people you work with; so working at a small-firm feels like a second family and it shows with the personable service we provide."

Big or small, every legal matter directly affects the client. The relationship between

a small firm and its clients takes time and effort to nurture. Large firms are frequently forced to initiate tried and true strategies. Whereas, smaller firms have the advantage of having a deeper knowledge about the client and their case. If a client has difficulty paying the remaining balance on their bill; small firms can be generous and offer payment options. Giving the client payment options during difficult times establishes compassion and trust.

Regardless of the size of the firm, one of the most important considerations in choosing a lawyer is your level of confidence and trust. Duane Quam focuses on the client's needs and representing his clients; while assisting the team of lawyers at Weber, Leth, and Woessner PLC. He has committed himself to a path of a rewarding and fulfilling career in law; while building relationships that will last a lifetime.

TRITON CLASS OF 2021



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Chloe Staub is a senior at Triton High School.

Her parents are Chris and Julie Staub.

She has two siblings, Gabi and Brady.

Her school activities include Volleyball, Track and Field, BPA, MHS, Link Crew, SADD, Student Council, AFS.

Her favorite food is Chipotle Chicken Burrito.

After Graduation she plans to attend the University of St. Thomas and major in Marketing and Real Estate Studies. She will also be participating on the track and field team at St. Thomas.



CHLOE STAUB

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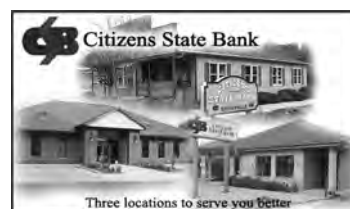
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Dodge Center Citizen of the Year

(continued from page 1)

He then attended and graduated from the University of Minnesota and returned to his hometown and started a small farm with animals and crops North of Claremont with his wife. Soon after he started his farm; he felt a pull on his heart to serve the community in a different way. He wanted to connect with the hearts of people in a Spiritual capacity. He continued to tend the farm with his wife. At a time before the internet was introduced; he attended Bible school and trained at a local church in Owatonna.

He and his wife transitioned from farming to serving people and opened Praise Fellowship Church 1986. Roger stated, "When we started the church, I shared with the congregation, I not only want to be the

Pastor of this church. I also want to be a Chaplain to the community." Roger wanted to use his gift to serve others; outside of the church. So he began driving the school bus for Triton. He has enjoyed driving the school bus for so many years; his wife now drives the school bus for Triton Schools too.

He has served the community in various organizations in Dodge Center and Dodge County. He is or has been involved in the Dodge County Salvation Army, Big Brother/Big Sister program, the peer support team for the Dodge County Sheriff Department as well as lead Chaplain with the Dodge County Chaplaincy program and the Treasurer of the Triton ministerium, Lion Roger has taught/trained AFCM-ITC Bible school in the United States, Vietnam, Thailand and Nepal. He has also taught at the Living Water Bible Institute in Honduras.

Roger Langworthy has proven himself to be a leader and servant for his family and the community. He is a giver of his time and advocates for the well-being of people. He deserves to be the 2021 Dodge Center Lions' Citizen of the Year.

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www.dodgecountymessenger.com

Top Minnesota Dairy Farms Honored for Superior Cow Care

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen today released the annual list of top Minnesota dairy herds with low somatic cell counts (SCC). Somatic cell count is a key indicator of milk quality – a lower SCC count is better for cheese production and a longer shelf life for bottled milk. In honor of June Dairy Month, 96 Minnesota dairy farms are being recognized for superior herd management skills by achieving an average SCC of under 100,000.

"I'm honored to be able to recognize these 96 dairies for their high level of excellence," said Commissioner Petersen. "These dairy farmers work hard 365 days a year to produce high quality, wholesome dairy products for all of us to enjoy, and I thank them for their contributions to feed Minnesota and the world."

Although somatic cells occur naturally and are not a food safety concern, dairy farmers monitor them because they can



be used as a measure of the health of their cows. Processors also pay a premium for milk with low counts. A farmer whose herd has a very low count can receive a significantly higher price per hundred-weight compared to a farmer whose herd average is high.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and University of Minnesota dairy experts have worked with the state's dairy farmers to lower somatic cell counts. When the initiative began in 2003, the 100 herds honored that year included those with SCC averages as high as 144,000, compared to the current goal of obtaining a SCC under 100,000.

The SCC list of Minnesota dairy farms is online at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/lowsc>

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That's the Latest



By Emery Kleven

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

There were some pictures floating about Facebook recently of the old train depot in West Concord. Some people were sharing some of the memories they have about the depot and about riding the train from West Concord to the Twin Cities. I never had the pleasure of riding a train out of West Concord and really don't remember the depot much except for one day when I was about 8 years old, I rode my bicycle into town and was hanging out with some friends and we decided to go over to the depot. As I recall, it was locked up and we

just looked inside the windows. At the time, there wasn't much to see and very little activity going on around there. The thing I remember most is how hot the rails got in the summer sun.

My recollections about the trains were watching them travel up and down the rails that were just on the east side of highway 56. When we happened to be sitting outside at our farm and a long train was going by, we would count the cars. Again the memory is a bit fuzzy about all of this but I think the highest I recall was around 150 cars.

The picture included with the column this month is of an old railway marker that happens to be about a mile east of my house in Cannon Falls along the Cannon Valley trail. It's one of those rails to trails projects that popped up after a number of rail lines were abandoned and sold around the country. When the line quit out of West Concord, Tom Avery bought a number of acres of railroad right of way. He did a lot of dirt work with his heavy equipment. He had dug out a similar cement marker that was along the rails almost due east of our farm. It said KC469. It told the railroad engineers that it was 469 miles to Kansas City much like the one in the picture that told the engineers that it was 75 miles to Mankato.

In the early 1980's I bought the KC marker from Tom for \$50 and put it at the end of our farm driveway. A few years later I sold it to Scott Nelson who put it up in his yard

on his place which was about two miles east of highway 56 on County Road B or 530th Street. I happened to drive by there a few weeks ago to see if it was still there and it was not. If you're reading this and happen to know where it went, let me know. I don't want it; I just would like a picture of it.

As a youth, I couldn't wait to be in 6th grade so I could be one of the crossing guards who would get out of the bus at railroad crossings, look both ways, and then wave the bus driver across the tracks. My dad was the driver and I think he thought it was a dumb way to do it because, first if he saw a train, he would not open the door to let any kid out so they could get run over by a train. So a driver before he or she would open the bus door would already know if a train was coming. My dad said any driver could see and hear enough to know if there was a train coming. The government eventually agreed and thought the same way. There would be those few crossing guards who would run out and go as fast as they could across the tracks waving the driver over as they're running across the tracks without even looking up. Today's law has the driver open the window to their left and after stopping, open the door to look and listen, then close the door before moving on across the tracks.

I have one final note about the old depot that was used in West Concord for many years. If the story threads are correct on



This is an old railroad marker located in Cannon Falls that told train engineers that it was 75 miles to Mankato. Emery writes about a similar marker that was just north of West Concord many years ago.

Facebook, the old depot was sold and moved to Dodge Center where today it still sits near a rail line but is used as a storage shed and/or garage at a place near the old water tower. And not the water tower that's out by the school but the one just east of 4th Avenue SE and just north of 3rd Street SE which would put it just northwest of the DC airport.

Traveling with Pets

"Most people consider pets as family members and often bring their pets with them when traveling," says Dr. Adriana Roman-Muniz, a veterinary medical officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services. Recently Dr. Roman-Muniz spoke with students at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine about regulations governing pet travel.

"Pets travel with their owners by car, train, air, or sea," notes Dr. Roman-Muniz. "These travel methods have requirements established to protect people, animals, and ecosystems from the spread of diseases, pests, and invasive or injurious animals."

The advice offered here is also provided in more detail on a USDA pet travel website: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel>. The regulations vary depending on whether the pet will travel within a state, between states, or internationally. For the purposes of interstate and international travel, horses are regulated differently from pets such as cats and dogs.

When traveling between states with a pet, owners should contact the state veterinarian's office in the state of destination to learn what documentation is needed, according to Dr. Roman-Muniz.

In most cases of interstate travel, the animal must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued by a veterinarian. This documentation requires the animal to have a full physical examination by their primary care veterinarian shortly before the trip. The animal should have no health concerns.

"Some states require certain vaccinations or laboratory tests in order to allow an animal to enter," Dr. Roman-Muniz explains. "Most states will require the rabies vaccine that your veterinarian already recommends to you during your annual visit."

Certain species are not allowed in some states. For example, ferrets and hedgehogs are not allowed in California. Owners need to research state regulations before traveling to avoid legal ramifications.

Most species traditionally kept as pets in the U.S. can travel internationally when accompanied by an international health certificate. Restrictions are determined by the country of destination.

In many cases, a country-specific health certificate is required. If a country does not have its own certificate, the APHIS pet travel website provides a standard form that may be used.

"The required health certificate is completed by a veterinarian and, in most cases, needs to be endorsed by APHIS Veterinary Services," Dr. Roman-Muniz explains. "For travel to most countries, the veterinarian completing the certificate must be accredited by the USDA in addition to being licensed." The website above can help owners find an accredited veterinarian.

Some countries may require other documentation, such as an import permit, vaccination record, or owner's declaration.

To make travel documentation easier, the Veterinary Export Health Certification System allows veterinarians accredited by the USDA to issue international health certificates electronically. In some cases, the certificate can also be endorsed electronically by APHIS Veterinary Services. Using this system can potentially save the traveler time and money.

"It is so important for owners to be well informed about their travel requirements to avoid unnecessary stress and obstacles when traveling," Dr. Roman-Muniz says. Some countries require a quarantine period during which the pet will be detained. In other countries, pets that do not comply with the country's requirements, such as having the correct documentation, may also be placed in quarantine until they meet entry requirements. Quarantine expenses are the responsibility of the pet owner.

"Allow time to complete the necessary paperwork and forms for travel," Dr. Roman-Muniz advises. Although some countries' pre-travel paperwork may be completed in a few days, in other cases the process takes much longer. For example, Australia requires preparation for cats and dogs that will take up to 6 months.

Dr. Roman-Muniz recommends that owners start planning as soon as they know they will be traveling with a pet.

Veterinarians play a vital role in pet travel. They assist with interstate and international movement by advising owners of requirements, completing the proper certificates, and performing required examinations, tests vaccinations, and treatments.

"Veterinarians are a resource for client education and have a responsibility for making sure animals are healthy and fit to travel and meet all travel requirements," Dr. Roman-Muniz says. APHIS Veterinary Services is here to help owners, and the organization's pet travel website is another great resource.

If you have any questions about traveling with your pet, contact your local veterinarian.

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Museum Musings

Summertime

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

I was a child of the 50's and 60's and the months of June, July, and August of 1956 found me enjoying the freedom of an old-fashioned summer on the farm before I started first grade at West Concord in the fall. I would venture into the bustling town of West Concord when my dad asked me if I wanted to go with him to town to grind feed. I always wanted to join him, but I didn't like it that he talked and talked and talked with everyone he met. Now I realize that's one of the pleasures of a small town—knowing your neighbors. Sometimes I stayed overnight with my grandparents on Olive Street and then I got to experience what it was like being a "town kid".

What was happening in town that summer? The W.C. Enterprise did a lot of boasting about the residential streets in town. A gentleman from Kenyon had stopped by the Enterprise to compliment our town by saying there wasn't a "community in the area" that had as well maintained streets as West Concord. The Enterprise editor responded by saying that Kenyon had a swimming pool. The Kenyon visitor replied that a pool is only good for the summer months but streets make a difference all year long. When the village streets were seal coated with oil and sand, the council asked that drivers be on their best behavior—avoid speed and "spinning your wheels"—and help West Concord streets remain "the best in southern Minnesota." Four new street lights were installed on the corners of Main Street and Highway 56—four 40 watt fluorescent bulbs in each fixture, considerably brightening up the area.

The newly graduated W.C. Class of '56 left for their Senior Class trip on Tuesday, May 29th. Their first stop was the Wisconsin Dells and then on to Chicago. They spent 3 days enjoying the sights and sounds of the windy city and then traveled to Kentucky and Churchill Downs before returning to West Concord a week later. In 1968 when our class trip took us to Washington DC and New York City we were one bunch of thrilled young people.

The West Concord High School Band, under their new and fine band director, Clarence Lee, played weekly summer concerts downtown for the community. In appreciation, before school began, the band was given a trip to the State Fair complete with spending money. I can attest to how much fun that was when I was old enough to participate. We were free to explore on our own for the day and no one seemed to worry about us very much.

Local children were bused to Kenyon's swimming pool for lessons and free swimming. Season passes for swimming could be purchased from \$2.00 to \$3.00 depending on age. "Midget" baseball was offered (that term wouldn't pass muster today) and regular practices and games were held for town boys between the ages of 11 and 15. (What—no ball games for girls??)

Farmers had their choice of implement dealers right in West Concord. If you were an International Harvester aficionado, Bucher Implement was your headquarters. F.L. Faulkner sold his John Deere farm implement business to Tom Avery that summer. One of the first tractors Tom featured was the new John Deere 520, complete with a 3-point hitch and a double remote cylinder. Don Walker of Friendly Farm Realty was advertising farm land in the West Concord area at prices between \$100 and \$200 an acre. The federal government's soil bank program was paying 237 Dodge County farmers a total of \$99121 for plowing under 2174 acres of oats, hay, and soybeans. Gordon Peterson, a manager/buyer for Hormel & Co., was offering planning help to assist hog farmers in the technique of multiple farrowing.

Carl Raddatz, John Swanson, Superintendent Espeseth, Fay Reed, Don Smith and Chuck Sagedahl took in some Minneapolis Millers' minor league baseball games at the Bloomington Stadium. They reported that over 25,000 people were in attendance at one game and they hoped that before too long a major league baseball club would be in the picture. They didn't have to wait too long—the Minnesota Twins arrived for the 1961 season. Another leisure activity that summer was the Dodge Center Conservation Club vs. the West Concord Conservation Club Crow Hunt. West Concord won handily.

A statewide poll taken that summer revealed that a majority of Minnesota citizens believed that drivers should be 17 years of age or older before they could get driver licenses, rather than the 15 year age that was in force. You would not have wanted me alone on the roads at age 15—I'm sure of that.

If you were a licensed driver in 1956 you had several choices about where to get fuel and/or service for your vehicle. Curley's, Swanson's, Walker's Phillips "66", Dodge County Service, Concord Service Co., Boe Repair, Blaisdell Motors, and V & A Chevrolet, purchased by Harold Ervasti from Helmer Anderson in the summer of '56. The new 1957 cars were being promoted as a year of big change—lower slung bodies and smaller wheels, swivel seats, more powerful motors, and automatic transmissions as standard on most cars.

One of the innovations extolled was built-in sanders for icy roads. Did cars really ever have that feature? Seat belts were not yet a part of cars and that summer a 7 year old from West Concord suffered a skull fracture when he fell out of the back seat of his car. He was trying to open the window to let a fly out when he accidentally pulled the door latch and was thrown out of the car. I can remember nearly doing the same thing back then. Close calls weren't uncommon.

Weddings and other summer events were taking places at our local churches. A beautiful wedding was held at the Episcopal Church, no longer in West Concord.

The Zion Lutheran Church, now a residence, hosted festivities that summer, too.

Erdman's Cafe changed hands, with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Leighton being the new owners.

Winona State Teachers' College offered two off-campus courses at Dodge Center that summer and several West Concord teachers availed themselves of the opportunity: Marian Moreland, Nina Noser, and Betty Osborn among them.

The West Concord School Board had a lot on its plate in the summer of 1956. It was considering a site for the proposed new high school that eventually opened in the fall of 1958. After examining various sites, the Board voted to enter into an option agreement to purchase 38 acres of land from Bert Hittletvedt on the south side of town for \$400.00 per acre. The new high school's architects had this to say, "This office has inspected the site for the proposed new building which the Board has under option and finds it a piece of property which will nicely accommodate a new building unit. Its proximity to village sanitary and water facilities and its natural drainage greatly enhance its value . . . May we take this opportunity to commend the Board and its Advisory Committee for its far-sightedness in considering a site of such sizable proportions and desirable features." That purchase has served our town well.

There was almost no talk of the weather in the newspapers of the summer of '56 which makes me think it was a "normal" summer. We at the Museum hope your summer is a good one: relaxed and fun and free. Here's hoping the weather moderates a bit.



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DODGE CENTER COUNCIL MINUTES May 3, 2021

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. via 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; Ingvild Herfindahl, Library Director.

Meeting Called to Order

Due to audio difficulties, the meeting was called to order by Gary Trelstad, Acting Mayor at 12:00 p.m.

Request to Extend Offer for Assistant Librarian Position

Staff requested authorization to extend an offer to Cortney Mihulka the position of Assistant Librarian at a starting wage of \$17.48/hour.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve to offer Cortney Mihulka the position of Assistant Librarian. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. Respectfully Submitted, Joshua M. Tetzlaff, City Administrator

DODGE CENTER COUNCIL MINUTES May 10, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of

the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, May 10, 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, Assistant City Administrator; Angie Jarrett; Ambulance Director; Deputy Sheriff Brion; Daren Meier, City Engineer; Karen Jorgenson; Wayne Runnels; Bud Sanson; Brian Ginder; others.

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

Wayne Runnels was present as a representative of the American Legion. The legion is requesting to block off about 1/2 of a block on 4th Ave. NW (adjacent to the American Legion) to host 4 classic car shows in June, July, August, and September. No driveways would be blocked by the closure.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve closing 1/2 of 4th Ave. NW from County Road 34 to the American Legion back parking lot for classic car shows this summer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Runnels also requested permission to drill the holes, place plastic pipes in the ground, and put plugs in them, similar to what the Lions Club has done, to make installing the Field of Flags easier. The flags are placed in the grassy area on the west side of the Veteran's Memorial 6 times each year. The Legion is requesting a guarantee of an agreed upon time frame. There was a lot of discussion about whether the City could guarantee allowing the use of the land for a given amount of time, because the land could be used for park development.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Blaisdell to approve placing the flag holders in the ground and guaranteeing the use for the Field of Flags for 5 years, at which point it will be revisited. 3 Ayes, 1 Nay, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Trelstad, to approve minutes of the April 26, 2021 and May 3, 2021 City Council Meetings, the April 6, 2021 EDA Meeting, and the April 5, 2021 Planning & Zoning Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Payment of Bills

Motion made by Maas, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Assistant City Administrator

Bryce Lange, Assistant City Administrator, talked about a request for an aeration system at Meadowview Pond. Some of the residents have complained of a smell from the pond during the summer months. Lange enlisted the help of Daren Meier, City Engineer to go over some options. Mr.

Meier presented a couple of options for an aeration system with a fountain to Council. For the size of the pond, it is recommended that one 10 HP or two 5 HP fountains be purchased, as well as lights LED for the fountains. Estimated cost for one 10 HP fountain is \$20,000 with an additional \$6,000 for lights, and one 5 HP fountain is \$10,000 with an additional \$2,000 for the lights. For both options, the lights are not necessary, but are an option. Life expectancy of the fountains is 7-9 years. The electricity costs would run around \$75 per month. Council would like a few more ideas brought forward before making a decision.

Lange presented Resolution 2021-010, A Resolution Approving a Conditional Use Permit for William Sanson. The Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing at their last meeting May 3, 2021. The Planning & Zoning Commission voted to recommend approval for the CUP. Council reviewed the criteria and conditions for the CUP.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Blaisdell to approve Resolution 2021-010, A Resolution Approving a Conditional Use Permit for William Sanson, with the addition of "there shall be no firing of firearms on the premises" to the conditions of the permit. Motion carried unanimously.

Ambulance

Ambulance Director Angie Jarrett updated Council on the ambulance department. May 16-22 is EMS Week and the department is having a kickball game at North Park to

start out the week. They also had been contacted by a local BSA group to assist the troop in emergency training. Michael Godbout looked into the requirements the scouts needed and put a training together.

Administrator's Report

A. Garbage Hauler's Code

A new draft to amend the garbage hauler's code was included in the packet. A public hearing is being scheduled for June 14, 2021 to approve the amendments.

B. Liquor License Renewals

Included in the packet is a list of businesses requesting a renewal of their liquor license for 2021. Council voted in an earlier meeting to waive fees for on-sale liquor licenses this year.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve liquor license renewals. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Aquatic Zumba

Triton Community Education is requesting to use the Aquatic Center on Wednesday evening to hold Aquatic Zumba classes from 7-8 pm.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Trelstad, to approve closing the Aquatic Center early Wednesday evenings for Aquatic Zumba classes. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Hoaglund's Subdivision Assessment

In a previous meeting Council suggested they would like to assessment to be re-looked at for the Hoaglund Subdivision. Is this something that Council would still like pursued? Council requested a little more information before making a final decision.

E. Grant for Airport

Resolution 2021-011, A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Grant Agreement for Federal Airport Expenses Reimbursement.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve Resolution 2021-011, A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Grant Agreement for Federal Airport Expenses Reimbursement. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

None.

Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk



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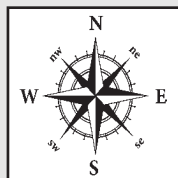
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Hillbilly Dating



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.

The local newspaper has a personal section in the back of each issue and we often read it just for a good laugh. I do not believe Internet dating has taken hold in this area and the person to person ads in newsprint are sometimes way too funny.

They run them for free so anyone can have a chance at romance down here

Our all-time favorite has run a couple times and it is just too much of a gem to not share. Kind of gives you an idea of the type of guys a girl can find down here if they look hard enough.

White male, 5' 11", 170 lbs., looking for a loving lady who still likes sex and don't mind taking it all off and jumping in bed with her man. She should be 70 to 80 years old. I take my ladies on trips and stay in motels, give them \$50 a week in spending money and take them shopping one or more times a week. I am always happy and never get mad. I am a retired cop and have my own home and a late model van. I know how to enjoy life. My age is 80+ but still young and full of life. Respond to PTP506.

Don't give up ladies. There are still a few good ones out there even though they are getting up in years. Now whenever we see something that seems too good to be true, we look at each other, chuckle and say, "\$50 a week and a late model van."

A Minnesotan: Why did the turkey cross the road?



By RosaLin Alcoser

Never did I ever think that while living in the cities I would have to wait through a green light because a turkey was using the crosswalk. I mean actually using the crosswalk; this turkey looked both ways

and everything.

Traditionally I have not had the best of luck with turkey's, or fowle in general, over the course of my life. I have been chased by turkey's, have had them run in front of my car, and have been spooked by turkey's pretending to be flying armadillos.

Now in the case of the turkey posing as a flying armadillo it was a hen roosting in the bushes and she was trying to remain hidden. So of course teenage me saw her out of the corner of my eye and mistook her for an armadillo.

Unfortunately I yelled armadillo, causing her to take off flying which resulted in me yelling flying armadillo! Flying armadillo is a phrase that my sister has not let me forget even though it has been almost 10 years since that happened.

All of these things happened out in the rural never in town, let alone in the Twin Cities. So I'm sure that you can imagine my surprise to see a turkey using the crosswalk in the middle of the city.

THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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Dear Savvy Senior,

I'm concerned that my 80-year-old mother is taking too many medications. She currently takes 10 different drugs prescribed by three different doctors, which I think is causing her some problems. She also struggles to keep up with all the drug costs. Any suggestions?

— Concerned Daughter

Dear Concerned,

There's no doubt that older Americans are taking more prescription medications than ever before. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, around 40 percent of seniors, age 65 and older, take five or more medications. And the more drugs a person takes, the higher their risk for medication problems, and the more likely they are to take something they don't need.

Brown Bag Review

To help you get a better handle on the medications your mom is taking, gather up all her pill bottles – include all prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, minerals and herbal supplements – and put them in a bag and take them to her primary doctor or pharmacist for a thorough drug checkup. This "brown-bag review" will give you a chance to check for duplicate meds, excessive doses, and dangerous interactions, and for you to ask questions.

Medicare Part B covers free yearly medication reviews with a doctor through their annual wellness visits, and many Medicare Part D plans cover medication reviews with a pharmacist too.

You should also note that October 21, is "National Check Your Meds Day." A number of pharmacies – Albertsons, Costco, CVS, Sam's Club, Target, Walmart and many independents – have agreed to support the effort. Some may even have extra staff on hand to help you review your meds. Ask your local pharmacy whether it is participating.

When you get your mom's review, go over the basics for each medication or supplement, such as what it's for, how long she should take it, what it costs, and any side effects and potential interactions. Also ask if there are any meds she can stop taking, and find out if there are any nondrug options that might be safer, and whether she can switch to a lower dose.

To help your mom avoid future medication problems, make sure her primary doctor is aware of all the medications, over-the-counter drugs and supplements she takes. You should also keep an up-dated list of everything she takes and share it with every doctor she sees. And, be sure that your mom fills all her prescriptions at the same pharmacy and informs her pharmacist of any over-the counter, herbal or mail order prescriptions she's taking so that there is complete oversight of her medications.

How To Save

To help cut your mom's medication costs, there are a number of cost savings tips you can try. For starters, find out if there are any generic alternatives to the drugs she currently takes. Switching to generics saves anywhere between 20 and 90 percent.

You should also ask your mom's prescribing doctors if any of the pills she takes could be cut in half. Pill splitting allows you to get two months worth of medicine for the price of one. And for the drugs she takes long-term, ask for a three-month prescription, which is usually cheaper than buying month-to-month.

Because drug prices can vary depending on where you buy them, another way to save is by shopping around (GoodRX.com will help you compare drug prices at U.S. pharmacies), and find out if your mom's drug insurance plan offers cheaper deals through preferred pharmacies or a mail-order service.

And finally, if your mom's income is limited, she can probably get help through drug assistance programs offered through pharmaceutical companies, government agencies and charitable organizations. To find these types of programs use BenefitsCheckUp.org.

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We Recognize the Hardworking Dairy Farmers this Month

Our local dairy farmers work hard every day to nourish our nation with delicious and nutritious dairy products. Over the years, their ongoing dedication and commitment to quality has helped us grow up healthy and strong. But the dairy industry is more than just an important part of our lives and our children's lives, it's an integral part of our local economy too.



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