Volume 5 • Issue 2

Postal Customer ECRWSS

MAY, 2023

DODGE CENTER MINNESOTA



Dodge Center

First Ave NW.

Dodger Days over Father's Day weekend this

year. The event kicks off on Thursday June

15th with the Dodge Center Chamber of

Commerce playing host from 11am to 2pm

on Main Street between Central Ave N and

Garage sales citywide will start on Friday,

June 16th and continue all weekend. The

Dodge Center library will hold a yard game

from 11am to noon. The Dodge Center Fire

Department will have a feed at the fire hall

from 6 to 8pm on Thursday evening. There

is a bean bag tournament at the American Le-

gion at 6:30pm with registration at 5:30. At

dusk the movie Incredibles 2 will be shown

Dodge Center Memorial Day Schedule

Dodge Center American Legion schedule for Memorial Day this year.

9:30 Riverside Cemetery Program guest speaker Rev Robert Porisch, Triton band will play some songs.

10:00 Quick ceremony at Veterans Memorial

10:20 Quick ceremony at Wasioja River for fall at Sea

10:35 Wasioja Cemetery Program with same guest speaker, no band

11:00 Wasioja Seminary Program

Times are approximate. If its raining program will be Dodge Center Legion and Wasioja Church.

Announcements

• The United Methodist Church of Dodge Center at 20 First Street NE offers a dine in and carry out meal from 5:00-6:00pm the third Wednesday of each month.

Do you have an announcement? Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

• Fitness consultation

- Group workouts
- One-on-one training
- 24 hour health & fitness club
- Free 7 day trial for new members



110 West Main Street Kasson, MN 55944 Phone: 507-634-8100



Dodge Center is going to celebrate with at the park starting 9pm.

Venom softball and soccer tournaments are all day Saturday at North Park. The Dodger Day 5K sponsored by Triton Community Ed starts at 8am with sign-up an hour prior. This is an all ages run. The library will have a chalk contest at North Park Saturday from 9am til noon. Pickleball games will be held at the tennis courts from 9am to noon on Saturday. An open air vendor market is sponsored by Community ed from 9am to 4pm. Bounce houses will be open for the kids from 10am to 7pm at North Park and a dunk tank from 11:30 to 4:30pm.

2nd Annual Dodger Days in June

A BBQ cookoff starts Saturday with registration at 10am and judging and awards will

Huckleberry Floral Design and Gifts

By Cheri Roshon

FLOWFR

Cruising Main Street in Dodge Center, you can't help but notice a beautiful outdoor display at 25 W. Main. Owner Mindy Hedberg showcases her artistic talents inside and outside of Huckleberry.

Well, my curiosity got the best of me, so I dropped in to see what else was inside. This being a week of Proms, weddings and a funeral, Mindy was out delivering her craft, so I was able to chat with Leah about the store. Right off the bat, I noticed Louie Maccini's sliced agate night lights, made right down the street, so I asked about some of the other artisan goods in the store. "We like to support local talent" was one of the first things Leah said.

(continued on page 4)

take place at 5pm. Saturday is a free swim day at the pool from noon to 7pm. Be on Mainstreet for live music outside with the Danglers at the Annadine from 6 to 10pm. Fireworks will cap off the night at North Park.

Sunday will be the Father's Day fly-in and breakfast at the Dodge Center airport from 7am to noon. A car show will take place at North Park from 10am to noon. Sunday is also the touch a truck event at McNeilus Truck.

(continued on page 3)

2023 Dodger Big Cup Tournament 4 person Scramble

On Sunday, May 28th Dodge Center Country Club will be hosting the Dodger Big Cup Tournament to raise funds for the Triton Schools and the Summer Baseball teams.

From 10 am to 6 pm, golfers of all ages and expertise

will be out swinging their clubs and having some fun! The cost to participate is \$120 per person or \$480 per team. The fee includes your meal, golf cart, 2 Mulligans and a Power Drive at hole #7. There will be raffles and Hole Prizes throughout the day. First prize is \$800 and second prize will be \$600.

(continued on page 3)



Dodge Center Messenger: Phone 507-95I-74I7 • E-mail: hometownmessenger@gmail.com • PO Box I, West Concord, MN 55985

Religion

- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER -

The Gift of Life and a Tribute to Mothers



By Pastor Roger Langworthy Praise Fellowship Church

When God created Adam from the dust of the earth his masterpiece was complete when, as it says in Genesis 2:7... He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person. Then after God created Eve from the rib of Adam, God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth." Within the design of humankind God gave the gift of life through procreation.

It is in this process of procreation that we give such honor to mothers who have within their bodies and within their psyche the capacity to nurture a child within and outside of the womb. Even though God has entrusted this gift to mothers, he remains part of the process as it says in Psalm 139:13 "You made



knit me together in my mother's womb." At the moment of conception human life begins. From the moment fertilization takes place, the child's genetic makeup is already complete. Its gender has already been determined, along with its height and hair, eye and skin color. The only thing the embryo needs to become a fully-functioning being is the time to grow and develop. Thank you, mothers for being the servants of God to nurture your children and see them birthed into this world.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 says, "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die..." Although each of us will die physically, that is not the end of life. God has a gift of eternal life for those who receive his salvation. Jesus said in John 11:25, "I am the

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resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying." The operative phrase in Jesus' words is "anyone who believes in me...". Because Adam and Eve sinned, they gave birth to children with the same sinful nature as they possessed. That sinful nature would separate us from God for eternity as it says in Romans 3:23 and 6:23 that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glorious standard of God, and of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God not only gave us the gift of life here on earth for the years that we have, but he also gave us the opportunity to receive eternal life. But it is your choice. You can die in your own sin, not having received the gift of God, or you can be forgiven of your sin,

making Jesus your Savior and Lord, and live with him for eternity. Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 says, "Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken. Don't wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well. For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it."

When you die, your spirit will return to God. that the wage of our sin is death, but the gift He is the one who gave life to your body. It is at that point that you will give an account as to whether you received the gift of God for eternal life or if you chose to pay your own wage for your own sin and your death means eternal separation from God. Choose this day! Choose life that you may live forever even after your body has breathed its last breath!

Annadine

Space available (55 capacity) for:

Meetings • Baby and Wedding Showers

Graduations • Class Reunions • Confirmations

Musical Recitals • Family Gatherings

Beer, Wine, Coffee, Tea, Pop & Snacks Available

Microphone and Guitar Hookups • Grand Piano

Page 2

May, 2023

Community

- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER -

MAKE SOME MEMORIES! 0 GRANDSTAND OTHER ATTRACTIONS

★4H & FFA Shows

*Balloon Artist Mandana

*Little Farmer's Barn

*Roadhouse 6 Band

*Ragtown Band

★The Bubbler

EVENTS ★Bull Riding **★**Fireworks

- ★Stock Car Races
- **★Trailer Races**
- **★**Power Wheels Derby
- **★Demolition Derby**

*Auto Cross Races NEW *Garden Tractor Pulls



More information for both events on our website.

For complete schedules, entry forms, advance carnival tickets and sponsorships, visit us at:

www.dodgecountyfreefair.com

2023 Dodger **Big Cup Tournament 4 person Scramble**

(continued from page 1)

The Dodge Country Club is located at 18187 County Highway 34 in Dodge Center.

2nd Annual Dodger Days in June

(continued from page 1)

The Dodger Days and Stagecoach Days Duck raffle will take plave on Sunday June 25th at 7pm at Riverside Park in Mantorville. Tickets are \$10 each and only 500 tickets will be sold. First place prize is \$1,000, 2nd place is \$500, 3rd place is \$300, 4th is \$200 and 5th thru 9th place prizes are \$99 each.

WE'RE ONLINE

Keep Up With Your

Hometown News at www.dodgecentermn.com

You can call to sign up at (507) 374-2374, or contact Coltt Ullom at (507) 421- 6874 for any questions you may have. You can sign up at the Country Club, or online at https://forms.gle/ZeCPMP4V1JDV2dVi8. Registration starts at 9 am, the Calcutta starts at 10 am with a 100% pay out (50-30-20) and an 11 am Shotgun Start. You can also go to

Dodge Center

lessenger

the Dodge Country Club Facebook page for updates.

If you've never golfed at DCC, there are scenic views, challenging holes, and some forgiving ones, too. Come on out and have some fun supporting your school and the Summer Baseball teams!



BODGER BAYS The CENTER of Symmer Fyn!

THURSDAY 15TH

Dodger Days Kick Start with the Chamber of Commerce Location: Main ST W between Central Ave N and 1st Ave NW Time: 11am-2pm

FRIDAY 16TH

Garage Sales start (All Weekend) Library Yard Game 11-12 DC Fire Dept. Feed at the Fire Department 6pm to 8pm Beanbag Tournament 5:30pm Registration Tournament start at 6:30pm at the American Legion. Sponsored by: Venom Wrestling Movie in the Park 9pm-11pm

SATURDAY 17TH

Venom Softball and Soccer Tournaments North Park. Dadger Days 5k- By Triton Community Ed 8am (one race-all ages) Registration begins at 7AM. Library Chalk Contest- North Park 9am-12pm Pickleball- 9am-12pm Tennis Courts Open Air Vendor Market 9am-4pm Sponsored by Triton Community Ed Bounce Houses North Park 10am- 7pm Dunk Tonk 11:30om -4:30pm BBQ Rib Cook Off- Registration 10am/ Judging and awards 5pm Free Swim Day from 12pm-7pm Music on Main held by Annadine 6pm-10pm Firework Display at North Park 10:00 pm

SUNDAY 18TH

Father's Day Fly-in Breakfast at Dodge Center Airport 7am-12pm Car Show- North Park 10am to 12pm Touch a Truck Event McNeilus Truck

Community

- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER -



By Cheri Roshon

Driving through West Concord last week, I saw a sign for Ginny's Drive In. Since it was about time to eat anyway, I decided to check it out. The menu has a lot to choose from, including my favorites, Mushroom Swiss burgers and malts! I ordered the burger and chose black cherry for my malt, and waited in anticipation for what was to come. Located on Ellington, behind the gas station on State Street, it's just a small drive up, get out and order type of building. I wouldn't have seen it had it not been for the sign.

It took a few minutes, but it was worth the wait! I thought to myself, this isn't "fast food", it's "good food fast"! My wait was rewarded with a hand patted, locally grown and processed fresh hamburger on a Sara Lee bun that was fantastic. Add to that a real black cherry malt, and this diner diva was in heaven! The flavors were reminiscent of the drive in's from the good ol' days. Not a dried out burger on a flat tasteless bun, but a burger that reminded me of the drive ins I went to as a kid. Delicious!

(continued on page 5)

Huckleberry Floral Design and Gifts

(continued from page 1)

Since I love the support local idea in any way, shape or form, that definitely piqued my interest. The store is filled with local creations, so I will call attention to a few, and you'll have to stop in and see the rest for yourself. Tell the girls Cheri sent you!

Being a floral shop, of course there were fresh flowers all over the place. Some were in coolers, waiting to be made into beautiful arrangements, some already showcased and for sale. There were fairy gardens, dried arrangements, and green plants, ready to go. There are teddy bears, socks, soy candles, and statues. On the shelves and walls are 3-D floral bouquets, baskets and handcrafted soaps. Costa's Chocolates from Owatonna has a delightful assortment of candies on display.

Mindy & crew design floral arrangements for weddings, proms, funerals and special occasions like Mother's Day (May 14), birthdays and anniversaries. Or how about a beautiful bouquet for yourself to brighten your surroundings after a long winter? Whatever the reason, Huckleberry is the place to go for gifts and flowers to make you smile!

Berne Wood Fired Pizza Returns in 2023

Berne Wood-Fired Pizza is back for another season of music and pizza.

They announced their free summer concert lineup on Thursday.

The official start to the 12th season will take place Wednesday, June 7 at 5 p.m. Lineup includes:

June 7: Bells & Whistles -Brad Boice & RPG



June 14: The Double Down Daredevils - After School Special June 21: Lost Faculties - County Line Drive June 28: Fool's Getaway - Crazy on You: A Tribute to Heart July 5: The Vintage Tones of Spielzeiten Und Pausen - Branded: Hot Country July 12: The Chubs - Collective Unconscious July 19: Old Country Boys - Incognito July 26: Fred the Bear - Street Talk Aug. 2: True North - Retro Soul and the Westside Horns Aug. 9: The Local Hooligans - The Soul Train Aug. 16: Loct in Austin - fABBAulous - A Tribute to ABBA

Aug. 16: Lost in Austin - fABBAulous – A Tribute to ABBA Aug. 23: Uptown Jazz - JT & the Gunslingers Aug. 30: Clay Fulton & the Lost Forty - Nite Shift

Pizza is served picnic style Wednesday nights in June, July, and August from 5-8 pm. Concerts begin at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. each night.

Berne has also added a new pizza of the month for June: the Hawaiian. After years of high demand, the bacon cheeseburger pizza has now become a permanent fixture on the menu.

Increased food supply costs will result in a price increase of all specialty pizzas to \$25. Pizzas can be purchased upon arrival or in advance on Eventbrite.



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.

Community

- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER -

Ginny's Drive In Welcomes Summer

(continued from page 4)

I had to do an interview! I made an appointment and met with owner/operator Lynn Nelson to find out how she made such a burger. "Locally grown, fresh beef is the answer", she explained. Lynn is very committed to the community she serve. Local beef is just the beginning.

For instance, she is open from April until around October, depending on what kind of a fall we have. During the season, she invites the locals to a Movie Night behind the drive in. Bring your own chair, and she provides the traditional popcorn and candy bars for purchase, along with her menu of food, drinks and ice cream. Then, once a week on a day yet to be determined, she hosts a Farmer's Market and Craft Fair. This is also a free gift to West Concord. "Well, the land is there, so we might as well use it!" sha said. I agree! What a great way to meet the community and "shop local!"

I wanted to know why it is called Ginny's, and not Lynn's. The name came from the first owners, Bob and Ginny Sendle. Bob was a local police officer, and Ginny ran the drive in. Bob pitched in on his day off. They sold it to another local, who sold it to Missy Peterson, and Lynn along with a partner, purchased it in 2015. After 5 years, Lynn bought out her partner, and now runs it with her daughters and a few friends. She loves the drive in, and hopes one day to expand.

What will her expansion look like? Well, the current building will be made into an indoor market, filled with seasonal produce from local gardens, local eggs, and crafts made by people who live in the proximity of West Concord. What those crafts are remains to be seen.

Her vision is to build a whole new diner on the rest of her lot, with not only a drive in, but also seating inside for about 20 customers. Ginny's is the first and only drive in in West Concord, and it's time to grow it a bit. When she envisions this expansion, she would like to do what the people who live here would like to see. She is asking for input from the town. You can chime in and let her know what you would like to see by texting her at akagirls@hotmail.com, or by visiting her Facebook or Instagram accounts, and answering these questions, or by adding your own ideas.

Would you be interested in a breakfast offering?

Should she stay open year round?

Are there any menu items you would like to see added to the menu?

What kind of decor would appeal to you? You get the idea! Lynn is looking forward to hearing what you think. She is here to serve you.





I asked Lynn how she has served her community over the years. She has a program that she uses "chips" for to promote achievements and good behaviors. One is a reading program at her grandson's school in Pine Island. When the kids accomplish a goal, they receive a chip for an ice cream cone, or \$1.00 off a menu item. The same chips are used by local police officers when they see a child riding a bike and wearing a helmet for safety.

Another project close to her heart is putting on a car show in the summertime. This event is dedicated to the family of Roger Herrick. Roger was killed in a car accident, and Lynn started a memorial for the family. This has streamlined into a fun event for everyone. Anyone can "show" their car, and the Herrick family picks the "Best in Show". Lynn has a trophy made by Tatge Jewelers in Kenyon, and the family presents it to the winner. There is fun and entertainment, and a great way to pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Herrick.

As you can see, Lynn is constantly striving to make West Concord a better place, and welcomes any ideas for future occasions to be held and promoted by Ginny's Drive In!

Craig Anderson Memorial Scholarship

As a tribute to the amazing teacher, mentor, and friend that Craig Anderson was to so many, a memorial scholarship has been established for music students at his alma mater, Bethel University. This scholarship will eventually be endowed, meaning his legacy will live on for years to come.

If you would like to donate to this scholarship fund in Craig's honor, there are both online and check options. For online giving, you may do so at bethel.edu/give. When you log on, you can select "other" for "I'd like my gift to support" section, and type in "Craig D. Anderson Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund."

You may also give by check. Checks should be made payable to Bethel University and put

"Craig D. Anderson Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund" in the memo line.

Mail checks to:

University Advancement

Bethel University

3900 Bethel Dr

St. Paul, MN 55112

If you have any questions, please contact John Wiens of Bethel University at 651.635.8070 or j-wiens@bethel.edu.

Your gift is tax deductible and will help to expedite when the scholarship will begin. Below is the narrative that accompanies the scholarship that will be given each year.

"Moved by the profound inspiration and influence Craig had on their life, his former students and friends now establish this scholarship in his loving memory. Craig's experience at Bethel University studying Music Education propelled him into a vibrant career training young musicians and vocalists. He taught with passion and heart, inviting students to deeply love music and musical expression. Now this scholarship allows Craig's passion to live on by empowering the next generation of music educators. This scholarship will be used by God to shape the lives of Bethel music students and empower their future careers for God's glory and our neighbors' good."

Thank you for considering this opportunity to remember Craig and to bless others.

TRITON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023



Tate Edward Aarsvold



Parker Russell Amiot



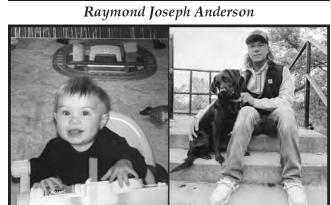
May, 2023



Avril Lynn Arleth



Wyatt Reed Bendickson**



Jordan Jason Bennerotte



Zakary Philip Bodenstab

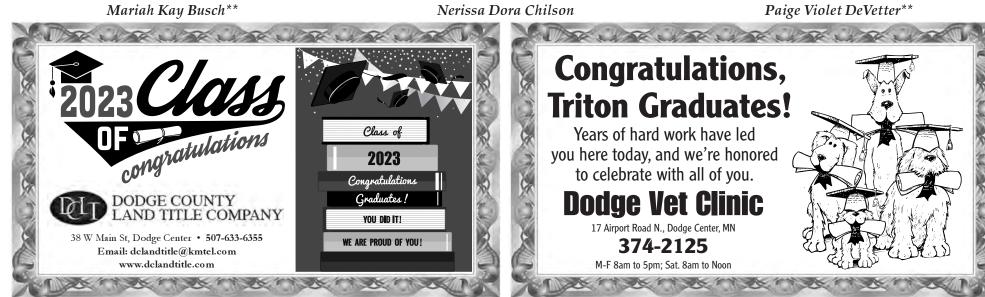


Jasmine Laura Bolster*



Faith Sherrolynne Brown





CLASS OF 2023



Reece Kaylen Dobbs*



Ashley Ximena Dominguez-Marquez

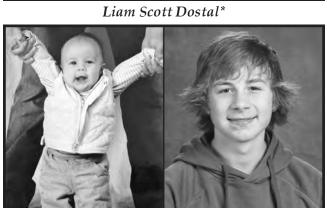




Kalena Rose Marie Dudley



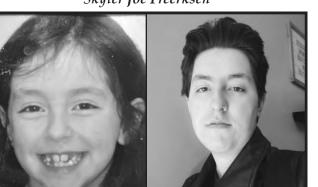
Mena Kristine Faber*



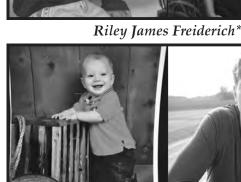
Andrew James Fate*



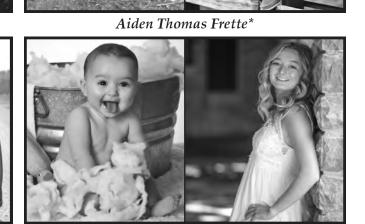
Skyler Joe Freerksen



Rae Ann Furnari

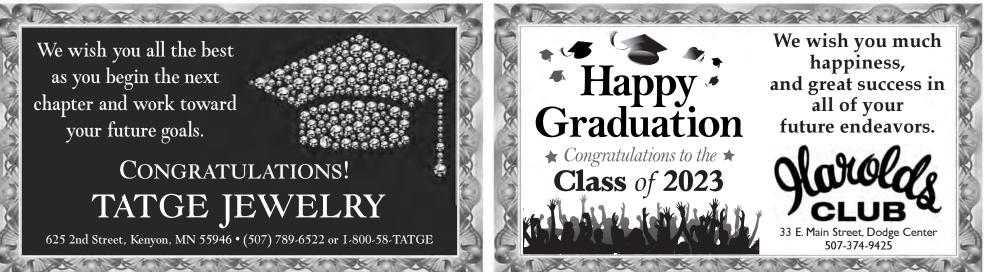




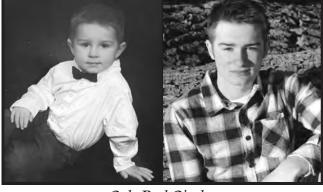


MacKenzie Rae Geers**

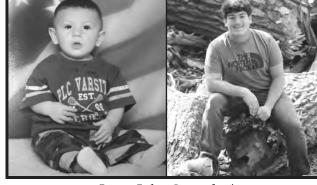
Owen Markus Garness



OL CLASS OF 2023 **TRITON HIGH SCHO**



Cale Rod Giesler



Isaac John Gonzalez*



Jude John Gosse**



Tanner Michael Green'



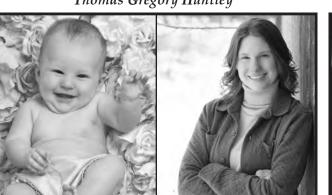
Parker Rhys Hansen



Weston Charles Haugen



Thomas Gregory Huntley*



Talia Jeanne Kelley*



Brylee Rayne Iverson**



Madison Ella Jarrett*



Gabriella Kayleen Kirya*



May, 2023

DL CLASS OF 2023 TRITON



Reece Matthew Kispert



Grady Ryan Klankowski





Kylie Marie Kraemer



Kaitlyn Rose Krupa**



Katelynn Laura Kubat**





Jayden Douglas Leuthardt**



Andrienne Mae Liudahl**



Rusty Allen Luedtke



Spencer Alan Marquette





TRITON HIGH SCHO CLASS OF 2023



Guadalupe Adan Martinez



Devany Johana Mata Colin



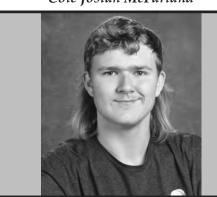
Cole Josiah McFarland



Cassandra Joy McMurdo*



Yahaira Mercado



Gavin Karl Meyer'





Boe Jordan Munnikhuysen*



Maximus Eugene Oakland





Cole Allen Peters





Francis Jack Hanson Price*

A LAR LAR LAR



TRITON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023



Phineas Carl Zeferino Quella



Tevan Paul Radke'

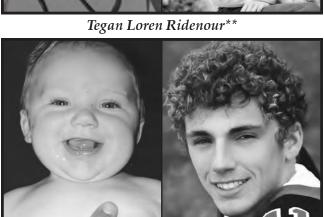




Kolton Evin Rieck



Brayden Lee Rohwer



Matthew Robert Roussopoulos*



Austin James Schlichting**



Cayleigh Rose Sowieja**



Liam Tyler Schlichting*



Carter Jon Streiff

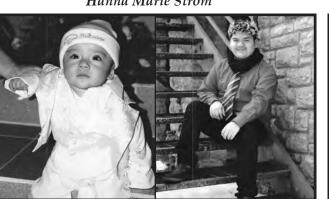


Lydia Jane Stanton

TRITON HIGH SCHO OL CLASS OF 2023



Hanna Marie Strom**



Ismael Viesca-Ramirez



Ariana Elizabeth Wennes**



**Honor Student of High Distinction *Honor Student



Angel Kayla Taylor

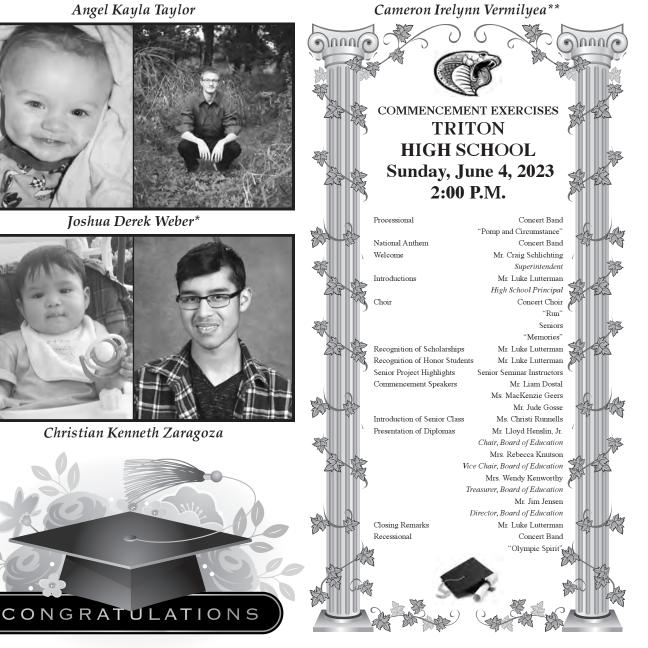
Joshua Derek Weber

Christian Kenneth Zaragoza

我们我们我们我们我们我们我们我们我们我们我们我们我们我们

to the Graduates





Here's hoping all of your hopes and dreams come true as you celebrate this achievement and reach for the next goal. Congrats & Hats Off

Happy Graduation!



ENERGY ECONOMICS, INC. www.eei.com



Iriton BPA Takes To The National Stage

Triton Business Professions of America (BPA) had yet another record-breaking performance at the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA on April 26-30 with eight National Finalists! Triton BPA built upon their historic 15 members winning trips to the National Conference and Competition when Katerina Wheeler placed 6th in the nation in Computer Modeling, Ari Wennes placed 8th in Health Administration Procedures, the News Broadcast Team of Talia Kelley, Kaitlyn Krupa, and Lydia Stanton placed 10th, and the News Broadcast Team of Liam Dostal, Weston Haugen, and Phineas Quella graced the stage at the Grand Award Ceremony as National Finalists. Triton's other competitors placed within the top 20- 50% of their competitions (Mariah Busch- 19th in Health Administration and Paige DeVetter-35th in Desktop Publishing), making for a solid performance all-around. Finally, as part of his MN State BPA Presidential duties, Wyatt Bendickson represented the state of Minnesota on stage in the Parade of Flags and served as the Head Voting Delegate during the National Officer Elections. "On top of just being plain outstanding in their competitions, making it to the National competition provides these students with so many unique opportunities and benefits that will serve them throughout their life," said Advisor Rebecca Goossens



(continued on page 14)

Cobra **Communications**



Craig Schlichting Superintendent

As the superintendent of Triton Public Schools, I am filled with gratitude and pride as we recognize the outstanding teachers who serve our communities of Claremont, Dodge Center, and West Concord. Teacher Appreciation Week, celebrated annually in May, provides us with a special opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contributions made by these exceptional individuals in shaping the minds and lives of our students. Great teachers are the backbone of any successful educational institution, and Triton Public Schools is blessed to have an exceptional team of educators who consistently go above and beyond to inspire and uplift our students. They are not just instructors but mentors, role models, and coaches, dedicated to unlocking the full potential of each child in our care.

Our teachers possess a wealth of knowledge and expertise, acquired through years of study, professional development, and practical experience. They have a deep understanding of their subjects and the ability to convey complex concepts in a manner that resonates with students of diverse backgrounds and abilities. Whether it is explaining the intricacies of calculus, exploring the wonders of the natural world, or delving into the rich tapestry of history, our teachers have a remarkable talent for making learning engaging, meaningful, and enjoyable.

But it is not just their mastery of academic content that sets them apart. Triton Public Schools' teachers are compassionate individuals who genuinely care about the well-being and success of their students. They create safe and inclusive learning environments where every child feels seen, heard, and valued. By fostering positive relationships and cultivat-

power students to take risks, embrace challenges, and develop the resilience necessary to overcome obstacles.

Moreover, our educators continuously strive for excellence and innovation in their teaching practices. They embrace new technologies, pedagogical approaches, and research-based strategies to ensure that their instruction remains relevant and impactful in an ever-evolving world. By adapting to changing educational landscapes, our teachers equip students with the skills, knowledge, and critical thinking abilities necessary to thrive in the 21st century.

Beyond the classroom, Triton Public Schools' teachers are active participants in the broader community. They serve as mentors, coaches, and advisors, guiding students in extracurricular activities and fostering their personal growth. Whether it is leading a club, organizing a musical performance, or coordinating a community service project, our teachers extend their impact far beyond the walls of the school, instilling values of leadership, teamwork, and civic responsibility.

On behalf of the entire Triton Public Schools community, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our incredible teach-

ing a sense of belonging, our teachers em- ers. Your tireless dedication, unwavering commitment, and genuine passion for education are truly commendable. Your influence reaches far beyond the classroom, shaping the future of our communities, and leaving an indelible mark on the lives of the students you serve.

To our teachers, thank you for the countless hours spent preparing lessons, grading assignments, and providing individualized support to your students. Thank you for your patience, kindness, and understanding as you nurture the intellectual, social, and emotional growth of our young learners. Your impact is immeasurable, and we are forever grateful for your exceptional contributions.

As we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, let us take a moment to recognize the greatness of our teachers at Triton Public Schools. Their unwavering dedication and commitment to fostering a love of learning in our students deserve our highest praise and deepest gratitude. To our teachers, you are the pillars of our educational community, and we are privileged to have you by our side as we shape the future together.

#WeAreTriton

Triton BPA Takes To The National Stage



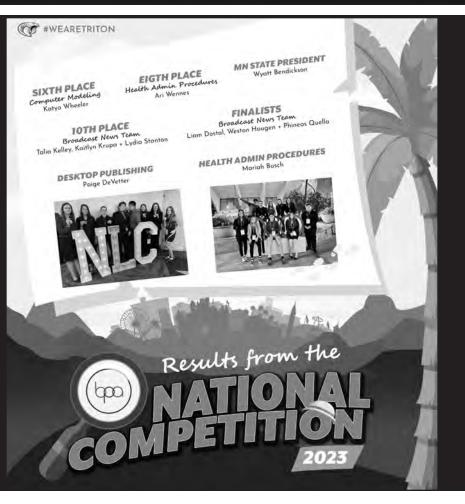
(continued from page 13)

"If you were to look at Triton's Profile of a Graduate, they displayed every characteristic throughout our trip, and I couldn't be prouder of them." Approximately 6,500 students from across the United States vied for top honors in the 57th National Leadership Conference. Conference activities included general sessions with keynote speakers, business meetings, certification exams, contests, election of national officers, community service activities, a Walk for Special Olympics, and tours of southern California sights and attractions. "For students and chapter advisors attending the National Leadership Conference, the event is the culmination of a year's work," said Steven J. Mitchell, BPA's executive director/CEO. "We [are proud to] celebrate these students for the energy they have devoted to advancing to nationals in competitive events, sharpening their leadership and career skills and contributing to community betterment through service.









An Adventure in Taxidermy

An annual highlight in Mrs. Horejsi's nature studies class is an introduction to the science of taxidermy. In this unit, students get the opportunity to skin and preserve a prime roadkill specimen that has been collected during the school year and subsequently frozen and then thawed prior to working with. Students break into groups of their choosing (with the understanding that someone needs to be comfortable making the first incision and subsequent skinning) and then, they go from there! Depending upon the animal involved, this can take anywhere from 5-8 class periods.

This year students had five different animals to work with. Those animals consisted of three red squirrels, a gray squirrel, and the prime specimen of a red fox. The red fox was the most challenging animal to work with due to its size and his roadkill impact unfortunately. However, the student group lead by Gabby Geers, were definitely up for the challenge! As Gabby noted, "I have a lot of background doing this with my dad and family. I have no issues getting right in there and skinning an animal!"

As a culmination to the unit, Bill Archer from Archer's Taxidermy came in to discuss the process he uses and how to properly mount a specimen as that is something that the students do not get experience with. His presentation was both engaging and insightful as the students were able to follow the process from start to finish. As Bill mentioned, "Taxi-



Alisson Velasco Castaneda displaying her group's completed red squirrel hide.

dermy is becoming a lost art. I receive far more requests that I can do."

Overall, it was another successful experience! We shall see what roadkill finds are discovered for next year's class to embark on! As student Damian Kanzenbach stated, "This activity helped me understand the taxidermy process, especially if I plan to do this in the future. I am thinking this could possibly be a senior seminar project for me in the future too!"



Damion Radke getting ready to embark on his group's red squirrel.



Guadalupe Mendoza and Ashley Romero working on fleshing their pelt.





Gabby Geers and Autumn Dean making progress on their red fox.

Triton Hosts Section 1A True Team Championships Track Meet

Tuesday, May 9, Triton welcomed 1,000 athletes from 17 schools for the Section True Team Championships. In this meet, every school gets two entries into each event, and every finisher scores points for their team based on their placing; the winning teams advance to the state True Team meet on May 20.

These meets can't happen without lots of help and community support; the Triton Track and Field coaches would like to extend a huge thank you to all who played a role in making it happen. That includes our administration, grounds crew, and all the folks that stepped up to help work the meet. We have some of the best people and facilities in southeast Minnesota! The Cobras had several excellent performances in the meet, including many personal records set by our athletes. Top-6 performances came from the girls 4x200 relay (4th -Romina Medina, Averee Henslin, Maddi Maes, and Olivia Weber), MacKenzie Geers (3rd in the 400), Ava Cummings (6th in the 800), the girls 4x400 relay (6th – Hanna Strom, Ava Cummings, Olivia Weber, and MacKenzie Geers), Hanna Strom (2nd in the HJ), Olivia Weber (4th in the HJ) and Pierce Petersohn (3rd in the HJ). The girls scored 546.5 team points for an 8th place team finish while the boys scored 399 team points.

The Cobras will be back in action at the Gopher Conference Championships at USC Sat-



urday, May 13 before hosting our Varsity Invitational Friday, May 19. Join us at Triton on the 19th starting at 4:30pm to check out the action!

We're always looking for folks to help at

track and field meets! If this is something you might be interested in, please contact head coach Kim Swanson at kswanson@triton.k12.mn.us.

GO COBRAS!!



MacKenzie Geers in the 200 meter dash

Triton schools support students through AmeriCorps



MathCorps or ReadingCorps What is this?

Did you see our booth during the elementary parent/teacher conferences? What is this and why does Triton support this?

These programs help kids become stronger learners in both math and reading. In Minnesota, less than a third of our students are proficient in reading and math.

Data has shown that students who are not at grade level in mathematics at the end of 8th grade are much more likely to drop out of school before they graduate.

Data also has shown that students who are not proficient in reading by the time they begin 4th grade continue to have reading difficulties into adulthood.

These skills are essential for success both in the classroom and the community. Math-Corps and ReadingCorps helps by training people to be effective tutors. They prepare individuals so they can be placed in local schools to provide extra practice and support that result in incredible growth and more confidence for kids. It has been my privilege to be one of these tutors for the last four years.

Triton will continue to support these programs and AmeriCorps is always looking for people who would be interested in part or full time opportunities to serve kids. There are many perks to doing this including stipends, education awards, health insurance and child care assistance. They will give you the training and support you need to be successful.

If you are interested in learning how to become a tutor log on to:

Join.ReadingandMath.org OR call: 866-859-2825

This has been a terrific experience for me and I encourage anyone who wants to learn more to check it out!

In Service,

Vicki R. MathCorpsTutor



Cobras ready to compete!

Mr. Johnson is now a part of the Southeast Minnesota's Top Driving School and he's bringing it to Triton!

The Enhanced Driving Institute is proud to offer the most comprehensive driver's education program available, and we are extremely excited to be bringing our program to Triton High School with a teacher the students know and trust! Our next class will run June 5th – 16th and we will offer another class again in November. Class will be from 9:00 a.m.- noon and will be held in the Triton MS Media Center.



All students over 14 years old are legally eligible for class, though we recommend waiting until students are 15 or nearly 15. Our Complete Package (\$415) includes 30 hours of classroom instruction AND the 6 hours of Behind the Wheel Training with a licensed instructor that is required by the state of MN. All behind the wheel lessons will begin and end at our Rochester campus location. The Complete Package is subject to a one year program agreement which requires all 3 behind the wheel lessons to be completed 10 months after the first day of class. Students who will not turn 15 for a bit, could also register for the Classroom Only Package (\$240). The Classroom Only Package is not subject to a program agreement. These students would receive their Blue Card when they enroll in BTW training (\$240).

All registration is done completely online through our website: https://www.enhanceddrivinginstitute-mn.com/triton

If you want to know more about our program e-mail Mr. Johnson: jjohnson@trion.k12.mn.us

Celebrity Chef Shari visits Triton!

Season 10: 5th place Master Chef contestant Shari Mukherjee.

Visited Mrs. McMahan's cooking classes and made Mexican rice and beans for students and staff. She also visited with the students in Mrs. Stahl's 5th grade about being on a reality tv show. Shari resides in Rochester with her husband and two children. You can find her on socials as Spiced Up Mom and her website is spicedupmom.com.

https://www.facebook.com/spicedupmom https://spicedupmom.com/?fbclid=IwAR3e1PHqVU5X5Id84ZXevhU9-bbavsB-BROUr4sTunCkw7iJbJcCxd55cJs

TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOLS www.triton.k12.mn.us

Triton Counselor's Corner

In the last several years, Triton Public Schools and our community members have determined 8 qualities that we want every Triton student to embody in their everyday lives and especially upon graduation. The Triton Profile of a Graduate consists of: selfawareness, integrity, critical thinking, dependability, problem solving, resilience, work ethic and communica-



tion. As a school counseling and social work team, we'd like to explain a little more about each of these traits and how they can relate to mental health and/or social emotional learning.

In May, the Profile of a Graduate focus is self-awareness. Students will learn that selfawareness is the ability to understand the things that make us who we are as an individual – our personality, actions, values, beliefs, emotions, and thoughts. Gaining a better understanding of our own thoughts, emotions, and behaviors allows us to make more informed decisions, set realistic goals, and identify areas for self-improvement.

Self-awareness is also a key component of mental health and wellbeing. Self-awareness requires us to step back and observe our thoughts and feelings in the moment. It is a shift in focus from what is happening around us to what is going on inside of us. This may be as simple as observing thoughts and feelings when we interact with friends or acknowledging that we feel nervous when trying new things. Or it may be a more complex process of understanding how certain thoughts and emotions affect our behaviors. For example, imagine a student who has an upcoming test. They may think "I'm going to fail." Because of that thought, they begin to worry. The big worries lead to feeling sick just thinking about the test. They then feel so uncomfortable that they decide not to study. Self-awareness allows us to identify our strengths and weaknesses as well as our triggers for certain emotions and behaviors. This understanding can allow us to manage stress, anxiety, and other mental health concerns more effectively.

One of the ways we can help children practice self-awareness is by encouraging them to feel their feelings, no matter how uncomfortable they may be. In the article last month, we talked about how important it is to hold space for our children and validate their feelings instead of trying to make them feel better as quickly as possible in order to move on more quickly. This same concept can be applied to helping children become more self-aware. Validate their feelings, sit with them in whatever they are feeling, and create a safe and open environment where they feel comfortable exploring what it is like to experience those thoughts and feelings. The process of developing self-awareness is not always an easy, comfortable one. It often takes courage. Paying attention to our thoughts and feelings can often lead to discomfort, especially in difficult situations. It is important that while we are confronting our thoughts, feelings, beliefs, values, and actions, we are practicing self-care and self-compassion. And while we are walking alongside our children as they are developing their own self-awareness, we are offering the same things – care, empathy, and compassion. In doing this, we are helping to create the foundation needed for building resilience and managing our emotional and mental wellbeing.

Ashlee Koll, TES Counselor Diane Meyer, TMS Counselor Christi Runnells, THS Counselor







FCCLA SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Name: Kalena Dudley

Office positions: Current Chapter President

How many years in FCCLA? 3

What activities / competitions have you participated in FCCLA?

Lions Club Halloween Party, Teach or Train Competition, Interpersonal Communication Competition, FCCLA Carnival *What awards have you received in FCCLA? Ultimate Lead-*

ership Award, Silver State Qualifier, Silver State rating, National qualifier

What is your favorite FCCLA memory?

My favorite FCCLA memory is when we were waiting for our results at regionals and all of us played games as a group including the middle school group.

What are your future plans?

My future plans are to attend Concordia University and major in elementary education.

How has FCCLA helped prepare you for the future?

FCCLA has prepared me for my future by helping me get out of my comfort zone and not be afraid to speak publicly. It's also helped me learn how to reflect, which is a big part of teaching.

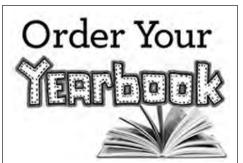


5th Grade Math Masters Compete

What in the world is a math master? Math Masters is a math competition held throughout the State of Minnesota. Students are able to compete in three different areas. The first area consists of fact drills. The facts start with simple basic facts in all four operations, but quickly become more difficult. Competitors need to be aware of the order of operations, which include parentheses and brackets. The second area of competition requires participants to compete individually solving story problems, and the third area students compete as a team to solve more story problems. By the end of competition, students have worked to find the solutions to a total of 72 above-grade-level math problems

Our Triton 5th Grade team of 11 students met a total of 10 times with their coach to prepare for competition. This year's team traveled to Austin on April 20 to compete with a total of 117 students from 11 different school districts in our region. Their hard work certainly shone through since Triton was well represented at the awards ceremony following competition. In fact drill, the top 20 scores are recognized. Connor Schleusner placed 3rd, Jaxon Fate 4th , K'Stin Korbisch 7th , and Bryce Dupey 12th. Triton students also placed in the top 20 for individual story problem solving. Griffin Snyder placed 2nd, Rebekah Henslin 10th, and Wesley Shake 14th. Ten of the students from Triton formed two teams that competed well against the other 22 teams present. Triton Team #2 (Ryan Rosenau, Bryce Dupey, Wesley Shake, Rebekah Henslin, and K'Stin Korbisch) placed 8th, and Triton Team #2 (Jaxon Fate, Charli Henslin, Connor Schleusner, Layla Schley, and Griffin Snyder) placed 3rd!

Congratulations to the 5th Grade Math Masters Team!!! Job well done!!!!



ATTENTION PARENTS: The Triton yearbook staff has been hard at work on the 2022-2023 yearbook. Be sure to order by May 26th to guarantee your yearbook this year. We cannot guarantee copies will be available after this date. Order your 2022 yearbook online through Jostens.com. Any questions can be directed to jjohnson@triton.k12.mn.us

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE MEMORIES!

What an adventure the last 43 years have been with the Triton School District and now it is time to say goodbye. I want to thank everyone for sharing their children with me all these years and the support we have received from everyone... the donations of materials, joining me in a class, letting us rent space to hold classes and the adventure of joining 25 young children on a field trip to the farm or a park.



25 young children on a field trip to the farm or a park. A special thank you to everyone that joined me at a retirement party. I was hoping to get away quietly, but that did not happen. It was great to see every-

one, and I appreciate the time you took from your day to join me. It is time for me to put away the playdough, pop the bubbles and say no to Goldfish

crackers and fruit snacks. This will never really happen; it will just take place somewhere else!

Thank you, Diana Eipers

SEMCAC Bus Services Available This Summer!

SEMCAC offers transportation services for parents, guardians, or daycare providers to get their children to and from their summer activities. Whether it's for swimming lessons, library hours, or Community Ed classes—we can assist with getting the children and families to and from!

> The bus hours of operation are: 6:45AM-4:45PM Monday through Friday

Rates are posted on the website: In Town is \$2, Out of Town (under 8 miles) is \$3, over 8 miles is \$6. All rates are one-way per person.

Our dispatch is local, and staff is available at 507-634-4340, Option #1 Or rhtbus@semcac.org

Transportation Services | Kasson, Byron & Stewartville, MN | Rolling Hills Transit

When you need reliable school transportation or appointment transportation, give Rolling Hills Transit a call, We provide curb-to-cub transportation services.





Back row Left to Right: Jaxon Fate, Rebekah Henslin, Emma Axt, Bryce Dupey, Layla Schley, Griffin Snyder, Wesley Shake. Front Row: Ryan Rosenau, K'Stin Korbisch, Connor Schleusner, Charli Henslin

Congratulations to the Triton Class of 2023!

TRITON CLASS OF 2023 2023 LITE SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Cassandra McMurdo is a senior at Triton this year. Her parents are Douglas and Michelle McMurdo. She has five brothers, Curtis, Jacob, Ian, Eli and Gabe and three sisters, Alashia, Hazel and Addy. Her hobbies are photography, art and singing ad she works as a CAN outside of school. After graduation Cassandra plans to attend Winona State University and major in business management and administration with a minor in medicine.





TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Sunshine and Roses

Canvas Painting Classes—June Classes! Festive Fireworks

Ages Entering K-5 Fall of 2023 Join the Sunshine and Roses instructor and get into the patriotic spirit. You will paint your own fireworks scene on canvas. Adults are welcome to attend with the child and observe or paint their own. Adults must pay the per student price if also painting.

Cost: \$26 per painting June 28 2-3PM in the TES Art Room

4th of July Treat Ages Entering K-5 Fall of 2023

Join the Sunshine and Roses instructor and paint a yummy summertime treat! You will paint your own patriotic ice cream cone scene on canvas. Adults are welcome to attend with the child and observe or paint their own. Adults must pay the per student price if also painting. Cost: \$26 per painting June 28

3-4 PM in the TES Art Room

*** SPECIAL, paint both canvases for \$48***





Safe Driving Class Jim Jensen

In the Safe Driving Class, you will learn driving strategies that can keep you safer on the road. You will learn updates to traffic laws, how to reduce distractions to driving and how to navigate different intersections. Driver's aged 55

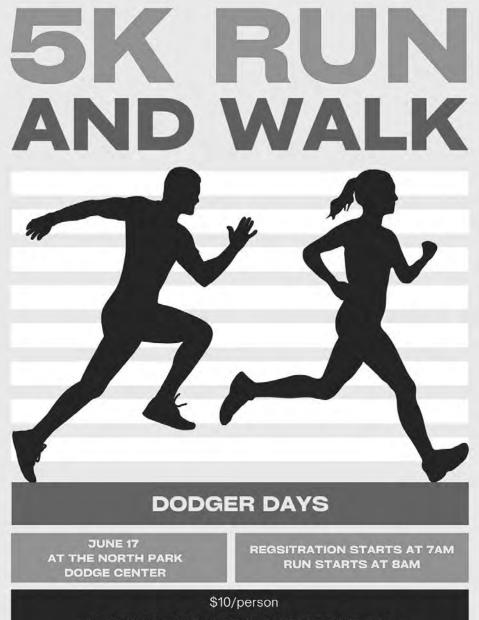


years old and older who successfully complete the Safe Driver Class will qualify for reduc- tions in their automobile insurance premiums. Please remember to bring your driver's license with you to class. It's important to pre-register so that Jim can assure accommodations for all. Please call Triton CE at 507-418-7550.

4-Hour Refresher Course (for those that have taken the 8-Hour before) Cost: \$20, checks should be made to Jim Jensen

May 25 Or July 20

5-9PM in the THS Media Center



T-SHIRTS AND MEDALS INCLUDED FOR REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS UNTIL SUPPLIES ARE GONE

Sponsored by Triton Community Ed

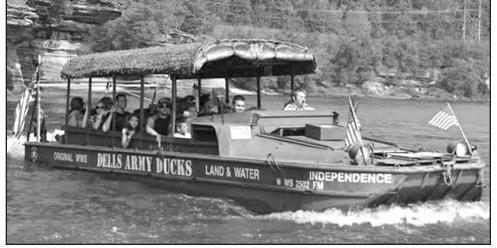
TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550 History and Adventure in Wisconsin- a 2-day trip!

Kristy Faber, Tour Leader

We'll go back in time on this 2 Day, 1 night getaway to Wisconsin. On our first day, we will travel to Fort Atkinson Wisconsin, stopping in Tomah for lunch. Next, we will check into our overnight accommodation at the Fort Atkinson Country Inn and Suites where we will be greeted with cookies and a punch reception. This evening we will have a beautiful experience at the Fireside Dinner Theatre. Where we will eat at the Signature Buffet

featuring: Salad topped with Papaya Chutney Dressing and served with Freshly Baked Breads. On the Buffet, you will choose from these Fireside favorites: Barbecued Pork Back Ribs, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Beer Batter Fried Cod, Shrimp and Scallops Fusilli with Tomato Butter Sauce, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Chicken Marsala, Penne Pasta with Alfredo Sauce, Beef Tenderloin and Roast Turkey from the Carving Station, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Whipped Idaho Potatoes and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Crème Brûlée for Dessert. Coffee, Tea, and Milk are included. Next, we will see TI-TANIC, the 1997 Broadway Musical, won five Tony Awards including Best Musical. Soaring songs, grand staging, and a set awash in glorious costumes makes this historic musical a must-see event; a great show made even better in the intimacy of The Fireside's theatre-in-the-round. The show

focuses on the lives of all the varied strata of people uniquely united on that fateful



journey, with the central character being the Titanic herself. This human drama explores and reveals individual strength, love, faith, and especially the triumph of human dignity.

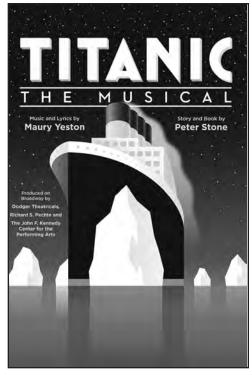
We will return to our hotel for a great night's sleep. We will enjoy a complimentary breakfast at the hotel, and then depart for the Wisconsin Dells. While there, we will stop at the cheese mart, have lunch, and experience the World War II Duck Tour.

In 1946, the world's first Duck tour was launched. While other Duck rides have come and gone, only ORIGINAL WIS-CONSIN DUCKS® has been delivering FUN and

ADVENTURE on LAND and WATER, NON-STOP, ever since! The CLASSIC DUCK TOUR splashes into the WISCON-SIN RIVER and LAKE DELTON, climbs over SAND BARS, traverses over four miles of EXCLUSIVE SCENIC WILDER-NESS TRAILS, and has been thrilling passengers for 75 YEARS and counting, ride THE ORIGINAL! Journey on an amphibious vehicle used during World War II. These restored ducks travel by land and water on trails tucked away among the natural beauty of Wisconsin Dells. Squeeze through the narrow walls of Red Bird Gorge. Coast around the exhilarating curves of Roller Coaster Hill. Plunge into the Wisconsin River. Experience 8 1/2 miles of

breathtaking views from towering sandstone cliffs to scenic wilderness trails. Take a one-hour tour aboard a green and white duck.

September 28 and 29, 2023 Total Trip: Limit 30 people



Double Queen: \$340 (2 people in the room--please specify roommate on registration)

Single Queen: \$385 (if staying alone) Cost includes, coach bus, dinner and show at the Fireside, hotel stay and WW II Ducks Tour. Note: lunch on the way there and back will be the individual's responsibility.

A \$100 deposit will be due by July 31st, to reserve the trip. Final payment is due August 31st.

Leaves	Approx Returns
10AM	4:30PM
10:15AM	4:15PM
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	10AM 10:15AM

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Aqua Zumba Ann Marie Brownlow

Ann	Marie	Br	owi
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Ages 18 and up

We're bringing Zumba to the pool! Integrating the Zumba formula and philosophy with traditional aqua fitness disciplines. Aqua Zumba blends it all together into a safe, challenging, water-based workout that's cardio-conditioning, body toning, and most of all, exhilarating beyond belief. This is an activity that anyone can do. This co-sponsor-ship is between Triton Community Ed and the Natalie Webb Aquatic Center. Join us for the greatest exercise party at the pool this summer!

Cost: \$60, for all 6 weeks \$13, for walk-ins Wednesday evenings June 21,28 • July 12, 19, 26 • August 2 Rain date 8/9 7-8 PM Held at Natalie Webb Aquatic Center, Dodge Center

Natalie Webb Aquatic Center, Dodge Center

Aqua Aerobics and Strength Ann Marie Brownlow

Ages 18 and up

Rain date 8/10 7-8PM

Get a wonderful workout in the water! AnnMarie will guide you through movement, water, and music as its core. Pool noodles and your own body will be used as resistance tools to build strength and improve muscle tone. This exercise is low impact and joint friendly. This co-sponsorship is between Triton Community Ed and the Natalie Webb Aquatic Center. Minimum 10/ Maximum 35. Cost: \$60, for all 6 weeks \$13, for walk-ins Thursdays: June 22, 29 • July 13,20,27 • August 3











- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER/GOLDEN LINK -





Dog Cognition: Dogs Are Even Smarter Than You Think

How much do you know about what goes on in your pup's head? Do you believe it's all pretty simple in there? Just thoughts about dinner, the cat next door, and more dinner? Think again.

Dogs have been known to learn hundreds of words, do arithmetic, and guess what people and other dogs are thinking. We know all this and more, thanks to the growing number of scientists around the country and the world who have, since the beginning of this century, been turning their attention to the burgeoning field of dog cognition.

So what do you need to know about your dog's know-how? And how can you nurture that brilliant brain of his? The first thing to note is: there's no such thing as "the dog." Just like humans, each dog is different. So while scientists are working hard on collecting data about the way dogs experience the world, it's important to remember that their findings aren't designed to give you a blueprint to your particular pet. The studies can be interesting, useful guides, but the real joy of dog cognition is in getting curious about the way your own dog thinks. While you get to know your dog's mind, remember that there are many different kinds of intelligence. Some dogs might excel at gauging social situations, others might be adept at learning words, while still others might have great problem-solving abilities — or your dog might have some other cognitive skill entirely.

Although every dog is unique, there is enough evidence to indicate that species-wide one of the really special things about dogs is how well they understand humans. "They are very attentive to and responsive to us, which is a great social cognitive skill," Dr. Alexandra Horowitz, head of the Dog Cognition Lab at Barnard College, Columbia University, told me.

Researchers don't entirely agree on why dogs are so socially savvy. The prevailing view is that their social intelligence is evolutionary: that over the thousands of years since wolves entered the human sphere and started to morph into the pets we know today, breeding has favored qualities that make dogs good companions to humans, such as friendliness and an affinity for us, which make them good at reading our behavior.

There's also a theory that each dog simply acquires his or her social intelligence through the sheer amount of time spent around humans – that's why puppy socialization is so important.

This manifests in many ways. Zachary Silver, a Ph.D. student in the Comparative Cognition Lab at Yale University, studies the way dogs interpret the social world. "They're extremely skillful at following our communicative cues, especially our points and our gazes," he told me. "But it even goes a step further: they pay really close attention to how we interact with each other." For instance, there's evidence to suggest that, in some contexts, dogs will notice whether a human is helpful or unhelpful, and favor the helpful person.

Silver's current research focuses on dogs' understanding of humans' perspectives: he's working to build on previous findings indicating that, in some contexts, if food is hidden such that a dog sees one person observe the hiding and one miss it, they are more likely to take a hint about its whereabouts from the person who watched it being hidden. This suggests that dogs might be drawing all sorts of complex conclusions about what we know and feel.

As Silver observes, "Dogs do pretty sophisticated things regarding understanding our own perspective."

If humans want to understand what it's like to be a dog, the nose is an excellent place to start. It's well known that dogs have a much more powerful sense of smell than humans, but did you know just how much more powerful? As Alexandra Horowitz outlines in her New York Times bestselling book "Being a Dog: Following the Dog Into a World of Smell":

Explosives-detection dogs smell as little as a picogram—a trillionth of a gram— of TNT or other explosive. What might it be like to notice a picogram of an odor? ... The average cinnamon roll has about a gram of cinnamon in it. Sure, the human nose is on it, from the moment we open the door of the house. Now imagine the smell of one trillion cinnamon rolls. That's what the dog coming in with us smells when we enter.

This sense of smell gives dogs remarkable insights into their environment. Horowitz notes that a tracking dog can tell which direction someone is moving in from smelling just five of their footprints. And in some European countries, dogs' noses now have the legal seal of approval: if a dog is able to identify a suspect based on smells left at the crime scene, that evidence is admissible in court.

This sensory difference is important because it gives us information about how dogs experience and interpret the world. Humans are primarily visual creatures, navigating by sight. Dogs, by contrast, process the world through their noses, and thus have all kinds of scent skills that are difficult for humans to conceive of.

By applying a little imagination about what it might be like to live in a scent-based world, we can better appreciate dogs' cognitive abilities. For

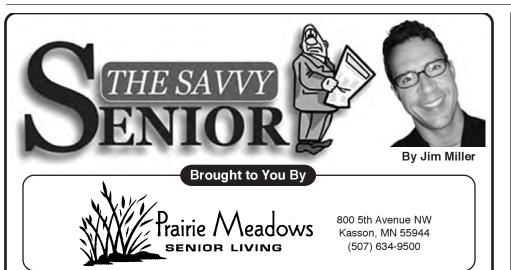
instance: dogs do not recognize themselves in mirrors, which had been thought to indicate that they don't possess self-awareness. But Dr. Horowitz has demonstrated that dogs do recognize changes in their own smell, demonstrating "perhaps something somewhat like self-awareness," she told me.

Since dogs' experiences are so scent-based, one of the best ways to nurture your dog is to indulge his or her nose. "My favorite mantra these days is 'let them sniff," Dr. Horowitz told me. "It's important to let them investigate the world with their noses." Dr. Horowitz and fellow canine behavior researcher Dr. Charlotte Duranton have even found that dogs who are allowed to sniff have a more optimistic approach to the world.

Besides allowing them plenty of freedom to sniff, how else can dog owners keep their pets mentally stimulated? Experts consulted by the American Kennel Club agreed: it's all about communication. "Your dogs are constantly communicating with you — watch their behavior carefully, instead of presuming that you know what they want or know," Dr. Horowitz told me. "And they learn what we want or know best from our being consistent and clear when we ask things of them. Give them new challenges and expose them to new places and activities."







Toenail Trimming Tips for Seniors

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend some good toenail clipping solutions for seniors? My toenails have gotten increasingly thick since I've gotten older and have become very difficult for me to reach down and cut. --Almost 80

Dear Almost,

Trimming your toenails is a task that most people don't think much about, but as we get older it can become very challenging. For many older adults, like yourself, toenails can become thicker and harder to cut, and reduced flexibility can make it more difficult to even get into the right position to cut them. Fortunately, there are solutions available that can make this job a little easier.

One of the simplest tricks for cutting thick toenails is to simply take a bath or shower, or soak your feet in warm water, prior to cutting them. The water helps soften them for easier cutting.

There are also toenail softening creams you can buy, like "Miracle of Aloe Toenail Soft" and "Barielle Toenail Softening Cream," that temporarily softens thick, hard nails. Just rub it into your toenails at bedtime and in the morning, they'll be easier to cut and file.

Most people's toenails grow about 1/16 inch per month, so it's appropriate to cut them every six to eight weeks.

When cutting nails, take care not to cut too far down. Overaggressive trimming and cutting the toenails too short can lead to ingrown toenails. Podiatrists typically recommend leaving a very small bit (about 1/32 inch) of nail past the nail bed when trimming.

You may also want to avoid a rounded cut. It's best to cut the nails fairly straight across, ensuring that the corners of the nail do not cut into the skin folds of the toe. And use an emery board to smooth the jagged edges and corners that can snag and potentially tear the nail as it grows.

Top Toenail Clippers

There are a number of medical-grade or specialty toenail clippers recommended by professionals for older adults.

For thick nails the "New Huing Podiatrist Toenail Clippers" is a top option. This clipper has a sharp, curved blade that easily cuts through any toenail, no matter how hard or thick it has gotten, and a nonslip, cushion grip that allows for comfortable clipping.

For those with limited mobility, check out the "Clipperpro Omega Select Toenail Clipper," which has a long plastic grip that's much larger than that of a standard set of nail clippers and a blade head that swivels 180 degrees. Both of those features make this clipper much easier to use for anyone with arthritis or mobility issues, since they have more control and an added range they can reach.

And for people who have a hard time bending over, there are long handled toenail clippers like the "DriFeez Long Handle Toenail Clippers" which come in four sizes - 20, 24, 28 and 32 inches long. It also has a heavy-duty clipper with a 1/8-inch-wide jaw opening designed to cut thick toenails.

All of these clippers are available online at sites like Amazon.com or Walmart.com at prices ranging between \$10 and \$40.

Toenail Trimming Services

If you get to the point that you can't, or would rather not cut your own toenails, a podiatrist can provide both foot and toenail care. But be aware that routine foot care is not covered by Medicare unless you have an underlying condition or injury that requires a professional to tend to your feet.

If you are generally in good health, regular pedicures at a nail salon is good option for getting your toenails cut and is much cheaper than visiting a podiatrist.

SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, April 24, 2023

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the April 24, 2023 Special Dodge Center City Council meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us.

Present: Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Lee Mattson, Marianne Sobek, Mark Barwald, Jason Boynton, Smith Schafer and Kathy Freeman The City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda;
- Resolution No 2023-011 A Resolution to Commit Funds;

• Resolution No 2023-012 - A Resolution to Approve the 2022 Audit as Presented Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm

SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, April 24, 2023

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Present: Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Lee Mattson, Mark Barwald, Deputy Tyler Vermeersch, Daren Meier - Widseth, Tim Woessner, City

Attorney; Kathy Freeman and others

The City Council approved the following items:

• Agenda and consent agenda;

• Jacob Annexation Project authorized approximately one half the cost of terminating 5th Avenue Northwest;

Public hearing set for May 22, 2023 on annexation petition of 5th Avenue Northwest;
MPCA Stipulation Agreement;

• MPCA Permit Extension Letter;

• Resolution 2023-013; A Resolution Consenting to Amendments to the City's Senior Housing Revenue Refunding Note (Wedum Shorewood Campus, LLC Project) Series 2015C

• Resolution 2023-014 – A Resolution Providing for the Redemption of Prepayment of the General Obligation Crossover Refunding Bonds, Series 2014A;

• Resolution 2023-015 – A Resolution Providing for the Redemption and Prepayment of the General Obligation Improvement and Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2014B;

- Submission of grant application for increasing size of ramp and apron at airport;
- Closed Session;
- Opened Session;
- To accept insurance offer on the Ambulance Building

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm



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Minnesota DNR

- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER -

DNR Shares Top 10 Tips for **Planning a Camping Trip in State Parks, Recreation Areas** and Forest Campgrounds

As Minnesotans prepare for the summer camping season, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources shares tips to help in planning an outdoor adventure.

"We know Minnesotans love being outdoors, and getting outside after a long winter is exciting," said Ann Pierce, Parks and Trails Division director. "We also know time and knowledge can be barriers in planning a camping trip. We're working to alleviate this for folks by providing information to help them prepare for a fun experience." Book campsites early, and be flexible if you can't book early

Reservations for campsites in state parks and recreation areas can be made up to 120 days in advance. Reservations are in high demand for holiday weekends and at the most popular parks, like those on the North Shore.

If reservations are full, the DNR has three suggestions. First, sign up for the "notify me"

function on the reservation website to get notified by email if there's a cancellation. Second, consider a camping trip on weekdays instead of the busy weekends if your schedule allows. Third, look for open reservations at less busy parks. Our list of quiet state park getaways on the DNR website opens in a new browser tab provides suggestions for locations more likely to have open reservations. Looking for flexible camping options? Try camping in a state forest.

If spontaneity is your style, try camping in a state forest where all campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and dispersed camping is allowed. Learn more on the DNR's state forest camping web page opens in a new browser tab.

Buy a vehicle permit

A permit is required for each vehicle entering state parks and recreation areas. Permits can be purchased online or at park offices during open hours. The cost is \$7 per day or \$35 per year. If you're camping just one night, a one-day permit will be valid until check-out time. Find details on the Minnesota state park vehicle permit web page opens in a new browser tab. State forests do not require a vehicle permit.

Pack smart

Sometimes it can be hard to figure out what to pack for a camping trip, especially for those who are new to camping. For a good starting point, the DNR has a camping supply checklist opens in a new browser tab.

Check equipment before you leave home Broken tent poles or a leaky air mattress might ruin a camping trip or make it less comfortable. If your camping gear hasn't been used in a while or is new, test it at home



before the trip to make sure it works. Research events to enhance your trip

Events and programs are scheduled at state parks throughout the year, offering a wide range of activities from fishing and birding, to interpretive hikes, to crafting. Visitors of all ages are welcome, and no prior experience is needed. Find event listings on the state parks and trails event calendar opens in a new browser tab.

Check visitor alerts before leaving home

State park and recreation area websites post visitor alerts to communicate important information related to safety, closures, construction projects and other helpful details. Find visitor alerts by choosing a park from the state parks map opens in a new browser tab.

Don't get lost, navigate with a smartphone

The Avenza Maps app uses GPS location tracking so visitors can stay found, even off the grid. After you download the app and a GeoPDF map, no internet or cell service is needed. DNR maps can be downloaded for free. Get details on the DNR's GeoPDF web

page opens in a new browser tab. Watch the weather

Stay in the know by enabling severe weather notifications on your smartphone. Because cell service is not available in all locations within state parks, recreation areas and forests, visitors may want to bring a weather radio to get information about severe weather warnings, watches and advisories.

Document your trip and share your photos Make sure to bring a camera to document the great memories made on the camping trip, and we'd love for you to share your photos with us. Images submitted may be featured on the Parks and Trails social media accounts. Share photos on the DNR photo sharing web page opens in a new browser tab.

For more information about any of these camping tips, visit www.mndnr.gov opens in a new browser tab or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us opens in a new browser tab or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday).



X



May, 2023

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Rural Routes

- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER -

May, 2023

Study Shows Higher Profits for Ag Water Quality Certified Farms for Fourth Straight Year

Farmers also saw other improved financial metrics

Farmers enrolled in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) have higher profits than non-certified farms, according to a recent study by the Minnesota State Agricultural Centers of Excellence. This marks the fourth year of data highlighting improved financial outcomes.

The "Influence of Intensified Environmental Practices on Farm Profitability" study examined financial and crop production



information from farmers enrolled in the Minnesota State Farm Business Management education program. The 101 MAWQCP farms in the study saw 2022 net farm income an average of more than \$23,500 or 7.5% higher than non-certified farms. Looking at four years of data, the average income for MAWQCP farms was \$16,000 - \$40,000 higher. Other key financial metrics are also better for those enrolled in the MAWQCP, such as debt-to-asset ratios and operating expense ratios.

The four years of data serve as an indicator of a positive return on investment for wholefarm conservation management that farmers implement to become certified.

"For four years now, we see that farm operations in the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program have, on average, better economic outcomes on top of the known environmental benefits," said Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen. "There are many advantages to the MAWQCP, and I encourage all farmers and landowners to look into certifying their land and contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District for more information."

"Minnesota Farm Business Management is proud to support farmers who are water quality certified and continue to demonstrate profitability compared to their peers," said Keith Olander, Executive Director of Ag-Centric, and Agricultural Partnerships. "The water quality certified cohort sets a standard for other environmental enhancements to be implemented on-farm through a data supported process as farmers continue to improve their soil health while protecting their economic viability."

To find details on the economic study, visit: https://www.agcentric.org/farm-business-management/annual-fbm-reports/.

The MAWQCP puts farmers in touch with local conservation district experts to identify and mitigate any risks their farm poses to water quality on a field-by-field basis. Pro-

West Concord Community Blood Drive American Red Cross

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. It is essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation.

The Red Cross provides about 40% of our nation's blood and blood components, all from generous volunteer donors. But supply can't always meet demand because only about 3% of age-eligible people donate blood

yearly. Each new donor helps us meet patient needs.
 Approximately 29,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U. S.

• Nearly 5,000 units of platelets and 6.500 units of plasma are needed daily in the U.S.

• The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 units.

A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood.
Blood and platelets cannot be manufactured; they can only come from volunteer donors.

• One donation can help save more than one life.

You can help others by donating blood at the West Concord Community Blood Drive held at

Faith Community Church 305 State St N, West Concord

Thursday, June 15, 2023 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Schedule appointments by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter: West Concord *Walk-ins are also accepted.* ducers going through the certification process have priority access to financial assistance. After being certified, each farm is deemed in compliance with new water quality laws and regulations for 10 years.

Since the program's statewide launch in 2016, 1,326 farms totaling nearly 970,000 acres have been certified across Minnesota. Farms have added over 2,615 new conserva-

tion practices, which protect Minnesota's waters. Those new practices help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 50,000 metric tons each year.

Farmers and landowners interested in becoming water quality certified can contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District or visit MyLandMyLegacy.com.

MDA Announces New Grant Opportunity to Support Emerging Farmers

Technical assistance grant applications due June 26

A new grant opportunity for organizations that support emerging farmers is now open for applications through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Rural Finance Authority (RFA).

The Emerging Farmer Technical Assistance Grant is available to those who provide technical assistance services to emerging farmers in Minnesota. Grant funds can also be used by these organizations to pay up to 65% of emerging farmers' premium expenses for up to two years under the USDA Micro Farm Crop Insurance program.

"This grant is an important tool to support farmers and producers across the state in overcoming disparities and barriers to opening new pathways to agriculture." says Patrice Bailey, assistant commissioner at the MDA.

Technical assistance consists of helping farmers with financials, business planning, record keeping, regulations, land access, marketing, applying for state and federal programs, and/or other farm business needs.

Emerging farmers include farmers who are American Indian or Alaskan Natives, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, members of a community of color, women, veterans, persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA+, or any other emerging farmers as determined by the commissioner of agriculture.

Applications for the grant are due by June 26, 2023, at 8 a.m. The RFA will award \$540,000 in one-time grants through a competitive review process, with a maximum award amount of \$100,000 and a minimum award amount of \$10,000. Decisions are expected in July 2023.

For more information and to access the application materials, visit the Emerging Farmer Technical Assistance Grant webpage.



Changes in Latitudes, **Changes in Attitudes Horse Sense** and Character



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

This is a picture of my dad from 1984. I grew up with horses, but my dad did not like them very much. As a young kid he would take me to look at horses. He would wait while I rode them. And he would haul them back to the farm for me. There would be comments about how once cars were invented it was silly to go backwards to horse power. But once he joined the Sheriff's Mounted Posse it became a necessary evil. So, he bought this big Egyptian Arab geld-

A Minnesotan: The Problem With Geese



By RosaLin Alcoser

There is nothing I fear more on this earth than geese... well maybe snakes, but geese are the more intimate threat. Because here in Minnesota geese are everywhere.

Geese are at the park, in the parking lot, on the sidewalks, and even standing in the middle of the freeway in some cases- like they own the place.

It started out when I was a small child and the geese would chase me around the park honking. Since I was about the same size as them I guess it made sense that they were going after me.

Thankfully in response to these attacks my sister would chase the geese away from me so that I was not mauled to death by a goose at age six.

However, it did not stop as I got older. To this day geese will still chase me if given ing. Azibelli loved to run and if you gave him his head he would flat out run like the wind. There is something exhilarating about pounding down the road on the back of a powerful horse, feeling as one with the beast, knowing that one miss step would likely be catastrophic. I was young and willing to risk life and limb on the back of this steed, even though I was a quarter horse guy and never much cared for Arabians,, because this horse could run. I don't believe though, that my dad ever rode him at more than a walk.

My dad was very opinionated and stubborn and we butted heads often since I was the same way. He had me with more experience though. Anyone who has owned an Arabian knows what stubborn is. My dad loved a good theological argument with anyone who would engage him. He was certain he could make someone believe in Jesus if he just could talk to them long enough.

One incident I recall had little to do with horses and happened a few years earlier in life. It had to do with an old yellow school bus. As I recall, Dale Blanshan and a couple guys embarked on a cross country trip in a school bus. They were strumming and singing their way out west. They had the same idea my dad had, but they were more musical about it. I was around ten at this time, so my recollection may be a little hazy. At one point the bus broke down a long way from home and they needed funds for repair. My dad went to wire them money but it was a Saturday and the banks were closed. The only place to get cash for the wire transfer was the liquor store. My dad headed into West Concord to the Muni for \$300. The

the chance. Now I can out run the geese or avoid them all together.

When I was in community college in Rochester the geese that would hang out on campus would chase me across the campus on an almost daily basis. Which my mother did not believe was happening until she saw me take off running at the sound of 'Honk! Honk!' and a flock of geese start charging at me.

Don't worry I made it to the car before the geese caught up to me and lived to tell the tale.

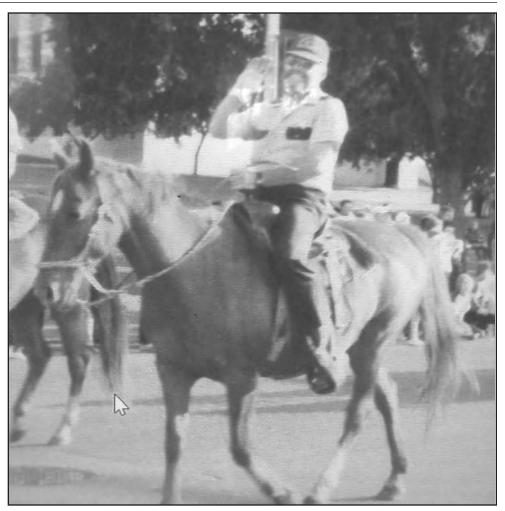
My fear is not just limited to grease either. It does extend to water brands as a whole. I have also been attacked by ducks and gulls. The only reason the loons, swans and cranes have not gotten to me is because I am not fool enough to go anywhere close to them after the incident with the duck.

A couple years later when I was in University back south I was at the park with some friends. We were sitting on a bench watching the ducks, but not doing anything to the ducks. When a duck walked up to me and bit me on the leg with its serrated beak.

While ducks do not have teeth it does hurt when they bite you with their serrated beaks.

It is because of that duck and many, many geese that I now stay clear of all water birds. As I now live under the belief that if I give them space they just might not try to kill me... or at least not have the opportunity to.

P.S. as I write this two ducks have landed on my patio and taunted me with their serrated beaks.



Dad on Azibelli

guys at the liquor store had no idea who my dad was and questioned why they should let him write a check for cash. One might wonder how my dad could live his whole life in West Concord and there be people who didn't know him, but this was his first trip into the liquor store. If you knew my dad, you would know that too. So while he was trying to procure greenbacks with a check for three young guys on the other side of the USA in a broke down yellow school bus, Al Renner the hardware store owner showed up as a credit reference. When asked if my dad's check was good, Al said, "If Dana writes a check for a million dollars it will be good."

sounded like a whole lot of money. I was certain that a poor farm family in Dodge County did not have that kind of money. So I wondered why someone would say that, not knowing our financial situation. In fact, I don't believe anyone one I knew could write a check for a million dollars. Over the last fifty years I have pondered this conversation and eventually came to understand it. It wasn't that my dad had a million dollars in his checking account. It was that he had a reputation of being a man of his word and if he said something it was backed up with integrity and truth. And that is worth more than a million dollars

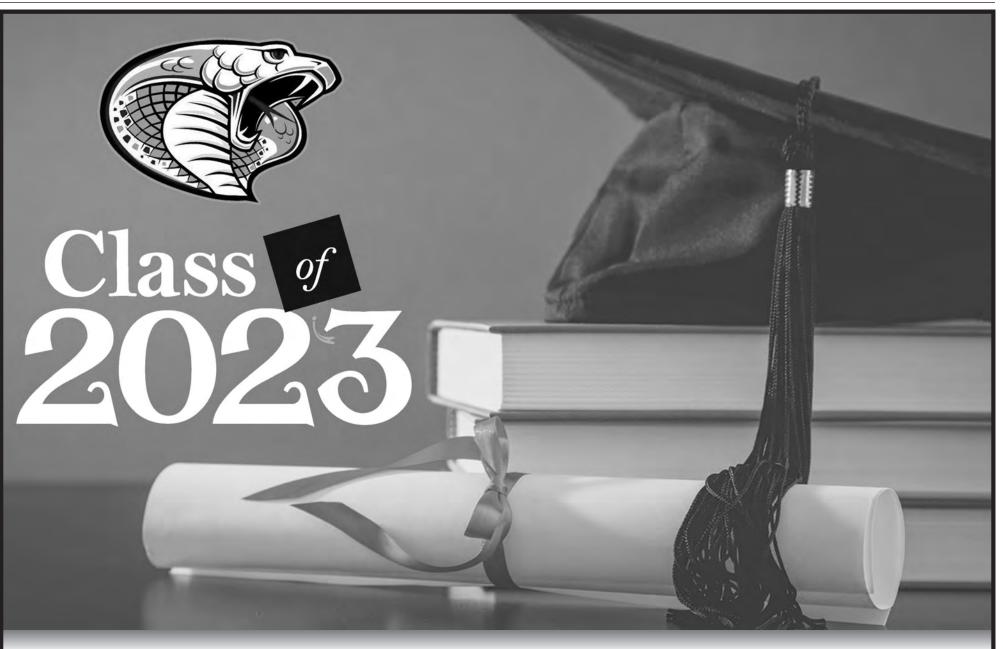
I was a young kid and a million dollars

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The future is yours, and the possibilities are endless. We wish you good health and good fortune as you embark on the next step of your journey.

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May, 2023