



# Claremont Messenger™

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APRIL, 2022

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## Special Congressional Election Next Month includes all of Dodge County

There's a special election on May 24th. Maybe you've heard about it, but maybe you haven't. It is a "Special Election" mind you.

And early voting has already started. If you're in the 1st Congressional District, you can go today to your county seat of government and vote and be involved in the electoral process — it is always worth it!

If you're looking for a candidate to select, you probably haven't heard about me, because I'm brand new to the political scene.



Kevin Kocina

*(continued on page 6)*

## CITY OF CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022 7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Tasha Dahl, City Council Members Jacob Klejeski, Deb Ellis, and Hunter McGovern. Council Members absent: None. There is 1 vacant city council seat.

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# Triton Teacher of the Year

By Kenya Narveson

Kristen Tischer was awarded the 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year Award. She is a high School math teacher. Kristen has taught Geometry, Accelerated Geometry, Algebra, Advanced Algebra, PreCalculus, Computer Programming, Probability, Power Math, and FUN math.

Currently she teaches Geometry, Accelerated Geometry, Computer Programming and Power Math to high school students grades 9-12.

Triton hired Kristen in 2005 as a full time

teacher. Previously she had been a long term substitute and summer school teacher in the Rochester school district. She was familiar with the Rochester school district because she graduated from John Marshall High School; then went to the University of Minnesota- Duluth and graduated with an education degree.

As part of the nomination process for Teacher of the Year, colleagues have to write a brief explanation of who they are nominating. Some of her colleagues wrote, "Kristen Tischer brings kindness to everyone she



Kristen Tischer

teaches and works with. Every year her students state how much they appreciate her. Her extra effort with students that struggle with mathematics, does not go unnoticed. Her ability to get the best out of those students is truly life changing. They may not pass a math class without her help." Another colleague wrote, "Kristen is the teacher I aspire to be. She's organized, she is extremely knowledgeable, and most importantly she is warm hearted and caring. Mrs. Tischer makes her classroom a welcoming space for all.

*(continued on page 4)*

## Introducing Evan



Evan Brown

By Megan Ziegler

I don't know about you, but I love finding great quotes. They're like mini presents full of inspirational words of wisdom to be passed along. Some are funny. Some

are thought-provoking. Some are serious. And many are very true. Marie Curie, famous physicist, once said, "We must have perseverance and, above all, confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing

must be attained."

Many of us, including Evan Brown, Claremont's new City Administrator, strive to answer that question. What are we gifted for and how can we attain it? Evan's young career in service and public administration is off to an encouraging start as he discovers what drives him and how he can best apply those traits to serve the community. As members of the public, we look forward to Evan's time in Claremont. Let's take this opportunity to learn a bit more about him.

Evan grew up in Willmar, MN, graduating from Willmar High School. He states, "I love the outdoors. Growing up in central Minnesota the lakes are endless so I enjoy spending my summer and winter time on the lake fishing or boating."

*(continued on page 3)*

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## What does the cross mean?



**Rev. Karen R. Larson**  
Zwingli United Church of Christ  
(The Berne Church)

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:12-13

When I was a child in church, I felt warmly cared for by our small-town congregation and encouraged by the message I heard there of God’s love and salvation. Because of that love, I wanted to follow Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

But as I got older, I began to hear a different message underlying the first, one that seemed to contradict the good news of God’s love. This message had to do with how Jesus saves—the actual mechanics of salvation. I learned that, by dying on the cross, Jesus paid the whole debt of human sin, which was necessary for God to accept sinners he would otherwise condemn to hell. Without the death of this innocent one, divine justice would force God to reject all of us.

This message pushed me away from the Church. Maybe it did you, too. Why would a powerful and loving God need anyone to die in order to accept and forgive people? What kind of father treats his son that way? How could I ever feel close to or worship a God like that?

This message—called the penal substitution theory of the atonement—remains popular among many Christians. In some circles, it is the only approved way to understand Christ and the cross.

Substitution theory, however, is only one of many theories of the atonement—how humans are reconciled with God through Christ—all of which are grounded in Scripture. (See Romans 3:21-26 for substitution theory.)

Another theory, popular in the early Church, teaches that Christ’s life was paid as a ransom to Satan, to free humanity from his evil clutches (Matthew 20:28, 1 Timothy 2:5-6). Another theory claims that Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection are God’s victory over evil and death in a cosmic spiritual war (read the Revelation to John). A newer theory claims that the sinless Jesus is the sacrificial scapegoat (Leviticus 16) who exposes the foolishness of all scapegoating to end violence-based religion forever.

Still another theory says that Jesus’s willingness to love, heal, feed, forgive, and question the status quo—even when they lead to his own suffering and death—shows us the nature of God and a godly life (John 15:9-17). God is not remote but very present with us in our own suffering and death. The cross breaks our hearts of stone and wins us over to Christ.

“God’s attitude toward God’s children is

love,” wrote Baptist Pastor Chuck Queen a couple of years ago. “Love does not need or require a sacrificial victim. Jesus did not have to bleed and die in order to satisfy some need in God or to pay off some debt owed to God. God is able to forgive freely.”

All these theories of the atonement are merely human constructions. As Anselm wrote a thousand years ago, theology is “faith seeking understanding.” Naturally, we want to understand how Christ saves us—and surely God appreciates how his little ones try. Yet humility requires we not get overly attached to any of our ideas.

Perhaps one standard by which we can judge our ideas is the difference they make in our lives. Good theology shows up as good living. The way we imagine God interacting

with humanity becomes the model for our own ways of being in relationship. Believing in a wrathful, punitive God often leads to angry, judgmental people. Believing in a God who hangs out with sinners, invites transformation, and delights in reconciliation can turn us into people who reflect that image... into people who act like Jesus.

With his death looming near, Jesus said, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” In this Easter season, may we grow closer to this One who gave up his life on an empire’s instrument of torture—not to appease an angry God—but to show the lengths to which God will go to love the world.

I believe this is what the cross means. It is the ultimate invitation into the heart of God.

### 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, worshipping 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](http://fiadodgecounty.org) (under forms on the menu) you will find a volunteer application to print, complete and return. If you do not have internet access, please call 507-634-3654 for an application.

## Area Church Directory Lord, King, and Savior

*Scripture Reading — Isaiah 32:1-8*

*Each one will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert. — Isaiah 32:2*

How amazing parents are! They sacrifice so much for their children and are eager to provide opportunities for them. A key preoccupation of seafarers during their visits to ports around the world is to buy books, toys, and clothes to bring back for their children. Parents show love and protection in so many ways for their children, and God does the same for us.

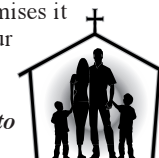
In Isaiah 32, God shares a wonderful announcement. This comes in the midst of warnings to God’s people, who have turned away from him to rely on the power of other nations (see Isaiah 28-31). But even though the people have been unfaithful, Isaiah reminds them that God has promised a kingdom of righteousness.

Today we know that the King who “will reign in righteousness” is Jesus, and leaders who follow his ways will rule with justice. This means that everyone—young and old, men and women, parents and children—all will be able to flourish and learn and grow in peace.

God’s kingdom is a refuge from the storms and troubles of life. The Savior, Jesus, has given us new life and promises it “to the full” (John 10:10). We need not fear or dread the future. Families and communities can thrive. And our King invites us to welcome others in from the storm.

**Prayer**

*Lord, King, and Savior, you are our refuge and strength. You care for us with love and compassion. Help us to care for and love others as you have done for us. Amen.*



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200 East Street, Claremont  
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Pastor Doug Walters  
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### 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.  
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## Introducing Evan

(continued from page 1)

After high school, he attended Minnesota State University, Mankato, earning a bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement. Shortly after graduating from MSU, he was hired as a police officer with the Wells Police Department.

His time in Wells was the springboard for his interest in city administration. Evan explained, "I was first exposed to city administration when I was working as a police officer. I was the lead code enforcement officer for the city and I worked with the city administration daily." He knows this field is a good fit for him "because I am used to problem solving and research. I am also very approachable and comfortable talking with the public."

Due to his time on the police force solidifying his interest in city administration, he started to take graduated classes at MSU that same year. He also knew it was a good time to achieve another life-long dream. Evan explains, "My father and brother served in the military, and I always wanted to. So, before I got too old, I took a year off of grad school to join the Minnesota National Guard. I went to basic training and then two years later I was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant."

Evan graduated with a Master's in Public Administration in 2020. He was hired as a Director of Security at a college in St. Paul where he managed 20 employees. He explained, "I enjoyed that position but wanted to get back into local government as that is more of my specialty and life goal. I recently completed Field Artillery School in Oklahoma and saw the job in Claremont as a perfect role for me. When I returned from Oklahoma I started as City Administrator the very next week." His official start date was March 14, 2022.

I asked Evan to explain in his own words what he does as Claremont's City Administrator. He said, "City administrators supervise, coordinate, and monitor the functions of the city. The city council and mayor make decisions on behalf of the citizens and the city administrator puts those decisions into action."

I was also curious why city administration is a good career fit for him. Evan said, "I am drawn to city administration because I have always enjoyed the inner workings of government. It is exciting to see projects start from conception and go all the way through to completion." He added, "Working in city government allows me to work with many groups and stakeholders to try and accomplish the best and most efficient end state. It makes me feel like I'm contributing to the community knowing that my oversight has seen the projects or issues all the way through to completion."

One of the people who has positively impacted his journey into public administration was a professor at MSU. He explained, "She has never been one sided on anything and always lets her students speak their mind and opinion. Most importantly she taught me and her other students that if I have an opinion, I must also have a reason for that. So, as boring as it sounds, she is one of the reasons I love to do research. It helps me substantiate many of the things I do in life and work."

As his time with Claremont continues, I asked Evan what's important about his position for the general public to know. He said, "It is important to understand that sometimes when there seems to be a clear-cut answer, that is almost always not the case. Administrators, clerks and city council members are bound by city code, state law, oversight by other agencies, public opinion, ethics, budgets and much more. So those clear-cut solutions can quickly get lost in bureaucracy."

Next, I asked Evan what his first impressions of Claremont were. He responded, "Claremont is a small but ambitious town. I think the city council and mayor have identified opportunities for the City of Claremont to thrive. Many small towns around us are expanding and growing and now is the time for Claremont to do the same."

We wrapped up our interview discussing Evan's goals. He's excited to get to know the residents of Claremont and knows open communication is the perfect springboard for understanding the needs and wants of the community. He's looking forward to mingling at Hog Fest, reminding everyone to mark their calendars for August 5th-7th. He reiterated his commitment to fostering open dialogue stating, "I want to see what the community would like for the City of Claremont and it's my goal to make those things happen." These are important steps to take to "improve the public experience in Claremont."

Beyond fostering strong communication between the city and its residents, Evan also wants to focus on a couple of projects right out of the gate. He stated, "There is some scheduled road work and some water tower issues that we need to address this year. In addition, the city is looking to have "Welcome to Claremont" signs put along the highway.

Best of luck in your new position Evan! Thank you for taking Marie Curie's words of wisdom to heart.

## Theresa Mary Van Zuilen

Theresa Mary Van Zuilen, 96, of Claremont, died Monday, March 28, 2022 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.



She was born September 23, 1925 in Faribault, Minnesota the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Hanley) Sammon.

She grew up on a farm in Warsaw Township in Rice County and graduated from Faribault High School. Following her schooling, she worked at the school for the deaf in Faribault. On October 25, 1949, she married Louis Van Zuilen. The couple lived in Faribault until 1956 when they moved to a farm north east of Claremont in Dodge County.

She enjoyed dancing, neighborhood card club, traveling, visiting with anyone, holiday gatherings and watching her grandchildren as they grew up. She had a keen wit and spunk about her. She was passionate about cleaning her home and windows. She was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church where she served on the altar society. Her faith was very important to her and making sure her family attended church was a must.

She is survived by her children, Rick (Dawn) Van Zuilen of West Concord, Denise (Larry) Ellingson of West Concord, Deanna (Dan) Kvam of Claremont and Doug (and Arleen) Van Zuilen of Claremont; 12 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; siblings, Genevieve (Homer) Guimond of Shakopee, Marion Pirkl of Owatonna, Jack Sammon of Faribault and Ray Sammon of Faribault, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Mary; husband, Louis Van Zuilen; son, Ron; an infant daughter and siblings, Myron, Charlie, George, Francis, Catherine, Evelyn, Florence, Donald, Bill and Norita.

Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna on Sunday from 2:00 - 5:00 PM and at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in West Concord on Monday from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, April 4, 2022 at 11:00 AM at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in West Concord. Father John Lasuba and Father Thomas Niehaus concelebrated. Livestream the funeral mass at: <https://wearelivetoday.com/theresa-van-zuilen>. Interment was in the St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery in West Concord immediately followed by a lunch reception at the West Concord Historical Society.

Memorials preferred to St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (Oratory) in West Concord.

## Wendy S. Gray

Wendy S. Gray, 63, of Claremont, died Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at New Richland Care Center.



Wendy Sue Gray, the daughter of Ted and Pat (Kuhfuss) Bulaga, was born on April 15, 1958 in Rochester, Minnesota. At a young

age the family moved to California and they returned when she was in middle school. She graduated from John Marshall High School in Rochester in 1976. She was married and had two children Jamie and Chad. She was later married to Gary Gray on December 23, 1989, at the First Presbyterian Church in Claremont. Wendy worked at various jobs including as a travel agent, micro filming invoices and as damaged freight inspector. In 1998, she began working full time on the farm raising turkeys for the Turkey Store and later Jennie-O Turkey. She was very organized and savvy with finances and took care of all the books for the farm. In 2008, at age 50, she was diagnosed with Early-Onset Alzheimer's. Thanks to a special group of friends and family she was able to stay in her home for the following ten years. In 2018, she moved to a REM home for 3 years in Kasson MN and later to the New Richland Care Center. She enjoyed her daily trips to the Kasson Kwik Trip and traveling to Aruba and Hawaii where she soaked up the sun. She loved spending time at the pool with family and friends and many hours of playing Skip-Bo and Farkle.

She is survived by her husband Gary Gray of Claremont; Parents, Ted (and Pat) Bulaga of Kasson; Daughter, Jamie Andrist of Ames IA; Son, Chad (and Shannon) Andrist of Maricopa AZ; Son, Brad Gray of Claremont; Son, Brian (and Brittney Boe) Gray of Claremont; In-laws Dean Gray of Claremont, Sue (Anthony) Perno of Dodge Center, Don (and Ruby) Gray of Claremont; Grandchildren-Hadelie Gray (mother-Stephanie Gray); Parker (Rayah) Andrist; Crimson Andrist, Atlas Andrist, Crosby Andrist, Brennan Gray, Teigen Gray, Elaura Andrist, and great grandchild Lincoln Andrist; sisters Terry (and Joe) Hines, Lorri (and Matt) Starkson; and an especially close cousin, Jackie Schmidt. She was also survived by nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by son, Tyler Gray;

Funeral services was held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 26, 2022 at the Claremont First Presbyterian Church. Pastor Douglas Walters officiated. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery in Claremont. A reception followed.

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## Cobra Communications



**Craig Schlichting**  
Superintendent

I am amazed at the abundance of life's lessons that I have had the opportunity to learn. The lesson that I learned the other day was to use the opportunity to teach the importance of reflection with my children. When they were driving to school and ran out of gas, I told them it was their fault for running out of

gas. It seemed like such a simple thing they should understand. I blamed them for the problem. When they ran out of gas a second time in the same month, I realized that my approach to "fixing" the problem was unsuccessful. I was frustrated as I listened to the reasons why they ran out of gas a second time, I heard excuses. The excuses they used deflected the responsibility of the problem. I told them that in life they needed to learn the difference between deflecting and reflecting. They were not taking responsibility for the situation, and I told them that deflecting the blame was not going to correct the problem in the future. They needed to take time to reflect on what happened, why it happened, and what they could do to fix the problem. Blaming and excuses are examples of deflecting. I needed them to reflect on what they needed to do differently. I also needed to reflect on my approach to the situation and own the fact that I was unsuccessful with my parenting skills by blaming them.

We had a good discussion about the difference between deflecting and reflecting. The

practice of deflecting is looking for a way to blame external forces. For example, the vehicle they were driving doesn't have a gas gauge that works exactly the way it is supposed to. So, it is logical to point out the fact to the upset parent that the gas gauge doesn't work. How could it be their fault when they are driving a vehicle with a faulty gas gauge? Another example of deflecting was to point out the fact that they had asked for help paying for gas and didn't get any. This was also a logical thing to point out as they didn't have a way to pay for the gas they needed. I listened to their reasoning, and then began to ask questions to help them reflect.

Did you realize that you were low on gas when you left home? They answered yes. Did you know last night when you were headed home that it was about time to fill up for gas? They answered yes. I asked them what they could have done differently to avoid running out of gas. They didn't have any answers. I then asked if they knew about the spare gas kept at home. Yes, they knew about it, but they didn't have time to use it. I asked if they you could have put spare gas in the vehicle that morning if they planned and woke up earlier to address the situation? They answered yes. I asked them if they knew they may run out of gas given what happened the last time? They responded yes. I asked what they did differently from the first time, and they didn't have an answer. We were able to conclude that they could have done some things differently to prevent this from happening. I explained to them that we were reflecting on the situation rather than deflecting.

I then had to admit to them that I was mad at myself for not doing a better job of addressing this situation the first time it happened. I told them that I too was deflecting and not reflecting on my skills as a parent. I told them that the first time they ran out of gas, I was deflecting. This time, I was reflecting and trying a different approach. I told them that if I did a better job of helping them reflect on the cause and effect of driving around with a near empty gas tank, that they could address the situation differently the next time the gas gauge was low. I reminded them that they are not the only ones with lessons to learn. I admitted that I don't always get things right, and that the secret to avoid repeating mistakes was to reflect on how to improve. When things don't go the way, we expect they should as parents, it is easy to get mad at our children for screwing up. What is more difficult, is reflecting on what we can do differently to help them be successful. Life lessons are everywhere, we just need to make sure we take the time to learn them.

Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have regarding our school district. You can email me at [schlich@triton.k12.mn.us](mailto:schlich@triton.k12.mn.us) or you can call me at 507-418-7530 to reach me at the district office. I would be happy to set up a time to meet with you or your organization. I believe that communication is an important aspect of my job responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to learn from your perspective. GO COBRAS!

**#WeAreTriton**

## Triton Teacher of the Year

(continued from page 1)

Her door is always open and she always makes time for students, even students that are not on her roster. All students seem to embrace Mrs Tischer." In addition to being Triton Teacher of the Year, Kristen will become a candidate for Minnesota Teacher of the Year. The Minnesota Teacher of the Year program has recognized excellence in teaching in Minnesota for 58 years. The program selects one teacher to represent the state's thousands of excellent educators.

Kristen loves math and she loves to teach. However, she has a family and hobbies that

make her smile as well. She has a loving Husband, and two daughters that are enrolled in middle school and high school.

Kristen finds the balance with being a Mom and a teacher even when she's at home. She also enjoys gardening, and finding projects around the house.

During the summer time she enjoys going to Boundary Waters Canoe Area with her family. Boundary Waters is where you go into the wilderness camping and canoeing around without cell phone reception. Her family, including her parents will go and enjoy this unique camping experience.

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## TRITON CLASS OF 2022



**2022**

### SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

August Kozisek is a senior at Triton High School. His parents are Tina and Jason Kozisek and he has one sibling A.J.

He is active in student council, Minnesota Honor Society, Link Crew and Business Professionals of America. In sports he participates in football, track, trap shooting and basketball where he is the manager.

He is also an Eagle Boy Scout. In his pastime he enjoys video games, hiking, biking, running and hanging out with friends and family. His favorite movie is Cars. After graduation he plans to attend the University of Wisconsin- Stout and major in computer science.



**AUGUST KOZISEK**

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## The Musical "Annie" was a Huge Success

The musical Annie, which ran March 30th through April 2nd, was a huge success at Triton High School, bringing in record numbers for attendance. The show was "sold out" for the Friday performance, and by curtain time had only a few tickets remaining for the Saturday performance. "For the first time in my

directing career," said Anne Schreiber, "we had to write 'sold out' on signs and social media!" The cast and crew were excited by the turn-outs, and they adjusted their performances to account for the high numbers in the performing arts center. "I was so proud of them," continued Schreiber. "For some of them, this was their first musical, and they made it seem as though they were veterans of the Triton stage!" Junior Talia Kelley, who played Miss Hannigan, summed up the experience by saying, "it was an exhilarating experience that anyone in the cast or in the audience could enjoy." Thanks to all who came to see the show!



Bundles, the laundry man (Andrew Edge) gets harrassed by Miss Hannigan (Talia Kelley).



Bert Healy, played by Weston Haugen, hosts a radio show that has Annie (Maddie Jarrett), Grace (Kai Zill), and Mr. Warbucks (Jude Gosse) as guests.



The orphans reflect on their "Hard Knock Life" with, from L-R, Ashtyne Avery, Litany Peterson, Maddie Jarrett, Abby Martin, Elizabeth Hukee, Nancy Fernandez, and Ashley Dominguez-Marquez



Annie, played by Maddie Jarrett, and Mr. Warbucks, played by Jude Gosse, sing "I Don't Need Anything But You" as Warbucks' servants look on.



President FDR, played by Christopher Reyes, gets inspiration, and his cabinet all sing "Tomorrow" (L-R: Caleb Chilson, Tavan Radke, Sarah Jensen, August Johnson, and Scott Nolan)



Drake, played by Liam Dostal, and Grace, played by Kai Zill, welcome Annie (Maddie Jarrett) to Warbucks' mansion as she is lifted up by butlers (Graham Christianson and Andrew Edge). The rest of the servants get in on the fun as well.

## Special Congressional Election Next Month includes all of Dodge County

(continued from page 1)

I've never run for office before, and I've never even thought about jumping into the fray out of a need to be "known" like most politicians yearn to be. But things have gotten bad, so bad that I've decided now is the time to get involved, because I've never been comfortable sitting on the sidelines.

My life has been a life of service to my country and to my community, and I intend to continue that service on a larger stage because I see problems and I want them fixed.

At the beginning of my adult life, I graduated from Red Wing High School in 2008.

When I joined the Marines, I was just seventeen years old. I was in the Service from Feb 2009 to Feb 2013.

I began my service enlisting in boot camp at Camp Pendleton, CA. There, I started training in artillery with the goal of becoming a Cannoneer at Fort Sill, OK. After School I was stationed back at Camp Pendleton. I went from Unit to Unit trying to get to Afghanistan to join the fight for freedom and democracy, but by this point, the conflict was slowing down, so it was exceedingly difficult for an artilleryman to be assigned a deployment.

I wound up landing a deployment to the Horn of Africa dealing with the Somali pirates and the Yemeni civil war on a helicopter team as provisional infantry.

When we returned home, I only had eight months of service left, and no deployments in sight, so I signed up for the only transition program left after the Obama administration stripped veterans of all government sponsored programs to help them return to the civilian world with careers.

As a member of that transition program, I received lessons and training to become a union pipefitter. The program was the only one left because it was paid for by the members of the Pipefitters union, not by the gov-

ernment, which is a primary reason I am a proud supporter of labor.

Over a decade later, I'm now a Master Steamfitter welder, and I'm proud to make my living as a Hard-working blue-collar American.

As someone who originally hated the ideas of unions while I was in the service, I soon realized these trade unions were among the only organizations left helping our veterans.

They are also not run using taxpayer dollars. If you don't perform up to the standards of the trade, you lose your job. They don't protect incompetence and laziness.

My experience in both the military and in the unions has helped me to understand that there is no society better than a free market society.

Unions are a beneficial part of such a society when they elevate hard work. If they can be self-sustainable and at their core are beneficial to society and helping our veterans, they should not only be allowed to exist, but we as Americans should want them to exist. Maybe this argument is something new to hear from a Republican but I'll never shy away from speaking my beliefs.

Now my run for Congress is without question an uphill battle. My opponents include elected representatives, who have become skilled politicians in St. Paul, and county and state party chairs, who know how the insider's game is played because they've not only played it, but also have been in charge of it.

Then there is my campaign.

I can guarantee you I won't raise the most money and I won't have the backing of the insider's club cultivated through years of being in "the game", but what I will have is my record of service, to my country and my community, and the ability to speak candidly to the community.

If you're looking for a change in who you send out to Washington, consider voting for Kocina this May 24th. I can promise you that my trip to Washington won't be merely another carefully planned step upwards on the roads to political power. I'll never forget who I'm representing, and the day is never going to come when it becomes more about me than about the constituents.

# THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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## A Common Heart Problem That's Often Ignored

Dear Savvy Senior,

**What can you tell me about atrial fibrillation? Every so often, I've noticed my heart starts beating rapidly for no particular reason. Is this something I should be worried about?**

--Anxious Annie

Dear Annie, Heart palpitations can be harmless if they are brief and infrequent. But if you're experiencing an erratic heart rhythm, you need to get checked out by a doctor for atrial fibrillation, or AFib.

**AFib** - which is marked by rapid, fluttering beats - can lead to serious complications such as stroke and heart failure, when the weakened heart can't pump enough blood to the rest of the body.

Normally, your heartbeat follows a steady rhythm as your heart contracts and relaxes. But when you have AFib, the upper chambers of your heart (atria) beat rapidly and irregularly, sending blood to the lower chambers (ventricles) less efficiently. These episodes can last for minutes to hours or longer, and can cause palpitations, lightheadedness, fatigue, and/or shortness of breath. Over time, AFib tends to become chronic.

Age is a common risk factor for AFib, which affects roughly 10 percent of people older than 75. Other factors include genetics, obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, and alcohol and tobacco use. The condition has also been linked to viral infections, including COVID-19.

### Diagnosing AFib

If you're experiencing AFib-like symptoms you need to see your doctor who will listen to your heart and likely recommend an electrocardiogram (EKG) or a treadmill heart test, or you may wear a portable monitor for several weeks to look for abnormal heart rhythms to confirm a diagnosis of AFib. Such tests can help distinguish AFib from less serious conditions that may cause the heart to flutter, like anxiety and stress.

AFib affects some three million adults in the United States, a number that is expected to quadruple in the coming decade as the population ages and risk factors like obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure become even more common. The lifetime risk of developing AFib is greater than 20 percent, yet many people don't even know they have it.

### Treatment Options

A growing body of research underscores the importance of lifestyle steps such as exercise, a healthy diet, and limiting alcohol for treating AFib. Depending on your age and symptoms, your doctor may prescribe drugs to help control your heart rate, like beta blockers such as metoprolol (Toprol XL); and/or rhythm, such as antiarrhythmics like flecainide (Tambocor). You may also need an electrical cardioversion, an outpatient procedure that delivers an electrical shock to the heart to restore a normal rhythm. You will be sedated for this brief procedure and not feel the shocks.

Catheter ablation is another outpatient treatment for AFib that scars a small area of heart tissue that causes irregular heartbeats. This procedure is becoming more common based on evidence of its safety and ability to normalize the heart rhythm and ease symptoms. Ablations can be effective in people 75 and older, but medication may still be required afterward.

If you're at higher risk for stroke, you may be prescribed a blood thinner, too. In the past, Coumadin (warfarin) was the only such drug widely available, but it requires monitoring with regular blood tests. Newer anticoagulants, like apixaban (Eliquis) and rivaroxaban (Xarelto), don't have that requirement and have been shown to be just as effective at preventing strokes.



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Matawan Grain & Feed  
Tuesday, April 26, 2022  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**One Day Spring Sale at Matawan Grain & Feed**  
20820 Matawan Ave  
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(Prices Only Good During the Open House)

- \$4.95 per bag of Softener Salt Crystals or Pellets (50 lb bags)  
Limit 2 Pallets per Customer
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**JENSEN AUCTIONS**

## JENSEN AUCTION

Saturday, April 30, 2022 • 9:30AM

Location: Owatonna Fairgrounds (Radel Building) 1525 S Cedar Ave. Owatonna, MN

Hull  
Roseville  
Red Wing  
Watts Ware

Toys  
Antique Furniture  
Fenton  
Shawnee

Antiques

30+ pcs Vintage Watts Ware Pottery w/ Local Adv.  
50+ pcs Vintage Hull Pottery  
30+ pcs Vintage Roseville Pottery  
Misc. Fenton Glassware  
Misc. Hobnail Pieces  
Shawnee Cookie Jars & Misc. Pieces  
Pink, Green, & Yellow Depression Glass  
McCoy Planters & Tea Set  
Jadeite Kitchenware  
(2) Redwing Beater Jars  
Many Black Americana Pieces  
Many Carnival Chalkware Items  
Many Nesting Bowl Sets  
(4) Color Mixing Bowl Sets  
Many Shoulder Bowls  
Tea Pots  
Occupied Japan Figurines  
Box Kraut Cutter  
Large Brass Horse & Elephant Enamelware  
Blue & White Swirl Water Can  
Large Gray Coffee Pot  
Hornel Feed Sack  
Luray Pastel Dishware  
Red Wing Platters & Butter Dish  
Jewel Tea Autumn Dishes  
Art Deco Pieces  
Hen on Nest Glassware  
Fostoria Glass Pieces  
Royal Ruby Glassware  
Copper Boiler w/ Lid  
Many Galvanized Pieces  
Large Glass Pickle & Pig Jar  
Glass Candy Jar  
(2) Large Barge Tie off Blocks  
Cast Iron Pig, Car, Bank & Kids Stove  
Wall Coffee Grinder  
Tabletop Coffee Grinder  
Spice Set  
Rolling Pin & Wood Tamper  
Twin Brook Farm 3dz Egg Crate  
Many Oil Lamps  
Marbles  
Vintage Floor Lamps & Tables  
Arcade Butter Churn  
(2) Pitcher & Basin  
Red Wing Ko-Rec Chicken Feeder  
Mantle Clocks  
Bordens Crate  
Bpc Roger Silver Set & Case  
Collector Blocks  
Planter's Peanut, Orange Crush, & Birdseye Wood Crates  
Aridor Glass General Store Jar (Pat. 4-17-1917)  
Calumet Tins  
Red Wing Crocks (2,3,5, & 6gal)  
2 gal. Red Wing Butter Churn  
Metal Doll Houses  
(3) Wash Boards  
(2) Victorian Condiment Cruet Sets  
Tiffany Style Hanging & Table Lamps  
45+33 Records  
Texas Ware Bowls  
Ball Jars (green) w/ Flip Tops

Antique Furniture

Sellers Kitchen Cabinet  
Round Oak Table w/ 6 Chairs  
Square Oak Table w/ 6 Chairs  
Tea Cart w/ Marble Top  
(2) Marble Top Plant Stands  
Piano Stool w/ Claw Feet  
Parlor Tables  
Maple Makeup Desk  
Maple Washstand w/ Towel Bar  
Maple Dresser w/ Oval Mirror  
Folding Oak Table  
Small Drop Leaf Table  
42" 2 Door Bookcase  
Large Hall Tree w/ Wash Basin  
Many Small Side Tables & Mirrors  
Victorian Walnut Fainting Couch  
Victorian Lounger Chair  
(3) Vintage Side by Side Secretary's w/ Bookcase  
Childs Wicker Chair  
Wicker Baby Buggy  
Milk Stools  
Many Old Picture Frames  
Terry Redlin Framed Prints (Night on the Town, Almost Home, Sharing the Evening, & Evening Frost)













**AUCTIONEER'S COMMENT:**  
Folks, if you are looking for top notch antiques here is your sale! Darlene collected for years! This is a great opportunity to buy some great items. This is the first of two sales. Please come with a chair and a truck to haul it home. -Thanks, Dennis.



VIEW AUCTION ON:  
[www.auctionsgo.com](http://www.auctionsgo.com) (search by Jensen)



**Darlene Schuler Estate**  
Owatonna Fairgrounds  
1525 S Cedar Ave, Owatonna, MN  
AUCTIONEERS: Dennis Jensen, Lic. 74-15-005 • [jensenauctions@gmail.com](mailto:jensenauctions@gmail.com)  
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Sat., April 30, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.  
 10+ Collector Tractors - Wood Threshing - Farm + Horse Equipment - Trailers - Outdoor Items  
**PRESTEGARD FARM**  
 Owatonna, MN

Sat., June 18, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.  
 40+ John Deere Collector Tractors - Trailer - Collector Tractor Parts - John Deere Memorabilia - Misc. Items  
**PHIL BRIGGS - ESTATE**  
**KAREN BRIGGS - OWNER**  
 Ellendale, MN

Sat., June 25, 2022 • 9:00 A.M.  
 JD 4400 - JD 270 skid loader - 11 collector tractors - JD 770 Combine - Old D-8 Cat - Old A.C. grader - Trailers - Misc. Farm Equipment - Outdoor Items  
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**TRACTORS-THRESHING MACHINE FARM + HORSE EQUIPMENT - MISC TRAILERS - OUTDOOR ITEMS**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022, 9:30 A.M.**



**LOCATION:** From Owatonna, MN 4 miles south on Hwy. 218, then 1 1/2 miles east on county road 6, then 1/4 mile south on county road 57  
**WATCH FOR AUCTION SIGNS!**

**Please Note:** Only a partial list of the many items to be sold, a very good auction with older, usable farm and horse machinery. Many misc. Tractor + Implement parts.  
**Tracy Holland**

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- 1936 - John Deere A, factory round spokes
- 1948 - Farmall C, wheel weights, engine overhaul, many updates, S.N. 3757
- 1940 Farmall H, factory wide front, w/I.H. sickle mower, S.N. 4690
- 1940 - Farmall M, N.F., S.N. 16263
- Farmall F-20, new rear tires, N.F. S.N. 125184
- Farmall 400, Fast Hitch, N.F., S.N. 14645
- Farmall F-20, not running
- Farmall H, (for parts)
- Rob T. Bell 24-40 Wood Threshing Machine, on steel, running condition
- McCormick Deering steel husker and shredder, steel wheels
- International 4000 swather, 12' draper head, crimper
- E-Z 9'x16' throw Hay rack w/E-2 10 ton gear
- Meyer 9'x16' throw Hay rack w/gear
- Gehl 318, 4 wheel rake
- New Holland 455 sickle mower, pull type
- McCormick #7 horse mower
- I.H. C-11 sickle mower, fast hitch
- 16' tandem axle cattle trailer, (needs work)
- Pony cart, double seater
- Fleet Wood Cedar Destiny pop up camper
- 2-two wheel cart
- W+W two horse trailer
- 2-Triple Boxes
- McCormick 12' Digger
- John Deere - VanBrunt 10' grain drill, single disc., grass seed, on steel
- 2-John Deere Two Bottom plows, steel + rubber
- Lindsay Nubilt gravity box w/MN 7 ton gear
- 6'x12' steel barge box w/J.D. gear + Hoist
- Duhman-Lehr running gear
- McCormick 10' grain drill, low rubber, double disc, Hyd. lift
- John Deere 1 bottom plow on steel
- Two row cultivator for C farmall
- I.H. 45 digger, 12'
- McCormick 37, 12' disc.
- I.H. 250 two row corn planter
- Lilliston 4 row cultivator
- I.H. 4 row wide cultivator, viber shank
- 2-7' mulcher sections
- Noble 14' 3 bar mulcher
- 2 pt. fast hitch blade
- 1964 - well craft 17' Boat, shoreline trailer, w/even-rude motor
- I.H. #56 silo blower
- 2-Riding Lawn mowers, not running
- Many misc. tractor + implement parts
- 2-sets of draft horse harnesses
- Horse collars + bridals
- 2 - Saddles
- Misc. Buggy/wagon poles + eveners



**Terms:** Cash or Good Check, + Picture ID Required. 5% buyer's fee applies to all items. No property removed until fully settled for. Sales staff and owners not responsible for accidents. Any verbal announcement made day of auction takes precedence over print. Lunch and restroom services available on site.  
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**AUCTION CALENDAR**  
**April 29, 2022..... 9:30 AM CST Mankato, MN**  
 LIVE AND ONLINE LARGE COLLECTION FROM THE WALT GROSCHURTH ESTATE  
 Ford Model T Roadster & Coupe Run & Drive, Ford Model TT, Model T Parts, Cub Airplane, Many Airplane Parts, 2019 Dodge Ram 1500 Laramie, Large Amount of Excellent Power & Hand Tools, Zero Turn Mower  
**April 30, 2022..... 8:00 AM CST Dundas, MN**  
 ONLINE ONLY ESTATE AUCTION FOR THE PAUL GULLORD ESTATE  
 2013 Chevy Equinox, 2016 Tandem Dump Trailer, 22 Excellent Firearms, Browning Gun Safe, Yamaha 750 Grizzly, Hunting & Fishing Equip., Power & Hand Tools, JD Mower, Outside Wood Furnace, Wood Splitter, Cargo Trailer, Duck Decoys  
**May 21, 2022 ..... 9:30 AM CST Northfield, MN**  
 LIVE ONSITE & ONLINE FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION FOR GARY FALKENBERG  
 John Deere 4955 MFWD, John Deere 730 Diesel, JD 630, IHC 560, John Deere 7000 Planter, JD 8200 Drill, Case IH 200 Field Cultivator, DMI 527 Ripper, (2) IHC Tandem Grain Trucks, Wagons, Farm Support Items  
**June 16, 2022 ..... 9:00 AM CST Boyd, WI**  
 LIVE & ONLINE FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION FOR JOHN & DAWN HERRICK  
 (11) John Deere Mfwd & 2wd Tractor, 2 Skid Loaders, Planter & Drill, Tillage Machinery, 2 Forage Harvesters, 3 Manure Spreaders, 2 Manure Tanks, Livestock Machinery, Pickups, Trailers, Clean Well Maintained Equipment  
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 See estatesales.net for further listing and pictures.

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## Radio Series Highlighting Farmer Stress Expands Reach

Prompted by the many sources of stress affecting farmers and ranchers, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), Linder Farm Network, and the Red River Farm Network (RRFN) have joined forces to expand a radio series called “TransFARMation” throughout the state. The series profiles people in agriculture who have coped with chal-

lenging situations and highlights sources of support.

“Farming is a stressful business even during the best of times” said Linder Farm Network owner Lynn Ketelsen. “Right now, crop prices are surging, and the pandemic is waning, but many producers are experiencing high input prices, high feed costs, livestock disease, and challenges related to retirement and farm succession.”

The series was a big hit with listeners when it debuted on RRFN in 2019. Starting the week of April 18, 60-second prime time radio stories will be heard on all 40 Linder Farm Network stations in central and southern

Minnesota, as well as RRFN’s 21 stations further north. In addition, 10-15-minute companion podcasts can be found at [www.linderfarmnetwork.com/podcasts](http://www.linderfarmnetwork.com/podcasts) and <https://www.rrfn.com/transFARMation>.

“Many people are struggling, and they need to know they’re not alone,” said Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen. “It’s powerful to hear farmers talk about some of the strategies and solutions that helped them when things got tough.”

TransFARMation is supported by funding from Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Program award no. 2021-70035-35461 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the MDA, and a growing list of sponsors. For underwriting opportunities, call Jeff Stewart at 507-456-6970 or Don Wick at 701-795-1315.

Broadcasts are solely the responsibility of the creators and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA or MDA.

If you or someone you know is struggling with stress, anxiety, depression, or other problems, the free and confidential Minnesota Farm & Rural Helpline is available 24 hours, seven days a week at 833-600-2670 or text farmstress to 898211.



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## Spring Grass and Laminitis in Horses

Every year, once winter is over and the snow has receded, the grass starts its yearly explosion of growth. The spring helps bring hay and fresher forage for our horses. However, with the fresh forage comes the risk of a condition known as “grass founder.” This condition, a form of laminitis, can be lethal to horses with certain diseases, such as insulin resistance and Cushing’s disease.

Dr. Scott Austin, a boarded specialist in equine internal medicine at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, explains what causes this form of laminitis and how horse owners can protect their horses from getting it.

Laminitis is a very painful condition that involves sensitive structures, called the laminae, found in the hooves of horses. Lamina is a thin piece of tissue that attaches the coffin bone—the bone at the furthest extremity of the horse’s leg—to the inside of the hoof wall.

“The word laminitis literally means inflammation of the attachments between the hoof wall and skeleton,” explains Dr. Austin.

When damage to the laminae is severe, the coffin bone may sink or rotate within the hoof capsule—a condition called “founder”—resulting in severe and often debilitating pain.

Once rotation of the bone has occurred, the bone’s attachment to the hoof wall becomes permanently disrupted. A good farrier can help reduce the ill effects but cannot restore the original anatomy.

“It is much better to prevent laminitis than to manage the damage after the fact,” says Dr. Austin.

Laminitis can be triggered by many things, including grain overload, repeated striking of hard ground, hormonal imbalance (Cushing’s disease), obesity, and lastly lush grass.

So what makes grass “lush” in the spring and how does it contribute to laminitis? The fertile grass of spring contains higher amounts of nonstructural carbohydrates, such as sugars and starches, and less structural carbohydrates or fiber, than grass later in the season.

Dr. Austin says, “As grass matures, there is a shift to structural carbohydrates making the grass more fibrous. When grass is starting to develop seed, we now this transformation has occurred. When you squeeze some in your hand, you feel the stems poke you.”

In spring, when horses consume the lush grass, the extra starches and sugars ferment in the horses’ gastrointestinal tracts. This fermentation affects the balance of bacteria in the GI tract, which in turn can trigger laminitis.

The actual mechanism by which this change in the microbiome of the GI tract brings about laminitis hasn’t been identified. However, many researchers in equine nutrition are working to understand it.

Another problem related to spring grass arises in obese horses that have insulin resistance. “Exposure of an insulin-resistant horse to a high-carbohydrate diet, as we see with lush pastures, will cause a great increase in insulin levels in the horse,” says Dr. Austin. “High insulin levels can affect blood flow to the laminae and cause laminitis.”

Although veterinarians are not exactly sure the mechanism that causes grass founder, there are many things owners can do to decrease the risk of laminitis in their horses.

“Don’t let your horse get fat,” warns Dr. Austin. “Learn how to recognize ideal body weight by doing body condition scoring. Obese horses should be tested for insulin resistance, and horses that are insulin resistant should not be allowed to graze on lush pastures.”

Instead, he advises keeping these horses in dry lot and feeding hay until pastures are more mature. Additionally, when these horses go out on pasture, use a grazing muzzle to decrease grass consumption.

“If the horse shows any tenderness when walking or turning, immediately remove it from pasture and have it evaluated by a veterinarian,” says Dr. Austin. “Horses with previous episodes of laminitis should not be out on pasture or should only go out to mature pasture after consuming their morning hay ration and should wear a muzzle. Pastures should be mowed to keep grass short.”

Laminitis is a very painful condition that can be deadly. By learning about risk factors such as spring grass, horse owners can decrease the risk that their horses will founder.

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## CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL

(continued from page 1)

City staff and others present: City Clerk/Treasurer Elizabeth Sorg, City Attorney Mark Rahrnick, City Engineer Derek Olinger, First Responder Director Casey Dahl, Matt Durand, County Engineer Guy Kohnhofer, and City Auditor Layne Kockelman.

There were no changes to the agenda.

### PUBLIC INPUT

None

### VACANCY

Council Member Grey turned in her resignation effective February 13, 2022. Motion by Ellis to approve Resolution No. 22-09: Resolution Accepting Resignation and Declaring a Vacancy, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

The council will take applications to fill the vacant council seat.

### CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of: Minutes of the February 2, 2022 City Council Meeting, Minutes of the February 2, 2022 Special City Council Meeting, Minutes of the February 15, 2022 Special City Council Meeting, Resolution No. 22-08: Resolution Expressing Acceptance and Appreciation of a Donation, and Automatic Renewal of a Sewer Fund CD.

Motion by Klejeski to approve the Consent Agenda, second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Olinger showed an improvement plan of the parking area in front of the Fire Hall. That plan estimate is \$21,000. Depending on how much of the area the council would like done and the type of improve-

ments it could be more. Council requested a per unit bid be included with the bids of the other street improvement projects.

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The new City Administrator Evan Brown has signed the Employment Agreement. He will start March 14. Motion by Ellis to accept the Employment Agreement for Evan Brown, second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

### PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Hogfest Committee submitted a request to use the Fire Hall Hogfest weekend. The fire department denied the use due to liability concerns, trucks would need to be parked outside for the weekend, a fire department member would need to be on-site to monitor people being around the equipment, along with other concerns. Motion by Ellis to deny the request, second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

The First Responders need a new monitor as the monitor they currently have doesn't always turn on and is not reading accurately. A new one costs \$3686.78 plus shipping which could be up to \$1000. The Chamber donated \$1000 earlier this year and they just approved another \$1700 donation. Motion by McGovern to purchase the monitor for \$3686.98 plus shipping, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

(continued on page 13)

## Maintenance Personnel Job Posting

### General Duties:

This position will be directly responsible and accountable to the City Administrator. Responsibilities include water/sewer duties, mowing, snowplowing, maintain parks and buildings, and other maintenance duties as required. This position will work an average of 40 hours/week with some weekends required.

### Minimum Requirements:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Must have Class B commercial driver's license
- Must have or be able to obtain a Class B Wastewater Certification and a Class C Water Certification
- The wage is anticipated to be \$22-30/hour, depending on qualifications.

### How to Apply:

Applications are available at Claremont City Hall at (507) 528-2137 or on-line at [www.claremontmn.com](http://www.claremontmn.com). Please submit application and resume before April 25th, 2022, to the City of Claremont, 140 W. Front Street, PO Box 235, Claremont, MN 55924 or via email to [cityclerk@claremontmn.com](mailto:cityclerk@claremontmn.com). Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of the required application.



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**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.**

### April Winners

**Lemon Jello Cake (easy, great Spring Easter dessert!) Submitted by Tami Peterson**

- 1 box of lemon cake mix
- 1 3 oz pkg of lemon jello
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup boiling water
- 3/4 cup corn oil

Dissolve lemon jello in boiling water. Set aside to cool. Place cake mix in a bowl. Add oil and mix well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add jello and mix well for 2 minutes. Bake in a greased angel food pan. Bake at 350 for 35-40 minutes.

**Broccoli Casserole Submitted by Cyndie Nosek**

- 2 medium onions, chopped
  - 2 stalks celery, chopped
- Saute in 1/4 cup butter, then combine with:

- 1 10.5 ounce can mushroom soup
- 1 4 ounce can mushrooms, undrained
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon parsley flakes
- 10 ounce bag frozen broccoli, thawed

Pour into a buttered 2 quart casserole. Top with crumbs:

- 10 Ritz crackers, crushed
- 1/4 cup melted butter

Mix well and sprinkle on top of casserole.

Bake at 325 degrees for 30-35 minutes until lightly browned.

**Chicken and Bacon Dip Submitted by Connie Turner**

- 1 3oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 t. chicken bouillon granules
- 2 T. parmesan cheese
- 4 strips of bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 3/4 cup cooked chicken
- 1 tomato chopped
- Swiss cheese

Mix in a bowl cream cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise and bouillon. Refrigerate overnight. Spread on plate, sprinkle with parmesan cheese, bacon, chicken and tomato. Top with Swiss cheese. Serve with tortilla chips. This is everybody's favorite dip.

**Soft and Chewy Gingersnaps Submitted by Shelly Donkers**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup soft butter
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves
- 1/4 tsp ground ginger

Cream sugar and butter. Beat in egg & molasses. Stir in remaining ingredients. Chill dough.

Shape into 1 in. balls. Roll balls in sugar. Place balls 2 in. apart on greased baking sheet. Bake 9-12 min. until edges are set. Allow to cool on baking sheet for a couple of minutes before removing to cooling rack.

## CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL

(continued from page 1)

The annual Fire Relief breakfast is this Sunday.

### PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

The committee met and discussed the Land Use Plan last night. They recommended the council approve the Plan with a couple minor edits. The final print of the Land Use Plan will be presented at the next council meeting for approval.

### EDA

City Attorney Mark Rahrlick went through the Development Agreement with Arden Homes, LLC owned by Matt Durand. Arden Homes proposes to purchase RK&T lots in groups of 3. Each lot would cost \$9500. Arden Homes would have the exclusive option to purchase all 9 lots through April 1, 2023. The city would finance the purchases through a loan secured by a mortgage for the

amount of the purchase. Then the home will either be sold to an income qualified buyer and the loan would be forgiven and the mortgage released, or sold to a non-income qualified buyer and the loan would be forgiven and the city would release its mortgage, or the lot would revert back to the city and the loan forgiven. During the closing on the lot, they would have 1 year from the date of the closing to get a home on the lot or they would revert back to the city. Motion by McGovern approving the Developers Agreement and giving Arden Homes the exclusive right to purchase the 9 lots at the price of \$9500/lot, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mayor Dahl to sign the Waiver acknowledging that the law firm of Smith, Tollefson, Rahrlick & Cass have represented both the City and Matt Durand in the past, but the law firm is representing the City in

the sale of these lots and the Developers Agreement, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

### PARKS COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

### PEOPLESERVICE

Nothing at this time.

### CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Rahrlick has been in contact with the Harmer's and is just waiting for them to sign the documents.

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

Layne Kockelman with Abdo went over the 2021 audit. There were 3 audit findings, the same as previous years due to size of city staff. They recommended raising the water and sewer rates and the council did approve a rate increase for 2022. Motion by Ellis to approve the 2021 Audit, second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

County Engineer Guy Kohlhofer went through the Front Street improvement project that will be done this summer. They are planning for July or August except for Hogfest weekend. It will be mill and overlay of Front Street from East Street to County Road 1. The county's responsible for the driving area and the city will pay for the parking areas. The engineer's estimate is \$120,418 for the county's portion and \$60,161 for the city's portion. County Road 3 from new Highway 14 to old Highway 14 is scheduled for 2024. Motion by Ellis to approve Resolution Approving County Project within Municipal Corporate Limits, second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by McGovern to approve Resolution Relating to Parking Restrictions, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Due to the state redistricting, the boundaries of the voting precinct had to be reestablished. Motion by Klejeski to approve Resolution No. 22-11: Resolution Reestablishing Precinct and Polling Place, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

The council held an annual performance review for City Clerk/Treasurer Elizabeth Sorg earlier tonight. Motion by Ellis to approve a 4% increase for her, second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Dahl entertained a motion to close the meeting for an employee evaluation for Glen Hvitved. Motion by Klejeski to close the meeting for an employee evaluation, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ellis to reopen the meeting, second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by McGovern to terminate Glen Hvitved effective immediately, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Dahl and Council Member Klejeski will talk to Hvitved in the morning.

Klejeski will volunteer his time, unpaid, to plow the streets and do other duties as he can. Casey Dahl also volunteered to help, without pay, if needed.

Motion by McGovern to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 p.m., second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg, City Clerk/Treasurer  
Tasha Dahl, Mayor

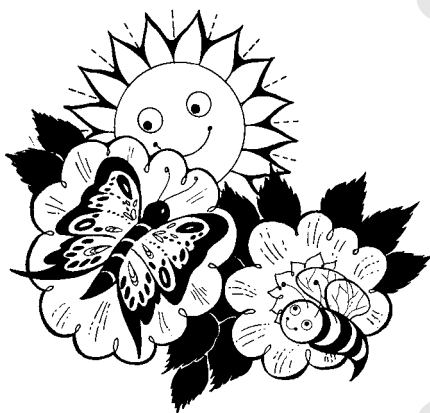
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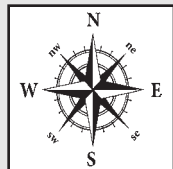


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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

# We Sell Farmland



By Terry Campbell

*This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.*

I saw an ad in the local paper saying "we sell Farmland". It struck me as such an over simplification. It should have read, "We sell the lifetime hopes and dreams of a farmer." March is the month most farmland is sold. Land transactions are completed before the crop season starts. This last year has seen a 26% increase in the price of farmland over the previous year. Not sure the price of crops and cost of inputs makes that logical.

It may seem like a simple sale, just a business deal for the ever expanding and enlarging farms. But for a farmer, land is their lifeblood. They are intimately attached to it. They raise their crops, livestock, families and dreams in the land. They care for it and it re-

wards them with its bounty. It is planted in hope, cultivated in hard work and harvested in thankfulness. Some years the return is meager, some years plentiful.

When I grew up there were small farms everywhere across the county. Little family run businesses that provided a good living and a great lifestyle. No better place to raise a family. The kids went to the local school, the parents patronized the small-town businesses, dads and moms were active in the community in a myriad of ways.

I was blessed to grow up on a small farm and I was fortunate to raise my children on a small farm. My daughters played with barn cats, raised calves, operated machinery and even learned that the little pig they fed daily and named "Porker" went to the butcher shop in the livestock trailer and came back in freezer wrap.

My great grand-father broke this land with a horse and plow. I often thought about him listening to the birds sing as the horses pulled the steel wheeled implements across the field. I covered the same ground in a John Deere diesel powered tractor, while listening to the radio. I had it easier than he ever dreamed.

In the end, one gets old and decides to hang up his farm hat. You smell the dirt being worked in the spring and feel the draw of the land. You smell the fresh scent of corn at harvest and remember the pride of a good harvest. Each year farmland will be sold and change hands. The land is timeless. It will produce another crop. Someone else will farm the land. You doubt that they will take care of it like you did though.

## A Minnesotan: Seven Dozen Easter Eggs



By RosaLin Alcoser

Easter 2004 was my all time favorite Easter of my childhood. I was seven years old that year and it was the Easter of seven dozen Easter eggs.

That year we spent Easter Sunday at my adopted grandparents house. Which is where we had one of the most memorable Easter Egg Hunts of my childhood. It is the most memorable for two reasons. First off it was the most eggs we ever had outside of a church egg hunt and secondly not all the eggs were found on Easter Sunday.

Why seven dozen Easter eggs you might ask? That's simple, my older sister and I dyed three dozen eggs at home, a dozen each and a spare incase some of them broke during the dyeing process. Then two dozen were dyed at my adoptive grand-

parents house then their friend dyed another two dozen and left them at the house for us on Easter Sunday. Which is why there were seven dozen eggs that year.

The best part was not dying the Easter Eggs but Easter Sunday itself. After church we went over to my adopted grandparents house and everyone was there; my mom, sister, grandparents, a set of their parents, and their son.

That year their son was about 25 years-old and he hid the seven dozen eggs while we were at church. This was the only year that I can remember that the eggs were not found and hidden multiple times throughout the afternoon to keep us amused. Because he hid all seven dozen eggs way too hard for children.

They were hidden in places we would never think to look; inside and outside of the house. Up high out of our line of sight and if memory serves me correctly in a couple of places that we were not allowed to be in because we were children.

The eggs were so well hidden that my older sister believes that after spending all day looking we found a good 75-80% of those eggs on Easter Sunday. Then Grandpa was finding the rest well into July of that year, because his son forgot where he hid the ones that we could not find.

I have done dozens of egg hunts in my childhood and helped with many more as a teen and young adult. But the Easter of 2004 where seven dozen Easter Eggs were hidden and not all found will always be my favorite egg hunt of my childhood.



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