



Claremont Messenger™

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #2
Dennison, MN 55018

Postal Customer
ECRWSS

FEBRUARY, 2022

Volume 3 • Issue 5

The Messenger Recipe Contest



Share your favorite recipe with other readers and you can win a free dinner out on us. Just e-mail your favorite recipe to us. Each month we will feature 2 recipes. If we use your recipe and print it, you will receive a free certificate.

(see ad on page 3)

CITY OF CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021 7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Tasha Dahl, City Council Members Deb Ellis, Heather Grey, and Jacob Klejeski. Members absent: Hunter McGovern.

City staff and others present: Clerk/Treasurer Elizabeth Sorg, Maintenance Supervisor Glen Hvitved, First Responder Director Casey Dahl, City Attorney Mark Rahrnick, and Curt Oeltjenbruns.

The agenda will be amended by adding a first responder applicant and setting a date for an EDA meeting. Motion by Grey to approve the agenda with the two additions, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT: None
CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ellis to approve the Consent Agenda which included Minutes of the November 9, 2021, (continued on page 9)

Beyond the Cows and Plows

By Megan Ziegler

While conducting an interview for two of the Region 8 Future Farmers of America (FFA) members heading to the state competition, Vice-President of the Triton FFA chapter Cadence Spearman stated very eloquently, "FFA is more than just cows and plows. We are leaders and achievers." Many of the readers of this paper have strong agricultural ties and are proud of that heritage. We all know of the profound impact agriculture has on our world, and we all know of companies, organizations, and individuals who positively impact the agricultural sector. The FFA is a great example of one such organization. Let's dive into the experience two students have had with FFA to learn about and strengthen our appreciation for the organization and what its members do.

On Friday, January 28, 2022 Triton High

School FFA members competed in the FFA Region 8 Winter Leadership Day. Although it was a good day for many teams and participants, senior Kiya Avery and sophomore Cadence Spearman had two of the biggest days. Both Kiya and Cadence, along with other Triton FFA Chapter members, will be heading to the Minnesota FFA State Convention held April 24-26 of this year in the Twin Cities.

Recapping their exciting day on January 28th, Kiya stated, "I placed 1st in the region with discussion meet, 3rd Silver with my Beef Placement Proficiency, was also named Region 8 Star in Agricultural Placement, and had an interview for my state degree which I will be receiving at State Convention in April." As for Cadence, she recalls, "A couple members of our chapter and I went



Kiya Avery



Cadence Spearman

to this year's Region 8 Winter Leadership Day. Our group competed in numerous events, I competed in Employment Skills and got 1st in the Region for that event.

(continued on page 5)

New Claremont Ballfield in the Works

By Megan Ziegler

Approximately 3 years ago, Bryon Wolf with the Claremont Chamber presented an idea to the City Council parks committee to update the city's ballfield. After discussion, the idea of updating the current ballfield at Henning Park was turned down, one major issue sited as the lack of parking space. Thus, the beginning steps for a new ballfield began to unfold.

Mayor Tasha Dahl, who was on the parks committee at that time and recalls those first discussions, knows why the idea took root and continues to be worked on today. She states, "It is a great way to bring the community together with our school system and allows games to be played in Claremont as well as Dodge Center and West Concord."

Project partners who are eager to support the project moving forward are the Claremont City Council, the Claremont Chamber, Venom Softball, and Triton Public Schools.

The proposed new ballfield will be on 3rd street, in a field donated by Richard and Sharon Harmer. Mayor Dahl stated, "We would not be at this stage currently if it was not for the gracious donation of land from Richard and Sharon Harmer." The final transition of land ownership to the city is tentatively going to wrap up within a month.

The project is still in its early stages and Mayor Dahl made it clear that there are no specific plans yet and that nothing has been officially decided. Once the land is officially under Claremont's ownership in the near future, the exciting phase of more detailed planning can begin. (continued on page 2)

Triton FFA

STEAK FEED

Saturday, February 26th • 4:00-8:00 PM

Faith Community Church, West Concord

4:00-5:00 PM Reserved Seating for Donors • 5:00-8:00 PM Open Dining
Take Out is Available

Snow Date March 5th

\$10⁰⁰

Sirloin Steak Dinner

Kids Hot Dog Meal \$5.00

McMartin Electric Inc.

507-528-2578

64005 130th Ave.
Claremont, MN
55924

Industrial Trenching

Residential Commercial Agricultural

Wiring or Rewiring

Bucket Truck Service

Repairs or Troubleshooting

Electrical Design and Design Builds

Plosive Screens, Gas Chroma Mass Spectrometry, and Christian Terms

By Pastor Chad Christensen
Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church,
West Concord and
Dodge Center
United Methodist Church

Do you like words? I know that reading novels is a winter pastime for many Min-

nesotans. Many of you like words and a lot of them! I particularly like words that are specialized terms. A couple of terms that I have learned about lately are “plosive screens” and “gas chroma mass spectrometry.” I learned what a plosive screen was when I made an innocent question to a music store technician asking what I could do to keep the popping sound in my church’s microphones to a minimum. He said in a matter-of-fact way, “Oh, you need a plosive screen” as if he were telling me to use toothpaste to clean my teeth. A plosive screen?? This is a screen that is put over a larger microphone so that words that start with “p”, “t”, and “b” spoken into the mic can be softened and don’t emit the pop that can be heard. Pretty interesting, I did not know what this device was called.

Then a TV crime show indicated another interesting term. Forensic Files on HLN, the crime series, has Peter Thomas, the narrator for the program, emphasizing how contemporary crimes and cold cases are solved using DNA and other new-age forensic capabilities. Thomas does this by describing how scientific means greatly aid in catching criminals, and his oral flair is especially effective in describing certain scientific tools. He described in this episode how a gas chroma mass spectrometer (GCMS) busted open a long overdue unsolved crime. Gas chroma mass spectrometer seems to roll off Thomas’s lips with particular clarity and enthusiasm. It is compelling! HLN definitely tapped the right guy to narrate this program. [This kind of spectrometer analyses purified compounds and their chemical makeup, use-

ful for examining trace material left behind in crime scenes.]

Well, where is this all taking me? Like plosive screens are to the world of music equipment, and GCMS is to the science of forensics, the Christian faith has its own in-depth terms like eschatology, soteriology, and ecclesiology. You won’t hear me use these words in a Bible study, much less a sermon, but each “trade” has its own useful terms to capture the essence of reality. Eschatology (the end time), soteriology (the study of our salvation through Jesus Christ), and ecclesiology (theology of church life) are real and important and describe what we do and why we do Christian ministry. Why do I say all of this? Because in our trade... in our church

life, words are our primary tools and they have incredible and radical strength in moving our faith, caring for one another, and making our local community a better place to live.

If you haven’t done this in a while, I invite you to read through the entire Bible this year, or be faithful with reading devotionals provided by your church, or join a Bible study where Christian terms can explore the depths of the Christian faith together. These rich opportunities are in front of you. The invitation has been made. There will be words! And, Christ will be closer, and our understanding of him and his mission will be deeper.

New Claremont Ballfield in the Works

(continued from page 1)

Conversations regarding the importance of parking spaces and amenities such as bathrooms and concessions will be at the forefront of planning discussions.

As far as costs, the current intentions are to fundraise for the field.

Mayor Dahl wrapped up by stating, “Our community will benefit along with our kids and the kids of Triton school. This will allow for them to play in all 3 towns that make up the district and gives us community pride. Parks bring in new families and give everyone a place to go and have fun.”



From the simplest residential closing, to the more complex commercial or farm real estate transaction, Dodge County Land Title Company is committed to providing real estate transactional expertise and personal customer service.

DLT DODGE COUNTY LAND TITLE COMPANY

38 W Main St, Dodge Center • 507-633-6355
Email: dclandtitle@kmtel.com • www.dclandtitle.com



Claremont Messenger
MAIL
Box 1
West Concord, MN 55985

E-MAIL
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

PHONE 507-951-7417
FAX 507-645-9878

Published monthly by Mainstreet Publishing LLC.
©2022 Claremont Messenger.
All rights reserved.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL Shops & Restaurants

Area Church Directory

Learning Together

Scripture Reading — Luke 24:13-19
As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. — Luke 24:15


Social media does not provide a healthy setting for Christian debate on controversial issues. It’s too easy for users to sound off with hurtful words over people’s interpretations of Scripture, judging them to be dead wrong or even devil-led. Imagine such an online debate between people who believed in Christ’s resurrection and those who considered it fake news. Thankfully, the calm, respectful discussion we find on the road to Emmaus invites a genuine discovery of the truth. Where these two gathered, Jesus showed up and was there with them (see Matthew 18:20; 28:20).

God designed that his people would live, learn, and grow together in community. None of us has perfect knowledge of God’s Word, but we gain insight by studying it with others. “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17).

I have participated in many small groups in which we studied the Bible, which is “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16), and applied it to life situations. As a pastor, I do not have all of the answers, but I have found that when we communally seek to know him better, Jesus joins us and we sense his presence.

As Christ-followers, we can scare people away with our insistence on being right, or we can attract people with our invitation to walk and learn together with Jesus as our guide.

Prayer
Thank you, Lord, for being with us in our life of faith, and for guiding us to search for truth together. Amen.



The Church Directory is Sponsored by:

1st Presbyterian Church
200 East Street, Claremont
528-2320
Pastor Doug Walters
Sunday Worship at 10:00a.m.


St. John Lutheran Church
4532 SE 84th Avenue, Claremont
528-2404
Pastor Alan Broadwell
Sunday Service at 10:30a.m.

Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Our Family Connecting With Yours

CZAPLEWSKI
Family Funeral Homes & Crematory
www.czaplewskifhfrontiernet.net

HAYFIELD 501 2nd St NW 507-477-2259	DODGE CENTER 25 South St. SW 507-374-2155	KASSON 801 7th St. SE 507-634-6510
--	--	---





Recipe Contest

Show your friends and neighbors as well as all the readers your culinary expertise!

Just send us your recipe with the ingredient list and preparation instructions and we will draw 2 recipes each month to run in the Messenger with your name as the submitter.

**E-mail your recipe to
hometownmessenger@gmail.com**

If we use your recipe and print it, you will receive a free certificate. Be sure to include your name and address so we can mail you a gift card if your entry is the winner.

The original Minnesota Tater Tot Hot Dish

We'll walk you through how to make this classic tater tot casserole recipe. There are lots of variations on the hotdish, but this easy recipe is a good place to start. You'll need:

- 3/4 to 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen tater tots
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 2/3 cup 2% milk
- 1 cup shredded cheese

To start, break out your favorite large skillet—cast iron works great here! Heat it over medium heat, then add the ground beef and onion. Season with salt and pepper and cook until the meat is cooked through. Drain any excess grease.

Transfer the ground beef and onion mixture to a greased, two-quart baking dish. Top with the frozen tater tots.

In mixing bowl, whisk together the milk and condensed soup and then pour it over the potatoes. Top with shredded cheese—use whatever cheese you like best.

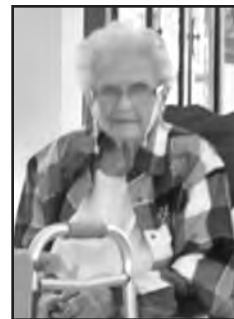
All that's left is to pop this hotdish into a 350°F oven and bake uncovered for 30 to 40 minutes, or until heated through.

Serve this up with a quick side salad and some homemade rolls and you've got dinner! If you really want a full Midwestern experience, try these dessert recipes right from the heartland. They're just the way to finish off this hearty meal dontcha know!



Charlotte Annette "Chuck" Lurken

Charlotte Annette "Chuck" Lurken, age 98, of Claremont, MN, passed away on Tuesday, January 25, at her home with family by her side.



Chuck was born on November 18, 1923, in Sentinel Butte, ND, the daughter of the late Hans and Annie (Haugen) Quaale. At 6 months of age, she moved from Sentinel Butte to West Concord, MN, with her parents,

and at the age of 5 they moved to a farm in Steele County. She attended country school and was confirmed at Meland Lutheran Church in 1937. She married Fred Lurken on June 28, 1940 at Meland Lutheran Church. In 1942 they farmed in in Rice County and then moved to West Concord where they farmed for 11 years before buying their farm and moving to Claremont in 1957. She was involved with farming with Fred totally. They both enjoyed milking cows and were together always. She enjoyed cooking and baking and sharing the goods with friends and family, and what a good cook she was. She also enjoyed her garden and flowers and would spend many hours tending to them with her niece Diann. After Fred's passing in 2000, she kept the farm running and put in and took out the crops herself right up until her passing. She will be very missed.

Chuck is survived by her son Gary (Michelle) Lurken whom she raised from the age of 18 months and her favorite pets, Ginger the chihuahua and Lucky the cat; and many nieces and nephews, Jim (Aileen) Quaale, Larry Quaale, Bob Quaale, Judi Petershon, Bonnie (Jim) Jankoviak; Diann (Tony) Ingersoll, Debbie Quaale, Lucky (Regan) Lurken, and Rally (Bonnie) Lurken.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Concord Cemetery or Rice Lake Church.

Funeral service for Chuck was held at 11:00 am on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna, MN, with a time for visitation one hour before the service. Interment took place at Concord Cemetery in West Concord, MN.



the one
K Y M N 95.1 F M 1080 AM

For something different

**Keeping You Informed
During this Difficult Time**

www.kymnradio.net

LIVE MUSIC!

February 25 *Milkweed Alley* 7:00pm

March 11 *Leonard McCracken* 7:00pm

March 25 *The D'Seivers* 7:00pm

April 8 *Nathan Davidson Jazz Band* 7:00pm

April 22 *The Dreamers* 7:00pm

May 6 *Jaggedease* 7:00pm



OPEN MIC



First and Third Thursday of Each Month

16 WEST MAIN

THE *Annadine*

DODGE CENTER

FRESH
Coffee

FINE
Wine

CRAFT
Beer

LIVE
Music

507-273-9530

f FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @ THEANNADINE

Cobra Communications



Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

I realize that another COVID variant could happen, but I believe we are getting to a point where it will not continue to be such a disruption in our schools. In the past month, we have actually had days where we didn't have any students out of the district due to COVID related absences. Not having to worry about the number of students out ill on our dashboard is a welcomed relief. I am looking forward to Spring for more than the weather! I am so excited to be looking toward the light at the end of the tunnel when it comes to COVID. The pandemic has certainly been a point in our history that we will talk about for years to come.

Even though it has been a difficult and challenging time for all of us, I can't help but think and reflect on the positive things that have been going on all along. One of the things that I can't mention enough is the hard work and dedication of our staff at Triton. The staff at Triton continues to be amazing during this pandemic in their efforts to serve our communities. One example of this is their willingness to cover for one another and filling in wherever possible due to the shortage of people available or willing to fill in as subs. We are fortunate to have a couple of people from the community that are in the buildings regularly subbing for us. Even though they are not on our staff, their commitment to helping out has been extraordinary and they rarely miss a day of helping. We are blessed to have so many amazing people that work in our school district. If you get a chance to thank them, that encouragement to let them know that they make a difference would be appreciated. Without these great folks, this pandemic would have been much more difficult than it has been. We have been able to keep our doors open the majority of the time due to their commitment to serve our communities.

Another big positive is the work that we have been able to have completed to upgrade and maintain our facilities. To begin with, our timing on the interest rates turned out to be in our favor. Then our district received an upgraded Moody's rating for our bond which made it more competitive when it went out for bid and saved the district even more. Our timing of getting bids from contractors also went extremely well. There were a number of other projects that I heard about that lacked competitive bids due to the worker shortage. Being the first in line for a number of the projects that were in need of workers helped us get our project done and on time. Even though things were not perfect, the overall progress of the project was not hindered due to a lack of materials like many other projects around the state. This year we don't have to worry about losing quality educational time when the weather gets warmer. We will have the building fully air conditioned, including the gymnasium. If you have ever sat through a graduation in June, you know how hot and humid the gym can get.

One other item that I am very pleased with is the way we were able to address the technology needs of the district using the additional monies that were allocated from the government. Our district has a device for each and every student to utilize during the learning day. We have also been able to create an additional layer of safety by adding a software that helps us monitor any inappropriate documents or text that is generated by the students on their devices. Part of that software was the addition of the Speak Up Program that allows anyone to report any concerns with school safety. The line is monitored 24/7 by actual people and they contact us any information that we need to address. It is a great system to help keep all of our students safe.

Even though the pandemic has created a number of challenges and difficulties, I am looking forward to continuing all of the great things we have happening in our district. 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



By Jim Miller

Brought to You By

Circle Drive Manor Assisted Living, LLC

"Quiet Country Living Close to Home"

www.cdmassistedliving.com

56733 State Hwy. 56, West Concord, MN 55985

Contact Bryan or
Melissa
Christianson at
507-527-2424



Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you give me a brief rundown of Medicare's enrollment choices along with when and how to sign-up?

--Approaching 65

Dear Approaching,

The rules and timetables for Medicare enrollment can be confusing to many new retirees, so it's smart to plan ahead. Here's a simplified rundown of what to know.

First a quick review. Remember that original Medicare has two parts: Part A, which provides hospital coverage and is free for most people, and Part B which covers doctor's visits and other medical services, and costs \$170.10 per month for most enrollees in 2021.

When to Enroll

Everyone is eligible for Medicare at age 65, even if your full Social Security retirement age is 66 or later.

You can enroll any time during the "initial enrollment period," which is a seven-month period that includes the three months before, the month of, and the three months after your 65th birthday. It's best to enroll three months before your birth month to ensure your coverage starts when you turn 65.

If you happen to miss the seven-month sign-up window for Medicare Part B, you'll have to wait until the next "general enrollment period" which runs from Jan. 1 to March 31 with benefits beginning the following July 1. You'll also incur a 10 percent penalty for each year you wait beyond your initial enrollment period, which will be tacked on to your monthly Part B premium. You can sign up for premium-free Part A, at any time with no penalty.

Working Exceptions

Special rules apply if you're eligible for Medicare and still on the job. If you have health insurance coverage through your employer or your spouse's employer, and the company has 20 or more employees, you have a "special enrollment period" in which you can sign up. This means that you can delay enrolling in Medicare Part B and are not subject to the 10 percent late-enrollment penalty as long as you sign up within eight months of losing that coverage.

Drug Coverage

Be aware that original Medicare does not cover prescription medications, so if you don't have credible drug coverage from an employer or union, you'll need to buy a Part D drug plan from a private insurance company (see Medicare.gov/plan-compare) during your initial enrollment if you want coverage. If you don't, you'll incur a premium penalty - 1 percent of the average national premium (\$33 in 2022) for every month you don't have coverage - if you enroll later.

Supplemental Coverage

If you choose original Medicare, it's also a good idea to get a Medigap (Medicare supplemental) policy within six months after enrolling in Part B to help pay for things that aren't covered by Medicare like copayments, coinsurance and deductibles. See Medicare.gov/medigap-supplemental-insurance-plans to shop and compare policies.

All-In-One Plans

Instead of getting original Medicare, plus a Part D drug plan and a Medigap policy, you could sign up for a Medicare Advantage plan instead (see Medicare.gov/plan-compare) that covers everything in one plan. Nearly half of all new Medicare enrollees are signing up for Advantage plans.

These plans, which are also sold by insurance companies, are generally available through HMOs and PPOs and often have cheaper premiums, but their deductibles and co-pays are usually higher. Many of these plans also provide coverage for extra services not offered by original Medicare like dental, hearing and vision coverage along with gym/fitness memberships, and most plans include prescription drug coverage too.

How to Enroll

If you're already receiving your Social Security benefits before 65, you will automatically be enrolled in Part A and Part B, and you'll receive your Medicare card about three months before your 65th birthday. It will include instructions to return it if you have work coverage that qualifies you for late enrollment.

If you're not receiving Social Security, you'll need to enroll either online at SSA.gov/medicare or over the phone at 800-772-1213.

Share Your Good News!

Submit your engagement, wedding or birth announcement.

Email:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Beyond the Cows and Plows

(continued from page 1)

I competed with my Proficiency in the Diversified Agricultural Production Placement category and got a silver rating. I will be continuing onto state with both Employment Skills and my Proficiency, along with my Dairy Evaluation team!"

Senior Kiya Avery has spent her high school career as a member of FFA. She recalls that "growing up I have always lived on a farm where we raise beef cattle. When I was in 8th grade, I started getting more involved and a lot more interested. It was a couple of friends of mine that actually encouraged me to join and that was my freshman year of high school." She credits the multi-faceted approach FFA takes to agriculture as part of the broad interests it encourages. Kiya explains, "FFA to me is a place where people from all aspects of agriculture can come together and just have fun and really embrace what agriculture means to them. It is also a place where people outside of the agricultural world can come and find different opportunities such as speaking events along with other business-based competitions FFA has to offer." The ability to bring people together and foster agricultural discussions and community con-

nections is a strength of FFA.

Sophomore Cadence Spearman's journey with FFA officially began in 8th grade when she joined her school's chapter. Like many other members, agriculture has always been an important part of her life. Cadence explains, "The National FFA Organization is the largest student-led organization in the nation with more than 735,038 members! What FFA is to me is a family of kids working towards strengthening agriculture and educating others on what ag is for us."

I asked them to briefly explain the structure and competition details for any readers who aren't currently involved with FFA. To summarize, the Minnesota FFA Association has 8 regions in total. Triton FFA is a chapter within the 8th region. In general, Kiya explained that they may be "4-5 people per team from every school across the region" competing in each event, but that it can vary. She also said that who makes it to state can vary by which competitions the teams compete in. The judging and rules for each competition are also set up differently, so students learn to adjust to rules such as being split up from your other team members and to curb the talking as needed. Cadence added, "Competitions occur at the local, regional, state and national levels. There are 3 main categories in which you can compete. First is the LDE category. LDE stands for Leadership Development Event. In this event you have different events within it where you develop lifelong leadership skills that you can compete with! Second is the CDE category. CDE stands for Career Development Event. In this event there are different events within which

you can grow yourself in different careers in Ag. There are different limits of students that can compete on a team. If there are more kids wanting to be on the team, they will have a chapter contest in order to make a team to continue onto the regional level. Lastly you can create a Proficiency. A Proficiency can either be Entrepreneurship, Placement, or both. An Entrepreneurship Proficiency is where you invested money into your SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) and have made money in return. A Placement Proficiency is where you work and keep track of your hours and how much you've made without being invested in your SAE."

Attire for events can range from everyday clothes to the official FFA dress outfits, which Kiya explained as, "your Blue Jacket, white button up shirt, a scarf which is what the ladies wear, and either a black skirt or black dress pants with black dress shoes." Cadence said the following about dress code. "You are expected to be in Official Dress when competing at a Region Leadership Day. When you are just competing any other time that's not on Leadership Day then our teams wear our chapters merch."

Next, we touched on how students choose their events. Kiya explained, "You essentially get to choose what you want to compete in but you have to get a certain placing on the regional level in order to move on to state. For example, for discussion meet you have to place in the top 2 in order to move onto the state competition." Cadence added, "A normal region competition is at a school during a school day, teams from different schools around the region compete. Judges are either in person or on a Zoom call, there are different judges for different events. They place you on how well you performed and then you're placing determines if you will continue onto state or not. You can go to state individually and as a team."

Both students are looking forward to representing their chapter and community at their upcoming events for the state convention. Kiya had this to about state. "So far at State Convention I will be having another interview for my Star application which will then determine how I do on a state level. I will also be competing in discussion meet with people all over the state of Minnesota. There are 2 rounds that people go through on the State level. I will also be having another interview for my proficiency, and will be walking

across stage at Convention to receive my state degree." Cadence said, "This year I am going to state for 3 events, Dairy Evaluation CDE which is judging dairy cattle, Employment Skills LDE which is testing your ability to become hired for a position of your choice. I am also going with my Proficiency! And I will be continuing onto state with both Employment Skills and my Proficiency, along with my Dairy Evaluation team!"

As for awards, they can be given at the Chapter, Regional, and State levels. Cadence explained, "There are many awards you can receive while in FFA. At the chapter level, when you first start out you get your green-hand degree, once you get to 10th grade you get your chapter degree. Finally, once you're a senior you can apply to get your state degree. There are also different medals, plaques, certificates, and ribbons you can receive from succeeding in your CDE's, LDE's, and also your proficiency."

Kiya Avery and Cadence Spearman wrapped up their interviews highlighting her passion for this pro-agricultural organization that has been around for almost 95 years.

Kiya stated, "I always plan to be a part of the FFA alumni once I graduate high school and hope to always be a helping hand for future FFA members." She wants to, "share my wisdom and knowledge with them for years to come." Her commitment to agriculture and her success in FFA go hand in hand. Kiya explained, "I will always be involved in the cattle industry and will always strive to give out the message about how great agriculture is and what it does for this world." Kiya stressed that FFA has taught her to overcome challenges which for her "is very essential for future success."

Cadence summarized her experience and future plans by stating, "FFA brings so many career opportunities along with life-long learning. Friendships that last a lifetime are found within every chapter; members are family." She added, "In the future I would like to continue my active state in FFA, whether it be as a Region, State, or National officer or just a part of my local Alumni. I will always support FFA as a whole."

Congratulations, Kiya and Cadence, and best of luck at the state FFA competition in April! From cows to plows and beyond, we know you'll represent our community well.

TRITON CLASS OF 2022



MACKENNA JOHNSON

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Mackenna Johnson is a senior at Triton. Her parents are Chad and Sarah Johnson and she has one younger sibling, Keanna, who is in sixth grade.

She is on the year book staff and was in the musical Wizard of Oz in 2020.

Mackenna has been active in cheerleading in her junior and senior year, serving as the captain for the 2021 season.

She has been on the dance team since seventh grade and has been the captain since her sophomore year.

Outside of school she enjoys shopping, fishing, doing make-up, hanging out with friends, painting and all kinds of music. Mackenna plans to attend Minnesota State University-Mankato after graduation for a career in dental hygiene. She also plans to try out for the Mankato dance team.



SPONSORED BY



WELSH EQUIPMENT, INC.
DODGE CENTER, MN 507-374-2261

Good Beer. Good Drinks. Good Times.



Pool, Darts, Pull Tabs, E-Tabs,
On & Off Sale



33 E. Main Street
Dodge Center
507-374-9425





Community Child Care Solutions



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

It is no secret that our child care system is strained. Even before the pandemic, rural Minnesota was struggling with a child care shortage. For parents, this has made it challenging to enter or stay in the workforce. For communities, the challenge is attracting and retaining residents if they do not have enough care available in town. Fortunately, at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) we have seen some real progress through our work addressing this challenge.

One of the ways we have helped develop solutions to the child care shortage is by offering complimentary consulting services. Jeff Andrews, SMIF's early childhood business consultant, provides direct support to

family providers, owners/operators of child care centers and communities.

SMIF is currently working with multiple communities as they approach ways to support child care locally. One thing that is clear is that there is not a one-size-fits-all answer, which is why SMIF helps communities develop solutions that are unique to them. One example of this is Jeff's work in Northfield. Under his guidance, Three Rivers Community Action and Healthy Community Initiative created a plan to open a new family child care owner initiative at the Northfield Community Resource Center. Using this partnership model, they will be able to provide classroom space and business support to individuals who are looking to start a new career or relocate their current family child care business.

When a major business closed a few years ago in Waseca, community partners came together to reimagine how to use the large, vacant building that was left behind. SMIF has worked alongside partners from the City, Chamber, EDA, County and School District to create a plan for this building which will include a traditional child care center as well as spaces for family care. Additionally, with Jeff's guidance, the partners will also be focused on supporting existing providers in town through trainings and other initiatives.

Supporting existing providers is another critical tool in addressing the child care shortage. Providers are often stretched thin in a very demanding job which can lead to burnout and, ultimately, leaving the industry. Additionally, the needs of families are changing and evolving due to how the pandemic

has impacted people's work lives and personal lives. Providers are finding themselves at a crossroads and realizing that the way they have always done things isn't working any more. Because of this, SMIF offers consultation services that help providers create a more sustainable business model that also aligns with their own personal goals.

One of the most recent success stories in this space is a partnership between SMIF and Families First of Minnesota that has been a joint effort to get more providers into Parent Aware, Minnesota's quality rating program. All 17 participating providers, from across SMIF's 20-county region, have had an opportunity to work directly with Jeff to discuss changing their business models to adapt to the current climate and reimagine their future, all the while providing the same quality care for families and kids.

Finally, the owners and operators of child care centers are a third area where SMIF's consulting services are available. Jeff's approach with centers, whether new or existing, is more in-depth and complex to help owners understand the nuances of the child care center business. Recently, through Jeff's support, a new preschool opened in Caledonia and a new child care center opened in Lake Crystal. The preschool at the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro has also been expanded. Additionally, a new child care center, Leo Augusta Children's Academy, will be opening soon in Blooming Prairie.

The availability of quality child care undoubtedly plays a critical role in our communities. In 2022 I encourage community



partners, providers and center owner/operators to reach out to SMIF for our complimentary consultation services. We are ready to help you reimagine your future.

The best way to start is by filling out a form on our website at smifoundation.org/early-childhood or by contacting Jeff at 507-214-7056 or jeffa@smifoundation.org.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

Milo Peterson Ford Co.



Beat the Winter Cold with a Ford from Peterson Ford

2020 FORD F-150 XL SUPER CREW 4X4



Race red, 2.7L eco boost, auto, 4 door, 9,817 miles #21142U

Now \$40,999

2015 FORD FUSION SE



2.5L, auto, 76,565 miles, magnetic, 4 door #21032D

Now \$14,788

2018 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4WD



32,144 miles, silver, 3.5L V-6 #22017U

Contact us for price

2018 FORD EDGE



Burgundy, 2.0L eco boost turbocharged, 16,743 miles #21208U

Now \$33,999

2017 FORD EXPEDITION



White platinum, 3.5L V-6 ecoboost, twin turbocharged, 50,855 miles #22012U

Now \$35,999

2018 FORD ESCAPE SEL 4WD



White, 1.5L ecoboost, 32,450 miles #22033U

Contact us for price

Cold Weather Car Care

At Milo Peterson Ford Co., our highly qualified technicians are here to provide exceptional service in a timely manner.

From oil changes to transmission replacements, we are dedicated to maintaining top tier customer service, for both new and pre-owned car buyers! Allow our staff to demonstrate our commitment to excellence.

Call our service department to schedule your maintenance needs. Open Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 5pm.



COME SEE OUR COMPLETE INVENTORY AT WWW.MILOPETERSONFORD.NET

3020 457th Street Way, Kenyon • 507-789-6113 • SALES HOURS: M-T-Th 7:30a.m.-8p.m.; W-F 7:30a.m.-6p.m.; Sat. 8a.m.-4p.m.



**HELPING FARMERS
BOOST THEIR
BOTTOM LINE FOR
OVER 50 YEARS**

- Trenchless
- Agricultural Drainage
- Controlled Drainage
- Drainage Engineering



ELLINGSON

56113 State Highway 56
West Concord

527-2294

www.EllingsonCompanies.com



NATIONAL **FFA WEEK**

WELSH
EQUIPMENT, INC.
DODGE CENTER, MN 507-374-2261



105 S Main, Claremont
507-528-9914



**McMartin
Electric Inc.**

507-528-2578

64005 130th Ave., Claremont, MN

PROUD TO SUPPORT NATIONAL FFA WEEK



This year, FFA members and the organization will celebrate National FFA Week from February 19-26, 2022.

During this week, FFA members organize activities that raise awareness not only about the National FFA Organization, but also the role agriculture plays in students' lives.



TRITON FFA OFFICERS

Front row: President-Kiya Avery, Sentinel-John Moenning, Reporter-Stella Streich.
Back row: Treasurer-Jenna Kenworthy, Vice President-Cadence Spearman,
Jr. Advisor-Morgan Styndl, Secretary-Elyssa Robinson

AL-CORN

797 - 5th Street
Claremont, MN 55924
507-681-7100

PROUD SUPPORTER OF



**CLAREMONT
SERVICE CENTER**

111 West Front Street
Claremont, MN 55924
507-528-2233



WILBUR-ELLIS

Ideas to Grow With

60784 120th Ave.
Claremont, MN 55924
507-414-5650

*Dedicated to serving
your agricultural
lending needs.*



**HERITAGE
BANK**

www.heritagebankmn.com

181 Main Street, West Concord • (507) 527-2236



*Ag Drainage
Residential
Excavation
Municipal & Directional
Drilling Services*



HODGMAN

DRAINAGE COMPANY INC.

www.hodgmandrainage.com

507.528.2225

Funds Available to Update Livestock Operations

Apply by April 5, 2022, for the AGRI Livestock Investment Grant

Minnesota livestock farmers and ranchers seeking to improve their livestock operation are encouraged to apply for an additional round of the Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Livestock Investment Grant program. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) anticipates awarding up to \$443,000 using a competitive review process in this round.

The AGRI Program's Livestock Investment Grants encourage long-term industry development in Minnesota's \$7 billion livestock industry through investment in facilities, infrastructure, and equipment. Funding for

the grants comes through the AGRI Program to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries.

Applicants may apply for up to 10% of the first \$250,000 of an eligible investment. Grant awards can range in size from \$400 to \$25,000. Each livestock operation is eligible to receive a lifetime maximum of \$50,000 from this grant program. To be eligible for reimbursement by this grant, you must be invoiced and pay for all project materials and services after January 1, 2022.

Project examples include buildings or facilities for the production of livestock or livestock products, development of pasture for use by livestock, including but not limited to lanes, watering systems, and fences, and equipment for livestock housing, confinement, feeding, and waste management.

We must receive your proposal no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday April 5, 2022, for it to be considered. We encourage you to use our on-line application.

More information about the grant can be found on the AGRI Livestock Investment Grant website.

MDA Offers Mini-Grant for Produce Growers

Growers may be eligible for reimbursement of water testing, packaging, and more

Minnesota produce farmers may be eligible for reimbursement of expenses that improve on-farm food safety systems, including water testing for generic E. coli and other on-farm food safety improvements, via a mini-grant program from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

The Produce Safety Mini-Grant will distribute a total of approximately \$18,400, with awardees receiving up to \$800 per farm. No matching funds are required.

To be eligible, applicants must be a Minnesota produce farmer that sells one or more of the following crops: leafy greens, apples, berries, cucumbers, green beans, melons, microgreens, mushrooms, onions, peppers, sprouts, summer squash/zucchini, and tomatoes.

Growers may be reimbursed for past expenses that occurred between September 30, 2020 – March 12, 2022, and future expenses taking place between March 13 – August 31, 2022.

Examples of eligible expenses include:

Supplies to build or purchase a portable handwashing station

Harvest totes

Water testing for generic coli

Consultation fees for developing an on-farm food safety plan

Additional information and the application are available on the MDA website at www.mda.state.mn.us/minigrant. Applications will be accepted through March 12, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. CST.

Brushing is Best for Pet Dental Health

Every February, the veterinary community celebrates National Pet Dental Health Month. It's a chance to call attention to the link between your pet's oral health and its overall health.

Did you know that gum disease is the most common health problem in cats and dogs and it is completely preventable?

Dr. Suma Rao, a veterinarian working in the dentistry service at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, offers her insights.

Keeping bad breath at bay, although a plus, is not the most important reason for attending to your pet's dental health. In pets as in people, the mouth can harbor harmful bacteria that can affect other parts of the body.

"Gingivitis can lead to systemic inflammation that can affect other organs in the body," says Dr. Rao.

She also notes that problems in the mouth can be painful for your pet.

"Swollen and red gums indicate inflammation of the gums, also known as gingivitis. Calculus, the hardened form of plaque, shows that there is inflammation as well," she says. "With proper preventive care, your pet's mouth won't hurt and your pet will be happier."

The best way to help prevent dental disease of any type in dogs and cats is for their teeth to be brushed every day.

"The consensus is that brushing teeth every day is the most beneficial," says Dr. Rao. "Brushing every other day can help too. Anything less than every other day is not going to prevent buildup of plaque."

So how do you go about daily tooth brushing for your pet? Since it can be hard to get pets used to brushing, Dr. Rao recommends that you start when they are young.

"When you get a new puppy, it is best to start brushing their teeth early, so they get accustomed to it," she says. "First, let the puppy lick the toothpaste from your fingers. Then, introduce a finger brush with paste. Finally, graduate to a small children's toothbrush."

This strategy could also be used with young kittens.

It's very important to use toothpaste marketed specifically for animals. Toothpaste not formulated for animals can contain chemicals that are harmful to pets, such as xylitol or fluoride.

Consult your local veterinarian to learn about recommended dental products for pets. The Veterinary Oral Health Council maintains a list of approved products for pets.

So what if your dog or cat doesn't cooperate with your daily toothbrushing plan? Dr. Rao offers other dental health options that can slow down the buildup of bacteria in your pet's mouth. "Besides brushing teeth, owners can use pet dental care products such as oral rinse, water additive, dental diet, teeth sealant, and dental chews to help keep the mouth healthy," she says. She recommends using a combination of these dental care products designed for animal use.

For dogs, feeding a diet of hard kibble has been shown to help control calculus buildup. "The kibble is abrasive, so it removes plaque on the teeth before it hardens into calculus," says Dr. Rao. "Prescription dental diets, such as Purina DH and Hill's t/d, have been proven to prevent plaque buildup."

However, if you have a pet that does not chew its food, then that mechanical action of the food against the teeth won't take place, so it won't be effective in reducing plaque.

Even with the best daily dental routines, your pet will periodically need a dental exam and cleaning by your local veterinarian. During this process, your pet will be put under general anesthesia so the doctor can perform a thorough oral exam to check for problems and remove any calculus buildup that is present.

"When you bring your pet to the dentistry service at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, we first perform bloodwork to determine if the pet is healthy enough to undergo general anesthesia," explains Dr. Rao.

"Then, we place a catheter to give intravenous fluids during the procedure. We perform full-mouth dental radiographs, just like your own dentist does. We carefully check for pockets of infection in the gums, fractured teeth, tumors, and loose teeth.

"If extractions are needed, we give your pet a local anesthetic block to prevent pain before performing the extraction and send your pet home with pain medicine."

Your pet's dental health is just as important as other preventive health strategies to help your pet live a long healthy life!

Brought to You By:



915 N. Mantorville Ave., Kasson
634-6781
M-W-F 8am-5pm; Tues-Thurs 8am-7pm;
Sat. 8am-Noon



Dodge Vet Clinic

17 Airport Road N.
Dodge Center, MN

374-2125

M-F 8am to 5pm; Sat. 8am to Noon

Claremont City Council

(continued from page 1)

Regular City Council Meeting, Minutes of the November 23, 2021, Special City Council Meeting, and Resolution No. 21-21: Resolution to Accept the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Established Under the American Rescue Plan Act, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS CITY ENGINEER

The street projects for 2022 will be 2nd Street from Main to Wheat, East Street from 4th to the alley, and an overlay on the west end of Front Street. The county will be overlaying the west end of Front Street, but the parking lanes will be the city's responsibility. In order to proceed with special assessments, the city is required to prepare a feasibility report, hold public hearings, prepare and receive bids, and construction. Bolton and Menk estimate the engineering cost for the scope of work to be approximately \$7500. Motion by Ellis to approve Resolution No. 21-27: Resolution Ordering Preparation of Report on Improvement, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

The fire department unanimously voted to recommend the city council approve David Matejcek as Fire Chief for 2022. Motion by Klejeski for David Matejcek to remain Chief for 2022, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert Ott applied to be on the first responders. He is currently a fire member, and he has his EMT certification. Motion by Ellis to approve Robert Ott to the First Responders, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

EDA

The 2022 CEDA contract is for 8 hours a month at the rate of \$6427. Motion by Grey to approve the CEDA 2022 Contract for Professional Services, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Since there has been difficulty finding volunteers to be on the EDA commission, motion by Ellis to approve Resolution No. 21-28: Resolution Designating the City Council as the Governing Body of the Economic Development Authority, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

PARKS COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Maintenance Supervisor Hvitved suggested the purchase of a snowblower attachment for the skid loader to help clear alleys, big snow piles blocking driving vision, and cleaning up where needed. He got 3 bids: SkidPro is an 84" for \$8998, QuickAttach Attachments is a 79" for \$10,798 and Northland Farm Systems

said they couldn't beat either of those. There was \$90,000 budgeted for the snowplow but only spent \$70,000 so the excess money could go towards the snowblower. Motion by Klejeski to purchase the 84" SkidPro snowblower, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Council requested the farm property along 3rd Street be contacted next year for a corn row snow fence.

The council discussed different ways to sell the old snowplow. Motion by Klejeski to sell the plow on MNBid with a \$4000 reserve on it, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY

Nothing at this time.

PEOPLESERVICE

The monthly expenditure report was in the packet.

OLD BUSINESS

James Herrick submitted a written request to adjust his water and sewer bill as he had a high water bill for October's usage of 32,000 gallons. Sorg checked the meter a week (Nov. 9) after the high usage and again on November 30 and it doesn't appear to be leaking since. Motion by Klejeski to adjust the bill to their average of 3,000 gallons and waive the late fees as he has always paid on time, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

In order to have both the City Attorney and City Engineer at the council meetings the date when the council meetings are held will be changed. Motion by Grey to approve Ordinance No. 21-01: Ordinance Adjusting the Regular City Council Meeting Time, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously. The regular council meetings will now be on the first Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Ellis to open public input for the 2022 proposed budget and levy, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously. Curt Oeltjenbruns addressed the council on his property taxes. The council explained the proposed tax levy was set at 3% but after approval tonight, the levy will not increase as it will be set at a 0% increase. They also stated if he had more questions on the tax rate, he can call Dodge County for clarification. Mayor Dahl called for any more input and having none, motion by Klejeski to close the public input, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Grey to approve Resolution No. 21-22: Resolution Adopting the 2022 Tax Levy and Budget, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously. The council worked hard to have a 0% levy increase.

Due to the severe deficit every year in the sewer fund and a small deficit in the water fund, motion by Ellis to approve Resolution No. 21-24: Resolution Adjusting Water and Sewer Rates, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Grey to approve Resolution No. 21-26: Resolution Certifying Past-Due Bills to Dodge County for Collection with 2022 Property Taxes, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Since 221 4th Place was bought by a family that did not meet the income qualification required by the TIF District, motion by Klejeski to approve Resolution No. 21-23: Amending

the Boundaries of Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-4, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Grey to approve Ordinance No. 21-02: Assigning Southview Drive, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

The Dodge County Expo sent a letter asking if the expo were held again this year would the city participate. After discussion, the council decided to decline this year.

Motion by Grey to approve a subscription to Claremont Messenger at the rate of \$20, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

A written request was submitted by a resident at 401 2nd Street as a tree in the boulevard is buckling the sidewalk and leaning towards the road. Since it is on the city boulevard the tree will be removed and the stump will be ground out. The sidewalk chunk is not cracked and will be moved to place back once the tree and stump are gone. Hvitved and Sorg will contact 2 companies to get the lowest quote. Motion by Klejeski to take the lowest quote and have them remove the tree, grind the stump, and put the sidewalk chunk back, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

CEDA Specialist Matt Durand requested council set up an EDA Meeting to discuss possible future development opportunities. Motion by Ellis to hold an EDA Meeting on Tuesday, December 28th at 6:00 p.m., second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ellis to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m., second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg, City Clerk/Treasurer
Tasha Dahl, Mayor

CITY OF CLAREMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2021 6:00 P.M.

A meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Tuesday, December 28, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Tasha Dahl, Council Members Deb Ellis, Jacob Klejeski, and Hunter McGovern. Absent: Heather Grey.

City staff and others present: City Clerk/Treasurer Elizabeth Sorg and CEDA Specialist Matt Durand.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Motion by Ellis to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2021, meeting, second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

The EDA savings account/revolving loan fund balance is \$64,489.42. The EDA cash balance is -2,754.28. Motion by Klejeski to approve the financial report, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Three business façade grants totaling \$10,000 were approved for 2021. The EDA Board stated they will continue the façade grant program for 2022 in the same amount of \$10,000.

A company called Sego Services has approached the city about developing a "server farm" on 7.7 acres adjacent to the solar garden near old Highway 14. The company

submitted a letter of interest outlining their needs and are asking for assistance in electrical and internet infrastructure as well as \$35,000 in a revolving loan. They would also like the city's assistance in land negotiations with Paukert.

Sego Services is also interested in moving their trucking operation for fueling to Claremont and locate it adjacent to a gas station they would help develop near the new Highway 14.

The EDA Board said they can fill out an application for a revolving loan. Also, while the EDA is in support of these projects, Sego Services can negotiate directly with Paukert on the lease or price per acre. Durand will continue to assist Sego Services.

The city currently has 9 residential single family lots located in a Housing TIF District. The city could collaborate with Three Rivers, Community Action, a SE MN non-profit, to educate and qualify homeowners towards homeownership. Families that meet the income limits of the housing TIF and successfully complete a Home Stretch course will qualify to purchase a home in the development. Arden Homes, LLC of Owatonna is interested in partnering with the city to build 9 "workforce" homes for qualified buyers. Building workforce, income-based housing has not typically been the focus of many builders as it presents challenges that many do not want to navigate. Arden Homes, LLC, owned by Matt Durand, have been involved in workforce housing for years and is focused on providing housing for families who have worked hard towards the goal of homeownership. Arden Homes LLC will coordinate with Three Rivers to facilitate the homeownership qualification program and act as a housing navigator and will coordinate homeowner education, mortgage counseling, and program promotion. Arden Homes, LLC will construct all 9 modular homes and will act as the general contractor and coordinate all pre-construction, construction, and warranty items associated with homes. Arden Homes LLC seeks to negotiate a Developer's Agreement with the city to build 9 modular homes for qualified buyers. The Agreement would be negotiated by Mike Bubany, the city's financial advisor, and Mark Rahrack, City Attorney. The city has been sitting with the lots for a long time and are willing to review a Developers Agreement with Arden Homes to build these 9 homes.

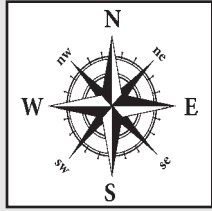
The Land Use Plan survey is complete and received 24 responses. Bolton and Menk have updated all the maps. The narrative has been drafted and is 90% complete and will be ready for review withing the next 2 weeks. The Planning and Zoning Committee will have a meeting January 24 at 6:30 p.m. to review the Plan, then the council will review it February 1 at their regular city council meeting.

Motion by Klejeski to adjourn at 7:10 p.m., second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

City Clerk/Treasurer
Mayor

Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes River Boats



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.

One thing that always fascinates me are the barges moving up and down the Cumberland

River near where we live in Tennessee. They seem huge, especially when you pass them on the river in small runabout.

They call them pusher boats or tow boats and they are about fifty feet long with a 4,000 horsepower diesel engine powering them. The towboats on the Cumberland River are limited to a tow of 15 barges lashed three wide and five long because of the locks at the dams and the channel of the river. On the Mississippi River, south of St. Louis the tows can be three times that size with a pusher boat with an 11,000 horsepower diesel engine.

Each barge is 195 feet long and 35 feet wide. It can carry 1,500 tons, which is 15 times the capacity of a rail car and sixty times the capacity of a semi-trailer. They carry 20% of the nation's coal and that is the standard load that goes up the Cumberland River to the power plant at Cumberland City. This payload can take up to half a mile to stop, so boats on the river are supposed to



give the barges a wide berth. The barges have a draft of 9 feet when fully loaded but the hull is designed so they don't create a large wake. With the number of small fishing and pleasure crafts on the river this is an important feature.

Crews on the towboats work thirty day shifts with a month off in between. There are six to eight guys living on the towboat and one of them is a full time cook to keep the crew fed. They like the schedule because it allows them a free month to hunt and fish.

The towboats have the most modern navigational systems to keep them on course and a large screen GPS that shows where the boat will be 90 seconds ahead. There are many turns in the river and the captain has to keep that long barge in the center of the channel. Another challenge is looking out for stalled

fishing or leisure crafts in front of the barge. In the event of a boat dead in the water ahead of them, the crew will sprint to the front of the barge to try and push the helpless boat aside. The tow boat uses all the power it has to push the loaded barges up river, but coming back with a tow of empty barges it hardly works at all.

A Minnesotan: Ice Fishing



By RosaLin Alcoser

Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes and as Minnesotans we spend a good chunk of our lives at the lake. We spend the late spring and summer out on the lake as well as the fall and the winter out on the lake. Basically Minnesotans spend our free time on the lake.

While the summer months have boating and playing on the lake all the seasons have one lake actively in common. Fishing. No matter what there seems to be some point in every season when Minnesotan's fish weather that be from the shore, a boat, or by walking out into the middle of the frozen lake drilling a hole in

the ice and fishing through that.

Now my Southern family is not from up here, but I did spend most of my childhood in Minnesota and well now... I'm still in Minnesota. So, I have been ice fishing, once as a child and was so annoying that I never got taken again.

Which I was fine with at the time and am still fine with now. While my older sister enjoyed ice fishing when we were kids I did not mostly because I didn't care for the cold, fishing or walking out onto the frozen lake.

You might be asking exactly how seven-year-old RosaLin got herself banned, by Grandpa, from ice fishing for life. Well as I have already mentioned it was for being annoying but it was how I was annoying that got me banned.

At the time I was very into Lilo and Stitch on Disney and as a result at the time I knew a couple of Elvis songs. Which I sang down the fishing hole the one time I was taken ice fishing. I must say the fish of the mid-2000's were not big Elvis fans and we did not catch much that day- the guy on the other side of the lake who never caught anything did, but we didn't nor did others around us.

I honestly think that's a good enough reason to never take me again and I'm ok with that.

**DO YOU HAVE
A STORY IDEA?**

E-mail:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Claremont
Messenger

Capital
CONSTRUCTION

Residential & Multi-Family
Contractor

Roofing | Siding | Gutters | Windows



952.222.4004

www.CapitalMN.com



**Steel, Farm Machinery, Car Bodies, Aluminum,
Copper, Batteries, Appliances, E-Scrap**

55976 State Hwy. 56, West Concord

Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm • June-October Open Saturdays 9:00 to 11:30am

507-527-2408 | www.larecycling.com

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
		23					24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41			42		43				
44			45		46					47				
48				49		50				51		52		
			53		54			55		56				
57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

5	9	2	4	7	1	8	9	3
1	3	8	5	2	7	6	4	7
8	1	9	3	6	9	2	5	2
7	8	1	6	5	9	1	8	3
4	1	3	9	8	2	7	6	5
7	8	5	4	6	3	9	2	1
6	1	2	9	8	5	7	4	3
9	7	4	3	1	2	5	8	6
8	5	3	7	4	6	1	9	2

SUDOKU ANSWERS

D	U	E	S	P	N	D	A	N	S	S	A	S	S	
N	I	T	E	R	M	O	O	R						
A	L	I	K	E	O	W	L							
V	I	N	E	G	A	R	C	H	A	V	C	E	R	
R	E	A	R	G	E	L								
D	O	S	S	E	S	E	M	I	T					
I	S	L	A	M										
P	I	L	L	S	I	M	O	N						
U	V	E	L	E	L									
C	A	B	I	D	O	L								
G	O	S	L	I	N	G								
O	C	T	A	L										
M	A	C	R	O	L	I	P							
A	R	A												

We Want Your News!

Got News?

Help Us Get the Word Out!

News, Photos, Events...

Email your news to:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

**BRING EVERYTHING
YOU LOVE TOGETHER!**

Blazing Fast
Internet!
ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY
\$19.99
/mo. where available

America's Top 120 Package
190 CHANNELS
Including Local Channels!

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE

\$69.99 MO. for 12 Mos.

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100

1-888-416-7103 Offer ends 4/13/22

- © StatePoint Media
- THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY
- ACROSS
1. Fantasy sports data
 6. Accounting acronym
 9. Stark daughter on "Game of Thrones"
 13. Branch of economics
 14. All talk, no action type of service
 15. Relating to symmetry, in geometry
 16. Base-8 numeral system
 17. "___ the land of the free..."
 18. Lots and lots
 19. *Actor Ryan of "Blue Valentine"
 21. *Desdemona's suspicious husband
 23. Big fuss
 24. Nose-in-the-air type
 25. Uber alternative
 28. One on a pedestal
 30. Moderately wide
 35. Eye layer
 37. Twelfth month of Jewish year
 39. Cheese-covered chip
 40. Popped relief?
 41. ""Love, ___" movie
 43. Splints site
 44. Muhammad's teachings
 46. Orchestra instrument
 47. Past of heave
 48. Avoids work, in British slang
 50. Give off
 52. Dose of sunshine
 53. Back seat
 55. Hair-raising product
 57. * ___ valentine, an opposite of love note
 61. English author perhaps best known for "The Canterbury Tales"
 65. Like Mary-Kate and Ashley
 66. Pooh's "wise" friend
 68. Bring to an end
 69. Potassium nitrate
 70. Farm sound
 71. Arm bones
 72. Back talk
 73. Uniting conjunction
 74. Imposter
- DOWN
1. Smoke plus fog
 2. Comes in hard or soft shell
 3. Parts of a play
 4. ___-___-la
 5. Plural of solidus
 6. Heidi's shoe
 7. *Sweetie follower
 8. Cook's cover
 9. Wheel holder
 10. Cambodian money
 11. Two-masted vessel
 12. "The Sun ___ Rises"
 15. Trash can for fireplace (2 words)
 20. Source of lymphocytes, pl.
 22. Pull along
 24. Dormant state
 25. *Famous archer
 26. Dispatch boat
 27. " ___ and whistles"
 29. Hodgepodge
 31. Mr. and Mrs. Incredible's son
 32. Blood of the gods, Greek mythology
 33. Seven days postmortem
 34. *Hive-related endearment
 36. Unfortunately, exclamation
 38. Rumpelstiltskin machine
 42. Stallion's cry
 45. Business combination
 49. Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway
 51. Darjeeling server
 54. Smell, usually pleasant
 56. Calms
 57. Ford Transit and such
 58. Pelvic parts
 59. Lice eggs
 60. Augments
 61. Oaf
 62. Scoop holder
 63. Biblical twin
 64. Donna or Lou
 67. Got a blue ribbon

SUDOKU

**GRAND ALASKAN
CRUISE & TOUR**

12 days, departs May - Sep 2022

1-855-208-9533
promo code N7017

FROM
\$1,949
\$1,699*

FREE ONBOARD CREDIT

*Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Onboard Credit requires purchase of Ocean View or Balcony Cabin. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 3/31/22. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

		3						
9	7	4			2			
		2			5			3
7				6				1
		9	8		7	6		
2				9				7
5			6			4		
			2			3	1	9
						2		

© StatePoint Media

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



PLANNING A SPRING PROJECT?

**See Heritage Bank for all your
Spring home improvement loan needs!**

Our competitive rates make it a great time to plan that Spring project.



HERITAGE
— B A N K —

www.heritagebankmn.com

WEST CONCORD: 181 Main Street 507-527-2236

DENNISON: 37470 1st Ave. Ct. 507-645-5929

NORTHFIELD: 1520 Clinton Lane 507-645-6736

